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Municipality to deport cleaners caught begging, fine companies

Municipal Council: Kuwait has humanitarian vision, provides help to all

KUWAIT: The Municipality announced yesterday that it would deport any cleaning worker working for cleaning firms with contracts with the municipality if caught begging or acting contrary to public order. "All companies working in all governorates were informed of these regulations," the Municipality's Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said in a statement.

Manfouhi added inspection campaigns will be held on Sunday in cooperation with the quartet committee which includes joint teams from the Public Authority for Manpower, interior ministry and commerce and industry ministry, in addition to the Municipality. "These measures were designed to reduce widespread begging by cleaner workers that affects Kuwait's reputation," he said.

Separately, Municipal Council Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi said yesterday Kuwait has a humanitarian vision and works within a framework that constantly contributes in providing assistance to all, whether inside or outside the country. Otaibi made his remarks in a speech on the sidelines of a presentation given by the Chairman of the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents Saleh Al-Fadhala. The presentation explained the apparatus' role and achievements



Ahmad Al-Manfouhi



Osama Al-Otaibi



Saleh Al-Fadhala

in recent years, in addition to highlighting its future schemes aimed to enhance health and education in a number of sectors, he said.

It also showed the apparatus' latest activities and actions via statistics, documents and reports, Otaibi said, adding the rapid development in the state body's humanitarian services is very apparent. He expressed hope for a radical solution, with a humanitarian intention, to the illegal residents' issue, affirming Kuwait is still a humanitarian country with various contributions on the global level.

All state bodies in the country spare no

effort in resolving the issue in accordance to their specialized fields, Otaibi said, noting the Municipality has allocated some private homes for illegal residents (bedoons) and is willing, if asked, to provide any help that serves the case.

Fadhala said the apparatus recently paid a visit to the National Assembly and explained different aspects and dimensions of the issue to the MPs. It is important to point out such issues to legislative bodies in the country and shed light on the situation of illegal residents in order to hear lawmakers' suggestions, said Fadhala. — KUNA

First Deputy PM's recovery 'excellent'



TASHKENT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem visits First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah's recovery is "excellent", National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday.

Ghanem made the remarks during a short visit to Tashkent to meet Sheikh Nasser, who is undergoing recuperation at the Uzbek capital, according to a statement by Al-Dustour news network.

"Sheikh Nasser assured us about his health and recovery which has been taking place in an excellent manner, and we hope his recovery ends quickly and he returns to his home," Ghanem said before departing to Baku, Azerbaijan. Ghanem is accompanied by MPs Mohammad Al-Huwailah and Abdullah Al-Dosari to participate in the 100th anniversary of establishing the Azerbaijan parliament. — AFP

Young doctor's death mourned

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) yesterday expressed grief over the demise of young doctor Talal Al-Shemmeri, who was found dead during night duty at Jahra Hospital early Tuesday. KMA also hailed instructions by HH the PM Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah to continue paying his salary and benefits to his family.

"Under the instructions of His Highness the Prime Minister, the ministry of health will start working with the Secretariat of the Cabinet, the Public Institution for Social Security and the Civil Service Commission...to ensure orderly disbursement of benefits to the bereaved family," Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah said on Tuesday. KMA Chairman Dr Ahmed Thuwaini Al-Enezi added all doctors are shocked by his death.

Shemmeri was the stateless grandson of a man who worked at Kuwait Oil Co in 1947 and the son of a man who worked at the interior ministry since the 1960s and was registered in the 1965 census. The father, who retired three years ago, had sent his son to study medicine in the Czech Republic and paid for his studies. Shemmeri started working for the health ministry in 2010.



Dr Talal Al-Shemmeri

King Salman hosts Khan as Sharif released

RIYADH: Saudi King Salman hosted Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday on his maiden foreign visit since coming to power, state media said, as Islamabad seeks to stave off a financial crisis. Khan also met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and energy minister Khalid Al-Falih as he concluded his two-day visit, the Saudi Press Agency said, amid speculation that he would seek economic assistance from the oil-rich ally. "Anyone who comes to power in Pakistan will visit Saudi Arabia first," Khan told Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television during his visit to the western city of Jeddah. "Saudi Arabia has in

the past helped Pakistan when Pakistan has been in need," he added.

Former cricket great Khan, who assumed office one month ago, faces challenges including a faltering economy, militant extremism, water shortages and a rapidly growing population. The most pressing is a looming balance-of-payments crisis, with analysts predicting Pakistan will have to go to the International Monetary Fund for a fresh bailout. The IMF has bailed Pakistan out repeatedly since the late 1980s. The last time was in 2013, when Islamabad got a \$6.6 billion loan to tackle a similar crisis.

Pakistani media has speculated that Khan is eyeing Saudi Arabia and China to provide loans to rescue Islamabad from the crisis and stave off another IMF bailout. Khan was accompanied to Jeddah by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Finance Minister Asad Umar, who met his Saudi counterpart Mohammed Al-Jadaan. The two finance minis-

ters spoke about "financial and economic cooperation" between the two countries, SPA said in a brief statement. Khan is also due to visit the United Arab Emirates following his Saudi visit.

His tour of the Gulf comes as former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif was released from prison late yesterday to be met by jubilant supporters after a court suspended his prison sentence for corruption pending an appeal hearing. Sharif - who was ousted from office last year by the Supreme Court for alleged corruption - was freed along with his daughter. Sharif and Maryam Nawaz were arrested on their return in July from London to campaign in elections. Hundreds of his supporters had gathered outside Adiala prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi to await their release. An AFP reporter at the scene said Sharif, Maryam and his son-in-law Captain Saifur were driven away in an SUV as it was showered with rose petals in celebration.

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RAWALPINDI: Former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif (center back) sits in a vehicle with his younger brother Shahbaz Sharif (front right) following his release from Adiala prison yesterday. — AFP

India outlaws 'triple talaq'

NEW DELHI: The Indian government yesterday issued an executive order making the Islamic practice of "instant divorce" a criminal offence punishable by up to three years in prison. The controversial move brings an outright ban on "triple talaq" - when a Muslim man ends his marriage by saying "talaq" ("you are divorced" in Arabic) three times in succession - a step closer. Muslim women say they have been divorced over messaging apps like WhatsApp or in letters, leaving them without any legal remedy.

India's lower house, controlled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), passed legislation outlawing the practice in December. But it got stuck in the upper house, prompting the government to issue yesterday's executive order. It now needs only approval from the president to become law. "There was a constitutional urgency to bring this law. The curse of triple talaq has continued unabated," Ravi Shankar Prasad, law and justice minister, told reporters. In Aug 2017, India's Supreme Court declared "triple talaq" unconstitutional and ordered the government to legislate against it. Prasad said that 201 cases have been reported across

the country even after the top court's order. The BJP has long pushed for a uniform civil code for marriage, divorce and property. India's constitution allows followers of each faith to use their religious laws to govern such matters.

But India's 180-million-strong Muslim community has historically opposed such a move, saying it will erode their religious identity and violate the constitution. Critics have long accused Modi, who is supported by hardline Hindu nationalists and who is running for reelection in 2019, of demonizing Muslims for political ends. "The BJP's stand on the Muslim plight is well known and they have little sympathy for the community," said Yogendra Yadav, an academic and politician who heads the socio-political organization Swaraj India. "This issue gives them a nice pretext to present the Muslim community in a poor light and themselves as defender of a retrograde practice," he said.

R S Surjewala, a spokesman for the opposition Congress party, said that the next step would be to ensure Muslim women get alimony. "But the Modi government would not want that, they don't want upliftment of Muslim women," he told news channels. "This 'triple talaq' ordinance basically is to try and win over a segment in the Muslim community, to win the women's vote among the minorities," said Sandeep Shastri, a political analyst at Jain University in the southern city of Bengaluru. — Agencies

Shiites in Kuwait mark Ashoura



KUWAIT: Shiite mourners flagellate themselves on the eve of Ashoura at the Karbalaia Husseiniya in Daiya yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Amir, Crown Prince meet senior state officials at Bayan Palace

Crown Prince receives Yemen's Deputy Speaker



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy National Assembly Speaker Essa Ahmad Al-Kandari accompanied by the visiting Deputy Speaker of the Yemeni Parliament Mohammad Ali Al-Shedadi and his delegation.



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



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



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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-

Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness the Prime Minister, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime

Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy National Assembly Speaker Essa Ahmad Al-Kandari accompanied by the visiting

Deputy Speaker of the Yemeni Parliament Mohammad Ali Al-Shedadi. The audience was attended by the head of protocol at His Highness' diwan, Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. —KUNA

In my view

Fareeha: The kindhearted woman

By Abdullah Buwair

local@kuwaittimes.net



May the Almighty rest Sheikh Fareeha Al-Sabah's soul in peace in Heaven. Dear readers, I personally was in constant contact with this kindhearted and tolerant woman who was a kind mother to all. Oh, the patron of voluntary work! The day has come to testify this before Almighty Allah and our readers in a bid to record the history of a young nation paving its way towards a bright future with the help of its children who have and been, and are still, exerting all efforts and sacrificing everything for its sake.

Talking about such a personality is not an easy task. She accomplished a lot. She attended and sponsored endless events. She never let anyone down. She sponsored opening the heritage village driven by her strong faith and love of Kuwaiti heritage. Sheikh Fareeha (Um Hmoud) was a pioneer of voluntary work. Both Arab and foreign ambassadors used to describe her as 'the ambassador of ambassadors' and 'the international ambassador' because she was very keen on boosting relations with various countries by inviting them to various national and religious occasions to exchange views, explore peoples' traditions and bridge gaps. "Every citizen is an ambassador of Kuwait," she used to say, may the Almighty rest her soul in peace.

We will never forget you - the bride of Heaven. I will never forget your attendance at all national celebrations held over the past five years. You were the first to arrive whenever we invited you to an event, except in 2018 when everybody, including martyrs' families, kept worriedly wondering about your absence during the Ideal Mother honoring ceremony - the one you launched and had always sponsored.

I will never forget when I personally asked you to include two martyrs' families in the Ideal Mother competition and you welcomed it and those families won the first and third places. We will all never forget you, Um Hmoud. You won everybody's respect and have a special place in the hearts of Kuwaitis with the endless titles and honors you earned. You never forgot your beloved country's national anniversaries including HH the Amir's succession, national days and honoring martyrs' families. You took the responsibility to highlight Kuwait's image as a consolidated society and earn it a prestigious place amongst nations.

You launched the Ideal Mother committee because of your strong belief in the fact that mothers are the foundations of societies. I will never forget, when attending the national and liberation day anniversaries' celebration, you sensed that the children on stage needed more time to finish their dance, and despite your illness, you asked me to allow them to carry on. That was typical of you as a kindhearted mother who could not break those little hearts. Everybody enjoyed sharing the love you had.

Finally, through my contact with you, you never tolerated injustice and always did your best to fight for others' rights, including the petition I made to the authorities. May Allah rest your soul in peace, Sheikh Fareeha!



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the new Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Alvaro Rodriguez.



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

Correction: In its coverage of news of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's meeting with new ambassadors yesterday, Kuwait Times misidentified Spanish Ambassador Alvaro Rodriguez and Hungarian Ambassador Istvan Gyula Soos in the captions. We apologize for this error and any inconvenience it might have caused.

Kuwait seeks greater cooperation with North Caucasus region: Envoy

MOSCOW: Kuwait's Ambassador to the Russian Federation Abdulaziz Al-Adwani on Tuesday stated that his country's desire is to deepen economic cooperation with North Caucasus region. During his meeting with Russian Minister of North Caucasus Affairs Sergei Chebotarev, Ambassador Adwani said the Kuwaiti public and private sector investors are interested in the investment opportunities in this Russian region. The two sides reviewed explored ways to enhance cooperation in various areas, according to a statement by the Ministry of North Caucasus Affairs.

Meanwhile, the Russian minister said there are huge prospects of cooperation in the economic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, tourist and energy fields. Chebotarev pledged that his ministry would adopt the necessary measures to facilitate the investment cooperation and enhance the bilateral ties with a view to serving the interests of both countries. The North Caucasian region includes the districts of Krasnodar Krai and Stavropol Krai, as well as the republics of Adygea, Karachay-Cherkessia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia-Alania, Ingushetia, Chechnya and Dagestan. —KUNA

Kuwait praises signatories of South Sudan conciliation accord

NEW YORK: Kuwait has expressed appreciation for signatories of the South Sudan conciliation accord hoping more parties will join the reconciliation process. The Kuwaiti stance was expressed by Counselor Bader Al-Menaikh, the deputy permanent envoy to the United Nations, during a session of the UN Security Council session on South Sudan.

Menaikh noted the lengthy efforts that had been exerted by member states of the African organization, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and international partners for reactivating the agreement to resolve the strife, expressing admiration for the conciliatory role by the signatory parties. He also lauded Sudanese Republic's support for the reconciliation negotiations, noting that an identical stance

had been expressed by the Arab League Ministerial Council during its 150th session.

Menaikh expressed hope the agreement would lead to a "new chapter based on conciliation, justice, reconstruction and development." He however voiced concern at ongoing plight of 1.8 million relocated Sudanese, 2.5 million refugees in neighboring countries and lack of food security in the country.

Elaborating, Menaikh noted that the UNSC had issued resolutions 2417 and 2018, stipulating protection of infrastructures to ensure delivery of humanitarian supplies, namely food, to the needy. "Peace will not be established without improving living conditions for the population," he said hoping that the conciliation would lead to the refugees' comeback.

Also in this context, he admired role of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for ensuring the refugees' safety before returning to their hometowns in South Sudan, urging concerned parties to abstain from attacking relief workers and condemning any obstacle hindering their tasks. —KUNA



MOSCOW: Kuwait's Ambassador to the Russian Federation Abdulaziz Al-Adwani meets with Russian Minister of North Caucasus Affairs Sergei Chebotarev. —KUNA



Counselor Bader Al-Menaikh

Local

Opening of first phase of Jaber Al-Ahmad hospital early Oct: Minister

New cardiac catheterization ward opened in Mubarak Hospital



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah tours the new cardiac catheterization ward at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital. — KUNA



Beds at the new cardiac catheterization ward at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital.

KUWAIT: The opening of the first phase of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital will be beginning of October, said Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah yesterday. The first phase of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital includes outpatient clinics, medical, surgical and pediatric wards, radiology, laboratories, operation theaters and emergency. Sheikh Basel was speaking on sidelines of the inauguration of the Cardiac Catheterization ward at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital. He said the launch of new health project would make a quantum leap in health service and patient care. The minister said the opening of the Amiri hospital extension will be in October as well as the emergency hospital in Sabah Al-Ahmad Area.

Three wards

The new ward at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital consists of three operation and catheterization wards, including a room for conducting surgeries, another one for cardiovascular physiology and a third for cardiac catheterization, the minister said. The percentage of

urgent cardiac catheterization cases reached 60 percent in 2016, compared to only seven percent back in 2012, he added. This ward will contribute to alleviating burden on Chest Diseases Hospital (CDH) currently, as further cardiac catheterization rooms will be launched at Al-Farwaneya Hospital in the near future, the Minister said.

Head of Cardiology Division at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital Dr Mohammad Zubaid said in press remarks that the Hospital received around 850 patients of heart strokes on an annual basis, and later they were distributed to the three cardiac centers in various parts of the country to follow up with their treatment and conduct cardiac catheterization operation. The age rate of heart stroke patients in the country



reached 48 — 10 years younger from similar cases in the United States and Europe.

The rate of waiting timing to patients to meet cardiac physicians is not relatively long, as it reached below one week in some hospitals. He indicates at rise in the cardiac patients in Kuwait and the Gulf region

GCC health officials plan further cooperation

coincides with the World Heart Day, which comes on September 29, he added.

GCC meeting

In other news, a working group meeting charged with preparing a draft plan for health ministers in GCC countries aims to promote joint health work and enhance cooperation in all medical fields, Kuwait's Health Ministry said. The group will complete the draft plan before being submitted to the health ministers in their fourth meeting to be held in Kuwait next October, Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs Dr Yusef Al-Duwairi said at the meeting yesterday.

The plan also aims to implement decisions approved by GCC leaders and ministers, Duwairi said. The draft plan also includes the development of policies, unify health regulations in the GCC states and achieves health care equality among GCC citizens. It also includes professional development, exchange of expertise and unifying crises management systems, he added. The working group took into consideration that the draft plan to be consistent with the high objectives of the GCC, indicating that the plan is a roadmap for the health ministerial committee over the next five years. — KUNA



Zain is recognized for participating in the forum.

Zain participates in Second Digital Culture Forum

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, participated in a panel discussion as part of the Second Digital Culture Forum and Local Success Stories organized by HemmaTech Accelerator in collaboration with Gartner at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Zain took part in the second edition of this forum represented by Chief Commercial Officer Meshal Al-Kandari, where the panel discussion witnessed the participation of a number of local officials and executives representing many sectors. The event also featured Gartner's Research Directors Jim Davies and Adrian Lee, who took part in discussing the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital transformation in the Customer Experience sector. During the panel discussion, Zain Kuwait's Chief Commercial Officer Meshal Al-Kandari said: "utilizing digital transformation tools, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), has become a necessity to move forward with the Customer Experience sector and to overcome the challenges it faces. This is not limited to the telecom and IT sector only, but extends to all other industries as well".

Kandari further explained: "AI contributes to Customer Experience by introducing the speed factor, where the machine can profoundly excel over the human element in this particular area. The faster we respond to a customer's needs without sacrificing quality, the better customer satisfaction rates get, ultimately resulting in a superior customer experience."

Kandari added: "advanced AI solutions are able to swiftly recognize a customer's needs, understand their



Meshal Al-Kandari speaks during the panel discussion.

expectations, and offer them specifically designed services at the same time. This comes with accurately identifying their requests to serve them better and faster in the future. This concept revolutionizes Customer Experience and will open up new horizons in the ways companies offer customer service."

Kandari pointed out that implementing AI and digital transformation solutions to enhance customer experience is at the forefront of Zain's priorities. The company is currently preparing a number of smart services and solutions that will be launched soon to keep up with the fast-paced telecom and IT sector around the world. Zain hopes such services will help put Kuwait at the forefront of the global digital transformation map.

Zain's strategy is centered around digital transformation leadership and empowering the community to enjoy a smarter portable lifestyle, as well as using advanced technology and Zain's long experience to enable an easier and more flexible life. The company places itself as an active partner in creating the future of smart life in Kuwait.

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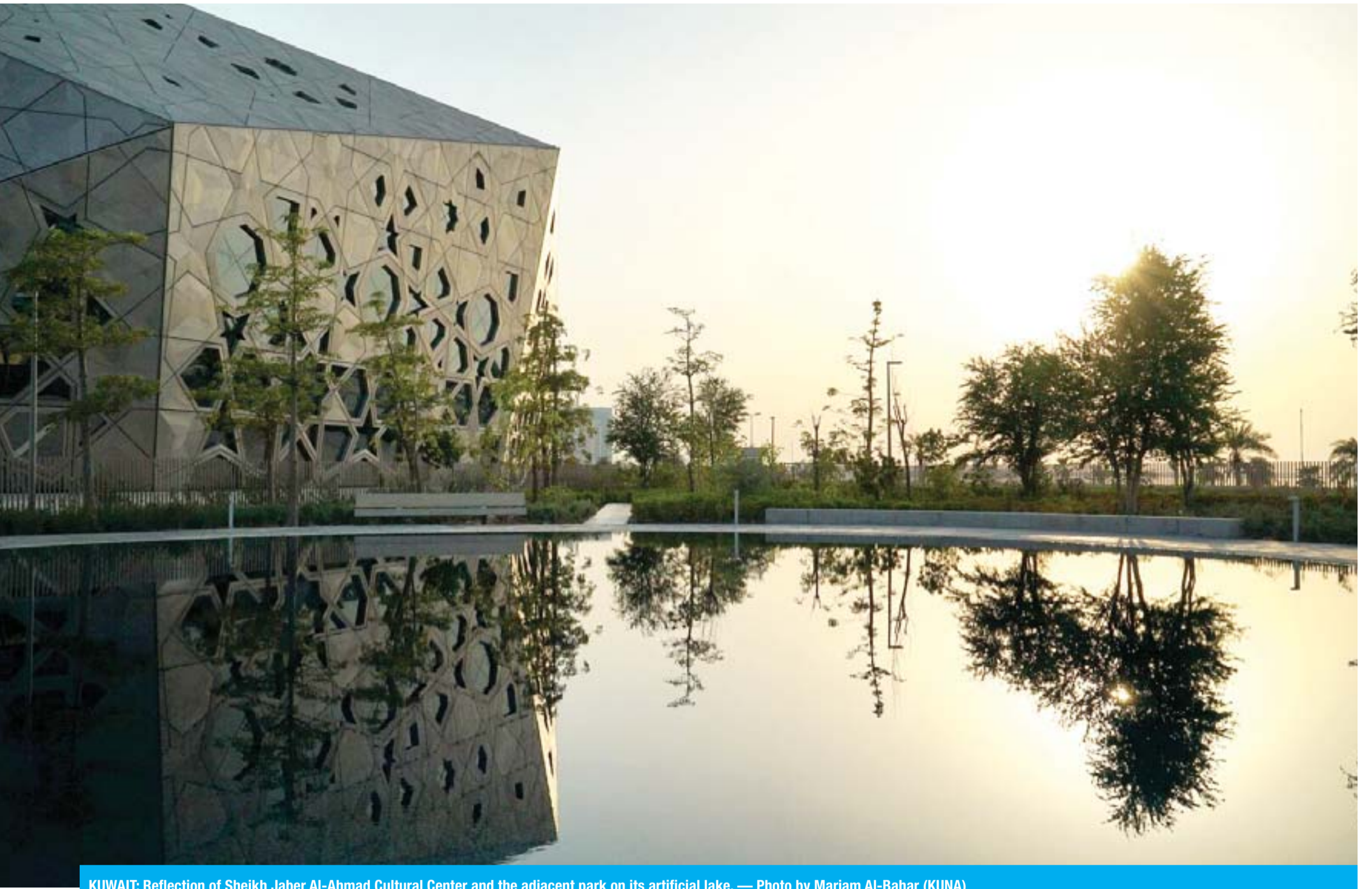
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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Reflection of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center and the adjacent park on its artificial lake. — Photo by Mariam Al-Bahar (KUNA)

Kuwait real estate improves in Q2, private housing up 2.4 percent

Kuwaitis fourth large real estate buyers in Turkey in August: Report

KUWAIT: The real estate sector in Kuwait appears to have improved in the second quarter of the year going up by 3.1 percent with the private housing sector in specific jumping to 2.4 percent. According to the Justice Ministry's documentation and registration data, the value of real estate trades in the second quarter reached around KD 857 million (around \$2.8 billion).

