



14 Burgan Turkey's hedging strategy protects it against currency volatility



20 'Game of Thrones' takes top prize at surprising Emmys



24 Venezuelans fume as Maduro filmed eating meat in Turkey



28 Messi scores hat-trick as Barcelona thrash PSV; Spurs stunned by Inter



Syria downs Russian military plane during Israeli air strike

Moscow blames Israel, summons envoy • Bibi vows to stop Iran • US expresses 'sorrow'

BEIRUT: Syria accidentally shot down a Russian military aircraft, killing all 15 crewmembers, when its air defenses swung into action against an Israeli missile strike, Russian and Israeli forces said yesterday. The incident late Monday was the most deadly known case of friendly fire between Syria and its key backer Russia since Moscow's game-changing 2015 military intervention. Russian President Vladimir Putin said it was the result of "tragic accidental circumstances".

The Russian Ilyushin plane dropped off the radar over the Mediterranean moments after Turkey and Russia announced a deal that offered millions of people reprieve from a threatened military assault in northern Syria's Idlib province. There was no immediate word from Damascus, but the deadly chain of events started when Israeli missiles struck the coastal region of Latakia on Monday. Israel said it had targeted a Syrian military facility where weapons manufacturing systems were "about to be transferred on behalf of Iran" to Lebanese group Hezbollah.

It sees Iran's military presence in Syria as a threat, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Putin by phone yesterday his forces would keep acting against it. "Israel is determined to stop Iranian military entrenchment in Syria, and the attempts by Iran, which calls for the destruction of Israel, to transfer to Hezbollah lethal weaponry (to be used) against Israel," Netanyahu said, according to his office. Israel expressed "sorrow" for the Russian deaths, but insisted the Russian plane had been felled by "extensive and inaccurate Syrian anti-aircraft (surface-to-air missile) fire".

Continued on Page 24

Korean leaders hold summit in Pyongyang

SEOUL: South Korea's president and the North's leader Kim Jong Un drove together through the streets of Pyongyang yesterday past thousands of cheering citizens before opening a summit where Moon Jae-in will seek to reboot stalled denuclearization talks between his hosts and the United States. Kim and Moon embraced at Pyongyang's international airport - where the North Korean leader had supervised missile launches last year as tensions mounted.

The North's unique brand of choreographed mass adulation was on full display as hundreds of people waved North Korean flags and another depicting an undivided peninsula - while the South's own emblem was only visible on Moon's Boeing 747 aircraft. Thousands of people, holding bouquets and chanting in unison "Reunification of the country!", lined the streets as Kim and Moon rode through the city in an open-topped vehicle, passing the Kumsusan Palace where Kim's predecessors - his father and grandfather - lie in state.

Continued on Page 24



PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (right) and South Korean President Moon Jae-in wave from an open-topped vehicle as they drive through the capital yesterday. — AFP

Thriving trade in pirated reads vexes Morocco bookshops

RABAT: With a backpack filled with pirated books, Khalid wanders the streets of Rabat peddling cheap reads - part of a flourishing black market eliciting howls of protest from bookshop owners. "It's true that it's not legal, but the price of these books attracts readers," said Khalid, 25, who hawks his wares at cafes in the Moroccan capital. A little more than a year ago, he sold pirated DVDs, but Khalid said that market was hit when it became possible to watch films on a smartphone.

One of a large number of young Moroccans working informally in a country with high youth unemployment, he quickly found bookselling the only way to make a living. Along the main streets of Rabat's historical center, dozens of other street vendors sell books in Arabic, English and French. Pirated works can cost a tenth of the original price, with the average book going for just 20 dirhams (\$2.10). They include titles by Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho, as well as French works by Moroccan-born writer Tahar Ben Jelloun and Yasmina Khadra from Algeria.

Despite being prohibited, the market in pirated



RABAT: A customer browses books at a bookshop in the Moroccan capital on Aug 9, 2018. — AFP

books is largely tolerated in cities across the kingdom. But Abdelkader Retnani, president of the Moroccan Association of Book Professionals, said the trade has led to "significant losses for publishing and distribution professionals". He blamed the illegal book business on "an organized mafia which makes considerable profits". "The authorities recently seized 120,000 pirated books, this sum is enormous but it's still early to estimate the losses" to booksellers, he added.

Continued on Page 24

Backlash after street named after Hariri assassin

BEIRUT: Politics is playing out in a street of the Lebanese capital, with the naming of a road after a Hezbollah commander accused of masterminding the assassination of prime minister Rafiq Hariri. The backlash comes just days after the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, a UN-backed court investigating the 2005 car bomb that killed Hariri and 22 others, began hearing closing arguments. The municipality of Ghoheiry, south of Beirut, recently renamed a street leading up to the Rafiq Hariri National Hospital after one of his accused assassins.

Photographs spread across social media this week depicting "the Martyr Mustafa Badreddine Street," in honor of a leading member of the Hezbollah militant movement who was killed fighting in Syria in 2016. Badreddine is believed to be the alleged mastermind of the blast that killed Hariri, and was indicted by the tribunal but never tried. Reacting to the street name, his son and current Prime Minister Saad Hariri said yesterday: "This is civil strife, par excellence, at a time when we're talking about eliminating discord."

Ghoheiry lies in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, where support for Hezbollah is strong. The Ghoheiry municipality says it submitted a request to



BEIRUT: A picture taken yesterday shows a street in the Ghoheiry neighborhood of southern Beirut named after top Hezbollah commander Mustafa Badreddine. — AFP

the interior ministry one year ago to rename the street as is required by law, but that the lack of a response from the ministry within a month indicated tacit approval. It insists its decision was "legal, normal, and legitimate". The interior ministry announced on Monday it rejected the municipality honoring "one of the main people accused" of killing Hariri. It said it would demand the street signs be removed. They were still up yesterday, according to an AFP photographer.

Continued on Page 24

China son jailed for neglecting ageing father

BEIJING: A Chinese court has jailed a man for two years for neglecting his ageing father, an unusually severe sentence for flouting the law obliging offspring to care for elderly parents. His four sisters were handed suspended sentences for ignoring their dad, a court in China's southwestern Sichuan province wrote on its official social media account last week. The family lived and worked near the village where their father, surnamed Zhang, shared a home with his wife.

In 2010 the last child left, citing her father's "bad temper", the court wrote. When she moved, she took her mother with her, leaving the old man then aged in his 70s alone. As Zhang's health failed, local village authorities began contacting his family to demand they return to care for him. The children ignored the calls, the court said, even blocking the officials' numbers. In 2016, Zhang's health began to rapidly deteriorate but even so his children still avoided returning home. Finally, village authorities decided to hand the issue over to the courts.

Continued on Page 24

Meghan launches Grenfell cookbook

LONDON: In her first solo charity project, Meghan, the newly-wed wife of Britain's Prince Harry, launches a cookbook this week in support of families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire disaster in London. The Duchess of Sussex has written the foreword to the recipe collection entitled "Together: Our Community Cookbook", produced by women who suffered from the fatal blaze. The June 2017 fire in a 24-storey residential block killed 71 people and left many more living in temporary accommodation.

Women from the affected community made use of a kitchen in a local Muslim cultural center to prepare food for their families. The duchess has made several visits to the kitchen and helped bring the book to fruition, as well as narrating a video about the initiative. "I immediately felt connected to this community kitchen: it is a place for women to laugh, grieve, cry and cook together," she wrote in the foreword. "Melding cultural identities under a shared roof, it creates a space to feel a sense of normalcy - in its simplest form, the universal need to connect, nurture, and commune through food, through crisis or joy. "Through this charitable endeavor, the proceeds will allow the kitchen to thrive and keep the global spirit of community alive."

The book showcases more than 50 recipes from across Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and the eastern Mediterranean. Meghan, a former US television



LONDON: Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, cooks with women in the Hubb Community Kitchen at the Al Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre on Monday. — AFP

actress, married Harry at Windsor Castle in May. Joined by Harry, she is hosting an event at Kensington Palace today to mark the launch of "Together". The couple are due to undertake their first major official trip outside

Britain from October 16 to 31, touring Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga. They will take in Harry's Invictus Games in Sydney: A Paralympic-style event for wounded military veterans. — AFP

Local

Amir receives new ambassadors' credentials, meets state officials

Amir receives Public Anti-Corruption Authority's second bi-annual report



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Public Anti-Corruption Authority's second bi-annual report from the authority's Chairman Abdulrahman Al-Nemash. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



Chairman of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority Abdulrahman Al-Nemash hands over the authority's second bi-annual report to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Qatar's new Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar Al-Attiyah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the new Malaysian Ambassador to Kuwait Dato' Mohammad Ali Selamat.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the new Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait Istvan Gyula Soos.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Alvaro Rodriguez.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday the Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Furthermore, His Highness received the credentials of the new Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Alvaro Rodriguez, the Malaysian Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Ali Selamat,

the Hungarian Ambassador Istvan Gyula Soos, and Qatar's Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar Al-Attiyah. The audience was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. It was also attended by Undersecretary of Amiri Diwan and Head of His Highness the Amir's office Ahmad Al-Fahad, Advisor at

the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Abdullah Abu Al-Hassan and Head of Amiri Protocol, Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, and Amiri Guard Commander Brigadier Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Zaid also attended the meetings.

His Highness the Amir also received Chairman of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority Abdulrahman Al-Nemash, as he handed the Amir the authority's second bi-

annual report. Nemash also handed a copy of the report to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah later yesterday. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince also met with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad at Bayan Palace yesterday.

In other news, a decree was issued yesterday appointing Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad as Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan and Director of His Highness the Amir Office with the rank of a minister. — KUNA

Ambassador's message on Mexico's Independence Day

KUWAIT: Ambassador of Mexico to Kuwait Miguel Angel Isidro released the following statement yesterday on the occasion of the 208th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Mexico:

"On September 16, 2018, our country celebrates the 208th Independence Day (Día de la Independencia), under the auspices of a very important historical moment in our national culture: the 'cry of independence' on which started a revolt against the Spaniards.

"This date in history shows the enduring traits of Mexicans - determined leadership, audacious vision, the drive to innovate, and a celebration of individual and collective achievements. We don't claim these traits as ours alone, but they have shaped our nation, and continue to do so today.

"Across the world, we are facing many challenges. And in such moments, we need to call upon our own courage, determination, and leadership to make the future better, more peaceful, and more prosperous for all.

"Before anything else, I take this special opportunity to admirably convey the appreciation of the President and People of Mexico to the sublime efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for His Highness's humanitarian, philanthropic and development contributions regionally and internationally.



Miguel Angel Isidro

Kuwait FM receives letter from Omani counterpart

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday a letter from Oman's Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yousuf Bin Alawi. The letter included ways of further cementing relations between the two countries at all levels, as well as issues of mutual concerns.

This came during the reception of Omani ambassador to Kuwait, Adnan Al-

Ansari, at Bayan Palace, who delivered the letter to Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and both discussed the latest developments on the regional and international arenas. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Affairs, Ambassador Nasser Al-Muzayyen, and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Saleh Al-Loughani. — KUNA

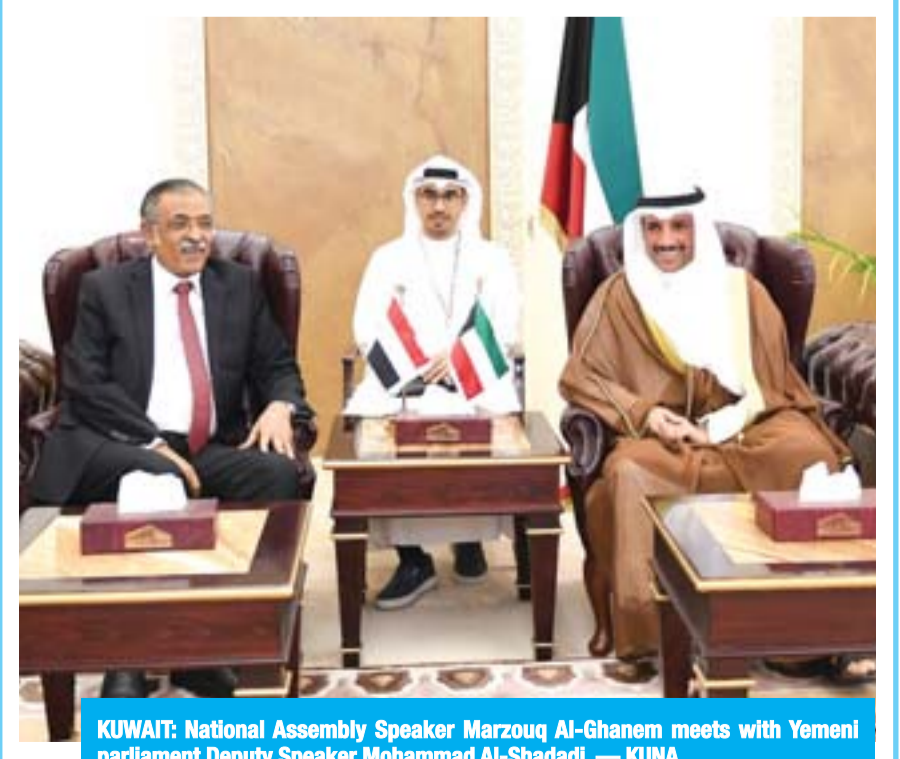


KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Omani ambassador to Kuwait Adnan Al-Ansari. — KUNA

Ghanem meets Yemini deputy house speaker

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met yesterday the visiting Yemeni parliament Deputy Speaker Mohammad Al-Shadadi and his

accompanying delegation. The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways to boost cooperation in various fields, in addition to issues of common interest and the latest developments in Yemen. The meeting was attended by deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Essa Al-Kandari, MPs Nayef Merdas and Mohammad Al-Dallal, and Yemeni Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Ali bin Safaa. The Yemeni delegation arrived in Kuwait yesterday for a four-day official visit. — KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Yemeni parliament Deputy Speaker Mohammad Al-Shadadi. — KUNA

Local

Prime Minister chairs Supreme Petroleum Council meeting

Cabinet discusses removing obstacles in housing city project

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chaired the Supreme Petroleum Council's meeting, held at Bayan Palace yesterday. The council members discussed a host of issues listed on the agenda.

Separately, His Highness the Prime Minister chaired the cabinet's weekly meeting, held at Seif Palace on Monday. During the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh welcomed the return of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to homeland after an official visit to Washington recently.

The cabinet affirmed that this visit was a real translation of the deep historical relations between Kuwait and the US. The cabinet expressed its appreciation for the successive reactions at all official and popular levels in the Gulf, Arab and international countries, which reflected the keenness of these countries and their principled positions in rejecting prejudice to the symbols of Kuwait and its leader.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, briefed the cabinet on the results of his participation in the Arab League' meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, during which he

discussed means of supporting the UN Relief and Works Agency Palestinians (UNRWA).

Final account

The cabinet reviewed the recommendation of the Economic Affairs Committee on a draft law approving the final account of the Capital Market Authority for the financial year 2017/2018. The cabinet decided to approve the draft law and submit it to His Highness the Amir in preparation for transmission to the National Assembly. On the other hand, the cabinet discussed the recommendation of the General Services Committee concerning the periodic report submitted by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare regarding removal of some obstacles in the project of South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing City.

The cabinet also discussed political affairs regarding the current regional and global developments. Furthermore, the cabinet expressed its deep condolences to US President Donald Trump, for the victims of Hurricane Florence. Regarding the news of Hurricane Mankot, which hit the Philippines and China, in which many people were killed and injured, the cabinet expressed sympathy and sincere condolences to the



Ministers briefed on Arab efforts to support UNRWA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Supreme Petroleum Council's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

two friendly countries for this humanitarian disaster. The cabinet praised the Saudi King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz' efforts that led to a peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The cabinet concluded its meeting

with a condemnation to the recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, which caused a number of victims and injured, affirming its principled position in rejecting these terrorist acts. — KUNA



Supreme Petroleum Council members attend the meeting.



Arab Central Banks discuss challenges

AMMAN: The Central Bank of Jordan held yesterday a specialized roundtable workshop among Arab top bankers to discuss the development of modern financial techniques, and opportunities and challenges facing the Arab nations. Arab Central Banks' Governors took part in a workshop that was organized on the sidelines of the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Board of Governors of Arab Central Banks and Monetary Institutions held in Jordan. Central Bank of Kuwait's Governor Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel headed the second session of the workshop titled 'Regulatory and supervisory methodologies of modern financial techniques.' This workshop witnessed the participation of a large number of officials at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Central Bank (ECB), the Bank of Finland, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), the Union of Arab Banks (UAB), as well as a group of Arab commercial banks presidents, along with experts from various regional and international financial institutions.

Regulatory controls

The Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors and Director General at Arab Monetary Fund Dr Abdulrahman Al-Humaidi in press remarks stressed on the importance of the issues tackled and discussed in the workshop. He called for boosting cooperation between central banks, hailing the importance of such workshop in the exchange of expertise in the field of developing the regulatory and supervisory controls of modern financial techniques at the light of diverse laws and legislations. The workshop discussed four main aspects, namely: modern financial techniques, financial



AMMAN: Central Bank of Kuwait's Governor Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel speaks during the second session of a workshop organized by the Central Bank of Jordan yesterday. — KUNA

inclusion, regulatory and supervisory methodologies of modern financial techniques, digital currencies of central banks, and the framework of risk management of cyber-threats. It also shed light resolving consequences of banking procedures, challenges of digital currencies facing central banks, issuance of currency, monetary policy and payment systems, and addressing cyber-attacks in the financial and banking sector.

Technical arrangements

In other news, a Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) delegation arrived in Amman yesterday to discuss technical arrangements of Kuwait's initiative to provide economic assistance to Jordan within framework of Makkah Summit, said Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani. The KFAED delegation visit aims at supporting Jordan overcome the economic crisis, as well as stressing the depth of relations between the two countries with full support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Jordan's King Abdullah II, Daihani said. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE announced in Makkah a \$2.5 billion aid to Jordan to help it overcome its economic crisis, he added. The aid package is guaranteed by the World Bank. — KUNA

Harbi becomes first Kuwaiti doctor with hip arthroscopy certificate

BRUSSELS: The Erasme University Hospital in the Belgian capital Brussels presented Kuwaiti doctor Hussein Al-Harbi with a certificate in hip arthroscopy, the first ever for a Kuwaiti surgeon. Kuwait sends patients who need treatment for their hips for medical treatment abroad, because there are no doctors specialized in hip arthroscopy in the country, Harbi said in a statement yesterday. He added that he intends to continue his studies in a different medical field in France for a year, before returning to Kuwait in 2020 to resume his work.

The certificate ceremony was attended by Kuwait Ambassador to Belgium and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Jassem Al-Budaiwi. Budaiwi noted that Kuwait is proud of Harbi's achievement as the first Kuwaiti doctor in this medical field. Erasme hospital is one of the top Belgian hospitals, he said, adding that Kuwait often sends patients in need of treatment abroad to this hospital. — KUNA



BRUSSELS: Dr Hussain Al-Harbi (center) poses with his certificate. — KUNA

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Summer is waiting...

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

4 Cards FREE
4.750 K.D each

+

4 Coupons FREE
5.000 K.D each

Enjoy

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

Local

Limak, Sabah Al-Ahmad Center to establish Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center

To promote entrepreneurship, enable development of innovative technologies for youth



Limak Investment Chairperson Ebru Ozdemir delivers her speech.



SACGC Chairman Barrak Al-Subaih addresses the audience.



KUWAIT: Limak Investment Chairperson Ebru Ozdemir and SACGC Chairman Barrak Al-Subaih shake hands after signing the agreement. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, Limak Insaat Kuwait SPC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), founded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

Under the agreement, both parties will explore areas of cooperation including but not limited to stimulating the initiation and coordination of cooperative activities, promoting the technical training of engineers and technical staff and exploring areas of cooperation leading to the establishment and operation of the Kuwait Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (KIEC).

Over 350 Kuwaiti inventors will benefit from the new KIEC project that will provide them with total care from the beginning of their invention till realizing it into a commercial project. "Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) has a budget for public projects, and SACGC is a nonprofit organization, so they will finance this project while Limak will execute it. Workshops at KIEC will provide financial and technical help to inventors through experts in the field," SACGC Chairman Barrak Al-Subaih told Kuwait Times.

KIEC is an incubator project that aims to promote and enable intensive and innovative technologies in Kuwait. Limak Insaat Kuwait SPC is an independent subsidiary of Limak Holding, one of the world's leading contractors currently constructing the New Passenger Terminal II at Kuwait International Airport (KIA).

KIEC will be an enabler for driving entrepreneurship through promoting collaboration and interaction between innovative ecosystem entities to accelerate technology commercialization and start-up enterprises. The center will provide its services to various individuals in different business sectors including the fields of energy, chemical technologies, polymers, metal based industries, electronic based products and control systems, smart devices, and software applications and solutions.

Hosted at KFAS, the MoU was signed by Limak



KFAS Vice Chairman Dr Saad Akasha gives a presentation about the Kuwait Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (KIEC).

Investment Chairperson Ebru Ozdemir and SACGC Chairman Subaih. The event was attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Kuwait Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak and her supporting delegation, General Manager of the Public Authority for Industry, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior executives and board members from Limak Insaat, Limak Holding, SACGC and KFAS, and other senior members of the business community.

"Following the celebration of 30 Kuwaiti engineering graduates from our Kuwait's Engineer Girls' program, today we are taking the next step forward in our efforts towards supporting human capital development



Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh (third from right) and the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Kuwait Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak (fourth from right) are seen among the attendees.

in Kuwait. At Limak we believe that education is a never-ending commitment by all sectors of society and industry. On the back of the success of student education programs in collaboration with Kuwait University, we are proud to announce today another partnership with Kuwait and its institutions through this agreement," Ozdemir said.

"This partnership reflects our desire to contribute to the development and strengthening of youth capabilities and consolidates our strong, lasting relations with Kuwait's various education and development institutions. We first began our journey with a goal to educate and empower Kuwaiti girls to join the private sector through our joint venture with Kuwait University and Turkey's Bogazici University, the Kuwait's Engineer Girls pro-

gram, and today are celebrating another milestone in our mission through our agreement with SACGC," she added.

"I highly believe that our new collaboration with SACGC is yet another indication of Limak's role in developing Kuwait's society and strengthening our commitment to the country. This collaboration will foster a culture of creativity, entrepreneurship, expertise and knowledge exchange in the industrial landscape, and will be a great opportunity to highlight the achievements of partnerships projects between public and private institutions in Kuwait," concluded Ozdemir.

"Today we signed an agreement with Limak, one of world's leading construction and engineering firms, to explore areas of cooperation for the development of KIEC. KIEC aims to serve Kuwaiti innovators and entrepreneurs who are keen on patenting their innovative or reengineered offerings. Our goal is to provide a research and development environment that is conducive for creativity and innovation within a range of manufacturing-based industries," Subaih said.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah journalism award kicks off

KUWAIT: The 11th session of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Journalism Excellence Award kicked off yesterday, the contest's Higher Committee announced. Applications will be received until December 18, 2018, head of the contest's Higher Committee Ayman Al-Ali said during a press conference held at Kuwait News Agency's (KUNA) headquarters.

On behalf of the Committee members, Ali thanked His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah for his generous sponsorship of this award since its inception, recognizing the value and importance of free and responsible journalism. He pointed out that the competition, since its first version, has aimed at renewed and developed journalism; it introduced the art of caricature and doubled rewards to encourage more participants to share their stories.

It has also introduced creation of e-newspapers in recognition of the importance of "these emerging powers, which have great tools that may not be available to other readable media with the addition of audios and videos," Ali explained. In response to previous directives from His Highness the Prime Minister, the Higher Committee considered that the time has come for this competition to expand and to include young journalists

from other GCC countries; thus allocating one prize for the youth of the GCC countries in the section of the best press report. He pointed out that qualified candidates, from Kuwait and Gulf countries, can apply for initial subscription through the contest's website or the electronic application of the competition, which can be downloaded on smart phones from the Apple Store and Google Play.

Regarding conditions for participation, Ali explained that the advanced work of the general public reports requires that the participant be one of the editors of the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) or a local newspaper or magazine (print and electronic) and not be related to any of the members of the competition committees. Written, visual and audiovisual work should not be previously published in the media before January 1, 2018, or had taken part in the same contest either inside or outside Kuwait. The participation shall be in Arabic language with a minimum of 400 words for editors of KUNA and 600 for the rest of the participants and be related to Kuwaiti issues and not subject to any legal accountability. Concluding his speech, Ali expressed his sincere gratitude to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He extended his thanks to the sponsors from the media namely the newspapers, companies and TV channels. —KUNA



Ayman Al-Ali

Dive team pulls out burnt yacht

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Dive Team of the Environmental Voluntary Foundation recovered yesterday a 40-foot-long yacht off Sharq Area after the vessel drowned in a fire accident, Head of Maritime Operations Waleed Al-Shatti said. He added that the team was able to lift the yacht and all its waste from the fuel tanks and parts scattered by the fire, using the Kuwaiti search and rescue team to pull it from the sea by cars at the water islands and extract it.

The team's divers placed special bags and airbags to float the boat and tow it by small boats to an old marina to take it out, Shatti said. The team is carrying out these operations in order to stop the pollution caused by the burning of the yacht and its danger to maritime navigation, he added.

The team has high skills to recover boats and ships, and to remove waste from the sea because of the experience gained by its efforts since its establishment in 1986 to protect the marine environment, where more than 700 boats and vessels have been recovered and tons of waste have been lifted, he pointed out. This spreads the message of volunteerism and environmental awareness in Kuwait, to consolidate voluntary work between individuals and groups of society, he stated. —KUNA

Project benefits over 350 inventors

NBK participates in 'Clean Up The World' global campaign

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) will participate in the 'Clean Up The World' global campaign that is organized in Kuwait through the local community group 'MW6INY' along with 19 other civil society organizations.

NBK will proudly support and participate in this nationwide campaign to ensure its global impact. Each one of the 20 local civil society movements will launch their own environmental awareness campaign in different areas in Kuwait, including beaches.

NBK's Public Relations Team Leader, Yaqoub Al-Baqer, said "NBK is always keen to adopt initiatives that promote sustainability. This global environmental initiative is one of the largest in the world and enjoys the support of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) due to the substantial results it has achieved in many countries around the world.

"NBK is proud to be the first local supporter of this global initiative," Baqer added. "Today we are moving towards new prospects in protecting the

environment through initiatives promoting sustainability. Endorsing campaigns that focus on improving the ecology in a sustainable manner is highlighted in the Bank's social responsibility agenda for the coming years."

Baqer noted the importance this global campaign holds in adding value to the local efforts performed to protect and improve the environment. The initiative also facilitates the work of participants and develops their capacities to carry out their own environmental campaigns. Moreover, it bridges Kuwait's civil society groups to the global community and facilitates their work in protecting the Environment.

