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Russia says no Syria assault as Putin, Erdogan agree Idlib plan

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Lawmaker vows to oppose ouster of convicted MPs

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition lawmaker Majed Al-Mutairi said yesterday he will totally oppose any attempt to revoke the Assembly membership of opposition MPs Jamaan Al-Harbash and Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, who have been sentenced to jail. Mutairi said that he completely respects the rule of the law and the verdicts of courts, but at the same time does not believe that the two lawmakers should be made to lose their parliamentary seats.

The court of cassation, whose rulings are final, two months ago sentenced the two lawmakers and about a dozen former MPs and opposition activists to various jail terms for storming the National Assembly building during a protest in Nov 2011. The opposition staged the demonstration to protest against reported corruption by 13 MPs who had allegedly accepted tens of millions of dinars in bribes for their votes in the Assembly.

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SOCHI, Russia: Moscow said yesterday there would be no assault on Syria's Idlib as the leaders of Russia and Turkey agreed to create a demilitarized zone around the Syrian rebel-held province. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan - who are on opposite sides in the deadly seven-year conflict in Syria - met for over four hours in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi to decide the fate of Idlib, home to three million people. "We will prevent a humanitarian tragedy which could happen as a result of military action," Erdogan said after the talks.

Putin said the two leaders agreed to create a 15-20 kilometer-wide demilitarized zone along the line of contact between rebels and regime troops by Oct 15. This would entail a "withdrawal of all radical fighters" from Idlib including the Al-Nusra Front, he added. Putin and Erdogan also agreed on the withdrawal of "heavy weaponry from this zone", including tanks, multiple launch rocket systems, and rocket launchers belonging to all armed groups, the Russian leader added.

The demilitarized zone will be secured with the help of "mobile patrol groups of Turkish contingents and contingents of Russian military police", Putin said. By

the end of the year, transportation routes between the key port of Latakia and Aleppo as well as Latakia and the major city of Hama must be restored, he added. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that the agreement between Putin and Erdogan meant that no military action would be taken against Idlib, Russian news agencies reported.

Russia-backed forces of the Syrian regime have massed around Idlib province in recent weeks, sparking fears of an imminent air and ground attack to retake the last major opposition bastion. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations have repeatedly warned that such an offensive would unleash a "bloodbath" and "humanitarian catastrophe" in Idlib.

Turkey has repeatedly called for a ceasefire to avert a possible attack. Erdogan and Putin met previously on Sept 7 in Tehran for a three-way summit with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. At that summit the Russian and Turkish leaders openly disagreed over how to deal with the rebel stronghold, which borders Turkey. Turkey's military has reportedly sent reinforcements to Idlib in recent weeks. Tanks and other hardware, with a convoy of 50 military vehicles, were sent



SOCHI, Russia: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) shakes hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during their meeting in the Bocharov Ruchi residence in this Black Sea resort yesterday. — AFP

over the border Sunday, according to the Hurriyet daily. Russia and Iran are key allies of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. Turkey however backs opposition fighters seeking the ouster of the Syrian leader. It has said a large-scale offensive against the rebels could trigger

a mass exodus towards its border. Russian and Syrian air strikes, artillery fire and barrel bomb attacks have killed more than 30 civilians across the province in the past month, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

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News in brief

No anesthesia without explanation

KUWAIT: Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah issued yesterday a decision to prohibit any surgical intervention without the explanation of complications that may occur when anesthesia is used. The decision also warrants a written notification by the patient or their guardian before conducting any surgery in both private and public sectors. — KUNA

3-month visit visas

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for National and Passport Affairs Maj Gen Faisal Al-Nawaf issued a circular granting wives and children of expats visit visas of three months instead of one month. A source said the new instructions became effective last Thursday and implementation began from Sunday. He said the decision was made on humanitarian grounds, adding the presence of spouses and children for a longer period has a positive effect on the local market. The source said other visit visas remain of one-month duration. — Al-Anbaa

Man strangles wife

KUWAIT: A citizen in his fifties yesterday turned himself in to the police after strangling his wife to death in the family house in Sabah Al-Ahmad City. Security sources said the man, who is facing first degree murder charges, said he committed the killing due to family disputes. — A Saleh

Lebanon begins legal action

BEIRUT: Lebanon began yesterday legal action against a Lebanese journalist for defamation and slander targeting HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The official National News Agency said State Prosecutor of Cassation Judge Samir Hammoud referred the case of journalist Salem Zahran to the Beirut Prosecution of Appeal, after hearing his testimony over statements he made during an interview on Al-Manar TV channel on Sept 13, 2018. Hammoud asked for pressing charges of defamation and slander against Zahran "for exposing Lebanon's foreign relations to danger". — KUNA

Australia to play Kuwait

SYDNEY: Australia yesterday lined up a friendly against Kuwait in what will be the first game in charge for new Socceroos coach Graham Arnold. They will meet Romeo Jozak's side in Kuwait City on Oct 15 after a short training camp in the United Arab Emirates. "During a recent training camp in Turkey we worked hard to add attacking layers to the strong defensive base the Socceroos had at this year's World Cup," Arnold said. Kuwait did not qualify for the 2019 tournament, which is being hosted by the UAE. — AFP

Pak PM to give citizenship to Afghans, Bengalis

KARACHI: Pakistan's new premier Imran Khan has vowed to give citizenship to some Afghan refugees and Bengali immigrants, officials confirmed yesterday, granting rights to many who have lived in the country for decades.

Pakistan, one of the world's largest refugee-hosting nations, is home to roughly 2.5 million Afghan refugees, some of whom have lived in the country since fleeing the Soviet invasion of 1979. A government anti-trafficking unit placed the number of Bengalis living in Pakistan, many of whom fled Bangladesh for economic rea-

sons following its independence from Pakistan in 1971, at two million in 2012, but it is unknown how many of those are long-term residents.

Khan, who visited Karachi on Sunday, told a fundraising dinner that his government would take steps to grant nationality to those who had been there longest. "The first thing I will do going back (to Islamabad), God willing, is that we will get those people from Bangladesh, who are perhaps living here for more than 40 years and their children have grown older, issued passports and national identity cards," he said, according to footage of the dinner seen by AFP. "And those Afghans whose children have grown older here, who were born in Pakistan, they would also be issued the passports and ID cards," he continued. "When you are born in America, you get the American passport."

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KARACHI: Children of Bengali immigrants living in Pakistan look on from a madrasa yesterday. — AFP

Higher security €100 and €200 notes unveiled

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank yesterday unveiled new versions of the 100- and 200-euro banknotes, saying new security features would make them harder to counterfeit. Like other second-generation notes in the "Europa" series introduced since 2013, the new paper money includes different holograms in a silver strip and an "emerald number" showing the denomination - this time in an enhanced form with small euro symbols inside the numerals.

Designers also reduced the notes' height to match the 50-euro version. That leaves the length of the paper as the only size difference between denominations, with longer notes bearing a higher value. The green 100-euro banknotes represent some 23 percent of the value of euro paper money in circulation, ECB board member Yves Mersch told reporters in Frankfurt, making them "not just a niche product and also not just a rich (person's) product".

Before the new notes are introduced on May 28 next year, more than one million ATM machines must be updated to take account of the changes. While national central banks in the 19-nation eurozone are responsible for their own coins, the ECB designs and issues all the banknotes for the single currency area. With their artwork depicting different architectural styles from European history, some critics have labelled the euro banknotes bland. — AFP



FRANKFURT: New 100- and 200-euro banknotes are presented on a light table yesterday. — AFP

Germany rolls out world's first hydrogen train

BREMERVORDE: Germany yesterday rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train, signalling the start of a push to challenge the might of polluting diesel trains with costlier but more eco-friendly technology. Two bright blue Coradia iLint trains, built by French TGV-maker Alstom, began running a 100-km route between the towns and cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude in northern Germany - a stretch normally plied by diesel trains. "The world's first hydrogen train is

entering into commercial service and is ready for serial production," Alstom CEO Henri Poupart-Lafarge said at an unveiling ceremony in Bremervoerde, the station where the trains will be refuelled with hydrogen. Alstom has said it plans to deliver another 14 of the zero-emissions trains to Lower Saxony state by 2021, with other German states also expressing an interest.

Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, a process that leaves steam and water as the only emissions. Excess energy is stored in ion lithium batteries on board the train. The Coradia iLint trains can run for around 1,000 km on a single tank of hydrogen, similar to the range of diesel trains.

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BREMERVORDE, Germany: A hydrogen-powered train by French train maker Alstom enters service yesterday. — AFP

Local

Amir congratulates Ethiopian, Eritrean presidents, Saudi King on Jeddah deal

Crown Prince receives senior state officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Munther Al-Essa.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Jaber Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikha Nada Jaber Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables of congratulations to the President of Ethiopia Mulatu Teshome, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, expressing sincere congratulations on the signing of the Jeddah Peace Agreement. His Highness the Amir hailed

efforts exerted by the Kingdom under the guidance of King Salman who contributed to reaching this historic agreement which will enhance security and stability in Ethiopia and Eritrea to direct the energy of the two countries towards building and developing and promoting peace in the Horn of Africa. His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to both African leaders as well as the Saudi monarch.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince received at Seif Palace yesterday Sheikh Jaber Al-

Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikha Nada Jaber Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who presented to His Highness her PhD thesis titled 'the role of Kuwaiti media in providing data on local and international political issues.' His Highness also received Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Munther Al-Essa. — KUNA

Kuwait calls for int'l action to stop war crimes in Syria

GENEVA: Kuwait called yesterday on the international community to take an immediate action to stop war and humanitarian crimes in Syria. In a speech he delivered before the United Nations Security Council's 39th session for human rights, Kuwait Permanent Envoy to the UN and international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim, said, "We were shocked by the huge number of displaced people leaving their homes because of war in Syria."



Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim

More than one million people have moved from their homelands in Syria since six months ago and have been living, since then, in hard conditions; amid fears more people will be displaced from Idlib in northwest Syria. Ambassador Ghunaim stressed on importance of taking into consideration content of a report by the Independent International

Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (established on August 22, 2011, by the United Nations Human Rights Council). The report warned that any new military operation in Idlib would lead to a catastrophic human crisis that would affect more than three million people.

Half number of the displaced Syrians have been accommodated in an inappropriate school building, while others are living in crowded shelters that lack minimum basic services, Ambassador Ghunaim added. According to Kuwait's commitments to international laws and agreements, he called for paying more attention to humanitarian needs such as allowing safe and sustainable access to humanitarian, medical aid and preventing blockade of residential areas.

The State of Kuwait strongly condemns organized and dangerous human violations facing Syrian people in their country, he said. He expressed Kuwait's rejection of continued and deliberate attacks on innocent civilians, use of prohibited weapons, committing crimes against humanity, which constitute flagrant violations of the international law and human rights. He condemned repeated attacks on medical facilities, infrastructure, as well as indiscriminate use of heavy weapons and aerial bombardment, victims of which are often innocent civilians.

In the same context, Ambassador Ghunaim explained the role played by Kuwait, as a member in the Security Council, to reach a mechanism to improve humanitarian status in Syria by unanimously adopting resolution 2401 in February, expressing disappointment over failure to implement this resolution in full. He renewed Kuwait's calls for a free and unhindered access of the United Nations and humanitarian bodies to all Syrian areas, including immediate access to beleaguered regions to deliver humanitarian aid to civilians.

"Based on the principle of brotherly responsibility towards the Syrian people, who have been experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian tragedy in modern history, Kuwait's diplomacy has organized three international donors' conferences to support Syria and has co-chaired other conferences in London and Brussels," he pointed out. He referred to the call by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to adopt training programs supporting children and youth among displaced Syrian to face burdens of life and help them shape their future.

Ghunaim appealed to all countries that have made pledges in the six conferences to honor their obligations and support the brotherly Syrian people. He concluded his speech by calling on the UN Human Rights Council to stop further humanitarian repercussions, noting that he would look forward to the cooperation of all bodies with the United Nations and the Arab League. The 39th session of the UN Human Rights Council, which began on September 10, will continue until the 28th to follow up on various human rights issues. — KUNA

Kuwait eager to boost ties with ASEAN: Diplomat

KUWAIT: Kuwait has placed much emphasis on its relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), given the prominence the regional bloc enjoys, a Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's recent visit to China has proven fruitful with promising results, the Director General of the Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh said. He was addressing a seminar organized by the embassies of a group of ASEAN

member states, which he described as an important initiative that would help bring Kuwait closer to the inter-governmental organization. Thailand's ambassador to Kuwait Dusit Manapan revealed that nine ASEAN ambassadors are currently stationed in the Gulf state, saying it was a testament to the regional bloc's desire to improve bilateral ties. A Thai foreign ministry representative had similar remarks as well, saying that ASEAN has long shared vigorous relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council. — KUNA



Director General of the Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh speaks during the seminar.



KUWAIT: Officials pose for a group photo following a seminar organized by the embassies of a group of ASEAN member states in Kuwait yesterday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Officials tour pavilions of participating countries at an exhibition held on the sidelines of the seminar.

Local

Dhaman's health insurance for expats to cause shift in health services' quality: Company CEO

Awqaf ministry officials suspended pending investigation in corruption charges

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait will witness a shift in the quality of health services once the responsibility of expats' mandatory health insurance is transferred from the Ministry of Health (MoH) to the Health Assurance Hospitals Company (Dhaman) as planned in the state's development plan, the company's CEO and board member Ahmad Al-Saleh said yesterday.

Saleh added that the current health insurance system needs improvement to match international development. "The Dhaman project reflects this vision," he underlined, explaining that it will help reduce pressure on MoH facilities and government spending on health services.

Saleh explained that Dhaman's health strategy involves building three hospitals and a series of basic healthcare clinics according to expats' demographic distribution throughout Kuwait. "Insured expats will get a unified policy providing healthcare through a speci-

fied list of medications and radiology tests," he added. Saleh added that Dhaman hospitals would only provide secondary healthcare, while tertiary healthcare will remain the preserve of MoH hospitals. "We are currently discussing the date of launching the service with MoH," he concluded.

MoH denies 'file loss' allegations



In other news, MoH yesterday denied accusations made in a video posted on social media by a local lawyer claiming that his client's medical file had been lost. MoH issued a press release stressing that the patient's file was not lost and also provided the criminal investigation department of a copy from the file. Accordingly, MoH urged all citizens and expats to verify any circulated news and not discuss any cases that are still being tried in courts.

Nurses' training

Separately, Kuwait Life Sciences Academy CEO and pharmacist Mohammed Nahes Al-Enezi announced that for the first time in Kuwait, the academy concluded

the first phase of a specialized training program for nursing staff held under the title of Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses, which has been endorsed by the American College of Surgeons and organized in collaboration with the Amiri, Ibn Sina and Ahmadi hospitals. The academy announced that 16 nurses and doctors took part in the program.

Amiri Hospital casualty specialist Dr Raed Sayyed Hashim said the program aims at reducing death rates amongst trauma patients through trauma care and practical, lifesaving skills. Hashim added that such programs, which were initially launched in Saudi Arabia in 1991, had become basic protocols in most GCC countries and stressed that all nursing staff should attend them. He also noted that such skills should be mandatory when hiring new nursing staff.

Officials suspended

Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs Fahd Al-Afasi yesterday issued a decision suspending a number of awqaf ministry officials for three months pending investigating possible corruption charges they are facing. Notably, the Public Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) recently referred the Hawally mosques manager and a number of other employees to the public prosecution over alleged



شركة مستشفيات الضمان الصحي
Health Assurance Hospitals Company

involvement in corruption concerning unlawful bonuses and profiteering from public funds.

Fishing licenses

The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources' (PAAAFR) acting deputy director Marzouq Al-Azmi stressed that the authority plans to reduce the total number of fishing licenses to below 450, with the aim of increasing Kuwait's fish resources and reviving them. Azmi added that PAAAFR is currently in the process of allocating plots to be used for farming shrimps, pomfret, sha'am, subaiti and balool fish pending launching operations in the next two years.



KUWAIT: Members attend a Municipal Council session yesterday. — KUNA

Municipal Council forms land exploitation committee

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council approved yesterday forming a panel to investigate state-owned land exploitation and infringements. Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi agreed on forming the committee, establishment of which was blessed during yesterday's session. Five

members were chosen: Abdulsalam Al-Randi, Mishaal Al-Hamthan, Maha Al-Baghli, Ahmad Hadyan and Abdulaziz Al-Mojel.

The committee is valid for one year and may be renewed, and it has the permission to choose areas and sites to visit and investigate regularly. The Municipal Council also agreed on forming a structural planning committee and five members were chosen also — Abdulsalam Al-Randi, Abdullah Al-Mehri, Mishaal Al-Hamthan, Dr Hasan Kamal and Abdulwahab Bouresly. This committee's objectives are to follow up on new constructional strategies and provide new radical solutions for any problem that faces the executive body of the municipality (Kuwait Municipality). — KUNA

1,500 liquor cartons found in Jaber Al-Ahmad house

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: Drugs Control General Department acted on tips about three people (one African national and two Arab men) who smuggled in 1,500 cartons of liquor and kept it in a house in Jaber Al-Ahmad City. The house was raided and the liquor was found. The African man was arrested while the other two are still at large.



KUWAIT: Cardboard boxes containing liquor bottles found in a Jaber Al-Ahmad house yesterday.

band was summoned, who told police the car was with his ex-wife, who always created problems for him. The woman was called in and was found wanted over a financial case.

Fight

Three women were hurt when they were attacked by two others at a chalet. The women handed medical reports to Nuwaiseeb police station. The women said an argument turned into a fight and they sustained the injuries stated in the report. Police are investigating.

Mine

A citizen who bought a mine at the Friday market went to Rai police station and handed it to them. The mine was examined and found to be without a detonator and full of sand.

Drugs

A citizen was arrested in Ahmadi following fierce resistance, and a bag suspected of containing drugs was found with him. He was also found sentenced to four years in jail on felony cases.

Huge fire

Salmiya and Bidaa firefighters managed to control a huge fire that broke out in a power unit in Salmiya yesterday. The flames spread to a nearby vehicle, shack and a building under construction. No casualties were reported, and further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the blaze.

Fatal accident

A citizen was killed and another injured in a traffic accident on Artal Road in Wafra. Police and paramedics were at the scene. The deceased's body was recovered by the coroner.

Disputes

A woman wanted to put her ex-husband in trouble by driving recklessly in a graveyard while playing loud music. People there called the police and gave them the license plate number of the car she was driving. The woman had disputes with her ex-husband and wanted to take revenge, but people filmed her actions and confirmed to police that the driver was a woman. The hus-

Kuwaiti Embassy issues instructions to citizens visiting Iraq

BAGHDAD: Kuwait Embassy in Baghdad issued on Sunday a number of instructions to Kuwaiti citizens wishing to visit religious shrines in Iraq during the Arabic month of Muharram. The embassy guided Kuwaiti visitors to comply with local laws and regulations and not to use unsecured roads due to the security situation of recent events facing by many governorates. It also advised Kuwaiti citizens not to travel by

road from Iraq to Kuwait and vice versa and not to stop at resting stations, except when necessary.

The statement stressed the need to ensure that each visitor to carry an ID card bearing the phone number of the campaign and the hotels' name, while also adhering to health standards in handling food and beverages, and to avoid other provinces only after informing the owner of the campaign and getting his approval. It also demanded that Kuwaitis abide by the time set for residence granted to visitors, which is one month and any infringing will entail visitors to pay a fine. The embassy urged all Kuwaiti visitors not to hesitate to contact the embassy at any time and under any circumstances, as the embassy members will be ready to respond to their calls and provide assistance through the following numbers: +964783111333 - +964783111222 - +9647830000444, Landline: +964017764545. —KUNA



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EU clears KIA acquisition of UK gas company

BRUSSELS: The European Commission yesterday approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of North Sea Midstream Partners Limited, of the UK, by the Kuwaiti Investment Authority (KIA). North Sea Midstream Partners owns natural gas transportation and processing assets in and around the UK North Sea. The Kuwaiti authority is a global investor, with investments in real estate, private and public equity,

fixed income and alternative investment markets across the globe, said the Commission in a press release. The EU's executive body concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given that there are no horizontal overlaps or vertical links between the activities of the companies. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure, it added. — KUNA

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Jaber Al-Ahmad cultural center's fountain amazes visitors with its bright lights. —Photo by Jaber Abdelkhalq (KUNA)

Kuwait, Jordan relations reaching new levels: Jordanian speaker

Jordanian PM says Arab central banks can avert economic threats

AMMAN: Speaker of Jordan's House of Representatives Atef Tarawneh affirmed yesterday that the bilateral ties between Kuwait and Jordan are reaching high levels of strength. Jordan News Agency (PETRA) quoted the speaker during Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani's visit to Amman where he accepted the speaker's invitation on behalf of Kuwait's Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem. Objective of the visit is to solidify the existing bonds of friendship between Jordan and Kuwait.

In other news, Jordan's Prime Minister Dr Omar Razzaz said yesterday that central banks across the wider Arab region are fully capable of dealing with the challenges facing the global economy. The Jordanian premier's remarks came in a speech he delivered during talks involving the governors of Arab central banks, including the chief of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel.

"Sustainable development remains our goal in

order to cope with the economic, political and social changes taking place in our region," Razzaz said. He cited a raft of broad reforms the Hashemite Kingdom has introduced in recent years, "which has proved instrumental in building trust in Amman's economy."

Meanwhile, the governor of Yemen's central bank Dr Mohammad Zamam said that global economic growth has by and large slowed down, making sustainable development a rather far-fetched goal, particularly for underdeveloped nations. The Yemeni official added that development projects have become all the more significant nowadays as many economies across the Arab region are struggling to overcome stagnation.

On how much economic growth needed, the chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund Dr Abdulrahman Al-Humaidi said that more than five percent is required to bring down the unemployment rate. On the economic challenges facing the Arab region, he pinpointed financial stability and structural



AMMAN: Speaker of Jordan's House of Representatives Atef Tarawneh meets with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani. —KUNA

reforms as among the most perennial concerns, "which are crucial to increase the productive output." The agenda for the meeting revolves around

the challenges facing the global economy and the possible ripple effects felt by countries across the Arab region. —KUNA



Kuwait's Speaker invited to visit Jordan



KUWAIT: Head of the national military service authority Major General Mohammad Al-Khudher visited yesterday the firefighters' training center of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), where he oversaw training of the 46th batch of military recruits.



Local

Enter the ladies: The martial arts boom amongst females in Kuwait

Increasing numbers of women gravitating towards sport

KUWAIT: Martial arts used to be perceived in Kuwait as a discipline where men ruled due to its seemingly violent nature. However, an increasing numbers of women and girls are nowadays gravitating towards the martial arts, bringing their talent and skills to the arenas of combat and fighting.

With the rising numbers of female martial art practitioners, gyms and dojos opened special classes for women in different styles including kickboxing, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and Kajukenbo. The classes are mostly instructed by female practitioners. A number of practitioners agreed that martial arts gave women a chance to boost self-confidence, increase stamina, fight tension and expel negative energy.

Siham Al-Khuraif, a kickboxer and an MMA practitioner who instructs women classes, said that martial arts did not affect women's femininity. She noted that society's negative view on the martial arts prevented many women from engaging in this field. She said that families feared their daughters would get injured in MMA, but gyms follow a set of safety measures and rules to protect practitioners from injuries.

Meanwhile, Kajukenbo practitioner Fatma Al-Qattan - also a dojo instructor - said she chose to get into the martial arts to be capable of defending herself as she was bullied as a child. She added that the biggest difficulty she faced was her father's opposition, as he viewed martial arts as a men's only discipline that was

not suitable for women. Qattan affirmed she will continue her path in Kajukenbo, a hybrid martial art first developed in Hawaii, to achieve the highest ranks in the discipline.

In the meantime, practitioner Shareefa Al-Sarram said they train on martial arts to learn to control their



Giving women a chance to boost self-confidence

fear and get in shape. Similarly, practitioner Mariam Al-Saqer said that her passion for the martial art was so immense that she was willing to partake in future tournaments, an aspect of the martial arts aimed at instilling bravery and fearlessness in the hearts of martial artists. As the number of female martial artists continues to rise, it seems that the feminine fist has finally arrived to the Kuwaiti scene and only the future will tell if they can become the ultimate fighters. — KUNA



Kickboxer and an MMA practitioner Siham Al-Khuraif.



KUWAIT: Practitioner Shareefa Al-Sarram practicing. — KUNA photos

Kuwait to implement Vision 2030 at cultural level: Official

CAIRO: A visiting Kuwaiti official has affirmed his country's ongoing efforts to attain objectives of the sustainable development plan 2030 at the cultural level. Kuwait Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor as well as affiliate departments are seeking to achieve these goals. Dr Khaled Al-Ajmi, the ministry observer, said. He is currently in Cairo, chairing the Kuwaiti delegation at the fourth Arab meeting for following up on the sustainable development plan 2030 in the cultural sector.

Ajmi, during the meeting, apprised his fellow con-

ferrees with experience at this level in the Kuwaiti departments, such as the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development at the Ministry of Awqaf, the Ministry of Education as well as in civil societies. Participants in the session presented efforts of some Arab states in implementing the sustainable development plan 2030 in culture. They have agreed, he adds, to meet in two months to discuss a common formula for implementing the common Arab sustainable development strategy at the cultural level.

Meanwhile, Suad Al-Saechi, director of the Arab League Cultural Department, said in a statement that the meeting addressed a draft book due to be issued by the league about implementation of the sustainable development scheme at the cultural level. It includes each member state's experience in the field, namely with respect of promoting the culture of peace, renouncing violence and protecting the Arab cultural heritage. — KUNA



CAIRO: Officials attend the fourth Arab meeting for following up on the sustainable development plan 2030 in the cultural sector. — KUNA

Divers remove waste marking Int'l Coastal Cleanup Day

KUWAIT: Professional Kuwaiti divers aided by volunteers and advocates of protecting the environment have joined hands removing over a ton of harmful waste littering Al-Shuwaikh beach. The latest effort, marking the international Coastal Cleanup Day (September 16), was exerted by members of the Kuwaiti Dive Team, affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation, in cooperation with Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry (PAI) and Kuwait

Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) along with 50 volunteers.

The teams have successfully removed over a ton of various kinds of waste from the north of Shuwaikh shore. Mahmoud Ashkanani, head of the environmental projects at the foundation, said yesterday that this event came on the occasion of the international Coastal Cleanup Day, adding that the removed waste included over 700 kilograms of plastic items. Plastic is a major threat to the environment and wild life.

Shuwaikh shore is located within Kuwait Bay which also hosts a key port. He affirmed resolve to continue the cleanup of all Kuwaiti shores and keep monitoring them along with the concerned institutions, hoping to activate a certain cleanup mechanism to protect wild life. Over ten tons of waste are being removed weekly in Kuwait — involving the team and volunteers from various concerned institutions. — KUNA



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Sector	Departure ¹	Arrival ¹	Fare ²
Kuwait-Ahmedabad ³	10:40	16:50	KWD 46.400
Ahmedabad-Kuwait ³	08:30	09:40	KWD 36.150
Kuwait-Kochi ⁴	02:50	10:25	KWD 37.800
Kochi-Kuwait ⁴	22:50	02:00	KWD 46.900

*W.E.F. 15th October, 2018. ¹W.E.F. 1st November, 2018. ²W.E.F. 2nd November, 2018. ³Local time. ⁴Lowest all-inclusive one-way fare on limited seats. Schedule/timings are subject to regulatory approvals.