A number of experts said that the real estate housing played a significant role in boosting numbers in the second quarter, as was the investment real estate sector (apartment buildings), which saw a significant action during the summer vacation season. As per their statements, the private housing sector's 2.4 percent increase reflected KD 321.9 million (around \$1 million) pumped into this sector. The average number of real estate deals was around KD 540,000 (around \$1.7 million), which is an increase by 2.43 percent from the first quarter of 2018.

Head of Al-Delijan real estate office Suleiman Al-Delijan said the average trading at the local real estate sector in the first quarter was at KD 1.6 billion (\$5.2 billion) as opposed to 2017's KD 2.6 billion (\$8.5 billion) during the same period. He predicted

that the level of dealings within this sector as a whole would slightly improve if the local market maintained or increase the numbers coming out of the second quarter.

Hotels and hotel apartments

Delijan said that operations at hotels and hotel apartments went up by 65 and 50 percent respectively in the past few months thanks to an increasing number of



Investment sector saw significant action during summer

GCC tourists. The dealings in the investment real estate sector took the lion share in the local market comprising around 42 percent of the trades in the first quarter, he said. The housing sector came second with 37 percent followed by the com-

mercial sector by 15 percent.

Meanwhile, Director General of Athra Real Estate Company Maitham Al-Shakhs the real estate sector was positively affected by the finalizing of various infrastructural developments especially by Al-Mutla city, Sabah Al-Ahmad, and south Sabah Al-Ahmad housing projects. He commended the positive developments and hope for more progress in the upcoming period.

In the meantime, secretary of Real Estate Union Kuwait Qais Al-Ghanim said although numbers are promising, judging the state of real estate in Kuwait could be solely based on improving trade numbers and values. Some investors benefited from what he describe as "weak but moderate dealings rate" noting that the most action real estate-wise was seen in the capital governorate's commercial real estate.

Fourth largest buyers

In other news, recent real estate statistical data has shown yesterday that the Kuwaitis were the fourth largest foreign real estate buyers in Turkey in August 2018. Kuwaitis bought 271 real estate properties in Turkey last month, ranking fourth after Iraqis, 944, Iranians, 394, Saudis, 275, and



Suleiman Al-Delijan



Qais Al-Ghanim

ahead of Russians, who bought 192, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute's data report.

Real estate sales to foreigners in Turkey reached 3,866 in August, an increase by 129.6 percent compared to the same month in 2017. Istanbul topped the list of cities targeted by foreign real estate buyers with a total of 1,141 sold properties in August, followed by Antalya, 675, then Bursa, 307, Ankara, 305, and Yalova, 263.

Meanwhile, real estate general sales in Turkey have reached a total of 105,154 units in August, a decrease by 12.5 percent compared to the same month in 2017. As for real estate sales of August 2018, Istanbul had also the highest share of house sales with 14.5 percent or 15,262 houses, followed by Ankara with 9,291 house sales, Izmir, 5,064, and Hakkari, which was the least provinces in sold real estates, with 14 house sales. — KUNA

'Green and Clean Environment' Expo to be held October 2, 3

KUWAIT: Under auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works Hosam Al-Roumi is set to inaugurate the 'Green and Clean Environment Forum and Exhibition' on October 2, 2018 at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural center.

Speaking on the occasion, head of the Leaders Group's scientific committee Dr Fatima Al-Thallab said that activities of the two-day event would start with speeches delivered by minister Roumi and Environment Public Authority (EPA) Director Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, followed by a tour around the exhibition.

Thallab added that the first session of the forum would be held under the title of 'Government Bodies' Role in Handling Environmental Pollution' which will be administered by environmental advisor at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Professor Mohammed Fathie. Furthermore, Thallab indicated that speakers also include Ministry of Health (MOH) Undersecretary Dr Majeda Al-Qattan, EPA's marine life observation manager Dr Fahad Al-Ajmi, Kuwait Oil

Company's (KOC) environmental expert Mohammed Haidar and engineer Baqer Darweesh from the Ministry of Public Works (MPW).

Further, Thallab said that the second session to be held on the first day would be run by the dean of the social studies college Dr Humoud Al-Qash'an, while speakers would include EPA engineer Mohammad Al-Enezi, Kuwait Municipality's chemical engineer Sara Mohammad Mousa and Dr Mohammed Al-Shawwaf. "The third session will be held before noon on the second day under the title of 'Kuwait Clean and Green,'" Thallab added, noting that the session, due to be run by Dr Duaij Al-Rokaibi, would include speakers like EPA's data manager and MOH's healthy cities officer Hassan Al-Qattan, Al-Shaheed Park's project manager at the Amiri Diwan Haifa Al-Muhanna and LIMAK's executive manager Orcun Ozhelvacı.

Finally, Thallab said that the fourth and final session will be run by Dr Ra'fat Mesak from KISR, and would include speakers Samira Al-Kandari from EPA, Ghanem Sulaimani from the Ministry of Education (MOE), Dr Mohammed Hammouda from Kuwait University (KU) and the head of Kuwait Environmental Protection Society (KEPS) Wejdan Al-Oqab.



Dr Fatima Al-Thallab

KPA to buy equipment to clean pollution at ports

KUWAIT: Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) announced on Tuesday its intention to buy equipment and ships in order to remove oil spots and clean pollution caused by some ships at the three ports: Shuwaikh, Doha and Shuaiba. The authority made the statement on the sidelines of KPA Director General Sheikh Yousef Al-Nasser Al-Sabah's reception of Director General and Chairman of the Board of



Sheikh Yousef Al-Nasser (left) and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Hmoud.

Environment Public Authority Sheikh Abdullah Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah. The KPA gives a top priority for preserving marine environment and cleaning it from waste caused by some ships, the statement quoted Sheikh Yousef Al-Sabah as saying. — KUNA

Local

KISR releases million shrimp larvae in Gulf waters off Subbiya

Part of plan to achieve self-sufficiency of fish and livestock

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hosam Al-Roumi stressed his full support of effort exerted by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Environment Public Authority (EPA) and Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to enrich national fish reserves and protect marine life. Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony organized by KISR to release a million shrimp larvae in the Arabian Gulf waters off Subbiya in the presence of PAAAFR Director Sheikh Mohammed Al-Yousif Al-Sabah, Roumi hailed such joint efforts. Roumi also announced that EPA plans to install purification units on the outlets of rain drainage pipes in order to filter waste, sewage water and chemical waste that negatively affect marine environment.

EPA Director Sheikh Abdullah Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah said the project aims at enriching national fish reserves and ensure their sustainability. "This step comes as part of a comprehensive plan set by PAAAFR to achieve self-sufficiency of fish and livestock," he added, noting that the ban on fishing in Kuwait Bay was imposed by

the environment law and that studies are being currently made with relevant bodies to consider lifting the ban if results show promising increases in fish reserves.

Meanwhile, KISR's acting manager Dr Mohammed Al-Rashid said KISR has been farming various fish

Environment and life sciences research center manager Dr Abdul Nabi Al-Ghadban said that despite controlling shrimping seasons, the amounts caught were still decreasing. Dr Shereen Al-Subaei said that launching shrimp larvae at sea has a developmental value, aiming at increasing fish reserves as well as preserving natural resources. Subaei added Kazema cape to the northwest of Kuwait Bay was selected in collaboration with EPA and PAAAFR, because it provides a muddy seabed and mangroves needed to raise shrimps. "The timing was also carefully selected to avoid strong currents," she added.



KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hosam Al-Roumi and other officials look on as they are given a demonstration during a ceremony held to release a million shrimp larva in the Arabian Gulf waters off Subbiya yesterday. —KUNA



Minister hails joint efforts

species, including those released in Subbiya. Rashid added that the central statistical bureau reports showed that 1.1 ton of shrimps had been traced and that the amount annually sold in local markets was insufficient, which made shrimp prices skyrocket.

Real estate fraud

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) yesterday reaffirmed that it was following up with a number of real estate fraud cases referred to prosecution, adding that the public prosecution asked for more information about the complaints. A statement issued by MoCI yesterday stressed the ministry will carry on with the process to hold violating companies accountable. MoCI also announced forming a special committee to directly communicate with the public prosecution concerning the investigations in progress.

CSC permission needed to transfer teachers from private to public schools

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) revoked the exemption given to the education ministry with regards to teachers' contracts, and said its approval should be obtained first before the ministry hires a private school teacher to teach in public schools. CSC said it will coordinate with the Public Authority for Manpower, stipulating that residency visas will not be transferred from the private to the public sector without a written approval from CSC. Furthermore, CSC said that local contracts will not be considered if the qualification and job in the work permit is different from the job applied for in the government. Meanwhile, the education ministry will investigate allegations about appointing a cook as a mathematics teacher.

KFSD inspects Shuwaikh warehouses

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFSD) prevention department issued three warnings to three warehouses in Industrial Shuwaikh for lack of safety measures against fires. The warehouses were given 72 hours to correct the situation, otherwise they will be administratively shut down. The public relations department at KFSD said the stores were previously warned and were given an opportunity to remove the violations.

Teen stabbed

A 14-year-old Somali boy died of a stab wound to the heart. His mother found him in his room with the knife stuck in his chest. Detectives are carrying out investigations to find out what happened. A security source said the victim was late leaving his room, so his

mother went to see what was going on and found him on the floor. His mother and brother rushed him to Adan Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Woman framed

Criminal detectives' investigations revealed accusations by a Kuwaiti man against an Ethiopian woman of theft were malicious, and the man is being questioned. The citizen accused the woman of entering his bedroom and stealing the money before fleeing. When police called her, she went to the police station and told them the citizen threatened to frame her and all his claims are false. Detectives found her statement was true. Separately, a citizen accused a domestic helper of stealing a watch worth KD 1,500 and KD 900 in cash. Detectives are looking for the accused for questioning.

Policeman insulted

A traffic policeman was insulted by a motorist who objected to being issued a traffic citation. The motorist then got in his car and drove off, while the policeman lodged a complaint.

Missing woman found

A woman who was reported missing by her sister was found by detectives in a cafe. She was staying with



KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate officers place a warning notice outside a violating warehouse during a crackdown in Industrial Shuwaikh yesterday.

a friend. The woman told detectives she had problems with her sister, prompting her to leave the house. Her friend, a female, was charged with harboring a missing person, while the missing woman signed an undertaking not to repeat the offense, and was handed to her elder sister.

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Troops hit rebel-held Hodeida; death toll mounts; UN warns

Car hits pedestrians outside UK mosque in suspected hate crime



KABUL: Afghan laborers work on the reconstruction of a wrestling club that was destroyed by a double bombing during a training session at the Maiwand Club in Kabul. A series of devastating suicide attacks on Afghanistan's minority Shiite community has fuelled fears of more violence ahead of Ashura, one of the Muslim sect's holiest days, and prompted calls for civilians to arm themselves. —AFP

Afghan Shiites brace for attacks

Ashura: Why holy day brings fear for Shiites

KABUL: A series of devastating suicide attacks on Afghanistan's minority Shiite community has fuelled fears of more violence ahead of Ashura, one of the Muslim sect's holiest days, and prompted calls for civilians to arm themselves. The religious holiday, which falls today, has become a major target for the Islamic State group since it emerged in the region in 2014 and began assaulting Shiites in overwhelmingly Sunni Afghanistan.

Sunni extremists, like IS, consider Shiites apostates, and have carried out deadly attacks on the sect across the region, massacring hundreds. The violence has escalated in recent weeks, with more than 60 people killed in suicide bombings at a wrestling club and an education centre in a heavily Shiite-populated neighborhood of Kabul.

Burqa-clad suicide bombers also struck a Shiite mosque in the eastern city of Gardez last month, killing at least 35 people. IS claimed responsibility for those attacks. "We are in constant fear, day and night," Ahmad Zia Ahmadi told AFP on Sunday as he oversaw repairs at the Maiwand wrestling club, which was badly damaged in the September 5 double bombing. "If the government does not provide security for us, we will have to arm ourselves." The Afghan government is frequently

criticized for failing to protect Shiites, who number around three million in Afghanistan, and there are growing fears of vigilantism.

Hundreds of civilians were recruited last year to protect Shiite religious sites in Kabul and other cities ahead of Ashura, reinforced by police officers. The move helped to reduce the number of attacks, a senior Shiite leader told AFP recently, but no such plan has been announced for this Ashura. While hundreds of weapons distributed in 2017 were still being used to protect mosques, it was not enough, he said. Last year "they only gave us 1,250 guns that we distributed to 14 provinces with Shiite populations", he said on the condition of anonymity. Some mosques "are still unarmed".

Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish told AFP that the government had a security plan for Ashura and the Islamic month of Muharram, but would not provide

details. "We will do everything to provide security for our people in Kabul," Danish said on September 10, a day before the start of Muharram. Ashura—the most important Shiite observance—falls on the 10th day of Muharram, which is the mourning period for the seventh-century killing of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. The faithful gather to beat their chests and lash their backs with chains until they bleed in commemoration of Hussein's death.

attacks in Kabul. "Nowhere is safe for us anymore," one user named Hossien posted.

"Our kids, religious scholars, wrestlers, and people from all walks of life are killed every day. Let's... stand up against it." Another Facebook user wrote: "Standing in front of a mosque to protect your people is a way of fighting terrorism. When the government cannot provide security, you protect your institutions and values." Afghanistan's intelligence agency announced Tuesday the arrest of 26 suspected IS militants who were allegedly planning to carry out attacks during Muharram and on Ashura. Plans to divide Kabul into four security zones were announced by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on September 8.

He also said heavier security, such as a "green zone" similar to the one where many embassies and international organizations are located in Kabul, was needed in the city's Shiite-dominated west. But "more deliberation and consultation" were required before the proposals could be implemented, he said in a statement. The lack of action is no surprise to Ahmadi, who is collecting donations to repair the wrestling club. "We know the enemy will attack us," he said, as he studied bits of flesh stuck to the ceiling. But "we don't expect the government to protect us. They can't". —AFP

“ We are in constant fear, day and night ”

“ We know they will attack ”

they can only rely on themselves for protection. "We have been attacked in our mosques, schools, streets and gyms," Ghulam Reza said at the wrestling club. "We are thinking about arming ourselves." On Facebook, users have been sharing the rumored locations of planned

Surgeon, girlfriend charged with rape

LOS ANGELES: An orthopedic surgeon in California who once appeared on a dating reality show and his girlfriend have been charged with drugging and sexually assaulting two women, in a case prosecutors suspect might involve hundreds of other victims. Authorities told AFP on Tuesday they had received dozens of leads in the probe, just hours after a press conference held to try to encourage other women to come forward. "I am being told by investigators that their phones have been very active this afternoon," said Michelle Van Der Linden, a spokeswoman for Orange County prosecutors. "People are calling with additional information and we will be busy tracking down all the additional leads."

The surgeon, 38-year-old Grant William Robicheaux, and his 31-year-old girlfriend, Cerissa Laura Riley, were charged on September 11 with rape as well as drug and weapons-related offenses in connection with two alleged assaults. But investigators found hundreds of videos on Robicheaux's phone after he was arrested, showing women "in various states of undress, consciousness and being assaulted," Van Der Linden said. "We're still going through those videos." Robicheaux—who once appeared on the Bravo television show "Online Dating Rituals of the American Male"—and Riley are due to be arraigned on October 25.

'Wolf in sheep's clothing'

Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas told reporters that Robicheaux and Riley are believed to have worked in tandem at restaurants and bars to identify their victims and make them feel comfortable. "We believe the defendants used their good looks and charm to lower the inhibitions of their potential prey," Rackauckas said. "We've all heard of a wolf in sheep's clothing. Well, a wolf can wear scrubs or doctor's clothing. Or a wolf can be a beautiful woman." The pair apparently used ecstasy, date rape drugs and cocaine to incapacitate their victims before



Grant Robicheaux

Cerissa Riley

assaulting them at Robicheaux's home in Newport Beach, he said.

Authorities say Robicheaux and Riley traveled to various festivals since 2015, including Burning Man in Nevada, as well as landmarks in Arizona, where they may have preyed on other women. Attorneys for Robicheaux and Riley issued a joint statement on Tuesday, denying the charges. "They have been aware of these accusations for a number of months, and each of them will formally deny the truth of these allegations at their first opportunity in court," said Robicheaux's lawyer, Philip Cohen, and Riley's lawyer, Scott Borthwick.

"Dr Robicheaux and Ms Riley believe that such allegations do a disservice to, and dangerously undermine, the true victims of sexual assault, and they are eager to have the proper spotlight shed on this case in a public trial," they added. "It must be noted that none of the allegations in this matter relate to or concern Dr Robicheaux's medical practice or patients in any way." If convicted, Robicheaux faces up to 40 years in prison. Riley could face 30 years behind bars. Rackauckas said potential victims of the pair should not be ashamed to come forward. "Your conscious decisions to party with these defendants... does not give them a pass to rape, assault or have sex with you once you're past the point of consent," he said.—AFP

Strawberry sabotage akin to 'terrorism'

SYDNEY: The piercing of supermarket strawberries with sewing needles is comparable to terrorism, Australia's prime minister said yesterday, as he demanded sentences of up to 15 years in response to a nationwide scare. Urging Australians to make a strawberry pavlova this weekend to help struggling farmers, Scott Morrison demanded a change in the law to toughen sentences. "We're not mucking about" said Morrison, after pieces of fruit were found to be contaminated with needles or pins. "This is not on, this is just not on in this country," he said.

Calling the perpetrator a "coward and a grub", Morrison called on parliament to quickly raise the maximum sentence for such deliberate food contamination from ten to 15 years behind bars. That, he said, would put the crime on par with "things like possessing child pornography and financing terrorism. That's how seriously I take this." The scare has prompted a series of supermarket recalls, and some stores in New Zealand have temporarily banned the sale of Australian strawberries.

Farmers have been forced to pulp fruit and lay off pickers because of slower sales and lower wholesale prices. "Just go back to buying strawberries like you used to and take the precautions that you should," Morrison told Australians in a televised address. "Make a pav



SYDNEY: This photo illustration shows a strawberry on a fork at a restaurant yesterday. —AFP

this weekend and put strawberries on it," he suggested, later adding in a video message that his wife Jen would actually be doing the baking in their house. Authorities have suggested strawberries be cut up before they are eaten. Police on Tuesday said they still did not know the motive for the attacks and were still looking for suspects.

They have asked the public for help with their investigation and are expected later to increase a reward for information that helps resolve the case. The authorities have also complained that the vast majority of the 100 reported cases were hoaxes, and warned that pranksters posting images on Facebook claiming that they have discovered tainted fruit could also face prosecution and potential jail time. Police in New South Wales said a "young person" has admitted putting needles in strawberries as a copycat prank and will be dealt with under the youth cautioning system.—AFP

International

Troops hit rebel-held Hodeida; death toll mounts; UN warns

Renewed battle sparks humanitarian crisis fears

ADEN: Fears were growing of a humanitarian crisis in Yemen after Saudi-backed government forces launched a series of attacks on rebel-held Hodeida, as a charity warned yesterday that more than five million children were at risk of famine in the war-torn state. The Houthi rebels accused the government and its Saudi-led allies of deliberately targeting food warehouses as the coalition said it had resumed a "military operation to liberate Hodeida and its port".

Pro-government forces and medical sources in Hodeida province said that 40 Houthis had been killed around the embattled city since Monday night. The fight for Hodeida, which the Houthis seized in 2014, was put on hold for 11 weeks as the United Nations struggled to bring warring parties to peace talks in Geneva. But the talks collapsed earlier this month after the northern Yemeni rebels refused to attend.

The Red Sea port city is a vital lifeline for aid shipments to Yemen, the most impoverished country in the Arab world. The UN has warned that any major fighting could halt the distribution of food to eight million Yemenis dependent on aid to survive. Disruption to supplies coming through Hodeida could "cause starvation on an unprecedented scale", charity Save the Children said in a report yesterday. An extra one million children now risk falling into famine as food and fuel prices soar, bringing the total to 5.2 million, the charity said.

Claims over food warehouses

Brigadier General Ali Al-Taniji, commander of coalition forces on Yemen's west coast, confirmed Tuesday that the alliance had launched an operation in Hodeida, in a statement to state media in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia's main partner in the coalition. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior coalition official told AFP the

operation was being fought on multiple fronts. Residents in and around the city, home to 600,000 people, reported hearing explosions throughout Monday night. "International food supply warehouses were targeted in Hodeida, a clear sign that there is a plan... to make warehouses and densely populated neighborhoods legitimate targets," said the head of the rebels' Supreme Revolutionary Council, Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi.