'Clean Up the World' is a community based environmental campaign that inspires and empowers individuals and communities from around the globe to clean up, fix up and conserve their environment. Clean Up the World mobilizes an estimated 35 million volunteers from 120 countries annually, making it one of the largest community-based environmental campaigns in the world. With the publicity that Clean Up received it gained the support of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). This campaign was brought to Kuwait through 'MW6INY', a local group that aims to raise awareness amongst the citizens of Kuwait and believes in clean energy, a healthy environment, peace and prosperity, accountability and hard work. 'MW6INY' tries to make Kuwait more beautiful through community activities targeting the environment.



Local

Progress achieved in reducing expats' numbers, recruitment of skilled, qualified labor: Minister

Meetings soon to discuss new decisions 'that will lead to further progress'



A group picture of winners of a competition organized recently by the Engineers Without Borders Society.



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh honors an engineer during a ceremony held by the Engineers Without Borders Society yesterday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Progress has been made towards adjusting Kuwait's demography, reducing the number of expats and regulating the recruitment of skilled, well-trained and qualified workers who will benefit Kuwait's labor market, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh said. Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony held by the Engineers Without Borders Society to honor the winners of a competition it had organized, Sabeeh said a meeting will be held soon between the Public Authority for Manpower's board of directors and the supreme demography committee to discuss new decisions that will lead to further progress. Sabeeh said the meeting was delayed due to waiting until the authority's board of directors was formed.

In another concern, Sabeeh said work is in progress to finish electronic linkage with relevant Ministry of Interior (MoI) bodies concerned with domestic helpers, whose responsibility is due to be transferred to the manpower authority, noting that officials promised to finish the linkage by the beginning of October. Responding to a ques-

tion about Al-Durra Company and its latest developments, Sabeeh stressed that the ministry cooperates with various bodies including the company itself and the Union of



Four colleges open next year

Consumer Cooperative Societies to follow up the company's responsibilities after its chairman resigned from office.

Work permits

Chairman of the Public Authority for Manpower's

employees syndicate Fahd Al-Ossaimi stressed his full support to the private sector employees union's demands to cancel work permits of citizens working in the private sector as soon as possible. Ossaimi said merging the manpower authority with the Management and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) was a daring step aiming to facilitate citizens' work in the private sector by cutting paperwork without having to check with any other government bodies.

Sabah Al-Salem University

Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi announced that four colleges will open at the new Sabah Al-Salem University by the beginning of the academic year 2019-2020. Azmi explained that the colleges of administrative sciences, education, arts and life sciences would be the first to be opened, followed by those of science, engineering and petroleum, sharia, social sciences and law in Sept 2020. Other colleges will be opened according to a preset schedule. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Osama Al-Shaheen, Azmi said the university council had issued a memo to be extended to the cabinet recommend-

ing moving Kuwait University into Sabah Al-Salem University City and establishing independent government universities at the current Kuwait university campuses to be supervised by the supreme government universities council. Azmi added that Kuwait University is keen on avoiding coeducation in terms of classes at the current and future campuses. "Two separate campuses for male and female students will be built at Sabah Al-Salem University City," he underlined.

School fire under control

A fire broke out yesterday at the main power unit at the private Fahaeel National Joint School, which was controlled in record time without any casualties. Arab private schools manager at the private education department Najat Al-Ruwaished stressed that as soon as the fire started, all students were immediately evacuated by the school's emergency team that also called firemen. Ruwaished said that fourth grade pupil Malak Ramzi and the school's maintenance technician were rushed to Adan Hospital for medical tests and were soon discharged.

MP demands referring grilling report to public prosecution

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain demanded referring a report made by the ministerial committee formed after grilling Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi to the public prosecution, especially with the presence of suspicions of violating public funds and the involvement of a senior official at the Vietnam refinery in some cases. "It is mandatory to refer the report to the prosecution. Check your answers to the grilling motion and compare them to the committee's report. Be up to your responsibilities and step down immediately!" he said, addressing the minister. Babtain warned HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah not to yield to the pressure on the cabinet to reject and question the ministerial committee's report.



MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain

Behind schedule

A government document showed that delay in launching the clean fuel commercial project has reached over a year as the project is expected to start operation on Sept 4, 2019. The document also showed that the project's mechanical works are expected to be finished on March 31, 2019, while primary operation is scheduled to start on June 4, 2019 and end on Sept 4, 2019. In response to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei concerning the project's delay, Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi said the project will be launched in June 2018 and that it involves a long and complicated series of procedures that might take over a year.

Annual bonus

Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf denied that the Central Bank of Kuwait's board members receive any incentives other than the annual KD 5,000 bonus approved by the cabinet in 2005. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei in this regard, Hajraf explained that the finance and commerce ministries' representatives at the bank get an annual bonus of KD 4,000 each.

Doctor passes away

Dr Talal Al-Shemmari of Jahra Hospital died yesterday while on night duty, said informed sources, noting that the young doctor's sudden demise was met with great grief.

Camping conditions

Well informed sources at Kuwait Municipality stressed that this year's camping conditions will be the same as last year. Nevertheless, he said that a joint committee including relevant bodies will further discuss whether to keep the same conditions or add new ones. Urging licensed campers to fully respect the conditions, the sources explained that current conditions include leaving a 100-m gap between camps, allowing online selection of camps of up to 1,000 sq m through the Municipality website, not allowing alteration of the selected site and giving Kuwait Municipality the right to alter or remove camps at any time without objection or compensation by the campers.

Kuwait urges UNSG member states to be united on N Korea

NEW YORK: Kuwait has urged member states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to take a unified stance toward the issue of North Korea. Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, the State of Kuwait's Permanent Envoy to the UN, expressed concern during a session of the council at debates held, over the past two weeks, within framework of the committee tasked with overseeing sanctions' implementation. He voiced concern that disarrays among the envoys, manifested during the commission debates on North Korea, might "threaten the council unity toward this issue."

Ambassador Otaibi noted that military confrontation was forecast months ago, however such a dire event had been averted due to sincere diplomatic initiatives and two summits, held within two months. Indicating that high hopes are pinned on the Koreans' summit, due later today, he noted that Kuwait, along with the international community, has backed diplomatic efforts that led to understanding with aim of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and establishing peace between the two Koreas. He re-affirmed the necessity that the UNSC remain united and keen on full implementation of relevant resolutions with respect of North Korea.

Afghanistan's stability

Meanwhile, Kuwait renewed its support for Afghanistan in achieving lasting peace and stability through a negotiated diplomatic settlement. This came during a speech delivered by Acting charge d'affaires of the Kuwaiti permanent mission to the UN headquarters in New York, advisor Talal Al-Fassam, at the Security Council meeting on Afghanistan.

Fassam stressed importance of addressing the threat posed by terrorism through collective commitment to combat the scourge of terrorism within the framework of the international strategy. "We are holding this meeting just one month ahead of parliamentary elections in Afghanistan," he said, adding that the current phase of Afghanistan is very important and delicate, with intensive consultations among the political parties. He stressed on importance of national reconciliation and the peace process in Afghanistan.

"We are following up closely on the current political movement in the various Afghan provinces and the formation of political alliances and preparations for the upcoming elections", he said, expressing hope that these moves will contribute to reducing tension.

"We are aware that the increase in violence in Afghanistan is a desperate attempt by elements who do not believe in the option of democracy or human rights and do not even want to see stability and security in this country," he added. The Kuwaiti diplomat called on the international community to continue its support to Afghanistan to reach a comprehensive political settlement. — KUNA

Worker critically injured in fall

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A worker fell from a crane in industrial Amghara. Jahra fire station responded and rescued the man, who was found to be in a critical condition. Paramedics rushed the man to the hospital. An investigation was opened to reveal the circumstances behind the accident.

Salwa house fire

Bidaa and Mishref fire stations dealt with a fire report-

ed in a Salwa house yesterday. Firemen succeeded in keeping the flames from spreading to nearby houses. No injuries were reported in the incident as an investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.

Fishing boat confiscated

The marine surveillance unit of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) along with environment police confiscated a fishing boat in Kuwait Bay following a chase. Three fishermen onboard then abandoned it and escaped, leaving behind an abundant catch. The boat was spotted fishing in Kuwait Bay in flagrant violation of the law. The fishermen headed with their boat to the shore, then fled, Al-Rai reported yesterday.

JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) / KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY

Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tender for procurement of material.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in the under-mentioned Tender are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **19 SEP 2018** up to **1 OCT 2018** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against tender.

Tender Fees have to be deposited in the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057.

The closing date for the following Tender will be on **Monday, 8 OCT 2018 @ 09:00 AM.**

S. NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (IN KD)
1	2367742-R1	S/F DRESSER RAND GAS COMPRESOR	15/-

Notes:

- Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please send request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to email: HBJH@chevron.com or MYDG@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact:
Telephone No.: 23982614 - Fax No.: 23981315



Fearing attacks from above, Syrians head underground

24 Bahais could face death penalty in Yemen



GUADALAJARA: A trailer carrying more than 100 bodies of unidentified people is driven through the streets of Guadalajara after being taken from the winery of the prosecutor's in Guadalajara and transferred to the Jalisco Institute of Forensic Sciences in Tlaquepaque. — AFP

Trailer full of bodies causes row in Mexico

Fetid smell infuriates residents in Mexican city

GUADALAJARA: Mexican authorities were scrambling to find a parking spot yesterday for a truck carrying more than 100 unidentified bodies whose fetid smell has been infuriating residents in the city of Guadalajara. The refrigerated trailer-rented when morgues in the country's second-largest city hit full capacity-was parked for two weeks at a warehouse in the downtrodden neighborhood of Duraznara, on the city outskirts, until residents complained of the stench and the flies it attracted.

The authorities then moved the truck to an empty lot in Tlajomulco, another poor neighborhood far from the city center, until residents there protested

Saturday. Officials then moved it to a prosecution storage facility in the city center, where it remained parked on Monday. "We don't want it here. They need to put it somewhere else. We have a lot of children in this neighborhood. (The truck) stinks, it could make us all sick," said Jose Luis Tovar, who lives near the spot where it was parked in Tlajomulco.

Authorities in the western state of Jalisco said they were looking for a longer-term solution. State Interior Minister Roberto Lopez condemned the decision to move the bodies from place to place, and said whoever was responsible in the state government would be punished "severely." "This shows the insensitivity of

some officials to such a sensitive issue, especially for the families of these unclaimed bodies," he said in a press conference.

In Mexico, the criminal investigation code bars authorities from cremating bodies linked to violent crimes. "We ran out of cemetery plots where we could bury them," said the head of the Jalisco forensic investigators unit, Luis Octavio Cotero. The state government is currently working on a site to bury 800 bodies outside Guadalajara, he told AFP. The number of murder victims in Mexico has exploded in recent years. Since the government deployed the army to fight the country's powerful drug cartels in 2006,

Mexico has been hit by a wave of violence that has left more than 200,000 murders.

Last year, the country registered a record 28,702 homicides. Mass graves are regularly discovered containing dozens or even hundreds of unidentified bodies. Nearly 4,000 such corpses have been found since 2007, according to the National Human Rights Commission. Some of the highest-profile violence has been in Jalisco, home to the brutal Jalisco New Generation Cartel. Other states hit hard by cartel violence have also struggled with overflowing morgues in recent years, including Veracruz in the east, Guerrero in the south and Chihuahua in the north. — AFP

100 killed as severe flood hits Nigeria

LOKOJA: Nigeria has declared a national disaster after severe flooding left about 100 people dead across 10 states, the country's main relief agency said yesterday. Heavy seasonal rains have caused the Niger and Benue rivers to burst their banks, inundating communities, farms and trapping tens of thou-

sands of people in their homes. Sani Datti, from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), told AFP: "We have declared a national disaster in four states-Kogi, Delta, Anambra and Niger. "Eight other states are on the watch list.

All these states have been the worst hit by the flooding. About 100 people have lost their lives in 10 states." Kogi and Niger are in central Nigeria while Delta and Anambra are in the south. The Kogi state capital, Lokoja, lies at the confluence of both rivers and has been virtually submerged because of the rising waters. NEMA said water levels on Monday were continuing to rise in Lokoja and had reached 11.06 metres (36 feet) - approaching

those of similar devastating flooding in 2012.

Then, hundreds of people died and about two million others were left homeless in 30 of Nigeria's 36 states. More rains are forecast yesterday, according to the Nigerian Meteorological Agency. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said on Monday he had approved the release of three billion naira (\$8.3 million, 7.1 million euros) to buy medical and relief materials. Flooding along the rivers is a frequent occurrence during the annual rains, which fall from May to September. Datti said military personnel and equipment had been seconded to help the relief effort, as well as the evacuation of trapped residents from their homes — AFP



LOKOJA, Nigeria: A man gestures next to his flooded house following heavy rain near the Nigerian town of Lokoja, in Kogi State. — AFP

Hindu group opens up as elections near

NEW DELHI: A Hindu nationalist group behind the rise of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is opening up to critics and supporters through a first-of-its-kind outreach program in New Delhi, preparing the ground for his re-election bid next year. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the fountainhead of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that believes in a Hindu-first ideology, provided thousands of campaigners for Modi's landslide victory in 2014, and could help energize its cadre to fend off rising criticism of the government.

A general election is due by May. A three-day lecture session the RSS started on Monday in the capital - rare for a mainly male group that typically broadcasts its views from its headquarters in the western city of Nagpur - is also being seen as an attempt to mainstream the movement that Modi joined in his youth. "We want to connect with a larger section of society, those who want to understand us, those who want to know us," Manmohan Vaidya, one of several RSS general secretaries said. "We are experiencing a growing curiosity among a large section of society."

The RSS has been banned several times since its inception in 1925, once after a former member of the group assassinated independence hero Mahatma Gandhi in 1948. That attack came after the RSS accused Gandhi of appeasing Muslims at a time when Pakistan, an all-Muslim nation, was being

carved out of India. The ban was later lifted in the absence of any evidence the group planned the attack. Bollywood stars, athletes and ministers attended the first day's event at a government convention centre as the RSS sought to shed what its chief called a "dictatorial" image to an audience of about 1,300 people.

Its leaders and volunteers wore traditional Indian clothes, but the group's trademark attire of khaki trousers and white shirts was missing. A couple of years ago the RSS gave up its old-fashioned khaki shorts to raise its appeal among young people. "Narendra Modi is a good man, works hard and leads a life of values, so the world has saluted him," Indresh Kumar, a senior RSS leader, told a gathering of supporters to discuss India's "global march". "I keep saying that you gave 50 years to those who looted the country, now give 10 to 15 years to those who will make the country. That much patience you can have."

Opening for opposition

India's Congress party ruled the country for much of its independent history, but a big loss to the BJP in the last general election has forced it to seek partnerships with other opposition parties in a bid to stall Modi's march in 2019. Record-high fuel prices, low crop prices to oversupply and a lack of jobs have given the opposition a chance to reconnect with voters ahead of state polls in three big BJP-ruled states, ahead of the general election. Kumar urged his audience to use social media and other ways to convince voters that Modi was a better bet than any candidate for prime minister the opposition could offer. In the last general election hundreds of thousands of volunteers of the RSS, which has about 585,000 committed members, used technology and sheer manpower to mobilize voters. — Reuters

International

Fearing attacks from above, Syrians head underground

Idlib residents bracing for Russian-backed government offensive

KAFR AIN, Syria: The grotto in northwestern Syria has already saved his children's lives once. Fearing more air attacks, Abdulmonem is expanding the makeshift bomb shelter in case they need to take refuge there again.

Residents of Idlib province and surrounding areas have been bracing themselves for a Russian-backed government offensive on the country's largest remaining rebel-held zone. Some three million people live in the area and the United Nations has warned that a full-scale regime assault could spark the century's worst humanitarian catastrophe. Residents' fears

have been heightened by Russian and Syrian air strikes, artillery fire and barrel bombs that have killed more than 30 civilians across the province in the past month, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Sat outside the craggy cave opening in his hometown of Kafr Ain, in Idlib's south, Abdulmonem Sheikh Jassem explains how he is trying to keep his family safe. "About 10 days ago, we started digging out, expanding, and equipping the cave in case there's new bombing," says Jassem, a 55-year-old former truck driver.

Citing a bad back and knee problems, he has hired a laborer to transform the grotto into a full shelter. Working by the dim light filtering in through the mouth of the cave, the elderly worker chips away at the rock face with a pickaxe to widen the cramped space. The builder's two scrawny children, covered in a thick layer of dust, move rocks torn loose from the wall to a wheelbarrow outside, which they periodically dump in the nearby hills. "We're expanding it out, then we'll paint it and put stairs at the entrance so you can go up and down easily," says Jassem, who has four daughters and two sons of his own. Two years ago, Jassem and his family

rushed to the very same cave to hide from an incoming regime helicopter. "Our house was demolished but we were in the cave, thank God, so no one was wounded or hurt," he says, his coarse salt-and-pepper hair tapering down into stubble on his tanned, wrinkled face. "I'm the most scared for my children," he says. "Fear is normal for those who have a family."

Assault could spark 'worst catastrophe'

Syria's conflict erupted in 2011. Within four years, rebels and hardline jihadists had overrun swathes of territory, including Idlib province. But since then, government troops have made a fierce comeback and recaptured nearly two-thirds of the country, bolstered by Syrian and Russian warplanes. The regime's use of air raids across Syria has sent residents fleeing to basements or caves, even forcing hospitals, community centers and schools to move underground.

Medics in rural parts of Idlib have done the same. On September 8, an underground hospital on the outskirts of Hass in the south of the province was damaged by an air strike, according to the Observatory. A recent wave of strikes near the town of Hobeit further south sent Abu Mohammad, his uncle and his young cousins into their homemade bomb shelter, he said. The family dug out the large cellar during the early years of Syria's war. The floors and walls have been smoothed over with concrete and painted, and several fluorescent bulbs cast a blue-white light into the room. A shelf carved into one wall holds water and jars of pickles and other preserves.

Stocking up

"The bombing got worse on this area because it's close to regime territory in northern Hama province,"

footage appeared. But the North's media is tightly controlled, even when reporting events in the country itself, and often eschews live broadcasts, preferring to show recorded footage. As Kim and Moon embraced on the tarmac the North's main state television channel showed only a test card, with eight unchanging vertical blocks of color.

Disputed islands

The unification flags waved by North Koreans at the airport showed a map of the peninsula, clearly including Dokdo, islands controlled by Seoul but claimed by Tokyo. When similar flags were used ahead of the Winter Olympics in the South, Japan swiftly protested, and Seoul rapidly came up with an alternative version without the blue specks. But Pyongyang is strongly nationalistic and constantly denounces Japan's 20th-century colonization of the peninsula and its wartime atrocities. A weekend commentary on the official KCNA news agency condemned Tokyo as a "political dwarf", adding that Pyongyang was "keenly watching Japan adding more crimes to the past ones and will have Japan pay dearly for them".

Domestic bliss

In their constitutions both North and South Korea claim sovereignty over the whole of the peninsula. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea—the North and South's official names—were founded 70 years ago but each still technically regards the other as an illegal entity. Relations between them are handled by Seoul's unification ministry and Pyongyang's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country, rather than their foreign ministries. As such, a journey between them would not be regarded



KAFR 'AYN, Syria: A child carries stones out of a cave that is being dug in the Syrian village of Kafr Ain in the southern countryside of the rebel-held Idlib province. Residents of Idlib province and surrounding areas have been bracing themselves for a Russian-backed government offensive on the country's largest remaining rebel-held zone. —AFP

just south of Idlib, says Abu Mohammad, 25. "We had to clean the shelter out again, bring preserves and everything we might need so that we won't have to go back up to the house." The UN has urged the conflict's top powerbrokers—Russia, fellow regime ally Iran, and rebel backer Turkey—to engage in talks to avoid a "bloodbath" in Idlib. Bombardment has slowed over the past week, and on Friday, Russian Foreign Minister

Sergei Lavrov denied that Syrian troops were planning a major offensive on Idlib. For eight-year-old Omran, a cousin of Abu Mohammad, the most important thing is being able to go to school safely. The threat of air attacks has prevented the dark-eyed boy going to class for more than a week. "I have lots of friends who have been wounded and some of them died," says Omran. "I want to read, write, and go to school every day." —AFP

Five things about the Korea summit

SEOUL: Summits between North and South Korea are closely watched for both spectacular symbolism-on grand display at the Panmunjom summit in April—and smaller hints of meaning. Yesterday's meeting between the South's President Moon Jae-in and the North's leader Kim Jong Un—their third so far this year, but Moon's first trip to Pyongyang as president—was no exception. Here are five things we have learned so far.

Sister act

Kim's younger sister Yo Jong, whom he sent to the South's Winter Olympics as his special envoy, has emerged as one of his closest advisers and is regularly seen at his side at public events. But she is developing a tendency to stray into shot. At the first Panmunjom summit, she walked behind Moon and her brother, who were otherwise alone on the red carpet, until she suddenly peeled away. And again at Pyongyang airport she briefly joined them on a platform where they were to watch a welcome ceremony, before drifting into the cameras' vision several times as the two leaders and their wives made their way past well-wishers.

Field of view

All major South Korean television channels carried wall-to-wall coverage of Moon's arrival in Pyongyang, showing the airport events live and then switching to studio commentary and discussion until the next

Idlib: Last Syrian rebel stronghold

BEIRUT: Syria's jihadist-dominated Idlib province is the last major area remaining mostly out of regime control after more than seven years of civil war. The northeastern province is home to some three million people—around half of them displaced from other parts of the country that have been recaptured by advancing Russian-backed Syrian regime forces. Here is some background.

Falls in 2015

The province shares a border with rebel-backer Turkey and is also adjacent to Latakia, a regime stronghold on the Mediterranean coast that is home to President Bashar Al-Assad's clan. Before fighting broke out in 2011, most of Idlib's inhabitants worked in agriculture, mainly growing cotton and cereals, or commuted to neighboring Aleppo province. In March 2015 a coalition of Islamist fighters including some linked to Al-Qaeda seized the provincial capital.

Hardliners come out on top

Hardcore Islamists and jihadist factions have since overpowered more moderate rebels. Around 60 percent of Idlib is controlled by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, with other hardliners also present. The rest is held by the National Liberation Front (NLF), an alliance formed in August that merged Islamist groups Ahrar Al-Sham and Nureddine Al-Zinki with other rebel factions. The NLF, which has Turkey's backing, is meant to counter the growing power of HTS.

Dumping ground

Idlib province and adjacent slivers of opposition territory count some three million residents. They include tens of thousands of rebels and civilians transferred since 2014 from former opposition bastions recaptured by the regime in notorious "reconciliation" deals. The United Nations has warned that, in case of a massive regime assault to take back the province, there is "no other Idlib" for the province's residents to flee to.



BINNISH: Syrians dance, chant slogans and strike drums while others wave flags of Turkey and the opposition, as they protest against the Syrian government during a demonstration in Binnish in the rebel-held northern Idlib province late on September 17, 2018. —AFP

Chemical attacks

Government forces have been accused of several chemical attacks in Idlib. A UN commission has found that helicopters from two regime-controlled air bases had dropped chlorine-filled barrel bombs on two Idlib villages in 2014 and 2015. In October 2016 the commission concluded that the army also carried out a chemical attack, probably with chlorine, at a third village in 2015. A sarin gas attack in April 2017 hit the town of Khan Sheikhun, killing 83 people, according to the UN. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 87 died, including more than 30 children. The UN blamed the government, which has consistently denied responsibility.

From de-escalation to new target

In 2017 Idlib province was one of four "de-escalation" zones established by the three main power brokers of Syria's conflict—Russia, Iran and Turkey—in a bid to reduce violence. However, in December, government forces backed by Russian air power launched an offensive to recapture its southeast.



PYONGYANG: Kim Jung-sook (right), wife of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, talks with Ri Sol Ju (left), wife of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a visit to the Kim Won-gyun Conservatory in Pyongyang yesterday on the sidelines of the inter-Korean summit. —AFP

as an international flight. And when Kim stepped onto the tarmac to welcome Moon, he emerged from a door marked "Domestic departure".

Bait and switch

Kim and Moon got into separate vehicles at Pyongyang airport before driving away. But by the time the convoy arrived at the Paekhwawon State Guesthouse where Moon and his closest advisers are staying—the name means "100 different flowers bloom"—they were in the same open-topped car. It later emerged that they had switched vehicles on the edge of the city and paraded together past thousands of citizens lined up along the streets. "Reunification of the country!" the crowds chanted in unison, as the motorcade drove past the Kumsusan Palace where Kim's predecessors—his father and grandfather—lie in state. —AFP

News in brief

Amiri withdraws candidacy

ERBIL: Shiite militia leader Hadi Al-Amiri, one of the most powerful figures in Iraq, withdrew his candidacy for prime minister yesterday, putting the country one step closer to forming a government after months of political stagnation. Amiri heads the Fatih Alliance, an electoral bloc which came in second in May's inconclusive national election. His coalition has been vying to build the largest bloc which would form the government, with him as prime minister. "I would like to announce to the dear Iraqi people the withdrawal of my candidacy for prime minister, to open the way for serious dialogue to elect a prime minister and his government according to the vision of the Supreme religious authority," he said in a news conference. — Reuters

Visa rules for gays

HONG KONG: Hong Kong announced yesterday that overseas same-sex partners would qualify for the right to live and work in the city after a landmark court victory by a British lesbian earlier this year. It is a step forward for LGBTQ rights in Hong Kong, which has been criticized by campaigners for lagging behind on equality issues. Under the revised immigration policy which will come into force Wednesday, anyone who has entered into a same-sex civil partnership, same-sex civil union or same-sex marriage abroad could be eligible to apply for a dependant visa. But it added that a valid marriage under Hong Kong law would still require a couple to be heterosexual, saying there should not be "any expectation" that the government would fully legalize same-sex partnerships, which are currently unrecognized. —AFP

Decapitated policeman

LIBREVILLE: Amnesty International said yesterday it has authenticated a video showing English-speaking separatists in Cameroon with the decapitated head of a policeman, and condemned a "horrific escalation of violence" in the anglophone regions. The video showed the policeman's head, with bruises on it, on blood-soaked white cloth with what "could be his genitalia" placed nearby, the rights group said in a statement. It said its forensic experts had authenticated the clip, as well as another believed to be continuation of the first, in which a voice can be heard saying that the separatists had taken the officer's rifle. Amnesty International said it was not able to independently confirm the exact location where the videos were shot, but analysis suggests it might be in the area of Belo, in the North-West region. —AFP

Zimbabwe MP walk out

HARARE: Zimbabwean opposition lawmakers walked out of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's state of the nation address to parliament yesterday, signaling their lingering bitterness after losing a disputed July 30 presidential and parliamentary election. Members of Parliament from the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) that is led by Nelson Chamisa heckled Mnangagwa when he started reading his speech before filing out. Chamisa - who is not a member of parliament and lost a court challenge to Mnangagwa's win last month - maintains that he was cheated of victory by the electoral board and says the 76-year-old president lack legitimacy. After leaving parliament, the MDC lawmakers broke into song denouncing the ruling ZANU-PF party. —Reuters

International

Smugglers pave path for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe

Migrants pay on average 3,000-5,000 euros for a complete trip

MADRID: They scale barbed-wire topped fences and cross the sea in inflatable boats or jet skis—more than 36,000 migrants entered Spain this year seeking a better life in Europe. Almost all of them relied on smugglers to make the crossing. Ousman Umar, who made a five-year journey from Ghana to Spain, said it was “impossible” to travel thousands of kilometers from sub-Saharan Africa through deserts and other inhospitable areas without the aid of gangs.