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Professor speaks out about Kavanaugh's sexual assault

7 dead, 5 in coma after taking drugs at a music festival



ITOGON: A general view shows the landslide site due to heavy rains brought by Typhoon Mangkhut in Itogon, Benguet province. —AFP

Frantic dig for Philippine typhoon victims

Mangkhut leaves dozens dead in the Philippines

ITOGON, Philippines: Philippine rescuers used shovels and bare hands to claw through mounds of rocky soil yesterday in a desperate search for dozens feared buried under a landslide unleashed by Typhoon Mangkhut. Searchers have already pulled 11 bodies from the vast debris field in Itogon in the disaster-prone nation's north. Dozens may still be buried, with little hope they have survived. Tearful families surrounded a white board bearing names of the dead and missing as others inspected recovered bodies for signs these could be their loved ones, more than 48 hours since the typhoon hit the north of the country's main island of Luzon.

"We're relieved that it's not him," Joan Catteg, 42, told AFP referring to her missing cousin Harvey, a miner in the area. "He was at the bunkhouse during Typhoon Mangkhut. He texted his wife not to worry. He said nothing bad will happen to him and that once the rain stops, he will go up. But he hasn't returned until now." Itogon Mayor Victorio Palangdan said there were an estimated 40 to 50 people in the area during the landslide. "We believe that those people there, maybe 99 percent, are already dead," he said.

A hillside weakened by the monster storm's lashing rains collapsed on the miners' bunkhouse about half a kilometer below Mangkhut, the world's most powerful storm this year, pounded the Philippines at the weekend with torrential rain and violent winds that snapped utility poles and sheared roofs off homes. Authorities say 65 are confirmed dead, mostly buried in landslides.

Excruciatingly slow

Hundreds of rescuers in rows formed a human chain to pass rocks, debris and tree trunks out of the search area in Itogon. The massive landslide left a gaping gash in a green

hillside studded with small homes topped with rusting metal roofs. With damaged roads preventing the use of heavy equipment, soldiers, police and miners used shovels and channeled water from a nearby stream to loosen the earth. It was excruciatingly slow work, with rescuers having to hike down the mountain for an hour before getting to the site.

"In the morning, the sun is too hot, the soil is dry, making it hard to dig," rescuer Allan Drilon told AFP. "It will be better if we have heavy equipment ... but it's not possible because the path going down is only wide enough for people to pass." Residents of the remote town, in the Cordillera range about 200 kilometers north of Manila, had sought refuge in the old bunkhouse to avoid the wrath of Mangkhut.

The two-storey structure was abandoned by a gold mining firm in an area that has since been settled by small-time miners, the mayor said. Black body bags were lined up at a tent on a nearby road above the bunkhouse. Landslides and flooding elsewhere in the Philippines forced nearly 200,000 people to flee their homes, according to a police tally. Weeks of heavy monsoon downpours had already left hill-sides unstable in the region. Crescencio Bacalso, the governor of Benguet province that includes Itogon, also cited a tragic case in Baguio, the region's largest city, where small-scale miners were helping to find a woman whose house had been buried.

the month, he said, urging citizens to heed official warnings about what is now a "flood event." "What we have to focus on (is whether there) are any dams that are potentially going to break." "People fail to heed warnings and get out or they get into the floodwaters trying to escape their home. And that's where you start to see deaths escalate," he told CBS News. "Even though hurricanes are categorized by wind, it's the water that really causes the most loss of life." The tiny town of Pollocksville, population 300, found itself cut in two on Sunday afternoon after the River Trent burst its banks.

Electrocution risk

With the rain pausing for the first time since Friday, local resident Logan Sosebee pulled out his kayak to carry food and supplies to those in need on the other side of the flooded river. "We still have no water and power, so I'm happy to help if I can. There's nothing else to do," he said. "But the current is crazy." "The water... has gone up 10-15 feet (3 to 4.5 meters) in a few days and it's supposed to keep rising for a few days. I'm a bit worried for my home." North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper earlier told reporters "the strongest storm bands are dumping two to three inches of rain per hour" over regions that had already received up to two feet of rain.

"That's enough to cause flooding in areas that have never flooded before until now. The risk is growing as well in the mountains, where rains could lead to dangerous landslides," he said. A woman and her baby were among the storm's first casualties when a tree fell on their house. Others killed included three who perished "due to flash flooding and swift water on roadways," according to the Duplin County Sheriff's Office, and a 61-year-old woman who died when her car hit a downed tree. At least two people were electrocuted while attempting to connect their generators, while one couple died of monoxide poisoning from running their generator indoors.

'Billions' in damage

Even as some residents began returning to their homes,

Massive clean-up

Meanwhile, Hong Kong began a massive clean-up yesterday after Typhoon Mangkhut raked the city, shredding trees and bringing damaging floods in a trail of destruction that left dozens dead in the Philippines and millions evacuated in southern China. The death toll in the Philippines, where the north of the main island of Luzon was mauled by fierce winds and rain, reached 65. It was expected to rise further as frantic rescuers pulled bodies from a massive landslide in the mountain town of Itogon.

The landslide buried an emergency shelter which was being used by miners and their families. Eleven bodies have been pulled from the rubble and up to 40 more may still be trapped. Relatives of the buried were among those digging with shovels and their bare hands in an increasingly desperate attempt to find survivors. "We believe that those people there, maybe 99 percent, are already dead," the town's mayor Victorio Palangdan told reporters. More than 155,000 people remain in evacuation centers in the Philippines two days after the typhoon struck, said national police spokesman Benigno Durana.

Farms across northern Luzon, which produces much of the nation's rice and corn, were under muddy floodwater, their crops ruined just a month before harvest. After tearing through Luzon and pummeling Hong Kong and Macau, the storm made landfall in mainland China late Sunday. It killed four in Guangdong province, including three hit by falling trees. Authorities there said they had evacuated more than three million people and ordered

tens of thousands of fishing boats back to port before the arrival of what Chinese media dubbed the "King of Storms". In the high-rise city of Hong Kong, the government described the damage as "severe and extensive" with more than 300 people injured in Mangkhut, which triggered the maximum "T10" typhoon alert. The monumental task of cleaning up the city began as residents, some in suits and ties, struggled to get back to work on roads that remained blocked by felled trees, mud and debris. Bus services were halted and commuters piled onto platforms trying to board infrequent trains after trees fell on overhead power lines. Schools will remain closed through today. Landslides and severe flooding affected some areas, with over 1,500 residents seeking refuge in temporary shelters overnight.

Floods and debris

The storm, with gusts of more than 230 kilometers per hour, sent buildings swaying and waters surging into homes and shopping malls in Hong Kong, with some roads waist-deep in water. Windows in tower blocks and skyscrapers were smashed as people covered inside. In the neighborhood of Heng Fa Chuen, thousands of rocks and pebbles from the sea covered parkland along the coastline which had been battered by waves.

Low-lying fishing villages were also badly affected after seawater swept through. Streets in the seaside village of Lei Yue Mun were covered in debris and glass as residents picked their way through. The city's main Victoria Park became an obstacle course with hundreds of trees down and many completely uprooted. Emergency teams were saving up some of the biggest trees blocking roads and pathways in a clean-up operation that is likely to take days. In the neighboring gambling enclave of Macau, all 42 casinos shut down for the first time in its history as the storm approached. —Agencies

Floodwaters rise as killer storm stalks southeastern US

GRIFTON: Catastrophic floods raised the threat of landslides and dam failures across the southeastern United States yesterday, prolonging the agony caused by a killer hurricane that has left more than a dozen people dead and caused billions of dollars in damage. Downgraded to a tropical depression, Florence crept over South and North Carolina, dumping heavy rains on already flood-swollen river basins that authorities warned could bring more death and destruction.

The National Hurricane Center said the storm was expected to weaken further yesterday "before re-intensifying as it transitions to an extratropical cyclone Tuesday and Wednesday." The National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center warned of "heavy and excessive rainfall over the next couple of days." There is an "elevated risk for landslides" in western North Carolina and southwest Virginia, as well as a danger of "catastrophic and life-threatening flash flooding" in parts of the Carolinas, it said.

"A lot of people have evacuated already," said Denise Harper, a resident of Grifton, a small North Carolina town threatened by rising water levels in a nearby creek and the River Neuse. "It's worrying to watch the water slowly rising." At least 15 people have died since Florence made landfall Friday as a Category 1 hurricane near Wrightsville Beach - 10 in North Carolina and five in South Carolina. "Unfortunately we've still got several days to go," Brock Long, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told Fox News. Long said more havoc lies ahead as the storm broadens its geographic scope over regions deeply saturated with water.

Of particular concern were the risks to dams, already stressed by heavy rainfall from a tropical storm earlier in



Massive clean-up in Hong Kong after Mangkhut chaos

officials warned of a long road to recovery. "I think that the storm is likely going to produce impacts greater than Hurricane Matthew," Senator Thom Tillis of North Carolina said on Fox News, referring to a Category 5 storm that struck in 2016, killing 26 in the state. "The agriculture industry, the largest industry in our state, is hard-hit. We will have to sort out the crop damage," he said, adding: "I think that it's fair to say in terms of economic impact rebuilding that we are talking in the billions of dollars."



FAYETTEVILLE: Flood waters from Hurricane Florence surround a house and flow along the street yesterday in Fayetteville, North Carolina. —AFP

The number of customers without power across North Carolina fell to just under 500,000, with about 20,000 in South Carolina. Fifteen thousand meanwhile were being housed in 158 shelters across the state. US Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz told ABC 28 aircraft had been deployed as well as 35 "shallow-water rescue teams." Some 2,800 North Carolina National Guardsmen were actively aiding rescue and relief efforts Sunday with another 1,000 on standby. —AFP

Parallel lives: Opposites and echoes either side of Korea

SEOUL: On either side of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Koreas, a soldier stares at the camera, the emblematic blue huts of the truce village of Panmunjom behind him. Seoul's President Moon Jae-in will fly straight to Pyongyang today for his summit with the North's leader Kim Jong Un-but for ordinary citizens of both countries, travel between them is banned. The two soldiers at Panmunjom were standing less than 100 meters apart, but getting from one location to the other would require a journey of more than 2,000 kilometers, via China.

The images are one of a series of paired portraits taken by AFP photographer Ed Jones in the two countries, one of them a capitalist democracy and the other an isolated, nuclear-armed state. From farmers, factory workers and petrol attendants to tour guides, shoppers and schoolchildren, the photographs highlight the visual similarities and differences between the two societies and their peoples. Reflecting the countries' geographical locations, the Northern portrait is always the top of the pair.

AFP is one of only a handful of international news organizations to operate a bureau in Pyongyang, giving it unusual access to the isolated country-Seoul-based Jones is the only photographer living in the South who regularly visits the North, giving him a unique perspective on the two. "It's less about the technical aspects of the picture and more about the access," said Jones. "It's a rough style of photography which is more about the story of the two countries. You can put the pictures side by side but the people can't stand side by side in real life and there's something inherently captivating about that." —AFP

International

Ethiopia ethnic violence leaves at least 23 dead; 200 arrested

Mobs of Oromo youths attack ethnic minorities

ADDIS ABABA: At least 23 people were killed in a weekend of violence targeting minorities in the ethnic Oromo heartland near Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, police said, a blow to new reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's efforts at reconciliation. The violence escalated on Saturday, the day of a rally marking the return to Ethiopia of leaders of the exiled Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which had waged a four-decade insurgency for self-determination for Ethiopia's largest ethnic group.

Abiy, himself the first Oromo leader in the ethnically diverse country's modern history, has pursued a reconciliation strategy since taking power in April, steering the state away from a hardline security policy in place for decades. In the latest unrest, local residents said shops were looted and people attacked by mobs of Oromo youth who stormed through streets targeting businesses and homes of ethnic minorities on Saturday after two days of sporadic attacks in the Oromiya region's Burayu district northwest of Addis Ababa.

"Mobs of ethnic Oromo youth then marched here in Ashwa Meda and attacked our homes and looted businesses chanting 'leave our land,'" said Hassan Ibrahim, a trader in an ethnically diverse part of the district said. "By night time, there were several dead bodies along roads." Another resident said some of the violence was carried out by people returning from Saturday's rally in support of the returning OLF leaders. Reuters could not immediately confirm this. The OLF did not immediately comment on the unrest.

State-affiliated Fana Broadcasting said so far police had detained 200 people over the violence. Alemayehu Ejigu, head of Oromiya region's police commission, said 23 people were killed in the latest violence and more than 70 people had been arrested. He denied accusations that police were slow to respond. "They do not represent anyone - they had no reason other than theft," he said of those behind the violence. "Anyone has the constitutional right to reside in Oromiya or anywhere."

Marginalization

Ethiopia's Oromo, who make up about a third of the population, have long complained of being marginalized during decades of authoritarian rule by governments led by politicians from other smaller ethnic groups. In recent years the Oromo have been angered by what



ADDIS ABABA: People react at Meskel Square in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to protest against the killing of 23 people and the displacement of residents in Burayu town over the weekend. — AFP

they see as encroachment on their land. Abiy's predecessor Hailemariam Desalegn resigned in February in the wake of violent anti-government protests that had swept the Oromo heartland for two years.

Since taking power, Abiy has lifted a state of emergency, freed political prisoners and removed leaders of banned groups including the OLF from a blacklist, paving the way for their return to the country. But Abiy's reforms have yet to halt ethnic violence. Clashes between Oromos and ethnic Gedeos in the south caused nearly a million people to flee their homes soon after he took power. Abiy's chief of staff Fitsum Arega said on Twitter that the prime minister "strongly con-

demns the killings and acts of violence against innocent citizens around Ashwa Meda, Kataa and Fili Doro last night.

"These cowardly attacks represent a grave concern to our unity and solidarity of our people and will be met with appropriate response," he said. Yesterday, hundreds of people staged protests outside parliament, the central square, the headquarters of state television and other places in the capital demanding justice. "Our homes were destroyed and our women raped simply because we belonged to another ethnic group. Yet the government is yet to respond properly," said Atfana Worku, one of the demonstrators. — Reuters

Iran: US pullout from nuke deal threatens peace

VIENNA: The US withdrawal from the nuclear deal struck between Iran and major powers is "doomed" to seriously affect peace and security in the Middle East, Iran's atomic chief said yesterday. President Donald Trump announced in May that Washington was pulling out of the deal, which lifted international sanctions against Tehran in exchange for restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities. Many fear the US withdrawal will lead to the deal's collapse.

"As discerned almost unanimously by the international community, this ominous move is doomed to have serious repercussions for the international and regional peace and security," the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi, told an annual UN nuclear watchdog meeting. Salehi, a veteran negotiator with the West, did not elaborate on what those repercussions might be.

Iranian forces are fighting in support of President Bashar Al-Assad's government in Syria, where fighters from Iranian-backed Hezbollah are also deployed. The war in Yemen is also largely seen as a proxy war between Iran and US ally Saudi Arabia. Some US sanctions lifted under the deal have already been put back in place while others are due to resume in November. European powers have scrambled to protect Iranian oil revenues and shield companies from the US measures to keep them operating in Iran, but many firms have pulled out regardless.

The sanctions have contributed to a slide in Iran's currency, the rial, which has lost about two-thirds of its value this year, hitting a record low against the US dollar this month. "The international community's opposition to the US withdrawal ... does not nearly reflect the deep anger at the American unilateralism but also the concerns about the extremely difficult situation in our immediate region with all its pervasive chaos and the existing menace of terrorism," Salehi said in his speech to the IAEA General Conference. — Reuters

Pakistan auctions cars in austerity drive; PM commutes by copter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's new government yesterday began auctioning off about 100 government-owned vehicles as part of new Prime Minister Imran Khan's highly publicized cost-cutting drive, which has drawn mixed reviews. Auction official Mohammad Asif said the vehicles could bring in about 2 billion rupees (\$16 million) to the cash-strapped government's coffers, although that estimate depends on finding buyers for four bullet-proof Mercedes, estimated in value together at 1 billion rupees. The auction has been billed as part of Khan's drive to give "the nation's wealth to its rightful owners", though critics say most of the new government's cost-cutting measures are more symbolism than significant savings.

Former cricket star Khan, 65, took office last month after a populist election campaign in which he railed against what he denounced as the corruption and waste of the two main political parties that have traded power for more than 50 years in between periods of military rule. Khan has promised to cut costs, including trimming the motorcades of government officials and selling public land. "It is a change of mindset," Khan said in a speech on Friday. "I will be counting every single rupee I have to spend on me." Khan's austerity vows, however, have been undercut by his near-daily helicopter commute from his home in the hills above Islamabad.

Critics say the cost-cutting has been mostly cosmetic. "There is nothing new in the current austerity drive," said political commentator Raza Rumi. Auctions of aging government vehicles, for example, have taken place for years, though not so publicized. The 36 Mercedes and BMW vehicles was a larger number than at previous auctions - and the sale offered bullet-proof luxury sedans estimated to be worth 250 million rupees (about \$2 million) each. Still, nearly three-quarters of the 101 vehicles on offer were more than 10 years old, some noticeably knocked about. Two were 32-year-old Toyota Corollas.

Ideas

Even if the auction were to bring in its projected 2 billion rupees, that is a drop in the bucket compared with the government's 5.9 trillion rupee (\$48.19 billion) budget, which projects a 1.7 trillion rupees in deficit spending. Still, Khan's information minister, Fawad Chaudhry, said even symbolic steps were important for building national unity. Public morale may be important in the coming year as Pakistan could face painful conditions for foreign financing - possibly an International Monetary Fund bailout - to address dwindling foreign currency reserves and a ballooning current account deficit. Chaudhry argued that small cutbacks can add up. "If you try to see its effect on the GDP, it is small, but in numbers, it is not small," Chaudhry told Reuters. Still, public reaction to the austerity drive has been mixed.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan (right) shakes hand with visiting Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu before a meeting in Islamabad. — AFP

When the new foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, announced he would not fly first class, only business class, when travelling abroad, many pointed out that this was already the case under the previous government. Other early ideas - including Khan's vow to cut more than 500 staff from Prime Minister House and establishing a six-day work week for civil servants - were shelved as unworkable. In particular, Khan has been mocked by some for taking a helicopter into Islamabad most days, after publicly declaring he would eschew motorcades and declining to live in the official prime minister's residence.

Information Minister Chaudhry said the helicopter commute used less fuel than a motorcade, at one point arguing that it cost only 50 rupees (40 cents) per kilometer. That calculation provoked fresh ridicule. "Why don't you stop metro bus service and instead let people enjoy the cheap helicopter rides?" quipped a TV host. In fact, the eight-seat helicopter Khan uses costs about 200,000 rupees (\$1,633) per hour factoring in fuel, crew, maintenance and safety inspections, according to Syed Naseem Ahmad, president of the Society of Air Safety Investigation Pakistan.

'Two cents'

Optics aside, analysts say Pakistan will have to take more painful steps - such as raising fuel prices - to make a real dent. "In a nutshell, there is no indication yet, that Prime Minister Khan has a concrete plan to cut Pakistan's mounting debt and government spending," said Yousuf Nazar, former head of Global Emerging Markets Investments, Citigroup.

An indication of cost-cutting policy is likely to come today, when Finance Minister Asad Umar announces revisions to the budget. In the meantime, some of the about 500 attendees at Monday's auction said they would be happy to take the vehicles off the government's hands. Nawab Gul bought a 2005 Toyota Altas for 1.25 million rupees (\$10,000). "They are saying the national coffers are empty. So, here, have my two cents," Gul said. Another bidder Taufeeq Nawab said he would like to buy one of the older, cheaper vehicles for his family. "I can say that I have a Prime Minister House car. My kids will feel good riding in it." — Reuters

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International

Professor speaks out about Kavanaugh's 'sexual assault'

Trump's court pick calls accusation 'completely false'

WASHINGTON: Judge Brett Kavanaugh, President Donald Trump's US Supreme Court nominee, said yesterday that an accusation of sexual misconduct against him was "completely false" and that the incident "never happened." "This is a completely false allegation. I have never done anything like what the accuser describes - to her or to anyone," Kavanaugh said in a statement distributed by the White House.

A college professor went public for the first time Sunday to accuse President Donald Trump's Supreme Court pick of sexually assaulting her in the 1980s, prompting calls to postpone the nomination vote. Christine Blasey Ford, a professor at Palo Alto University, initially detailed the allegations about Brett Kavanaugh in confidential letters to her local congresswoman and later to California Senator Dianne Feinstein, a senior Democrat on the Judiciary Committee.

Now Ford has told The Washington Post she had decided to waive her anonymity because she felt her "civic responsibility" was "outweighing my anguish and terror about retaliation" after the basic outlines of the story emerged in media last week. Kavanaugh had previously released a statement on Friday denying the incident, saying: "I categorically and unequivocally deny this allegation. I did not do this back in high school or at any time."

Ford, who is a registered Democrat herself, told the Post in an interview that one summer in the early 1980s Kavanaugh and a friend, both of whom were "stumbling drunk," cornered her in a bedroom at a teenagers' party in a house in Montgomery County, just outside Washington. Kavanaugh pinned her to a bed while his friend watched, she said, then groped her while attempting to remove her one-piece bathing suit and

the clothing on top of it. When she attempted to scream for help, Kavanaugh put his hand over her mouth. "I thought he might inadvertently kill me," said Ford, who is now 51 years old and lives in northern California. "He was trying to attack me and remove my clothing." She said she was finally able to escape when another of Kavanaugh's classmates at his prestigious private school, Mark Judge, jumped on top of them, whereupon all three were sent tumbling and she was able to escape the room, first locking herself in a bathroom briefly before fleeing the house.

She added she did not tell anyone about the attack until 2012 when she brought it up during couples counseling therapy with her husband. The therapist's notes from the time, seen by the Post, do not mention Kavanaugh by name but otherwise echo the claim, describing an attack by students "from an elitist boys' school" who went on to become "highly respected and high-ranking members of society in Washington." Notes from a subsequent therapy session a year later describe the attack as a "rape attempt."

'An insult to women'

A number of Judiciary Committee members urged holding off on a vote in light of Ford's testimony-including Republican Jeff Flake, a vocal critic of Trump, who told the Post that she "must be heard" first. One of 11 Republicans on the panel with 10 Democrats, Flake's support is key to moving forward. The Judiciary Committee is currently due to vote on the nomination on September 20. A vote of the full Senate would follow if the committee approves his nomination. "I've made it clear that I'm not comfortable moving ahead with the vote on Thursday if

we have not heard her side of the story or explored this further," Flake said.

Senator Dick Durbin echoed that call, adding that "we also must respect and listen to Dr Ford, who is now a target of personal attacks because she had the courage to come forward." Senator Feinstein, who had previously forwarded the allegations to federal authorities, wrote on Twitter that "I agree with Senator Flake that we should delay this week's vote on Brett Kavanaugh's nomination." "There's a lot of information we don't know and the FBI should have the time it needs to review this new material," Feinstein tweeted.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said he would "gladly listen" to further comments from Ford, urging it must "be done immediately so the process can continue as scheduled." Chuck Schumer, who is the leader of the Democrats in the Senate, also called on the committee's Republican chairman to postpone the vote so the accusations could be probed. "For too long, when women have made serious allegations of abuse, they have been ignored. That cannot happen in this case," Schumer said. "To railroad a vote now would be an insult to the women of America and the integrity of the Supreme Court."

The allegations against Kavanaugh are reminiscent of accusations of indecency and abuse by Clarence Thomas that emerged when he was nominated for the Supreme Court. Anita Hill testified before a US Senate panel in 1991, saying that Thomas repeatedly pressured her to go out, told her "graphically of his own sexual prowess," and that his attempts to discuss sex or pornographic movies left her "extremely uncomfortable." Despite the allegations, Thomas was ultimately confirmed on a 52-48 vote, and he still serves on the bench. — Agencies



WASHINGTON: Judge Brett Kavanaugh testifies during the second day of his US Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing to be an Associate Justice on the US Supreme Court, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. — AFP

News in brief

Iran embassy attacked

ATHENS: An anarchist group attacked the Iranian embassy in Athens yesterday, smashing windows and throwing red paint into the courtyard in protest at Tehran's treatment of its Kurdish population, police said. "The attack was claimed by the Rubicon group," a police official told AFP, adding that no arrests had yet been made. The attack was carried out by about 10 members of the group at about 0300 GMT who, armed with iron bars, took the guard by surprise and then smashed windows in the waiting room. Nobody was hurt in the incident, police said. In a statement on the internet, the Rubicon group claimed the attack as a gesture of solidarity with the "Kurds of Iran". — AFP

Philippine ex-general jailed

MANILA: A retired Philippine army general was sentenced yesterday to decades behind bars over the 2006 disappearance of two activists, hailed by campaigners as a rare case of a top official being held to account. Jovito Palparan, dubbed "The Butcher" by leftist groups for his brutal anti-insurgency tactics against communist guerillas, was convicted of kidnapping and handed a minimum term of 20 years by a court in Bulacan province just north of Manila. Palparan and three other ex-military officers were accused of abducting two female university students in 2006, on the suspicion they were linked to communist groups. The women remain missing. — AFP

28% of Japanese 'old'

TOKYO: More than 28 percent of Japan's population is now officially classified as elderly according to government data, the highest rate in the world as the first wave of postwar baby boomers enter old age. Those aged 65 or older now make up a record 35.6 million, or 28.1 percent of the total population, the government said Sunday. The proportion is the highest by far in the world, ahead of 23.3 percent in Italy, 21.9 percent in Portugal and 21.7 percent in Germany, according to UN data for those countries. The government also said those aged 70 or older accounted for 20.7 percent of the population, surpassing 20 percent for the first time. The figures show the nation's postwar baby boomers are now entering old age, it said. — AFP

Town hit by poisoning

LONDON: British police yesterday sealed off part of Salisbury, where a Russian ex-spy and his daughter were poisoned by Novichok, after two people fell ill at a restaurant on Sunday following a "medical incident". The local ambulance service said it was called to the scene and sent in ambulances and a hazardous area response team. Roads were cordoned off around the Italian restaurant as police tried to determine what caused the pair to fall ill. The two were said to be conscious. "As a precautionary measure, the restaurant and surrounding roads have been cordoned off while officers attend the scene and establish the circumstances surrounding what has led them to fall ill," police said. — AFP

Tourists 'brutally' ejected

BEIJING: China has lodged a diplomatic complaint accusing Swedish police of treating Chinese tourists "brutally" after a family was roughly ejected from a Stockholm hotel, the foreign ministry said yesterday. The spat began earlier this month when the family of three—a man and his elderly parents—tried to sleep in a Stockholm hotel lobby after arriving early for their reservation, but the hotel's employees refused to allow them. Widely-shared video footage shows a Chinese man being carried out of a building by two police officers as someone in the background yells in protest. An older Chinese woman is seen sat on the ground outside next to her luggage. The family claim police left them in the cold at a cemetery several kilometers away from the hotel. The incident escalated over the weekend, with both foreign ministries wading in. — AFP

My Brexit plan or crash out of EU: British PM

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May insisted her Brexit plan was the only alternative to leaving the EU without an agreement—something the IMF said yesterday would inflict "substantial costs" on the UK economy. Despite strong opposition in her Conservative party and criticism in Brussels, May has stuck by the so-called Chequers proposal to keep close trade ties with the European Union after Brexit on March 29 next year.

"The alternative to that will be not having a deal," she told the BBC in an interview out yesterday. May will meet EU leaders in Salzburg on Wednesday and Thursday, as she seeks a breakthrough in talks on the Brexit divorce and the future UK-EU trading relationship. The International Monetary Fund yesterday said Britain's economy would suffer "substantial costs" should it leave the EU without a deal.

Brussels and London have failed to resolve "fundamental" aspects of Brexit and this could leave London defaulting to World Trade Organization (WTO) tariffs, the IMF said in its annual outlook on the UK economy. "Fundamental questions—such as the future economic relationship between the two and the closely-related question of the status of the land border with Ireland—

remain unanswered," it noted in a statement. "Resolving these questions is critical to avoid a 'no-deal' Brexit on WTO terms that would entail substantial costs for the UK economy—and to a lesser extent the EU economies—particularly if it were to occur in a disorderly fashion," the IMF added.