He also accused the international community of being complicit in the attacks, saying "tolerance of terrorism has only encouraged (the coalition) to plan and deliberately commit crimes". A spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition did not respond to a request for comment, while a World Food Program spokeswoman declined to say whether the UN agency's facilities had been hit. Saudi Arabia and its allies accuse the Houthis of smuggling arms from Iran through Hodeida, a charge the rebels and Tehran deny, and they have imposed a partial blockade on the port.

UN envoy Martin Griffiths is due in Riyadh, having left the Yemeni capital Sanaa after a three-day trip. Progress was made to resume consultations and confidence-building measures, including the reopening of Sanaa airport to commercial flights and the release of prisoners, the envoy's office said in a statement. Griffiths is pushing for new peace negotiations after the Geneva talks failed to get off the ground, with the Houthis saying they had not received guarantees for their safe return home afterwards.

Humanitarian flights

The UN has said it is working to open a humanitarian air bridge to transport Yemeni cancer patients abroad for treatment. But the Houthis said plans to fly patients out of rebel-held Sanaa on Tuesday had been stopped by the coalition, accusing it of failing to cooperate. World Health



AL HALJAH, Yemen: Displaced Yemenis from Hodeida fill their water barrels at a make-shift camp in a village in the northern district of Abs in Hajjah province. — AFP

Organization spokeswoman Fadela Chaib told AFP there was "no date set for the first flight" pending "final approval from all parties".

While the rebels control the capital, Saudi Arabia and its allies control Yemen's airspace and have put Sanaa's international airport under blockade. In wheelchairs and carrying sick babies, Yemenis in Sanaa lined up Tuesday outside the health ministry as rumors of the impending flight spread. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, Yemen's ambassador to the UN, said his government was willing to "do

whatever it takes to alleviate the suffering and pain of Yemenis", in a letter to Secretary General Antonio Guterres. But he asked that the UN and all its branches not sign agreements "except with the legitimate, internationally recognized government of Yemen".

Saudi Arabia and its allies launched a major operation to retake Hodeida in June before announcing the pause for peace talks. The troops, backed by coalition air strikes, have retaken a number of towns across Hodeida province but have not yet breached the city.

Former columnist jailed for 'abusive' posts on Suu Kyi

YANGON: A former columnist for state media has been jailed for seven years for "abusive" Facebook posts about Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a court official said yesterday, the latest case threatening free expression in the country. Ngar Min Swe was sentenced for sedition on Tuesday, Yangon's Western District Court spokesman Htay Aung said.

"He was convicted... for writing abusive posts on Facebook against State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, making people get the wrong impression of her," Htay Aung said.

Myanmar has already faced widespread condemnation for infringing on freedom of expression following the jailing earlier this month of two Reuters journalists who reported on the Rohingya crisis. Ngar Min Swe worked as a columnist under the previous military-backed government. Since Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party rose to power in 2016, he has written posts against her and the party. He was arrested on July 12, the same day he posted about Suu Kyi receiving a kiss on the cheek from US President Barack Obama during his visit in 2013.

The innocuous gesture came in for criticism from a conservative Myanmar public, especially supporters of the army-aligned Union



Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi

Solidarity and Development Party-like Ngar Min Swe, who took to social media to lob sexist jibes at Suu Kyi. Facebook is wildly popular in Myanmar but users who have hit out at senior leaders of the military or civilian government have faced jail time. Independent analyst David Mathieson said the sentence is yet another example of "the strangulation of free speech" in the country. "Myanmar is in free-fall to resurgent autocracy and imprisoning journalists for colonial-era sounding 'sedition' is yet another warning sign," Mathieson said.

Under the junta, Myanmar routinely jailed journalists and activists but gradually opened up from 2011 and promised greater freedoms

for the media. But supporters of Suu Kyi have been disappointed in recent years by the deterioration of human rights within the country, most notably in the jailing of the Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo who had exposed a massacre of Rohingya Muslims committed by soldiers. British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt promised to raise the Reuters case in meetings with Suu Kyi this week during a high-profile visit in which he would go to Rakhine state, the epicenter of the Rohingya crisis. Hunt's visit comes as the UN has called for the Myanmar military to be held accountable for the "genocide" committed against the Muslim minority.—AFP

Car hits pedestrians outside UK mosque

LONDON: Police in London launched an investigation yesterday into a possible hate crime after a car hit a crowd outside a mosque, injuring three people. The collision, in Cricklewood in north London in the early hours of yesterday, followed the occupants of the car allegedly directing "comments of an Islamophobic nature" at the group, according to the Metropolitan Police.

The incident left a man in his 50s hospitalized with "a serious leg injury", while two other men in their 20s suffered minor injuries, it added. Officers are working to trace the driver and occupants of the car—three men and a woman, all aged in their mid-20s—which fled the scene. "This incident is not being treated as terror related but the hate crime aspect of the collision is being looked at by detectives as an aggravating factor," the Met said in a statement. The incident began when security at the Al-Majlis Al-Hussaini Islamic centre learned the people in the car were "behav-

ing anti-socially, drinking and allegedly using drugs," police added.

The vehicle occupants were asked to leave the private car park, sparking a "confrontation" with a large group of people outside the centre. "Words were exchanged and comments of an Islamophobic nature were allegedly made by the group in the car," the Met said. "The car then reportedly sustained minor damage by some of those outside the centre. "It proceeded to make off at speed colliding with three individuals as it left." Detective Sergeant Kelly Schonhage, from the local investigating team, said the incident was being treated "very seriously" and appealed for witnesses to come forward.

"Extra neighborhood police patrols have been stepped up in the area and officers will be on hand to speak with those in the local community," she added. The number of hate crimes in England and Wales increased by 29 percent in 2016-2017, according to the latest Home Office statistics. On June 19 last year Darren Osborne ploughed a van into people leaving late-night prayers at a mosque in Finsbury Park in north London, killing one man and injuring 11 others. Osborne, who had left a note in the van in which he said he was seeking revenge for Islamist terror attacks and a child sex scandal, was charged with terrorism-related murder and sentenced to life in prison in February.—AFP

Nigerian military struggles against IS in West Africa

ABUJA: Islamist militants have killed hundreds of soldiers in attacks in northeastern Nigeria in recent weeks, security and military sources say, forcing a turnaround in the course of an insurgency which the government has frequently claimed to have vanquished. The fatigued, ill-equipped government troops have reached breaking point, they said. The setback in the war against Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) and the Boko Haram insurgency from which it split in 2016 comes as President Muhammadu Buhari seeks a second term in elections next February. Buhari came to power in 2015 on a promise to defeat Boko Haram, and security has once again emerged as a main campaign issue.

In the past three weeks, according to military and security sources, ISWA killed 48 soldiers at a military base and, in a separate attack, left 32 dead in Gudumbali - a town to which thousands of refugees were ordered to return in June. "The situation in the northeast is deteriorating," said one security source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "They are running out of weapons, ammo and basic equipment. They are exhausted."

Now, ISWA is winning almost all its battles with the military, security sources said. That marks a contrast with the situation in early 2015 when the Nigerian army, backed by troops from neighboring countries, pushed Boko Haram off a swathe of land that the insurgents controlled.

Before the insurgency, Nigeria's northeast, sitting in the arid Sahel that skirts the Sahara's southern border, had for centuries been a hub of cross-continental trade through the desert and one of the country's agricultural breadbaskets. ISWA's influence extends from the Lake Chad region, including in Niger and Chad itself, and stretches about 100 miles into the Nigerian states of Borno and Yobe, where government has in many areas all but vanished after a decade of conflict. It was not immediately clear how control of that territory has changed in recent months.

Military denies

A military spokesman denied the army was losing most of its clashes with ISWA. "It's not true," said Brigadier General John Agim, adding that no soldiers had died at Gudumbali. Agim declined to show battle reports or comment on the rest of the situation, other than saying the military did not have enough equipment. In one of the army's biggest defeats since Buhari came to power, an ISWA attack on a base in July killed at least 100 soldiers, according to people familiar with the matter. Many of the dead were interred in a mass burial, two sources said. Other grueling battles have been fought -

at least 45 soldiers killed in Gajiram in June, scores dead and missing after a convoy ambush in Boboshe in July, and 17 killed in Garunda in August. These are just some of the recent attacks, according to military and security personnel, that are taking a heavy toll on the military. With each victory, ISWA gets stronger, collecting weapons, ammunition and vehicles abandoned by fleeing troops. Its tactics have also improved, using trucks mounted with heavy guns to pin down ill-equipped troops, as well as suicide-bombing vehicles.

'Sitting ducks'

"The military are a bit like sitting ducks, waiting for a very mobile and versatile enemy to strike at a weak point or another," said Vincent Foucher, who studies Boko Haram at the French National Centre for Science Research. The military has kept details of its most recent challenges and defeats close, rarely acknowledging them or any loss of life, say security sources who have sought briefings. Buhari's administration and the military continue to issue statements about victories against an insurgency aimed at creating an Islamic caliphate that dates back to 2009. Normality is returning to the northeast, it says. "The country has been stable for the past three years," Defense Minister Mansur Dan Ali told Reuters last month. However, the minister, discussing the Jill attack, acknowledged that a strong and well-equipped insurgent force was capable of wiping out as many as 200 soldiers.—Reuters

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International

Morocco playing cat and mouse with Africans heading to Europe

Number of people reaching Spain hits 38,000

TANGIER: African emigrants are defying a campaign by Morocco to keep them away from land and sea crossings to Spain, which has become the main entry point to Europe for migrants and refugees following crackdowns elsewhere. Moroccan police conduct regular raids of areas popular with people from elsewhere in Africa and have bussed thousands to the other end of the country since 800 people stormed a fence to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in northern Morocco in July.

The transports drew criticism from human rights groups after two men from Mali died en route and Reuters has found that many people have simply returned, hiding in forests or back streets of the main city of Tangier and planning their escape to Spain. "We came to Morocco to stay in the north until the time was right to force our way through the Ceuta fence. We have no other choice," said Aboubakar, a 25-year-old sociology graduate from Guinea who withheld his surname for fear of repercussions.

His account and those of his companions sleeping in a forest overlooking the poor Tangier neighborhood of Mesnana show how hard it is to stop people who are determined to cross to Europe. The number of people fleeing war or poverty in Africa, the Middle East and Asia who cross to the European Union has dropped to about 80,000 this year from more than a million in 2015, but the issue is divisive and has bolstered far-right and other anti-establishment groups.

And as Italy closes its ports to most asylum-seekers,

more are entering Spain. So far this year 38,852 people have followed that route, UN data shows, at least twice as many as the same period of 2017. More than 310 have died at sea. The vast majority come via Morocco, which foiled a further 54,000 illegal migration attempts by August, Khalid Zerouali, migration and border control director at the Interior ministry said.

"We received tip-offs that trafficking networks were emboldened after the July crossing into Ceuta and were preparing large-scale assaults on security forces at the border this summer," he said. The North

African kingdom is a destination in itself and has granted 56,000 residency permits to foreigners, mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa, since it reformed its migration policy in 2013. Some of these people now say they have been forced from their homes, caught up in the campaign to stop illegal migration. Zerouali said Morocco was under enormous pressure.

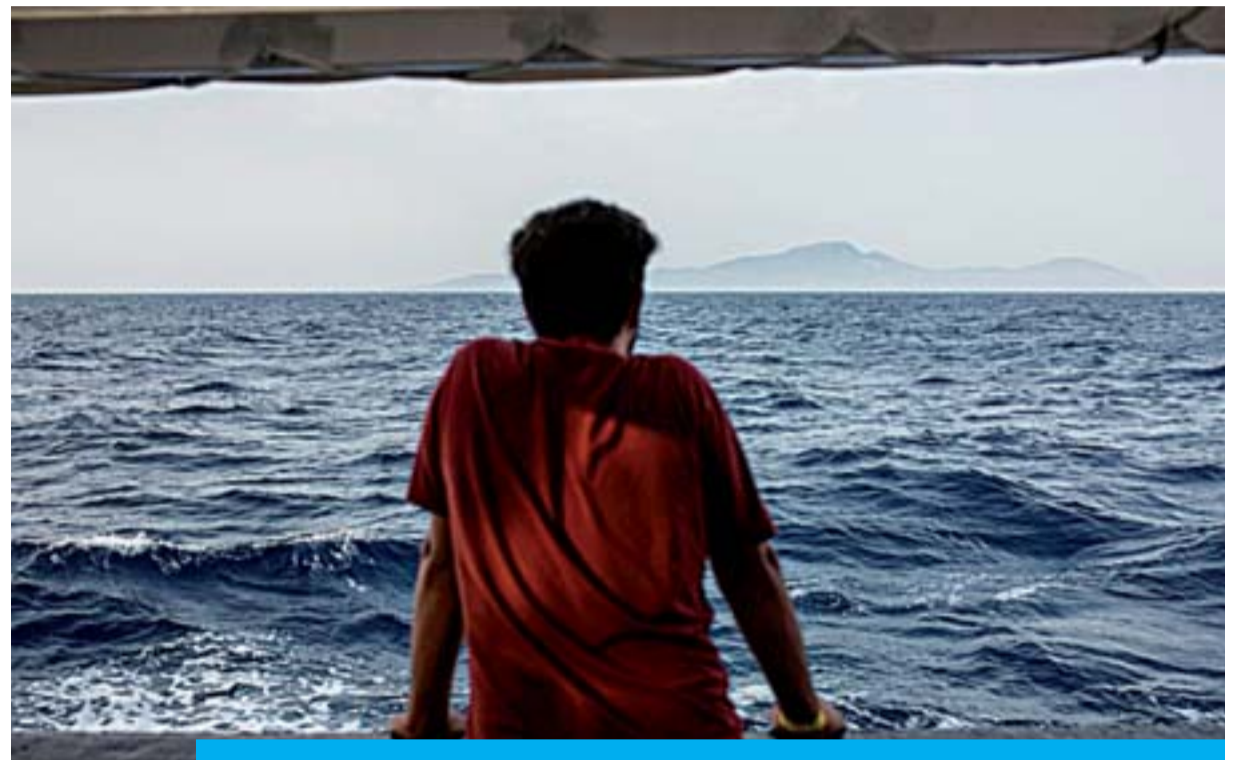
Emigrants defy Morocco campaign



Mass return

While some migrants try to reach Ceuta and another Spanish enclave, Melilla, others pay smugglers to put them on boats, as Spain is just 14 km across the western end of the Mediterranean. Countries can return people arriving irregularly if asylum requests are refused. Yet when the fence was stormed again in August, Spain returned more than 100 people en masse, drawing criticism from rights groups. Madrid said it followed protocols.

The incident held echoes of an earlier spike in border stormings in 2005 accompanied by expul-



AT SEA: A migrant looks at the sea from the deck of the boat of the NGO Proactiva Open Arms. —AFP

sions from Spain. Human rights groups accused Morocco of bussing people into the desert. The new mass return is a sign of the sensitivity of the migrant issue in Spain, one of a dwindling number of European countries where the public has not turned against immigration. Opposition politicians said the expulsions clashed with the tone set by new Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez when he welcomed a

ship full of migrants turned away by Italy in June.

No far-right party has been in parliament since Spain's right-wing dictatorship ended in 1975 but the nationalist Vox party has criticized Sanchez over migration and his government's minority means a new election may come before it is due in 2020. Morocco, which other Africans can visit without visas, —Reuters

Canadian opioid deaths hit 8,000

OTTAWA: More than 1,000 Canadians died of an apparent opioid overdose in the first three months of this year, bringing the toll since the public health crisis erupted in 2016 to 8,000, the public health agency said yesterday. "The latest data suggest that the crisis is not abating," the agency said in a statement. "We want to emphasize that the current crisis does not discriminate," it said. "It impacts people from all walks of life, all age groups and all socioeconomic backgrounds."

However, it is clear that certain populations and regions are affected more than others. "Historically, overdose deaths—mainly from the potent analgesic fentanyl—were concentrated among drug addicts. But the crisis is now also striking people who became addicted to prescribed painkillers before turning to street drugs and others experimenting with recreational drugs for the first time."

The westernmost provinces of British Columbia and Alberta provinces continue to be hardest hit, said the public health agency. Authorities have stepped up efforts to try to curb the number of opioid deaths, such as widely distributing naloxone kits to treat overdoses. It is also considering regulating the popular painkiller tramadol as an opioid after seeing a spike in prescriptions—up 30 percent from 2012 to 2016, according to an analysis of opioid-prescribing trends released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). —AFP

Nigeria's Davido gets on political campaign trail

LAGOS: He's the Nigerian star of Afropop, feted across Africa and the globe as a multi-millionaire singer-songwriter and record producer. But Davido—real name David Adedeji Adeleke—has recently been more focused on party politics and getting his uncle elected as governor of his home state of Osun this weekend. Ademola Adeleke, dubbed "the dancing senator" because of his penchant for dancing in public, must be hoping his high-profile nephew can win him as many voters as he has music fans. The 58-year-old politician is running for the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) against Gboyega Oyetola of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Candidates from no fewer than 48 parties are vying to replace APC Governor Rauf Aregbesola, who is stepping down after a maximum of two four-year terms. Saturday's poll is the final major electoral test before Nigerians vote for a new president, parliament, governors and state legislatures in February and March next year. Davido's intervention is undoubtedly the highlight of a state election that is being seen as test of President Muhammadu Buhari's popularity in Nigeria's southwest. The region, which includes Lagos, the country's megacity of 20 million people, is a key electoral prize for any presidential hopeful and major political parties.

Davido, who has become a common sight on the campaign trail, last weekend took star billing at a rally in his hometown of Ede, performing some of his most popular tunes. The 25-year-old artist is currently carrying out his yearlong compulsory national service—a far cry from the glitz and glamour of his private jet and a recent Africa tour. He was pictured singing and dancing for fans on top of PDP vehicles in a field, delighting local party members and a throng of supporters. —AFP

Black magic bans dents trafficking

BENIN CITY: For almost two decades, 42-year-old Patience earned a steady income sending girls from Nigeria to Europe for sex work, using black magic to stop the women from fleeing. Now she is afraid the illegal trade could kill her. During a ceremony in March, Oba Ewuare II, leader of the historic kingdom of Benin in southern Nigeria, invoked curses on anyone who used witchcraft to aid illegal migration.

Since then, anecdotal evidence suggests the trafficking has slowed although it is too soon for firm data to be collated. The number of female Nigerians arriving in Italy by boat surged to more than 11,000 in 2016 from 1,500 in 2014, with at least four in five forced into prostitution, according to data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). At least nine in every 10 Nigerian women trafficked to Europe come from Edo, a mostly Christian state of 3 million people, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC).

Many came through the hands of women like Patience, who supplements her income as a hairdresser by selling girls into overseas sex work—but the leader's ceremony has stopped that. "I didn't hear directly from his mouth but, through the radio and television. The Oba has stopped everything," Patience told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in her home in Benin, where she lives with her husband and four children. "Whenever I go out, I meet girls who beg me to take them to Europe but I refuse because I don't want to die. Everybody is afraid." Belief in black magic is deep-rooted in Benin, and many fear crossing their traditional leader could incur death, mental breakdown

or a myriad of unexplained physical ailments.

"You don't know what exactly the penalty (of the curse) will be. The repercussions can come in several ways," said David Edebiri, the second highest ranking chief in Benin. He believes the Oba's involvement, inspired by repeated bad press in the international media, has reduced trafficking and could help bring more traffickers to justice as many women involved were too afraid of juju rituals before to testify. "It has been very, very effective and that if even anything is going on now, it must be a very minute dimension. Not as it was before (when) it was becoming everybody's game," he said.

Fresh meat

Patience said she trafficked dozens of girls to Europe over the past 16 years, paid by Nigerian brokers in Europe or madams. The madams told Patience when they needed more girls and she then set about recruiting, usually at her salon. Before leaving, the girls signed a deal that locked them into repaying thousands of dollars of debt. Patience then took them to a spiritual priest to seal the pact with a ritual. Known as juju, such black magic rituals instill fear in a girl that her relatives will fall ill or die if they disobey their traffickers, go to the police or fail to pay their debts. "My face started rotting when I refused to pay any additional money. They took me to different hospitals and conducted all sorts of tests but no one could tell what was wrong with my face," said Florence, 24, who was trafficked to Russia at the age of 18. Florence said she paid at least \$45,000 to her madam over five years of prostitution. Then she refused to pay more. "It was the juju that affected me," she said, stroking her face to describe the lesions that developed a week after she defied her trafficker's demands for more money. But when Oba Ewuare II banned juju priests from performing any ritual to aid the human trade, its effect was instant.



BENIN: The hand of human trafficker Patience is pictured in her home in Benin, Nigeria —Reuters

Closed for business

"No one will ever come here again," said David Ubebe, a juju priest who for eight years attended to a flow of women bringing girls to swear oaths at his shrine as well as phone calls from madams in Europe asking him to compel girls to pay them. He used to earn an undisclosed income for each black magic ritual he performed, boasting his powers could make someone menstruate nonstop or lose peace of mind, but is now too nervous to defy the ban.

The dingy shrine behind his home is now quieter, strewn with animal bones and carvings. Here girls were made to eat pieces of liver—yanked from live chickens—and bits of their hair and clothing were mixed into a concoction that he made them drink. "No one disturbs me anymore," he said. "Even if anybody requests

that I use my powers to put pressure on the girls in Europe so that they will pay, I can't do it, because I don't want to die." Nduka Nwene, Edo zonal commander of Nigeria's anti-trafficking agency (NAPTIP), said victims have become more willing to testify since the Oba revoked the juju curses.