“There is almost no chance of reaching Europe illegally” without paying traffickers, Robert Crepinko, the head of the human smuggling unit at Europol, the European Union’s policing arm said. Ninety percent of migrants who enter Europe are helped by human traffickers, he added, citing a 2015 study. Spain has become the main entry point for migrants arriving this year, after Italy and Greece.

“The journey can last one year, two years, depending on the ring and the funds you have, because the trafficking networks will take you as far as you can pay,” Jose Nieto Barroso of the national police’s human smuggling unit UCRIF said. Migrants gather in Morocco because “it’s the best place to wait for the right moment to cross” over to Spain, said Nieto Barroso. The vast majority pay for a spot on an inflatable dinghy or to take part in a mass run on the heavily fortified border fences that surround Ceuta and Melilla, two tiny Spanish territories in North Africa that share the EU’s only land borders with Africa.

Up to 5,000 euros

Human traffickers charge 18 euros (\$21) to try to scale the border fences, 200-700 euros to join a packed boat to cross the narrow Strait of Gibraltar separating Spain from Morocco by just 15 kilometers at its narrowest point, or up to 5,000 euros to make the trip by jet ski, according to

Spanish police. Europol estimates migrants pay on average 3,000-5,000 euros for a complete trip to Europe.

Once in Spain, many want to move on to wealthier northern European countries like Britain, France and Germany where they believe they will have better opportunities, or



Spain has become main entry point for migrants

because they already have family there. Once again, human traffickers play a role in getting them there. The smugglers promise migrants they will be rescued at sea by the Spanish coast guard and then taken to migrant reception centers where “in three or four days members of the network will be in the area and get you out,” Nieto Barroso said. The gang will then take the migrants to another country or, in worst-case scenarios, pass them on to other gangs that exploit them.

‘Chaotic’ reception

Women are sometimes forced into prostitution while men are used as slave labour in agriculture or made to beg in the streets. The rings “supply people. They say: ‘I have 8, 12, 15 people from the sub-Sahara who can be put to work,’” said Nieto Barroso. Gangs take advantage of the



CALVADOS, France: Migrants attempt to open the rear door of a truck at the Brittany ferry port in Ouistreham, northwestern France yesterday. Ports along the French coastline are the final chance for migrants to illegally stowaway, hidden in vehicles travelling across the Channel to Britain. — AFP

“brutal collapse” of overcrowded migrant reception centers, and gain access to migrants through nonprofit organizations which work with the newcomers, he added.

Paloma Favieres of the Spanish Committee for Refugee Aid (CEAR) denounced the reception Spain gives migrants as “chaotic”. — AFP

News in brief

Another blow to Macron

PARIS: France’s Interior Minister Gerard Collomb announced yesterday that he would stand down after next year’s European Parliament elections, in yet another blow to President Emmanuel Macron. Collomb, one of Macron’s most loyal ministers and a heavy-weight in his cabinet, told news magazine L’Express that he would quit the ministry to run for his old job as mayor of Lyon in eastern France in 2020. The announcement comes just three weeks after Macron’s popular environment minister Nicolas Hulot quit and as the president’s approval ratings have plummeted. “The local elections are still far away—I will run in Lyon if I don’t get diagnosed as seriously ill anytime before that,” Collomb joked. “I won’t be interior minister right up until the last moment. — AFP

Libya rival militias clash

TRIPOLI: New clashes flared between rival militias south of Libya’s capital Tripoli yesterday, causing widespread power outages, the national electricity firm said. The fighting underscored the fragility of a United Nations-backed ceasefire reached earlier this month after days of deadly violence between armed groups in the capital, beset by turmoil since the fall of dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Yesterday morning’s clashes centered on the main road to Tripoli’s long-closed international airport, according to witnesses including an AFP journalist. Libya’s National Electricity Company said its network had been damaged, causing a total blackout across the North African nation’s south and west. — AFP

‘Swiss Leaks’ Falciani

MADRID: A Spanish court ruled yesterday against extraditing Herve Falciani, a former HSBC analyst who leaked documents alleging widespread tax evasion, to Switzerland. The National Court said in a statement that it had already rejected his extradition in a previous case in 2013, adding there is no equivalent in Spanish law of the crime of “aggravated financial espionage” for which he was convicted in Switzerland. The court argued that the crime “differs substantially with the Spanish offences that can be considered most similar, like ‘disclosure’ of secrets.” Falciani was arrested in Madrid in April on his way to a conference on the need to protect whistleblowers and released on bail. — AFP

Italian missionary kidnapped

NIAMEY: An Italian missionary has been kidnapped in southwest Niger, in the latest abduction of a foreign worker in the troubled Sahel country, his organization said yesterday. Pier Luigi Maccalli, a priest who has lived in Niger for 11 years, was seized on Monday night in Bamoanga, a village 125 kilometers from the capital Niamey, the communications chief for the Catholic mission to Niger, Thomas Codjovi, said. “The kidnapping happened at around 9pm. According to local residents, about eight men arrived on motorbikes, broke into his house opposite the church and forced him to go with them... They returned 10 minutes later, firing into the air to frighten people,” Codjovi said. “There were also nuns there, but he was the only one they wanted to kidnap.” — AFP

Migrant camp overcrowded

ATHENS: Greece said yesterday it would move 2,000 asylum-seekers from the island of Lesbos to the mainland by the end of the month as pressure mounted on the government to ease overcrowding. Human rights groups and local authorities have criticized Greece for the poor conditions at the country’s biggest migrant camp, Moria, currently operating at almost three times its capacity. About 9,000 migrants and refugees are holed up in the camp, a collection of tents and shipping containers in a former military base, according to the latest government data. A local governor threatened to shut it down within 30 days unless authorities clean up uncontrollable amounts of waste. — Reuters

Level of Myanmar army brutality ‘hard to fathom’

GENEVA: Myanmar’s army has used unfathomable levels of violence against minority Rohingya, UN investigators said yesterday, calling for the military to be removed from politics and top generals to be prosecuted for genocide. In the most meticulous breakdown of the violence in Myanmar to date, a UN team of investigators presented a 444-page report laying out in horrifying detail a vast array of violations committed by the country’s powerful military, especially against the Rohingya Muslims.

“It is hard to fathom the level of brutality of Tatmadaw operations, its total disregard for civilian life,” head of the UN fact-finding mission Marzuki Darusman told the UN Human Rights Council, referring to the nation’s military. Myanmar’s ambassador to the UN, Kyaw Moe Tun, slammed Tuesday’s report as “one-sided” and “flawed”. A brutal military crackdown last year forced more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee over the border into Bangladesh amid accounts of arson, murder and rape at the hands of soldiers and vigilante mobs in the mainly Buddhist country. Myanmar’s army has denied nearly all wrongdoing, insisting its campaign was justified to root out Rohingya insurgents who staged deadly raids on border posts in August 2017.

Black US teen shot dead ‘for ignoring police’

CHICAGO: A white Chicago policeman shot a black teen 16 times simply for having the “audacity” to ignore police, prosecutors said Monday, as opening arguments began in his politically-charged murder trial. Attorneys on both sides set out their cases in a courtroom packed with media, as well as supporters and family of both officer Jason Van Dyke and Laquan McDonald.

The 17-year-old’s 2014 killing has become emblematic of decades of documented police abuse in the Midwestern city, which has been on edge over concerns that violence could break out if Van Dyke is acquitted. Lead prosecutor Joe McMahon, detailing a case heavily dependent on police dash-cam video, said Van Dyke unlawfully shot McDonald “not once, but twice, three, four, five, six, seven, eight—and we’re only halfway done—nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 times.” “Not a single shot was necessary or justified,” he said. Van Dyke simply saw “a black boy, walking down the street... and having the audacity to ignore the police.”

McDonald’s family looked on expressionless as video of the shooting was played for the jury. It showed Van Dyke firing at McDonald, who appeared to have been walking away from officers when shot. Van Dyke kept firing even after the teen collapsed. None of the other nine officers at the scene fired their weapons. Officials did not release the video footage for a year after the shooting, finally making it public only after a judge compelled them. Protesters demonstrated for months, alleging a cover-up and demanding resignations. Chicago’s then-police chief and top prosecutor both lost their jobs.

‘Tragedy,’ not murder

Van Dyke’s attorney Daniel Herbert countered with a portrait of McDonald as a dangerous criminal, high on the hallucinogenic drug PCP, who had threatened members of the public during a “wild rampage.” “The government wants you to look at just the videotape,” Herbert told the jury. “We’re going to show you the context, because it’s important in this case.” The defense questioned McDonald’s state of mind, invoking

‘Genocide’

The UN team said the military’s tactics had been “consistently and grossly disproportionate to actual security threats”, and said that estimates that some 10,000 people were killed in the crackdown was likely a conservative figure. It said there were reasonable grounds to believe that the atrocities were committed with the intention of destroying the stateless Rohingya, warranting the charges of “genocide”. A shorter version of the mission’s report, published last month, had already called for Myanmar’s army chief and five other top military commanders to be prosecuted in an international court for genocide.

In his presentation, Darusman provided excruciating details of massacres in Rohingya villages, pointing out that “the men were systematically killed. Children were shot, thrown into the river or onto a fire.” Women and girls meanwhile were routinely gang-raped before being locked inside burning houses. Of those who survived, many had been severely bitten, in what appeared to be “akin to a form of branding,” he said.

Rape as war tactic

Darusman said the “scale, cruelty and systematic nature (of the sexual violence) reveal beyond doubt that rape is used as a tactic of war.” The UN analysis decried the army’s hold on political life in Myanmar, which only recently emerged from almost a half century of total military junta rule. The military holds a quarter of seats in parliament and controls three ministries, making its



WHAIKHYANG, Bangladesh: This file photo taken on Oct 10, 2017 shows Rohingya refugees fleeing from Myanmar arrive at the Naf river on the Bangladesh border. — AFP

grip on power firm despite reforms beginning in 2011. Aung San Suu Kyi’s democratically-elected government remains in a delicate power balance with the generals, whose presence in parliament gives them an effective veto on constitutional changes. “There cannot be any democratic transition in Myanmar unless the Tatmadaw relinquishes its control of the politics, of the economy and of the constitution,” UN investigator Christopher Sidoti told reporters. “We have seen the birth of democracy in Myanmar, regrettably, but the stillbirth.”

The UN mission said Myanmar’s civilian

government had also helped enable the widespread rights violations in Myanmar by allowing hate speech against the Rohingya to flourish and using civilian laws to crack down on media and others speaking out against abuses. The investigators directed specific criticism at Suu Kyi, whose global reputation has been shattered by her failure to speak up for the Rohingya against the military. While acknowledging that the civilian authorities have little influence over military actions, the report said that their “acts and omissions” had “contributed to the commission of atrocity crimes”. — AFP



CHICAGO: Demonstrators march outside the Leighton Criminal Courthouse Building for the first day of Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke murder trial in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

a sense of escalating threat on the night officers trailed him following a 911 call over an attempted burglary at a parking lot.

Van Dyke’s lawyers argued that he fired because the teen suddenly began heading toward restaurants filled with people. “Jason Van Dyke had a reason to believe that Laquan McDonald was going to hurt somebody,” Herbert said. “What happened to Laquan McDonald was a tragedy. It’s a tragedy. It’s not a murder.” Police officer Joseph McElligott, among the first at the scene, testified that he was not threatened by the teen. Under cross-examination, however, he agreed that McDonald had “raised the threat” level, when he ran toward nearby restaurants.

Only a handful of protesters were outside the courthouse Monday, but the city was keenly watching the case’s outcome. Few police officers have been convicted after recent highly-publicized incidents of deadly encounters between law enforcement and African Americans, which have prompted the establishment of the Black Lives Matter movement. “We’re trying to get justice,” McDonald family spokesman Marvin Hunter told reporters. “Justice in the matter of this case sets a precedent around this country for all of the people that have suffered what Laquan had suffered.” — AFP

Nation state cyber attacks on the rise

THE HAGUE: Global ransomware attacks are increasingly linked to nation states, with the lines between politics and crime often blurring, Europe’s police agency said yesterday. Key ransomware attacks include the so-called WannaCry and NotPetya malware, which infected hundreds of thousands of computers around the world in 2017, demanding that users pay ransoms to regain access. “Ransomware retains its dominance,” said Europol’s latest annual report on cybercrime.

“In addition to attacks by financially motivated criminals, a significant volume of public reporting increasingly attributes global cyber-attacks to the actions of nation states,” said the agency, based in The Hague. The report added that it was “increasingly difficult” to determine whether it was a “sophisticated” cybercrime organized crime group, a state sponsored attacker, or a cybercrime amateur. On September 6, the US charged a North Korean programmer with the WannaCry hack, the 2014 Sony Pictures attack and a 2016 cyber-heist on Bangladesh’s central bank, alleging they were carried out on behalf of the regime in Pyongyang.

In February the United States and Britain blamed the Russian military for the “NotPetya” ransomware, calling it a Kremlin effort to destabilize Ukraine which spun out of control. Europol said cyberattackers are also abandoning “random attacks” on mass targets in favour of tailored targeting of people and businesses “where greater potential benefits lie.” At the same time, Europol said cyberattackers who once trained their sights on traditional financial businesses were now focusing on cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. However classic internet phishing scams—emails that offer technical support, money-making scams or romance—“still result in a considerable numbers of victims,” said the agency. Europol also raised the alarm over the live streaming of child sexual abuse, a growing part of what it called the “most disturbing aspect of cyber-crime.” “Live streaming of child sexual abuse remains a particularly complex crime to investigate and is likely to further increase in the future,” it said. — AFP

International

24 Bahais could face death penalty in Yemen: Amnesty

Rebels accuse Saudi, allies of targeting food warehouses

DUBAI: Twenty-four Yemenis, including a teenage girl, could face the death penalty in the rebel-held capital Sanaa on charges linked to their minority Bahai faith, Amnesty International said yesterday. The Bahais, among them eight women apart from the girl, face charges which can carry the death penalty in Yemen, including espionage for a foreign state, the London-based rights group said. "We are seeing trumped up charges and flagrantly unfair proceedings used to persecute Yemeni Bahais for their faith," said Lynn Maalouf, head of Middle East research at Amnesty.

"It is particularly abhorrent that some of these men and women could face the death penalty for their conscientiously held beliefs and peaceful activities," Maalouf called for their immediate release, adding that the Iran-backed Houthis should drop the "bogus" charges and "end their abuse of the justice system". Rights groups have warned the Houthis have cracked down on minorities and journalists in the rebel-held capital since 2015, a year after the rebels drove the government of President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi out of Sanaa.

The Bahai faith, which has an estimated seven million followers worldwide, emerged in the second half of the 19th century. The movement is named after Bahauallah, an Iranian born in 1817 whom the Bahais believe is the latest prophet sent by God. Iran and other states consider the Bahais heretics and suspect many of espionage for Israel, home to a Bahai centre in the northern city of Haifa. Saudi Arabia and its allies joined the Yemeni government's fight against the Houthis in 2015, triggering a conflict that has killed nearly 10,000 people and what the UN calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Targeting warehouses

Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthi rebels accused the government and its Saudi-led allies yesterday of deliberately tar-

getting food warehouses in Hodeida as they resumed an offensive on the rebel-held port city after an 11-week pause. "International food supply warehouses were targeted in Hodeida (late on Monday), a clear sign that there is a plan by the United States, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and their allies to make warehouses and densely populated neighborhoods legitimate targets of their terrorist operations," the head of the rebels' Supreme Revolutionary Council, Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi, said.

There was no immediate confirmation that any aid warehouses had been hit from the World Food Program or other UN agencies battling the threat of famine hanging over millions of Yemenis. WFP spokesman Herve Verhoosel declined to comment on the Houthi statement. The Red Sea port of Hodeida is a vital lifeline for aid shipments to Yemen and the WFP has previously warned that any major fighting could halt food distributions to eight million Yemenis dependent on them for survival.

The rebel leader accused the rest of the international community of not doing enough to stop the coalition resuming its offensive, which it described as "terrorism". "International tolerance of terrorism has only encouraged (the coalition) to plan and deliberately commit crimes," Houthi said. The coalition announced late on Monday that it was ending the 11-week pause it had observed while UN efforts to convene peace negotiations continued. Proposed UN-brokered talks in Geneva fell apart earlier this month when rebel delegates failed to show up, charging that they had not received promised guarantees for their return home afterwards.

Saudi Arabia and its allies accuse the Houthis of receiving arms smuggled from Iran through Hodeida, a charge both Tehran and the rebels deny. The coalition first launched an offensive to retake the city in June, after capturing several of the province's smaller towns. The rebels



AL HAJJAH, Yemen: Displaced Yemeni children from Hodeida play in a shelter at a make-shift camp in a village in the northern district of Abs in Hajjah province. — AFP

seized the Red Sea coast along with the capital Sanaa and much of the north in 2014.

The coalition intervened in March of the following year, when President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi fled into exile as

the rebels closed in on his last refuge in second city Aden. The conflict has since killed nearly 10,000 people and triggered what the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. — AFP

The battle for Yemen key port of Hodeida

SANAA: Yemeni forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition launched a bid three months ago to retake the city of Hodeida, a key aid port controlled by rebels since the start of the conflict in 2014. The fighting resumed yesterday after an 11-week pause to allow UN efforts for peace talks, which ultimately collapsed. Here is a timeline:

Offensive launched

On June 13, government forces—which have been advancing on the port for months—launch their offensive after receiving a green light from the Saudi-led coalition that provides essential air and ground support. The coalition, which includes the United Arab Emirates (UAE), carries out more than a dozen air strikes on Houthi positions on the outskirts of Hodeida. Rebel chief Abdel Malek Al-Houthi vows to resist the offensive, urging his forces to "confront the forces of tyranny" and promising reinforcements. The UN Security Council calls for the Hodeida port to be kept open for deliveries of vital food and humanitarian supplies.

Rebel airport base seized

On June 15, government forces begin a push to retake the disused Hodeida airport, which serves as a rebel base. On June 20,

they announce they have total control of the airport after heavy fighting backed by coalition air strikes. After a pause in the offensive, there is heavy bombing south of Hodeida which several sources say on July 3 killed more than 50 people, including civilians, over two days. Witnesses in the city say the rebels have dug dozens of trenches and established defensive positions, blocking the roads with blocks of concrete and containers.

Peace talks called

On July 4, the UN envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, says he has held "fruitful" talks with the rebel leader in his bid to avert all-out fighting for Hodeida. On July 17, Houthi says he is ready to hand over control of the port to the UN if the Saudi-led coalition halts its offensive. Griffiths announces on August 2 that the UN will invite the warring sides for talks on September 6 in Geneva, the first such encounter since fruitless negotiations held in Kuwait in 2016. The same day there are air strikes on the city that kill 55 civilians and wound dozens of others. On August 23, air strikes carried out by coalition warplanes kill 26 children and four women south of Hodeida, the UN says.

Rebels stay away

The start of the talks are delayed as the rebel delegation issues a list of preconditions before travelling to Switzerland and government representatives already in Geneva threaten to leave. By September 8, the peace effort is declared a failure with the rebels still refusing to make the journey without guarantees over their return to Sanaa, and rebel chief Houthi again calling for "resistance". — AFP

Mangkhut death toll hits 74 in Philippines

ITOGON: The death toll in Typhoon Mangkhut hit 74 yesterday, Philippine authorities said, as rescuers used their bare hands to sift through a massive landslide in which dozens were feared killed in the worst-hit region. The typhoon, the most powerful to strike this year, smashed homes and flooded key agricultural regions in the northern Philippines before battering Hong Kong and southern China with fierce winds and heavy rain.

As Hong Kong gradually got back on its feet, residents from teachers to refugees mobilized to help clean up after Mangkhut, which smashed windows, felled at least 1,000 trees and sent skyscrapers swaying. The violent storm killed four in China's southern province of Guangdong and the toll rose yesterday to 74 on the Philippines' northern Luzon Island according to police, with that number expected to further climb.

Up to 40 people are still feared buried in the landslide in Itogon unleashed Saturday as the typhoon stalled over the area and dumped a month's worth of rain in a matter of hours. "While I said there is a 99-percent chance that all of them are dead, there is still that one-percent chance," Itogon Mayor Victorio Palangdan said. "The rescue effort will continue until the president orders us to stop," he said. Because the landslide destroyed roads, authorities have been unable to bring heavy equipment into the area to accelerate the search. As a result the teams were using human chains to extract debris.



ITOGON: Rescuers search for victims of a landslide, triggered by heavy rains during Typhoon Mangkhut, in Itogon, Benguet province yesterday. — AFP

The effort has been getting progressively more difficult because the rain-soaked soil has started to harden in the scorching Philippine sun. Crews have been using water to try to soften up the soil. The area was primed for disaster before Mangkhut hit, as it came on the heels of nearly a month of continuous monsoon rains that left the already hazardous area soggy and dangerously loose. Almost all the storm's victims were killed in dozens of landslides unleashed along the Cordillera mountain range, a key gold mining area.

'King of storms'

Many of those buried in Itogon were small-scale gold miners and their families who took

refuge in a building abandoned by a large mining firm. The Philippines has a poor record of regulating mining, with tunnel collapses and landslides regularly killing people in other gold-rush areas in recent years. Tearful families surrounded a whiteboard bearing names of the dead and missing as others inspected recovered bodies in an attempt to identify their loved ones.

"Of course his death hurts," Jocelyn Banawul said after her cousin's corpse was pulled from the debris. "But he was found, he's not buried there anymore." Across northern Luzon, which produces much of the nation's rice and corn, farms were flattened and flooded, with the authorities saying crop losses would likely total more than \$250 million. — AFP

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:

+965 248 35 616 / 617

E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net

Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

GRAND SALE

Lenovo Tab4
ZA3100S3AE

3G + 16GB

Bundle Offer: Case+Earphone

Price: 26,34

iPad
MP2H2AB/A
MP2J2AB/A
MPGW2AB/A

WIFI + 128GB

Price: 112,149

hp 15-DA000Dna
8th Gen

Intel i5 - 8250 + 1TB Storage + 8GB RAM + 2GB Nvidia Graphic + 15.6" Display

Price: 179,199

MacBook Air
MQD32

Intel Core i5 + 8GB RAM + 128 SSD + HD 6000 Graphics + 13.3" Display

Price: 239,349

best AL-YOUSIFI

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

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

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

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

Syria analysts wary of quick fix Idlib deal

A Russia-Turkey deal for a "demilitarized zone" in Syria's flashpoint region of Idlib buys more time for talks, analysts said yesterday while warning it does not eliminate the risk of a deadly assault. Residents of the Idlib region and aid groups breathed a sigh of relief when the two main brokers in northern Syria announced an agreement from the Russian resort of Sochi. Here are some answers to key questions raised by the deal:

What is the deal exactly?

A horseshoe-shaped demilitarized zone "along the contact line between the armed opposition and government troops", which roughly follows the boundaries of Idlib province, must be set up by Oct 15. It will be controlled and patrolled by Turkish forces and Russian military police. The deal also provides for the "withdrawal of heavy military equipment, tanks, multiple rocket launchers, cannon and mortars" held by rebels and jihadists there, a Kremlin statement said.

The deal says hardliners should pull out, including those from the dominant Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group, an alliance led by Al-Qaeda's former Syrian affiliate. Turkey sponsors some of the Syrian armed groups in Idlib directly but its leverage over the most radical forces there remains to be fully tested. The agreement stipulates that key highways between the port city of Latakia and the cities of Homs and Aleppo respectively must also be reopened by the end of the year. The pro-government daily Al-Watan also reported that by the end of 2018 the deal would see "the return of Syrian state institutions".

Analysts however argued too few details of the deal were public to assess its viability. "I don't think this is the whole deal, I think this is only the beginning, stage one," said Haid Haid, an associate fellow at Chatham House. The Syrian government had for weeks been massing forces on the edges of Idlib province, the last major rebel and jihadist bastion in the country. The foreign ministry in Damascus said yesterday it welcomed the Sochi deal but Haid was not convinced. "The regime is definitely not happy with it. The question is how will the regime try to spoil this agreement?"

Is a bloodbath being averted

Aid organizations had for weeks warned that a large scale assault against the Idlib region, which is home to around three million people, would be disastrous. Large numbers of rebels and civilians displaced from other former opposition strongholds retaken by the regime have nowhere else to flee to. The United Nations said a ground assault could cause the greatest humanitarian catastrophe of the 21st century and spark the worst bloodshed of a conflict that has already killed 360,000 people since 2011.

"The agreement is a temporary solution," said Nawar Oliver, a Syria specialist at the Turkey-based Omran Centre. "Russia was keen to preserve good relations with Turkey." Turkey has scrambled to avert a fully-fledged onslaught and a fresh influx of Syrian refugees across its border. Lina Al-Khatib, who heads the Chatham House think tank's Middle East program, cautioned: "The deal does not guarantee that an offensive is no longer on the table further down the line."

The agreement "should be seen as only the beginning of a process, it's not the end game for Idlib," she said. The known points in the deal made no reference to the issue of humanitarian access. In its reaction to the Sochi deal, the Syrian government made sure to reaffirm its commitment to "the fight against terrorism until the liberation of all Syria territory."

Can Turkey live up to it?

Analysts say Turkey has always sought to consolidate its presence in Syrian regions along its border, in a bid to stabilize them and allow for the repatriation of the three million-plus refugees on its soil. "The implementation of the deal is difficult and fraught with obstacles, especially for Turkey, which will be held responsible for how HTS is handled," said Sam Heller, an analyst with the International Crisis Group. "HTS is likely to resist a deal that would paralyze it from a geographical point of view and dismantle its defense system," he said.

Oliver also predicted Turkey could find it difficult to implement its own proposal. "How do you control HTS and how do you fight against other jihadists linked to Al-Qaeda?" he asked, in reference to the extremist Hurras al-Deen group. Turkey has in recent days dispatched reinforcements to its 12 observation points scattered across Idlib. According to pro-government Turkish daily Sabah, "a contingent of around 5,000 soldiers is ready to intervene". Heller described the deal as "a crucial test for Turkey". "In spite of those challenges and considering the major damage that a collapse of the truce could cause to Turkish interests, Turkey has no choice," he said. — AFP



Merkel takes gamble with immigration law

Chancellor Angela Merkel hopes a new immigration law will make it easier for foreign workers to find jobs in Germany, but her push to fill a record number of vacancies risks angering voters who still resent her open-door refugee policy. With an ageing population and a shrinking workforce, Germany needs greater flexibility to fill more than a million empty positions, business leaders say. "We will continue to depend on foreign professionals," Merkel said in the Bundestag last week, defending her immigration plans against criticism from opposition politicians. "Companies should not be leaving the country because they can't find staff," Merkel said, adding that many entrepreneurs were more concerned about hiring skilled workers than getting tax relief.