Problems in parliament

The gloomy assessment contrasts with that of May, who indicated last week that a no-deal hard Brexit would not be a disaster for Britain. May remains confident of striking an acceptable deal with Brussels. But even if she gets an accord in the coming weeks, it must be signed off in parliament, where she can only muster a slender majority. The main opposition Labor party's Brexit spokesman said Sunday that it could not back a deal unless it delivered the "exact same benefits" as Britain currently has inside the single market and customs union—an unlikely prospect. That would mean only a small number of May's Conservative MPs need to rebel in order to bring down her blueprint—and plenty of hardcore Brexiters are infuriated by it.

May expressed confidence parliament would approve the deal—but warned there was no alternative if Britain wanted to avoid a "no deal" scenario. "Do we really think... that if parliament was to say, 'No, go back and get a better one', do we really think the EU is going to give a better deal at that point?" she said. May has proposed that Britain follow EU rules in trade in goods after Brexit, to protect manufacturing supply lines and avoid a "hard border" between Northern Ireland, part of the



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May

United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland. May also insisted no other plan on the table would ensure "frictionless" trade on the island of Ireland.

Kurz: Avoid hard Brexit

But critics say her proposal would tie Britain too closely to the EU, and argue that the Irish issue can be resolved through trusted trader schemes and the use of technology. Former foreign minister Boris Johnson, who quit in July in protest at the Chequers plan, launched a fresh attack on it in his weekly newspaper column yesterday. "The whole thing is a constitutional abomination," Johnson, who has previously compared the

plan to a "suicide vest", wrote in The Daily Telegraph. Austria holds the EU's rotating presidency and Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said the EU should strain to strike a deal with London at the Salzburg summit.

"We have to do everything possible to avoid a hard Brexit and to make possible that there will be a strong cooperation between the UK and the European Union," Kurz said yesterday ahead of talks with French President Emmanuel Macron. Macron added that it was "essential that we find a deal, that the rules of cohesion and protection of Europe, of its single market, are fully preserved while the United Kingdom respects the vote by its people." — AFP

Mexico marks twin anniversaries of deadly quakes

MEXICO CITY: Mexico marks the anniversaries tomorrow of two deadly earthquakes: one that devastated the country last year, claiming 369 lives, and another that killed more than 10,000 people on the same date in 1985. A year ago, residents of Mexico City had just finished the earthquake drill they hold every September 19 - a ritual in memory of 1985 - when, some two hours later, the ground started shaking violently. The sprawling capital of more than 20 million people was soon reeling its 32-year-old trauma: buildings collapsed into tangled piles of concrete and steel, as frantic volunteers tried to dig through the wreckage to reach those trapped inside.

"It's the same nightmare as 1985," one sobbing resident, Georgina Sanchez, told AFP in the minutes after the quake. One year later, the scars left by the 7.1-magnitude earthquake are barely visible in this vibrant and cosmopolitan capital. But if you know where to look, they are there. For example, at the Talpan housing project, on the south side of the city, some 100 people still live in an improvised camp beside what used to be building 1C.

They were left homeless by its collapse, which killed nine people. Even more have died in the precarious conditions at the camp, according to Hector Toledo, one of the community's leaders. "Seventeen of our neighbors have died so far this year," Toledo, 40 said. "They were sick, and kept getting worse.... Some of them asked to go back to their apartments to die, even though they were uninhabitable." A 15-minute drive from there, the authorities recently began clearing the rubble of the Rebsamen elementary school, where 19 children and seven adults were killed.

In the trendy Roma-Condessa neighborhood, there is nothing but empty space where a large office building crumpled into a mountain of debris, killing 49 people. Rebuilding has been slower in the swathe of central states that were also affected by the quake, whose epicenter was about 120 kilometers southeast of Mexico City. It has been slower still in the poor southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas, which were hit hard by another, unrelated earthquake on September 7, 2017 that claimed 99 lives. The trio of anniversaries have made September an uneasy reminder that Mexico is one of the most seismically active places on Earth.



MEXICO CITY: Mexican stylist Xochilit de la Paz, who lost her mother and her business in the September 19, 2017 earthquake, works on a customers' stroller on the sidewalk, at Ninos Heroes neighborhood, in Mexico City. — AFP

Corruption deadlier than quakes

The question is whether Mexico's leaders have learned the lessons of the quakes. According to many structural engineers, researchers and activists, they have not. The 1985 earthquake, which measured 8.1 in magnitude and left the capital a post-apocalyptic disaster zone, was supposed to mark "a before and after" in Mexican history, says the writer and journalist Hector de Mauleon. In the aftermath, Mexico City overhauled its building code and required every construction project to have an independent engineer to make sure the structure was sound. Many political analysts say that quake stoked outrage that drove the country's transition from a one-party state to a nascent democracy over the next 15 years.

But despite all the changes since 1985, 38 buildings still collapsed in the capital last year. "It's outrageous that every time there's an earthquake in Mexico City, it seems like the first time," De Mauleon said. The organization Mexicans Against Corruption and Impunity analyzed 28 buildings, and found overwhelming evidence that—as in 1985 - corruption by construction companies and the authorities meant to regulate them was responsible for the collapses. "Earthquakes don't kill people. Corruption does," said Salvador Camarena, research director at the organization. The problem is compounded by the fact that no one has gone to jail for the crimes that caused the collapses: developers violating the building code; owners illegally adding extra stories, heliports or cell phone towers atop their buildings; authorities turning a blind eye. — AFP

Slaughterhouse workers on trial, accused of cruelty

PAU, France: Five slaughterhouse workers went on trial in southern France yesterday over footage showing abuse of livestock at the site which prompted widespread outrage as well as inspections at abattoirs nationwide. "We expect this trial to recognize the extreme suffering of these animals because regulations were not followed," said Brigitte Gothiere of the L214 animal rights group.

The group, whose name refers to a 1976 legal clause establishing that animals are "sentient beings", was behind the posting of secretly-recorded video footage in March 2016 at the slaughterhouse in Mauleon-Licharre. The images include employees bleeding a sheep while it shows signs of consciousness and a lamb being butchered alive. It followed similar videos posted by L214 at two other abattoirs and prompted a parliamentary inquiry as well as a series of inspections at sites across France.

Three employees as well as the company's director, now retired, have been charged with animal mistreatment and not following regulations such as ensuring the animals have been fully stunned before being killed. A fourth employee is charged only with violating the rules. But for Gothiere, "this trial will be the occasion to demonstrate the responsibilities of the state and the veterinary services". An employee from another abattoir filmed by her group was given an eight-month suspended prison sentence in April 2017.

Similar videos from other countries in recent years have raised pressure on lawmakers to impose stricter oversight on slaughterhouses accused of unnecessary cruelty in order to maximize profits. French animal rights advocates including the actress Brigitte Bardot have called for surveillance cameras to be installed in slaughterhouses. But the measure is unlikely to be included in a new law being debated in parliament on food and agriculture, which calls for tougher punishments in case of cruelty at abattoirs or in animal transport, and a mandatory animal welfare chief at each establishment. — AFP

International

Forced to fight as soldiers, Afghan police demand reforms, good pay

Police role increases in counter-insurgency operations

GHAZNI: Afghanistan's poorly armed and underpaid police are usually on the frontlines against Taliban militants and they lost 90 men defending the strategic city of Ghazni last month, underlining chronic weaknesses that are likely to face further tests. The four days of intense fighting in Ghazni have highlighted problems, including resentment of the regular military, that are increasing as the insurgents step up pressure to disrupt parliamentary elections next month.

Dozens of policemen have been killed since the Ghazni fighting as the Taliban have attacked northern cities and districts including Sar-e Pul, Baghlan and Samangan. In Kunduz province, 15 police personnel were killed in one incident last week. "We fight for our country but we don't get the benefits and respect given to a soldier," said Ghazni policeman Mohammad Zaman, reflecting the long-standing resentment that has hampered coordination among security forces. "We suffered a lot of casualties and many policemen were killed but the government has paid no attention to us. We haven't even been paid yet," he said.

Though generally less well paid and equipped than their army colleagues, Afghan police forces have been on the front line of the insurgency for years, sitting in exposed checkpoints where they bear the brunt of the fighting and suffer heavy casualties. A Pentagon report from March put the actual strength of the Afghan National Police at 129,156 out of a combined security force of 313,728 that was 11 percent below its authorized strength of 352,000. Under a plan launched last year, the Afghan Border Police and the Afghan National Civil Order Police are being transferred to the ministry of defense in a move intended to free up other police units for more traditional law enforcement.

But progress has been slow. According to the Pentagon report, there had been "no significant change" in the role of the police despite the transfer. An interior ministry report produced after the Taliban briefly over-ran Ghazni last month found that for over 28 hours policemen fought

alone before the army launched counter-insurgency operations. "The Afghan National Police acted swiftly but they were defeated because they are not trained to fight the Taliban. It was found that some policemen were scared and ran away to neighbouring villages," the report said.

Reassessment

With the Taliban in control of large areas of the countryside and pressing attacks on provincial cities, the role of the police is likely to increase as the insurgents step up



Combat losses and desertion exacerbate morale

attempts to disrupt the October parliamentary elections. About 50,000 police are currently undergoing training to protect thousands of polling stations, many in remote districts across the country, but the heavy losses have dented morale, said Ahmad Khan, the spokesman for the Ghazni police.

"It is the army's duty to fight against the Taliban and we (police) have our own duty, but we fought to save Ghazni, we are doing what exactly the army does," said Khan. "We want to know why was the Afghan army late when we were being attacked from all sides. We are forced to fight alone and complete other duties." Foreign donors, notably the United States, which is expected to allocate \$766 million this year for the Afghan National Police, have long pushed for reforms, including improving



KABUL: A wounded Afghan resident is treated following a suicide bombing attack at the Isteqial Hospital in Kabul. — AFP

pay, getting rid of corrupt leaders and weeding out non-existent "ghost" police from the rolls.

The experience in Ghazni and the widespread complaints from police have prompted pledges of reform from the government and promises of new weapons and equipment to replace the battered AK-47s and Humvees used by the force. "Police will not have guard checkpoints, we will post army soldiers on the all crucial check posts in the

next 30 days," said a senior interior ministry official. "Their salary will also be increased in the upcoming defense and security budget," the official said. The plan, however, is yet to be approved by the National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib who was given the job last month after his predecessor Hanif Atmar resigned over differences with President Ashraf Ghani following the siege of Ghazni. — Reuters

Pay more for your clothes, Bangladesh workers cry out

CHENNAI: Garment workers in Bangladesh have rejected an increase in the minimum wage, saying it is still not enough to live on and urging global brands to pay more for the clothes they buy, unions said yesterday. Bangladesh raised the minimum wage by more than 50 percent last week to 8,000 taka (\$95.5) a month - the first increase since 2013, when a string of fatal factory accidents thrust poor working conditions and pay into the spotlight. "The new wages announced are not enough for workers to live a decent life," said Mohd. Raisul Islam Khan, field coordinator for the IndustriALL Global Union.

"Workers were demanding 16,000 takas. They are not happy and many organizations are talking about an indefinite strike if the wages are not reconsidered," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Dhaka. Bangladesh is the world's second largest garment producer after China and its \$30 billion industry employs an estimated four million people, 80 percent of them women.

The workers are among the worst-paid in the world, a compensation report released by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) in April stated. Overtime income accounts for 20 percent of their salary, it said, and half the workers put in more than 60 hours a week despite the impact on their health. — Reuters

7 dead, 5 in coma after taking drugs at a music festival

HANOI: Seven Vietnamese have died and five are in a coma after taking drugs at an electronic dance music festival in Hanoi, officials said yesterday, as authorities scrambled to trace the substance. The Sunday night disaster, believed to be the deadliest drug-related incident in the country, shocked the communist nation's conservative capital. Synthetic drug use is on the rise but remains largely underground among a relatively niche group of hard-partying youth.

The victims, all Vietnamese, tested positive for an unspecified drug, prompting officials to ban all electronic dance music (EDM) festivals in the capital. "Police investigators are trying to figure out what type of drug that was," deputy director of Hanoi police Nguyen Van Vien told reporters yesterday. Officials said the dead were all in their 20s, while the five people in a coma in intensive care are aged between 18 and 30.

If the deaths are confirmed as drug-related it could be one of the worst cases anywhere in recent memory of mass narcotics-related deaths at a music festival. Sunday night's "Trip To The Moon" festival was hosted by Vietnam Electronic

Weekend in Hanoi's upscale West Lake, a neighborhood popular among expats, teachers and youth for its nightlife. Thousands attended the event which sprawled across three stages at a water park and included EDM big hitters Yellow Claw and Headhunterz on the line-up, according to the online flyer. One festival-goer said she saw several people collapse in the crowd and about four people shuttled out on stretchers.

"I thought maybe they were just exhausted but when I saw more people (being carried out) I was shocked... there were so many ambulances outside I was freaking out," she told AFP, declining to be named. Another who attended the festival said she saw many people she suspected to be high standing around dazed for most of the night. "They didn't dance much, just swayed a bit and they didn't like the lights shining directly at them," she told AFP, adding that security did not spend much time checking people at the entrance. Organizers did not respond to AFP's calls yesterday.

Synthetics on the rise

Investigators are trying to confirm who brought the drugs into the venue and said all events of its kind would be banned in the capital pending the probe. "The incident yesterday... was very painful. It was a great loss," said Tran Xuan Ha, deputy head of the Hanoi government's propaganda department. Tickets cost between \$21 and \$135 in a country which has joined Asia's multi-million-dollar fixation on EDM.



HANOI: Commuters pass the entrance to the West Lake Water Park in Hanoi yesterday where partygoers died from drug use during electronic dance music festival "Trip to the moon" inside the park. — AFP

Most ravers are found in the cosmopolitan and more free-wheeling southern hub of Ho Chi Minh City. But the EDM party scene has gained popularity in the capital as has drug use among young people, in a city where most bars and clubs are supposed to close at midnight in line with the official curfew.

It was the third Vietnam Electronic Weekend festival held in the country and was slated to be the biggest yet, according to state media. Shocked Hanoians

expressed grief online at the deaths. "A warning message for those young ones who have been so irresponsible for their own (lives)," reader Nam Huynh wrote on VNExpress. There are some 220,000 registered drug users in Vietnam, according to official figures. In the past most users were hooked on opium and heroin, though strong synthetics such as methamphetamine and ecstasy are becoming increasingly popular. Use of synthetic drugs rose seven percent between 2001 and 2016. — AFP

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Dominica's beloved wildlife still shaky a year after Maria

'Sad' parrots and 'stressed-out' frogs might be unlikely contenders for concern in the aftermath of a catastrophic natural disaster. But the fate of two of Dominica's most prized species are still a source of worry a year after Hurricane Maria tore apart the tiny Caribbean island. Dominica's famously lush forests are slowly coming back to life after the worst destruction in the country's history, prompting a return of the intriguing creatures that call them home. The sisserou parrot and the mountain chicken frog - both national emblems and both endangered - have grown notably more scarce, however.

"The impact on their habitat affects everything, from their feeding habits to their stress levels and the way they relate to each other," forestry officer Bradley Guye told AFP. The endemic sisserou - at the center of the national flag - was badly hit by the 257 km per hour winds. Up to half of the estimated 400 birds left in the wild may have been lost, according to Guye. Exact numbers are elusive because much of the woodland is inaccessible. The parrots mate for life, are said to be extremely faithful to each other and even grieve for a lost partner.

Traumatic blow

The sisserou birds are still reeling from Maria's onslaught: "Just like humans, some animals want to feel loved and comforted when they've suffered trauma, which can lead to exaggerated mating," Guye said. "And some just want to hide away and not see anybody." Exacerbating the parrots' plight was the loss of Dominica's abundant fresh fruit trees, an important food source. Apples, pears and grapes were flown in especially for them to eat. Fruit was left at strategic locations in the wild and brought to a breeding center in the capital, Roseau, along with several injured parrots.

The center has been working to increase the numbers of both the birds and the frogs. The critically endangered mountain chicken frog was once the national dish, gaining its name from its chicken-like taste. But a deadly fungal disease has taken the frog to the brink of extinction in recent years. Dubbed the "crapaud" - French for "toad" - the frogs are unusually large, breed in underground burrows rather than water, and have a distinctive mating call that is somewhere between a "whoop" and a bark. "We have been to their usual sites and heard their calls so we know there is still some activity," Guye said. "But their habitat was badly damaged and some relocated." "The skin disease combined with the storm means their status is very shaky."

'Nature isle'

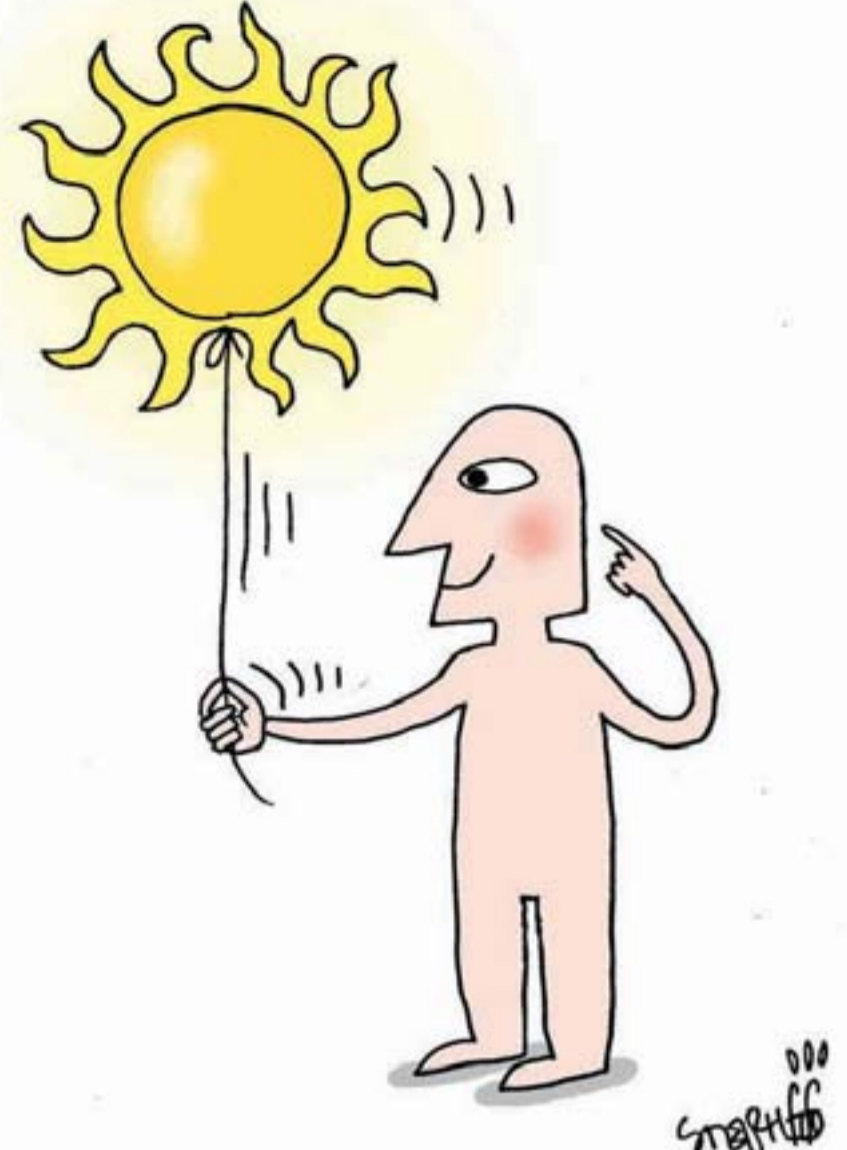
The "nature isle" owes much to its forests, long the source of everything from bush medicine to ecotourism. Environment chiefs say sightings of agouti, possums, red-necked amazon parrots and doves have been positive and they hope to begin a thorough wildlife inventory in January. Hurricane Maria struck September 18, 2017 and killed dozens of people, ripped roofs from 90 percent of buildings and caused damage topping \$1.3 billion.

It's a date seared into the nation's memory, and while the nation's cherished trees could take up to a decade to return to their former glory, their gradual rejuvenation is a welcome sign of recovery. "Our wildlife is a resource that's integral to our culture and traditions, and we work hard to protect our forests," Guye said. "Without it, children today would not know what a mountain chicken or an agouti was. I want my children and grandchildren to know too." — AFP



A sisserou parrot

Cartoon for the Soul



Ruby rush brings 'hell', not riches

Nearly a decade after rubies were first found in northern Mozambique, the discovery has proven a poisoned chalice, says traditional local ruler Cristina Joaquim. Instead of riches and reward, what could have been a windfall has brought harassment, violence and even a local ban on farming. The village of Nthoro sitting atop the ruby deposits has been targeted by gangs - allegedly backed by police - who have burnt homes and smashed belongings in an apparent attempt to force residents to move.

On the road to the village of around 12,000, dozens of signs warn villagers: "You're in the mining concession area of MIRM. It is forbidden to farm, cultivate, build homes or do any mining." Montepuez Ruby Mining (MIRM), a subsidiary of London-based Gemfields, won the mining rights to 36,000 hectares (89,000 acres) of ruby-rich land in the former Portuguese colony in 2011. Discovery of the precious red gemstone by a local woodcutter just nine years ago sparked a "ruby rush" in Mozambique, which now accounts for 80 percent of the world's production.

From 2014 to June 2017, MIRM held eight auctions of rubies from Mozambique, raising more than \$280 million (240 million euros), according to government data. "In this village we had a good life, but when our land became a mining concession area, everything changed," Queen Cristina, dressed in a traditional "capulana" skirt and headwrap, told AFP. "Because they say they are going to resettle us, they don't allow us to do farming, build new houses. Many people have fled because of police torture, famine, burning houses. Only few people remained - those who resist."

Fenced off

Conditions in Nthoro are a far cry from the lifestyle enjoyed by those able to pay more than \$21,000 for a ruby engagement ring by fabled luxury jeweller Faberge, which

has been acquired by Gemfields. Located in the Montepuez district of Cabo Delgado province, Nthoro has no piped water or electricity and its houses are built of wooden stakes and dried grass. A security fence surrounds the village, with only one gate overseen by guards. Nthoro, a clearing cut from thick forest, is planted with mango, coconut and papaya trees, and chickens scratch in the dirt.

The only sign of public services is a police station, which is staffed by a special military police unit rather than civilian officers. Cristina accuses the authorities of wanting to drive villagers off the land to avoid having to resettle them elsewhere. "I urge the company to resettle us so we can move away from this hell. We always refer these issues to the government, but the government never answers," she said.

Legal action

MIRM is 75-percent owned by Gemfields and the rest by Mwiriti Limitada, a Mozambican company co-owned by army General Raimundo Pachinupa - a senior member of the ruling Frelimo party. Just 10 minutes away from Nthoro, the mining company's main camp has power, running water, restaurants and even a health clinic. Nthoro's residents are among thousands of people living within MIRM's vast concession area who are facing relocation under Mozambican law.

"We no longer have any place for farming. The mining company forbids us. We can't move freely because in certain areas the company forbids it," Joao Carimo, another community leader, told AFP as other locals cheered him on. "Those who burned our houses are police officers and security guards at the mine," he alleged. Police deny any wrongdoing. Determined to fight back, about 100 Mozambicans have joined a lawsuit in Britain alleging serious human rights abuses.

London-based law firm Leigh Day issued proceedings at the High Court against Gemfields in April. The claimants



Illegal miners stand on top of a ditch where they search for precious stones on Aug 3, 2018, in Nthoro village on the outskirts of the mining town of Montepuez, Mozambique. — AFP

allege that they have been shot at, beaten and unlawfully detained, with four families saying their sons were shot dead by security forces at the mine.

Gemfields told AFP it could not comment on the claims because of the court proceedings but said it took "allegations of this nature extremely seriously and denounce(d) any form of violence or abuse". It added that 105 families would be resettled from Nthoro under a \$10-million project to establish a new settlement nearby with water, power, a school, market, mosque and church. "Defining which village families are to be relocated... was carried out by a third-party consultant in a lengthy and thorough process," Gemfields said in an email. Gemfields said the new settlement's foundation stone was laid in April and the relocation was scheduled to take two years. The local government said it was applying pressure over apparent delays to the construction. — AFP

Bangkok street vendors: From Michelin star to fighting eviction

When Jay Fai, a 70-year-old street food seller in Bangkok known for her crab omelettes, won a Michelin star last year at the launch of the city's first restaurant guide, few locals were surprised. "Auntie Fai" is as renowned for the ski goggles she wears to protect her eyes from hot oil splashing, as she is for her thick crab curry and dry congee that customers, including many who drive up in luxury cars, swear by.

But the aftermath from the global adulation was short-lived, as city officials soon resumed a drive to "return the pavement to pedestrians" evicting hundreds of vendors selling food, clothing and trinkets, for greater "order and hygiene". Earlier this month, hundreds of hawkers marched to city hall following a daytime ban on vending on the sidewalks of Khao San road, a favorite haunt of backpackers.

What began as disparate protests by vendors facing marching orders has now morphed into an organized citywide movement that has also won support from academics and other public figures against the perceived heavy-handedness of officials. "Street vending occupies an important space in Thai culture and history, helping to build community bonds, enabling women to work, innovating in Thai cuisine, and enriching families with no opportunity otherwise," said Chawadee Nualkhai, a food blogger. "Shepherding them into 'centers' or eradicating them completely leaves a huge hole in the city's ecosystem." "This

hole will inevitably be filled by big corporations" like food companies and department stores, she added.

The crackdown on street vendors is part of a wider effort by Thailand's military government, which came to power in a 2014 coup, to impose order in a city famous for its vibrant nightlife and cheap and varied street food. Authorities are also removing shanties along the Chao Phraya River to build a promenade, and have forced out a community near an old fort to make way for a public park.

Civic groups say the evictions mostly target poor residents who have little legal recourse, as they have no formal rights. "A war is being waged against the city's own people, the poorest and most vulnerable," said Poonsap Tulaphan, director of HomeNet Thailand, which supports informal workers. "Many of these vendors have been selling in the same spot for decades, and rely on their earnings to support themselves and their families. Without that, they have nothing," she said.

Eyes and ears

Across Asia, governments keen to modernize booming cities increasingly view street vendors as a hindrance, and as usurpers of public spaces meant for formal businesses and wealthy residents. But hawkers enhance the business environment, make localities more dynamic and walkable, and help deter crime by being the "eyes and ears" of the neighborhood, said Narumol Nirathorn, a professor at Bangkok's Thammasat University. From Bangkok's older floating markets to an estimated 240,000 street vendors today, they also contribute to a functioning food system with cheap meals and snacks, particularly for less well-to-do residents, Narumol said. Narumol's research showed that 87 percent of Bangkok's residents buy food or other items from street vendors. Of the more than one-quarter of residents who buy



Street vendors are organizing to rally against a citywide crackdown to clear the pavements for pedestrians in Bangkok. — Reuters

from them every day, many earn less than 9,000 baht a month (\$275). Of the vendors themselves, more than 70 percent are women, and more than two-thirds are over the age of 40 and have little education, making them particularly vulnerable, Narumol said.

The recent crackdown has hit them hard: Licensed vendors are down by thousands, and tens of thousands more may be banned in 683 spots in the city, said Rewat Chobtham, president of the Network of Thai Vendors for Sustainable Development. "This is the most devastating policy of the government," he said. "The cancellation of licenses and evictions have resulted in vendors losing their life savings, pulling their children out of school, and losing assets such as homes and vehicles," he said.