"We are seeing the impact. People who hide out or refuse to come out to give evidence in court are now coming out," said Nwanwene who has four anti-trafficking cases pending in court, including that of Florence who, with her mother, has boldly faced her traffickers in court. Meanwhile Patience is convinced a madam she knows in Europe has fallen ill because she defied the Oba by trying to extort more money from a girl and no one can diagnose her illness. —Reuters

Kavanaugh accuser demands FBI probe before testifying

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump doubled down Tuesday on backing his Supreme Court pick Brett Kavanaugh, as his accuser demanded an FBI probe into her allegations of sexual assault before testifying. "A full investigation by law enforcement officials will ensure that the crucial facts and witnesses in this matter are assessed in a non-partisan manner, and that the committee is fully informed before conducting any hearing or making any decisions," lawyers for Christine Blasey Ford said in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Republican-dominated panel had invited both Kavanaugh, 53, and Ford, 51, to testify publicly about her claims he pinned her down while he was drunk when they were teenagers. Although Ford's letter does not indicate whether she would attend the hearing without a probe by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it said that she has faced "vicious harassment and even death threats" since going public with her allegations on Sunday. "As a result of these kind of threats, her family was forced to relocate out of their home. Her email has been hacked, and she has been impersonated online," it added.

Democrats were quick to back her call for a delay. "I agree with her 100 percent that the rushed process to hold a hearing on Monday has been unfair and is reminiscent of the treatment of Anita Hill," said Senator Dianne

Feinstein. She was referring to the woman who testified in 1991 against Justice Clarence Thomas when he was a nominee over workplace sexual harassment claims. Thomas ultimately won confirmation after Republicans ruthlessly smeared Hill's character.

"A proper investigation must be completed, witnesses interviewed, evidence reviewed and all sides spoken to. Only then should the chairman set a hearing date," said Feinstein. Senator Chuck Schumer said Ford "deserves to be treated with respect and fairness by the Senate." Trump, who has shrugged off allegations about his own sexual improprieties, told a White House press conference that Kavanaugh has an "impeccable history in every way" and "has gone beautifully up the ladder."

Although he repeated his full support for the planned hearings over the claims, the president also rejected calls for an FBI probe and blamed the uproar on Democratic shenanigans to cast doubt over his pick to replace retired justice Anthony Kennedy. "I don't think the FBI should be involved because they don't want to be involved," Trump told reporters. "I feel so badly for him. This is not a man who deserves this," the president said, calling Democratic opponents who raised the issue at the last minute "lousy politicians" but "very good at obstructing." Trump's vote of confidence in Kavanaugh reinforces what is rapidly becoming the latest battlefield in the deeply polarized country ahead of November midterm congressional elections.

Last minute bombshell

Kavanaugh, whose confirmation would tilt the Supreme Court to the right for years to come, had appeared set to sail through



WASHINGTON: Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh leaves his home yesterday in Chevy Chase, Maryland. —AFP

Senate confirmation for the vacancy on the nation's top court until Ford, a California professor, went public. A man Ford placed at the site of the assault as a witness, Mark Judge, categorically refused to testify. "I have no memory of this alleged incident... More to the point, I never saw Brett act in the manner Dr Ford describes," Judge said in a letter to the committee sent by his lawyers. "I have no more information to offer the committee and I do not wish to speak publicly regarding the incidents described in Dr Ford's letter." Pressure is also building from supporters of the year-old #MeToo movement, which has

brought down a string of powerful male figures after women went public with accusations of sexual harassment and assault. "Anybody who comes forward at this point to be prepared to testify in the US Senate against someone who's being nominated to one of the most powerful positions in the US government, that takes an extraordinary amount of courage," said Democrat Kamala Harris, a member of the panel weighing Kavanaugh's nomination. "The American public deserves to know the character of someone who will serve for his entire life on the highest court in our country." —AFP

International

Ageing Japan: Military recruiters struggle; applicant pool dries up

Japan's demographic troubles create 'silent crisis'

TOKYO: As a Japanese military recruiter sat patiently at a booth outside a supermarket in northern Tokyo one recent weekend, she welcomed a rare visitor, high school student Kazuaki Matsumura. But Matsumura, who plans to go to university, wasn't there to sign up. He was just curious. "There are scenes in the media that spark interest in the Self-Defense Forces," the 16-year-old said, referring to Japan's military. "But there are also scenes showing how tough it is and I don't think many want to join. They want to do other things."

Empty recruiting tables and disinterested audiences are becoming more common for the SDF as Japan's demographic troubles and robust economy have created what some defense insiders call a "silent crisis" for military recruiting. Amid a rock-bottom birth rate, the number of Japanese age 18 to 26 - the core of the recruitment pool - has shrunk to 11 million from 17 million in 1994. That group is forecast to shrink to 7.8 million over the next 30 years.

That has left the SDF unable to hit recruitment quotas since 2014. Overall, the military was only able to recruit about 77 percent of the 9,734 lowest-rank enlisted personnel it had sought in the year ending in March. "Twenty years from now, unless we can replace a considerable number of people with robots, it'll be hard to maintain the current level of war capability," said Akihisa Nagashima, a former parliamentary vice defense minister and conservative independent lawmaker.

"Japan's (security) situation won't be more peaceful, so I think this is really serious." The personnel crunch could force Japan's military into tough choices about future missions as it tries to contain China's maritime expansion and deal with volatility on the Korean peninsula. "The manpower shortage will affect operational efficiency," said Hideshi Tokuchi, a former vice defense minister who once headed

the ministry's personnel bureau. "It is a headache. There is more to do with fewer people and I don't think there is any easy solution."

A tough sell

As Japan's economy has improved, unemployment has fallen to around a 25-year low. More high school grads are also heading to college. That is good news for the country, but it makes military recruiting even tougher. "Even though we have the budget, we fall below the allotted number of troops," said Kenji Wakamiya, a former defense vice minister who heads a ruling party panel on defense policy.

Japan budgeted for 247,154 SDF personnel in the year to March 2018, but the military employed only 226,789. The biggest shortfall is in the lowest ranks of enlisted personnel, which were roughly 26 percent below their budgeted level. With conscription deemed unconstitutional, the military is trying to recruit more women, and starting next month, the maximum age for new recruits will be raised to 32. Retirement ages may be increased as well. "There was a time when it was thought youth equals strength, but if you think about it... experience and skill have become even more important for today's SDF," said Ritsuko Hiroshi, director of the defense ministry's personnel affairs division.

A Female Personnel Empowerment Initiative unveiled last year aims to double the percentage of women in the SDF from 6.1 percent in 2016, and to at least 9 percent by 2030. That compares with about 15 percent in the United States and 10 percent in Britain. Although Japanese women can hold a wider range of military jobs than they once could, they still are often assigned to non-combat roles, officials and experts said. "They tend to be positions that are traditionally coded female... anything that doesn't require picking up a weapon," said Sabine Fruhstuck, a professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Manga-style posters help create a 'soft' image of SDF



TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) speaks during a debate for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidential election with former defense minister Shigeru Ishiba at Japan National Press Club in Tokyo. —AFP

A softer image

Recent pop culture campaigns such as manga-style posters help create a "soft" image of the SDF among the public, but the impact on recruitment is limited, experts said. "Hardly anyone joins because he or she saw a poster. They are encouraged to join by parents or relatives or teachers who were former SDF members," said Hitotsubashi University professor Fumika Sato, who researches recruitment.

It takes roughly 5,000 SDF officials, many in regional

headquarters, to recruit about 14,000 new personnel each year. "It's a very time-consuming, labor-intensive business," Tokuchi said. "Recruiters have to approach high schools and parents to explain what they have to do and can do in the military... and then take kids to events organized by the defense forces and induce them to take the exam," he said. The defense ministry is seeking a 5.8 percent increase in the military recruitment budget for the year from April to 2.4 billion yen (\$21 million). —Reuters

China calls on US to show 'respect'

BEIJING: China yesterday called on the United States to show "respect" in their trade spat and refuted President Donald Trump's claims that it was meddling in the US midterm elections by taking aim at his political base. The comments follow a combative series of tweets claiming Beijing's retaliatory import duties on US goods were seeking to influence knife-edge midterm congressional elections due in November, where Trump's Republicans fear losing control of Congress.

But Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang rejected the claims, saying: "Anyone who has some knowledge of China's diplomacy will know that we will not interfere in other countries' domestic affairs." "We don't want others to interfere in our domestic politics, and we will not interfere in the domestic politics of others," Geng said at a regular press briefing.

Accusations of election meddling are especially sensitive in the US, given the political maelstrom over Russia's alleged intervention to support Trump in the 2016 presidential vote. The US announced Monday that it would push ahead with tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods, on top of \$50 billion already targeted. This means the additional levies will hit more than half of US goods from China—its largest source of imports. After China retaliated on Tuesday with duties on \$60 billion of American products, Trump accused China of trying to sway the elections. —AFP

Malaysia ex-PM arrested over \$628 million linked to 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's toppled leader Najib Razak was arrested yesterday and will be charged over allegations that \$628 million linked to state investment fund 1MDB ended up in his personal bank accounts, officials said. Allegations that Najib and his cronies looted huge sums from the investment vehicle were a major factor in the shock defeat of his long-ruling coalition in elections in May, at the hands of a reformist alliance headed by Mahathir Mohamad.

Mahathir, 93, in his second stint as premier after coming out of retirement to take on his ex-protégé Najib, has reopened probes into 1MDB that were shut down by the former government, and vowed to bring Najib to justice. Since losing power, Najib has already been arrested and hit with seven charges related to claims he pocketed some \$10 million from a former unit of 1MDB. However his arrest yesterday was more significant as it related to a central allegation in the long-running scandal—that huge sums from the fund flowed into his bank accounts before a hotly contested election in 2013.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission said in a statement that it had detained Najib as part of its investigations into the fund and "the entry of 2.6 billion ringgit (\$628 million) into his personal account". Najib will appear in court today afternoon where he faces several charges related to abuse of power, the anti-corruption commission said. James Chin, a Malaysia expert from the University of Tasmania, said Najib's current arrest was "much more significant" than his previous one. "I think the Malaysian people will be very, very happy. There were complaints that the government was not moving fast enough on 1MDB," he said.

Rotten ruling elite

When reports about the bank transfers surfaced in 2015, they represented a turning point in the 1MDB scandal and dramatically raised pressure on Najib and his inner circle. The attorney-general later cleared Najib of any wrongdoing, saying the money was a personal donation from the Saudi royal family, and closed down domestic investigations. But allegations related to wrongdoing at 1MDB continued to multiply and the leader lurched sharply to the right. He sacked critics in government, jailed political opponents and introduced increasingly authoritarian laws that analysts said were aimed at silencing any criticism to his rule.

Analysts thought Najib's Barisan Nasional coalition, which had ruled Malaysia uninterrupted since independ-



KUALA LUMPUR: In this file photo, Malaysia's former Prime Minister Najib Razak (center) reacts as he leaves Duta court complex in Kuala Lumpur. —AFP

ence from Britain in 1957, could never be beaten. But Mahathir capitalized on anger at the 1MDB scandal, and disillusionment at race-based politics in the multi-ethnic country, to push them from power. Najib, his family and cronies were accused of using money stolen from 1MDB to buy everything from high-end real estate in the United States to pricey artworks. He and his luxury-loving wife Rosman Mansor became figures of hatred.

The US Department of Justice, which is seeking to recover items allegedly bought with stolen 1MDB cash in

America, estimates that \$4.5 billion in total was looted from the fund. Following Najib's election loss, police seized a vast trove of items—including expensive handbags and jewelry—from properties linked to him with an estimated value of up to \$273 million. Investigations into 1MDB have been moving swiftly. Last month a luxury yacht allegedly bought by a playboy financier with a central role in the scandal was returned to Malaysia after being handed over by Indonesia, which impounded it following a DoJ request. —AFP

New Malaysia child marriage draws UN condemnation

KUALA LUMPUR: The marriage of a 15-year-old Malaysian girl to a man almost three times her age drew condemnation from the United Nations yesterday, putting fresh pressure on the Muslim-majority country to halt such unions. The teenager became the second wife of the 44-year-old in July after an Islamic court gave permission for the pair to wed in the conservative, rural state of Kelantan, local media reported.

It was the latest such case in Malaysia—there was widespread anger in June after the marriage of an 11-year-old Thai girl to a 41-year-old Malaysian rubber trader, who was also from Kelantan. While the legal minimum age for marriage in Malaysia is 16, members of the country's Muslim majority can wed at a younger age if religious authorities give approval. "It's unacceptable that yet another child has got married to an elder man," said Marianne Clark-Hattingh, Malaysia representative of UN children's agency UNICEF, adding it was urgent to "bring legislative change to ban the practice".

Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, whose portfolio includes women's issues, said that welfare officers had been sent to meet the girl, reportedly one of 13 siblings, and her parents in the district of Tumpat. However she suggested there was little the government could do to stop the union, as Islamic courts have jurisdiction over the issue of marriage between Muslims. Under Malaysia's dual-track legal system, Islamic courts can handle religious and family matters for Muslims, who make up about 60 percent of the country's 32 million inhabitants. —AFP

North Korea leader to visit Seoul, shut missile testing site

SEOUL: North Korea's Kim Jong Un agreed to make a historic visit to Seoul soon and close a missile testing site in front of international inspectors at a summit with the South's President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang yesterday. Progress on the key issue of the North's nuclear arsenal was limited, but the two signed a document to strengthen ties between the two halves of the divided peninsula. Building on a growing rapprochement, they agreed to create a facility to hold family reunions at any time, work towards joining up road and rail links, and mount a combined bid for the 2032 Olympics.

The agreement "carries the people's fresh hope and the people's strong, flaming desire for reunification", Kim said. His trip to Seoul would be the first by a Northern leader since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, when hostilities ceased with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving them technically in a state of war. Moon added that the visit could happen this year and would be a "monumental milestone in inter-Korean relations". In their agreement, the North also agreed to "permanently close" a missile engine testing site and launch facility in Tongchang-ri "in the presence

of experts from relevant nations".

Moon, who brokered Kim's historic summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore in June, had hoped to bring fresh momentum to stalled talks between his hosts and Washington. Whether that would happen remained unclear. In Singapore Kim declared his backing for denuclearization of the peninsula but no details were agreed. Washington and Pyongyang have since sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved. Trump welcomed yesterday's declaration, tweeting that Kim had "agreed to allow Nuclear inspections, subject to final negotiations" and adding: "Very exciting!" But experts were sceptical.

'Short of expectations'

The North-whose ballistic missile program is banned under UN Security Council resolutions—has carried out several long-range rocket launches from the site, also known as Sohae, but has also used many other locations including Pyongyang airport. Satellite pictures in August suggested workers were already dismantling an engine test stand at Sohae.

"Kim is playing this brilliantly: verify that I dismantle a single site that I no longer need anyway while I mass-produce the missiles the site helped me develop," said Vipin Narang of MIT. Moon also said the North could close its Yongbyon nuclear plant if Washington takes "corresponding measures"—a significant caveat. Arms control expert



PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (right) and South Korean President Moon Jae-in gesture as they watch the large-scale gymnastic and artistic performance at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang yesterday, after their summit. —AFP

Jeffrey Lewis said the consensus view was that the uranium enrichment facility at Yongbyon "was built for (the) express purpose of being sacrificed". After the high symbolism of Moon and Kim's first meeting in April in the Demilitarized Zone, and the Singapore summit, progress has largely stalled.

Washington is pressing for the North's "final, fully verified denuclearization", while Pyongyang wants a formal declaration that the Korean War is over and has condemned "gangster-like" demands for it to give up its

weapons unilaterally. Ahead of the Pyongyang summit there had been speculation Moon could secure a promise from Kim of a list of the North's nuclear assets, but no such document was mentioned. "On the denuclearization issue, the agreement fell short of expectations," Korea University political science professor Yoo Ho-yeol said. Yesterday's declaration came 13 years to the day after the North committed at the Six Party Talks to "abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs". —AFP

Analysis

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Why the EU should cut Brexit Britain a break

By Paul Wallace

In scarcely more than six months Britain will leave the European Union. That departure on March 29, 2019 could be toxic and disruptive through a failure to reach a deal, hurting Britain most of all, but the EU as well. Or there could be an amicable parting of the ways. For this to happen European leaders meeting in Salzburg this week must now give some ground as the negotiations enter their final stage.

Up till now the EU's strategy has been to secure the union from copycat national revolts in other member states by taking a tough line with Britain. European leaders have closed ranks round the indivisibility of the four freedoms - in goods, services, capital and people. The EU has shunned an a-la-carte negotiation. Instead Michel Barnier, its chief negotiator, has responded to Britain's original "red lines" such as regulatory autonomy with a menu of unpalatable options. These range from a Norway-style hug that would leave the British government a passive rule-taker, to a Canada-style trade deal far removed from Britain's current intertwined relationship with the EU.

The EU's stern line has paid off, not only because of the disparity between the remaining union of 446 million people and a country of 66 million, but also owing to the March 2019 deadline, which leverages that advantage further. The Article 50 procedure in the Lisbon treaty, which Britain triggered 18 months ago, was designed to deter exit rather than to facilitate it. In particular, a country leaves within at most two years with or without an orderly withdrawal agreement; any extension requires unanimity among the 27 remaining countries.

As a result, the negotiations that Brexiters thought would be such a doddle have proved to be a series of harsh lessons. Far from gaining financially from leaving the EU, Britain must pay an exit bill of close to 40 billion pounds (\$52 billion). As the folly of triggering Article 50 in March 2017 without a coherent and deliverable strategy became clear, Britain hastily had to secure a transition arrangement that in effect postpones Brexit - though not its exclusion from power within the EU - until the end of 2020.

The biggest climbdown of all has been the Chequers plan of July, when Prime Minister Theresa May strong-armed her Cabinet into backing a softer Brexit. Out went the original plan for a hard Brexit through an enhanced Canada-style free-trade agreement. Instead, May sought to retain as close as possible a relationship in the trading of goods, including a common rulebook and what amounted to a customs union. Just how big a swerve in government policy this represented became clear when leading Brexiters David Davis and Boris Johnson quit in protest as ministers, the latter claiming that "we appear to be heading for a semi-Brexit".

European leaders meeting in Salzburg on Sept 19 and 20 must now make a crucial choice. They can persist with their hard line, insisting on the indivisibility of the single market and thus rejecting a special deal for Britain in goods. Or they can concede some ground by moving at least some of the way towards the Chequers plan. Given the success of their strategy to date, European leaders look likely to stand firm. If Britain suffers as a result, this will underscore their central message, that leaving the EU is a bad call. What's more, as the reality of an unattractive deal on Britain's future relationship sinks in, the British could think again about leaving, perhaps precipitating a second referendum.

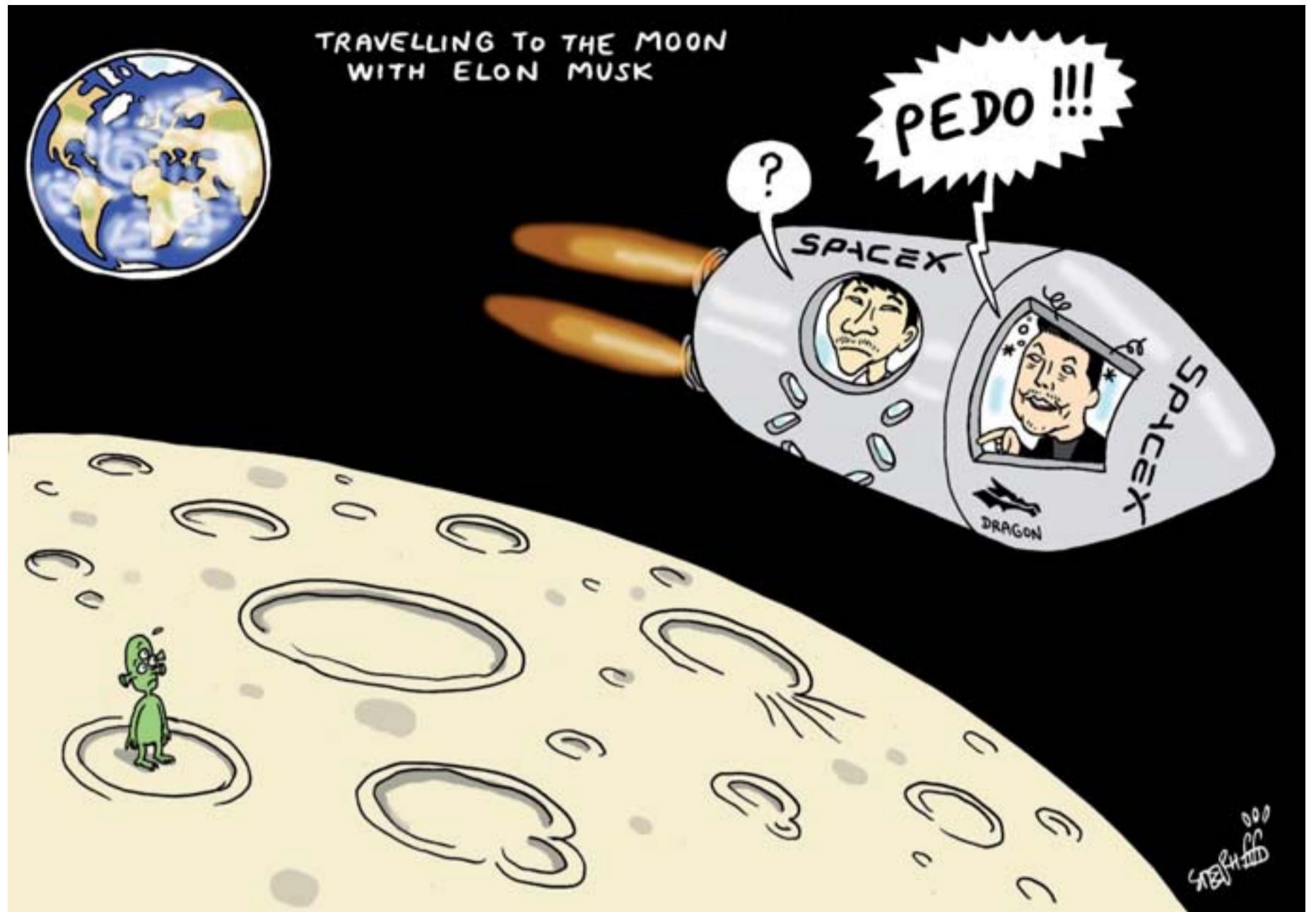
But such an unyielding approach would be risky, raising the chances of a Brexit without any deal at all, given the current divisions within the ruling Conservative party and potential deadlock in parliament. Most obviously, it would weaken May and embolden Johnson as he maneuvers to replace her as prime minister. In any case the outcome of a second referendum is far from clear, since voters are as likely to blame the EU as the British government for a poor deal.