The new law to be discussed by Merkel and her cabinet later this month aims to attract workers from outside the European Union, although they will need a professional qualification and German language skills when applying for a work visa, according to a paper drawn up by officials. Government officials see the law, which is welcomed by employers, as a game-changer in the global race for talent since other countries are espousing stricter immigration rules.

But it could anger voters who feel left behind after Merkel's decision to welcome more than a million refugees in 2015. An opinion poll this month showed 51 percent felt her government did not take Germans' concerns about immigration seriously. In eastern Germany, the figure was 66 percent. There are regional elections next year in the eastern states of Saxony, Brandenburg and Thuringia, where the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) is expected to make strong gains at the cost of Merkel's conservatives and her centre-left coalition partners, the Social Democrats (SPD).

Influx

The unprecedented 2015 influx of asylum seekers, mainly from Muslim countries such as Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq, has already caused popular anger and propelled the AfD, which rejects the new immigration law, into the national parliament. Deep divisions became apparent last month in the eastern city of Chemnitz, scene of violent far-right protests after migrants were blamed for the fatal stabbing of a German man. Referring to Chemnitz, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, leader of the Christian Social Union, Merkel's Bavarian sister party, described migration as the "mother of all political problems" in Germany. Merkel may escape a political backlash if she can convince voters the new law will address specific labour shortages and not increase overall competition in the jobs market. "If she can credibly make the point that this is about Germany's economic self-interest, it won't fuel angst among those who already feel alienated in their own country," said Gero Neugebauer, a political expert at Berlin's Free University. "But if not, then this

Kavanaugh claims give vulnerable Senate Dems cover to oppose him

The sexual-misconduct allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh may remove pressure that some Democratic senators faced to back his confirmation as a way of reassuring conservative voters in congressional elections just seven weeks away. Since Kavanaugh was nominated to the high court by President Donald Trump, Democratic senators from states that Trump won in 2016 were locked in a dilemma. If they didn't vote in favor of Kavanaugh's confirmation, they would have appeared to be out of step with voters at home and risked losing re-election. Vote for him, and they would hand the president a bipartisan victory.

The allegation that Kavanaugh assaulted a woman while in high school, however, now gives those endangered Democrats an escape hatch. They can oppose the nominee without appearing to voters as if they are defying the president, strategists said. Kavanaugh has denied the assault allegation, calling it "completely false". "For those Democrats up for re-election from states that Trump carried, they now have absolutely no reason to vote for

law will backfire on Merkel, especially taking into account that there are three local elections next year in eastern Germany," he said. There are also regional elections next month in Bavaria and Hesse, where the rise of the AfD could



Companies struggling with labor shortages

make it harder to form coalition governments. Allowing even more foreigners into the country is a risk for Merkel - even if the labour force in Europe's biggest economy is forecast to shrink drastically and can only be stabilized with net immigration of 400,000 people every year until 2060. Due to a prolonged economic upswing, job vacancies have hit a record high of 1.2 million while unemployment is at its lowest since German reunification in 1990, according to the Labor Office. Labor shortages cost the economy up to 0.9 percentage points of output every year, according to the IWH German Economic Institute.

Struggling

Among companies struggling to find staff is EyeEm, a Berlin start-up that connects millions of photographers globally with agencies and clients through an online platform. "We're 100 percent affected by labor shortages," EyeEm's personnel chief, Michael Jones, said at the company's headquarters in Kreuzberg, a multicultural Berlin district that is home to many European immigrants. "We're struggling to fill numerous vacancies in areas such as software engineering and sales," Jones said. In some cases, it can take six months for a foreign candidate to get the green light from immigration authorities.

In one case, EyeEm wants to hire a specialist from Egypt but is still awaiting final confirmation. This makes it hard for EyeEm to plan and for the Egyptian worker to get on

with moving to Germany. Other sectors affected by labour shortages are construction, education, child care and geriatric nursing. Arno Schwale, chief executive of nursing home operator Korian in Germany, says the number of elderly people needing permanent care will rise by more than a quarter over the next 15 years. "By then, we might have to deal with a shortage of more than 250,000 workers in the care sector," Schwale said. "Qualified immigrants can help close this gap. This is not the only solution, but part of the solution."

Health Minister Jens Spahn has said young people from Kosovo and Albania could help fill 50,000 geriatric care vacancies. Labour unions say nursing homes could attract local workers by improving pay and conditions. The AfD rejects the new law, saying it will encourage immigration and lead to "wage dumping" at the expense of less-educated locals. "If you look at the very small wage rises, then you don't need to be an expert to say that there actually is not a lack of skilled workers," AfD lawmaker Uwe Witt said. Merkel stresses that the immigration law is accompanied by a 4 billion euro programme to help Germany's 800,000 long-term unemployed find work.

Change

While a growing number of the 2015 migrants are finding jobs, the process is slow given the urgency of the need for workers. It takes three to five years for a poorly-educated Syrian or Iraqi to learn German and get a professional qualification. In addition, the coalition parties disagree over whether refugees should be allowed to shed asylum status if they have found a job and learned German. The conservatives say this will encourage immigration by asylum seekers without the right skills. The SPD want a more pragmatic approach. "It's about preventing a situation where we send back the right people - and then have to painstakingly search for skilled workers abroad," SPD Labor Minister Hubertus Heil told Reuters. A compromise floated by officials envisages that only asylum seekers currently in Germany can make the switch, with future refugees excluded. Germany has become the second favorite destination for immigrants after the United States, attracting more than 1 million in 2016, according to OECD figures. Of those, more than 600,000 are European Union nationals, who can choose where to live and work in the bloc. — Reuters



Kavanaugh. Period. End of story," said Jim Manley, a former high-ranking Democratic Senate aide. "They have all the cover they need."

November's congressional elections will determine whether Republicans retain a majority not only in the Senate but in the House of Representatives as well. Democrats are currently favored to take the House, while becoming increasingly confident of adding the two Senate seats that would give them control of that chamber.

The most vulnerable Democratic senators such as Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia have not indicated whether they would side with most of their party members in opposing Kavanaugh or join the Republicans in confirming him. All three backed Trump's first Supreme Court pick, Neil Gorsuch. Republicans would like those votes just in case a few Republicans defect.

Prior to the Kavanaugh allegations, Republicans were expressing alarm that a number of Senate races were not going as well as they had expected. Donnelly and Manchin, in particular, have held solid leads over their opponents. Republicans had hoped Trump's second Supreme Court nomination would galvanize conservative voters while placing incumbent Democrats in a tough position of having to back Kavanaugh to reassure Trump's base.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley said on Monday the committee would hold a public hearing with Kavanaugh and his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, in a week. This would delay a planned vote in the Judiciary Committee today to move the nomination to a floor vote. With their narrow Senate majority, Republicans could ram

through Kavanaugh's nomination without any Democratic support, but doing so might prove risky in a year that has seen a surge of women, motivated by their opposition to Trump, vote in primary and special elections. "If overreach and try to demonize this woman, I think it's got the potential to blow up in their faces politically and drive more Democrats to the polls than ever before," Manley said.

Flashback

Manley was a young Senate staffer in 1991 when Anita Hill's sexual harassment accusations against then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas roiled Capitol Hill. Thomas was confirmed in a close vote, but repercussions were felt the following year when several women Democratic senators were elected and a Democrat, Bill Clinton, won the White House. "Any Senate Democrat, hailing from a red or blue or purple state, is wise to think deeply about how the larger cultural shifts over the past year-plus should affect their political beliefs," said Tracy Self, a Democratic consultant in Chicago. "For the Kavanaugh vote, there is a litany of valid concerns that are larger than a partisan issue."

Senate Republicans seemed to recognize the danger of appearing insensitive, said Ford O'Connell, a Republican strategist. Trump, too, offered some temperate remarks at the White House, stressing the importance of going "through a full process". Not everyone was as measured. One Republican Senate candidate, Corey Stewart, who is looking to unseat Senator Tim Kaine in Virginia, called the allegations a "Democratic smear tactic," according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch. — Reuters

Business

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

12 Kuwait consumer spending slows, weighed by holidays**13** EU lays out WTO reform ideas to rein in US, China**14** Burgan Turkey's hedging strategy protects it against currency volatility

Zain bags 'Best Brand' at Telecom World Middle East Awards 2018

Zain aspires to be a brand that unlocks opportunities for customers

“Zain’s refreshed silver-metallic logo was introduced in 2017 to reflect the dynamism of the company’s digital lifestyle strategy”

DUBAI: Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, is proud to announce it has been awarded the ‘Best Brand for Telecom’ accolade for 2018 at the prestigious Telecoms World Middle East Awards gala event held in Dubai earlier this week. This marks a record fifth consecutive year that Zain has won this award.

The honor was bestowed on Zain Group by a panel of expert judges assembled by Terrapinn, the organizers of the annual Telecoms World Middle East Conference and Awards. The awards recognize outstanding performance in key telecom-related areas throughout the Middle East and shine a spotlight on leading players who have contributed to making the sector one of the most dynamic globally.

Since the introduction of its inspiring brand in 2007, Zain has been the recipient of numerous brand-related awards over the years. This year’s success was driven by numerous factors linked to the company’s investment in network upgrades and digital innovation, which are developments that are positively impacting customer experience. Additionally, Zain’s Corporate Sustainability programs, eye-catching marketing, and widespread social media campaigns have captured the imagination of the whole region.

Zain’s brand was refreshed after a decade - in November 2017 - to reflect the dynamism of its digital lifestyle strategy. The logo now appears in a fetching sil-

ver-metallic shade, while retaining the radiant swirl. Preserving its essence, the enhanced logo encapsulates both Zain’s heritage and its future. The silver-metallic coloring symbolizes innovation and high-tech, as Zain works to shine in this multi-screen digital age.

Commenting on the award, Duncan Howard, Chief Commercial Officer, Zain Group said, “Zain aspires to be a brand that unlocks opportunities for customers. This recognition as the best telecom brand in the Middle East for the fifth consecutive year is further acknowledgement of our continual investment into the brand and of the recent brand refresh. It also reflects the passion of Zain employees to place the customer at the center of everything we do.”

Zain has focused on enhancing and upgrading its entire network to offer the best technology and digital services across its countries of operation, ensuring mobile experience for customers is second to none. Over the past 12 months, Zain has invested approximately US\$1 billion in expanding, upgrading and rolling out 3G and 4G LTE networks across its footprint.

Earlier this year Zain again showed its support of the digital innovation startup ecosystem in the region as a main sponsor of the 2018 MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab competition. This event champions the generation of new ideas that saw the 2018 competition receive an outstanding 6,000 individual and team applications from 21 Arab countries.

Accolade a record fifth consecutive year for Zain



DUBAI: Duncan Howard, Zain Group Chief Commercial Officer, receives the award for Best Brand at Telecom World Middle East Awards 2018.

Zain also sponsors various digital innovation and startup initiatives across operations and recently opened the Zain Innovation Center (ZINC) in Kuwait, a co-working hub inspired by the success of a similar facility in Jordan. The innovation centers in both Kuwait and Jordan are the first of their kind to be provided by a corporate entity, and the facilities are aimed at encouraging young minds to think and act creatively in an open and supportive environment. The goal of these centers is to create a conducive atmosphere for entrepreneurs to generate new ideas and develop them into viable opportunities.

Zain Group and its local operations have witnessed their social media presence grow more than 20% over the past 12 months, now boasting more than 10 million followers on Facebook, over seven million followers on Twitter, and over 1.3 million on Instagram. Over the past five years, Zain Group and its operations’ numerous YouTube channels have garnered over 250 million views. Zain is also active on alternative social media channels such as Snapchat, attracting thousands of young followers. On LinkedIn the company counts an audience of over 130,000 followers. These activities have all contributed to the further reinforcement of the Zain brand.

China hits back by levying tariffs on \$60bn of US goods

BEIJING: China yesterday announced tariffs on US goods worth \$60 billion in retaliation for President Donald Trump’s decision to slap duties on \$200 billion in Chinese products next week. Tariffs of between five and 10 percent will take effect on some 5,200 US products on Monday, on the same day as the new US duties, the finance ministry said. The two sides already traded tariff salvos on \$50 billion in goods from each country in the summer.

“If the United States insists on raising tariffs even more, China will respond accordingly,” the finance ministry said in a statement. China had previously warned that it would target \$60 billion in US goods if Trump made good on his threat to impose the new tariffs.

The lower Chinese figure highlights Beijing’s inability to match the US dollar-for-dollar in a tariffs war. The US imported around \$500 billion worth of products from China last year, compared to \$130 billion in US goods imported by the Asian country. Trump threatened to hit another \$267 billion in Chinese goods if Beijing took retaliatory action. The new tariff measures will take effect on Sept 24, the date when the Trump administration says it will begin to levy new tariffs of 10 percent on \$200 billion of Chinese products.

Trump ratcheted up pressure on Beijing as the new round of levies will bring the amount of goods hit by duties to roughly half of Chinese exports to the US. He also threatened



BEIJING: In this file photo taken on November 9, 2017 China’s President Xi Jinping (left) and US President Donald Trump attend a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. — AFP

to go after all Chinese goods. “For months, we have urged China to change these unfair practices and give fair and reciprocal treatment to American companies,” Trump said in a statement on Monday. “These practices plainly constitute a grave threat to the long-term health and prosperity of the United States economy,” he said. “But, so far, China has been unwilling to change its practices,” including theft and force transfer of technology.

Once the new round of tariffs takes effect on September 24, punitive duties will be in place on \$250 billion in goods the US buys from China—its largest source of imported merchandise.

The latest round of imports will face 10 per-

cent tariffs through the end of the year, and then the rate will jump to 25 percent. “In order to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests and the global free trade order, China has no choice but to take countermeasures in lock-step,” the Chinese commerce ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The statement did not mention Beijing’s earlier threat to add tariffs on \$60 billion in US imports if Washington imposed this new wave of levies. Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular briefing that China will announce details about its countermeasures “at the appropriate time,” adding that “the protectionist and unilateral measures taken by the US side are very unacceptable for us.” — Agencies

Apple escapes China tariff hit for now, but threats loom

WASHINGTON: The latest round of tariffs that US President Donald Trump has imposed on China appeared to largely spare Apple and other consumer electronics makers but they face increasing threats from the deepening trade war between the two economic giants.

US officials on Monday slapped the tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports, but skipped consumer electronics like smartwatches and Bluetooth devices, in a reprieve for firms like Apple and fitness tracker maker Fitbit. But with retaliation from China expected, and Trump threatening to impose new tariffs on all Chinese-made goods, the relief may not last, according to analysts.

“Consumer electronics makers got a short term reprieve, but what we’re witnessing is a chess match and we don’t know who will blink first,” said Patrick Moorhead of the research firm Moor Insights & Strategy.

“Both countries would be hurt significantly,” Moorhead said Apple

would be uniquely affected because it manufactures most of its products in China and also sells a lot there.

“Most of Apple’s revenue and profits are driven by the iPhone which is almost exclusively manufactured in China,” the analyst said. Once the new round of tariffs takes effect on September 24, punitive duties will be in place on \$250 billion in goods the US buys from China.

The trade war has fueled concerns in the United States, especially in the technology and consumer electronics sectors, just ahead of the holiday shopping season that is important for both manufacturers and retailers. The tariffs “will create lasting harm to communities across the country,” said Dean Garfield, president and chief executive of the Information Technology Industry Council, a trade group that includes Apple, Amazon and other large tech firms.

“China must change, but this is not the way to achieve the needed market access in China. More tariffs not only punish American consumers, manufacturers, and businesses of all sizes, they will also diminish the opportunity to negotiate with the Chinese and address longstanding trade issues.”

The Consumer Technology Association, which represents some 2,000 large and small firms in the tech sector, called the tariffs “bad policy” even if some key products were excluded.— AFP

Business

India, US closing in on package deal to remove trade irritants

Talks to address New Delhi's concerns over steel tariffs

NEW DELHI: Indian farmers and US manufacturers of medical devices could be among the main winners in a trade package under negotiation, as Washington and New Delhi look to remove long-standing irritants to ties, sources familiar with the talks said.

Having skirmished for months over tit-for-tat tariffs on steel and some agricultural products, the two sides began talks in June that also cover India's concerns over US steel tariffs and US problems with Indian tariffs on imported IT equipment.

"We are closely negotiating a discrete package of trade issues. It will amount to a pretty substantive agreement," said a source with knowledge of the negotiations.

Neither the office of the United States Trade Representative or India's trade ministry responded to a request for comment. The source said the two sides expected to close the deal in the next few weeks.

US President Donald Trump, who dislikes multilateral trade agreements, said earlier this month that India had approached the United States to "start doing a trade deal," without giving any details. The current discussions, however, are focused on removing outstanding sources of friction, and are not aimed at creating a bilateral free trade agreement, sources from both sides said.

Having already waded into bigger fights with China and the European Union, Trump has previously called out India for unfair trade practices. At an estimated \$126 billion, US goods and services trade with India last year was less than a fifth of its trade with China. Unlike some other countries India failed to be given a waiver after the Trump administration imposed new import tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in March. New Delhi retaliated by raising tariffs on a number of US products but has held back from implementing them while it negotiates a package to soothe ties. The tariffs were to go into effect from Monday midnight but the government issued an order saying these had been deferred until Nov. 2.

"Our relationship with the US unlike many other nations has not deteriorated," said an Indian government official involved in the talks. "But if you think relations have become very friendly with a lot of bonhomie, I don't think that has happened either."

Capping margins, not prices

US companies are hungrily watching an Indian economy that is growing at more than 8 percent, as they seek presence in a market that has potential for massive growth. One of the most prominent trade issues to erupt during Trump's presidency has involved India's treatment of medical devices imported from the United States. Last year, US exports of medical devices and equipment to India totalled \$863 million.

India last year equated high profit margins of medical device makers with "illegal profiteering", capping prices for some heart stents - small wire-mesh structures used to treat blocked arteries - and knee implants, to help poor patients.

That measure provoked a storm of criticism from US companies, such as Abbott Laboratories, Johnson & Johnson (J&J) and Boston Scientific, which said such controls hurt innovation and future investment plans. In June, India's federal think tank Niti Aayog invited industry views on a new policy which would cap trade margins, and not prices, to help patients while allowing the industry "reasonable profits".

Two Indian government sources said the think tank had recommended allowing a maximum 65 percent trade margin—the difference between the price at which a company sells to its stockists, after recovering its operational expenses, and the price paid by patients.

The recommendation has still to be accepted by Modi's office, another source said. The new policy proposal, which is favored by both J&J and Boston Scientific according to company letters seen by Reuters, would help manufacturers who have argued that outright price caps were at times below their import costs and led to losses.

Modi's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Breakthrough

One of the main areas where India is likely to benefit will be agricultural trade, with Washington expected to grant concessions making it easier for Indian exporters of products like rice, mangoes, table grapes and lychees



Indian farmers and US medical device manufacturers could be the main winners in a trade package. —Reuters

the sources said.

Currently, the United States imports just a small fraction of the \$5.5 billion of rice shipped annually from India, the world's top rice exporter. New Delhi wants to sell basmati rice but US agencies have in the past flagged concerns over the presence of chemical residues in the rice.

New Delhi is also discussing how to meet stringent US standards to sell bovine meat. India is the world's biggest buffalo meat exporter but has failed to make much headway in the US market because of Washington's insistence that a country be free from foot-and-mouth disease. The two sides are exploring ways to open the US market for certain grades of bovine meat from India, according to the Indian government negotiator and the other sources familiar with the talks.

For its part, the United States wants to sell more almonds to India, the world's top buyer, cherries and eventually dairy products. The United States has also been urging India to lower the input costs of components for IT that would allow US companies to manufacture in India as part of Modi's flagship Make-in-India campaign. These affect firms such as Apple Inc and Qualcomm Inc with plans to set up operations in India.

The United States has complained that India's tariffs are among the highest in the world, and cover a range of IT equipment, including circuit boards, screens and memory chips. "In this kind of a package, everything is interlinked even though our mutual concerns are on different issues," one of the sources said.

"But we need to reach an agreement on everything that's on the table." — Reuters

EU lays out WTO reform ideas to rein in US, China

BRUSSELS: The European Commission published its ideas yesterday for reforming the World Trade Organization to counter market distortions, such as in China, and to discourage the United States from pulling out of the body.

A day after US President Donald Trump escalated his trade war with China by imposing 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports, the European Union unveiled how it believes market-distorting subsidies should be tackled.

Trump said last month that he could withdraw from the WTO, potentially undermining one of the foundations of the modern global economy which the United States was instrumental in creating.

"The world has changed, the WTO has not. It's high time to act to make the system able to address challenges of today's global economy and work for everyone again. And the EU must take a lead role in that," EU trade chief Cecilia Malmstrom said in a statement.

The Commission said it wanted to update

global trade rules, strengthen the power of the WTO to monitor trade and find a way of overcoming the current deadlock of the WTO dispute settlement system. Washington has charged the WTO with losing its focus on trade negotiations in favor of litigation and has blocked appointments to its appeals chamber that settles disputes. By the end of September, the normally seven-strong chamber will have only three judges, the number required to hear each appeal.

The tough US stance has prompted a flurry of diplomatic talks as WTO members try to work out how to respond. Senior trade officials met in Geneva in July and will reconvene this week, before a meeting of ministers in Ottawa next month.

EU leaders called on the Commission in June to produce proposals with "like-minded partners" that could improve the WTO in crucial areas, such as subsidies, enforcement and negotiations. In May French President Emmanuel Macron proposed an overhaul of global trading rules, urging the EU, the United States, China and Japan to draw up a blueprint for WTO reform by the end of the year.

The WTO works on the basis of consensus among its 164 members and, with vetoes for each, every new initiative risks becoming a bargaining chip in a bigger negotiation.

Few reform efforts have succeeded and



Cecilia Malmstrom

many are stuck, including talks on cutting agricultural subsidies, increasing market access, reforming rules on access to medicines, improving the WTO dispute system and liberalizing trade in services.

There are also some fundamental divides that Trump has brought into the open, such as the power of WTO judges, which countries should qualify as "developing economies" deserving special treatment, and whether China trades fairly. — Reuters

Shares hold ground as US and China ramp up trade war

LONDON: Who's afraid of the big bad trade war? Not world stock markets, it seems. The response to US President Donald Trump's decision to go ahead next week with collecting 10 percent tariffs on another \$200 billion of Chinese goods, ratcheting up to 25 percent in January, was unusual and unexpected yesterday.

Trump's measures initially hit US stocks, Treasuries and the dollar while stirring a rally in Chinese equities and the yuan. China then retaliated just before US markets were due to open with \$60 billion worth of tariffs of its own but still traders barely flinched.

European stocks wobbled slightly but Wall Street futures still pointed to a steady start and even copper and the Aussie dollar, which have been highly sensitive to the trade tensions, made good ground.

"In a way it is remarkable that the market is holding up so well," said Rabobank's Head of Macro Strategy Elwin de Groot. "This is clearly a further ratcheting up of the trade war and we are now getting close to a situation where you can almost speak of a full-fledged trade war. Clearly that is not positive."

One theory for the becalmed reaction was that the \$200 billion US move had been largely priced in to markets following weeks of hinting reports and social media speculation.

Chinese shares had initially dipped as Asia digested the details but then rallied to close up 2 percent as some locals bet on Beijing stepping up infrastructure investment to keep the economy humming.

Japan's Nikkei also ended 1.4 percent higher and MSCI's 24-country emerging market index was up for the fourth day in the last five as 1.3 percent gains in Poland and Russia added to Asia's rebound.

Trump's announcement "is largely consistent with the claims made earlier," Citi analysts said in a note, estimating a 33 basis point drag on China's economic growth from the 10 percent tariff. Taking a bigger picture view, Dutch bank ING estimated that 2.5 percent of world trade was now affected by the tariffs and it will be 4 percent if Trump carries out threats to put levies on all of the US's Chinese imports.

"Although this percentage may seem small, the tariffs will disrupt Sino-American supply chains, and may, therefore, triple the effects on world trade," ING also warned.

Liquidating shorts

US stock exchange futures were all around 0.2 percent higher, with a rise in oil prices expected to lift oil majors and on relief that the tariffs on Chinese goods had spared high-tech gadgets like smart watches.

China's promise to respond to the moves also came as The South China Morning Post newspaper reported that Beijing was reviewing plans to send a delegation headed by Vice Premier Liu He to Washington for trade talks. Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a daily news briefing later that the U.S. steps had brought "new uncertainty" to talks between the two countries. — Reuters

Brazilians opt for budget car bulletproofing as economy tanks

SAO PAULO: Brazilians are as worried as ever about getting shot while driving, but have less money in a stagnant economy to spend on protecting themselves.

Enter the second-hand bulletproof car. Whether to provide genuinely-needed protection or just to show off, the bulletproofed personal vehicle has usually been associated with the rich, but in Brazil, armored cars are far more common than in most countries.

Industry experts consider Brazil's \$245 million (one billion reais) bulletproofing industry the largest in the world. But with an economy only just crawling out of recession-one percent growth in 2017 came on the heels of a steep two year-recession-worried drivers are searching for budget options.

"I like cars, but I don't feel comfortable spending a lot of money on one," said lawyer Mauricio Paulo, who drives a second-hand bulletproof Volvo XZ 60.

This is the 40-year-old Paulo's fourth armored vehicle. He got his first armored car after being robbed while he stopped at a traffic light. The birth of his daughter 18 months ago convinced him he still needs to have one-and stay frugal. "I need a bulletproof car



SAO PAULO: This photo shows a general view of a company of armored cars in Maua, Sao Paulo, Brazil. —AFP

because of lack of safety," he said. "I went for a used car because I'm going to spend less money to move around safely."

To modify a car costs around \$13,000 (53,600 reais), pretty much like buying an additional vehicle.

Going for an already used and already armored vehicle gets the price tag down by between 10 and 40 percent, according to varying estimates from dealers and owners.

Armored vehicle capital

Another big market, Mexico, bulletproofed 2,986 cars in 2017, one of the best years the industry there has had. But even in a tough

climate last year, Brazil's armoring industry still put out over 15,000.

Armored private vehicles are especially common among the middle class in the economic hub of Sao Paulo, regardless of the fact that the mega-city is one of the safest parts in an often extremely violent country. Almost three quarters of bulletproofing work is done in Sao Paulo state, and most of the country's 150,000 armored vehicles are also in the state, according to the bulletproofing association Abrablin.