They are not alone. Street vendors are facing animosity everywhere, as officials try

to make their cities look like those in the United States or Europe, said Sarah Reel of Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), an advocacy group. "Let's call it what it is: Elitism and corporate gentrification," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "This is particularly misguided given that many of the cities they seek to emulate are now striving to attract vendors and street markets to create the kind of street life that Southeast Asian cities like Bangkok have in abundance." Bangkok's street vendors, unlike the city's "motorbike taxis" who are also facing increasing restrictions, had not organized into a unified lobbying group before. That changed following vendor evictions in 2016 and 2017. As group leaders from across the city met at forums and at government agencies, they began to chat and coordinate their actions via messenger apps, said Rewat. — Reuters

Business

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LONDON: A demonstrator holds a sign that reads "Brexit. Is it worth it?" whilst draped in European Union (EU) and Union flags, as he protests outside the Houses of Parliament in central London. —AFP

UK economy will shrink without Brexit deal: IMF

Brexit supporters accuse IMF of reviving 'Project Fear'

LONDON: Britain's economy will shrink if it leaves the European Union without a Brexit deal and it will suffer some damage whatever terms it agrees, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday, challenging the promises of some Brexit supporters.

The Fund predicted Britain's economy would grow by about 1.5 percent a year in 2018 and 2019 — lagging behind Germany and France—if a broad Brexit agreement was struck. "I'm a desperate optimist, and I very much hope and pray that there will be a deal between the European Union and the UK," IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said.

But failure to get a deal would lead to a contraction, she said. "Let me be clear, compared with today's smooth single market, all the likely Brexit scenarios will have costs for the economy and to a lesser extent as well for the EU," Lagarde said as the IMF presented its annual report on Britain's economy.

"The larger the impediments to trade in the new relationship, the costlier it will be. This should be fairly obvious, but it seems that sometimes it is not." Britain is due to leave the EU in little more than six months' time but London and Brussels have yet to strike a deal to secure a transition period.

Prime Minister Theresa May has struggled to bridge a deep divide within her Conservative Party about how close a relationship Britain should have with the EU. She is hoping to make progress towards a deal when she meets fellow EU leaders this week.

British finance minister Philip Hammond, speaking alongside Lagarde, said the government had to heed the "clear

warnings" from the IMF of a no-deal Brexit.

Hammond has been criticized by some Conservative Party lawmakers who say he wants to keep Britain too close to the EU. Many Brexit supporters say Britain must distance itself from Brussels in order to strike its own trade deals with fast-growing economies around the world.

The IMF said those kind of deals would not offset the drag to the economy from leaving the EU.

Ruth Lea, an economist with Arbutnot Banking Group and a Brexit advocate, accused the IMF of joining a new round of "Project Fear," a term Brexit supporters use for pre-referendum warnings of the economic consequences of a Leave vote. "Did they learn nothing from their loss of credibility after Project Fear Mark 1? In other words, stop making bold claims when you really don't know what will happen," Lea said on Twitter.

Britain's economy—the world's fifth-biggest—slowed after the 2016 referendum decision to leave the EU and it continues to be outpaced by most other rich nations.

However, stronger-than-expected data last week showed the economy had its fastest growth in nearly a year, helped by the World Cup and hot summer weather. The IMF said there was a "daunting" range of issues still to be dealt with before Brexit. Lagarde also said the IMF would lower its forecast for global economic growth when it updates its outlook in November.

"But I can say at this point, without disclosing any numbers, is that clouds on the horizon have not become lighter but darker," she said. —Reuters



LONDON: International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Christine Lagarde (R), reacts as she sits with UK Mission Chief for the IMF, Philip Garson, during a press conference to mark the publication of the 2018 Article IV assessment of the United Kingdom at the Treasury in central London yesterday. —AFP

Saudi sovereign fund secures \$11bn loan, invests \$1bn in Tesla competitor

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund said yesterday it has secured its first ever international loan, boosting the kingdom's diversification drive after its flotation of state oil giant Aramco stalled. The Public Investment Fund said in a statement that it had obtained an \$11 billion loan as "the first step in its strategic, medium-term debt funding program". "We are pleased to have completed this international syndicated loan," said the fund's managing director Yasir Al-Rumayyan.

The PIF had previously sought to raise billions of dollars through an initial public offering of shares in Aramco to fund projects that seek to reduce the kingdom's dependence on oil. Diversification is a key focus of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 plan, which aims to transform the Saudi economy through a slew of projects from hi-tech start-ups to a new mega city. But the Aramco IPO — once touted by Saudi officials as aiming to raise \$100 billion — has hit the buffers, with executives at the oil giant citing unfavorable mar-

ket conditions. That prompted the PIF to turn to other sources to fund its programs. The fund said that under the Future Investment Initiative launched in October 2017, it aims to beef up its assets to \$400 billion by 2020. Its current holdings are estimated at \$230 billion, mostly in the form of major stakes in companies including SABIC petrochemicals, Saudi Arabia's largest listed firm.

The PIF is in talks to sell its 70-percent stake in SABIC to Aramco for an estimated \$70 billion as another way of raising cash. The fund is aggressively pushing a host of big-ticket investments — from Uber to the planned \$500 billion NEOM mega city on the Red Sea coast. Later yesterday, the fund announced it had inked a \$1 billion investment agreement with US electric car-maker Lucid Motors. Under the terms of the agreement, the two parties made binding undertakings to carry out the transaction subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions, PIF said in a statement.

The agreement aims to provide the necessary funding for the commercial launch of Lucid's first electric car in 2020, it said. It has also invested in British tycoon Richard Branson's space tourism company Virgin Galactic and pledged tens of billions of dollars to funds run by SoftBank and Blackstone. Since 2016, PIF has committed to investments worth \$95 billion including stakes in high-risk tech firms such as electric car company Tesla, according to the International Monetary Fund. After oil prices crashed in mid-2014, Saudi Arabia — the world's top crude exporter — accumulated budget deficits of more than \$260 billion and borrowed over \$100 billion to help finance the shortfall. But the central bank still has around \$500 billion in state reserves, bolstered by a recent partial recovery of oil prices. —AFP

China will hit back at any new US tariffs

BEIJING: China's foreign ministry said yesterday it would strike back at the US if Washington moved forward with new tariffs on \$200 billion of its exports. "If the US launches any new tariff measures, China will have to take countermeasures to firmly ensure our legitimate rights and interests," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters during a regular press briefing.

The two countries have been embroiled for months in a trade conflict that has threatened to hurt consumers in both countries.

Trump has already imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in goods from China. Last week Beijing welcomed Washington's offer to hold fresh trade talks and said the two sides were discussing details, providing some hope the world's top two economies could step back from the brink of an all-out trade war.

But over the weekend the Wall Street Journal reported US President Trump planned to announce tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods early this week and that the move could cause Chinese officials to cancel the talks.

The US imports around \$500 billion in goods from China. The news sent Chinese stocks tumbling on Monday more than one percent with the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index falling to 2,651.79, the lowest level since 2014. "An escalating trade conflict serves no one's interests," Geng said. —AFP

Business

KAMCO celebrates 20 years of leadership

Preferred asset management and investment banking provider in the region

KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest assets under management ("AUM") in the region, officially celebrates its 20th year anniversary during the month of September. Over the past two decades, KAMCO has been dedicated towards enhancing and building upon its innovative investment strategy with a wide offering of quality investment products and full-fledged services.

Throughout the last 20 years, KAMCO has built a foundation of unwavering support for its valued clients combined with a passion towards finding unique and innovative ways to suit their needs. The firm has always been willing to explore new opportunities to better serve its clients, and this has allowed KAMCO to grow and expand its offerings as well as geographical reach.

A look into KAMCO's journey

KAMCO Investment Company, formerly known as "KIPCO Asset Management Company", was established during September 1998 as a member of the KIPCO Group. In 2003, the investment firm sought all necessary requirements to become a publicly traded company on the Kuwait Stock Exchange, which is now Boursa Kuwait.

One year after its listing, the firm launched the KAMCO Investment Fund ("KIF"), an equity-based fund that mainly trades in Kuwaiti listed securities. KIF was recently ranked the top performing equity fund in Kuwait and the region in 2017. One of several significant milestones in the firm's standard-setting and result-driven investment solutions.

First bond issue

During the same year KIF was launched, 2004, KAMCO diversified its funding base by issuing its first bond in the amount of KD 20 million. The issue was fully subscribed by investors with a 'BBB' investment grade credit rating by Capital Intelligence Ltd. In 2018, KAMCO issued its second bond for KD 40 million with a 'BBB' long-term and 'A3' short-term investment grade credit rating by Capital Intelligence that was also well received by investors. The strong oversubscription witnessed by investors was covered in a period of 3 days, the shortest subscription period for a KD denominated bond ever.

Thought leadership

In 2005, KAMCO emerged as one of the largest private sector managers of financial assets in the Middle East. The firm also extended its research coverage to include all GCC stock exchanges. Last year, KAMCO won the "Best Investment Research Company - 2017" award for maintaining its thought leadership position as one of the premier investment research houses in the GCC with its published reports and industry experts frequently quoted in the media.

Further building upon its achieved milestones, in 2007 KAMCO undertook the single largest private sector mergers and acquisitions transaction for KIPCO by selling a majority stake in Wataniya Telecom to Qatar's Q-Tel. The successful outcome of the transaction marked another step towards enhancing and strengthening the local and regional economy.

Investing in education

Concentrated on providing diverse investment solutions to its clients, KAMCO launched its Kuwait Education Fund ("KEF") in 2007 which promoted educational initiatives in Kuwait by supporting entrepreneurs, backed by a conservative investment philosophy.

Identified as a key area for future investment, KAMCO also took the role of managing the National Investment Fund Portfolio ("NIFP"), known as Shariky Fund in 2007. The fund specialized to invest in small business ventures in Kuwait and was managed on behalf of the Kuwait Investment Authority ("KIA").

Today, KAMCO actively participates in various initiatives to strengthen the local education system. The investment firm is a frequent supporter of CFA Society Kuwait's charter award ceremony, the American University of Kuwait career fairs, Tmkeen awards, the Proteges, and other educational programs that fall in line with KAMCO's corporate social responsibility initiative to contribute towards society.

A decade operating in the investment sector

Driven by its prudent investment philosophy, innovative financial solutions, and the latest market research tools, KAMCO rapidly gained recognition in the regional and international financial markets. During this phase in its journey, KAMCO overcame exciting challenges and achieved new accomplishments that helped pave the way towards its mission of becoming the preferred asset management and investment banking provider in the region.

Stability

In 2008, unprecedented global economic and trading conditions resulted in a business world that has never been more difficult to predict. During this period, KAMCO responded to exceptionally unstable market conditions through strategies designed to protect its clients and the firm's position, as well as create a foundation for future growth. 2008 also marked KAMCO's 10-year anniversary in which the firm announced its new corporate identity with a vision to contribute towards the transformation and development of the local and regional investment scene.

Despite fluctuating market conditions, KAMCO maintained its strong position in a very volatile financial environment and emerged as one of the few investment companies to report an annual profit for 2008. In 2009, KAMCO was appointed as the exclusive investment adviser for KIPCO's KD 100 million acquisition



“Throughout the last 20 years, KAMCO has built a foundation of unwavering support for its valued clients combined with a passion towards finding unique and innovative ways to suit their needs.”

program earmarked to restructure or purchase assets of private-sector Kuwaiti companies with strong growth potential.

While KAMCO continued to achieve significant milestones throughout its journey, in 2012 the firm successfully executed several notable and key advisory transactions in financial restructurings for its clients. As a lead manager during this period, KAMCO successfully completed three major corporate bond issues, raising KD 206.5 million from investors, including completion of the largest size and longest tenure corporate bond issue in Kuwait's history up until December 2012.

Growing leadership

Focusing on increasing its operational income, KAMCO entered a new growth trajectory with numerous initiatives in 2013 to grow its investment products and client focused services. Having celebrated its 15th year since inception in 2013, KAMCO continued to grow its leadership position in the market as one of the largest asset managers in the region. KAMCO's managed funds and portfolios achieved superior returns in comparison to their benchmarks, placing the firm as one of the top performing firms in Kuwait.

The following year, due to its diligence to conform to CMA regulation, KAMCO was one of the first four

companies to gain an official license for various investment products. During the first half of 2014, KAMCO launched the Kuwait Real Estate Yield Fund ("KREYF"), the first local fund in Kuwait to receive CMA approval for fund raising, which focused on building the initial investment portfolio to create adequate yield. In addition to that, for its solid performance in the asset management field during the year, KAMCO won the prestigious 'Best GCC Asset Management Company - 2014' award from World Finance.

In 2015, KAMCO abided by its sustainable investment strategy and searched for opportunities during a time of economic and geo-political instabilities witnessed throughout the year. Despite uncertain market conditions, KAMCO successfully managed the first Subordinated Tier 2 bond issue with a 'Baa1' long-term investment grade by Moody's credit rating system.

KAMCO expands its geographical footprint

To further expand its offerings throughout the region, KAMCO sought after all regulatory requirements to obtain its license in 2016 to open the doors to its first international office in the Dubai International Financial Centre ("DIFC"). With international and regional exposure, KAMCO's DIFC office would serve as an alternative platform to provide the firm and its clients with new opportunities for development and growth on a regional and international scale.

Global exposure

After years of operating in the local, regional and international markets, KAMCO continued to grow its international operations through increased global exposure. KAMCO has been actively building upon its core competencies to offer MENA-wide investment management consultancy and services. The firm successfully completed two international real estate deals, increasing the AUM size of its international real estate portfolio to \$263 million as of 31 December 2017. KAMCO also completed 3 major investment banking transactions during the same period that amounted to over \$1 billion.

International recognition

Over the years, KAMCO has been internationally recognized for its performance, investment philosophy and team of highly skilled investment experts. KAMCO won 9 awards from international industry experts in 2017 within the fields of asset management, investment banking, alternative investments, wealth management, and investment research.

KAMCO today

With its reputation well-known throughout the local and regional markets, KAMCO continues to implement its strategic investment philosophy, backed by its industry experts and research-driven approach. Humbled by the trust and confidence of its valued clients, KAMCO managed to increase its AUM to over \$10.2 billion (as of 30 June 2018) and achieves a strong track record of 98 successful investment banking transaction worth around \$15.8 billion (as of 30 June 2018).

Throughout this year, KAMCO's funds and portfolios under management have performed well in the market and the firm will continue to enhance them to outperform their benchmarks. KAMCO also acted as joint lead managers in three key transactions during 2018, including the firm's KD 40 million bond issue with the shortest subscription period for a KD denominated bond.

KAMCO also recently announced that it has signed a Sale and Purchase Agreement ("SPA") with NCH Ventures S.P.C ("NCH") to purchase a 69.528% majority stake in Global Investment House ("Global").

Services and offerings

1. Portfolio Management Services
2. Mutual Funds
3. Securities Trading & Management
4. Investment Advisory
5. Alternative Instruments/Derivatives
6. IPOs
7. Non-Discretionary Portfolio Services
8. Discretionary Portfolio Management

9. Financial Advisory
10. Trade Execution

Managing wealth

Throughout the decades, these moments have been a turning point in KAMCO's progression, establishing the company as a premier asset management and investment banking company in Kuwait and the region. Those milestones have all been a culmination of its Wealth Management Team's business acumen, its innovative and ambitious investment banking track-record and detail-oriented asset management backed-up by market intelligence, to name a few.

Building relationships throughout the decades

KAMCO offers a wide range of portfolio management solutions with robust execution capabilities that suit every investor's risk appetite. When managing wealth, KAMCO's Wealth Management Team consistently focus on providing the best strategic guidance and quality advice, which in return has helped build long and lasting relationships with valued Clients. That, coupled with the team's highly skilled wealth managers, remains the center of KAMCO's strong performance. The team's strength lies in understanding the unique needs of investors—whether individuals, families, or institutions. By offering tailor-made integrated investment solutions, KAMCO seeks to provide strategic guidance to protect, grow and seamlessly manage each client's wealth. The firm's offerings include product customization, strategic wealth planning, research-based solutions, monthly portfolio reporting, client support in international third-party investments and more. KAMCO's Wealth Management services are based on an extensive risk management framework, evidence-based financial advice, and access to KAMCO's vast resources.

For KAMCO, building and maintaining a close relationship with clients and stakeholders remains at the core of its operations. The company's mission of delivering upon the financial needs of its clients in the most seamless approach is perhaps the main ingredient in their recipe for success. Building upon their approach, the firm perceives every client as a financial partner for life, today and for generations to come.

Added-value assets

Within its MENA and International Asset Management Departments, KAMCO follows an operational strategy when it comes to managing various assets. The firm focuses on delivering an added-value that differentiates it from its competitors in the local and regional markets.

Throughout the years, KAMCO's Asset Management strategy has been noticed in their successful reactions to trends in the markets which yielded positive results across the board. As a reflection of this strategy, most of KAMCO's funds under management have performed well in the market and outperformed their benchmarks. A strong performance was also evident in executing positive returns for discretionary portfolios, with all mandates outperforming benchmarks and all GCC indices, as of recent. Their advisory services followed lead, qualifying KAMCO as a manager of GCC equity mandates.

With success, came further growth as KAMCO expanded its array of expertise spanning alternative investment solutions in real estate and fixed income. Along with the latter, KAMCO offers a wide spectrum of private equity deals in various regional and global sectors including telecom, technology, real estate, healthcare and traditional service companies.

Banking on opportunities

The fundamentals of KAMCO's investment banking platform lies on the back of reliable investment coverage, innovative solutions, and a suite of local, regional, and global capabilities. Throughout a range of their advisory services, their recent international real-estate transactions as well as regional and international expertise in equity capital markets and debt capital markets, KAMCO has been seen to implement the highest standards of execution in capital and deal flows management, making complex finance structures appear seamless and sustainable, regardless of the scale and complexity of the transactions.

An eye for insight

Well-renowned for its market intelligence, KAMCO's published financial analyses and insightful outlook reports are frequently cited by the local and international media agencies. Using an unbiased outlook, KAMCO's Research Team leverages real time access to industry and corporate developments combined with economic facts and statistics to provide investors with timely and actionable reports that will assist them in making informed and proactive investment decisions. KAMCO's research reports are a key contributor in conceiving the firm's innovative, integrated and research-driven investment solutions that are targeted towards capitalizing on current market trends.

A responsibility towards corporate citizenship

Alongside a business and operational focus, KAMCO has been hard at work in maintaining a close link between its business, its workforce and the wider community. As such, the market has observed KAMCO's participation and effort towards the community at which it exists, specifically during events and causes that were of significance to the national economy and the industry. KAMCO's presence and support to socially addressing challenges such as the development of local human capital have been noted through initiatives that are centered on empowering the youth, education, entrepreneurship, career development and the overall wellbeing of our society.

“With its reputation well-known throughout the local and regional markets, KAMCO continues to implement its strategic investment philosophy, backed by its industry experts and research-driven approach.”

Business

Euromoney 10th Kuwait Conference to discuss 'New Kuwait' updates

Forum to showcase financial sector response to National Development Plan

KUWAIT: Euromoney will celebrate its 10th annual Euromoney Kuwait Conference on 25 September. The conference will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, a new venue to mark this special anniversary year. The agenda has been designed to give an update on New Kuwait and in particular the financial sector's response to the National Development Plan. Co-hosted by the Ministry of Finance, we are honored to welcome Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, Minister of Finance to the Euromoney stage.

A stellar line-up of speakers will discuss the sustainability of Kuwait's macro-economic model and how Kuwait can expand revenues, consolidate and focus spending, finance capital expenditures and enhance the private sector's role in the economy. "Reform is crucial for unlocking the economy's potential," says Faisal Al-Hamad, Chief Executive Officer of NBK Capital and a speaker on the opening panel. "Capital market reform is a clear example, as it has facilitated Kuwait's ascension to Emerging Market status. The expected inflows will make it more attractive for local companies to raise capital and expand." Lazard Asset Management's Director and Portfolio Manager, Fadi Al-Said, Kuwait University's Associate Professor, Nayef Al-Shammari and IMF's Director of Middle East Centre for Economics and Finance, Oussama Kanaan will join Al-Hamad as they explore Kuwait's macro-economic stability.

This year will look to the future of financial services with a keynote presentation from Ripple's Sagar Sarbhai and a special session on fintech and blockchain. According to Ahli United Bank's Tareq Muhmood, "The recent proliferation of technology affecting the financial services

industry is akin to the invention of the car. The horse and carriage industry survived for a while, but the change was inevitable. Banks in Kuwait are not waiting to see what will happen, they are keen to be part of the change".



Reform crucial to reveal full capabilities of the economy

The final session of the conference will examine the deployment of private capital in Kuwait's infrastructure - in vital sectors including: transport and trade; energy; electricity and water. What are the vectors for private sector involvement? What are the structures to attract private capital? Is the legislation fit for purpose? And what role does co-investment with regional and international capital play?

For more information, to view the agenda and to apply for your place to join senior government officials, bankers, corporate treasurers and CEOs, and investors, please visit the conference website - www.euromoneyconferences.com/kuwait. Euromoney Conferences invites interested participants to join the debate and to voice their opinions on the conference themes on Twitter, using the hashtag #emKuwait.



KUWAIT: The Euromoney Kuwait Conference in 2016. — KUNA file photo

KFH clarifies on customers' protection guide

KUWAIT: Head of Customer Complaints Unit at Kuwait Finance House, Abdullatif Saad Al-Fadhli stated that placement of training courses on the bank customers protection guide as part of a comprehensive training plan for KFH employees shall enhance efforts to present and simplify the guide. This process shall cope with the plan placed by KFH to enhance financial comprehension. It also aims to strengthen KFH economic position and compliance with all regulatory rules and regulations in the field of presentation and application of customers' protection guide and achievement of financial comprehension at various degrees and levels.

Al-Fadhli added in a press release that "Bank Customers Protection Guide" comprises a highly significant set of rules and instructions which were complementary to the rules and instructions issued by CBK. KFH has succeeded in upgrading and creating new work procedures and policies, place them under execution by employees and present them to customers for awareness purposes. This may be achieved through continuous and condensed training programs at all job levels. This matter has contributed to the increase in awareness ratios and employees' interest in a achieving the guide goals.

He added that all training and awareness lectures shall be presented as part of a comprehensive campaign during the current year training workshop. The campaign shall comprise workshops once the Banks Customers Protection Guide is placed under execution. Employees shall be encouraged and instructed to abide by the guide instructions. The guide is uploaded on KFH web site (kfh.com) to facilitate the identification of its contents and high light customers obligations.

KFH has made the last finishing touch on a highly diversified multi-stage tight plan to participate positively in achieving financial comprehension as per CBK requirements and upgrade banking products and tools to make a significant contribution to local economy and cope with government plans and regulatory instructions.

KFH plan to achieve financial comprehension is based on two pivots, enhance knowledge and achieve comprehension. The first pivot is achieved by selecting certain determined samples of society tiers with different abilities and interests, identify their needs of banking needs and services and structure suitable services and products offered to them as per available information and suggestions.

Second pivot shall depend on measuring KFH customers' knowledge of the banking and finance services provided by the bank and the impact of this knowledge on owning and enjoying services and products in a comprehensive manner. This step calls for soliciting customers' opinions and suggestions to improve and upgrade quality and service level and obliterate any obstacles (if any).

It is worth mentioning that Banks Customers Protection Guide contains 10 basic principles justice, equality, fairness, honesty disclosure, transparency, financial educations and job ethics, customer protection against fraud, provide safe online transactions, process customer complains observe competition and conflict of interest and protect customers from outside backup operations risks.

Ithmaar Bank, Eazy Financial Services to launch biometric payment network

KUWAIT: Ithmaar Bank and Eazy Financial Services yesterday announced plans to launch the region's first biometric payment network, supported by the Labour Fund "Tamkeen", providing new and more efficient alternative for customers to conduct many of their financial transactions.

When implemented, Ithmaar Bank customers will no longer be required to use their bank cards at ATMs. Instead, they will simply be able to use their fingerprint along with their PIN to process financial transactions. This provides a simpler, more secure way to process financial transactions than ever before. In future, this may also include points of sale.

Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) Chief Executive, Khalid Al-Rumaihi, commented: "With this announcement Ithmaar Bank and Eazy Financial Services are truly showcasing Bahrain as a hub for innovation, specifically in the financial services industry. This partnership comes in line with our strategy to encourage innovation that supports high value job creation in the Kingdom. Bahrain's forward -thinking regulatory approach provides an attractive environment for FinTech - particularly in areas such as Islamic finance and payments. We look forward to welcoming more home-grown initiatives such as this."

Praising the initiative, Tamkeen Chief Executive Dr Ebrahim Janahi said: "Tamkeen's support for the FinTech industry comes as part of our efforts to support enterprises across stages of development and making the private sector a key driver of economic growth. We believe Ithmaar Bank and Eazy are both well ahead of the curve, and this strategic initiative will result in a major positive change in the Kingdom's economy and capital market."

Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) Executive Director, Khalid Hamad, said: "This very forward-looking partnership is proof that FinTech initiatives are delivering tangible, real-world results - ahead of similar initiatives across the region - while maintaining the overall safety and soundness of the financial system in Bahrain."

The platform, developed by Eazy Financial Services, is built on a powerful Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) one of the most reliable and trusted biometric engines which is deployed and implemented in many countries around the world for both civil and forensic applications. Eazy Financial Services adopts a rigorous "Identification Algorithm" which has earned the highest honours by several stan-



dards organizations and authorities. Praising the initiative, Tamkeen CEO Dr Ebrahim Janahi said: "Tamkeen's support for the FinTech industry comes as part of our efforts to support enterprises across stages of development and making the private sector a key driver of economic growth. We believe Ithmaar Bank and Eazy are both well ahead of the curve, and this strategic initiative will result in a major positive change in the Kingdom's economy and capital market."

Ithmaar Bank CEO, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, said: "As part of our Digital Strategy, we continue to invest heavily in technology that provides our customers a more convenient, simpler and more secure way to conduct their financial transactions. Our customers are tech-savvy and expect friction-less access to banking services - and the introduction of biometrics is another major step that direction. We are leading the financial industry with this

new, tangible solution which is a real-time example of how we put innovation and our customers at the forefront of everything we do."

Eazy Financial Services CEO, Khaled Al-Ahli, said: "Payments stand out as the single largest driver for the biometrics market. We are driving biometric verification in the region, which is the future of the financial industry."

"As a local Bahraini start-up, we are extremely proud to bring a regional first solution from Bahrain, in partnership with a renowned local bank. Going forward, biometrics for financial products and services are expected to represent one third of the total market for biometric solutions in 2020," he continued.

The agreement is a result of the financial support of Tamkeen, with the support of the EDB and CBB, and will see the new Biometric Payment Network available in phases for Ithmaar Bank customers as early as Q1 2019.

IAA launches new website iaaglobal.org

KUWAIT: The International Advertising Association (IAA) yesterday announced the launch of its new website: iaaglobal.org

The new website is expected to provide comprehensive information on everything that happens in IAA globally and also in the field of marketing communication around the world. This will further add testimony to the IAA's new positioning as the "global compass for marketing communications". The IAA has partnered with Flipboard who will aggregate global news stories including IAA news and make it available on the website.

"We are ecstatic about the launch of the new IAA website," Felix Tataru, IAA's Chairman and World President said of the new website. The website will offer exciting, detailed and complete news stories and visitors to the site will have a very informative experience. The new IAA website has a highly responsive user design presenting information in a manner that is appealing and speaks volumes of its expertise in

global marketing communications. "In today's world where there are many different sources of information, convergence will lead the way in refined collection, curation and distribution of relevant information, says Srinivasan K Swamy, the President-Elect of IAA. "The new IAA website will be a one-stop destination for all this. It's Leadership page will carry thought provoking articles, white papers and pieces of significant research" he added.