Magnanimity

It makes sense for the EU to behave now with magnanimity because even before Britain formally leaves, it is abundantly clear that the referendum vote in 2016 has been a mistake. The economy has already suffered, slipping down the growth rankings among the G7. A country once respected for its pragmatism and political stability has lost the plot. Britain's abject experience is already an object lesson to other countries not to follow suit. Indeed there has been an upsurge in optimism among Europeans about the EU's future over the past two years. That is why the EU should offer some support for embattled May. The supposed indivisibility of the four freedoms is more theological - the union's version of the holy trinity - than substantive. The deal that May is seeking is quite similar to that of Switzerland, which is essentially in the single market for goods but not services. Though her convoluted proposal for a customs union in all but name is unworkable, the EU could nonetheless offer the real thing. Engaging with May on her vision for the future trading relationship would pave the way to resolving the most fraught part of the withdrawal agreement, on how to avoid a hard Irish land border.

In making their choice European leaders should heed history. As they meet in Salzburg they could ponder the fate of an earlier sprawling multinational enterprise, the Austro-Hungarian empire, which disintegrated a hundred years ago at the end of World War One. Its common bonds of a customs and currency union together with a single military and foreign policy (a stretch too far for the EU) were not enough to contain breakaway national movements. As worries about migration have revived nationalist sentiments, the EU must avoid rigidity.

NOTE: Paul Wallace is a London-based writer. A former European economics editor of The Economist, he is author of "The Euro Experiment", published by Cambridge University Press —Reuters



Resurgent Africa seeks tourism boom

Africa draws just five percent of the world's tourists despite boasting attractions ranging from the Pyramids and Victoria Falls to wildlife safaris and endless strips of pristine beach. But the continent's huge potential can be unlocked by ecotourism, cultural experiences, domestic travel and political stability, said experts at an African tourism conference hosted by Airbnb in Cape Town last week. "When you look at the success stories, it's those countries who've embraced trends," said the African Tourism Association's (ATA) managing director Naledi Khabo who spoke at the summit. "When you look at some countries which have made sustainability a focal point, like Tanzania, or Rwanda, they're very attractive for certain travellers."

Eco-friendly safaris and carbon-neutral lodging draw increasing numbers of tourists from Europe and North America. The number of tourists visiting Tanzania has more than doubled since 2006 to above one million contributing 14 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), according to Tanzania Invest. Khabo, who speaks for the African tourism sector, said other success stories included South Africa, "which is promoting the diversification of their products beyond the safari".

South Africa has witnessed a boom of experience-based tours, taking travellers to disadvantaged township and rural communities as well as wine farms and game lodges. Abigail Mbalo founded the 4RoomEkasi concept to showcase food and lifestyles in South Africa's black communities to visitors. "We tapped into the development of tourism in rural and township spaces," she said. "We are now starting to see cultural inclusivity. Those areas have been untapped."

'A safe place to travel?'

Tourism is a major employer of poor black South

Turkey oppn daily Cumhuriyet shaken by internal strife

The Istanbul headquarters of Turkish opposition daily Cumhuriyet hums with the daily excitement of a busy newsroom as reporters work the phones chasing their next story. On the wall, an old front page is proudly displayed, challenging the government. "You will not be able to take us down," it reads. But the apparent normality belies a simmering conflict inside the leading independent newspaper which has been fiercely critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and seen several of its staff prosecuted and jailed.

The root of the tumult has on this occasion, however, not been the legal troubles under Erdogan, who has been repeatedly accused of riding roughshod over the media in Turkey and hampering freedom of expression. It stems from a longstanding row between the liberal and nationalist flanks at the paper that resulted in wholesale changes at board level earlier this month. Since then, nearly 30 journalists, including several veterans, have quit the nearly 100-year-old paper, raising fears about the stability of one of the very few dailies in Turkey that still criticizes the government.

"Erdogan must be very pleased with what has happened at Cumhuriyet," said 77-year-old writer Aydin Engin, who resigned after more than 15 years of contributions. "Cumhuriyet was a thorn in his side. That thorn has now lost its sharpness," he told AFP.

A management coup?

Unlike many Turkish newspapers Cumhuriyet, which means 'republic', is not owned by a business conglomerate

and accounts for nearly 700,000 jobs - a rare success story in a country with an unemployment rate of almost 27 percent. The World Bank, which spoke at the tourism summit, praised the emerging trend for community-based travel projects like Mbalo's for creating opportunities for women and young people. "Every new business, destination, route or visitor creates opportunity for local people," said the World Bank in a statement.

While many African destinations have courted foreign

fearful of political instability and violence. "The biggest challenge is perception," said Khabo. "Sometimes there is a real threat and sometimes it's just perceived."

Rwanda's transformation

Rwanda is one country that has successfully transformed its global image. The small east African nation was torn apart by a genocide in 1994 but has since established itself as a high-end destination. "Tourism is the number one foreign exchange earner, which is amazing to see in a country like Rwanda," said Rosette Rugamba who was appointed by President Paul Kagame as head of Rwanda Tourism from 2003 to 2010. "It is a huge contributor to the image-building of our country."

Zimbabwe, which is home to some of Africa's best game and Victoria Falls, has enjoyed a boost in visitor numbers since long-serving despot Robert Mugabe resigned in November. While the number of foreign visitors to Victoria Falls jumped nearly 50 percent in the first quarter of this year, the country still operates far below its tourist potential. "The onus is on African governments and tourism boards to be more proactive in addressing perceptions," added Khabo.

One African country that has seen its tourism industry squeezed is Egypt, once a magnet for travellers that has since the 2011 revolt seen visitor numbers plummet, despite the huge draw of the Pyramids and the Red Sea. Another is the Democratic Republic of Congo, which for years has been riven with often deadly political and ethnic unrest. "There's an enormous amount the DRC has to offer" including gorillas, pristine national parks, and smoldering volcanoes, said tourism author Anita Mendiratta, who spoke at the conference. "That's limited now because of the safety and security." —AFP



Hotspots, not trouble spots

visitors' hard currency, Kenya has invested heavily in promoting "staycations". The country moved to promote domestic travel after dips in foreign arrivals following violent unrest and criminal attacks in recent years. "We have managed to develop the domestic market. Twenty-one percent of Airbnb occupancy is domestic market. It's benefiting us," said Kenya's Tourism Minister Najib Balala at the conference.

Tourism, now the second largest driver of Kenya's GDP growth, was worth \$1.2 billion in 2017. But many countries on the continent have struggled to woo foreign visitors

- which can be prone to government pressure - but by an independent foundation. On Sept 7, the paper's nationalists, who see themselves as the inheritors of the legacy of Turkey's secular founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, managed to oust a more liberal faction from the board of directors. Critics denounced the move, which triggered a flood of resignations, as a management coup.

Celebrated names like veteran journalist Kadri Gursel and cartoonist Musa Kart - both of whom spent months in jail in a hugely controversial trial on terror propaganda charges - have now left the paper. "Since the 1980s, there have been divisions between the more nationalist, secular group and those more liberal," said Turkish intellectual Ahmet Insel, who stopped writing a column for the paper which he had penned since 2015. The management changes mark "the failure of an attempt to create an open newspaper, not sectarian", he told AFP. Even during the terror propaganda trial - which resulted in the conviction of 14 of its staff earlier this year - the two camps had been at loggerheads.

'Far from secular ideals'

For the proponents of the traditional Kemalist line of Cumhuriyet, the editorial changes of the last few years which brought in more pro-European and more pro-Kurdish voices were a heresy. "They brought in columnists into Cumhuriyet... who had nothing to do with republican and secular ideas," said Mine Kirikkanat, a new member of the editorial board. The ideological battle for the heart of the daily was exposed when 17 of its staff went on trial last year on "terror" charges.

Called by the prosecution to testify, Alev Coskun - a former board member at the time who is now the foundation's new chairman - vehemently criticized



Turkish opposition daily Cumhuriyet's member of the editorial board Mine Kirikkanat poses during an interview with AFP on Sept 14, 2018 in Istanbul. —AFP

Cumhuriyet's editorial line after 2013. Members of the ousted team have accused the authorities of a "palace revolution" supported by a pro-Erdogan judiciary aimed at ushering in changes at the newspaper. The new appointments were made after the Court of Cassation, Turkey's top appeals court, ruled there were "irregularities" during 2013 elections for the foundation.

'Inestimable loss'

But the new board denies any collusion with the government to take over the daily. These allegations are "disturbing," said Sukran Soner, a new board member and celebrated journalist at Cumhuriyet, where she made her debut in 1966. "We will continue to do uncompromising journalism," she told AFP, saying she would be "the first to leave" if the newspaper turned pro-Erdogan.

In a sign that the war between the two sides was far from over, the new management accused the previous team of terminating some employees' contracts with deliberately high compensation a few days before Sept 7. The former management denies this. One thing is for sure - the departure of so many lauded writers from Cumhuriyet is an "inestimable loss for Turkish journalism" at a time when over 90 percent of the media is controlled by people close to Erdogan, said Erol Onderoglu, Turkey representative of Reporters Without Borders.

Veteran writer Engin said he believed it might be possible for a liberal team to return "one day" to the head of Cumhuriyet because, after all, "the history of this newspaper is full of twists and turns, for better or worse". But being in his 70s, it was over for him, he admitted. "I am now an old journalist. I will not return." —AFP

Business

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US consumers reel from Trump's tariffs

For Americans and US retail outlets, Chinese goods are inevitable



NEW YORK: In this file photo, shoppers are looking for a super deal a Black Friday shopping at a retail outlet. — AFP

WASHINGTON: A universe of Chinese-made goods found in every American home is now subject to the sprawling tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump, with the brunt of costs to be borne by US consumers, key drivers of the American economy.

Shampoo and furniture. Vacuum cleaners, handbags and mobile phones. Half of everything Americans buy from China will by Monday be subject to 10 percent levies, rising to 25 percent about three months later. "Every time this trade war escalates, the risk to US consumers grows," Matthew Shay, president of the National Retail Federation, said in a statement following the announcement of Trump's latest China tariffs.

"We cannot afford further escalation, especially with the holiday shopping season right around the corner."

Trump's new protectionist measures now cover some 11,400 Chinese-made goods, or about \$250 billion in annual imports at current levels, according to official documents and trade data. According to Chad Bown, a trade expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, by the time of November's mid-term elections, "40 percent of total US imports could be hit by new tariffs that Trump imposed in 2018 alone."

While the Trump administration may downplay the risks, economists have long warned that mounting tariffs will ultimately have to come out of individual Americans' pocket books. Trade is among US house-

holds' biggest worries, according to a regular University of Michigan survey of consumer sentiment.

The breadth of products concerned, produced by most industrial sectors, and their number, could cause some consumers cut their spending.

Tariffs for Black Friday

But household spending, an historic driver of the American economy, has risen for a generation on the back of cheap, Chinese-made goods that US consumers buy casually, dispose of and replace.

In American shops and major retail outlets like Walmart, shoes, clothing and electronics made in China are unavoidable. American consumers can be particularly

price-sensitive, moderating nationalist sentiment if it means spending more.

Opinion polls showed last year that a large majority preferred to buy American goods if foreign-made equivalents were priced the same. But their numbers dwindled as US-made goods became more expensive. Economists expect a bump in prices for Chinese-made merchandise will see sales plummet.

The tariffs will affect a tiny fraction of US gross domestic product, well below one percent, but the economic costs "are likely to be disproportionately felt by US households," according to Barclays.

Tariffs have already driven up prices for durable goods, with costs estimated at 0.6 percent of GDP, the bank's analysts said. A

recent National Retail Federation study showed that border taxes on Chinese-made goods could cost American consumers as much as \$6 billion a year.

But consumers may have little alternative, as similar goods made elsewhere are even more costly, the federation said. On November 23, the day after the Thanksgiving holiday that retailers dub "Black Friday," American consumerism is due to kick into high gear, marking the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season.

"The mere talk of tariffs on all remaining Chinese imports is of serious concern to retailers since tariffs of that magnitude would touch on every aspect of American life," Shay said. —AFP

China says won't weaken currency to boost exports as tariffs bite

TIANJIN, China: China will not stoop to competitive devaluation of its currency, Premier Li Keqiang stressed, hours after China hit back, with a softer punch than the one landed by the United States, in an escalating tariff war between the world's largest economies.

Addressing a World Economic Forum event in the port city of Tianjin yesterday, Li did not directly mention the trade conflict but said talk of Beijing deliberately weakening its currency was "groundless." "One-way depreciation of the yuan brings more harm than benefits for China," he said. "China will never go down the road of relying on yuan depreciation to stimulate exports."

China will not do that to chase "thin profits" and "a few small bucks". Li went on to say that the world's multi-lateral trading system should be upheld, and that unilateral trade actions will not solve any problems.

His remarks gave a lift to the yuan, which

has lost about 9 percent of its value since mid-April amid the ongoing trade war. On Tuesday, Beijing added \$60 billion of US products to its import tariff list in retaliation for US President Donald Trump's planned levies on \$200 billion of Chinese goods. But Beijing is running out of room to respond to any further US tariffs on a dollar-for-dollar basis, raising concerns it may resort to other measures to weather what could be a protracted trade battle.

China has yet to publicly accept an invitation extended last week by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to hold a fresh round of talks, which China welcomed at the time.

Yesterday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said he had no information on a possible trade delegation and questioned US sincerity about wanting new talks, noting that the last round was followed immediately by the activation of new tariffs.

"This has become a kind of US routine," he said. The United States wants to pressure China to make sweeping changes to its trade, technology transfer and high-tech industrial subsidy policies.

Trump had warned that retaliation by China would trigger tariffs on another \$267 billion of Chinese goods, on top of duties on \$250 billion in imports that are already in place or threatened. China, which bought only \$130 billion in American goods last year, has imposed or threatened tariffs on \$110 billion in U.S. products.

"China are out of bullets. The fight is done and dusted. Now it's just a question of how the Chinese can save face and say 'alright we're going to change, going to open up wider access not only to the US but to the EU and Japan,'" said Christopher Peel, chief investment officer at Tavistock Wealth in London.

"Their economy is export-led, they can't afford for it to go out of control," he said.

Economic hit

The new US tariffs will begin on Sept. 24 at 10 percent and will increase to 25 percent by the end of 2018, with Bank of America Merrill Lynch forecasting a 0.5 percentage point decline in Chinese gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2019 to 6.1 percent. Oxford Economics said in a note that China's economic growth in 2019 could fall well below 6 percent, and said prospects for near-term easing in tensions were low.

But, it added "the likelihood of de-escalation will rise over time as the increasing economic impact in the US will make the Trump team less combative, and China realizes that it will be hard to integrate more into the global economy without some concessions regarding its specific economic model."

Investors were relieved that the latest escalation was less severe than some market participants had expected, with Asian stocks rising yesterday and US Treasury



yields near four-month highs.

Fighting talk

China remains unafraid of the "extreme measures" taken by the United States, the People's Daily newspaper said in a front-page article in its overseas edition yesterday.

"To deal with the trade war, what China really should do is to focus on doing its own thing well," said the newspaper, which is published by the ruling Communist Party.

"(China) is not worried that the US trade counter measures will raise domestic commodity prices by too much but will instead use it as an opportunity to replace imports, promote localization or develop export-oriented advanced manufacturing," it said.

The Global Times tabloid, which is affiliated to the People's Daily, said the trade war was a chance to pursue greater global recognition of its financial markets and that it could open its A-share market more to listings by Western firms. —Reuters

Business

Danske Bank CEO quits over money laundering scandal

Danish investigators probing transactions worth \$150 billion

COPENHAGEN: The chief executive of Denmark's largest lender, Danske Bank, resigned yesterday as the institution said it was unable to determine how much money was laundered through its Estonian branch. The announcements came days after the Wall Street Journal reported that Danish investigators were probing transactions of up to \$150 billion "from companies with ties to Russia and the former Soviet Union" that transited Danske Bank's Estonian branch between 2007 and 2015.

In early August, the state prosecutor's office for serious economic and international crime said the bank was being investigated and prosecutors would decide whether to press charges. The bank meanwhile tasked an independent legal firm to conduct an investigation of its own.

But the inquiry, which is drawing near to a close, was unable to provide an accurate estimate of suspicious transactions by non-resident customers in Danske Bank's Estonian branch between 2007 and 2015. Meanwhile, it exonerated chief executive Thomas Borgen of any direct responsibility in the case, which has thrown the Danish bank into a whirlwind of legal and media attention in recent weeks.

Borgen nonetheless said it was best for him to go.

"It is clear that Danske Bank has failed to live up to its responsibility in the case of possible money laundering in Estonia," he said in a statement. "Even though the investigation conducted by the external law firm concludes that I have lived up to my legal obligations, I believe that it is best for all parties that I resign," he added.

'Do everything in their power'

As a way to clean up its tarnished image, Danske Bank said it would "donate the gross income from the customers in the period from 2007 to 2015, which is estimated at 1.5 billion kroner (201 million euros, \$235 million), to an independent foundation which will be set up to support initiatives aimed at combating international financial crime, including money laundering, also in Denmark and Estonia."

With that sum set to be booked in the third quarter, the bank had to revise downwards its earnings outlook for the whole of 2018, forecasting a net profit of 16-17 billion kroner instead of the previously anticipated 18 to 20 billion. The financial pain from the case was already being felt on the trading floor: shares in Danske Bank plunged more than 7.8 percent in the Copenhagen Stock Exchange before noon local time.

Lars Krull, an economics professor at Aalborg University, told AFP he believed the bank would do whatever it takes to rehabilitate its reputation. "I think they (Danske Bank) will do everything in their power to be robust in handling this case," he said.

But Mikkel Emil Jensen, an analyst at Sydbank, told Ritzau news agency that it may be a long time yet before life at Danske goes back to normal.

"We do not know the extent of the money laundering problem which means the uncertainty can last. The fear of receiving heavy fines is still there," he said. The money laundering allegations are linked to a fraud case exposed by the Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who was jailed in Russia after he revealed the involvement of several high-ranking Russian officials in stealing massive tax payments from several companies. Magnitsky died in 2009 aged 37 after being held in a Russian jail for a year, where he was denied medical care. —AFP



COPENHAGEN: (Left to right), Board member of Denmark's largest lender Danske Bank Ole Andersen, CEO Thomas Borgen, vice-chairwoman of the board Carol Sergeant, board member Jørn P. Jensen and attorney Ole Spiermann give a press conference about the money laundering scandal in the bank at the Tivoli Kongres Center in Copenhagen yesterday. —AFP

Yemenis struggle with fuel shortages, soaring prices

SANAA: Taxi driver Fahed Othman has been waiting to fill up at a petrol station in the Yemeni capital for two days, but when his turn finally comes the fuel has run out. "I don't have any other choice but to wait," the 35-year-old told AFP wearily.

Hundreds of Yemenis queue up at petrol stations every day in Sanaa, with residents increasingly frustrated by deteriorating living conditions after more than three years of war.

The conflict has triggered crippling shortages, which in turn has caused prices to skyrocket. Cooking gas, diesel and petrol have all increased by more than 25 percent since November 2017, according to the UN's humanitarian agency (OCHA).

Meanwhile, the central bank of war-torn Yemen has raised interest rates on deposits to an all-time high of 27 percent in a bid to stabilize the plunging riyal that caused food prices to soar.

The bank also raised interest rates on government

bonds to 17 percent from 12 percent and banned taking out of Yemen more than \$10,000 without a prior permit, the official Saba news agency reported.

Previously the interest rate on deposits was 17 percent, according to the Facebook account of the central bank run by the internationally recognized government. The move is aimed at strengthening the riyal and reducing skyrocketing inflation.

The Yemeni currency has dived more than 36 percent since the beginning of the year despite Saudi Arabia placing a \$2 billion deposit in the central bank, now based in the government's temporary capital of Aden. The slide in the value of the currency has triggered a sharp rise in the prices of commodities, especially food and fuel.

'Black market sales'

Sanaa resident Ahmed Al-Rawdi, pointing to a petrol station behind him, said the pump had been closed because those who run it claimed to have no more fuel. "Merchants are trying to exploit the situation by storing the fuel to sell it (for more money) on the black market," he said.

"They are just saying that there is no more petrol. But the tanks are full."

But the Red Sea port remains a vital lifeline for aid and fuel shipments into Yemen, the most impoverished

Arab country. Sanaa resident Saddam Ghaleb said the problem "is not that fuel cannot be transported from Hodeida city, because petrol is available on the black market."