Neither Abrablin nor the used car sellers' body Fenauto keeps track of second-hand armored sales. — AFP



BEIJING: Stock price movements on a screen at a securities company in Beijing. Shanghai is the world's worst-performing stock market in 2018 despite broadly robust corporate earnings. — AFP

Business

Burgan Turkey's hedging strategy protects it against currency volatility

Al-Ajeel: Our business model is solid and well prepared to handle volatility if it persists

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank Group (the Group) announced yesterday that its Turkish subsidiary, Burgan Bank A.S. - Turkey (The Bank), remains vigilant with regards to the volatility in Turkey and is, at present, not witnessing any material impact on its profitability. The Group continues to closely monitor the effects of the recent volatility of the Turkish currency and the domestic interest rates and its impact on borrowers and on the economy in general.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of the Board of Burgan Bank Group, commented: "We are firm believers in the Turkish economy. Its fundamentals are solid and we are in for the long-term. We have the same commitment levels towards our customers and we will support them during these times of stress."

"Burgan Bank Turkey is adjusting well to its current operating environment. At present, we are not witnessing any major impact on our operations there. We are profitable and our liquidity is at sound levels. We have implemented a prudent risk model across the Group, and we continue to be selective in our credit process," added Al-Ajeel "We were well-prepared for this type of environ-



Group not experiencing any material impact on its profitability

ment. We hedged our investment in the Turkish subsidiary's capital three years ago; a move which protected us against the current depreciation in the Turkish Lira. Our business model is solid and will continue to deliver," Al-Ajeel continued.

Burgan Bank A.S. - Turkey continues to meet its regulatory capital requirements due to the two pre-emptive capital increases made by the Group in the last nine



Majed Essa Al-Ajeel

months. The Bank also proactively monitors its clients' sensitivity to foreign-exchange rates in order to anticipate any potential deterioration in credit, and to facilitate the clients' ability to continue to service their loans.

Burgan Bank Group noted that it remains highly liquid, both in terms of liquidity at hand and contingent liquidity. In parallel, Burgan Bank A.S. - Turkey is comfortably managing its liquidity levels despite the increased demand and cost for liquidity by the broader market.

Burgan Bank Group reiterated that it will continue to remain focused and vigilant of all risks and committed to its long-term strategy as well as to its customers in Turkey as well as its other subsidiaries in Algeria, Tunisia, and Iraq.



Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah weekly draw on the 16th of September 2018 announcing the names of its winners for the week from the 9th till the 13th of September 2018, in which five winners will receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

- Hamad Shmout Qateaa Al-Otaibi
- Majed Mohammed Rasheed Abdulla Al-Rasheed
- Ruqaya Hussain Jassim Mohammed
- Abdullah Rashed Abdulla Al-Hufaiti
- Jarah Hadi Al-Mutairi

Gulf Bank Al-Danah's first quarterly draw for KD 200,000 prize was held on 28 March, and the 2nd Al-Danah quarterly draw, for the prize of KD 250,000 was held on 27th June while the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 26th September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 10th January 2019, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their daily, weekly and yearly chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2018 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

CET conference today in Kuwait for first time

KUWAIT: The CET conference, live in 4 countries namely UAE, South Africa, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, launches for the first time in Kuwait today (19, September) at Radisson Blu, Kuwait. The event has been successful in bringing together marketing, digital/IT and business heads to discover the latest solutions that enable greater customer experience across various industries. The conference looks into the future, at the most cutting-edge innovations and upcoming trends that will help shape the future of the business - customer relationship through the use of technology.

"The CET Conference is the 'Do not miss' CX event of the year!" said Bassem Jouini, Marketing Leader MEA at IBM (Sponsors of the CET World Series), "I was impressed by the level of engagement I had with the delegates and the quality of thought leadership, keynotes & panel discussion"

Hosted by Pinnacle Middle East, the conference features speakers from SAP, Try Carriage, Totals Co, Lithum, Ministry of Kuwait and more, covering everything from digital transformation to omnichannel engagement to social media marketing and more. The conference provides an engaging platform to connect the major technology solution providers of the region to decision makers across all sectors to enable greater customer experience in their businesses, along with the ability to showcase their services to 300+ organizations represented exclusively by their decision makers.

Looking forward, Pinnacle Middle East is expected to launch the 18th and 19th Edition of the CET Conference in Riyadh, KSA and Dubai, UAE in October and November and expand to more countries in the coming years.

iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max arrive at Ooredoo on Friday

KUWAIT: Ooredoo yesterday announced it will offer the most advanced iPhones ever, iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max, starting on Friday (28 Sept).

iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max are the most advanced iPhones ever, taking the vision for the future of the smartphone to a new level, featuring stunning 5.8-inch and 6.5-inch Super Retina displays that offer remarkable brightness and true blacks while showing 60 percent greater dynamic range in HDR photos.

iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max bring an improved dual camera system that offers breakthrough photo and video features. A12 Bionic chip with next-generation Neural Engine, faster Face ID, wider stereo sound, longer battery life, splash and water resistance, the most durable glass ever in a smartphone, a beautiful new gold finish that joins silver and space gray, and introduce Gigabit-class LTE for even faster download speeds. iPhone XS Max offers a more immersive experience with over 3 million pixels for videos, movies and games, offering the largest display ever in an iPhone. Both phones introduce Dual SIM to iPhone through the use of a nano-SIM and digital eSIM.

Additionally, iPhone XR features an all-screen glass and aluminum design with a 6.1-inch Liquid Retina display - the most color



accurate in the industry, with wide color support and True Tone for a more natural viewing experience. iPhone XR features A12 Bionic with next-generation Neural Engine, the TrueDepth camera system, faster Face ID, an advanced camera system that creates dramatic portraits using a single camera lens, LTE Advanced for fast download speeds and six beautiful finishes.

China's arsenal in US tariff row shrinks but it has other weapons

BEIJING: With Donald Trump now planning to hit roughly half China's exports with higher tariffs, Beijing finds itself outgunned as it imports far less from the United States and cannot fire back dollar-for-dollar.

Trump said Monday he would impose 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods from September 24, adding to levies already put on \$50 billion of products in the summer.

The US imported around \$500 billion worth of goods from China last year. China has imposed retaliatory tariffs on \$50 billion of US goods so far and has threatened to hit another \$60 billion but it is running out of targets: it imported about \$130 billion in US goods last year. Beijing has warned it would respond "quantitatively or qualitatively", hinting it has weapons other than tariffs in its arsenal. Here are its options:

Tariffs to start

China has warned it could impose tariffs of five to 25 percent on \$60 billion of US goods. Those possibly subjected to five percent taxes range from peppermint oil to pig hides, while cocoa butter and condoms would face 25 percent levies. Last month White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow dismissed China's threat as "weak" but admitted Beijing could "damage our companies in China".

US company sales

Chinese authorities could find all sorts of ways to make life difficult for US companies. Boeing sells a quarter of its planes in China, the second-biggest market in the world, and the state-run tabloid Global Times has warned Beijing could "adjust the sales volumes".

Some experts point to a historical precedent: South Korea's Lotte—which infuriated Beijing by providing a golf course to be used for a US missile defense system—saw scores of its supermarkets shut down, ostensibly over "safety issues". It sold many of its China-based outlets this year.

Beijing may be less inclined to hit American stalwarts like McDonald's, General Motors, or Ford where state-owned Chinese partners hold significant stakes.

But targeting Apple, Starbucks or Nike may avoid some of the self-inflicted pain. Apple has already come under attack this summer from a state media campaign investigating its apps and iMessage system.

Boycotts

State media has so far refrained from whipping up anti-

Pakistan PM leaves for Saudi amid bailout speculation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan left for Saudi Arabia yesterday, the foreign office said, amid speculation he may be seeking economic assistance from a staunch ally instead of another IMF bailout. Khan, on his first international visit since taking office last month, was accompanied by Finance Minister Asad Umar and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at a time when the country is trying to avert a balance of currency crisis stemming from a large current account deficit.

Analysts say a fresh bailout package from the International Monetary Fund, which would be its 13th since late 1980s, is inevitable. But Umar recently said an IMF rescue was a "fallback option" and that the government was exploring other avenues for assistance, which was broadly interpreted as Islamabad seeking help from China and Saudi Arabia, both of which have provided vast loans in the past.

"The Prime Minister will call on His Majesty King Salman and hold a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince," Pakistan's foreign office said in a statement. "The two leaders will discuss issues of bilateral interest." In 2014, six months after Pakistan obtained its last IMF bailout, Saudi Arabia loaned Pakistan \$1.5 billion, which the government used to strengthen its rupee currency. Pakistan's current account deficit widened 43 percent to \$18 billion in the fiscal year that ended June 30, while the fiscal deficit has ballooned to 6.6 percent of the economy. Khan's government came to power on the back of populist assurances to root out corruption and reduce poverty.

Since taking office, the government has initiated a number of symbolic austerity measures while promising social welfare reforms. The government on Tuesday announced tax increases for middle and high-income earners and a spike in import duties on luxury products in a bid to raise 183 billion rupees (\$1.48 billion) in additional revenue. — Reuters



BEIJING: An elderly woman walks past a Gap store at a mall in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

American sentiment as it has in diplomatic tiffs with Japan and South Korea. But Wu Baiyi, head of the Institute of American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, warned: "Ordinary Chinese people are actively following international issues."

He did not know for how long the public would remain calm, adding: "If 1.3 billion Chinese have their heart broken by Americans, this I'm afraid is a very hard thing to repair."

Exchanges

"Chinese parents have been willing to send their kids to study in the US, but if the US keeps on like this, we can send them to the UK, to Germany, even to Brazil or India," said Wu. Some 350,000 Chinese students head to the US each year, a crucial source of income for some American colleges. Hundreds of thousands of tourists also make the journey, splurging on Rodeo Drive and a Las Vegas slot machines. The spat with the Seoul showed how quickly Beijing could turn off the tourist tap: China's hordes of travellers stopped visiting after Beijing banned group tours.

Red tape

Semiconductor giant Qualcomm called off a deal this summer to buy Dutch rival NXP after Chinese anti-trust authorities delayed approval. It was widely thought to be a casualty of tensions between Washington and

Beijing, demonstrating the power China's large market has gained in deciding the fate of international mergers and acquisitions.

China has also touted this year's financial opening allowing foreign firms to take majority stakes in local banks. US lenders could find themselves at the back of the line for licenses and approvals if tensions continue to spiral, experts say. American firms are already seeing increased scrutiny — 27 percent have reported more inspections, 19 percent felt tighter regulations and 23 percent witnessed slower customs clearance, according to a September survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in China.

The White House believes China will waive the white flag after the next round of tariffs, said chamber chairman William Zarit. "But that scenario risks underestimating China's capability to continue meeting fire with fire," he added.

Debt and yuan

Some analysts point out that China is the main holder of US debt, but selling part of its nearly \$1.2 trillion in US treasuries could cause self-inflicted losses. Same for the yuan. While a devaluation of the Chinese currency could offset the effects of the tariffs, analysts say Chinese policymakers would not want to risk a capital flight from the country. — AFP

Technology

Japanese billionaire businessman to be SpaceX's first Moon traveler

Musk said he would not reveal the price Maezawa paid

HAWTHORNE: A Japanese billionaire and online fashion tycoon, Yusaku Maezawa, will be the first man to fly on a monster SpaceX rocket around the Moon as early as 2023, and he plans to bring six to eight artists along. Maezawa, 42, will be the first lunar traveler since the last US Apollo mission in 1972. He paid an unspecified amount of money for the privilege.

"Ever since I was a kid, I have loved the Moon," Maezawa said at SpaceX headquarters and rocket factory in Hawthorne, California, in the middle of metropolitan Los Angeles, late Monday. "This is my lifelong dream." He added: "I choose to go to the Moon... with artists!" He said he wanted to invite artists from various fields including painters, sculptors, photographers, musicians, film directors, fashion designers and architects.

"If you should hear from me, please say yes and accept my invitation. Please don't say no!," Maezawa added. Maezawa is chief executive of Japan's largest online fashion mall, and is the 18th richest person in Japan with a fortune of \$3 billion, according to the business magazine Forbes. Maezawa's other hobby is amassing valuable works of modern art and last year, he announced the acquisition of a Jean-Michel Basquiat masterpiece worth \$110.5 million. His love of art led him to decide to invite artists to come along, he said. "I would like to invite six to eight artists from around the world to join me on this mission to the Moon," Maezawa said.

"They will be asked to create something after they return to Earth. These masterpieces will inspire the dreamer within all of us." Until now, Americans are the only ones who have left Earth's orbit. A total of 24

NASA astronauts — all white men — voyaged to the Moon during the Apollo era of the 1960s and '70s. Twelve walked on the lunar surface. The first space tourist was Dennis Tito, an American businessman who in 2001 paid some \$20 million to fly on a Russian spaceship to the International Space Station.

Free for artists

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk described Maezawa as the "bravest" and "best adventurer." "He stepped forward," Musk added. "We are honored that he chose us." Musk said he would not reveal the price Maezawa paid for the Moon trip, but said it would be "free for the artists."

"This is dangerous, to be clear. This is no walk in the park," Musk cautioned.

"When you are pushing the frontier, it is not a sure thing. There is a chance something could go wrong." Still, when asked by reporters if Musk would be a passenger, he left the door open to the possibility. "As far as me going, I'm not sure. He did suggest like maybe

that I would join on this trip. I don't know," Musk said. "Yeah, yeah, yeah," said Maezawa. "All right. Maybe we will both be on it," Musk said to cheers and applause.

The ride will take place aboard a Big Falcon Rocket (BFR), which may not be ready for human flight for five years at least, Musk said. The BFR was first announced in 2016, and was touted as the most powerful rocket in history, even more potent than the Saturn V Moon rocket that launched the Apollo missions five decades ago. Last year, Musk said the BFR's admittedly "ambitious" goal was to make a test flight to Mars in 2022, followed by a crewed flight to the Red Planet in 2024.



HAWTHORNE: Elon Musk (L) and Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa speak before a Falcon 9 rocket during the announcement that Maezawa will be the first private passenger who will fly around the Moon aboard the SpaceX BFR launch vehicle, at the SpaceX headquarters and rocket factory. — AFP

'Multi-planetary species'

This isn't the first time Musk has vowed to send tourists around the Moon. Last year, he said two paying tourists would circle the Moon in 2018, but those plans that did not materialize. Musk showed off designs for the 118-meter (129 yards) long BFR, which will consist of a first stage with engines and fuel systems, and a second stage with the spacecraft where the passengers will ride. Musk estimated it would cost \$5 billion to build.

The BFR spacecraft's shape is reminiscent of the space shuttle, the bus-like US spaceships that carried astronauts to space 135 times from 1981 to 2011. Musk

has said he wants the BFR's vessel to be able to hold around 100 people, and that the launch system could one day be used to colonize the Moon and Mars in order to make humans a "multi-planetary" species. Other space companies, like Virgin Galactic, founded by British tycoon Richard Branson, and billionaire Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's rocket company Blue Origin, are working on trips to the edge of space that could offer tourists a chance at weightlessness for 10 minutes or so. Virgin's trip will cost about \$250,000. Blue Origin's price has not been revealed. Russian and Chinese companies are also working on space tourism plans. — AFP

S Africa's top court legalizes personal, private cannabis use

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's top court ruled yesterday that private, personal cannabis use was legal in a landmark case that had pitted law enforcement agencies against marijuana advocates and the judiciary. Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo, delivering the Johannesburg-based Constitutional Court's unanimous verdict, declared the law banning marijuana use in private by adults "is unconstitutional and therefore invalid".

"It will not be a criminal offence for an adult person to use or be in possession of cannabis in private for his or her personal consumption," he said, reading the ruling to cheers from the public gallery. The court also ordered parliament to draft new laws within 24 months to reflect the order. Outside pro-cannabis campaigners lit pipes and rolled joints to celebrate the news, filling the air with the distinctive aroma of marijuana.

"I'm happy I won't be getting any more criminal records for possession," Ruaan Wilson, 29, told AFP before pausing for a puff. "Now we can get police to focus on real drugs and thugs," he added, wearing shorts and dark sunglasses. A court in Western Cape had ruled in March 2017 that a ban on cannabis use by adults at home was unconstitutional, a move that effectively decriminalized it in the province, which includes Cape Town. But the ministers of justice, police, health and trade challenged that finding, arguing that there was "objective proof of the harmful effects of cannabis." Yesterday's ruling will not decriminalise the use of the drug



JOHANNESBURG: People smoke marijuana outside the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg as South Africa's top court is ruling over a law banning cannabis use. — AFP

in public nor the offences of supplying or dealing — but cultivation for personal, private use will no longer be illegal for adults.

'We are free now'

Previously, possessing, growing or using marijuana for personal use — even in small quantities — exposed users to fines of up to hundreds of dollars (euros) as well as jail time, although this latter punishment was rare. Penalties for selling the drug were far higher. Three cannabis users who had faced prosecution for using the drug argued in the Constitutional Court that the prohibition "intrudes unjustifiably into their private spheres".

Activists clutching banners reading "Weed are free now" and Rastafari flags gathered outside the court in central Johannesburg.

Other boards read "Free the weed", and "Legalise weed, end economic depression #weedislife". Some activists also called for cannabis to be decriminalized for use in public. "It's not enough, we also have privacy in person, as we walk in a public space, therefore we should be allowed to carry cannabis in public," said Jeremy Acton, leader of the Dagma Party in South Africa which advocates for the rights of cannabis users. Several of the roughly 100 activists sang struggle-era anti-apartheid songs. Previous court hearings on the emotive issue have drawn protests by those opposed to legalising cannabis, as well as by those in favour of decriminalization. Use of cannabis and medicinal marijuana has gained popularity in some parts of the world to ease suffering from cancer, glaucoma, HIV and AIDS, and other serious conditions. — AFP

German firm's 7 commandments for an ethical AI

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: German business software giant SAP published yesterday an ethics code to govern its research into artificial intelligence (AI), aiming to prevent the technology infringing on people's rights, displacing workers or inheriting biases from its human designers.

"SAP designed these guiding principles to steer the development and deployment of our AI software to help the world run better and improve people's lives," the firm said in a statement. A group including engineers, theologians, political scientists and bio-ethicists put together a list of seven guidelines, ranging from respect for United Nations human rights principles to data protection.

Following in the footsteps of better-known US tech giants like Google and Microsoft, SAP — which makes software for some 400,000 firms worldwide to manage data on customer relationships, payrolls or inventory — is wrestling with how to impose values on AI's systems of algorithms designed to ape



SHANGHAI: An AI cancer detection microscope by Google is seen during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference 2018. — AFP

certain aspects of human intelligence.

Public figures like entrepreneur Elon Musk or physicist Stephen Hawking have warned of the dangers of out-of-control AI. "The danger of AI is much greater than the danger of nuclear warheads by a lot," Musk said at a

technology conference earlier this year. But rather than a scenario like those depicted in modern classics like "The Terminator" or "The Matrix" of computer programs running amok over their human creators, SAP's concerns are closer to home. — AFP

Renault-Nissan alliance takes Android for a drive

PARIS: The Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi carmaking alliance said yesterday it will adopt Alphabet's Google Android operating system, handing a victory to the U.S. tech giant as it pushes for a bigger share of the infotainment market. Renault, Nissan and Mitsubishi, with combined sales of 10.6 million vehicles last year, said future models will "integrate Google applications and services" including Maps and the voice-commanded Google Assistant.

The move, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, leans more heavily on Big Tech than large or luxury rival carmakers have hitherto been willing to do. Many fear losing control of customer relationships, data and potentially significant future revenue from connected services. Some smaller manufacturers such as Volvo Cars have decided to embed Android Auto in their vehicles. But the scale of the shift by Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi may cause a broader rethink of costly standalone tech strategies.

"Major carmakers earlier were reluctant to do business with Google, but this has now changed," said Jauke de Jong, a research analyst at AFS Group in Amsterdam. "More carmakers could follow suit and partner with Google." Until now, carmakers have

largely chosen Linux, Microsoft or QNX software to power infotainment. That yields clunkier platforms they can control, but which offer little scope to add new apps or functionality.

Clout for keys

The news may spell trouble for certain existing auto-tech suppliers such as mapping specialist TomTom, which counts Renault among its customers. Shares in the Dutch group fell by more than quarter after the announcement. In return for handing Google the infotainment keys, the alliance will bring the full clout of Android's thousands of apps to its brands' lineups — which include a strong contingent of affordably priced, no-frills models for emerging markets.

The partnership promises "rich user experiences that are currently available only outside the vehicle or, to a limited extent, by connecting an Android device to supported vehicles," alliance development chief Hadi Zablit said. While many volume carmakers offer infotainment "mirroring" to pair with Apple iPhones or Android smartphones, premium rivals such as BMW and Daimler's Mercedes-Benz are investing heavily in their own operating systems, vocal assistants and connected services.

Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi said the new infotainment systems would also be integrated with remote vehicle diagnostics and over-the-air upgrade capabilities, offered via the alliance's own cloud-based service. After nearly two decades of partnership, Renault and Nissan are still integrating their own technologies, a process often fraught with tension. — Reuters

Twitter to offer users option to go back to 'chronological' feed

WASHINGTON: Twitter is preparing an option for users to go back to its original chronological news feed, responding to complaints about its algorithmic system implemented two years ago. In a series of tweets late Monday, Twitter told users it was "working on new ways to give you more control over your timeline."

The short-message social network said it still believes most users will want to see the "best" tweets at the top of their feed but will allow people to switch based on their preference. "We've learned that when showing the best tweets first, people find Twitter more relevant and useful,"

the San Francisco company said. "However, we've heard feedback from people who at times prefer to see the most recent tweets."

After years of operating with a chronological timeline, Twitter began in 2016 to follow the lead of Facebook in using algorithms to offer what it deemed to be the most relevant messages for users as part of an effort to stimulate growth and engagement. But it acknowledged Monday that some users don't like this approach. "Our goal with the timeline is to balance showing you the most recent tweets with the best tweets you're likely to care about, but we don't always get this balance right," the company tweeted.

"So, we're working on providing you with an easily accessible way to switch between a timeline of tweets that are most relevant for you and a timeline of the latest tweets. You'll see us test this in the coming weeks." Twitter and other social networks have faced criticism in recent weeks including from President Donald Trump that they suppress some messages based on political bias. The company has denied the allegations. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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

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

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

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

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

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

SPECIALIZED IN:

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

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

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

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Specialized in:

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

alsalam.int.hospital

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

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

Specialized in:

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

alsalam.int.hospital

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

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

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

daralshifa
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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

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

Academic Certificates - Training

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

Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Aqua Park festivals a major success



Aqua Park management recently organized daily festivals in which both citizens and expats participated, with many programs for the young and adults being organized. Director General and Board Member of Aqua Park Mohammad Khoursheed said it was the first time the water park held so many games and festivities for its customers and was pleased at its tremendous success.

KIB promotes financial literacy through school visits

As part of its social responsibility program aimed at promoting financial and economic education amongst children and youth, a team from the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB organized a visit to Asmaa Bint Abi Bakr Middle School for Girls. The visit was organized in celebration of back to school season.

During the visit, the KIB team congratulated students on the beginning of a new academic year and encouraged them to focus on their academic success.

Additionally, the team distributed gifts and mementos amongst students, spreading an atmosphere of happiness and joy.

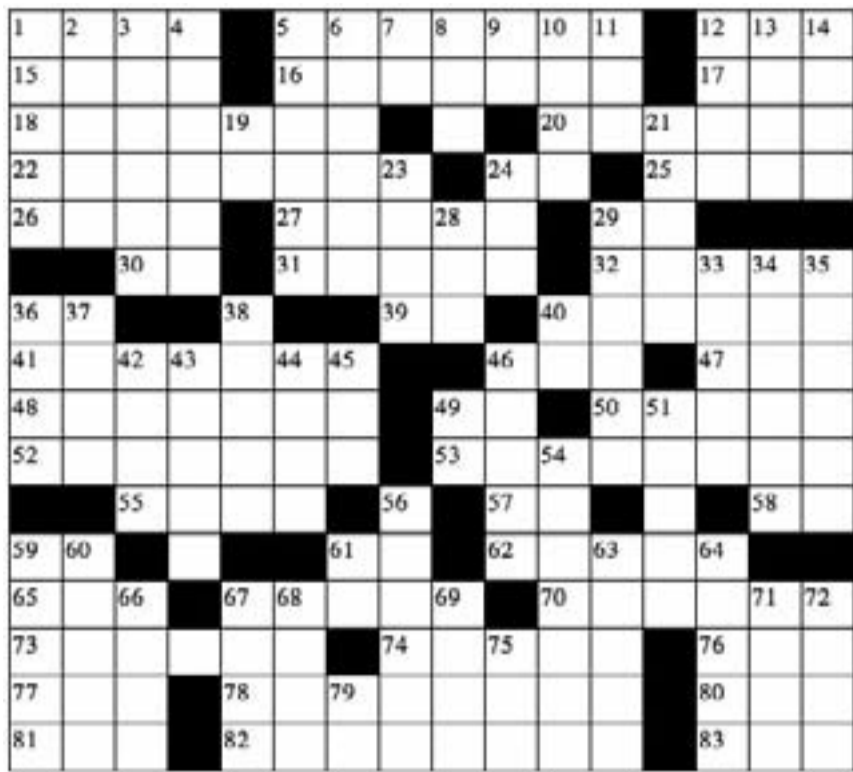
KIB noted that the visit came as part of its social responsibility program which aims at spreading financial literacy and promoting economic awareness across all segments of the local community, particularly children and youth. The program seeks to motivate students and develop a promising, financially-savvy generation that is able to drive national development in the future.

Furthermore, KIB pointed out that school visits also feature a series of educational lectures presented to students introducing them to basics of saving, spending, and money management, as well as the working world of banking in a simplified manner. Through its financial literacy program, the Bank continuously strives to strengthen the foundations of financial inclusion among youth and students.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2012



ACROSS

1. Erect bushy hairy annual herb having trifoliate leaves and purple to pink flowers.
5. A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
12. A proinflammatory cytokine that is produced by white blood cells (monocytes and macrophages).
15. Footwear usually with wooden soles.
16. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
17. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
18. A malicious fierce-tempered woman.
20. Melon having yellowish rind and whitish flesh.
22. An upstart who makes conceited, sardonic, insolent comments.
25. The last imperial dynasty of China (from 1644 to 1912) which was overthrown by revolutionaries.
26. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
27. Enjoying or showing or marked by joy or pleasure or good fortune.
30. A metric unit of length equal to one billionth of a meter.
31. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
32. (Old Testament) The minister of the Persian emperor who hated the Jews and was hanged for plotting to massacre them.
36. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
39. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
41. Genus of American of east Asian perennial herbs with yellow to orange or red flower rays.
47. Someone (especially a woman) who annoys people by constantly finding fault.
48. Prohibited by law or by official or accepted rules.
50. English aristocrat who was the first wife of Prince Charles.
52. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
53. Be a mystery or bewildering to.
55. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
57. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
58. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
59. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.
62. Fig tree of India noted for great size and longevity.
65. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
70. A member of a Caddo people formerly living in north central Texas.
73. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
74. Of or relating to or containing barium.
76. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
77. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
78. Abusing vocally.
80. A shape that sags.
81. Either extremity of something that has length.
82. Lack of strength or vigor esp from illness.
83. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.