The Managing Director of the IAA, Dagmara Szulce says "I am extremely proud of the progress the IAA has made with the launch of a new website. The team has worked hard to redefine and tune the website - sharing in-depth information about the new focus of the IAA and the role it plays in global marketing communications".

"The new IAA website is not only a reflection of our new positioning but also establishes us as the global focal point with the requisite expertise and authority within the marketing communications ecosystem".

The International Advertising Association (IAA), headquartered in New York, was founded in 1938 to champion responsible marketing. The IAA, with its 56 chapters in 76 countries, is a one-of-a-kind global partnership whose members comprise advertisers, media, advertising and public relations agencies, media companies, and academics.

Special offers to India and beyond with Jet Airways

KUWAIT: Jet Airways, India's premier full service international airline, will offer guests an attractive discount of up to 30 percent on their travels to India, Bangkok, Colombo, Dhaka, Hong Kong, Kathmandu and Singapore.

Effective 18th September 2018 today, guests can enjoy substantial discounts on their Premiere and Economy class bookings. The offer is applicable on both one-way and return tickets with an immediate travel period.

The sale offer is valid only on Jet Airways operated flights and can be purchased through www.jetairways.com, the Jet Airways Mobile App or by contacting a travel agent. The special four-day promotion ends on the 21st September 2018.

In addition to the above, Jet Airways continues to offer an attractive 10 percent off domestic travel plus 25 KG free baggage allowance on bookings made exclusively through www.jetairways.com or the Jet Airways Mobile App. The domestic flights offer ends 30th September 2018.

Shakir Kantawala, Vice President Gulf, Middle East and Africa, Jet Airways, said, "We are offering guests considerable savings on their travel to India and beyond. We are also excited to offer our attractive domestic exclusive offer from the Gulf region. It is our belief that the offers will be well received by guests and they shall take this opportunity to create more memorable moments with family and friends while travelling with Jet Airways."

Health & Science

World Marrow Donor Day: Kuwaiti boy given a chance at life after transplant

Receives life-saving bone marrow transplant at London hospital

LONDON: On World Marrow Donor Day on 15th September, a Kuwaiti mother urges people in Kuwait and the region to learn about bone marrow transplants (BMT) and to become donors where possible. This comes after her son Salem, a 14-year-old Kuwaiti boy, had his life saved after visiting Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London (GOSH) for a bone marrow transplant. "I brought my son to GOSH because we weren't able to receive further treatment in Kuwait and doctors were saying there was no more hope," Salem's mother explains. "I almost lost hope but GOSH saved his life. I feel so emotional and grateful."

Salem suffered from Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia which had relapsed through standard treatment and was subsequently transferred to London hospital, GOSH, which treats 1,500 children from the Middle East every year. The bone marrow transplant (BMT), conducted at GOSH, allowed the hospital to give Salem high-dose chemotherapy to destroy his cancerous cells.

However, the high dose chemotherapy also destroys the healthy cells inside the bone marrow. The bone marrow transplant (BMT) is important as it is responsible for making stem cells. By giving Salem stem cells from a healthy unrelated donor, this allowed the bone marrow to recover from the intensive treatment. Stem cells can turn into different types of blood cells. This includes red blood cells to carry oxygen around the body, white blood cells to fight infection, and platelets to help stop bleeding.

Professor Paul Veys, Director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London (GOSH), treated Salem. Professor Veys is an internationally renowned expert in BMT and he explains the importance of

expanding registries with bone marrow donors. "Tissue matching is closely linked with ethnicity and Arabs are under-represented on the donor panels. It is therefore vital that we expand the registries with donors from all types of ethnic background so that the chance of finding a matched donor can be improved particularly for patients from the Middle East," explains Professor Veys.

'It saved my son's life'

Since her time at GOSH, Salem's mother has become a passionate advocate of bone marrow donation and increasing people's awareness of its importance in Kuwait. "Bone marrow donation saves people's lives. It saved my son's life. I want to encourage people back home in becoming more educated about bone marrow donation and understand why it is so important. Unfortunately, people are not aware in Kuwait as it's not really talked about. I am really ready to contribute here."

Like Salem's mother, Lindsey Young, Bone Marrow Transplant Clinical Nurse Specialist at GOSH, also wants to tackle misconceptions that blood marrow donations are painful.

"This is not the case at all", explains Lindsey. "Stem cells can be collected in two ways either through peripheral blood stem cell (PBSc) or bone marrow harvest. Bone marrow harvests are usually carried out under general anesthetic (GA) and are often a day case or overnight stay in hospital.

As they are performed under GA you don't feel any pain during the procedure but might feel slightly bruised at the area and tired for a few days following it. Alternatively, PBSc are collected directly from a large vein and involves a series of injections to make



the stem cells multiply into the bloodstream. Some people report flu-like symptoms from the injections, but these are usually mild and go within a few days."



Lindsey worked with Salem and his family during his treatment and nominated Salem to take part in Superhope: an exciting campaign designed to promote Positive Mental Attitude (PMA) for children with cancer which will be officially launched on October 1st. "Salem has had a really long medical journey at GOSH starting in 2013 and cumulating in a BMT in 2017. I nominated Salem to take part in Superhope as I thought this would give him a chance to do something non-medical and really immerse himself back into normal childhood play. I was really excited to see what he had come up with and knew he would gain so much from the experience."

“GOSH saved his life”

In Pakistan, mountain water pipe brings a bonus - peace

SIKSA: When a pipeline was installed last year to bring spring water and snowmelt to this village of 500 households in northern Pakistan, it brought something else as well: peace. Previously, neighbors argued over the limited water that coursed through channels to the town. The community strictly regulated water use, with each household allowed half an hour of supply a week to irrigate their fields. Cheating brought arguments. To wash their clothes or to bathe, villagers had to clamber down to the river at the bottom of the valley. Fetching drinking water meant climbing up the steep mountain-side to a spring. But not any more.

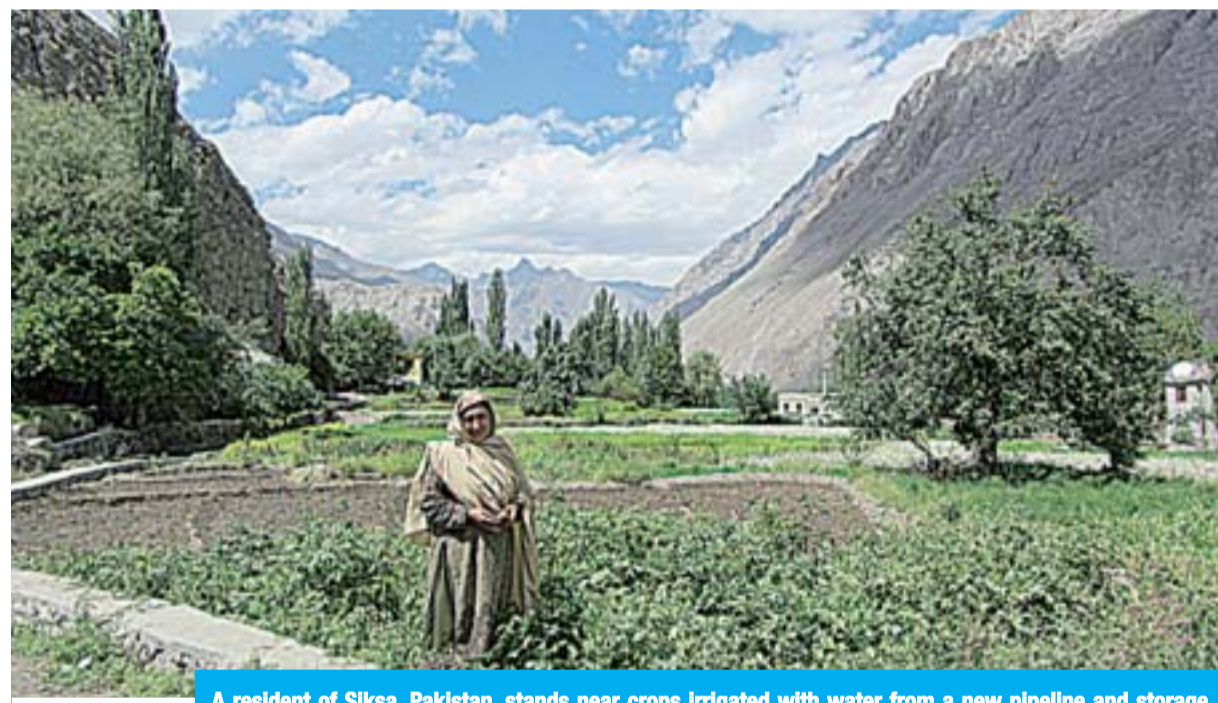
"I would say 90 percent of our issues have now been resolved," said Shereen Akhtar, a resident and the locally elected representative to the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly. "Now there is peace in Siksa." The pipeline, sunk three feet into the ground, uses gravity to carry water six kilometers from the heights of the Karakoram Mountains in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan's northern-most region.

It feeds into a 30,000-litre (8,000-gallon) storage tank, which directs the water through irrigation channels that supply 4,000 people, said Aisha Khan, who heads the Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization (MGPO), a non-profit that works in the region. She estimates the system now channels over 5 billion litres of water a year - and ensures a water supply year-round. The project was constructed in response to the effects of climate change, she said, which has led to more erratic water supplies in mountain areas, putting lives and incomes at risk.

A time of plenty

"Winters are becoming milder and shorter with less snowfall, and summers are getting longer and warmer," she said. And with changes in rainfall patterns affecting farming, she said, ensuring food security is seen as the first step in building resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts. "That can only be achieved by providing mountain communities with a reliable source of water in the right quantity and at the right time," Khan said.

World Health Organization figures show just 36 per-



A resident of Siksa, Pakistan, stands near crops irrigated with water from a new pipeline and storage tank system serving the village. —AFP

cent of Pakistan's population has access to safe drinking water. Siksa's water supply project took a year to put in place, and cost about 15.5 million Pakistani rupees (\$126,000). The community provided the labor and about one-fifth of the money, with most of the rest coming from the Coca-Cola Foundation.

Sakina, who like most villagers uses just one name, said that until a few years ago water was abundant, with heavy winter snow meaning plenty of water flowed even in summer. "But for several years now the winters are not so cold anymore and there is less snowfall. That meant less water for irrigation and less crops and income," she said. But since the water storage tank was installed, "all these fields have become green again", she said, pointing to terraced fields where tomatoes, aubergine, okra and pumpkin grow against a backdrop of towering, bare-sloped mountains.

"We can now cook vegetables like okra and aubergines which was unheard of before. Earlier our vegetables would just dry up after we planted them," the mother-of-three said. The steady supply of water even means Siksa's homes are decorated with pots and baskets of flowers. "Our homes are now scrupulously clean, and we can plant flowers too as we now have plenty of

water," said Husniat, a teacher at one of the village's two schools. In recent years, Husniat said, the lack of water meant it was hard to ensure children stayed clean. "We would have to go fetch water in plastic containers from springs higher up in the mountains, which would take hours, then use it sparingly to wash clothes and for cooking and drinking. It was exhausting," she said.

Water surplus

A reliable supply of water also has allowed villagers for the first time in year to sell a surplus of vegetables grown in the nearby market towns of Khaplu and Skardu, Khan said. They are predicting an even bigger harvest next year, after discovering the water supply is sufficient to irrigate additional farmland, she said. Villagers also have planted fruit trees - meaning better nutrition and higher incomes, Khan said.

In an effort to help combat global warming, they have planted 10,000 poplar trees as well in the past two years, on formerly barren ground. "We took the rocks out of the barren ground with our bare hands and planted each tree and watered it. The plantation area has become so green now we all go there in the summers for picnics," Sakina said. —Reuters

Researchers turn to oysters to track pollution

ARCACHON: French researchers hoping to get an early warning on pollution in the ocean have found an unlikely ally in a mollusc more often destined for the dinner table. Their findings reveal that much like canaries in a coal mine, oysters stationed near offshore oil platforms can detect minute amounts of hydrocarbons as each one constantly filters dozens of gallons of water every day.

That could alert scientists to tiny infrastructure cracks before they become catastrophic oil spills that threaten wildlife and coastal communities. Attached to rocks or other supports, oysters are ideal for nearly real-time analysis because "they have nothing to do except notice the surrounding noises and temperature and light variations," said Jean-Charles Massabuau, a researcher at France's CNRS scientific institute.

Working with the University of Bordeaux, he has been developing processes for measuring an oyster's reactions to exposure to oil and natural gas in the water since 2011 alongside biologists, mathematicians and computer specialists. The

bivalve "is perfectly made for sampling the quality of the water it filters all day long" as it reacts almost instantly to the slightest amount of oil, Massabuau said.

To study the reactions, he and his team have come up with an electrically isolated aquarium using concrete and plastic foam blocks, old bicycle tube tires and tennis balls at the world's second-oldest marine research station, on the Bay of Arcachon in southwest France. Electrodes are attached to about a dozen oysters in the tank, allowing researchers to measure how quickly each oyster's valves are opening and closing to filter the water for food. Spikes in valve cycles are the first alert that the mollusc has become stressed, with larger increases corresponding to higher hydrocarbon concentrations.

'Double-edged sword'

The observations have been tested in areas including the Barents Sea off Norway and Russia, as well as canals built for a research facility operated by the French energy giant Total outside Pau in southwest France. The technology's potential captured the company's attention in 2012, when it began partnering with the lab and providing financial backing.

Philippe Blanc, who heads anti-pollution efforts for Total, said it could help protect marine environments from "silent leaks" at its installations. So far it has invested some 1.7 million euros (\$2 million) in the oyster sentinel



ARCACHON: A technician of the CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research), puts measuring electrodes on oysters in a CNRS laboratory in Arcachon. —AFP

research. Following a 14-month test at its Abu Al Bukhoosh oil field off the coast of Abu Dhabi involving pearl oysters, Total now plans a similar project for the Al Khalij block off Qatar. —AFP

How AI will transform the future of banking

Bank ABC and AFS (Arab Financial Services) announce that the 3rd Middle East & Africa FinTech Forum, the region's premier fintech conference, will be held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Bahrain on 20-21 February 2019 under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain. The forum brings together internationally renowned thought leaders, practitioners and innovators from the FinTech and artificial intelligence (AI) arenas to discuss a wide range of issues including the future of banking, potential impact of AI and how it will transform the future, open banking, crowdsourcing and financial inclusion.

Sael Al Waary, Deputy Group CEO of Bank ABC and Chairman of AFS, said: "Banking is beyond disruption. Huge advances in digital capability, AI, and greater financial inclusion are changing the way we do banking. Our FinTech Forum will build upon the success of the past two years and focus on the key opportunities and challenges of Fintech and innovations."

He added, "The Forum will examine technology's impact on both banks and humans, as well as the evolution of the customer experience. We are witnessing massive growth in new AI-based solutions on our daily lives and a deeper understanding of these trends is critical to shape the future of the financial industry."

Al Waary assured that hosting the 3rd FinTech Forum reflects "our commitment to Bahrain and the region as a whole, as this event has become the most prominent FinTech conference in MENA and supports Bahrain's vision to become a leading FinTech hub. More regional banks and financial institutions are expected to take part in the Forum next year. Both Bank ABC and AFS are committed to the development of new fintech solutions and bringing these latest tech innovations to the Region."

The FinTech Forum also features the region's widest congregation of business leaders, FinTech entrepreneurs, policy makers and regulators, representatives of the investor community and some of the financial industry's largest organizations who discuss and promote the next generation of FinTech innovations in payments, Artificial Intelligence, open banking, Blockchain technology and more in a highly engaging format.



HE Rasheed Almaraj, CBB Governor



Sael Al Waary - Deputy Group CEO of Ban ABC

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What's On

IWG Kuwait celebrates start of 2018/19 cultural and social year

The International Women's Group IWG-Kuwait celebrated the beginning of its new cultural and social year of 2018/2019 at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Farwaniya. The meeting was well attended by the wives of Ambassadors to Kuwait and other members who have been a part of Kuwait's society for a number of years and represent various countries all around the world.

The ladies spent a merry morning catching up after the long summer break, and were apprised of the plans IWG has for the coming season. The new president Clethe Gubler wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Switzerland to the State of Kuwait opened the meeting with sincere thanks and appreciation to the Honorary President of the Group Sheikha Anwar Al Sabah for her care and continuous support to IWG-Kuwait.

Then she welcomed the group members and explained her vision and plan as President for her upcoming term, she also introduced the new Board. She thanked previous President Mrs Elena Solomatina wife of the Russian ambassador and former Vice-President, Dr Lilit Galastian the wife of the Armenian republic's ambassador, for their active support and dedication to the International Women's Group. The President also announced the activities of the year, which involve social and cultural projects as well as many celebrations during the year, including the official celebration of the group's 30th year anniversary.



Loyac launches Bridgeworks program

Sponsored by KIB and under Bridge umbrella, LOYAC recently launched its Bridgeworks program which will be held from the period of September 11 till December 26, 2018 and will be open for age categories from 16-27. The program is held in collaboration with the Marina Hotel and a number of self-development coaches. The program's supreme coordinator, Iman Al-Omar said the program was designed out of a strong belief in Kuwaiti youth potentials and added that the program would help develop participants' skills in customer service, communication, writing CVs and successful interview techniques.

On his part, KIB's corporate communication manager, Nawaf Najia stressed that sponsoring Bridgeworks workshops by KIB comes as part of the bank's social responsibility activities and stressed that KIB believes in embracing and patronizing the largest number of youth, provide them with high quality services and encourage principles of equality and volunteering amongst them. Also speaking on the occasion, Marina hotel GM, Nabil Humoud expressed his joy in cooperating with LOYAC and preparing trainees for their future careers.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2011



ACROSS

- Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus.
- A small flat triangular bone in front of the knee that protects the knee joint.
- Wading birds of warm regions having long slender down-curved bills.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- (Greek mythology) One of the three Gorgons.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
- Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
- Extremely cold.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- Sacred text of Zoroastrianism.
- Not friendly.
- Having little physical or spiritual strength.
- Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Of a leaf shape.
- A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- Massive plantigrade carnivorous or omnivorous mammals with long shaggy coats and strong claws.
- The rate at which heat is produced by an individual in a resting state.
- Excessively fat.
- Spanish poet and dramatist (1898-1936).
- 'Cease' is a noun only in the phrase 'without cease' End v. l.
- The upper angle between an axis and an offshoot such as a branch or leafstalk.
- Using the voice.
- A city of central China.
- Panel forming the lower part of an interior wall when it is finished differently from the rest.
- An old Scottish coin of little value.
- The leg from the knee to foot.
- Chief port of Yemen.
- Military action involving the use of electromagnetic energy to determine or exploit or reduce or prevent hostile use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- Hormone produced early in pregnancy by the placenta.
- On a beach.
- An implement used to propel or steer a boat.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- Mountain goats.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
- Genus of large monoecious mostly deciduous trees.
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.
- A musical composition in several movements.

DOWN

- The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- Speaking a Slavic language.
- A cord or band of inelastic tissue connecting a muscle with its bony attachment.
- An oral cephalosporin (trade names Keflex and Keflin and KefTAB) commonly prescribe for mild to moderately severe infections of the skin or ears or throat or lungs or urinary tract.
- The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A cgs unit of work or energy.
- The organ of sight ('peeper' is an informal term for 'eye').
- An instrument for measuring the distance between two points.
- (of spatial position) In or brought into line with or into proper relative position.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- Relating to or being within or near the inner side or limit.
- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
- Dark somewhat brownish black n. l.
- An association of nations dedicated to economic and political cooperation in southeastern Asia.
- Jordan's port.
- Reflect light or colors like an opal.
- Remote city of Kazakhstan that (ostensibly for security reasons) was made the capital in 1998.
- A mark to indicate a direction or relation.
- (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
- The cardinal number that is the sum of five and one.
- A line spoken by an actor to the audience but not intended for others on the stage.
- Any of numerous fruits of the gourd family having a hard rind and sweet juicy flesh.
- A Chadie language spoken in northern Nigeria.
- (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
- A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
- Having three dimensions.
- A woman aviator.
- Cover as if with a shroud.
- United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
- Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- Twining perennials having cordate leaves and flowers arranged in conelike spikes.
- Dearly loved.
- A former copper coin of Pakistan.
- Set down according to a plan.
- (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- The compass point midway between south and southeast.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have devoted yourself to your career and family life. You may find yourself craving respect for all you have done. You feel as though you have all aspects of your life organized and planned and are on the road to success. You may find it very easy for you to organize the lives of those around you. You may find that ambition is a main focus at this time and you are taking on any and every project in the work place that is offered. You are a born leader and tend to readily take on any opportunity that comes your way. Be sure to stay focused and prioritize all your duties, Aries as to not become overwhelmed.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You have a desire to get to the bottom of things. You are inquisitive and curious. Answers are what you seek and answers are what you will get. You may find yourself channeling your inner Sherlock Holmes. Your inner workings are what you desire to understand. You are on a soul-searching mission.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Why me? Why not me? These two questions are motivators for you. When you see others suffering, you realize how fortunate you are. Because you have been given more, you want to give more. When you see something that needs to be done, instead of asking "Why doesn't somebody do something?" you think "What can I do?" You derive satisfaction from bringing happiness to others. Some people are part of the problem; you are part of the solution.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Break the mold. Color outside of the lines. Today is a day you will find great satisfaction from being different. Thinking outside of the box will bring great reward. Stay positive and optimistic and sit back and enjoy the reward.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You will use your special methods to overcome sure failure and make gains in finances. Someone will come to be even more precious than you ever imagined. You could become frustrated with circumstances surrounding you now; try to keep your emotions in check and your facial expressions pleasant. You may have to make hasty decisions regarding the home front; resist making decisions you are not comfortable with. You will be called upon to mediate between two people you know very well; you will help them work through this delicate situation. Your research and efforts have brought you answers regarding the mystical realm. Concentrate on relaxing and enjoying the end of the day with a fun, exciting person this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today may find you a bit unsatisfied with your surroundings. It may be someone or the physical place you are in that is just not sitting right with you. You may feel as if someone or something is holding you back or may just feel frustrated by your life in general. This may be a great time for an evening out and about. Change your surroundings. Clear your head but choose your company wisely to avoid any conflict as this is a time you need to have fun. You have to find a comfortable balance between work life, family, and social life. Virgo, remember it is good for you to get out and enjoy yourself from time to time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are fully aware you are not getting any younger. A desire to make the most of this life you have been given is a driving force for you. You have been too strict with yourself in the past. It is time to let your hair down and live a little. You tend to dismiss anyone and anything that does not conform to your way of thinking. This is a great time for you to surround yourself with your friends from other cultures, religions, and races. This could be an eye opener for you. A new outlook on life is what you need. Step out of your box and experience something new.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Imaging can be a powerful tool for attaining your goal. Remember when you were a child and could be anybody you wanted to be just by pretending? Some athletes have found that imagining themselves shooting long shots or hitting the baseball out of the park is a good substitute when they can't physically practice. Find a quiet place and image yourself being the person you wish you were. Pretend you are being assertive when someone takes advantage of you. Image yourself telling a coworker what you need from her. With a little practice, you will find yourself doing those things naturally.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are optimistic and faith that all things good will come your way. The sky is the limit as far as you are concerned today. You may feel as if there is nothing you can not accomplish. Bring it on! In your personal life you may be ready to take a huge risk. Today may find you down on one knee, considering a move, or opening up and expressing your deepest feelings to someone. You are in a sort of daredevil mode and high on life. Your confidence level is at an all-time high and you are just the person who can make your desires become reality. Today, Sagittarius, there is just no stopping you!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You feel as though you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. You are driven and focused. You don't meet a stranger. People are drawn to you and you make friends easily. You are a people person. You may find yourself in a position where you are led to take step out of your comfort zone and take a chance on an emotional level that may lead to a great reward. You may still especially close to a love one today. You also may find that your being complemented on your possessions or talents. People seem to really be taking notice of you today.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Don't be alarmed if you feel as if the hair on the back of your neck is standing on end. Something is leaving you with an unsettled feeling. Suspensions are high. Your mind is in overdrive and you will find your words come quick and sharp. You may find yourself in some type of conflict today. This could be with someone or just a feeling of conflicting emotions. You have a deep insight emotionally and may find yourself lost in your thoughts. You may find friends are not very supportive of the mood you are in and your actions today.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A time of major change in your life is upon you. It will be strange and unusual in many ways. Everything new, unusual, and revolutionary seems to appeal to you now. A more eccentric side of you emerges. Thinking outside of the box may lead to a very profitable and creative invention. Let your thoughts lead you. You may find those close to you may be a bit uncomfortable with this unusual side of you, Pisces. Don't worry. They will grow to love the new you.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Car Parts

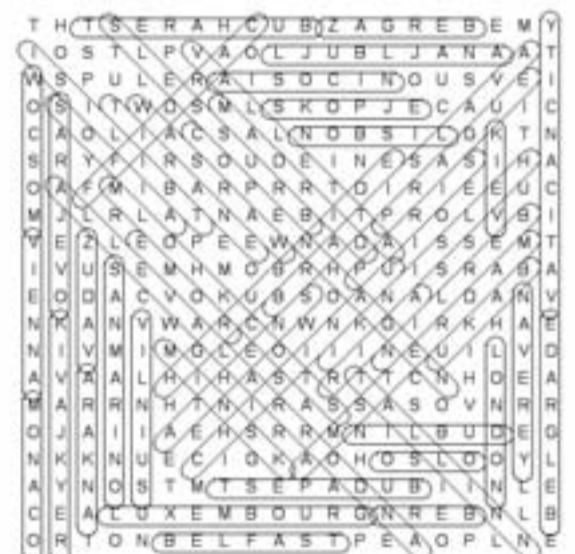
Find and circle all of the car parts that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional car part.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| AIR BAG | CLUTCH | GAS TANK | STARTER |
| AIR CONDITIONER | COOLING FAN | HEADLIGHT | STEERING WHEEL |
| ALTERNATOR | CRANKCASE | HOOD | SUSPENSION |
| AXLE | CRUISE CONTROL | HORN | TAIL LIGHT |
| BATTERY | DEFROGGER | IGNITION | TIRES |
| BODY | DEFROSTER | MUFFLER | TRANSMISSION |
| BRAKE | DOOR | POWER WINDOW | TRUNK |
| BUMPER | DRIVE LINE | RADIATOR | TURN SIGNAL |
| CAR SEAT | DRIVESHAFT | RADIO | WHEEL, RIM |
| CARBURETOR | ENGINE | REAR VIEW MIRROR | WHEELS |
| CARRIER RACK | FRAME | ROOF | WINDSHIELD |
| CHILD SEAT | FUSE | SEAT BELT | |

Yesterday's Solution

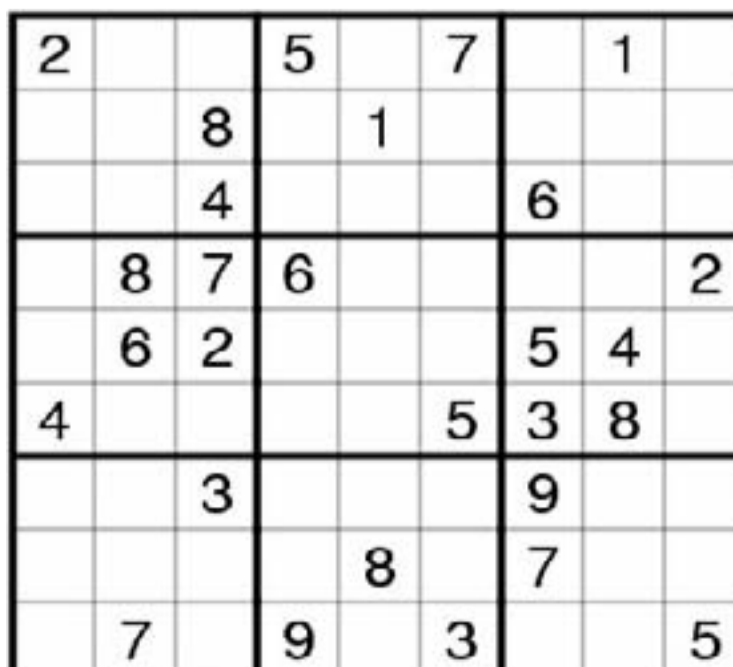
Capital Cities of Europe



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| AMSTERDAM (Netherlands) | ESINBURGH (Scotland) | ROME (Italy) |
| ANDORRA LA VELLA (Andorra) | HELSINKI (Finland) | SAN MARINO (San Marino) |
| ANKARA (Turkey) | KIEV (Ukraine) | SARAJEVO (Bosnia-Herzegovina) |
| ATHENS (Greece) | LISBON (Portugal) | SKOPJE (Macedonia) |
| BAKU (Azerbaijan) | LJUBLJANA (Slovenia) | SOFIA (Bulgaria) |
| BELFAST (Northern Ireland) | LONDON (England) | STOCKHOLM (Sweden) |
| BELOGRADE (Serbia/Montenegro) | LUXEMBOURG (Luxembourg) | TALLINN (Estonia) |
| BERN (Switzerland) | MADRID (Spain) | TBILISI (Georgia) |
| BRATISLAVA (Slovakia) | MINSK (Belarus) | VIENNA (Austria) |
| BRUSSELS (Belgium) | MONACO (Monaco) | VADUZ (Liechtenstein) |
| BUCHAREST (Romania) | MOSCOW (Russian Federation) | VALLETTA (Malta) |
| CADIZ (Spain) | OSLO (Norway) | VATICAN CITY (Vatican City) |
| CARDIFF (Wales) | PARIS (France) | VIENNA (Austria) |
| CHENNAI (India) | PRAGUE (Czech Republic) | VILNIUS (Lithuania) |
| COPENHAGEN (Denmark) | REYKJAVIK (Iceland) | WARSAW (Poland) |
| DUBLIN (Ireland) | RIGA (Latvia) | YEREVAN (Armenia) |
| | | ZAGREB (Croatia) |

The hidden sentence is: THE MOST POPULOUS CITY IN EUROPE IS MOSCOW WHICH HAS OVER EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018



This aerial view shows French artist Saype's giant land art fresco representing a little girl dropping an origami boat into Lake Geneva that he painted to support the cause of the NGO SOS Mediterranee, specializes in the rescue of migrants at sea yesterday in Geneva. The giant fresco covering 5,000 square meters was produced with biodegradable paints made from natural pigments. — AFP

'Green Book' wins Toronto film festival audience prize



Director Alfonso Cuaron (center) poses as member of the Venezia 75 competition jury, Austrian-German actor Christoph Waltz applauds, after receiving the Golden Lion award for Best Film for the movie "Roma".