"It is the authorities that want to ignite a crisis so that they raise the price of fuel," the 28-year-old told AFP. In a stark warning, the charity Save The Children said yesterday more than five million children were at risk of famine in Yemen, and highlighted the fate of Hodeida.

Apart from reducing food supplies, any "disruption (to the port) ... could drive up the price of fuel - and as a result transport - to such an extent that families can't even afford to take their sick children to hospital," said the organization's CEO Helle Thorning-Schmidt.

Merchants found to be "hiding fuel or raising the prices" will be detained, he said in a statement carried by the rebel-run Saba news agency.

'Too much to endure'

Mohsen Mheimed, a 38-year-old contractor in Sanaa, has not worked in four days because he has been unable to get enough fuel. "I need at least 20 liters a day," he said, adding: "I have to wait for a couple of days to fill up just one car, and in the meantime I can't do my job." —AFP

McDonald's spared in EU tax probe

BRUSSELS: The European Union yesterday ended a long-running investigation into the tax arrangements between US fast food giant McDonald's and Luxembourg, finding the setup did not amount to illegal state aid. With the decision, the maker of Big Mac and McNuggets escapes the fate of US giants Apple, Starbucks and Amazon, which were ordered by the EU to repay big amounts in back taxes, angering Washington.

"Luxembourg did not break EU state aid rules," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager told a news briefing in Brussels, though she carefully added that the company had managed to escape tax, albeit legally.

The case stemmed from a complaint by trade unions and the charity War on Want accusing McDonald's of avoiding around one billion euros (\$1.2 billion) in taxes between 2009 and 2013 by shifting profits from one corporate division to another. "Of course, the fact remains that McDonald's did not pay any taxes in Luxembourg on these profits—and this is not how it should be from a tax fairness point of view," Vestager said.

'Missed opportunity'

Launched in 2015, the case against one of the world's most iconic companies followed the LuxLeaks affair, which revealed that top global companies had negotiated lower tax rates, in some cases as low as one percent, in secret pacts with Luxembourg. Luxembourg itself has been hit by negative decisions from Brussels—including a payback demand against Amazon for 250 million euros. McDonald's



MIAMI: This file photo shows a McDonald's sign on a restaurant in Miami, Florida. EU said yesterday that McDonald's tax deals with Luxembourg are legal. —AFP

fate is in stark contrast to the spectacular decision against iPhone-maker Apple, which was handed a record 14 billion-euro tax bill over its arrangements in Ireland. "The commission has missed an opportunity to tackle McDonald's," said Owen Espley, senior campaigner at War on Want, the complainant in the case. —AFP

Venezuela to bump China oil exports to one million bpd

CARACAS: Venezuela is to increase its oil exports to China to one million barrels a day, President Nicolas Maduro said on Tuesday, just days after visiting the Asian powerhouse. Maduro said each country would invest "around five billion dollars" in the project by August 2019.

Private sector estimates put the current export figure to China at around 700,000 barrels a day.

Maduro spent two days in China last week, welcomed by counterpart Xi Jinping and attending meetings at the China Development Bank and the China National Petroleum Corporation.

Venezuela, the country with the largest crude reserves in the world, has received more than \$60 billion in credit from Beijing over the last decade but still owes about \$20 billion and has been repaying the debt with oil shipments. Speaking to foreign media, Maduro said China National Petroleum Corporation president Zhang Jianhua will visit Venezuela today to finalize "the investment they're going to make."

China eased Venezuela's debt repayment conditions in 2016 with the South American country gripped by an economic crisis. Maduro refused to comment on whether those conditions had been extended during negotiations with China.

"Venezuela pays its debts on time, it's shown in the most difficult moments it's ability to respond to its Chinese commitments," he said.

'The accounts are clear with them.'

Upon his return from China on Saturday, Maduro had refused to comment on rumors he had been offered an extra \$5 billion loan. He also walked into a social media storm after a celebrity chef in Turkey had posted videos of Maduro gorging on juicy chunks of meat and sucking on a cigar at a trendy restaurant in Istanbul during a stopover in which he is believed to have met in secret with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. —AFP

Italy coalition urges economy minister to be looser on deficit

ROME: Italy's populist ruling coalition called on Economy Minister Giovanni Tria yesterday to allow greater deficit spending in next year's budget in order to make good on campaign promises, causing jitters in financial markets worried about debt. Pressure on Tria has increased as a Sept 27 deadline approaches to set the deficit and debt targets for next year's budget, which must be presented to parliament by Oct. 20. Italy's public debt is the highest in the eurozone after Greece's, and markets are concerned about the prospect of it rising further. Tria is seen as the bastion of market discipline against the demands of the ruling anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and far-right League party, which took office in June.

"We can't wait two or three years to maintain our promises," Luigi Di Maio, deputy prime minister and 5-Star leader, said on Wednesday during a trip to China, after repeating he had "full confidence" in Tria. "The objective is not to reassure markets. The objective of the budget is to improve the quality of life of Italians," Di Maio said. The comments, although in line with Di Maio's previous rhetoric, pushed up the yield on Italy's 10-year

bond because of concern that party leaders were leaning harder on Tria as the deadline looms to release the budget targets.

Giancarlo Giorgetti, a cabinet undersecretary and high-ranking League official, said in an interview with la Repubblica newspaper: "We only ask that minister Tria not get hung up on decimal points, that he show a minimum of flexibility." Tria wants to keep the 2019 budget deficit below 2 percent of gross domestic product, according to a government source, while sources from 5-Star and the League have told Reuters they want it as high as 2.5 percent and not below 2 percent. This year's deficit goal is 1.6 percent and the target for 2019 set by the previous center-left administration is 0.8 percent. However, Tria—an academic who is not affiliated with either ruling party—has already said this will be raised significantly, partly because the economy is slowing. "I'm tired of having to stick to parameters set by others," League leader Matteo Salvini said on Tuesday during a late-evening TV talk show, referring to public finance targets agreed between the previous government and the European Commission.

Speaking of the gap, or spread, between Italy's 10-year bond yield and that of the safer German counterpart, Salvini said: "I'll take care of the spread. I eat bread and spread, and I'll keep it low." The spread was at 233 basis points yesterday, sharply down from peaks around 300 in May and June. However, it is still about 100 points higher than in early May before the ruling parties began negotiating their government "contract".

Salvini said he did not believe the spread depended on the deficit target, but on the credibility of the government's policies and their ability to boost growth.

While at loggerheads with Tria, both Salvini and Di Maio have pledged to keep the deficit under the European Union's 3 percent of GDP upper limit. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
Europe			
British Pound	0.391655	0.405855	
Czech Korune	0.005911	0.015211	
Danish Krone	0.043425	0.048425	
Euro	0.346792	0.360492	
Georgian Lari	0.115133	0.115133	
Hungarian 0.001003	0.001193		
Norwegian Krone	0.033155	0.038355	
Romanian Leu	0.059209	0.076059	
Russian ruble	0.004503	0.004503	
Slovakia	0.009058	0.019058	
Swedish Krona	0.030020	0.035020	
Swiss Franc	0.308206	0.319206	
Australasia			
Australian Dollar	0.211379	0.223379	
New Zealand Dollar	0.193969	0.203469	
America			
Canadian Dollar	0.228651	0.237651	
US Dollars	0.299400	0.304700	
US Dollars Mint	0.299900	0.304700	
Asia			
Bangladesh Taka	0.002966	0.003767	
Chinese Yuan	0.042737	0.046237	
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036593	0.039343	
Indian Rupee	0.003647	0.004419	
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022	
Japanese Yen	0.002617	0.002797	
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275	
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069944	0.075944	
Nepalese Rupee	0.002624	0.002964	
Pakistan Rupee	0.001879	0.002649	
Philippine Peso	0.005500	0.005800	
Singapore Dollar	0.216159	0.226159	
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001519	0.002099	
Taiwan	0.009741	0.009921	
Thai Baht	0.008949	0.009499	
Arab			
Bahraini Dinar	0.790364	0.806864	
Egyptian Pound	0.014329	0.020047	
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085	
Iraqi Dinar	0.000204	0.000264	
Jordanian Dinar	0.423765	0.432765	
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000	
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250	
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022409	0.046409	
Omani Riyal	0.781994	0.787674	
Qatar Riyal	0.079074	0.084014	
Saudi Riyal	0.079847	0.081147	
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506	
Tunisian Dinar	0.105511	0.113511	
Turkish Lira	0.041146	0.052948	
UAE Dirhams	0.081207	0.082907	
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986	0.001066	

Business

Burgan Bank Group opens rights offering to raise up to KD 62.55m

Bank to issue up to 240.58 million shares at KD 0.260 per share

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, Kuwait's second largest conventional bank by assets, announced yesterday that it commenced its Capital Rights Offering process to raise up to KD 62.55 million of additional capital. The subscription period will end on the 10th of October 2018.

The bank said that the Rights Offering consists of the issuance of 240,581,530 ordinary shares at an offer price of KD 0.260 per share which includes a share premium of KD 0.160 and represents an increase in the total number of issued shares from 2,259,418,470 shares to 2,500,000,000 shares, and an increase of 10.6 percent in the existing issued share capital of the bank.

The net proceeds of the Rights Offering will be used to improve the bank's capital adequacy ratio under Basel III framework, and leveraging the Bank's business model for general business purposes. As of 30th June, 2018 Burgan Bank's Core Equity Tier 1 Ratio (CET1) reached 11.0 percent and Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) reached 16.6 percent.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of the board of Burgan Bank Group said: "We achieved the defined goals in optimizing the usage of the Bank capital which had helped the Bank to deliver good results that are

ahead of our target. Now we see the right moment to raise capital so we can enhance the Bank's capital levels and pursue our strong business pipeline with a focus on prudence and selective growth."

"On behalf of the Board, I take this opportunity to thank our customers and shareholders for their confidence in our capabilities and their continued support and commitment," concluded Al-Ajeel.

Burgan Bank Group encompass operations in Kuwait, and its share from its regional subsidiaries, namely Burgan Bank - Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, Bank of Baghdad, Tunis International Bank, possessing one of the largest regional branch networks with 169 branches across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Iraq, Tunis, Lebanon and representative office in Dubai-United Arab Emirates.



Majed Essa Al-Ajeel

UK inflation leaps to 6-mth high in August

LONDON: British inflation jumped unexpectedly to a six-month high in August, pushed up by bigger-than-usual seasonal increases in sea and air fares and sending sterling above \$1.32 for the first time since late July. Consumer price inflation rose at an annual rate of 2.7 percent in August, compared with 2.5 percent in July, the Office for National Statistics said - above all forecasts in a Reuters poll of economists that had pointed to a fall to 2.4 percent.

The ONS also said British house prices rose at the weakest annual rate in nearly five years, dragged down by the biggest drop in London house prices since 2009 - the latest sign of a slack housing market since the 2016 Brexit vote. Yesterday's data jolted investors. British government bond prices and equities fell.

The figures are also likely to surprise Bank of England officials who had expected inflation to cool to 2.4 percent in August. The BoE last month raised interest rates for the second time since the financial crisis but pointed to only gradual future increases as it expects inflation to drift down to near its 2 percent target in three years' time. Jeremy Thomson-Cook, an economist with currency firm World First, said the jump in inflation probably reflected a pick-

up in spending by consumers during Britain's unusually hot summer.

"I doubt this is sustainable in the longer term," he said, noting the continuing squeeze on household spending. "I don't think this has made Bank of England rate expectations any more concrete." The rise in inflation in August represents a setback to the modest recovery in real-terms wage growth that has helped to support economic growth this year. The fall in the value of the pound in August on renewed concerns about Brexit deprived consumers of the benefit of a fall in oil prices in annual terms, the ONS figures showed.

"Consumers paid more for theatre shows, sea fares and new autumn clothing last month," ONS statistician Mike Hardie said. Consumer price inflation hit a five-year high of 3.1 percent last November, when the inflationary effect of the pound's tumble after Britain's June 2016 referendum vote to exit the EU reached its peak. The ONS said house prices in July rose by an annual 3.1 percent across the United Kingdom as a whole compared with 3.2 percent in June - the smallest increase since August 2013. House prices in London alone fell 0.7 percent year-on-year in July, the biggest drop since September 2009. Despite August's rise in the headline rate of inflation, the ONS data suggested there could be some relief for consumers in the months ahead.

Prices at British factory gates rose 2.9 percent year-on-year in August, the weakest increase in four months. Manufacturers' costs for materials and energy also rose at the slowest pace in four months. — Reuters

Britain's Tesco takes on discount rivals with launch of Jack's

CHATTERIS, England: British supermarket group Tesco laid down the gauntlet to German discounters Aldi and Lidl by launching what it said would be the cheapest store in town.

CEO Dave Lewis unveiled Tesco's new Jack's chain yesterday, saying the discount stores would sell 2,600 products including 1,800 Jack's-branded items. The first two Jack's stores will open to shoppers today, with another 10-15 following in the next six months as Tesco copies the tactics of the German discounters, whose limited-range stores have won over increasing numbers of British shoppers since the economic crisis hit in 2008.

Together Aldi and Lidl now have a combined 13.1 percent market share in Britain, chipping away at market leader Tesco and its three biggest rivals Sainsbury's, Asda and Morrisons. Jack's is named after Jack Cohen, who in 1919 founded the business that became Tesco, and is a significant move by Lewis, who has rebuilt Tesco after a 2014 accounting scandal capped a dramatic downturn in trading.

The first two Jack's stores are located in Chatteris and Immingham, both in eastern England, and media reports have said that up to 60 existing outlets could be converted. Lewis, however, said there were no plans beyond the first wave, although it had the option to open more.

"The intention is for us to be cheapest in town," he said at the Chatteris store, which was built as a Tesco supermarket, but was mothballed in 2015 when the group was in crisis. In addition to Jack's products, the stores will stock some familiar grocery brands and a range of general merchandise on a "When it's Gone, It's Gone" basis, Tesco said.

It said that eight out of 10 of the products on the shelves would come from Britain and said it was invest-



CAMBRIDGE: TESCO CEO Dave Lewis poses for a photograph inside a Jack's store during its press launch in Chatteris, near Cambridge, east of England, yesterday during the launch of the supermarket giant's latest discount venture, Jack's. — AFP

ing 20 million pounds-30 million pounds (\$26 million-\$39 million) in the first openings.

The retailer said Jack's stores would be a mixture of entirely new sites, sites adjacent to existing stores and a small number of converted Tesco stores. A second mothballed store would become a Jack's, it said, while five existing Tesco shops would be changed to the format.

TESCO fightback

Tesco is Britain's biggest chain with a 27.4 percent share, according to the latest industry data, although it could be overtaken by Sainsbury's proposed 7.3 billion pound takeover of Asda.

The tie-up between Tesco's two nearest competitors, which regulators yesterday said would be scrutinized in depth, is also driven, at least in part, by the rise of the discounters.

Britain's "big four" grocers are trying to adapt to changing habits, including the declining popularity of big weekly shops and the growth of online shopping.

They have lowered prices and improved service, but analysts say that with Aldi and Lidl growing at 10 percent each year it makes sense for Tesco to try to capture some of that growth. — Reuters

Joy Homes to bring joy to flood victims!

THRISSUR, India: The Joyalukkas Group joins in rebuilding flood devastated Kerala with a project of constructing 250 houses for those who have lost their homes in the greatest flood of the century. A huge sum of rupees 15 crore has been set apart to realize this objective. This project is supported by all the employees of the Joyalukkas Group as well as a large number of well-wishers. The Chairman of the Joyalukkas Group, Joy Alukkas as well as the director of the Joyalukkas Foundation, Jolly Joy have stated that the Joyalukkas Foundation will see that houses costing six lakhs each will be constructed. "Our dream is to construct houses that will bring joy to the hearts of those who own them," they said. Each house will have a total area of 600 sq.ft. with two bedrooms, a living cum dining room, kitchen and sit out and will have a concrete roof.

Joy Alukkas also said that in the worst affected areas, houses will be built in tune with the environment only after proper consultation with expert architects and according to the plans submitted by them. The purpose of this mega project by the Joyalukkas group is to support the Government of Kerala's initiative in Rebuilding Kerala, thus helping the people to live through the great destruction caused by the flood. The Chairman also informed that the project had been submitted to the Chief Minister and would be carried out



with the help of the self-governing bodies in each place.

Those who have lost their homes in the floods and landslides may submit their applications in person at the sales outlet of the Joyalukkas Group nearest to them. These applications will be carefully studied by a committee constituted by the Joyalukkas Foundation and in consultation with the local self-governing bodies. A list of deserving candidates would be drawn up and construction will start as soon as all governmental formalities are met. It is hoped that the houses will be quickly completed and handed over to their owners.

The Joyalukkas Foundation continues to give compassionate leadership in several social and humanitarian ventures. The services rendered by the Joyalukkas Foundation in activities like voluntary blood donation, protection of the environment, health care and many other causes, are indeed laudable.



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Business

Jazeera Airways releases 300,000 seats at great low fares for Sept

Limited-time low fares campaign valid on all airline's destinations

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, has launched its limited-time low fares campaign for the month of September, releasing over 300,000 seats at fares starting from KD21 only and valid on all destinations served by the airline in the Middle East, India and Europe.

Jazeera Airways Chief Executive Officer, Rohit Ramchandran, said: "Jazeera Airways returns this month with its biggest offer yet to enable passengers to enjoy a weekend getaway or a longer stay at their favorite destination, served by our expanding network. With this new campaign, we reaffirm our commitment to making travel really affordable for all travellers in Kuwait."

Available on jazeeraairways.com, the Jazeera mobile apps or through a travel agent, the fares are valid for travel until December 10. Passengers can enjoy fares at KD21 on a one-way flight to Sohag, KD 22 to Alexandria, KD 26 to Bahrain and KD 30 to Dubai, in addition to great value return fares of KD61 from Beirut, KD 63 from Mumbai and KD65 from Hyderabad.

With the inauguration of its new dedicated terminal T5 in May 2018, Jazeera Airways passengers enjoy an easy and fast gateway to travel from and back to Kuwait. The departure immigration process time has averaged at 2.1 minutes during the peak travel month of August, while security checks averaged at 4.4 minutes. When arriving to Kuwait, arrival Immigration queue waiting time in August averaged at 7 minutes while the first bag was delivered at an average of 13 minutes.

August was a record month for passengers with 215,943 travellers passing through T5, and with lighter traffic in September and October, performance times are expected to be faster for passengers. The terminal operations also continue to improve passenger flows and gate congestion has been eased considerably.

Jazeera Airways flies to 26 popular destinations across the Middle East, India and Europe comprising high-demand business, leisure, family and weekend destinations such as Dubai, Bahrain, Beirut, Alexandria, Amman, Istanbul, Sharm El Sheikh, Assiut, Luxor, Mashhad, Sohag, Jeddah, Riyadh, Madinah, Cairo, Al Najaf, Taif, Doha, Kochi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lahore, Baku and Tbilisi.



Infiniti Al-Babtain's campaign on new models brings new excitement

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, is offering its avid fans the chance to enjoy an exclusive and luxurious offer. The offer includes a two year comprehensive insurance and free maintenance up to 45,000 km on some of its newest models.

A family-friendly, high performance car - the QX60 reflects the concept of high-end hybrid cars, and is designed to be a masterpiece of all standards. This innovative icon is equipped with a Rear Entertainment System with dual 8-inch monitors and wireless headphones followed by a 295-horsepower, 3.5-LITER V6 direct injection engine. From the double-arch grille to the LED taillights that accentuate the D-pillar, the confident curves captivate attention not usually given to a 7-passenger SUV.

While the QX70 comes with exterior enhancements, LED daytime running lights along with unique 21x9.5-inch multi-spoke premium paint-finished aluminium-alloy wheels mounted with 265/45R21 V-rated all-season tires. The QX70 is powered by a 329-horsepower



3.7-liter V6 with VVEL (Variable Valve Event & Lift). The engine is matched with a 7-speed automatic transmission featuring Adaptive Shift Control (ASC).

Built with a consistent, daring and engineering design, the INFINITI Q50 is a luxury model that comes with a powerful engine. Expressing signature Infiniti design, the double arch grille is prominently placed front and center. The arc of the bottom, like a natural

reflection to that of the top, gives the front fascia a distinctive appearance while the upper and lower body of the Q50 directs air to flow over, around and under the Q50, turning it into effective downforce.

Infiniti Al-Babtain welcomes all its customers to take advantage of this exclusive deal and visit the Infiniti showroom located in Al-Rai that opens every day except Fridays.

Ooredoo Kuwait participates in Fintech conference



KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait announced its participation with a platinum sponsorship to the Kuwait Fintech Conference and Exhibition, which will take place from 23 to 25 of October in the Palms Beach Hotel - Naseema Hall. The event will be held under the patronage of Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudan, with endorsement by the Ministerial Council's Central Agency of Information Technology. Participants in the event include a number of experts and professionals in the field of financial technology in the region.

Ooredoo's participation in this event comes to reiterate its commitment to digitalization and enriching people's daily experiences, and as part of its commitment to keeping up with the latest trends in the tech world, especially as telecommunications plays a vital role in making Fintech (or Financial Technology) more efficient and accessible to a larger segment of people.

The conference, organized by events12, aims to discuss a number of subjects relevant to this developing field including blockchain, financial innovation, electronic finance, risk management, data protection, bitcoin and cryptocurrency, seamless payment, cyber security, and cloud banking solutions, among other topics.

Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Director of B2B Sales Abdulaziz Al-Babtain reiterated the company's commitment to embracing digitalization as its vision, keeping up with the latest international trends in this field. He added: "Financial technology has certainly witnessed significant development over the past period, especially among young entrepreneurs and startup businesses around the world. Kuwait is no exception to this, as it is very quick to catch up with international trends. Financial technology has the ability to create many opportunities for a new generation of entrepreneurs, while proving to be essential to businesses and individual consumers and users alike."

AlBabtain added that the Ooredoo is committed to supporting this event in collaboration with a number of reputable governmental entities, as part of its deep-rooted belief in the important role that private-public partnerships can play in enriching the experiences of youth and supporting the country's Kuwait 2035 vision, through supporting innovation and technology.

Ooredoo Business gives the ideal solutions and plans to all businesses by providing them with the latest technologies in telecommunications.

Warba Bank announces Al-Sunbula weekly draw

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, will be organizing its 34th weekly draw for Al-Sunbula Account today at 11 am in presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Bank officials. Al-Sunbula Account is the perfect choice for all customers who wish to save money and achieve steady returns while simultaneously have the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year. Due to the high traffic on this account, for its offerings of unparalleled opportunities, Warba Bank has worked on enhancing Al-Sunbula account to provide customers with more benefits. Such enhancements include increasing the number of winners and the frequency of the draws. Now, on every Thursday the Bank holds draws for 5 weekly winners of KD 1,000 each. In addition, the Bank continues its monthly draws held on the first Thursday of every month, with cash prizes of KD 30,000 divided amongst 4 winners: two winners getting KD 10,000 each, and two winners getting KD 5,000 each.

Thus, the new development of Al-Sunbula account has increased the total number of winners to 24, and the total amount of prizes to KD 50,000 instead of KD 30,000. As for the chances for winning, each customer is eligible to enter the draw against each KD 10. It is noteworthy, that Warba Bank has recently launched the Al-Sunbula Fixed Deposit, which provides depositors with high returns of up to 3 percent, as well as getting monthly chances to win in Al-Sunbula Account draws.

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

Al Mulla Motors launches technical inspection service

KUWAIT: With Al Mulla Motors being the only official dealer of Mitsubishi and FUSO vehicles in Kuwait and constantly expanding its services and offering only the best to the clients, Al Mulla Motors has recently launched their Technical Inspection Service to be even closer to their clients.

Al Mulla is a retail oriented organization, that listens to each customer's voice. And because of that, it took immediate corrective measures to enhance their after-sales experience by adding this service to their list of services.

Al Mulla's goal is to keep your car in tip-top shape with their certified MMC technicians examining your chassis, suspension, engine, tires, brakes, body and more using state of the art equipment.

With this service and commitment to the health of your car, the team will make sure that their clients will not face any future unexpected breakdowns, their vehicles will run better and last longer.

After the inspection takes place Mitsubishi client will have healthy cars with an extended life for their vehicles by catching potential issues earlier which will save their time, money and inconvenience.

This service will help boost an owner's confidence when it comes to selling their old car and knowing its



health when buying a used Mitsubishi. In other words it is a comprehensive health check for the vehicles and finally will provide an automated grading report along with detailed remarks.

Their services are very convenient for customers as they can visit Al-Rai Service Centre at any time between 8 am and 6 pm from Saturday to Thursday.

Al Mulla Exchange presents Alpha Romeo car to winner of online campaign

KUWAIT: Al Mulla Exchange, the leading exchange company Kuwait, held a vibrant prize-distribution ceremony on 13th September 2018 at Al Mulla and Behbehani Motors showroom where the winner of a car Pamela Tolentino Furuc, was presented with a brand new Alfa Romeo Giulietta.

The three-month campaign was launched on 13th May 2018 wherein any customer who remitted through the online portal or Al Mulla Exchange App got a chance to enter into the draw.

Ecstatic on her win, Pamela Tolentino Furuc said "I so excited and happy, I still cannot believe that I won this luxurious car. I would like to thank Al Mulla Exchange for the astonishing offers and outstanding campaigns it launches."

"One of my dreams has come true with Al Mulla Exchange. I'm sure that many other campaigns are on the way and I encourage everyone to remit through Al Mulla Exchange. I would like to thank Al Mulla Exchange once again for the high quality services it offers and the irresistible campaigns it launches," she added.

On this occasion, Divisional General Manager Praveen Singh said "I'd like to congratulate Pamela Tolentino Furuc and also like to thank her for using Al Mulla Exchange."

"We, as a pioneering company in our area, aspire to give the best to our customers. The loyalty points and the free Insurance we offer, along with the continuous encouraging promotions, are our way to show gratitude and thank our customers for their trust and support that help us grow more and more. They are part of our success and Al Mulla Exchange promises them to take their remitting experience up to the next level," Singh added.

Al Mulla Exchange has always been the pioneers in innovation and simplifying remittance needs for their customers, being the first exchange company in Kuwait to launch the remittance app they have also recently included add beneficiary feature which enables customers to add new beneficiary directly on the app or online portal without visiting the branch.



Technology

Air pollution being linked to higher risk of dementia: Study

Number of afflicted worldwide is expected to nearly triple by 2050

PARIS: Urban air pollution, mostly from vehicles, is associated with an increased risk of dementia, according to research published yesterday. The link remained even after heavy drinking, smoking and other well established risk factors for dementia were ruled out, the researchers reported in medical journal *BMJ Open*.

Worldwide, about seven percent of people over 65 suffer from Alzheimer's or some form of dementia, a percentage that rises to 40 percent above the age of 85. The number afflicted worldwide is expected to nearly triple by 2050, posing a huge challenge to healthcare systems. "Primary prevention of all dementia is a major global public health concern for the coming decades," the researchers wrote.

Chemicals cast off by tailpipe pollution such as nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and soot are known to boost the risk for heart disease, stroke and respiratory problems, especially asthma. But whether they also make Alzheimer's and other kinds of dementia more likely has remained unclear. To find out more, a team of researchers led by Iain Carey of the University of London's Population Health Research Institute combed through health records for 131,000 people living in Greater London who, in 2004, were aged 50 to 79. None showed signs of dementia when the study began.

Based on residential addresses, the scientists estimated yearly exposure to both NO2 and fine particu-

lates known as PM2.5, and then tracked the health of the participants over a seven-year period. During that time, nearly 2,200 patients — 1.7 percent of the total — were diagnosed with dementia. The fifth of these patients living in the most heavily polluted areas were 40 percent more likely to be afflicted than the fifth residing in areas with the least NO2 and PM2.5.

Public health gains

Because the study was based on after-the-fact analysis rather than a clinical trial in an experimental setting, no firm conclusions can be drawn as to cause-and-effect, the authors cautioned. But the findings strongly suggest that the chemical byproducts of burning diesel and petrol can damage brain function. "Traffic-related air pollution has been linked to poorer cognitive development in young children," the study noted.

And even if the impact of air pollution remains relatively modest, they added, "the public health gains would be significant if it emerged that curbing exposure might delay progression of dementia." The study was welcomed by experts who reviewed it before publication. "There is a growing body of evidence of the link between air pollution and brain health, including dementia and Alzheimer's," said Martie Van Tongeren, a professor of occupational and environmental health at the University of Manchester. "This adds to it." Kevin



FRANKFURT: An air quality monitoring station is pictured in Frankfurt am Main. — AFP

McConway of the Open University praised the study but noted that it only estimated exposure to pollutants at home, and did not account for NO2 and PM2.5 levels at or near places of work, or the amount of time spent away from home.

In September 2015, the US Environmental

Protection Agency revealed that German car manufacturer VW has installed so-called "defeat devices" in its cars to cheat in emissions tests. The European Environment Agency estimates that more than 400,000 people in Europe's urban areas die prematurely every year due to outdoor air pollution. — AFP

“Major global public health concern”

Apple's new iPhones slight notch above the X: Reviewers

SAN FRANCISCO: The absence of a striking new feature left major tech blogs and newspapers lukewarm on the new XS range of Apple Inc's iPhones in the first batch of reviews on Tuesday, although most praised the improvements to a wide range of standard features. The new iPhones have subtle additions to last year's reimagined iPhone X, the tenth anniversary phone, and do not look very different aside from the ignoramus size, several reviewers said.

In her review of the phones, *Wired's* Lauren Goode said the phones were "an evolution, not a revolution. They don't spark strong feelings — except maybe chagrin that they cost so much," Goode said. The iPhone XS, pronounced "ten S," and XS Max were launched on Sept. 12. The XS has a 5.8-inch screen, and starts at \$999 while the XS Max, the largest iPhone to date has a 6.5-inch screen, with a base price of \$1,099.

The phones, however, do possess an advanced chip, which makes the facial recognition feature even smoother. They also have a new image sensor and processor, incremental changes to the X that allow for better photography. A bright spot in an otherwise low-key upgrade is the dual SIM sup-



CUPERTINO: Apple iPhone Xr models rest on a table during a launch event on September 12, 2018. — AFP

port, a feature that the company's much-touted iPhone X did not have. Apple has also included eSIMs, a technology currently in Apple watches and cellular iPads.

"The iPhone XS and XS Max follow in the footsteps of S-year iPhones — they're faster, with better camera hardware ... but except for dual SIM support, there isn't a brand-new feature like Touch ID or 3D Touch this time," *CNET's* Scott Stein

said. Apple also expanded storage capacity in its latest models, with 256 GB and 512 GB capacity now available. The biggest iPhone with the largest storage will cost \$1,449 and that did not go unnoticed by the reviewers, with many observing that a 512 GB XS Max was actually more expensive than some MacBooks. "This is a premium phone with an even more premium price tag," *TechRadar's* John McCann wrote. — Reuters

Global tech firms gear up to fight India's planned data law

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: Global tech companies plan to oppose new legislation in India that would require Facebook, PayPal and others to store user data in the country, arguing it will hurt investment and the business models of foreign and domestic firms. In July, a government panel recommended that all "critical personal data" should be processed in India, and presented a draft bill that could affect how global firms store customer data.

Facebook, Mastercard and PayPal fear the new law, which follows similar measures in China and Vietnam, would increase their compliance and infrastructure costs, and affect planned investments. Their concerns are to be taken up by lobby groups planning a joint effort to pressure New Delhi to reconsider. "The potential fear of restricting cross-border data flow would impact the business models of several Indian as well as global companies," said a draft of their letter addressed to India's information technology minister.

"Fear of restrictive regulation has the potential to negatively impact the flow of foreign investments," said the letter seen by Reuters. The letter, to be delivered by Sept. 30, is supported by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum, the Washington-based Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), London-based techUK, and India's NASSCOM. Together they represent some of the biggest names in global technology, including Alphabet Inc's Google, Salesforce.com Inc, Microsoft and India's Wipro. An IT ministry official said data localization was necessary to enable the government to carry out investigations and to guard against data breaches, which are widespread globally. — Reuters

Facebook accused of discrimination with job ad targeting

WASHINGTON: A complaint has been filed with the US government accusing Facebook and 10 other companies of using the platform's job ad targeting system to discriminate on the basis of gender. The complaint was announced Tuesday by the American Civil Liberties Union, a union called the Communications Workers of America and a labor law firm, on behalf of three female job seekers and a group of "thousands" of members represented by the union.

It charges that job ads on Facebook targeted male users only. It also alleges that most of the listings were for jobs in male-dominated fields, so women and non-binary users were excluded from seeing these ads. Facebook lets advertisers target ads on the basis of gender and age, which is against the law in America, the complaint reads. "I shouldn't be shut out of the chance to hear about a job opportunity just because I am a

woman," said Bobbi Spees, one of the three women named in the complaint.

Facebook spokesman Joe Osborne said in a statement to CNNMoney that there is no place for discrimination on Facebook. "It's strictly prohibited in our policies, and over the past year we've strengthened our systems to further protect against misuse," Osborne said. Facebook will defend itself once it has reviewed the complaint, he added.

The ACLU noted that online platforms such as Facebook are generally not liable for content published by others. "But in this case, Facebook is doing much more than merely publishing content created by others," the advocacy group argued. "It has built the architecture for this discriminatory marketing framework, enabled and encouraged advertisers to use it, and delivered the gender-based ads according to employers' sex-based preferences."

Last month the US Department of Housing and Urban Development accused Facebook of breaking the law by letting landlords and home sellers use its ad-targeting system to discriminate against potential buyers or tenants. Facebook responded by cutting more than 5,000 ad-targeting options to prevent advertisers from discriminating on the basis of traits such as religion or race. —AFP



PARIS: A file illustration picture taken on April 28, 2018 shows the logo of social network Facebook displayed on a screen and reflected on a tablet. — AFP

Cisco unveils server for AI and machine learning

DUBAI: Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are opening up new ways for enterprises to solve complex problems. But they will also have a profound effect on the underlying infrastructure and processes of IT. According to Gartner, "only 4% of CIOs worldwide report that they have AI projects in production." That number will grow dramatically over the next few years. And when it does, IT will struggle to manage new workloads, new traffic patterns, and new relationships within their business. To help enterprises address these emerging challenges, Cisco is unveiling its first server built from the ground up for AI and ML workloads.



Roland Acra

The new Cisco UCS server speeds up deep learning, a compute-intensive form of machine learning that uses neural networks and large data sets to train computers for complex tasks. Packed with powerful NVIDIA GPUs, it is designed to accelerate many of today's best-known machine learning software stacks. Data scientists and developers can experiment with machine learning on a laptop. But deep learning at scale demands much more compute capability. It requires an IT architecture that is capable of taking in vast sets of data. And tools that can make sense of this data and use it to learn. That is why Cisco is working with its technology partners to validate many of today's most popular machine learning tools: to help simplify deployments and accelerate time to insight.

"Over the next few years, apps powered by artificial intelligence and machine learning will become mainstream in the enterprise. While this will solve many complex business issues, it will also create new challenges for IT," said Roland Acra, SVP and GM for Cisco's Data Center Business Group. "Today's powerful addition to the Cisco UCS lineup will power AI initiatives across a wide range of industries. Our early-access customers in the financial sector are exploring ways to improve fraud detection and enhance algorithmic trading. Meanwhile in healthcare, they're interested in better insights and diagnostics, improving medical image classification, and speeding drug discovery and research."

Powering artificial intelligence at scale

With the addition of the Cisco UCS C480 ML, Cisco now offers a complete range of computing options designed for each stage of the AI and ML lifecycle. From data collection and analysis near the edge, to data preparation and training in the data center, to the real-time inference at the heart of AI, customers are covered.

Built for data scientists and developers: Today, thousands of customers use Cisco UCS to help them make sense of big data. Cisco's new server for AI and ML builds on its expertise of moving data from the edge to the core and goes further. It lets customers extract more intelligence from their data and use it to make better, faster decisions. With its new DevNet AI Developer Center and DevNet Ecosystem Exchange, Cisco is also giving data scientists and developers the tools and resources to create a new generation of apps.

Built for IT: UCS makes it easy for IT to add new technology to their environment. With Cisco Intersight, they also get the simplicity and reach of cloud-based systems management. This lets them automate policy and operations for all their computing infrastructure from the cloud. And with Cisco validated designs to help demystify the rapidly evolving stacks of AI and ML software, IT can deploy with confidence at enterprise scale.

Built with an ecosystem: Cisco is not working alone. It is embracing containers and multicloud computing models to make it easier to deploy open source software at scale, no matter where apps live. It is validating machine learning environments and software such as Anaconda, Kubeflow, and solutions from Cloudera and Hortonworks on the new server. UCS customers who use Kubeflow running on top of Kubernetes will find it easy to deploy AI workloads directly to Google Kubernetes Engine, taking advantage of both on-prem and cloud ML capabilities.

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Kuwait Times

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What's On

Islamic Bohra Community holds condolence session



The Burhani Center for the Islamic Bohra Community in Kuwait held a condolence session yesterday in the witness of a mass congregation of Bohra community members residing within Kuwait. Sheikh Taher Bhai Nader, the representative of His Holiness in Kuwait, gave a speech, where he inaugurated the session by reciting praises to Allah, praying to Him for peace and blessings upon our Prophet (PBUH), the most noble of all messengers, His Family and Companions. He then reiterated the commendable characteristics of the Prophet, His holy biography and kind ethics, as well as being a benevolence to all humanity.

His Holiness further reiterated the sacrifices of Imam Al-Hussain, as well as his family members, to maintain dominance of the Word of Allah, sacrificing the precious things for preserving Sharia revelations came through his Grandfather, the Last of Prophets (PBUH).

He also shed light on the sacrifices and biography of Abul-Fadhl Al-Abbas, as Imam Ali (May Allah be pleased with Him) and requested His brother, Aqeel Bin Abi Taleb, "to propose a woman from a noble Arab for Him to marry her, where she will give him a knight boy". She gave birth to 4 knights, the most noble amongst were Al-Abbas. Al-Abbas enjoyed every characteristic of valor and bravery; therefore, he was called as the "Lunar of Beni Hashem".

He spoke of his martyrdom mentioning that

Sakinah Bint Al-Hussain asked for water saying how could Sakinah feel thirsty while her uncle Al-Abbas is around. He rode his horse carrying the water bladder, to be confronted by like four thousand, who started to throw arches and arrows at Him. He tranquilly descended to Al-Furat indifferently to have a handful of water for drinking. He then remembered the thirst of his brother Al-Hussain and his family members.

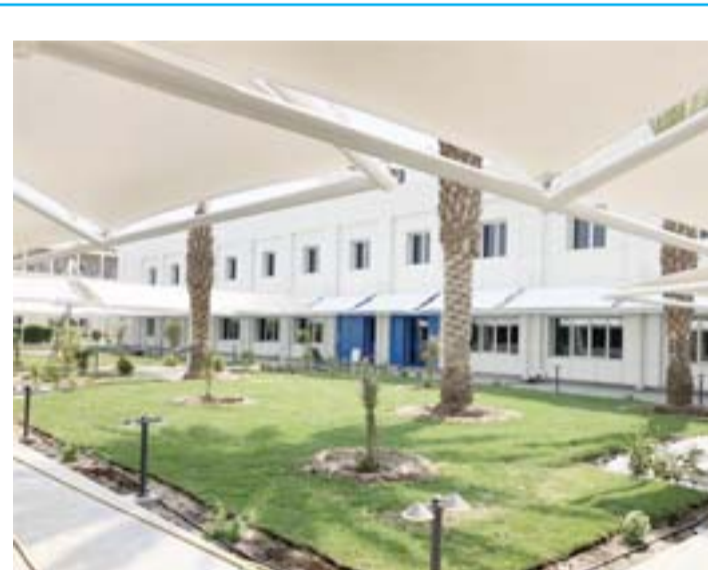
So, he let the water fall from his hand, filled the water bladder, and rode his horse to quickly deliver water to the family members. He was hit by enemies on his right hand. He moved the water bladder to his left, to be hit by the enemies on his left. He carried it with his mouth, to have an arrow penetrating it, with the water poured out. He fell on the ground shouting "May peace be upon you Abu Abdullah", then Al-Hussain reached him after his martyrdom.

Sheikh Taher also solicited members of the Bohra Community to adhere to the teachings of Islamic Sharia, be away from loathsome acts, acting with good behaviors to respect the laws of the country where they live, to be loyal to Kuwait, feeling as if it is their second homeland, and to best serve the beloved State of Kuwait in all fields. He also spoke of the commendable characteristics of His Holiness Head of Bohra, Late Dr Mohammed Burhanuddin, for cementing the social, educational and economic positions of the Bohra

Community around the world.

It is noteworthy that His Holiness Dr Syedna Muffadal Saifuddin, the present Head of Bohra Community, held a condolence session this year at Indore, in India. Finally Sheikh Taher expressed to HH the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah; and HE Ministry of the Amiri Court Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, wishing them permanent health, and to keep Kuwait and its people enjoying eternal security, safety, prosperity and development.

He also thanked HE Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, the Minister of Interior; the rational government; HE Lieutenant General Isam Al-Naham, the MOI Undersecretary Ministry of the Interior; as well as assistant undersecretaries of the Ministry of Interior, and all MOI personnel; and most particularly the kind people of Kuwait, for their ultimate efforts exerted for facilitation of holding religious ceremonies on the commemoration of the martyrdom of Imam Al-Hussain (May Allah be pleased with Him!) during the month of Muharram. He also prayed to Allah to grant His Holiness D. Syedna Muffadal Saifuddin long life and the best interests of better serving Islam, Muslims and all humankind.



Kuwait University's construction and maintenance manager, Hameeda Ajeel Al-Khaldi said that all the construction support and repairs needed at KU campus in Adailiya have been finished. Al-Khaldi added that the process was not an easy task due to the dilapidated condition of the old buildings that needed to be fortified and modernized.