DOWN

2. A naturally occurring glyceride of oleic acid that is found in fats and oils.
3. United States singer (born in Russia) who appeared in the first full-length talking film (1886-1950).
4. Bright with a steady but subdued shining.
5. Any member of Athapaskan tribes that migrated to the southwestern desert (from Arizona to Texas and south into Mexico).
6. The cardinal number that is the sum of three and one.
7. A public promotion of some product or service.
8. Related by blood.
9. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
10. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
11. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
12. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
13. The compass point that is one point north of northeast.
14. Emblem usually consisting of a rectangular piece of cloth of distinctive design.
19. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
21. Short and fat.
23. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
24. Type genus of the family Mycidae.
28. A syndrome that occurs in many women from 2 to 14 days before the onset of menstruation.
29. Malevolent aspect of Devi.
33. An atom having a valence of one.
34. A genus of orb-weaving spiders including common garden spiders and barn spiders.
35. A syllabic script used in writing Sanskrit and Hindi.
37. Round object that is hit or thrown or kicked in games.
38. Established by or founded upon law or official or accepted rules.
40. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
42. Burrowing marine mollusk living on sand or mud.
43. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
44. Avatar of Vishnu.
45. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
46. A short high tone produced as a signal or warning.
49. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
51. (anatomy) Of or relating to the ilium.
54. A well-known beach and resort area on Oahu Island southeast of Honolulu.
56. (Old Testament) A son of Jacob and forefather of one of the tribes of Israel.
60. A string of more than 3,000 islands east of Asia extending 1,300 miles between the Sea of Japan and the western Pacific Ocean.
61. A metric unit of length equal to one hundredth of a meter.
63. A genus of temperate and arctic evergreen trees (see spruce).
64. The sacred city of Lamaism.
66. Tear or be torn violently.
67. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
68. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
69. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
71. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
72. The villain in William Shakespeare's tragedy who tricked Othello into murdering his wife.
75. The shape of a raised edge of a more or less circular object.
79. Minor or subordinate.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

The sky is the limit for you today. You are optimistic and can accomplish anything you set your mind to. You have faith and are willing to take chances on an emotional level that may bring great reward and happiness your way. You may be deep within your feelings and have a desire to experience something new. An emotional wanderlust, if you will, is the desire of your heart. Today you are all about you. Your wants, needs, and desires, take over and all you can do is pursue what your heart wants. This is a very productive day for you physically and emotionally. You will find peace and happiness in accomplishing the goals you have set for yourself today. Aries. Reach for the stars! You may just be the one that can touch them.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today may find you more impulsive than you usually are. You seem to be direct and outspoken when dealing with others today. You desire a fresh start. Your mind is on new beginnings and developing new habit patterns. Out with the old and in with the new. The consequences of the choices and decisions you make today will be long lasting. Take your time and put much thought into the changes you are making. Remember, acting on impulse is not always the best way to handle decisions and problems. Change can be good as long as you take the time to think things through and realize every action has a consequence.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

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. The key to your happiness is your inner peace.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Don't be surprised if you cross paths today with someone who just doesn't sit right with you. You have a feeling that something about them just isn't right. You may feel as if you want to get away from this person as soon as possible. Your virtues are simple. You prefer this way of life. Today may be a day you are having difficulty with focus and performing your daily tasks. You seem in a dreamy mood and unable to snap back. Deep in thought you seem to have too much on your mind. This may be a good time to sit back and reorganize and restructure your surroundings and goals. You are in a way shutting down due to an emotional overload.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are well aware that no one is perfect. Lately you have been deeply considering what others do what they do. Through much soul searching you have come to conclusion that are more compassionate approach to your relationships with others is in order. This new outlook on life will help you mean relationships and forgiveness will play a big role in your life. You seem greatly sensitive and possibly even more spiritual and in touch with your psychic abilities at this time. You see to sense what others need and find yourself being more sympathetic and giving. You may find yourself the recipient of many compliments.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Taking chances today could bring great reward your way. If attention and appreciation for your talents is what you seek, be sure to share them with someone special today. Let your guard down and be open with your feelings. You may find the more you are able to share your thoughts and feelings, the closer you become to someone who means the world to you. As you show them a less independent and more vulnerable side of yourself, you may find they are more comfortable sharing their true feelings about you. Remember, your strength and independence may have a tendency to make you come across as unapproachable to those who do not know the real you. Keeping walls up and a guard around your heart does not only prevent you from experiencing hurt, it has also been preventing the good from getting in. Drop your guard, Virgo. Allow others to love and care for you.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow? This seems to be your attitude today and you may be creating a stressful situation that can be avoided. Get in gear. Snap out of your dreamy state and take care of business. You may find others becoming frustrated with your lack of ambition today. Take a walk and a few deep breaths. Refresh and restart. There is no time like the present to get your focus back and get things done. Great reward will come from your hard work today.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Good communication is an asset in any relationship, whether it is business or personal. When people won't listen to you, listen to them. If you are not sure what they are saying, ask questions. Repeat what you heard and ask if you heard it correctly. The listener will appreciate that you are giving your full attention. The more you hear, the better you will understand the speaker. Conversely, when you talk, be sure the other person understands what you are saying. You may need to repeat your message or present it in more than one way.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find yourself craving attention. You work hard, love hard, and want to be appreciated for your contributions. You may be feeling you are not receiving the admiration and recognition you deserve for the effort you put into helping and providing for those around you. This is a time you may need to focus on others instead of yourself. You may find that others express their gratitude and appreciation differently than you. You may not realize you are being provided all that you crave just not in the way you expected it. Take time to consider this to prevent high tensions and an exchange of words they may result otherwise.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may feel as if you are encountering negativity and not everyone is supportive when it comes to very sensitive issues you are dealing with in your life. These issues are very personal, and you may just be sharing with the wrong people. You will find someone close to you who will serve as a confidant who is extremely understanding and supportive of all that makes you unique. Capricorn, now is a great time to think outside of the box and follow that new path or project that is calling your name. You may reap great reward from trying something new.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your dedication and devotion to your career could bring up some issues in your personal life. Someone close to you may feel as if they are no longer a priority in your life. They may feel ignored and left out. It is a sticky situation for you as the drive to climb to the ladder will be very rewarding in the end. The question weighing on your mind is will it be worth the risk of losing someone close to you. You are able to realize this is just temporary but unable to convince those around you who are not fond of the amount of focus and time you have placed on your career. It is a time to learn to juggle your focus and time so not only does your career prosper but also your personal relationships with others. Aquarius, use caution as you begin to perform this juggling act.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Prepare for a major event. This may put an end to your old way of life. You may find independence is a necessity now rather than a choice. You are on your own and this may mark a time of increased responsibility and accountability. Some soul searching may be in order to face this new life. Take your time and spend sometime meditating or relaxing to access your new situation. Do not ask yourself, Why me? You know why. Because you can handle any obstacle that is put in your path.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Cheerleading

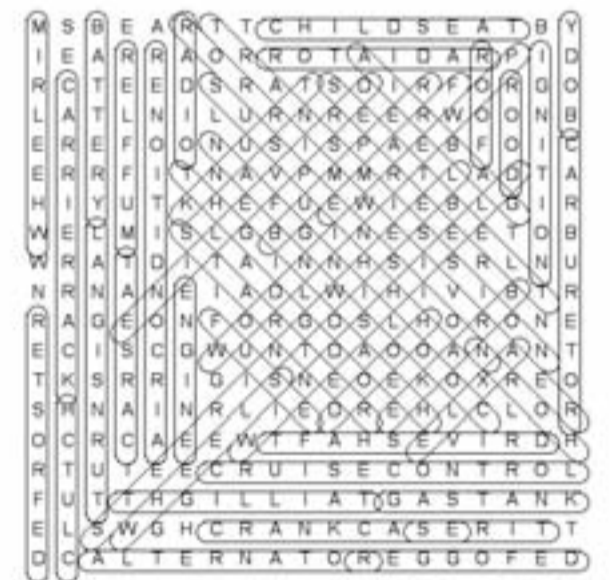
Find and circle all of the Cheerleading words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| AERIAL | DISMOUNT | JUMPS | SPOTTER |
| AWESOME | ELEVATOR | K MOTION | SQUAD |
| BASE | EXCLUSION | LIBERTY | STUNT |
| BASKET TOSS | EXTENSION | L MOTION | TABLE TOP |
| BUMPER | FACIALS | MEGAPHONE | T MOTION |
| CHANT | FLYER | PEEL OFF | TOE TOUCH |
| CHEER | HANDSPRING | PEEL OFF | TUCK |
| CHOREOGRAPHY | HEEL STRETCH | PEW PONS | TUMBLING |
| COACH | HERBIE | PIRANHA | UNIFORM |
| CRADLE CATCH | HIGH V | ROUTINE | VARSITY |
| | HURLER | SELL IT | V MOTION |

Yesterday's Solution

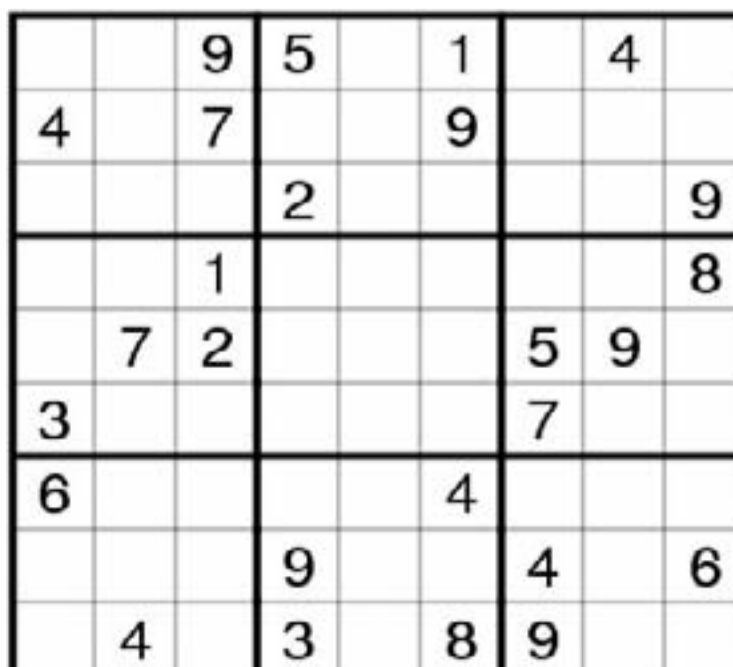
Car Parts



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

The hidden item is: SEAT BELT WARNING LIGHT

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018



The cast of "Game of Thrones" celebrates the award Outstanding Drama series onstage during the 70th Emmy Awards at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

India's singing village, where everyone has their melody

Curious whistles and chirrups echo through the jungle around Kongthong, a remote Indian village, but this is no birdsong. It's people calling out to each other in music—an extraordinary tradition that may even be unique. Here in the lush, rolling hills of the northeastern state of Meghalaya, mothers from Kongthong and a few other local villages compose a special melody for each child. Everyone in the village, inhabited by the Khasi people, will then address the person with this individual little tune—and for a lifetime. They have conventional "real" names too, but they are rarely used. To walk along the main road in this village of wooden huts with corrugated tin roofs, perched on a ridge miles from anywhere, is to walk through a symphony of hoots and toots.

On one side a mother calls out to her son to come home for supper, elsewhere children play and at the other end friends mess about—all in an unusual, musical language of their own. "The composition of the



An Indian villager whistling as he calls to a friend in a field in Kongthong village, in East Khasi Hills district in India's eastern Meghalaya state. — AFP



Photo shows Kongthong village, in East Khasi Hills district in India's eastern Meghalaya state.

melody comes from the bottom of my heart," mother-of-three Pyndaplin Shabong told AFP. "It expresses my joy and love for my baby," the 31-year-old said, her youngest daughter, two and a half years old, on her knee. "But if my son has done something wrong, if I'm angry with him, he broke my heart, at that moment I will call him by his actual name," rather than singing lovingly, said Rothell Khongsit, a community leader.

Harmony with nature

Kongthong has long been cut off from the rest of the world, several hours of tough trek from the near-

est town. Electricity arrived only in 2000, and the dirt road in 2013. Days are spent foraging in the jungle for broom grass—the main source of revenue—leaving the village all but deserted, except for a few kids. To call out to each other while in the forest, the villagers would use a long version lasting around 30 seconds of each other's musical "name", inspired by the sounds of nature all around. "We are living in far-flung villages, we are surrounded by the dense forest, by the hills. So we are in touch with nature, we are in touch with all the gracious living things that God has created," says Khongsit. "Creatures have their own identity.

The birds, so many animals, they have ways of calling each other." The custom is known as "jingrwai lawbei", meaning "song of the clan's first woman", a reference to the Khasi people's mythical original mother. And unusually for India, this is a matrilineal society. Property and land are passed down from mother to daughter, while a husband moves in with his wife and takes her name. "We consider the mother the goddess of the family. A mother looks after a family, after the inheritance we get from our ancestors," Khongsit said.

Modern world

But according to anthropologist Tiplut Nongbri, a professor at Jamia Millia Islamia university in Delhi, it is something of a "disguised patriarchy". Women "don't have decision-making powers. Traditionally, they can't take part in politics, the rules are very clearly demarcated between male and female," she told AFP. "Taking care of the children, that's the women's responsibility. Statecraft and all that is (a) male function." The origin of "jingrwai lawbei" isn't known, but locals think it is as old as the village, which has existed for as long as five centuries. — AFP

Handicapped Miss Italy finalist despite insults



A young woman with a prosthetic leg made it to the finals of Miss Italy yesterday, despite a torrent of insults on social media ahead of the competition. Chiara Bordi, 18, who lost her leg in a bike accident when she was 13, was chosen as one of three finalists in the competition that was won by Carlotta Maggiorana. The last few days have been marked by spats between Bordi's detractors and her supporters.

"I'm missing a leg, but you're missing a heart and brain," Bordi, from the central Tarquinia province, wrote on her Facebook page after she was accused of being in the competition "just because you're crippled". "There are all sorts of frustrations and dissatisfactions behind this nastiness," Bordi wrote. "I'm not interested in winning, but showing the world that life is still beautiful (even) when reborn after a dramatic event." — AFP



Phlmsibon Khogjee, 45, on her way to work in a field outside Kongthong village, in East Khasi Hills district in India's eastern Meghalaya state.

'Game of Thrones' takes top prize at surprising Emmys



The cast of Game of Thrones pose with the Emmy for Outstanding Drama Series during the 70th Emmy Awards at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos

HBO's record-breaking fantasy epic "Game of Thrones" stormed back onto the Emmys stage on Monday, winning the coveted best drama series prize on a night full

of surprises, including an on-air marriage proposal that stunned the audience. The other big story of the Hollywood gala, television's answer to the Oscars, was the huge success of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," Amazon's story of a 1950s housewife-turned-stand-up comic, which took home eight Emmys overall, including the best comedy award. "The Handmaid's Tale"—last year's best drama and an early favorite for more hardware in 2018—went home empty-handed from the star-studded event at the Microsoft Theater, after winning three minor awards handed out a week ago.

The ceremony hosted by "Saturday Night Live" regulars Colin Hanks and Michael Che took on a decidedly political hue at the start, with a barrage of edgy jokes on hot-button issues from diversity in Hollywood to #MeToo and Donald Trump. The gala also saw several sentimental favorites take home their first Emmys. Matthew Rhys won for best drama actor for spy thriller "The Americans." Claire Foy was named best drama actress for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in "The Crown" and Henry Winkler triumphed for supporting comedy acting on "Barry."

But the coveted drama prize went to "Game of Thrones," which was ineligible for last year's Emmys, and series star Peter Dinklage took home the best supporting actor prize for his

portrayal of Tyrion Lannister. "Writing for these actors behind us is the honor of a lifetime," said the show's co-creator David Benioff. "But we didn't invent these characters. That was George R.R. Martin. The show could not be without the mad genius of George." "GoT" won nine Emmys this year, meaning the blood-spattered cinematic tale of noble families vying for the Iron Throne—which returns in 2019 for an abbreviated eighth and final season—now has 47 awards overall. That breaks the program's own record as the most decorated fictional show since the Television Academy first handed out prizes in 1949.

'Mrs Maisel' breaks through

In the comedy categories, "Mrs Maisel" bested all comers in its first year of eligibility, sweeping the female acting prizes (star Rachel Brosnahan and co-star Alex Borstein) and best series honors. Earlier this year, "Maisel" won two Golden Globes. "One of the things I love the most about this show... it's about a woman who is finding her voice anew," Brosnahan said. "It's something that's happening all over the country right now. One of the most important ways that we can find and use our voices is to vote. So if you haven't already registered, do it on your cell phone right now." HBO dark come-

dy "Barry" notched two acting wins—for Winkler and series star Bill Hader.

Politics and #MeToo

The Emmys opened with a daring song-and-dance number poking fun at myriad controversies including the problem of ensuring diversity in Hollywood productions. "We solved it!" crooned "SNL" nominees Kate McKinnon and Kenan Thompson, with back-up from pop stars John Legend and Ricky Martin—and even RuPaul. They then yielded the stage to Jost and Che—who let the zingers fly. "This year, the audience is allowed to drink in their seats. Hope you're excited about that—because the one thing Hollywood needs right now is a bunch of people losing their inhibitions at a work function," Jost said, in a reference to #MeToo.

An Emmy-winning proposal

Looking to boost audience ratings, Emmys organizers said they were hoping to shake up the broadcast—and indeed they did, intentionally and unintentionally. A surprise marriage proposal from Emmy-winning director Glenn Weiss won over the audience—and the internet. As Weiss accepted his award for directing the Oscars, he asked Jan Svendsen, who was sitting in the audience, to marry him. "You wonder why

I don't like to call you my girlfriend? Because I want to call you my wife," he added to cheers, applause and a few teary-eyed actors in the audience.

Svendsen then joined Weiss on stage as the director got on one knee and formally proposed. The moment was especially poignant as Weiss revealed his mother had recently passed away—and offered Svendsen the ring his father had given his mom.

Drama showdown

Other big winners included FX's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace," which won Emmys for best limited series and an acting prize for Darren Criss, who earned rave reviews for his dark turn as the designer's killer Andrew Cunanan. Thandie Newton won the best supporting actress in a drama statuette for her work on HBO's futuristic western "Westworld." "I don't even believe in God but I'm going to thank her tonight," Newton quipped. "Saturday Night Live" won the award for best variety sketch series.

In the emerging battle of traditional networks vs new platforms, streaming giant Netflix and HBO ended in a dead heat at the top—at 23 Emmys each. Stay tuned for the next episode in that duel... at next year's Emmys. — AFP



Thandie Newton accepts the Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series award for 'Westworld' onstage.



Rachel Brosnahan accepts the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series award for 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel' onstage.



Amy Sherman-Palladino accepts the Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series award and the Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series award for 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel' onstage.



Matthew Rhys accepts the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series award for 'The Americans' onstage.



Lead actress in a drama series winner Claire Foy poses with her Emmy.



Bill Hader accepts the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series award for 'Barry' onstage.



Outstanding Reality-Competition Program winners Carson Kressley, Michelle Visage, RuPaul, and Ross Mathews pose in the press room.



Joel Fields (left) and Joe Weisberg pose with the Emmy for Outstanding writing for a drama series.



RuPaul (left) and Leslie Jones speak onstage.



Writer-producer D.B. Weiss (center left) and the cast of 'Game of Thrones' accept the award Outstanding Drama series onstage during the 70th Emmy Awards at the Microsoft Theatre.



The cast of "Game of Thrones" celebrates the award Outstanding Drama series onstage.

Emmy winners in key categories

OUTSTANDING DRAMA SERIES: "Game of Thrones"
OUTSTANDING COMEDY SERIES: "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel"
BEST LEAD ACTOR, DRAMA: Matthew Rhys, "The Americans"
BEST LEAD ACTRESS, DRAMA: Claire Foy, "The Crown"
BEST LEAD ACTOR, COMEDY: Bill Hader, "Barry"
BEST LEAD ACTRESS, COMEDY: Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel"
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR, DRAMA: Peter Dinklage, "Game of Thrones"
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS, DRAMA: Thandie Newton, "Westworld"
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR, COMEDY: Henry Winkler, "Barry"
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS, COMEDY: Alex Borstein, "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel"
OUTSTANDING LIMITED SERIES: "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"
BEST LEAD ACTOR, LIMITED SERIES OR MOVIE: Darren Criss, "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"
BEST LEAD ACTRESS, LIMITED SERIES OR MOVIE: Regina King, "Seven Seconds"
BEST VARIETY SKETCH SHOW: "Saturday Night Live". — AFP



Amy Sherman-Palladino (front center left) and Daniel Palladino (front center right) and cast and crew accept the Outstanding Comedy Series award for 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel' onstage.



(From left) Betty White, Kate McKinnon, and Alec Baldwin speak onstage.



Glenn Weiss (left), winner of the Outstanding Directing for a Variety Special award for 'The Oscars,' proposes marriage to Jan Svendsen onstage.



(From left) Ben Stiller, Patricia Arquette, and Benicio del Toro speak onstage during the 70th Emmy Awards.



Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited Series or Movie Regina King poses in the press room.



Supporting actor in a drama series winner Peter Dinklage poses with his Emmy.



James Corden speaks onstage.



Carson Kressley poses with the Emmy for outstanding reality show.



Supporting actor in a comedy series winner Henry Winkler onstage.



Alex Borstein accepts the Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series award for 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel' onstage.



Ryan Murphy accepts the Outstanding Directing for a Limited Series, Movie, or Dramatic Special award for 'The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story' onstage.



Larry Karaszewski poses with his award on arrival for the 'Fox, FX, National Geographic and Twentieth Century Fox TV Emmy Party'.



Darren Criss accepts the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie award for 'The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story' onstage.



Lead actor in a limited series or movie winner Darren Criss pose with the cast of "The Assassination of Gianni Versace".



Sterling K. Brown, Kristen Bell, Tituss Burgess, Kate McKinnon, Kenan Thompson, RuPaul and John Legend onstage.

Emmys fashion: White-hot, glamorous and political



Scarlett Johansson attends the 70th Emmy Awards at Microsoft Theater. — AFP photos



Kristen Bell



Issa Rae



Joey King

Under a bright California sun, Tinseltown's A-listers sparked on the Emmys red carpet on Monday in sultry satin dresses, eye-catching beaded gowns—and even a few pairs of sneakers—as they gathered to honor the best in television.

From white-hot frocks to sexy pantsuits to sartorial statements that are political too, the following is a look at the styles and trends making waves at the Microsoft Theater in downtown Los Angeles:

White Hot

Once upon a time, US fashion mavens said wearing white after Labor Day in early September was a definite no-no. But on a summery afternoon in the City of Angels, with the mercury hitting 83 degrees Fahrenheit (28 Celsius), white gowns were white-hot. Actress Scarlett Johansson, the girlfriend of Emmys host Colin Jost, wore a sizzling, sculptural strapless gown with a plunging V neckline and a daring slit.

Kristen Bell, star of NBC's nominated comedy "The Good Place," looked elegant in a long-sleeve form-fitting white column dress, her hair pulled back in a classic bun. For the guys, "This Is Us" star Milo Ventimiglia—minus the mustache his character Jack Pearson is known for—and "Atlanta" star Lakeith Stanfield went with old-school white dinner jackets. And RuPaul—already a winner for best reality show host for "RuPaul's Drag Race"—rocked a killer double-breasted Calvin Klein white suit with the Statue of Liberty emblazoned in a black pattern on the jacket.

Women wear the trousers

During the last awards season, "Westworld" star Evan Rachel Wood wore trouser suits to every event to make a statement. At the Emmys, the women of Hollywood followed her example. Issa Rae, the creator and star of HBO comedy "Insecure," looked regal in a crystal-beaded gauzy pale blue Vera Wang gown, which opened to reveal pants underneath.

Tatiana Maslany, who is nominated for lead actress in a drama for "Black Orphan," wore a daring Christian Siriano ensemble, with a chartreuse one-shoulder top and black pants. And "Saturday Night Live" star Leslie Jones—hoping to win her first Emmy—slayed in an iridescent pink and blue suit, also from Siriano.

The future's so bright...

In Los Angeles, sunglasses are de rigueur, so it's no surprise they were the must-have red carpet accessory.



Brian Tyree Henry

"This Is Us" star Sterling K Brown, a favorite to take home the Emmy for best lead actor in a drama, was the epitome of cool in a traditional Dolce and Gabbana tuxedo and dark sunglasses. Brian Tyree Henry, a nominee for best supporting actor in a comedy for "Atlanta," paired mirrored blue round glasses with his snappy orange chevron-patterned jacket.

Making a (political) statement

Hollywood red carpets have been criticized in recent years for turning into vapid affairs, especially in the wake of the Time's Up and #MeToo movements. At the Emmys, the stars were asked deeper questions—but some didn't need to be asked. Veteran actress Jenifer Lewis, who stars on ABC's nominated comedy "black-ish," let the clothes do the talking. She wore a custom Nike sweater and leggings in support of former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

"I am wearing Nike to applaud them for supporting Colin Kaepernick and his protest against racial injustice and police brutality," she told Hollywood news outlet Variety. Kaepernick, who was effectively blacklisted by the National Football League after kneeling during the US national anthem in 2016 in solidarity with the "Black Lives Matter" movement, is featured in Nike's latest ad campaign. — AFP



Tatiana Maslany



Evan Rachel Wood



Jenifer Lewis



Angela Sarafyan



Milo Ventimiglia



Lakeith Stanfield



RuPaul Charles

News in brief

19 killed as bus, tanker collide

TEHRAN: At least 19 people were killed when a bus and a fuel tanker collided in central Iran, state television reported yesterday. The collision, which occurred around 11:15 pm on Monday, triggered a fireball that engulfed both the truck and the bus on the motorway between Kashan and Natanz, more than 200 km south of the capital Tehran. "Based on preliminary investigations, the tanker swerved to the side, hitting the bus and causing an explosion and fire which killed 19 of the passengers at the scene," traffic police commander General Mohammad-Hossein Hamidi said. State television aired footage of firefighters battling the blaze as emergency crews rushed to take the wounded to nearby hospitals. President Hassan Rouhani said more needed to be done by the authorities to prevent road deaths. — AFP

Alcohol poisoning kills 15

KUALA LUMPUR: Fifteen men, most believed to be foreign workers, have died in Malaysia and 33 more are in hospital with suspected poisoning after consuming alcoholic drinks, police said yesterday. The victims drank two types of whisky and one type of beer at several locations in Selangor state next to the capital Kuala Lumpur, said local police chief Mazlan Mansor. The first victim was a factory worker who died on Monday evening while the latest passed away yesterday afternoon, the official news agency Bernama reported. The first seven to die were one Malaysian, four Nepalis, one Indian and one Bangladeshi, Mazlan said. He did not disclose the identities of all the other victims but added most were believed to be foreign workers. — AFP

Palestinian dies during arrest

RAMALLAH: A Palestinian died after being arrested during a raid in the occupied West Bank overnight, the Israeli army said yesterday, with his family accusing soldiers of beating him. The army confirmed the death of Mohammed Khatib, 24, in custody but said he had not resisted arrest. Khatib's brother Bashir told AFP by phone that the army had raided the house in the early hours of yesterday morning. "They entered Mohammed's room while he was sleeping, and they beat him violently and we heard screaming," he said. "After a while he went silent, and a soldier carried him out on his back." In a statement, the family called for international witnesses to attend the post-mortem if Israeli authorities insisted on carrying one out. The Palestinian Prisoners Club said it held Israel responsible for Khatib's death. — AFP



Dutch King Willem-Alexander (center right) and Queen Maxima (center) arrive at the Ridderzaal in The Hague yesterday. Prince's Day is the traditional opening of the Dutch parliamentary year, when the King delivers the 'Speech from the Throne' in the Ridderzaal (Knights' Hall). — AFP

Venezuelans fume as Maduro filmed eating meat in Turkey

CARACAS: Impoverished Venezuelans have reacted with fury after videos of President Nicolas Maduro gorging on succulent pieces of meat in a restaurant owned by a celebrity Turkish chef went viral. "This is once in a lifetime," enthuses Maduro with his wife Cilia Flores as Nusret Gokce, a social media star chef who goes by the name Salt Bae, performs his signature theatrical preparation of slices of meat at one of his restaurants in Istanbul.