Peter Farrelly's dramatic comedy buddy movie "Green Book," starring Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen, won the Toronto International Film Festival audience prize on Sunday, making it a surprise Oscar contender. The film follows a working-class Italian-American bouncer who takes a job chauffeuring an African-American classical pianist through the US South in the 1960s, because it is too dangerous for him to travel alone. "I'm still reeling from the response to the film (in Toronto) so this is incredible," Farrelly, who is best known for comedies "Dumb and Dumber" and "There's Something About Mary," said in a statement. "This win is beyond my wildest dreams," he said. The film beat out Alfonso Cuaron's "Roma" (second runner up) and Barry Jenkins's "If Beale Street Could Talk" (first runner up) for the festival's top prize. Based on a true story, the film tells of Don Shirley (Ali), the well-dressed son of Jamaican immigrants who carries himself with the confidence of a prince, and speaks perfect English but is, according to a write-up by festival organizers, "not built for the brutal bigotry of his time." So he hires street-fighting, loud-mouthed Tony "Lip" Vallelonga (Mortensen) to accompany him on his

journey, guided by the Negro Motorist Green Book to safe hotels and restaurants in the segregated South. While delving into the heavy topic of US race relations, the film uses levity to dispel the foundations of prejudice and discrimination, as the traveling pair learn that people-black or white-aren't so different from each other.

Next up: The Oscars

The Toronto film festival is the biggest in North America and has traditionally been a key event for Oscar-conscious studios and distributors, as it is attended by a sizable contingent of media. Given out since 1978 and based entirely on audience votes, its People's Choice Award is a bellwether for the Academy Awards. Seven past winners went on to win an Oscar for best picture: "Chariots of Fire," "American Beauty," "Slumdog Millionaire," "The King's Speech," "Argo," "12 Years a Slave" and "Spotlight." Nearly a dozen more were nominated in the top category. In contrast, Cannes' coveted Palme d'Or has been an indicator of Oscar success only once in 1955 for "Marty" starring Ernest Borgnine.

This year's Toronto audience prize winner beat out several films already generating Oscar buzz including Damien Chazelle's Neil Armstrong biopic "First Man," starring Ryan Gosling and Claire Foy, Steve McQueen's feminist kick-ass heist movie "Widows" with Viola Davis, and Lady Gaga in Bradley Cooper's directorial debut "A Star Is Born." The performances of Nicole Kidman in "Destroyer," Steve Carell and Timothee Chalamet in "Beautiful Boy" and Robert Redford's swan song in "The Old Man and the Gun" have also been much talked about. Toronto jury prizes also went to "Free Solo" for best documentary, Vasan Bala's "The Man Who Feels No Pain" in the festival's Midnight Madness category, Ash Mayfair's "The Third Wife" for best new Asian film, Carmel Winter's "Float like a Butterfly," Guy Nattiv's "Skin" and "The Fireflies are Gone" (La disparition des lucioles). — AFP



(From left) Writers Brian Hayes Currie and Nick Vallelonga, director Peter Farrelly, actors Mahershala Ali, Viggo Mortensen and Linda Cardellini attend the press conference for "Green Book" during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. — AFP photos



Director Peter Farrelly attends the press conference for "Green Book" during the Toronto International Film Festival.

Paul McCartney scores US No. 1 after nearly four decades

In this file photo Sir Paul McCartney performs in concert during his One on One tour at Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre in Tinley Park, Illinois. — AFP



Paul McCartney is back on the top of the charts, on Sunday earning his first solo number-one album in the United States in 36 years. "Egypt Station"—a confident 16-track album in which McCartney experiments with a younger rock feel in addition to his classic Beatles sound—marked the first time that he has ever debuted as a solo artist on top of the benchmark US Billboard chart.

The English legend—who at 76 retains a hectic touring schedule—spared no promotional effort for the album, appearing on US late-night shows and live streaming an invite-only concert inside New York's Grand Central Station. Surprisingly, McCartney did not replicate the feat in his native Britain, where "Egypt Station" debuted at number three, with veteran US rapper Eminem's surprise album "Kamikaze" reigning for a second week. "Egypt Station" sold the equivalent of 153,000 copies in the United States in the week since its release on September 7, tracking service Nielsen Music said. Unusually for a chart-topping album in recent years, virtually all of the sales were traditional purchases rather than through streaming or individually downloaded tracks. McCartney, who last topped the chart as a solo artist in 1982 with "Tug of War," achieved the second largest gap between number-one albums for any artist. Johnny Cash holds the record with a break that was seven months longer than McCartney's when the country great posthumously hit number one in 2006. Since "Tug of War," McCartney has also reached number one four times in the United States with Beatles anthologies. — AFP

Solo Aussie outback cop mans beat the size of Britain



Australian police Senior Constable Stephan Pursell patrolling a remote border area of Queensland and South Australia outside the outback town of Birdsville.



This picture shows Australian police Senior Constable Stephan Pursell watching traffic approaching from South Australia at the remote Queensland border outside Birdsville. — AFP photos



A keeper parading a horse during the Birdsville Races in outback Queensland.

Being the only policeman in an area the size of Britain might be daunting for some, but not for Senior Constable Stephan Pursell. The easy-going 53-year-old runs a modest police station in the equally modest town of Birdsville, making him the law across a vast swathe of outback Australia. In this isolated, arid, ferrous-red-and-orange moonscape fringing the Simpson Desert, dust, pesky flies, feral camels, wild dogs and deadly snakes are your main companions. Pursell acknowledges that his patch—which takes four days to drive across—is “quite big”. But he relishes the challenge. “This (job) came up and I thought, ‘what an iconic location in Australia’, he said, “so I put an application in.”

He got the gig, and so two years ago hauled himself and his wife Sharon away from Queensland's gleaming surf, 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) to the east, and into this sandy cauldron. It is not a place for everyone. Daytime temperatures can soar above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) and strong winds can whip up dust storms that blot out the sun and turn the skies dark.

“You’ve got to experience it to enjoy it. It’s an amazing place,” said Pursell, who became an internet sensation last year after shots of him frying an egg in the withering heat on the bonnet of his Toyota Land Cruiser went viral. Birdsville itself is home to just over 100 people. There’s one hotel that doubles as the watering hole. A roadhouse allows people to stock up on fuel and life-saving essentials. But the highlight may be a bakery selling curried camel pies.

The tiny township is a relief from the barren landscape. Surrounding Birdsville are endless sandy plains and rolling dunes that merge into the distant horizon, a nothingness that’s both mesmerizing and isolating. So what’s the workload like? “Crime’s not an issue,” Pursell admits, adding that much of his job is that of a first responder. “The type of jobs that we do is

mainly just making sure that people get here safely, get home safely. Breakdowns, medical issues, accidents—we’ve got to be ready to respond to those sorts of things.” The most common type of accident is vehicles rolling over, but the station has also had to deal with a pilot whose plane lost a wheel in the air after colliding with a pelican.

Because he has to monitor an area of 240,000 square kilometers (around 92,500 square miles) — where you can go for hours or days before someone passes—the involvement of the local community is essential. A nurse, mechanic, Aboriginal ranger or community members may join him on rescue missions. Police officers at other stations hundreds of kilometers away also work with Pursell and nearby cattle stations to track travellers as they pass through. Twice a year the pace picks up a bit, for the century-old Birdsville horse races, which are known across Australia, and for the

Big Red Bash music festival. Both annual events attract more than 6,000 tourists who travel for up to several days in four-wheel drives or in small planes from across the vast continent.



Australian police Senior Constable Stephan Pursell patrolling the remote Queensland and South Australia border outside Birdsville.



An aerial view of the race track during the Birdsville Races in outback Queensland.



Jockeys competing during the Birdsville Races in outback Queensland.



Spectators who flew in to watch the Birdsville Races resting inside tents at Birdsville Airport in outback Queensland.

Never lonely

Pursell's predecessor, Senior Constable Neale McShane, who retired in 2015 after a decade in Birdsville, says there was “never a dull moment”. Each rescue of a stranded or injured traveller requires an epic drive across long dirt roads or countless sand dunes in the Land Cruiser for hours and sometimes days. Sometimes what is required is a helicopter big enough to carry a police officer, a nurse and a stretcher, so a call is put out for any aircraft in the vicinity that can

help out. The Royal Flying Doctor Service also plays a crucial role, ferrying patients in remote regions to the nearest hospitals. In 2009, during a desperate search for helicopters to rescue an injured motorcyclist stuck on a sand dune, an army Chinook—possibly the only one to ever land at Birdsville—touched down at the airport, looking to refuel. The man was quickly rescued and made a full recovery.

There are definite upsides to the job, McShane told AFP. “When you are out sleeping in the desert looking up at the stars, and they (feel) so close you can touch them.” But in a small, remote community, talking about sensitive personal issues can be difficult, he says. And the job is non-stop, with calls coming in at any time of the day on any day of the week, each of them possibly involving someone you know well who is in peril or has died. Perhaps surprisingly, one problem the policemen don't complain about is loneliness. Pursell realized more people were popping into his station to talk to him after he was described in the local media as having the loneliest job in the country. “People came in just to have a chat, because they thought I was lonely,” he says. “We’ve have never felt isolated or lonely out here. It’s a great little town.” — AFP

When the music's over: Cities suffer as venues fall to developers

When Pearl Jam led 50,000 people in a chant of “Save the Showbox” in a Seattle stadium last month, the rockers confronted a question facing many cities: When do the cultural costs of a property boom become too high? The Showbox is an 1,100-person venue across the street from Pike Place Market, Seattle's top tourist attraction. It opened in 1939 and has hosted acts from Duke Ellington to Prince, as well as the hometown grunge pioneers Pearl Jam. The venue now risks becoming the latest casualty of the Pacific Northwest city's real estate rush — and many in the community are saying enough. “Today one of our great cathedrals is at risk of being leveled,” said Ben Gibbard, lead singer of indie rock band Death Cab for Cutie, at a Seattle city council hearing in August. “It's not just a music venue, but a cornerstone of our cultural heritage. We cannot allow this vital piece of our rapidly changing city to be snuffed out.”



Supporters of music venue The Showbox wave signs at a Seattle City Council meeting. — Reuters

Historic venues are being crushed by real estate development in cities across Britain and the United States. London has lost 35 percent of its independent music venues since 2007, according to the mayor's office. In 2014, The New York Observer documented eight significant music venues the city lost over the previous decade, beginning with punk icon venue CBGB and ending with the Roseland Ballroom, another pre-World War Two concert hall. Experts say that the trend affects more than just music fans, bands, and others in the industry. “Music venues are an early canary in the coal mine,” said Shain Shapiro, head of Sound Diplomacy, a Britain-based consultancy firm on music in cities. “It's not just about developing our music industry and providing a great

night out,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from London. “It improves the quality of life in increasingly denser and denser cities.”

Interventions by city governments to save historic venues are rare, but the past few years have seen a few — usually in response to public pressure. Fans of the Showbox were outraged in July when the Onni Group, a real estate developer headquartered in neighboring Vancouver, Canada, filed plans to build a 44-storey building where the venue now sits. A “Save the Showbox” online petition has garnered about 100,000 signatures. They include members of R.E.M., Jamie xx, The English Beat, and other musicians who have performed there. Supporters packed the city hall hearing in August waving “Save the Showbox” signs.

Last month, the municipal government approved an extension of the Pike Place Market Historic District's boundaries to incorporate the Showbox, which will be valid for 10 months. The legislative move means additional scrutiny will apply to any proposed real estate development on the site, even though it is zoned to accommodate a 44-storey building. In response, the owners of the building housing the Showbox filed a \$40 million lawsuit against the city of Seattle earlier this month. The lawsuit noted that halting the project would mean losing \$5 million in fees from the developer, which would go towards funding affordable housing.

Showbox supporters argue that the amount of money raised by the project would be paltry and could come from elsewhere. “What we would be losing culturally is far more valuable than the amount of money that would go toward affordable housing,” Gibbard said in an interview. City council member Lorena Gonzalez said she intends to submit a plan this month to permanently protect the building housing The Showbox. Onni Group, the developer, did not reply to a request for comment.

Legal protection

Authorities in Britain have acted to preserve some well-loved venues, as well as spurring the growth of new ones. Under British law, developers must sign “Section 106 agreements” before gaining permission to proceed with projects. Shapiro of Sound Diplomacy said that local governments have leveraged the law to push developers into incorporating live music spaces into their plans. He pointed to Vicarage Field, a new shopping centre in the London district of Walthamstow that will host a music venue.

In Cardiff, Shapiro said, a public outcry last year saved a haven for Welsh-language music called Clwb Ifor Bach. Developers planned plan to build flats in the live music district, but the City of Cardiff Council eventually purchased the land parcel and leased it to the venue. “Clwb Ifor Bach is one of the best examples of a direct action that a council has taken,” Shapiro said. — Reuters



Kyle Strauts attends the screening of 20th Century Fox's “The Predator” at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood, California. — AFP photos

'PREDATOR' SLAYS COMPETITION AT N AMERICA BOX OFFICE

“The Predator” — the latest installment in the long-running sci-fi action series — chewed up its rivals to debut atop the North American box office this weekend, industry data showed Sunday. But the Fox reboot, which cost \$88 million to make, will look to earn back some money in international markets, as its estimated \$24 million haul did not meet expectations. The movie, which comes more than 30 years after the franchise's original film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, courted controversy before its release when the studio cut a scene featuring an actor who was a registered sex offender.



In this file photo US actress Olivia Munn arrives for a special screening of “The Predator” at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

Star Olivia Munn had requested the change, saying she was unaware of the actor's past when the scene was filmed. Director Shane Black initially said he hired the actor because he was a friend, but later issued a strong apology. Dropping to second place was last week's top draw, horror movie “The Nun” — the latest fright fest in the popular “Conjuring” series. It earned an estimated \$18.2 million in its second week, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said.

“Nun” stars Taissa Farmiga — whose sister Vera headlined two “Conjuring” films — in a story about a young nun, an exorcist and a guide stumbling onto a dark secret deep in Dracula country: the Romania of 1952 — Transylvania, no less. Opening in the third spot was “A Simple Favor,” a tale about a mommy blogger (Anna Kendrick) investigating the disappearance of her friend (Blake Lively). The Lionsgate film raked in \$16.1 million on the back of positive reviews.

Matthew McConaughey's new film “White Boy Rick” opened in fourth place with \$8.8 million. The movie, based on a true story, stars the Oscar winner as the father of a teenage boy who became an informant for the FBI in the 1980s. Glitzy rom-com “Crazy Rich Asians,” another Warner Bros product along with “The Nun,” fell to fifth place. The film, with a nearly all-Asian cast led by Henry Golding and Constance Wu, took in \$8.7 million, building on a crazy-good run. Its North American take stands at nearly \$150 million, with another \$28 million earned overseas. Rounding out this weekend's top 5 were:

- “Peppermint” (\$6.1 million)
- “The Meg” (\$3.8 million)
- “Searching” (\$3.2 million)
- “Unbroken: Path to Redemption” (\$2.4 million)
- “Mission Impossible—Fallout” (\$2.3 million) — AFP



Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin, Karim Asir performs in a school in Kabul Zoo.



Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin during his rehearsals.



Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin, Karim Asir watches a Charlie Chaplin movie in Parwan province, Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN'S CHARLIE CHAPLIN SAYS HE AIMS TO MAKE PEOPLE SMILE, FORGET GRIEF

Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin says he has witnessed suicide attacks, explosions and threats from hardline Islamic militant groups, but is determined to waddle and bumble to fulfil the primary goal of his life. "It is very simple. I want to give Afghans a reason to smile," said Karim Asir, a stand-up comedian who performs across the capital Kabul in Chaplin's trademark oversized shoes, baggy pants, cane and black bowler hat.

Asir, 25, said Chaplin impersonators are found all over the world helping people ignore grief and making them laugh, and he does the same. Asir's early years were in Iran, where his family fled after the hardline Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 1996. There he saw performances of Chaplin on Iranian TV. After the family returned home, Asir started wearing make-up and recreating Chaplin's characters in his performances, despite his parent's apprehensions.

His live performances provide respite in a city that routinely gets attacked by Taliban insurgents and suicide bombers, mainly claiming allegiance to Islamic State. Asir says he has been threatened by militants who say his performances are un-Islamic. But despite the threats, he performs in public parks, orphanages, private parties and at charity events organized by international aid agencies. "I want to give my people a chance to forget their problems such as war, conflicts and insecurity in Afghanistan," he said.

Afghanistan's traditional culture includes music and performance arts. However, under the Taliban's rule from 1996 to 2001, most cultural activities were banned because they were seen as anti-Islamic. In Kabul, when Asir's fans surround him to take selfies, he smiles but is constantly worried about attacks. "I am afraid of getting attacked by a suicide bomber or an explosion but these issues cannot stop me from being Charlie Chaplin," he said. — Reuters



Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin, Karim Asir, 25, walks in Kabul Zoo.



Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin during his rehearsals.



Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin, Karim Asir performs at a school in Kabul.



Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin, Karim Asir looks out from a window during his rehearsals.

Paris show blends happiness and melancholia of young Picasso

More than 300 works from two key periods in Pablo Picasso's early years go on display in Paris today the first time they have been brought together in the city where the Spanish master took his first steps toward revolutionary new territories of modern art. "Picasso: Blue and Rose" delves into the formative days from 1900 to 1906 when the young artist was living the Bohemian life in a Montmartre studio, at times burning his works to ward off the cold. "The strongest walls would open before me," he would proudly write while absorbing the influence of Manet, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec and Van Gogh.

The exhibition at the Musee d'Orsay was conceived with the Picasso and Orangerie museums in Paris as well as the Beyeler Foundation in Basel, Switzerland, which will also show the works early next year. Curators managed to secure exceptional loans of works from the Picasso Museum in Barcelona and institutions in the US, Switzerland and Russia as well as from private collections rarely



French President Emmanuel Macron (right) and his wife Brigitte Macron (left) speak with officials as they visit the "Picasso. Bleu et rose" (Picasso. Blue and Rose) exhibition dedicated to Pablo Picasso's blue and rose periods at The Musee d'Orsay in Paris. — AFP



open to the public. The works include some 80 paintings and 150 drawings by the artist in his early 20s as he absorbed what would become his adopted country, and several sculptures alongside portrayals of Picasso by other artists.

"It's the first show in France to consider a period overlooked by art histo-

rians, allowing a chance to re-evaluate the early Picasso," said Laurence des Cars, the Orsay's director.

The museum was chosen because it is where the 18-year-old artist arrived when it was still a train station, to represent Spain at the Universal Exposition in October 1900. "It could only be here," des Cars said.

Light and dark
"We're going to discover Picasso at 18 to 25 years old, before cubism. It's all taking shape," said Stephanie Molins, a curator of the show. "He's not only the unrivalled master of the 20th century but also a child of the 19th century," she said. The show begins with the Blue period, marked by the artist's frequent travels

between Paris and Barcelona, discovering the possibilities of avant-garde expressionisms while still under the more classic influences of his father, an art teacher. An early work includes "Yo Picasso" (I Picasso), a vivid self-portrait showing him confident at his easel.

But just a few months later the paintings take on a markedly sombre tone,

following the death of his fellow painter and close friend Carles Casagemas, who shot himself in the head at a Montmartre cafe following a soured love affair. Many of the Blue period works are nearly monochromatic and depictions of poverty and old age recurring subjects, including prostitutes with a child languishing in a prison cell. There are also several funereal portrayals of Casagemas, culminating in the 1903 masterpiece "La Vie" (Life), where his body is embraced by a nude woman alongside a mother holding her child.

Yet starting in 1904 his paintings, if not carefree, begin exploring lighter subjects suffused with the muted yet warmer hues of the Rose period, while also hinting at the explorations with fragmentation to come. Harlequins and acrobats abound in the works, as well as erotic scenes that coincide with the artist's affair with Fernande Olivier, a fellow artist who appears in dozens of his works. "The show is filled with a form of happiness but melancholy as well, in tune with its time," said Laurent Le Bon, president of the Orsay museum. — AFP

Anna Wintour: We can all learn from Ralph Lauren's success

Anna Wintour has revealed what her favorite moments were from New York Fashion Week and puts Ralph Lauren's 50th anniversary celebration show at the top. Anna Wintour says Ralph Lauren's 50th anniversary celebration of his eponymous label was her favorite moment of New York Fashion Week. The 68-year-old Vogue editor was among the guests at Ralph's show and gala dinner at the Bethesda Terrace fountain in Manhattan's Central Park and Anna has described the event as a "monumental moment".

In a YouTube video from Vogue in which she looks back on the highlights from New York Fashion Week, she said: "New York Fashion Week started with such a monumental moment in American fashion history with Ralph Lauren's fantastic celebration to his 50 years in the business. I think that's a lesson we can all learn that in the end you have to follow your own beliefs and your own vision and Ralph has always stuck to that mantra." Anna believes the 2018 event was more inclusive than previous years and admitted she loved seeing the work from new designers supported by the Council of Fashion Designers

of America fund - which offers a grant and mentorship to emerging American design talent.

She said: "All of us at Vogue through our work with the CFDA Fashion fund has supported young talent for over 15-years and we'll continue always to do so. But somehow this season more than any, they seem so full of energy and so full of ideas and so convincing in their belief of dressing their communities and believing in their communities. "Putting young men and women in their shows that were either their friends or people they knew or admired and it was very inclusive." The British editor also enjoyed the return of some favorite designers such as Proenza Schouler and Rodarte, as well as the determination of models and designers caught in bad weather conditions.

She said: "People might trudge through the rain to some locations and get drenched but it didn't really matter because it was such an optimistic experience. It was a whole group of them from Telfar to enjoying having Rodarte back with us, we saw Proenza back with us it's like the older generation but also true to who they are." —Bang Showbiz



Anna Wintour

Being a supermodel 'means nothing' to Irina Shayk

Irina Shayk claims being a supermodel "means nothing" to her. The 32-year-old beauty insists she is "just a human being" and admitted her agent wishes she cultivated a more glamorous image. She told People magazine: "It means nothing. I'm just a human being. "I don't wake up in hair and make-up and high heels. I literally love to wear the most comfortable clothes ever and sometimes when my agent sees me, he's like, 'Irina, this is not okay.' And I'm like, 'This is me.'" The brunette beauty's self-confidence has grown over the years but she is "very critical" of and constantly trying to better herself.

She said: "I don't wake up and say, 'Oh my god I'm so perfect.' I wake up and say, 'Maybe it's time to go to the gym, I have cellulite.' I'm very critical of myself. "I feel like once you get too comfortable that's the day you go down. I'm a Capricorn so I love to push myself to do better. "Through my career and through my travel experience I've learned so much about me, about my body and about life - about being present in life, my self-confidence has grown." Working with the Italian lingerie label Intimissimi is one of the things that has improved Irina's self-esteem over the years, and the model stunned at the brand's catwalk show last week in Verona, Italy.

Irina loves to work with the brand as she believes it provides high-quality affordable products. She said: "The Intimissimi show is really fun because they're my family and they've been doing it for so long-it's a tradition." "I love this brand because it has something that every woman can buy. It's affordable. It's great quality. "And I'm Russian - trust me - I love to save my money. I don't like to spend my money on something that I'm going to trash in a few weeks." —Bang Showbiz



Teigen launches new line for Target

Chrissy Teigen is launching a new line for Target. The 32-year-old model and cookbook author is set to branch out into kitchenware later this month, as her new line of kitchen and tabletop goods - entitled Cravings by Chrissy Teigen - will make its way to Target stores on September 30. Despite the range being based on items to help in the kitchen, the 'Lip Sync Battle' host was inspired for the line by the start of her modeling career when she shot for the Target catalogue in her first gig as a model.

She said in an interview on Target's website: "I remember they cast a younger girl as my little sister. We shot the campaign in an inflatable above-ground pool and I pretended my 'little sister' was spraying me with a hose. I think it was used in Target's weekly ads, but I've actually never seen the photo. Please find it for me, Target." Cravings by Chrissy Teigen is comprised of 40 items, ranging from \$4 for glasses to \$140 for a 12-piece cookware set.

Before the launch of the full line, Target will also release a special edition of Teigen's book 'Cue Cravings: Hungry for More' with exclusive recipes, on September 18. For Chrissy - who has daughter Luna, two, and son Miles, three months, with her husband John Legend - the new range comes after she recently collaborated with Becca Cosmetics for a second time, in the brand's new limited-edition Endless Summer Glow collection which launched this summer. The collection included a three-in-one compact featuring a highlighter and new bronzer, three new Glow Gloss shades, and a body oil.

And Chrissy revealed at the time that her daughter Luna plays a huge part in the testing of new products, as she loves the feel of makeup brushes. She said: "Luna is obsessed with sitting on my countertop in the bathroom. She'll go, 'Up, up, up.' I put her up there and she loves brushes, using them on her face. Becca sends us tons of clean brushes all the time, so she's always using them." —Bang Showbiz



Chrissy Teigen

London Fashion Week



Models present creations by Erdem, during a catwalk show for the Spring/Summer 2019 collection on the fourth day in London yesterday. —AFP photos

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 32 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 17/09/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	33 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	33 °C			
ABDALY	46 °C	28 °C			
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C			
JAHRA	47 °C	32 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	45 °C	32 °C			
SALMIYAH	--- °C	--- °C			
AHMADI	42 °C	34 °C			
NUWAISIB	43 °C	30 °C			
WAFRA	46 °C	28 °C			
SALMY	44 °C	28 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	09/18	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	45 °C	31 °C	NW-SE	10 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	09/19	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for light fog forming at night	42 °C	30 °C	SE-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	09/20	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	42 °C	27 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Friday	09/21	Hot	44 °C	27 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:14
Sunrise	05:34
Zuhr	11:43
Asr	15:12
Sunset	17:51
Isha	19:09

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	46 °C
MIN. Temp.	31 °C
MAX. RH	31 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	N 43 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

EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BURLAKUNTA SUBBARAJU, S/o BURLAKUNTA BALARAJU, R/o D.No: 3/105 Pulapathur Village, Rajampet (M.D) Kadapa (DL) 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

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

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 18/9/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 18/9/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	562	Sohag	14:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	FEG	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KNE	234	Sohag	14:50
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	GFA	224	Riyadh	15:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	673	Bahrain	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMR	646	Muscat	16:20
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	8512	Doha	17:45
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
KAC	152	Istanbul	04:20	KAC	361	Alexandria	17:50
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	KAC	332	Dhaka	18:00
MSC	403	Asyut	05:00	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
THY	1414	TZK	05:05	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:30
RUN	6376	Istanbul	06:10	JZR	650	Lahore	18:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
KAC	122	AGP	07:35	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	154	Istanbul	20:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SAW	703	Damascus	10:30	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
JZR	531	Asyut	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	JZR	1540	Cairo	22:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	543	Cairo	22:15
JZR	541	Cairo	11:05	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
JZR	325	Al Najaf	12:20	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	UAE	860	Dubai	22:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45



Members of the Mexican army form a mosaic with national flags during a parade celebrating the anniversary of the country's independence in Zocalo Square in Mexico City on Sunday. — AFP

Machines will do more tasks than humans by 2025

PARIS: Robots will handle 52 percent of current work tasks by 2025, almost twice as many as now, a World Economic Forum (WEF) study said yesterday. The sharp increase could also see a net gain in "new roles" for humans, who will have to revamp skills to keep pace with the "seismic shift" in how we work with machines and computer programs, the forum estimated. "By 2025 more than half of all current workplace tasks will be performed by machines as opposed to 29 percent today," a statement by the Swiss non-profit organization said.

Simultaneously, rapid changes in machines and algorithms, or computer processes that are designed to solve problems, "could create 133 million new roles in place of 75 million that will be displaced between now and 2022," the group forecast. Based near Geneva, the

WEF is known for the annual pow-wow of wealthy individuals, politicians and business leaders that it organizes in Davos, Switzerland. Its report, *The Future of Jobs 2018*, foresees robots swiftly replacing humans in the accounting, client management, industrial, postal and secretarial sectors.

Jobs that require "human skills" such as sales, marketing and customer service should see demand increase meanwhile, along with e-commerce and social media. A major challenge will be to retrain workers, who will themselves be pressed to update skills especially in the areas of "creativity, critical thinking and persuasion", the study found. It surveyed personnel directors and senior executives from a broad range of companies around the world that account for 70 percent of global output.

Between now and 2022, they believe the aviation, travel and tourism sectors in particular will have to retrain workers, and identified an overall trend towards lifelong learning and adaptation. Governments were advised meanwhile to prepare safety nets for workers and communities threatened by what the WEF concluded would be "a significant shift" in the quality and permanency of the new jobs. — AFP

Lawmaker vows to oppose ouster...

Continued from Page 1

The Assembly is expected to be involved in a legal battle between a group that insists the two members must be stripped of their membership after their conviction in court and another group of MPs that insists that the two lawmakers must retain their membership in the Assembly. A final decision on the issue is expected to be reached when the Assembly starts a new term in mid-October. Constitutional and legal experts have given conflicting opinions on the issue.

Meanwhile, MP Thamer Al-Suwait said yesterday that the Assembly's human rights committee discussed

the death of a cadet at the military academy during training with his father and lawyer. The lawmaker said the committee decided to pay a visit to the military academy to investigate the conditions faced by trainees. Suwait said that the father of one of the two cadets who died gave the committee the death certificate in which the cause of the death was given as thermal exhaustion. He said that in some cases, cadets at the military academy do not undergo training but "torture", and the issue must be dealt with promptly. The defense ministry has suspended a number of top officers and ordered an investigation into the deaths and injuries.

Separately, MP Askar Al-Enezi yesterday proposed the formation of a special department at the health ministry to ensure that medical services are provided at the highest level. The lawmaker said that the proposed department has become necessary as the number of medical errors has been on the rise.

ment and extortion. Many say they have overstayed their welcome. In 2016 a wave of forced repatriations sparked fears of a humanitarian crisis, with Human Rights Watch issuing a scathing report describing Pakistan's "coercive" approach. It accused the government of arbitrary detentions and other violations.

The United Nations refugee agency welcomed Khan's announcement yesterday. "We will continue to work closely with the Government of Pakistan on this issue in the coming weeks," spokesman Qaiser Khan Afridi told AFP. "Pakistan has been host to one of the largest refugee populations in the world and granting citizenship to those eligible seems to be a logical next step both legally and morally," Saroop Ijaz, a representative for Human Rights Watch told Reuters. "This move is an important first step in ending the discrimination faced by refugee and migrant communities." — Agencies

cities scrambling to combat air pollution.

"Sure, buying a hydrogen train is somewhat more expensive than a diesel train, but it is cheaper to run," Stefan Schrank, the project's manager at Alstom, told AFP. Other countries are also looking into hydrogen trains, Alstom said, including Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Italy and Canada. In France, the government has already said it wants the first hydrogen train to be on the rails by 2022. — AFP

Pak PM to give citizenship to...

Continued from Page 1

It is the practice in every country in the world, so why not here? How cruel it is for them." However he also noted that Bengali immigrants and Afghan refugees have created an "underclass" in Karachi that has helped fuel street crime in the megacity of more than 20 million people. Officials confirmed Khan's comments yesterday and said a draft policy would have to be prepared for cabinet before legislation could be written and debated in parliament.

Pakistanis have long viewed Afghan refugees in particular suspiciously, with police accusing them of harass-

Germany rolls out world's first...

Continued from Page 1

Alstom is betting on the technology as a greener, quieter alternative to diesel on non-electrified railway lines - an attractive prospect to many German

Spain PM defends sending weapons to Saudis after U-turn

MADRID: Spain's prime minister on Sunday defended his government's controversial decision to go ahead with the delivery of 400 laser-guided bombs to Saudi Arabia, saying it was needed to preserve good ties with the Gulf state. His Socialist government announced earlier this month that it would block the delivery of the weapons amid concerns that they could harm civilians in Yemen where Saudi Arabia is engaged in a bloody conflict.

But on Thursday Foreign Minister Josep Borrell announced the government had decided to deliver the weapons after all, angering humanitarian groups. Cancellation of the deal would jeopardize a much larger order for five Corvette warships worth €1.8 billion, to be built by Spain's Navantia shipyard in the southern region of Andalusia, with thousands of jobs at stake.

Workers in the region, a stronghold of the ruling Socialist Party, had staged demonstrations pressing for the deal to go ahead.

Asked about the policy reversal during an interview with private television La Sexta, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said his government risked "creating the image that it was revising its entire relationship" with Saudi Arabia if it did not deliver the weapons. "The situation was very complicated.

The dilemma the government faced was breaking its commercial, economic and political ties with Saudi Arabia, with the impact this could have in some areas of the country, such as the Bay of Cadiz, or carry out a contract signed by the previous government," he added.

Saudi Arabia, a longtime ally, had already paid €9.2 million (\$10.7 million) for the bombs under a 2015 contract signed by a previous, conservative administration in Spain. Apart from the warship deal, Madrid has obtained juicy engineering contracts to build a high-speed railway linking Makkah and Madinah, and a metro in Riyadh. Spain is the fourth largest provider of military equipment and weapons to the Gulf state, according to Amnesty International. — AFP

Russia says no Syria assault as Putin...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Erdogan vowed that Ankara will increase rather than reduce its troops numbers in Cyprus, a move that could further set back attempts to reunify the divided Mediterranean island. In comments published in Turkish media yesterday, Erdogan added that Turkey had no need for a naval base on Cyprus as mooted in some reports but could establish such a facility if it was necessary from a "psychological" point of view.

"No, we are not going to reduce the numbers of our troops. We will increase them, we are not going to decrease them," he told Turkish reporters travelling back with him from a trip to Azerbaijan. He expressed impatience over the Cyprus issue, saying "this business would have been solved" if the Greek Cypriots had backed unification in an April 2004 referendum on a plan put forward by the late former UN secretary general Kofi Annan. While Turkish Cypriots were overwhelmingly in favor of the plan, Greek Cypriots voted against.

"Henceforth we will implement the formula that we have declared for ourselves," said Erdogan, without elaborating. Cyprus has been divided since the 1974 Turkish invasion which occupied the northern third of the island in response to a Greek military junta-sponsored coup. Turkey is believed to maintain around 35,000 troops in northern Cyprus, although the military does not give official figures.

The withdrawal - or drastic reduction - of Turkey's military presence is seen as key to any reunification plan being acceptable to the Greek Cypriot side. Some conservative Turkish media have also reported in recent weeks that Turkey was planning to open a naval base on Cyprus, a move that would likely deal a terminal blow to any reunification hopes. But Erdogan said "we have no need to build a base there", noting that unlike Greece, Turkey was just "minutes away" from the coast of Cyprus. But he appeared to leave the door open to such a move as a way of making a political statement. "This issue just has a psychological dimension. In this respect, if we felt the need, we could establish a base. Our presence there is important," Erdogan said. There were high hopes at the beginning of 2017 that UN-backed talks could clinch a breakthrough in

the long-running stalemate on reuniting the island. But the deadlock has not been broken and analysts say rapid progress is unlikely for the moment as Erdogan reaches out to the nationalist electorate in Turkey.

Separately, Erdogan said the amir of Qatar gave a luxury jumbo jet as a "gift" to Turkey, rejecting opposition claims the plane had been bought in a costly purchase for the presidency. In comments published yesterday, Erdogan said Turkey had shown interest in buying the on-sale Boeing 747-8 plane - reportedly worth around \$400 million - but Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani insisted on offering the plane as a gift.

"We were interested. When the Qatar Amir was informed of this he gave it as a gift, saying 'I won't take money from Turkey. I will give this plane as a gift.'" The Turkish president insisted that while the jet would be used for his trips, "the plane is not mine, it is the Turkish Republic's", in comments to reporters while returning from Azerbaijan. Erdogan said that once the paintwork was finished he hoped to use the plane for travel. Gulf media have said that the giant plane, which was part of Tamim's personal fleet, is equipped for only 76 passengers and has lounges and boardrooms.

His remarks came after criticism last week by lawmakers from the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), who claimed Erdogan had bought the plane. CHP MP Gamze Tascier said on Twitter that a sales official from a company based in Switzerland confirmed the sale of a Boeing 747-8 jet. "The company says it was sold, supporters say it was a gift," she said on Thursday.

After Erdogan's latest remarks, CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu hit back at Erdogan and questioned his "honor" over the move to accept such a gift. "How can it not cause you discomfort?" Kilicdaroglu said yesterday. The CHP and Erdogan's critics have repeatedly accused the Turkish strongman of having a penchant for luxury, notably in the vast new Ankara presidential palace that opened in 2014. Erdogan however has hit back by saying that such facilities are national assets worthy of a state of Turkey's importance.

The plane is also a new symbol of the close relationship between Doha and Ankara that has seen both sides help the other in times of trouble. Doha promised to make a \$15 billion direct investment in Turkey during the Washington-Ankara spat last month which saw the lira's value fall drastically against the dollar. Ankara, one of the top exporters to the emirate, also provided unstinting support to Doha after Saudi Arabia and its allies imposed an embargo from 2017. — Agencies

Sports

Verlander pitches Astros past sinking Diamondbacks

Calhoun's HR seals Angels' 4-3 win over Mariners

George Springer singled and scored twice, and Josh Reddick homered for a second consecutive game as the Houston Astros claimed the rubber match of a three-game interleague series with the visiting Arizona Diamondbacks with a 5-4 victory on Sunday. Houston's Justin Verlander (16-9) worked seven strong innings, producing his 11th double-digit strikeout game on the season. Verlander increased his season strikeout total to 269, matching his career high set in 2009 with the Detroit Tigers. The first-place Astros stretched their lead over the Oakland Athletics in the American League West to 4 1/2 games. The third-place Diamondbacks fell 4 1/2 games behind the Colorado Rockies in the National League West. Reddick smacked his 15th home run leading off the seventh inning, golfing a curveball from Zack Greinke (14-10) into the right field seats for a 3-1 lead.

ROCKIES 3, GIANTS 2

Antonio Senzatela earned the win by tossing five-plus solid innings and gave Colorado a lead it never relinquished with a two-run single in the second inning of a victory at San Francisco. The Rockies avoided being swept in the three-game series, then moved back into first place in the National League West when the Los Angeles Dodgers lost Sunday night. Colorado holds a half-game edge in the division. The Giants fell to 2-12 in September. Senzatela (5-6) allowed one run on five hits and two walks while striking out five in earning his first victory since July 28.

CARDINALS 5, DODGERS 0

Adam Wainwright struck out nine in his second start since returning from the disabled list, and Marcell Ozuna hit a home run as St. Louis avoided a four-game sweep with a victory over visiting Los Angeles. Wainwright (2-3) gave up just two hits and three walks over six scoreless innings, helping the Cardinals end a four-game losing streak. He threw 101 pitches just six days after returning from four months away due to right elbow inflammation. The Cardinals, who had swept a three-game series at Dodger Stadium last month, moved into a tie with Los Angeles for the second NL wild-card position.

RED SOX 4, METS 3

Andrew Benintendi lofted the tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning as Boston edged visiting New York. The Red Sox won the final two games of the three-game series. Their magic number for winning the American League East dropped to two. Boston will have a chance to clinch the division at the Yankees' expense when the rivals begin a three-game series in the Bronx on Tuesday afternoon. Boston starter Chris Sale, in his second outing since coming off the disabled list, pitched three scoreless innings. Brandon Workman (6-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win, and Steven Wright handled the ninth for his first save.

BLUE JAYS 3, YANKEES 2

Dellin Betances allowed four hits in the eighth inning, including a go-ahead double by Randal Grichuk, as New York fell to visiting Toronto. Betances (4-6) entered in a 2-1 game and faltered from the outset, allowing singles to Reese McGuire and Justin Smoak to put runners at first and third with one out. He coughed

up the lead when rookie Rowdy Tellez slapped a two-strike single into left field to tie the game. Following a mound visit by pitching coach Larry Rothschild, Grichuk hit a go-ahead double into right field that scored pinch runner Kevin Pillar. The Yankees fell to 8-11 in their past 19 games.

ANGELS 4, MARINERS 3

Kole Calhoun hit a tiebreaking homer with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, lifting Los Angeles to a victory over Seattle in Anaheim, Calif. Calhoun halted his 0-for-25 skid when he drove a full-count cutter from Nick Vincent (3-4) over the center field fence. It was Calhoun's 19th homer, first since Sept. 1 and fourth against the Mariners this year. The Angels avoided getting swept at home in a four-game series to Seattle for the first time since July 9-12, 2005.

PADRES 7, RANGERS 3

Rookie Francisco Mejia hit a walk-off grand slam with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, giving San Diego a come-from-behind win over visiting Texas. Hitting from the right side against left-handed reliever Jeffrey Springs, the switch-hitting Mejia drove the first pitch 386 feet into the left field stands. It was Mejia's third homer since being promoted by the Padres from Triple-A El Paso on Sept. 4. The Padres entered the inning trailing 3-2, but Frammil Reyes singled with one out, and pinch runner Travis Jankowski scored on a double by Freddy Galvis to tie the game. After a flyout and two walks, Mejia ended the game.

REDS 2, CUBS 1

Scott Schebler and Phillip Ervin homered, and Luis Castillo pitched 6 2/3 strong innings as visiting Cincinnati broke Chicago's three-game winning streak. Joey Votto had three hits for the Reds. Castillo (10-12) gave up only four hits and one run as the Reds broke an eight-game losing streak to the Cubs, who maintained a 2 1/2-game lead over Milwaukee in the National League Central. Albert Almora Jr. had one of the Cubs' five hits and drove in their only run with a sacrifice fly in the fifth inning.

PIRATES 3, BREWERS 2

Trevor Williams pitched six shutout innings, and Corey Dickerson had three hits, scored two runs and drove in another as visiting Pittsburgh outlasted Milwaukee. Williams (13-9) surrendered just two hits and two walks while striking out seven. Pirates closer Felipe Vazquez allowed back-to-back home runs to Jesus Aguilar and pinch hitter Domingo Sanchez with no outs in the ninth before earning his 34th save.

NATIONALS 6, BRAVES 4

Bryce Harper and Anthony Rendon each hit two-run homers to power Washington past host Atlanta. Harper (2-for-3, two walks) and Rendon (3-for-4, one walk) combined to score five runs and drive in four more as Washington won its second straight over the Braves and improved to 6-2 in its past eight games. Tanner Roark (9-15) allowed two runs on five hits over 5 1/3 innings for his first win since Aug. 16, snapping a five-start winless streak that included three losses. Sean Doolittle pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to pick up his 24th save.

MARLINS 6, PHILLIES 4



HOUSTON: Daniel Descalso #3 of the Arizona Diamondbacks hits a two-run home run in the ninth inning as Martin Maldonado #15 of the Houston Astros watches the ball at Minute Maid Park on Sunday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

Jose Urena pitched five strong innings, and Peter O'Brien hit a go-ahead home run as Miami won at Philadelphia to avert a three-game sweep. The Marlins snapped a five-game skid. Urena (7-12) allowed one run on three hits with one walk and four strikeouts. Since being ejected and subsequently suspended after hitting Atlanta's Ronald Acuna Jr. on his first pitch of the game on Aug. 15, Urena is 4-0 with a 2.16 ERA and has allowed one earned run in four of his past five starts, flashing the form he showed in 2017 when he went 14-7.

RAYS 5, A'S 4

C.J. Cron and Willy Adames hit home runs to back the combined four-hit effort of eight pitchers, sending Tampa Bay past Oakland at St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays barely held on after taking a 5-0 lead into the ninth. Kris Davis greeted closer Sergio Romo with a first-pitch grand slam one out after Jake Faria had walked Matt Joyce, Nick Martini and Matt Chapman to open the inning. Romo then struck out Matt Olson and got Stephen Piscotty to fly out to claim his 21st save.

TIGERS 6, INDIANS 4

Jim Adduci hit a go-ahead three-run homer and drove in four runs, and Francisco Liriano tossed seven strong innings to lead Detroit to a victory at Cleveland. Mikie Mahtook hit a solo homer and Jeimer Candelario had three hits and scored two runs for Detroit, which

took two of three games in the series. Rookie Christin Stewart supplied three hits, a run and an RBI. Liriano (5-10) held the Indians to three runs on five hits while walking two and striking out seven. Shane Greene recorded his 30th save despite giving up a ninth-inning run.

TWINS 9, ROYALS 6

Jorge Polanco and Johnny Field each had four hits including solo home runs—and two RBIs, to help Minnesota win at Kansas City and salvage one game in a four-game series. Max Kepler and Tyler Austin also hit solo shots for the Twins, who had 18 hits in ending an eight-game Kauffman Stadium losing streak after winning their first game of the season there May 28. They also ended an eight-game losing streak on the road. Kyle Gibson (8-13) allowed five runs and 11 hits while striking out six in 6 2/3 innings for his first win since Aug. 17.

ORIOLES 8, WHITE SOX 4

Jonathan Villar and Adam Jones both homered and drove in two runs, and Baltimore scored five times in the first inning en route to a victory over visiting Chicago. The White Sox failed in their bid for a three-game sweep. Orioles reliever Ryan Meisinger (1-0) got the final two outs in the fifth inning for his first major league win. The Baltimore bullpen blanked Chicago over the final 4 2/3 innings, and Paul Fry (1 2/3 innings)

Kuwait shooting season begins on October 4

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Preparations for the start of the local season of Kuwait Shooting Sports Club began at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. The season will start with HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah Annual Shooting Tournament on October 4th, with the participation of Kuwait and Gulf shooters.



Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi

President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi thanked HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his support and encouragement of athletes in Kuwait, and to Kuwait shooters who are keen to represent their country and hoist Kuwait flag high in all domestic and international championships. He said this championship has special stature at the shooting community, as it had a big role in having a large number of Arab and Gulf athletes participate.

Al-Otaibi said the board approved the scheduled tournaments for the year (2018 - 2019) that are named after personalities.

He said the organizing committee of HH the Crown Prince tournament is preparing for the event and getting the ranges ready.

Al-Otaibi said the closing ceremony will see shooters who won in the major tournaments honored, headed by the gold medal of the skeet event in the Asian games in Jakarta, and the teams' gold in the trap event in the world cup held in Korea, in addition to having shooters Abdelrahman Al-Faihan securing a place in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. He said Al-Faihan follows a special training program besides financial support.



Aaron Finch

Finch faces dilemma for Test debut

SYDNEY: Hard-hitting Australian Aaron Finch has been a dominant opener in shorter forms of the game but admits he may have to curb his natural aggression if he makes his Test debut against Pakistan. The 31-year-old master-blaster has played 135 times for his country in the one-day and Twenty20 formats, earning a reputation as one of the world's fastest-scoring batsmen.

But the burly right-hander has never played a Test. This is likely to change next month after he was a surprise call-up for Australia's two-Test series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates, raising the dilemma of whether to stay true to his natural style or tone it down.

He said yesterday it will depend where they want him to play. "Being aggressive has made me reasonably successful in international cricket in the two shorter formats so I suppose it depends where in the order they see me fitting in if there is a spot for me in the XI," he said.

"If it's at the top, I think it's about playing your natural game, if it's in the middle there'll obviously be times you come in against a lot of spin and the ball's reversing. "So I'll sit down with the coach and captain over the next week or so and start nutting out some plans."

But after plying his trade successfully for more than a decade, Australia's T20 skipper and one-day international deputy is inclined to simply do what he does best—score runs however he can.

"After 10 or 12 years you build up a game plan that works well for you and it's not about going right away from that because it's Test cricket or playing in the sub-continent," he said. "I think it's about just changing your mindset slightly."

As well as his batting prowess, Finch brings vast experience to a squad missing Steve Smith and David Warner due to suspension over the South Africa ball-tampering scandal, and including four other debutants. He is keen to help in that department wherever required.

"I've been around for quite a while and I can probably be a sounding board for some of the younger guys if they need a chat," he said. "Where Tim (Paine) and Justin (Langer) think I can help out, I will." The first Test is in Dubai from October 7 with the second in Abu Dhabi from October 16. —AFP

Bangladesh's Tamim out of Asia Cup after injury heroics

DHAKA: Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal has been ruled out of the rest of the Asia Cup with a broken hand after batting despite his injury in the opening match, an official said yesterday. "He got two fractures in his hand. He would not be able to continue here and also for the next three to four weeks," team manager Khaled Mahmud told AFP from Dubai.

Tamim was hailed as national hero after he returned to bat with his injured hand for the final wicket during Bangladesh's 137-run win in Saturday's opening match against Sri Lanka. The left-hander received a blow to his wrist in the second over of Bangladesh's innings when he was hit by a short ball from Suranga Lakmal. He left the field for hospital for a scan, and when he returned to the ground with a sling on his injured hand his Asia Cup was thought to be over. But the opener stunned all by striding out to bat after Bangladesh lost their ninth wicket for 229 runs.

He fashioned a hole in his glove in order to fit his taped wrist, and used one hand in facing a single delivery to give the strike back to Mushfiqur Rahim, who was batting on 112. Mushfiqur then scored 32 off 16 balls alone in their 10th-wicket partnership, guiding Bangladesh to 261 runs before he was dismissed in the final over for 144.

Bangladesh later bowled out Sri Lanka for 124 runs to record their biggest win on foreign soil, making a giant leap towards the Super Four round. Bangladesh will face Afghanistan in their second match of the tournament in the United Arab Emirates today. —AFP

Sports

'Complete machine' Hamilton offers no comfort for Ferrari

Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff hailed that as 'the best lap in a Formula One'

LONDON: Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes won big in Singapore on Sunday and the signs are looking ominous for title rival Sebastian Vettel and Ferrari. The Briton's fourth victory in five races suggests that once again the 33-year-old is hitting a purple phase just as the season enters its critical stages. "He just turns into a complete machine at this time of year," marvelled Mercedes technical head James Allison after Hamilton stretched his lead to 40 points with six rounds remaining. "His focus and his enjoyment, and just everything about him, lifts to a level that is brilliant to watch." Last season Hamilton went on a run of five wins in six races in the second part of the season before wrapping up his fourth title in Mexico with two races to spare. While Vettel was favourite to reduce the points gap on Sunday at a circuit that should have suited Ferrari, Hamilton sowed the seeds of victory with a stunning qualifying lap for pole position.

Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff hailed that as "the best lap I've ever seen in a Formula One car" while Hamilton himself described it as 'surreal'. The race was no thriller, with Vettel third and the top six finishing in starting order, but the outcome still delivered a hammer blow for Ferrari, whose immediate public response had a distinct whiff of sour grapes.

"Boredom the winner in Singapore," the team website declared in a headline over their race report. It was later modified to read "positions unchanged", but the sting was clear. Ferrari are hurting and they are running out of time to do anything about it, even if many sus-

pect them of having the faster car.

'SPECIAL MOMENT'

Sunday, as Hamilton said in his post-race news conference, might have left "a couple of people snoring" but it was also "a special moment" for him and Mercedes, who were taking nothing for granted. They know one retirement can throw everything up in the air, but the champions are certainly breathing easier than might have been the case.

"It feels significant, not for the championship but it feels significant because we have understood the car in Singapore," said Wolff. "It was won on merit and real pace and I think we have the right clues now and let's see how we can translate that into the end of the season." If Hamilton is fast approaching the point at which he can secure a fifth championship without having to add to his tally of seven wins for the season, he was quick to recognise the credit is not his alone.

Singapore was once a track where Mercedes struggled, with overtaking difficult and grid position all important, but they have worked hard to address their weaknesses in slow-speed corners.

"We've been just chipping away at it over the last 12 months, but with a massive amount of effort because it's quite a big thing you have to change in order to do it," Allison told Sky Sports television. "It's just a real delight to come here now. Lewis got the job done but we gave him a car he could do that with and that's a huge source of pride to all of us." — Reuters



SINGAPORE: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates after winning the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore on Sunday. — AFP

Four things we learned from the Premier League

LONDON: Both Chelsea and Liverpool maintained their perfect starts to the English top-flight season with wins over Cardiff and Tottenham respectively, while West Ham climbed off the bottom of the table with a 3-1 success away to Everton that gave them a first league victory under manager Manuel Pellegrini.