Back home, Venezuelans face food shortages while a group of the country's top universities conducted a study that found 87 percent of the population were living in poverty in 2017 and 60 percent of people had lost an average of 11 kg due to a diet that was lacking in protein, one of the primary nutrients contained in meat. "Chavismo is asking China to borrow money because you can't pay your debts and then going to luxury restaurants," wrote social media expert Luis Carlos Diaz on Twitter in a broadside at Maduro's leftwing populist politics adopted from late predecessor Hugo Chavez.

A main course in Gokce's restaurant costs between \$70 and \$250 - equivalent to between two and eight months salary in Venezuela on the minimum wage. Celebrities including Portuguese football icon Cristiano Ronaldo and Hollywood star Leonardo Di Caprio have eaten at Gokce's restaurant. "We shared a meal in a famous restaurant. I send a greeting from here to Nusret, who looked after us personally. We chatted, enjoyed our time with him ... He loves Venezuela," said Maduro on a television and radio broadcast in Venezuela after returning to Caracas on Monday following a trip to China, which included a stopover in Istanbul where he was invited to dine with Turkish authorities.

On Saturday, Maduro had announced the trip to China was fruitful as he had secured commitments from Beijing to help fund the oil industry that Venezuela is almost entirely reliant upon. Gokce had published videos of Maduro's visit on his social media accounts thanking Maduro but soon deleted them from Instagram after he was inundated with thousands of angry messages. In one of the videos, Maduro is seen sucking on a thick cigar taken from a box bearing his name engraved on a golden label, while receiving a T-shirt emblazoned with Gokce's face.

During the visit, former bus driver Maduro, who likes to style himself as the "worker president", was surrounded by armed Turkish guards. "Eating meat and smoking cigars... with the dollars that he refuses to use to buy medicines and



CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro speaks during a press conference with international media correspondents following his recent trip to China at the Miraflores Presidential Palace yesterday. — AFP

food: WORKER PRESIDENT," said former government loyalist Nicmer Evans, now a leader of the opposition Frente Amplio. Venezuela is struggling with an economic crisis in which the International Monetary Fund predicts inflation will hit one million percent this year. Four years of recession has seen 1.6 million people flee Venezuela since 2015, according to the United Nations, creating a migration crisis in neighboring and nearby countries. — AFP

Thriving trade in pirated reads...

Continued from Page 1

Mohamed, who works in a small bookshop in Rabat, said the street trade "directly impacts our sales" in a struggling industry. Additionally, he said the copies are "bad quality and take away all the prestige of a book". Retnani said there are around 100 bookshops in the country, while Moroccan media put the figure at 250. In July, the Moroccan Press Agency's Bab magazine warned "pirating suffocates bookshops" and hits profits.

Hassan El-Ouazzani, head of books, libraries and archives at the culture ministry, agreed the black market harms an already weakened sector. Fewer than 3,000 books are published each year in the country, with an average print run of 1,000 copies. But Ouazzani suggested the illegal sales "could encourage reading" among Morocco's 35 million citizens. Although an increasing number of Moroccans are learning to read, figures from 2014 showed a third of the population was illiterate.

Syria downs Russian military plane...

Continued from Page 1

The plane, downed by Syria's Russian-made S-200 air defense system, had a crew of 15 who were all killed, Moscow said. The Russian military accused Israeli pilots of using "the Russian plane as a cover, exposing it to fire from Syrian air defenses". Israel denied the accusations, saying its jets were already back in Israeli airspace when Syrian forces launched the missiles that hit the Russian plane. Russia stressed the incident would have no impact on the fledgling Idlib deal, but warned Israel of reprisals and summoned its envoy in Moscow.

After the incident, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, that Moscow held Israel wholly responsible, Russian news agencies reported. However, Putin rejected any comparison with Turkey's downing of a Russian jet in 2015. "It rather looks like a chain of tragic accidental circumstances," he told reporters. "An Israeli jet did not shoot down our plane." US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said also expressed "sorrow" over the Russian deaths, and said it showed "the danger of tragic miscalculation in Syria's crowded theatre of operations."

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said some missiles, suspected to be Israeli, did get through the Syrian defenses and struck ammunition depots at the site of the technical industries institute. Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Britain-based monitoring group, said at least two fighters were killed and 10 wounded in the strike. Israel has conducted frequent raids in recent months against Syria's military infrastructure, including against bases it believes host Iranian combatants. Earlier

For the Moroccan Association of Book Professionals, cracking down on the illegal trade is essential for the survival of their industry. Retnani called for greater controls at Moroccan ports, a request he plans to put to authorities later this month. "The majority of pirated books are printed in Egypt and transported by sea to be stored... in illegal depots," he said. But in a 2017 investigation, journalist Kenza Sefrioui interviewed a second-hand bookseller who said the black market trade began in 2005 in Casablanca. A number of small-scale printers reproduced up to 20,000 copies of a Moroccan novel which featured in the school curriculum, before turning their attention to other works.

Cracking down on the street vendors would also boost state coffers, as the informal sector overall cost the state 34 billion dirhams (\$3.6 billion) in 2014 lost tax revenues, according to the General Confederation of Moroccan Businesses. Street vendor Khalid said he knew of four traders who were recently arrested, in an operation which has not been confirmed by Moroccan authorities. They "earned a lot of money" importing pirated books, Khalid said, but their detention has by no means put an end to the trade in cheap literary works on Rabat's streets. — AFP

In September, Israel admitted carrying out 200 strikes in Syria over the past 18 months.

The Syrian blunder came hot on the heels of a major deal announced by Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan after talks in the Russian resort town of Sochi. The two key actors agreed to create a demilitarized zone, 15-20 km wide, along the line of contact between rebels and regime troops in the Idlib region. That would be implemented by Oct 15 and would entail a withdrawal of all jihadist fighters from the area. 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, transport routes between the key port of Latakia and Aleppo as well as Latakia and the major city of Hama must be restored, he added.

Iran, the third member of the so-called Astana process aimed at ending Syria's seven-year war, praised the deal as an example of "responsible diplomacy". United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the accord should avert an all-out military assault on the rebel stronghold and "provide reprieve for millions of civilians". The European Union said it expected it to protect "civilian lives and infrastructure as well as guarantee unhindered and sustainable humanitarian access".

Damascus, which has regained swathes of territory thanks to deadly Russian-backed offensives in recent months, welcomed the Sochi agreement. But the deal was met with distrust by some of the three million Syrians living in the Idlib region. "The decision that came out was just a partial one. It doesn't solve the Syrian people's problem," said Wassim Sweid, one of hundreds of protesters who gathered in the rebel-held town of Binnish. "In my opinion, this agreement will not put a stop to the shelling." The UN had warned a fully-fledged ground assault could spark the worst humanitarian catastrophe yet in a conflict that has killed more than 360,000 people. — Agencies

Korean leaders hold summit...

Continued from Page 1

"I am acutely aware of the weight that we bear," Moon told Kim as they opened two hours of formal talks at the headquarters of the ruling Workers' Party, adding that he felt a "heavy responsibility". At a banquet after the first day of the summit, Moon said the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishment of peace" were priorities. The South Korean leader said there would be challenges ahead but that he and Kim had "trust and friendship". Kim hailed his relationship with Moon, and said the pair would discuss "various issues ... in a frank and open-minded manner".

The North Korean leader declared his backing for the denuclearization of the peninsula at his Singapore summit with US President Donald Trump in June. But no details were agreed and Washington and Pyongyang have since sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved. The US is pressing for the North's "final, fully verified denuclearization", while Pyongyang wants a formal declaration that the 1950-53 Korean War is over and has condemned "gangster-like" demands for it to give up its weapons unilaterally.

A commentary in the Rodong Sinmun, the mouthpiece of the North's ruling party, repeated the criticism yesterday, saying Washington was "totally to blame" for the deadlock. "The US is stubbornly insisting on the theory of 'dismantlement of nukes first'," it added. Moon will hold another round of formal talks with Kim today, as he urges the North Korean leader to make substantive steps towards disarmament that he can present to Trump. Moon is due to meet Trump later this month on the sidelines of the UN

China son jailed for neglecting...

Continued from Page 1

But it was too late for Zhang who "died a lonely death at home", the court wrote. He was 80.

"This case has created a severely vile effect on society," the court wrote, adding that caring for parents is a "beautiful ethical tradition of the Chinese people". A 2013 law requires offspring to visit and provide for parents over

Backlash after street named...

Continued from Page 1

Backers of Hezbollah were posting on Twitter in support of the Ghoheiry municipality, with the Arabic hashtag "Badreddine, even your name terrorizes them".

General Assembly in New York. "I wish this will be a summit that produces abundant results as a gift to the 80 million people of this nation for Chuseok," Moon said, referring to Monday's traditional holiday. The dovish South Korean president is looking to tie the inter-Korean process and the US-Northern talks closer together to reduce the threat of a devastating conflict on the peninsula. At the same time Kim will look to secure closer inter-Korean cooperation as Seoul and Washington move at increasingly different speeds in their approaches to Pyongyang. Analysts played down expectations. The meeting "will probably generate rosy headlines but do little to accelerate efforts to denuclearize North Korea", Eurasia Group said in a note. Kim would focus on "areas that promise economic benefits for the North", it added. "Progressives inside and outside Moon's government will have strong incentives to inflate the summit's accomplishments, initially obscuring what will likely be a lack of major deliverables."

There have been many previous rounds of negotiations with the North, but deals have subsequently fallen apart - today will mark 13 years to the day since Pyongyang agreed to abandon all of its nuclear weapons and return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It has since carried out six nuclear tests and launched intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching anywhere on the US mainland. Moon's own parents fled the North during the Korean War that left the peninsula divided and technically in a state of conflict.

His three-day visit is the first by a South Korean president to Pyongyang in a decade. It is also the two leaders' third meeting this year. Moon - whose poll ratings have fallen in the face of economic difficulties - was accompanied by business tycoons including Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong and the vice chairman of Hyundai Motor. Moon has been pushing inter-Korean engagement, which is complicated by international sanctions against the North. South Korean media have urged caution, calling for substantial progress towards denuclearization first. — AFP

60. It provoked considerable controversy when it was passed but has rarely been applied. However, that could be changing - the Zhang case was at least the third time this year a son or daughter has been punished.

In March, a man received two months in detention after he failed to pay 60 yuan (\$9) a month to his ageing parents. And earlier this month, a woman was jailed for 15 days after refusing to pay her mother 100 yuan a month. On Chinese social media, some commentators fretted about the case's implications, while others felt that the perpetrators got off too easily. "The judgment was too light," said one commenter on the Twitter-like Weibo platform, but at least it will "put those un-filial children without a moral bottom line on their guard!" — AFP

Opponents said the move was a "provocation", 13 years after Hariri's assassination. "This is just throwing salt on the wound," one user said. Saad Hariri was reappointed prime minister in May for a third term, but has failed so far to pull together a cabinet of ministers. Despite prosecutors pointing the finger at Hezbollah for his father's killing, Hariri has repeatedly insisted that Lebanon's interest lies in consensus, not conflict. Hezbollah has denied involvement in Rafiq's assassination and has slammed the Special Tribunal for Lebanon as illegitimate. — AFP

Sports

Yelich becomes 5th to hit for two cycles in season

Hendricks mows down D-backs as Cubs maintain lead

MILWAUKEE: Christian Yelich became the fifth major-leaguer to hit for the cycle twice in the same season, leading the Milwaukee Brewers to an 8-0 victory over the visiting Cincinnati Reds on Monday night. Wade Miley (5-2) lowered his ERA to 2.08 with five shutout innings for the Brewers, who remained 2 1/2 games behind the first-place Chicago Cubs in the National League Central. Yelich hit for the cycle on Aug. 29 during a 6-for-6 performance, also against the Reds. He singled in the first inning Monday, doubled in the third, hit a two-run home run in the fifth and lashed a two-run triple in the sixth, completing the cycle in just four plate appearances. The last major-leaguer to have two cycles in the same season was Aaron Hill of the Diamondbacks in 2012. The only others to have a pair of cycles in the same year were John Reilly (1883 Reds), Tip O'Neill (1887 St. Louis Brown Stockings) and Babe Herman (1931 Brooklyn Robins) — but no one did it twice against the same team in a season before Monday.

Dodgers 8, Rockies 2

Joc Pederson hit two home runs and Max Muncy added a homer as Los Angeles moved back into first place in the National League West with a victory over visiting Colorado. Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched seven scoreless innings as the Dodgers and Rockies traded places in the NL West standings for a third consecutive day. The Dodgers moved into first place Saturday, the Rockies regained the lead Sunday and the Dodgers moved back on top after the first game of this three-game series. Rockies shortstop Trevor Story left in the fourth inning after a swing-and-miss against Ryu. The Rockies announced after the game that Story left because of right elbow soreness and will be re-evaluated Tuesday.

Cubs 5, Diamondbacks 1

Javier Baez and Kris Bryant hit two-run homers, and Kyle Hendricks finished one out short of his fourth career complete game as Chicago posted a victory over Arizona in Phoenix. Baez's homer, capping a three-run sixth inning for a 3-0 lead, was his 32nd of the season and gave him an NL-leading 105 RBIs. Bryant put the game out of reach with a two-run, opposite-field homer into the pool area in the eighth inning. Hendricks (12-11) fell short of his third career shutout when A.J. Pollock homered to lead off the ninth inning. Hendricks gave up one run on three hits with eight strikeouts and one walk. He has a 1.76 ERA in 13 September starts the past three seasons.

Cardinals 11, Braves 6

Kolten Wong had three hits, including one of the team's four homers, to help St. Louis earn a win at Atlanta. Wong had a single, a double, his ninth homer

and three RBIs. Paul DeJong, Harrison Bader and Yadier Molina also hit homers for the Cardinals. Miles Mikolas (16-4) got the victory after allowing two runs on four hits in five innings. He struck out six and won his third straight decision. In three starts in September, Mikolas is 3-0 with a 3.38 ERA.

Mariners 4, Astros 1

Daniel Vogelbach clubbed a pinch-hit grand slam in the eighth inning, and Seattle extended its winning streak at Minute Maid Park to five games with a victory over host Houston. Astros reliever Hector Rondon (2-5) recorded the first two outs in the eighth courtesy of two splendid diving catches from center fielder Jake Marisnick. But after getting ahead in the count 1-2 against Denard Span, Rondon fired three successive fastballs out of the zone to load the bases. Vogelbach then got a 1-1 fastball at the top of the strike zone and crushed it 398 feet into the home bullpen in right-center field.

Mets 9, Phillies 4

Michael Conforto homered, collected three hits and drove in a career-high six runs to lift New York past host Philadelphia. Jeff McNeil also added three hits for the Mets, who had 14 hits overall, with 10 players managing at least one hit. New York starter Zack Wheeler gave up three hits and four runs in seven innings. He walked three and struck out four. Wheeler (12-7) last allowed as many as four runs on July 14, ending a string of 10 starts.

Rays 3, Rangers 0

Tyler Glasnow pitched six shutout innings, and Ji-Man Choi homered and drove in two runs as Tampa Bay earned a victory in Arlington, Texas. The Rays won for the 12th time in 15 games and reached a season-best 17 games over .500, but it appears to be a little too late. With 11 games remaining, they trail the Oakland A's-lead on Monday-by 6 1/2 games for the American League's second wild-card spot. Glasnow (1-4) limited the Rangers to just two infield hits, striking out six and walking two over six innings. The right-hander picked up his first win with the Rays since being acquired from the Pittsburgh Pirates for Chris Archer in a four-player deal on July 31. He is 2-6 overall this season.

Marlins 8, Nationals 5

Lewis Brinson hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning, leading host Miami past Washington. Starlin Castro belted a two-run double and a solo homer for the Marlins, who battled back from a 4-0 deficit. The Nationals, who have won seven out of their past 10 games in a long-shot effort to make the playoffs, were led by Victor Robles (2-for-4 with his first major league



MILWAUKEE: Curt Casali #38 of the Cincinnati Reds hits a single in the fourth inning against the Milwaukee Brewers at Miller Park on Monday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

homer) and Anthony Rendon (3-for-4 with two RBIs and a homer).

Twins 6, Tigers 1

Kohl Stewart didn't give up an earned run in six innings of relief, and Minnesota took command with a four-run fourth and downed host Detroit. Gabriel Moya started for the Twins and pitched a scoreless inning. Stewart (2-1) then entered and allowed only an unearned run on three hits and three walks while striking out five. Minnesota's Eddie Rosario homered before leaving the game with a right quad injury. Jorge Polanco supplied two hits, including a solo homer.

Giants 4, Padres 2

Brandon Crawford and Evan Longoria homered, and Andrew Suarez allowed two runs on four hits over 7 2/3 innings as San Francisco opened a three-game series in San Diego with a win. Despite the victory in which the Giants scored four runs in a game for the first time in 12 games dating to Sept. 3 — San Francisco was officially eliminated in the NL West. Suarez (7-11) threw only 87 pitches and finished with three walks and four strikeouts. Will Smith pitched a

perfect ninth inning for his 13th save.

Pirates 7, Royals 6

Jacob Stallings hit a two-out, walk-off RBI single to give Pittsburgh a win over visiting Kansas City. After the Pirates tied it with two runs in the eighth, Kevin Kramer walked with two outs in the ninth and Kevin Newman singled to left against right-hander Ben Lively (0-3). Stallings flared a single to left, his third hit, to drive in Kramer. Stallings was playing because No. 1 catcher Francisco Cervelli was a late scratch due to an illness. Adam Frazier drove in two with a double for Pittsburgh.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 0

Ryan Borucki struck out seven in eight shutout innings, and Danny Jansen, Kevin Pillar and Aledmys Diaz homered as Toronto won at Baltimore. Borucki (4-4) held the Orioles to three hits and one walk in matching his career-long start. The Blue Jays won their third in a row in the opener of a three-game series. Toronto leads the season series 13-4 over the Orioles (43-107), who have equaled their club record for most losses in a season. — Reuters

Tiger's Ryder Cup return to cap amazing comeback

WASHINGTON: Playing in the Ryder Cup will be the culmination of an amazing comeback season for Tiger Woods, one the 14-time major champion feared might never happen after back surgery. The 42-year-old American has shown flashes of the form that made him golf's dominant player in younger days in his first campaign after spinal fusion surgery, a last-gasp operation to try and extend his legendary career.

"It was a last-ditch effort," Woods said. "I tried everything else because fusion is the last-ditch effort and nothing beyond that. So didn't know what my playing career would be like. This is all uncharted territory." So far, Woods' performances are steadily improving and the medical charts are showing no back issues after years of nagging problems.

Woods has hit drives longer than his youthful days, led the British Open in the final round in July, finished second in last month's PGA Championship and fired a 62 earlier this month, his lowest US PGA opening round since the 1999 Byron Nelson Classic.

And the former world number one achieved his goal of securing a Ryder Cup captain's pick from Jim Furyk, who pulled him from a planned assistant captain's role after seeing the quality of his game.

"Deep down, I wanted to make the team. I really wanted to play on it," Woods said. "I had not started playing golf really yet, but still, it was a goal at the end of the season to make this team." As the year progressed, I gained some traction and was somehow able to get some high finishes and lo and behold, I'm a part of this team. It's incredible, it really is, to look back at the start of the year and to have accomplished a goal like that. To be a player is just beyond special."

'ONE OF MY BEST YEARS'

Woods still hasn't won a major since the 2008 US Open and hasn't won any event in more than five years, but has rediscovered the joy of playing after fears it might never happen again. "It's about enjoying being back," Woods said. "Enjoying being able to play golf again. Competing at this level. All of these things at the beginning of the year were all unknowns. It has been one of my best years as a whole."

"To have a winless year, but to go through what I've gone through—I didn't know if I was ever going to play again, I was just hoping to be able to play with my kids and golf with my buddies at home—this has been a blessing."

"It has been so special to have this opportunity again. I'm certainly not taking it for granted, that's for sure." Woods went into spinal fusion fearing his chronic back pain might linger for life. —AFP

Lexus shines at 2018 AUTOBACS SUPER GT500 Series with a one-two finish in Round 5

FUJI: Lexus has taken its remarkable performance in the 2018 AUTOBACS SUPER GT500 Series to a new level, with Kazuki Nakajima and Yuhi Sekiguchi clinching victory at the wheel of the No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S in the fifth round of the season. Held recently at Fuji Speedway in Shizuoka Prefecture, the closely fought 500-mile contest also saw the No. 1 LC 500 KeePer TOM'S speed to a podium finish, as Ryo Hirakawa and Nick Cassidy emerged as the second fastest team in the GT500 class race.

Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative of Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "It gives me great pleasure to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Lexus teams on their outstanding victory in the drama-filled Fuji 500-mile race. While participating in motorsports, we focus on testing our cars under extreme conditions on racetracks and bringing the best of Lexus' amazing engineering and design to stimulate our customers' emotions. On behalf of everyone at Lexus, I thank our loyal fans for their continuous support and for inspiring us to create amazing experiences."

In the early stages of the race, the No. 23 and No. 24 competitor vehicles led the rally, followed by the No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S, driven by Yuhi Sekiguchi in third place. It looked as if gaps between these three were growing, but on the 23rd lap, the No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S moved up from third into second position. Then, as it began closing in on the leader in front, the No. 23 competitor vehicle opted to make its first pit stop on lap 31. This marked the beginning of the first round of pit stops by the other teams as well.

This left the No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S running as the tentative leader until it made its pit stop and returned onto the track in fourth position. The No. 23 competitor vehicle kept this lead until the middle stages of the race when it lost first place to the No. 12 competitor vehicle. After taking the lead on the 55th lap of the race, the No. 12 competitor vehicle continued to hold that position. With Kazuki Nakajima at the wheel, the No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S continued to pursue the top spot until the vehicle made its second pit stop on the 73rd lap.

The No. 12 competitor vehicle remained in the lead, followed by competitor vehicle No. 23 and No. 1 LC 500 KeePer TOM'S, piloted by Nick Cassidy, and the No. 24 competitor vehicle in fourth position. The No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S, with Yuhi Sekiguchi back in the driver's seat, was pushing hard to make up the ground lost due to extended pit time. And by the 79th lap, it had caught up and passed the No. 1 LC 500 KeePer



TOM'S to move into third place once again.

As the race passed the midway point, the No. 12 competitor vehicle continued to hold the lead. Behind it, the No. 23 competitor vehicle and No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S, driven by Yuhi Sekiguchi, kept in pursuit. After a successful third pit stop, the No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S, with Kazuki Nakajima at the wheel, managed to move up to second position, with the No. 12 competitor vehicle still in the lead.

On the 125th lap of the race, however, the No. 1 LC 500 KeePer TOM'S passed the No. 23 competitor vehicle. Then, on the 148th lap, the No. 12 competitor vehi-

cle suddenly began to slow down and had to repair a mechanical issue that required a 3-minute pit stop. With this, the No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S, driven by Yuhi Sekiguchi, took over the lead, with No. 1 LC 500 KeePer TOM'S, with Nick Cassidy in the driver's seat, in second place, to secure a one-two finish for the Lexus teams.

With these results, No. 1 LC 500 KeePer TOM'S, co-piloted by Ryo Hirakawa and Nick Cassidy, moves up to first place in the ranking with 47 points, with the No. 36 LC 500 auTOM'S Yuhi Sekiguchi in second place.

Sports

Captains Sarfraz, Rohit promise blockbuster India-Pakistan clash

Teams facing each other for the first time in UAE since 2006

ABU DHABI: Rival captains Sarfraz Ahmed and Rohit Sharma played down the hype surrounding the much-awaited India-Pakistan clash in Dubai today, insisting that the Asia Cup is much more than a contest between the arch-rivals. But despite their claims, millions of fans across the border and elsewhere in the world will be watching the Group A clash, with a sold out 25,000-crowd expected at Dubai Stadium. The game is the first between the sub-continent rivals since Pakistan thumped India by 180 runs in the final of the Champions Trophy at The Oval in June last year.

The two teams are facing each other for the first time in the United Arab Emirates since 2006, the last of their regular matches which were also held in Sharjah between 1984-2000. Sarfraz, who led Pakistan in that memorable Champions Trophy triumph, denied that his team will have a psychological advantage.

"We will not take that Champions Trophy win in our minds," said Sarfraz on Monday, a day after his team thumped qualifiers Hong Kong in their first match of the tournament. "That was a different atmosphere (in London) and conditions. It was a year ago so that's history so we will enter the ground with a new strategy and passion." India will also meet Hong Kong in Dubai on Tuesday to tune up for the big match.

INDIA WITHOUT KOHLI

India's regular captain and world-class batsman Virat Kohli has been rested for the competition to help his aching back after a gruelling tour of England. But Sarfraz refused to accept Kohli's absence will make much difference. "No doubt he (Kohli) is their captain

and a world-class batsman but I think they (India) have a good team even without Kohli. "They have good players who have done well for India. So I don't think it will make much difference to India. Their batting is very strong so I can say that it will be a good match."

Sarfraz has told his players just to enjoy the occasion. "My message to the players is not to bother about the result and do (their) best and when you do that you get a positive result in all matches because there are five other teams as well," he said.

Five-time Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are in Group B. India have won the event—which started in 1984 — six times, while Pakistan have been champions twice. Two teams from each group will qualify for the Super Four stage, with the top two to reach the September 28 final. So barring any upsets against Hong Kong, India and Pakistan will also face off again in the Super Four on September 23.

India skipper Sharma said his team will be looking beyond Pakistan. "It's always exciting to play Pakistan, but it's not about one team as well. There are other teams also eyeing the title," said Sharma, who has the rare record of scoring three one-day international double hundreds.