Here are four things we learned from the Premier League this weekend:

CHELSEA'S HAZARD HARD BALL PAYS OFF

Liverpool's upgrades in the transfer market meant they were expected to push City for the title, but Chelsea's 100 percent start was not as confidently foreseen after a chaotic summer at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea caved in to Thibaut Courtois's demands to join Real Madrid, but crucially didn't do the same for Eden Hazard. The Belgian has starred rather than sulked at not getting his move, scoring a hat-trick in Saturday's 4-1 win over Cardiff to take his tally to five goals in just three starts under new manager Maurizio Sarri. Should Chelsea mount an unexpected title challenge, it will be down to their resilience in holding onto Hazard.

NO LET-UP FROM LIVERPOOL

The Merseyside club won the last of their then-record 18 English titles in 1990 — before the Premier League was formed—but optimism is growing after a statement 2-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur kept them on maximum points. Manager Jurgen Klopp called it Liverpool's best game of the season after a surprisingly easy afternoon at Wembley as Spurs struggled to penetrate until Erik Lamela's injury-time strike. Liverpool have so far amassed a perfect 15 points, trailing Chelsea on goal difference—even without any goals so far from Mohamed Salah, who totted up an astonishing 44 in all competitions last season.

SANE AND SILVA SHOWCASE CITY'S DEPTH

It says much for the wealth of options on offer to Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola that he could afford to leave out last season's Young Player of the Year Leroy Sane for the first month of the season. Sane scored inside two minutes of his return to the starting line-up in a 3-0 cruise over Fulham on Saturday that kept City nestled just two points behind the leaders. Guardiola has been reportedly keen to improve Sane's attitude, but the same can't be said for Bernardo Silva. The Portuguese had to wait for his time to shine during City's record-breaking campaign last season, but is currently Guardiola's main man in midfield with Kevin De Bruyne sidelined by a long-term knee injury. "It's almost impossible to be more pleased with him (Silva) as a manager," said Guardiola. "That's why he deserves to play all the minutes he's playing."

MOURINHO SMILES AT LAST

Jose Mourinho was relaxed and contented after Manchester United held on to beat Watford 2-1 on Saturday—a million miles away from his spikiness of recent weeks. He singled out Marouane Fellaini and Romelu Lukaku for praise and even spoke warmly of the match officials when asked about the late sending-off of Nemanja Matic. "I don't know," he said. "The only thing I know is that (referee) Mike Dean was very good and the assistants were very good." And he drew a laugh when he joked about goal-scorer Chris Smalling's new haircut. "He was good," Mourinho said. "The only thing I don't like in Chris at this moment is the haircut but I am nobody to tell him that." — AFP

Former Ipswich, England defender Kevin Beattie dies aged 64

LONDON: Former Ipswich Town and England central defender Kevin Beattie has died aged 64, the player's family announced Sunday. Beattie, born in Carlisle, northern England, became a key member of the successful Ipswich side under future England manager Bobby Robson that won the FA Cup in 1978.

Beattie also won nine caps for England, scoring one

goal, in a career cut short by injury. Beattie's death was announced by BBC Radio Suffolk breakfast show presenter Mark Murphy, who wrote on Twitter: "It is with much sadness that I have to confirm the death in the early hours of this morning of my dear friend and @BBCSuffolk co-host Kevin Beattie. "Kevin was undoubtedly the greatest ever @Official_ITFC Town player and his family have asked me to make the announcement." Ipswich added their own tribute, saying: "We are devastated to hear the news of the passing of Town legend Kevin Beattie at the age of 64. The thoughts of everybody at #itfc are with Kevin's family & friends at this very difficult time. The Beat. Thank you."

Beattie missed Ipswich's victory in the 1981 UEFA Cup final because of injury but was finally awarded a winner's medal in 2008 following a petition organised by Rob Finch, the ghostwriter of his autobiography. Ipswich, who now play in English football's second-tier Championship, have announced there will be a minute's



Kevin Beattie

applause in honour of Beattie before their home game against Brentford at Portman Road on Tuesday. — AFP



Wu Ashun wins KLM Open.

Wu becomes China's first triple winner on European Tour

AMSTERDAM: Wu Ashun became the first player from China to win three times on the European Tour when he claimed a one-stroke triumph at the KLM Open in the Netherlands on Sunday.

Wu carded a closing four-under-par 67, finishing with a two-putt birdie at the final hole after his aggressive second shot with a hybrid club skirted a water haz-

ard and ended in the heart of the green.

He finished at 16-under 268 and secured victory when Englishman Chris Wood made a three-putt par on the same hole at The Dutch course in Spijk. Wu's surprise victory came after a poor season and he credited his turnaround to work with his coach.

"We just fixed my swing at the beginning of the year and we still trust that we are going the right way," the 33-year-old said. "My coach and I were working very hard and he has flown to (Europe) to help me so I think we are getting better and better so that's why I think last week was top 10 and then this week just win."

Wu started the week ranked 344th in the world and is now projected to rise inside the top 200. Wood lamented his third runner-up finish of the year. "My putting has been so good all week and it's just a shame that it let me down at the last," he said. — Reuters

Wawrinka wobbles to winning start in St Petersburg

SAINT PETERSBURG: Three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka booked a place in the second round at the Saint Petersburg Open with a hard-fought straight-sets win over Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene here yesterday.

The 33-year-old Wawrinka, who came to St Petersburg courtesy of a wildcard, prevailed 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) in one

hour 46 minutes to chalk up his third win over Bedene in their fourth meeting.

"I'm really happy to be back here," Wawrinka said on court after the match. "Last time I was here two years ago when I lost in the final. "Of course I'm happy with my first win here. I think it was a great level."

The Swiss star has been struggling to find his best form since returning to the ATP Tour after two operations on his left knee a year ago, and he was trailing 5-3 here after dropping his serve early in the first set.

But the former world number three, who is now down at 88, picked up steam and broke back twice to take the opener in 46 minutes. Wawrinka looked better in the second set but there were no big serves on the St Petersburg hard-court. Wawrinka won his first Grand Slam title at the 2014 Australian Open and then added the 2015 French

Sapporo drops 2026 Winter Olympics bid to focus on 2030

TOKYO: The Japanese city of Sapporo has changed its bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympics to 2030 following an earthquake in Hokkaido which left 41 dead and caused widespread damage, the International Olympic Committee confirmed yesterday.

Olympic and local officials said last week they were considering changing the dates because "the 2030 option will be a better environment to host the Games", city official Akihiro Okumura told AFP. Following a meeting in Lausanne on Monday between representatives of the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC), the City of Sapporo, and the IOC, the IOC confirmed the decision in a statement which said: "The Japanese National Olympic Committee and the IOC agreed today that the IOC would not put Sapporo on the list of candidates for the Olympic Winter Games 2026, but to continue with the close dialogue already underway for the Olympic Winter Games 2030."

It added: "The IOC expressed its understanding that recovery from the earthquake in the region should be the immediate principal focus but greatly appreciated the continued strong commitment as a future host for the Olympic Winter Games."

A new Candidature Process means potential hosts have a one-year non-committal Dialogue Stage in which to interact with the IOC and discuss how hosting the Games can serve their long-term goals and leave lasting legacies.

The IOC said: "The City of Sapporo and the Japanese NOC made it clear that they remain strongly interested in a candidature for the Olympic Winter Games 2030." — AFP

Open and 2016 US Open titles to his trophy cabinet. In the match for a place in the last eight he will face fourth seeded Russian Karen Khachanov, who enjoyed an opening-round bye.

Earlier yesterday Martin Klizan of Slovakia, who won the title here six years ago, saw off Russia's Evgeny Donskoy 6-4, 6-4. In the match for a place in the quarter-finals the Slovakian left-hander will face second seed Fabio Fognini of Italy in a replay of the 2012 Saint Petersburg's final. "It's a great feeling as I came back to Saint Petersburg after a long break," Klizan said. "I have very pleasant memories after winning trophy here and I want to make it again. "It will be a good match I hope," he said about the meeting with Fognini. "Fabio is a great player but I feel very comfortable in this arena and I hope I can win more matches here." — AFP

Sports

Hazard can be Premier League top-scorer: Chelsea's Sarri

Giroud is yet to find the net for Chelsea this season

LONDON: Eden Hazard can score 40 goals this season and win the Premier League Golden Boot, according to Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri after the Belgium forward scored a hat-trick to maintain the club's perfect start to the season.

Sarri believes Hazard can become the best player in Europe and outstrip even arch poachers Harry Kane and Mohamed Salah following his three goals in a 4-1 victory against Cardiff on Saturday.

"We have spoken and I told him he can score 40 goals," said the former Napoli manager. "He has to improve some things, but he can do it." Hazard himself has hailed Olivier Giroud as the world's best target man after the World Cup-winning striker laid on two goals for him. Giroud is yet to find the net for Chelsea this season but already has three assists in five Premier League games while Hazard has found the net five times. And the 27-year-old paid tribute to the Frenchman for creating his first two goals at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

“Olivier's a target man, maybe the best in the world”

"Olivier's a target man, maybe the best in the world, I think so," said Hazard. "When he gets the ball he can hold the ball and we can go in deep with him, so for us it's a pleasure to play with him."

Despite Chelsea's fluency in attack, Sarri is aware the Stamford Bridge team must improve their defending. The Italian boss wants to turn Chelsea into the best team in England but says Liverpool and defending champions Manchester City will be the league's pacesetters. "Eight players joined us this summer," he said. "So I think it's normal that in this period we have some defensive problems. We can cope with the problems with the quality in the offensive phase, but not in the defensive phase."

"So I have to organise better the defensive phase and the players have to understand that. I think my opinion in this moment, two teams, Liverpool and Manchester City, are better than us. "We have to improve step by step. My target is to become the best team in England in one year, 18 months. That's the target." — AFP



LONDON: Chelsea's Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard celebrates scoring his team's first goal during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Cardiff City at Stamford Bridge in London. — AFP

Kane danger, but Spalletti sure Champions League buzz will spur Inter

MILAN: Inter Milan coach Luciano Spalletti believes Harry Kane will be the man to watch but hopes the enthusiasm of returning to "the Disneyland of football" will spur on his Italian side in today's Champions League opener against Tottenham.

Against the backdrop of a disastrous start to their domestic campaign, Inter host the English club at a sold-out San Siro in what is their first Champions League match since the 2011-2012 season.

Both teams are coming off weekend league defeats—Inter losing 1-0 to Parma in Milan and Tottenham falling 2-1 at home to Liverpool.

"Harry Kane tired? I don't agree, we have seen Tottenham matches and we have seen him working in any situation. Tottenham rely a lot on this player," Spalletti told a pre-match press conference.

The Inter coach believes the game could be a "turning point" for his side, who have just four points from four games in Serie A.

"The Champions League is the amusement park of

football, the Disneyland of football. It's a beautiful and fun world. "These games are worth so much in terms of enthusiasm and conviction."

"I think that with the period we're going through this is the game we needed. "It's one of those matches and one of those competitions you wouldn't swap for anything," added Spalletti, who spent two separate spells at Roma either side of a five-year spell at Zenit Saint Petersburg. "I've been lucky enough to experience them several times, there are incredible emotions and if you've been there you can't do without it."

"The previous times I entered a world that's particularly beautiful and entertaining, you can hear the music from inside the dressing room."

Inter Milan snatched Italy's final Champions League berth at the wire last season by finishing fourth in Serie A. "The effort we put in last year to play in this competition is a motivation that can overcome any lack of experience or fear," continued Spalletti.

"We cannot feel any pressure or be intimidated by the English players' greater experience. Rather, I believe that this match is the chance to kick into gear."

Slovakian international defender Milan Skriniar added: "I've never played in the Champions League and I can't wait. "Doing well against Tottenham can put everything right, it can be the turning point."

"The danger man? As a defender I'd say Kane, he's someone who even if you don't see him for 20 minutes, he can score with his first chance."

"I played against him in the national team and we lost," said Skriniar. "We need to be ready for him, but also the other players too." — AFP



Harry Kane

Lack of English players in Champions League hurts national team: Study

PARIS: England's lack of success in major international tournaments can be linked to the relatively low number of English players taking part in the Champions League, a study has suggested. Analysis by sports statisticians Gracenote of the nationalities of players starting games in the Champions League reveals that England still lags behind other major footballing nations, just as it has ever since the competition was expanded to 32 teams in 1999.

"All 10 World Cups and European Championships this century have been won by the countries in the top five for most players starting Champions League matches that season," says Simon Gleave, head of sports analysis at Gracenote.

England, though, has generally only just scraped into the top 10 in terms of how many players eligible for the national team have started matches in Europe's elite club competition. That is despite the Premier League being one of only three leading European leagues prior to this season to have four teams competing in the group stage.

Last season, there were five Premier League sides involved, but England ranked ninth with 26 players starting Champions League matches. Gareth Southgate's national team then made it to the semi-finals of the World Cup in Russia, their best performance since 1990.

Yet, of the France team that started their World Cup final win over Croatia, eight play for clubs involved in this season's Champions League group stage. In total, 17 members of their squad are with Champions League clubs.

French teams regularly underperform in Europe, but 49 French players took part in the Champions League last season, a tally bettered only by Spain (59) and Brazil (55).

This season's Champions League group stage begins today, with champions Manchester City representing England alongside Manchester United, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur. But just 14 Englishmen started for those sides in the Premier League at the weekend.

And in contrast to players from other leading countries, very few Englishmen move abroad, despite the lack of opportunities at top Premier League sides. Jadon Sancho at Borussia Dortmund, Reiss Nelson at Hoffenheim, Jonathan Panzo at Monaco, and Reo Griffiths at Lyon, are all at European sides involved in the group stage this season. None are older than 18, though, and none are first-team regulars. —AFP

Liverpool's Firmino better but still doubt for PSG clash

LONDON: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp says striker Roberto Firmino's eye injury is not as serious as feared but said it was too soon to know if he would be clear to play in today's Champions League clash with Paris St Germain.

The Brazilian had to be substituted in the second half of his side's 2-1 Premier League win at Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday after clashing with the hand of opposition defender Jan Vertonghen.

"We all saw the picture and we were massively worried. But all these worries are away so he will be fine. (But) if he will be fine for tomorrow, I don't know in the moment," Klopp said yesterday.

"We are obviously in close contact with him and it improved already - but in this moment I can't say if he will be available today," he added. Should Firmino be unable to take his place at centre forward, then Daniel Sturridge is the most likely to take his spot.

Klopp said that forwards Dominic Solanke and Divock Origi were both ruled out for the visit of PSG due to injuries picked up on Sunday playing for the club's Under-23 team. Another decision Klopp will have to make is whether to recall Jordan Henderson to central midfield or stick with Naby Keita and Georgino Wijnaldum, who featured in Saturday's win at Tottenham. Henderson, who skipped Liverpool last season on their run to the Champions League final, where they lost to Real Madrid, has been given a restricted start to the campaign after returning late to pre-season after the World Cup. The England international said he had no problem with the selection choices made by Klopp.

"I came back later than everybody else so I can't expect to come straight back in," he told a news conference. "The lads have worked so hard in pre-season. I can see the benefits already. The rhythm they have - they're at a very, very high level. They're winning games. "It's normal for me that I'm not playing, I can accept it. Just means I have to keep working hard and take my chance when it comes," he added. Liverpool have won all five of their Premier League games so far and Henderson said he needed a break after a marathon campaign last season.

"I totally respect the players around us - how well they're playing - and the manager. He's always right. I've tried to use this period to refresh my body and mind because last season was long." —Reuters



MARSEILLE: Olympique de Marseille's French forward Dimitri Payet reacts after scoring, during their French L1 football match Olympique of Marseille (OM) versus EA Guingamp at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille on Sunday. — AFP

Payet stunner helps Marseille thrash Guingamp

PARIS: Dimitri Payet scored a stunning goal as Marseille thrashed Guingamp 4-0 at the Stade Velodrome on Sunday to move second in the Ligue 1 table. After Florian Thauvin had opened the scoring early in the second half, Payet met a dipping ball 30 yards from goal with a magnificent side-footed volley which flew into the net off the crossbar.

Winger Thauvin added another spectacular goal late on, and Payet teed up Kostas Mitroglou to finish off a blistering second-half display. Rudi Garcia's Marseille took second place from Lille in the table on goal difference, but remain five points adrift of reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain, who brushed aside Saint-Etienne 4-0 on Friday.

"Getting two straight wins has given us second place, so it's easy to get there, but it's more difficult to stay there," said Marseille coach Garcia. The best chance for the home team in a disjointed first-half performance fell to Thauvin, but his shot was blocked after a jinking run had created space inside the box.

Garcia sent on Maxime Lopez at half-time to

replace Lucas Ocampos, and his side almost took the lead in the 50th minute when Greek striker Mitroglou somehow sent a diving header onto the post from barely a yard out.

"He (Lopez) brought his technical skills and quality on the ball," added Garcia. "Everyone was very, very average in the first period, and everyone was much better in the second." OM were posing a far greater threat in the second period, and Thauvin looped a 57th-minute header over Guingamp goalkeeper Karl-Johan Johnsson to score with the first shot on target of the match.

Marseille wrapped up the points against a toothless Guingamp 17 minutes from time, as former West Ham star Payet produced an early goal-of-the-season contender. Thauvin did his best to match Payet, as he showed great control before cutting inside and curling a wonderful strike into the far top corner from the edge of the area.

The 25-year-old, who scored 26 goals in all competitions last season, has now netted five times in as many appearances this term. Payet turned provider in the 83rd minute, rolling the ball perfectly into the path of Mitroglou, who had time to take a touch and slot in to complete the rout.

Guingamp remain rooted to the foot of the table, having lost all five of their matches so far in the campaign. Elsewhere on Sunday, Bordeaux's poor start to the season continued as a 3-3 draw at home with Nimes left them second-bottom, while Nantes and Reims played out a goalless stalemate. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Barcelona v Eintracht Frankfurt	19:55	beIN SPORTS HD 1
Internazionale Milano v Tottenham Hotspur	19:55	beIN SPORTS HD 2
Club Brugge v Borussia Dortmund	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 7
Monaco v Atletico de Madrid	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 3
Liverpool v Paris Saint-Germain	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 1
Crvena Zvezda v SSC Napoli	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 4
Galatasaray Spor Kulübü v Lokomotiv Moscow	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 6
Schalke v Porto	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 5

25 Verlander pitches Astros past sinking Diamondbacks



26 'Complete machine' Hamilton offers no comfort for Ferrari



27 Payet stunner helps Marseille thrash Guingamp 4-0



Chiefs' Mahomes fires 6 TD passes

Vikings, Packers tie as kicker misses 2 OT field goals



PITTSBURGH: Ben Roethlisberger #7 of the Pittsburgh Steelers dives into the end zone for a 3 yard touchdown in the fourth quarter during the game against the Kansas City Chiefs at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. — AFP

PITTSBURGH: In a game with wild swings and pass-happy quarterbacks, Patrick Mahomes threw for 326 yards and six touchdowns Sunday to lead the Kansas City Chiefs past the host Pittsburgh Steelers 42-37. The Chiefs (2-0) blew a three-touchdown lead, went back up by 14 points and held on. Kansas City's Travis Kelce had 109 receiving yards and two touchdowns. Mahomes has set an NFL record with 10 touchdown passes through the first two games of a season, and he finished with more touchdown passes than incompletions (five). Ben Roethlisberger was 39 of 60 for 452 yards and three touchdowns, and he rushed for another score. Jesse James had 138 receiving yards with a touchdown for Pittsburgh (0-1-1), and Juju Smith-Schuster added 121 yards and a touchdown.

JAGUARS 31, PATRIOTS 20

Blake Bortles passed for 377 yards and four touchdowns as host Jacksonville avenged last season's loss in the AFC Championship Game with a win over New England. Keelan Cole caught seven passes for 116 yards and one touchdown for the Jaguars (2-0), his third career 100-yard receiving game. Donte Moncrief, Austin Seferian-Jenkins and Dede Westbrook also caught scoring passes for Jacksonville, which defeated the Patriots for the first time in eight all-time regular-season meetings. Tom Brady passed for 234 yards for the Patriots (1-1) and threw two touchdown passes to wideout Chris Hogan. Tight end Rob Gronkowski, subject to recent criticism from Jacksonville cornerback Jalen Ramsey, had just two receptions for 15 yards.

BRONCOS 20, RAIDERS 19

Brandon McManus kicked a 36-yard field goal in the final seconds, and host Denver rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Oakland. Case Keenum completed 19 of 35 passes for 222 yards, 62 of which came on the drive that set up the winning field goal. Keenum and Royce Freeman ran for scores for the Broncos (2-0). Derek Carr was 29 of 32 for 288 yards and a touchdown for the Raiders (1-1), which remained winless in the return of head coach Jon Gruden. The Raiders blew a 12-point, second-half lead against their division rivals.

VIKINGS 29, PACKERS 29 (OT)

Kirk Cousins came close to delivering a dramatic comeback in the second half, but visiting Minnesota and Green Bay settled for a tie. Cousins, who had 425 passing yards and four touchdowns, set up the Vikings (1-0-1) for a game-winning 35-yard field goal, but rookie Daniel Carlson missed

wide right to end the game. That was his second missed field goal in overtime and third on the day. Packers kicker Mason Crosby missed a 52-yard field goal wide left as time expired in regulation. Cousins guided Minnesota to 22 points in the fourth quarter and led the Vikings downfield to tie the game at 29 with a two-point conversion toss to Stefon Diggs that followed Adam Thielen's 22-yard touchdown with 31 seconds left. Aaron Rodgers, playing with an injured left knee, was 30 of 42 for 281 yards for the Packers (1-0-1).

FALCONS 31, PANTHERS 24

Matt Ryan and the Atlanta offense bounced back impressively from a subpar outing in the season opener, recording touchdowns on all four red-zone possessions in a home victory over Carolina. Ryan, who frequently misfired in a loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in Week 1, threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more as the Falcons (1-1) defeated the Panthers (1-1) for the fourth straight time in Atlanta and fifth in six games overall. Ryan completed 23 of 28 passes for 272 yards and Tevin Coleman, filling in for Pro Bowl running back Devonta Freeman, gained 107 yards on 16 carries, becoming the first player to rush for 100 yards against Carolina in 22 games. Panthers QB Cam Newton was 32 of 45 for 335 yards and three touchdowns and one interception.

BUCCANEERS 27, EAGLES 21

Ryan Fitzpatrick threw four touchdown passes, and host Tampa Bay held on to defeat defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia and move to 2-0. Fitzpatrick, who also tossed four touchdown passes against the New Orleans Saints last week, became the first quarterback in league history to throw for at least 400 yards and four touchdowns in consecutive games to open a season. Quarterback Nick Foles received his second straight start for the Eagles (1-1) in place of injured starter Carson Wentz and completed 35 of 48 passes for 334 yards and one touchdown.

COWBOYS 20, GIANTS 13

Dak Prescott made a big early statement, and the Dallas defense dominated New York for a win at Arlington, Texas. Prescott launched a 64-yard touchdown pass to Tavon Austin on the game's third play from scrimmage. The former Rams receiver's first catch as a Cowboy made it 7-0 just 94 seconds into the game. Prescott completed 16 of 25 passes for 160 yards and added a career-high 45 rushing yards. The Cowboys (1-1) sacked Eli Manning six times and held the Giants to 255 yards of offense. New York is off to its

fourth 0-2 start in the past five years.

DOLPHINS 20, JETS 12

Ryan Tannehill threw two touchdown passes, and visiting Miami held on for victory against New York and rookie quarterback Sam Darnold. Tannehill was 17 of 23 for 168 yards, but he absorbed four sacks and the Dolphins (2-0) didn't score in the second half after building a 20-0 lead. Darnold couldn't get New York (1-1) into the end zone enough despite completing 25 of 41 throws for 334 yards. He threw one touchdown pass and was intercepted twice.

CHARGERS 31, BILLS 20

Philip Rivers threw for 256 yards and three touchdowns to lead visiting Los Angeles in a win over Buffalo in Bills rookie quarterback Josh Allen's starting debut. Rivers was surgical in the first half, completing 15 of 16 passes for 178 yards and three touchdowns. He finished 23 of 27 and did not throw an interception. Melvin Gordon found the end zone three times for the Chargers (1-1). Rookie quarterback Josh Allen was 18 of 33 passing for 245 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions in his first career start for the Bills (0-2). He connected with Kelvin Benjamin on a 3-yard pass for his first career touchdown with 38 seconds left in the game.

TITANS 20, TEXANS 17

Blaine Gabbert orchestrated a late drive that resulted in a field goal to give Tennessee a tight victory against visiting Houston. Ryan Succop's 31-yard field goal with 1:05 remaining broke a tie, capping a 62-yard drive that consumed 12 plays and nearly six minutes. The Texans (0-2) reached Tennessee territory but they were out of timeouts and couldn't get another play off after making it to the Titans 21-yard line on the last snap. The Titans (1-1) were led by Gabbert, who had less than 100 passing yards until the game-winning drive. He was filling in for quarterback Marcus Mariota, whose status had been in question after sustaining an elbow injury a week earlier. Gabbert ended up 13 of 20 for 117 yards.

49ERS 30, LIONS 27

Matt Breida rushed for a career-best 138 yards, and Robbie Gould set a franchise record for most consecutive made field goals with a 3-for-3 effort Sunday afternoon, propelling San Francisco over Detroit in Santa Clara, Calif. Jimmy Garoppolo threw two touchdown passes and remained unbeaten in home games in his 49ers career with a third straight win as San Francisco (1-1) rebounded from

an error-filled loss at Minnesota with a turnover-free performance. Matthew Stafford amassed 347 passing yards and three scores for Detroit (0-2). He threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Marvin Jones Jr. and a 15-yarder to Michael Roberts in the final 8:36 to rally the Lions, down 30-13 at one point, to within three.

SAINTS 21, BROWNS 18

Drew Brees connected on a pair of short touchdown passes to Michael Thomas in a six-minute span of the fourth quarter, and Wil Lutz kicked a 44-yard field goal with 21 seconds to lift host New Orleans over visiting Cleveland. The Browns (0-1-1) had a chance to force overtime for the second consecutive week, but Cleveland kicker Zane Gonzalez pushed a 52-yard field-goal attempt wide right with three seconds remaining. Gonzalez also missed two extra points and a 44-yard field-goal attempt earlier in the game. After the two Brees-Thomas scores, the Browns drove 75 yards to tie the game 18-18 on a 47-yard pass from Taylor to rookie Antonio Callaway with 1:16 left. However, Gonzalez hooked the potential go-ahead extra point to the left. Brees then took the Saints 49 yards in six plays, and Lutz nailed his 44-yarder, putting the Saints (1-1) up 21-18 with 21 seconds left.

COLTS 21, REDSKINS 9

Andrew Luck threw a pair of touchdown passes, and the Indianapolis defense kept host Washington out of the end zone. After surrendering 34 points to the Bengals in Week 1, the Colts (1-1) contained Alex Smith and Co. Smith passed for 292 yards, but Washington (1-1) was 5-for-15 on third down and 0-for-2 in the red zone. Adrian Peterson, who ran for 96 yards in Week 1, was held to 20 yards on 11 carries, and the Redskins gained just 65 yards on the ground. Luck completed 21 of 31 passes for 179 yards and was intercepted twice.

RAMS 34, CARDINALS 0

Todd Gurley rushed for three touchdowns, and Jared Goff passed for 354 yards and a score as host Los Angeles rolled over Arizona. The Rams' defense held the Cardinals to 60 yards of total offense in the first half and 137 for the game. It was the second consecutive season the Rams (2-0) pinned a shutout on the Cardinals (0-2), doing so last year in a game at London. The Cardinals' offense did not cross the 50-yard line until quarterback Sam Bradford connected on a pass with Ricky Seals-Jones on the second-to-last play of the game. — Reuters