SEARING UAE HEAT

All six teams have to endure extreme hot conditions in the UAE, with the temperature scaling to over 40 degrees Celsius and expected to rise further in the coming days. Sharma said his side will get a chance to assess the conditions in their match against Hong Kong.

"Once we finish the first game we will look at



DUBAI: Pakistan cricket captain Sarfraz Ahmed (R) speaks during an Asia Cup press conference as Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma looks on at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai. —AFP

Pakistan, what their strengths and weaknesses are. Looking at the pitch, I think we have the perfect combination and the guys to do the job." A few players have come from England so it's going to be a challenge for

them. "For the rest of us, we have been here for the last four days so I can probably say we are very much used to the conditions. "It's game time, so we have to focus on the game rather than the conditions." —AFP

Tears, a sword and a mishit: Five great India-Pakistan cricket clashes

NEW DELHI: Sparks generally fly when India take on Pakistan at cricket, and today's Asia Cup clash in Dubai will be an emotionally charged fixture as always. AFP Sport looks at five of the most memorable previous encounters, the first since Pakistan thrashed India by 180 runs in the Champions Trophy final in June 2017.

DARK DAY

On the same day the teams were playing a one-day match at Sialkot in Pakistan on October 31, 1984, the Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two of her bodyguards in New Delhi.

Dilip Vengsarkar and Ravi Shastri were piling on runs for India when the news came. Pakistan's president Zia ul Haq ordered the match stopped, and India's captain Sunil Gavaskar wanted the same.

"Obviously, we weren't in any frame of mind to carry on and, sure enough, the ODI had to be abandoned," Vengsarkar told India's Telegraph later. "Thirty years have gone by, but it's a day one can't forget," he said.

PM'S XI

Imran Khan's best bowling figures of 6-14 were in a one-day international against India March 22, 1985, but for the swashbuckling Pakistan fast bowler it was all in vain. Khan ripped apart the Indian batting line-up at Sharjah in the UAE to send the opposition packing for 125. But Pakistan's own batting imploded, skittled for just 87. Khan—now Pakistani prime minister—was still man of the match, however.

A SWORD FOR A SIX

The match that will always evoke the bitterest memories for India, and the sweetest ones for Pakistan, was on April 18, 1986, again an ODI in Sharjah. With Pakistan needing four off the last ball to win, India's Cheteshwar Sharma ran in and bowled a full toss—which Javed Miandad swatted for six. Miandad, who was presented with a golden sword, became a national hero, while Sharma faced barbs and insults on his return home.

TENDULKAR'S TEARS

A century from Sachin Tendulkar, India's most celebrated batsman, was usually a recipe for success in the 1990s and 2000s but not in the 1999 Test match against Pakistan in Chennai. Chasing 271 for victory, Tendulkar brought India close with a sparkling 136, but Pakistani off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq got him out and India eventually lost by 12 runs. A sporting Indian home crowd gave the Wasim Akram-led side a standing ovation, but Tendulkar was heartbroken.

Weeping in the dressing room, according to then-coach Anshuman Gaekwad, the "little master" refused to come out of the dressing room to receive his man of the match award.

MISBAH'S MISHIT

An India-Pakistan final in the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup and a sell-out crowd in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2007 was a perfect setting for cricket's newest format. Pakistan's Misbah ul Haq was on the cusp of taking his team to a memorable win with his gritty batting in a chase of 158. But then came a moment of madness as Haq tried to play an audacious paddle shot to seal victory against paceman Joginder Sharma in the final over. The ball went high into the waiting hands of Shanthakumaran Sreesanth. Mahendra Singh Dhoni's India celebrated like never before as Haq missed a chance of a lifetime. — AFP



ABU DHABI: Afghan cricketer Rashid Khan celebrates with teammates after he dismissed Sri Lankan batsman Shehan Jayasuriya during the one day international (ODI) Asia Cup cricket match between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi. — AFP

Sri Lanka slammed after cricket exit

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan newspapers and fans lambasted the national cricket team yesterday after the former champions were dumped out of the Asia Cup by up-and-coming Afghanistan. "The flop of Asia," ran the private Daily Mirror's headline, while the state-run Daily News said one-day cricket had hit a "nadir".

The Island daily lamented the "sad night for Sri Lankan cricket". Afghanistan demonstrated their rise in international cricket with their 91-run win over Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi on Monday. Sri Lanka needed to win the Group B match to stay in the tournament but were outwitted by Afghanistan who put up a fighting total of 249 all out at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Sri Lanka, who now have lost 30 of their 40 matches since January 2017, had lost to Bangladesh by 137 runs in Dubai on Saturday at the opening match of the tour-

nament. The Mirror said the performance did not augur well for the World Cup in England and Wales next year.

"Sri Lanka now require a great deal of soul-searching to be a competitive outfit in white-ball cricket before the 1996 World Champions become a laughing stock in the world-if they aren't that already," the Mirror said.

Disappointed Sri Lankan fans took to social media to vent their anger, with many memes ridiculing the national team. "We could have stayed in the Asia Cup at least till India played its first match," said one social media user.

India's first game, against Hong Kong, was scheduled for later yesterday. Another social media user ridiculed batsman Kusal Mendis who was out for a duck, saying there would have been more cheer if a different "Mendis" was included—referring to a popular alcoholic drink known as "Mendis Special".

Another fan speculated tongue-in-cheek that the poor performance was all part of a strategy to dupe other teams into thinking Sri Lanka were weak before next year's World Cup. — AFP

Ben Stokes charged with bringing cricket into disrepute

LONDON: Ben Stokes and Alex Hales have been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the England and Wales Cricket Board following a late-night street brawl last year. The independent Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC) was tasked with leading an internal investigation into the incident outside a nightclub in Bristol, southwest England, which took place last September.

The England pair will have to answer to two counts of breaching ECB directive 3.3, which states: "No participant may conduct themselves in a manner or do any act or omission at any time which may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket or which may bring the ECB, the game of cricket or any cricketer or group of cricketers into disrepute."

Stokes denied a charge of affray and was cleared following a trial last month. His teammate, Hales, was with Stokes during the altercation but was not charged. All-rounder Stokes, whose co-defendant Ryan Ali was also found not guilty, had been charged following the fight hours after England played the West Indies in a one-day international in Bristol, southwest England, in September 2017.

The 27-year-old missed the second Test against India last month but was recalled for the third match of the series following his acquittal. Born in Christchurch, New Zealand, Stokes came to England in 2003 after his father Ged was appointed coach of the Workington rugby league side.

The incident outside the nightclub saw England eventually decide against playing him in the 2017/18 Ashes, which they lost 4-0 after he had been removed from the position of Test vice-captain.

Stokes returned to international duty during the post-Ashes tour of New Zealand. Big-hitting batsman Hales, 29, last played for England in the third Twenty20 match against India in early July. The disciplinary panel hearings will be held in London on December 5 and December 7. — AFP

Smith likely to be welcomed back, says Waugh

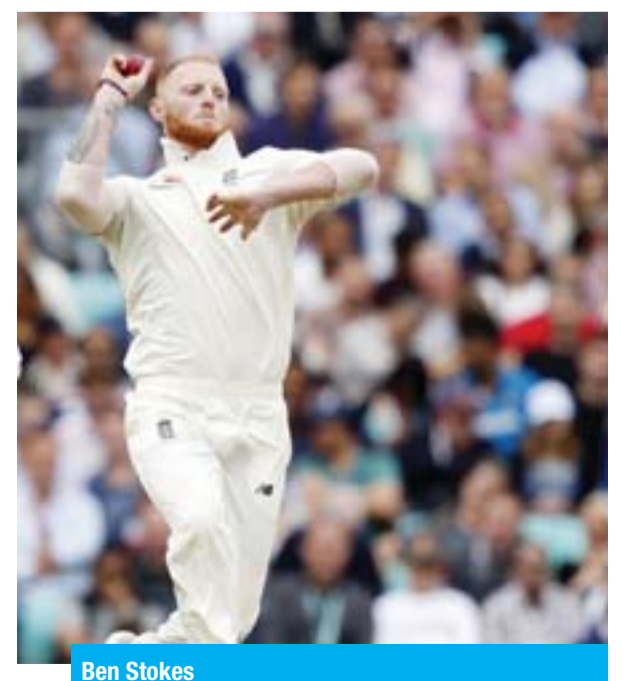
SYDNEY: Banned Australian cricketer Steve Smith is likely to be welcomed back with open arms when he returns to club cricket in Sydney at the weekend, believes former captain Steve Waugh. Smith and David Warner were banned for a year for their part in a ball-tampering scandal during a test in South Africa that engulfed the world game and prompted a review of the Australian team's culture and drive to implement a new player code of conduct.

The pair, who were also sacked as captain and vice-captain of the side, were allowed to play Twenty20 competitions in other countries and lower level club cricket at home but are unable to appear in first-class level games until next March.

"The Australian public, they are forgiving," Waugh told Fox Sports News yesterday. "He (Smith) made a mistake and he's paid a heavy price for it. "But if he gets back out there and plays with the same enthusiasm and passion, he loves playing cricket, he loves scoring runs, he wants to get back playing for Australia, I think Australians will move past what happened before."

"They obviously remember it, but they're big enough to realise you can make a mistake and grow from that and be stronger." Smith is due to appear for his Sutherland club against Mosman on Saturday at Glenn McGrath Oval in Caringbah and Waugh said he hoped the 29-year-old would quickly get back into form and earn his way back into the national side when the ban ends. "We need him back in Australian cricket," Waugh said. "You can't lose someone of his quality overnight and expect to replace it and he's still only relatively young." Waugh said he expected that Warner would get a similar response when he appears for Randwick-Petersham, but warned the duo and Cameron Bancroft, who was also banned, would need to work hard to get back into international form.

"It's going to be a challenge for all of them to come back in to the fold," Waugh said. "It's not going to be as easy as people think. "You're out of the game 12 months, the game does move on, you lose that aura of invincibility about you a bit, you become a bit more fragile, maybe a bit of self-doubt creeping in. "It's going to be a real challenge for all three of those players to come back strong." — Reuters



Ben Stokes

Sports

Bale poised for part two at Real Madrid without Zidane, Ronaldo

'I need to be playing week-in, week-out'

MADRID: If the summer had gone differently, Gareth Bale might have been on a plane to Switzerland on Monday to play for Manchester United against Young Boys. He could have been readying himself for a Champions League debut at the Allianz Arena for Bayern Munich against Ajax. Or even, as Tottenham fans might have hoped, back at his old club and back to the San Siro, the scene of that spellbinding breakthrough performance in 2010.

Spurs never had the financial clout, nor Bale any inclination, to engineer a return to London. He was never much fussed about Bayern or United either, despite depositing the word "honoured" in Bild, when asked about being linked with the German champions, and despite United making it clear to Bale's representatives they should be notified if and when he decided to leave.

That scenario never looked more likely than on May 26. Bale was left out of the Champions League final team to face Liverpool, came off the bench to score with an astonishing bicycle kick, and then declared during the celebrations he would be considering his future.

"I need to be playing week-in, week-out," Bale said. There were times last season, most notably after he was hauled off at half-time against Paris Saint-Germain, when Bale and Zinedine Zidane were not on speaking terms. Strong form and a consistent run of games towards the end of the campaign saw relations thaw but the snub in Kiev was a final kick in the teeth. Even after the final whistle, when the cameras swarmed around the game's star player, Zidane kept his distance.

Bale wanted talks with the president, Florentino Perez, before the World Cup but there was never any prospect of Perez acting against Zidane.

While Bale had proved his worth by scoring one of

the finest goals the Champions League had seen, Zidane had just led the club to a third European success in a row. He was seen as the future.

MORE BALANCED, WITHOUT RONALDO

Instead, within a week of beating Liverpool, Zidane resigned. He sent texts to a select group of senior players but the first Bale heard of the Frenchman's departure was via an official message from the club.

The meeting with Perez was shelved until a new coach was appointed and, six weeks later, Cristiano Ronaldo had departed too.

By then Bale's mind was made up to stay. Ronaldo and Bale were too different ever to be close but their relationship was never anything but respectful.

When Zidane left, Bale stayed silent. When Ronaldo left, Bale posted a gushing farewell message on Twitter. "It has been a pleasure to play alongside you," he wrote. But while the Portuguese was there, it would always be Ronaldo's Real Madrid, not least because Ronaldo delivered consistency while Bale was too often curtailed by injury.

The front page of Madrid daily, AS, on Friday read: "Five years of Bale", with the numbers: "13 titles, 193 matches, 91 goals, 60 assists, 19 injuries, 393 days out."

Madrid begin the defence of their Champions League crown at home to Roma this week and the talk now is of a team more balanced, more united even, without Ronaldo.

The wisdom of selling though will not be judged on wins over Getafe, Girona and Leganes but Madrid's performances in the big games, the ones Ronaldo used to settle, and now Bale has the chance to rise to.

"When someone like Cristiano leaves there is always



Gareth Bale

going to be a spotlight on who is going to replace him," Wales coach Ryan Giggs said earlier this month.

"But Gareth has shown his qualities in big games and that he can handle anything that is thrown at him."

The first stage of Bale's Real Madrid career, with Ronaldo, was a huge success, dampened by injury. The second stage, without Ronaldo, starts against Roma today. — AFP

FIFA's Infantino has doubts about La Liga match in Miami

BARCELONA: FIFA president Gianni Infantino has expressed concern about La Liga's proposal to stage a fixture between Girona and Barcelona in the United States. The two clubs have each approved a request submitted to the Spanish Football Federation for the match to be played at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami on January 26. It was originally scheduled as a home game for Girona, at their Estadi Montilivi.

The idea has proven controversial. Girona would be surrendering the advantages of playing at their own home ground, which in theory could benefit Barcelona.

Infantino said on Tuesday: "I think I would prefer to see a great MLS game in the US rather than La Liga being in the US. In football, the general principle is that you play a 'home' match at 'home', and not in a foreign country." La Liga president Javier Tebas responded on Twitter. He wrote: "I will remind the president of FIFA that in the MLS, three teams of Canada participate, and Toronto is the current champion, and also in Canada there is another professional league."

Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver all compete in the

MLS but play home fixtures in their own cities, in Canada. Infantino also confirmed the plan will need approval from the Spanish and US Football Federations, as well as UEFA and CONCACAF, the governing bodies in charge of European and North American football respectively. He added: "FIFA should also express a view on the matter, not least since it would have implications for football at a global level as well."

La Liga is discussing playing one game per season in the US as part of a 15-year agreement with the media company Relevent.

Girona supporters have been offered a "compensation package", which is believed to include free flights to the US, as well as 5,000 tickets for the reverse fixture at the Camp Nou later this month.

The offer to play the game abroad has been accepted by Girona, who have described it as "a great opportunity to expand and grow, not only for the club but also for our city and our territory". Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said on Friday: "Everything is still far away. It has been discussed with the players and there is an intention (for the match to be moved)." Real Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui believes moving the game would undermine the equality of the league.

"I'm not in favour of it," Lopetegui said on Friday. "I think we should all play in the same conditions, on the same pitches - that's what makes the league equal."

La Liga has said the match is part of a long-term project, "targeted at promoting football in the United States and Canada". — AFP



MADRID: A handout picture released by La Moncloa press office shows Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez receiving a symbolic football jersey from FIFA president Gianni Infantino (L) during a meeting at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid on September 12, 2018. — AFP

Man City have best players to conquer Champions League

MANCHESTER: Manchester City's tag as favourites to win the Champions League is recognition for having the best players in the world to choose from, according to assistant manager Mikel Arteta. The Spaniard will take charge of City's European opener today at home to Lyon as Pep Guardiola serves a ban for being sent to the stands during a quarter-final defeat to Liverpool last season.

Arteta admitted he is surprised that Real Madrid haven't retained their status as favourites after winning three consecutive Champions League titles and with the final to be played in the Spanish capital this season.

However, the former Arsenal midfielder insists there is far more to what City are building in trying to win the European Cup for the first time than simply spending hundreds of millions in assembling one of the strongest squads in the competition.

"For me, we have the best players in the world," Arteta said. "They are fantastic, the mix we have between senior players and younger players, the hunger they still have in this group it is incredible."

"People talk about other things because of the money that has been spent, but people have to see what is inside this club and what has been created which is phenomenal." City recently celebrated a decade under the ownership of Emirati owner Sheikh Mansour, which has transformed the clubs fortunes thanks to huge investment on and off the field in facilities.

That has reaped rewards domestically with three Premier League wins, but City's best run in Europe remains a semi-final appearance in 2015/16 before Guardiola took charge. "That's the aim (to win the Champions League)," added Arteta. "We have a young squad, they have gained experience and we feel better prepared than in the previous two years."

"We are preparing every single detail and learning from the past because we believe we can do better." Arteta was linked with a return to Arsenal as Arsene Wenger's successor as manager earlier this year.

The 36-year-old didn't hide his ambition to one day go out on his own, but believes he is "privileged" to be learning as a coach under Guardiola. "I am privileged to be here and I am very fulfilled to be doing the job I am at the moment. — AFP

Maradona makes winning debut in Mexico

CULIACAN: Controversial and combative as ever, Diego Maradona made his Mexican coaching debut Monday with a 4-1 win for his new club, the second-division side Dorados. It could hardly have been otherwise in the country that saw the Argentine legend score his infamous "hand of God" goal as he led his country to the 1986 World Cup title.

Alternately grinning and defensive, Maradona thumbed his nose at his critics after Ecuadoran forward Vinicio Angulo scored a hat trick to give Dorados the win over Cafetaleros of Tapachula. "Some people said Maradona's useless. There were a lot of stupid people going on television to fill up the time," Maradona told a packed post-match press conference in Culiacan, Sinaloa, his new club's home base.

"I hope they'll come to the pitch now and look at my record and see what we're actually doing, see that I know how to do this," Maradona, 57, vowed it was just the beginning for the struggling club, who leapt from 13th place in their 15-team league to 10th with the win over last-place Cafetaleros.

But not all Dorados fans are convinced. Maradona arrived to a hero's welcome last week, but has also been the butt of more than a few jokes about why someone who has battled publicly with drug addiction might take a job in the heart of Mexican drug cartel country.

"I'm not expecting much. Maradona has never shown himself to be a good coach. I think there are better coaches than him in Mexico," said Kevin Juarez, a 26-year-old fan, ahead of the match.

"The one good thing is that Maradona's arrival has drawn the world's attention to Dorados," he told AFP. Maradona once coached the Argentine national team, including at the 2010 World Cup, but the rest of his managerial career has lacked the sparkle of his playing days. Other fans in Sinaloa are more optimistic. "With Maradona's help, this club can gain a little character and get promoted," said fellow fan Hector Cuen, 40. "I can't see anything bad in Maradona coming to Culiacan."



CULIACAN: Argentine legend Diego Maradona (R) celebrates a goal with his player Jose Alberto Garcia during his first match as coach of Mexican second-division club Dorados, against Cafetaleros, at the Banorte stadium in Culiacan, Sinaloa State, Mexico, on Monday. — AFP

DIEGO MEETS MARADONA

Even El Diego only managed to fill Dorados's 20,000-seat stadium to about half capacity—though that was still more than double the average attendance at the club's most recent home matches.

Maradona, however, was unfazed by the empty seats. "Dorados fans are amazing," he said. "I looked up and thought I was on the field at Boca"—his old Buenos Aires club, which is legendary for packing its stadium with rowdy crowds.

Sinaloa is more baseball than football country. And residents perhaps have more than sports on their minds these days.

Home to the Sinaloa drug cartel, the western state is in the grips of a bloody power struggle for control

of the organization since its founder, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was extradited to the United States last year.

So far this year, 879 people have been murdered state-wide, and 144 in Culiacan. Dorados's owners, the politically powerful Hank family, have been accused of ties to drug traffickers. But Maradona insists he just wants to concentrate on football.

His outside legacy in the sport was on full display as he took the pitch on Monday. Grinning in his tracksuit pants and T-shirt, he gave an affectionate pinch on the cheek to rival coach Diego de la Torre, 23 years his junior. It was a special encounter for the beaming De la Torre: he was named after Maradona by his father, an ex-footballer. — AFP



Matches on TV

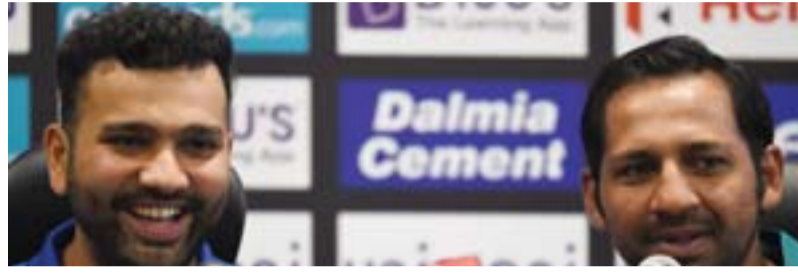
(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
Ajax Amsterdam v AEK Athens	19:55
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Shakhtar Donetsk v Hoffenheim	19:55
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Benfica v Bayern Munich	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Manchester City v Olympique Lyonnais	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Real Madrid v Roma	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Viktoria Plzen v CSKA Moscow	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Valencia v Juventus	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
BSC Young Boys v Manchester United	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Italian League	
Sampdoria v Fiorentina	18:00
beIN SPORTS	

25 Yelich becomes 5th to hit for two cycles in season



26 Captains Sarfraz, Rohit promise blockbuster India-Pakistan clash



27 Maradona makes winning debut in Mexico



Messi scores hat-trick as Barca thrash PSV

It's time to win the Champions League: Messi



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C) vies with PSV Eindhoven's Dutch midfielder Pablo Rosario during the UEFA Champions' League group B football match FC Barcelona against PSV Eindhoven at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi pictures the Champions League ending with him hoisting the trophy and it began with him scoring a hat-trick yesterday as Barcelona put four goals past PSV Eindhoven.

An early kick-off at Camp Nou meant that before most of the tournament's teams had even named their line-ups, Messi was up and running, his sumptuous free-kick from the edge of the area nestling in the top corner, exactly where it was intended.

Messi would have his second and third before the end, but the game was up by then thanks to a superb strike from the excellent Ousmane Dembele. Only when Barca were three ahead was Samuel Umtiti sent off for a second yellow card, and with 10 men, Messi completed his hat-trick for a 4-0 win.

Dembele's goal was worthy of deciding any match but this was Messi's night. After a miserable World Cup trying

to retrieve the irretrievable Argentina, Barcelona's now-captain proved his quality again to any doubters that are left. Four goals already in La Liga, seven overall, neither age nor Cristiano Ronaldo's departure from Spain appear to have taken the edge off. But even if Messi remains as good as ever, his team will need others to step up. Philippe Coutinho was impressive here and, after a difficult debut campaign, Dembele is finding his rhythm.

The 21-year-old's driving run earned Messi his free-kick while a sizzling shot brought the goal his bustling display deserved. Perhaps more importantly, this victory was a clean slate for Barcelona. It was exactly 23 weeks ago that Roma pulled off one of the greatest comebacks ever seen in this competition and sent the club into a depth of disappointment that, in truth, not even winning the double could alleviate.

Instead, Madrid rubbed salt into the wound by making

it look easy and winning their third in a row. "It is a thorn in our side," Luis Suarez said. "It's time to win the Champions League," said Messi.

MAGICAL MESSI

PSV's coach Mark van Bommel knows what it feels like to walk out at the Camp Nou - he had a successful, albeit short, spell playing for Barca - but few of his players did. Nick Viergever was one of them, for Ajax in 2014, but it was his rash challenge on Dembele in the 31st minute that conceded the free-kick a yard outside the penalty area.

Messi sized it up and sent it spinning away from the hand of Jeroen Zoet and into the top corner. PSV could have been ahead. Twice they had raced away on the break but Gaston Pereiro blasted over and Steven Bergwijn's curling effort whistled wide of the post.

It was an open game, with Coutinho missing a header

and then teeing up Messi to sidefoot high. The Argentinian soon made amends, his eighth free-kick scored in 2018. He has never scored more in a year.

The contest bristled at the start of the second half. Suarez earned Messi a second free-kick within range but this one floated over. Suarez's delightful chip beat Zoet but not the crossbar.

PSV were still in it and could have equalised when Hirving Lozano's finish was blocked, crucially, by Gerard Pique. Then three goals arrived in 15 minutes. First Dembele, after leaving two PSV midfielders for dead with a dragback, unleashed into the bottom corner. Messi then latched onto a lob from Ivan Rakitic to slot home before Umtiti was sent off for a cynical block on Lozano.

It made no difference. Suarez set up Messi's third, a brilliant flick allowing his captain the last word, after he had also had the first. — AFP

Icardi sparks Inter's late comeback to stun Spurs

MILAN: A stunning Mauro Icardi volley sparked a thrilling late Inter Milan comeback as the Italian side beat Tottenham 2-1 on their return to the Champions League after a seven-year absence yesterday.

Christian Eriksen's deflected strike gave Spurs a 53rd-minute lead at the San Siro, and the visitors looked comfortable for much of the second half. But Argentinian striker Icardi hammered home a magnificent volley in the 86th minute to draw Inter level, and Matias Vecino

took advantage of some slack Tottenham defending at a corner to nod in a dramatic injury-time winner. The win leaves Inter second in the early Group B table, behind Barcelona on goal difference after the Catalan giants thrashed PSV Eindhoven 4-0 with a Lionel Messi hat-trick. The late drama was greeted with deafening applause from the 66,000 crowd in the San Siro who minutes earlier had feared that Inter's disastrous start to the Serie A season would carry over into Europe.

Tottenham had the best chance in a balanced first half with star striker Harry Kane missing an opportunity to add to his Champions League tally after being served up a clever chipped cross from Eriksen on 38 minutes.

Kane, the top scorer at the World Cup with six goals, arrived in Italy having scored nine goals in ten Champions League games. But with only Samir Handanovic to beat the England striker rounded the Inter goalkeeper, before losing his way as the ball rolled behind for a goal kick. After Eriksen struck with a deflected shot that

looped over Handanovic, the Londoners looked in control. But the hosts turned things around with Icardi scoring his first Champions League goal in his first appearance in the European competition, to add to his 110 goals in Serie A.

Inter Milan, who last won the trophy in 2010 under Jose Mourinho, were returning to the elite competition for the first time since 2011-12, with Tottenham eliminated last season in the knock-out rounds by Juventus.

Both teams are struggling in the league with Inter Milan having four points from four games and Tottenham sixth after suffering consecutive defeats. Mauricio Pochettino made five changes to the Tottenham side that lost to Liverpool at the weekend with Kieran Trippier, Danny Rose, Toby Alderweireld, Harry Winks and Lucas Moura all dropping out. Luciano Spalletti retained six of the side that lost to Parma in Serie A at the San Siro on Saturday. Uruguay midfielder Vecino and winger Matteo Politano started along with defenders Kwadwo Asamoah and Miranda, with Icardi up front alone. — AFP



SAN SIRO: Tottenham's Dutch goalkeeper Michel Vorm deflects a shot during the UEFA Champions League group stage football match Inter Milan vs Tottenham yesterday at the San Siro stadium in Milan. — AFP