Belgian week in Kuwait

Celebrating the Smurfs' 60th anniversary
The Avenues-Grand Plaza

September 21 - 22
Music
Crossbones Trombone Collective
At Crowne Plaza Hotel Al Thuraya

September 20 - 22
Belgian Culinary Days
At Crowne Plaza Hotel Al Thuraya
(Silk Restaurant)
with Belgian Chef Eddy Govaert

September 20th - 26th
The Smurfs Exhibition

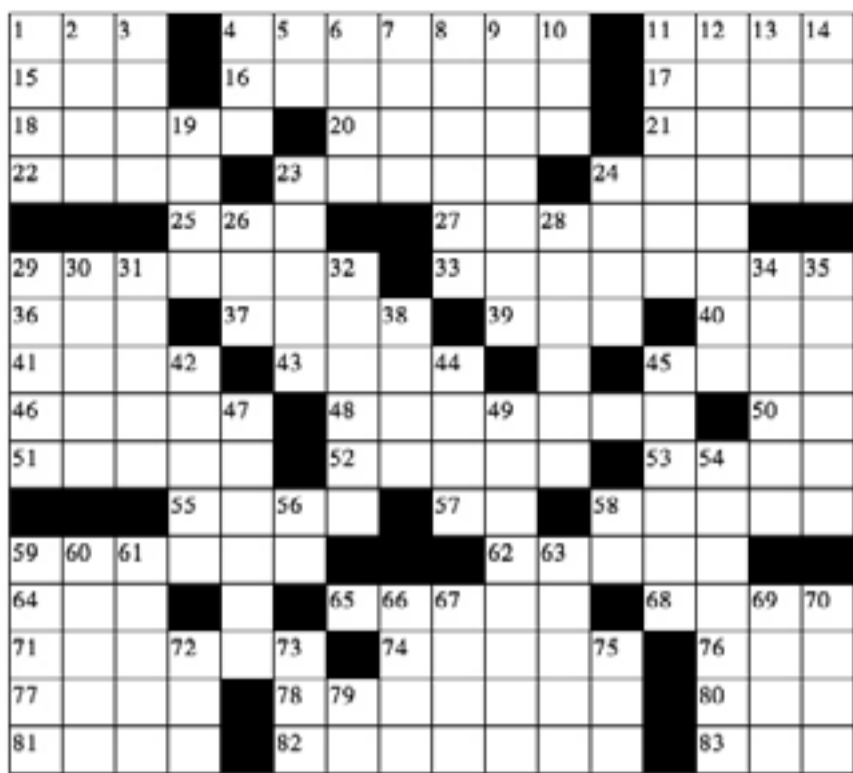
Make raspberry jam for a jar at home

Ingredients:
Servings: 64 (Makes four 1-cup jars)
Start to finish: 20 minutes
2 pounds (6 1/2 cups) raspberries
3 cups sugar
1 Granny Smith apple, peeled and shredded (1 cup)
1 tablespoon bottled lemon juice

Preparation:
Place 2 small plates in freezer to chill. Set canning rack in large pot, place four 1-cup jars in rack, and add water to cover by 1 inch. Bring to simmer over medium heat, then turn off heat and cover to keep hot.
In Dutch oven, bring raspberries, sugar, apple, and lemon juice to boil over medium-high heat, stirring often. Once sugar is completely dissolved, boil mixture, stirring and adjusting heat as needed, until thickened and registers 217 F to 220 F, 10 to 15 minutes.
To test consistency, place 1 teaspoon jam on chilled plate and freeze for 2 minutes. Drag your finger through jam on plate; jam has correct consistency when your finger leaves distinct trail. If jam is runny, return pot to heat and simmer 1 to 3 minutes longer before retesting. Skim any foam from surface of jam using spoon.
Place dish towel flat on counter. Using jar lifter, remove jars from pot, draining water back into pot. Place jars upside down on towel and let dry for 1 minute. Using funnel and ladle, portion hot jam into hot jars, leaving 1/4 inch headspace. Slide wooden skewer along inside edge of jar and drag upward to remove air bubbles.

Stars

CROSSWORD 2013



ACROSS

1. An electrically charged particle.
4. Stem of the rattan palm used for making canes and umbrella handles.
11. A narrow strip of land that juts out into the sea.
15. A rapid bustling commotion.
16. Fictitious land described in the novel Erehwon by Samuel Butler.
17. Make reference to.
18. An atom having a valence of one.
20. Type genus of the Aridae.
21. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
22. (informal) Exceptionally good.
25. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
27. Of or relating to a directionless magnitude.
29. Informal terms for clothing.
33. Small motorcycle with a low frame and small wheels and elevated handlebars.
36. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
37. Atmospheric discharges (lasting 10 msec) bursting from the tops of giant storm clouds in blue cones that widen as they flash upward.
39. The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
40. Slender bristlelike appendage found on the bracts of grasses.
41. Pleasant or pleasing or agreeable in nature or appearance.
43. A cord fastened around the neck with an ornamental clasp and worn as a necktie.
46. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
48. Someone who leaves one country to settle in another.
50. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
51. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
52. Norwegian composer whose work was often inspired by Norwegian folk music (1843-1907).
53. A Loloish language.
55. The periodic rise and fall of the sea level under the gravitational pull of the moon.
57. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
59. An internal representation of the world.
62. A white crystalline carbohydrate used as a sweetener and preservative.
64. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
65. English poet and theologian (1674-1748).
68. A doctor's degree in music.
71. Ruffed grouse.
74. Persian prince who was defeated in battle by his brother Artaxerxes II (424-401 BC).
76. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
77. A program under which employees regularly accumulate shares and may ultimately assume control of the company.
78. (Japanese) Vegetables and seafood dipped in batter and deep-fried.
80. (informal) Roused to anger.
81. An investment trust that owns and manages a pool of commercial properties and mortgages and other real estate assets.
82. Acquire by preemption.
83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
2. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
3. The Fate who spins the thread of life.
4. A master's degree in education.
5. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
6. British artist and writer of nonsense verse (1812-1888).
7. Turned or twisted toward one side.
8. An intersection or crossing of two tracts in the form of the letter X.
9. A body serving in an administrative capacity.
10. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
11. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by ancient Egyptians.
12. Term used in some classifications as nearly equivalent to the order Coraciiformes.
13. A distinct part that can be specified separately in a group of things that could be enumerated on a list.
14. A three-tone Chadic language.
19. American novelist (1909-1955).
23. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
24. A sudden minor shock or meaningless interruption.
26. British dominion over India (1757-1947).
28. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
30. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
31. Someone who drives racing cars at high speeds.
32. A person of unquestioning obedience.
34. The basic unit of money in Zambia.
35. The cardinal number that is the sum of eight and one.
38. (music) A curved line spanning notes that are to be played legato.
42. Give expression or emotion to, in a stage or movie role.
44. Of or relating to near the ear.
45. United States evangelical preacher famous as a mass evangelist (born in 1918).
47. A feeling of ill will arousing active hostility.
49. Type genus of Geastraceae.
54. Preaching the gospel of Christ in the manner of the early church.
56. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
58. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
60. At or within a short distance in space or time or having elements near each other.
61. The capital city of Vietnam.
63. Take control of.
66. The highest level or degree attainable.
67. A subdivision of a particular kind of thing.
69. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
70. An informal term for a father.
72. (usually followed by 'to') Naturally disposed toward.
73. A nucleotide derived from adenosine that occurs in muscle tissue.
75. The seventh and last day of the week.
79. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself feeling emotionally detached from your surroundings. Ideas are what are important to you now. You may not have tolerance and find yourself distancing yourself from those who do not see things this way. You seem to be drawn to all that is unusual and a bit on the eccentric side. From the way you are beginning to think to the material possessions you wish to acquire, your taste is changing. You have a desire to travel and are focused on your relationships with friends and those who are in your social circle. Pay close attention to any red flags that seem to appear. Do not ignore these signs as they may be just the encouragement you need to take a detour and avoid some type of conflict or setback.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are ambitious, secure and responsible. All these qualities seem to combine to help you excel in any area you apply yourself. You are strong willed and have a desire to conquer the world and all that comes your way. You are taking time to reflect on any of your past short comings. This time of reflection is a guiding light for you now and will prevent you from repeating any of your past mistakes. Knowledge is power and the wisdom you have gained from past experience has you on the right track. You may feel as though you are on this journey alone. Not much support is felt from your peers. Do not worry. You will find this to be a very profitable time.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

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.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find yourself taking your creativity to new levels. You have always been able to think outside of the box but this time you have taken this to a new level in a totally new area. You have gone "high tech". Cancer, you find yourself reaching beyond your boundaries and surrounding yourself with new friends that are like minded. The potential for that successful, new, invention is great. You have a great desire to be in control but now may be the time to step back and work together with your peers. Cancer, you could greatly benefit from working together on this project and avoiding conflict.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself extremely creative today. This is a great way to express your emotions and feelings as well as having new experiences. You may feel drawn to take chances, take a new and different approach to problem solving or just change your routine all together. You are more willing at this time to take financial risk. Hopefully this will lead you towards the stock market rather than the casino. Either direction you may choose you are in the mood to do a bit of gambling. Good luck with this, Leo. May the risks you take be profitable.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your mind seems to be in overdrive. New ideas are flowing, you are creative, and your insight ability is strong. You are in top form and seems all is coming together for you. You may find yourself in the limelight, the center of attention, and the recipient of much praise and admiration. You may receive special recognition in the workplace today for your accomplishments. You may find that you are happy with your job and the duties you have now. Enjoy this time in your life and be sure to take note of just what life decisions and steps you took to get here. This will not only make you a more appreciative person but will come in handy in the future when someone younger turns to you for advice.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find that anything unusual and different catches your eye today. Your wild side is rearing its head. A new outfit, a new hairstyle, or an outing to somewhere you have never been will help satisfy what you are craving. Live a little. Others may be caught off guard by your high energy and the way you seem to express yourself today. You be you! This day will be spent with a smile on your face and an usually high amount of confidence. Live out loud.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A friend will seek your advice today. What she really wants is your approval for what she has decided to do. If you tell her what to do, it may lead to a rift in your friendship. You can give your opinion, but make it clear that she has to make the decision for herself. You might offer some options and point out the possible consequences of each. That mean she takes responsibility for her action. Regardless of how her decision turns out, your friendship will be strengthened. Being the friend to others that you desire a friend be to you is the key to happiness in your world.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Let your creative juices flow. Use that nervous energy to be creative. That which is unique and special about you will have you in the limelight today. Those close to you will be very appreciative of these qualities. Place your focus on your problem-solving skills. Take some time for yourself today to reflect, regroup, and reorganize. Sagittarius, leave those big decisions on the back burner today and do not let anything dull your shine! You may find yourself deep in thought struggling with a big decision but for today, let it be.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may be feeling a need for change. A deep desire for emotional security takes hold now and you feel your most content when surrounded by family and those closest to you. Relationships are a priority in your world now. You feel as if things in your life are monotonous and you are ready to spice things up. This may mean a shiny new car purchase, a vacation, or simply surrounding yourself with a new group of friends. Any direction you choose, this will be a time of excitement and give you a fresh start and a more focused outlook. We all need a bit of change from time to time. Keep life interesting and exciting.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This a great time for a bit of soul-searching. Analyzing what brought you to this point in life and how you feel about where you are. You may have find that not only are you very in touch with your own emotions but also with the emotions of those close to you. Today finds you very empathic and understanding to all who cross your path. You may tend to become too emotionally invested in the lives of those around you. Sometimes you need to sit back and keep your focus on you and yours. Taking on the weight of the world may be too much for you to handle and keep your focus far from where it needs to be. You may discover this causes tension in your home life.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find you deeply desire to be respected. This may not only be in the workplace but also concerning your home life. This is an excellent time for you to organize your affairs and your surroundings. You may find yourself much more productive when all around you is in order. This could lead to greater accomplishments and you may find yourself receiving the respect you desire. You are always able to act and accomplish any task put before you quickly. You may find you are not only gain recognition from this ability you may find yourself being praised for it today. You may find today is a great day to surround yourself with friends and find someone younger has a great sense of admiration for you and looks to you as a role model.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Cheerleading - All Star

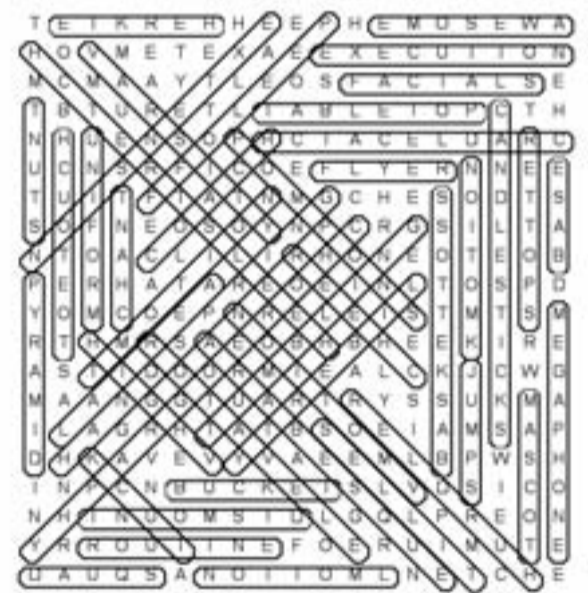
Find and circle all of the Cheerleading words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- AERIAL
- ALL STARS
- ARCH
- AROUND THE WORLD
- BACK BEND
- BOW AND ARROW
- CARTWHEELS
- CHOREOGRAPHER
- COACH
- COMPETITIONS
- CRADLE CATCH
- DIAGONAL
- DIAMOND HEAD
- DIVE ROLL
- DOUBLE FULL
- DOUBLE HOOK
- DOUBLE NINE
- EXTENSION
- FISTS
- FLAT BACKS
- FLIP FLOP
- FOUNTAIN
- FROG JUMP
- HANDSPRINGS
- HANDSTAND
- JUMPS
- KICK OUT
- KICK OVER
- KNEE DROPS
- LAYOUT
- LOG ROLL
- LOW V
- NATIONALS
- NEEDLE
- PENCIL DRAP
- PEKE
- FITCH
- POP CRADLE
- PRESS DOWN
- REBOUND
- RELOAD
- REWIND
- ROLL DOWN
- ROUND OFF
- ROUTINE
- SCALE
- SCISSORS
- SCORPION
- SHOULDER STAND
- SKIT
- SPLIT
- SPONGE
- STICKING IT
- SUPERMAN
- TEARS
- THE SUMMIT
- TRIP CRADLE
- TUCK
- TUMBLING
- WHYBIRD
- WORLD

Yesterday's Solution

Cheerleading

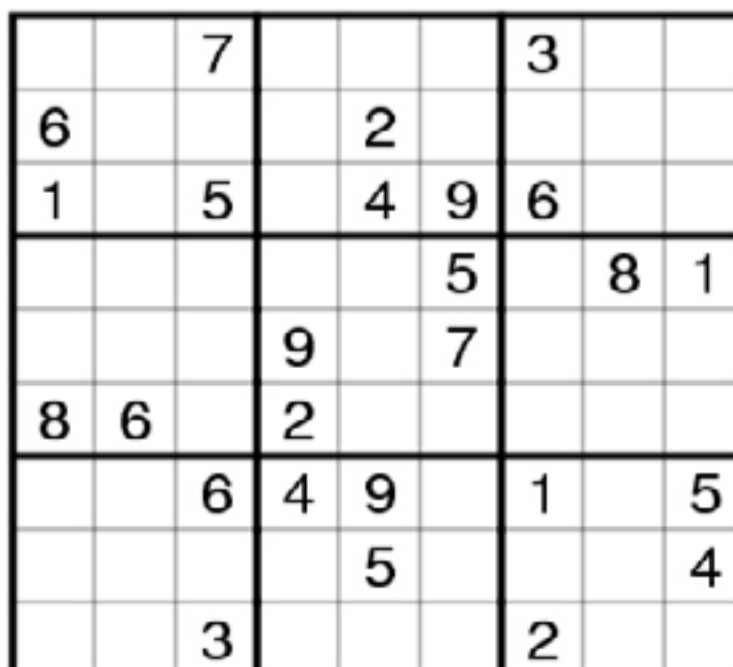


The hidden message is: THE HOME TEAM MAY LOSE BUT THE CHEERLEADERS ALWAYS GIVE A WINNING PERFORMANCE.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku

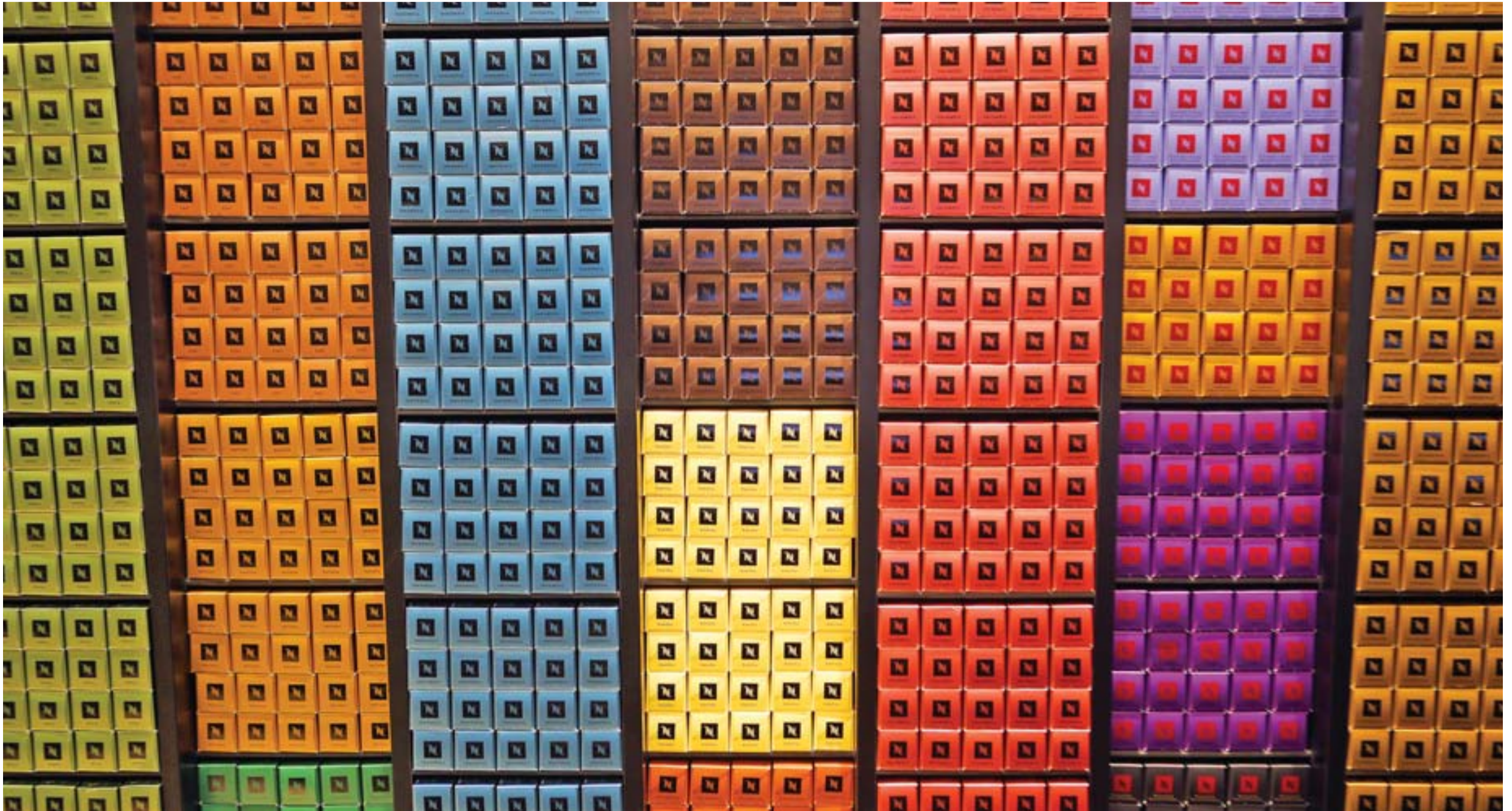


Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018



Nespresso coffee pods are seen at Al-Kout Mall in Fahaheel yesterday — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Belgian builds musical bridge across the Bosphorus

Belgian musician Tristan Driessens found his inspiration and his calling east of the Bosphorus, becoming one of the West's few masters of the oud and of Ottoman classical music. Now he is helping build a musical bridge for others, working with refugees arriving from the east to help preserve and develop their musical culture in European exile. "Sometimes you choose your fate, sometimes fate chooses you," Driessens told AFP, explaining how he came to master the oud, the oriental lute, and become artistic director of Refugees for Refugees. This group brings together refugees who have fled to Belgium from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and as far as Tibet to play concerts and record new music together in Brussels.

A record, named "Amerli" after an Iraqi town besieged by the Islamic State jihadist group, was released in May 2016 by the world music educational association Muziekpubliek. A portion of the sales of the recording was invested in two Belgian NGOs working with refugees from the conflicts in the Middle East, Globe Aroma and Synergie 14. Driessens, a 36-year-old Belgian oudist already leads several successful groups: Lamekan Ensemble, Seyir Trio, Soolmaan Quintet and La Compagnie d'Elias.

But he did not impose his own vision on the refugee ensemble, trying to draw music from their talents, traditions and life experience, and to guide it towards forming a whole. "There are so many rich personalities," Driessens told AFP. Among the group are Dolma Renqingi, a Tibetan singer, Asad Qizilbash, a Pakistani who plays the sarod, another form of lute, Afghan troubador Aman Yusufi and "musicians who have such important experiences, as refugees and as human beings, in the realm of music". At



Belgian artistic director and oud player Tristan Driessens poses for a picture during an interview. Muziekpubliek, Driessens teaches Turkish music, but he invited his new colleagues to share all "their baggage, their musical tastes and their technique." "From there, I put together a rundown," he explains. "I spot the pearls... to create something of relevance, but for me this group is first and foremost a human adventure." A second Refugees for Refugees album is due out next year.

Driessens also owes his musical calling to a jour-

ney, albeit not a forced one. Between the ages of 15 and 17, the young oud player roamed Spain with his mother, living and travelling in a gypsy caravan pulled by two horses. There he discovered musical traditions drawn from both the Sephardic Jews and Arab Andalusia. "It shaped how I saw the world and allowed me to meet many artists at a very young age," he said. The oud is often associated with Arabic music, but Driessens' next encounter was with learned Turkish performers, virtuosos like Yurdal Tokcan and Necati Celik, whom he sees as "a father, an anchor." The young Belgian's formal guitar and piano training had been in the Western tradition, but Turkish classical music would open the door to eastern styles. "The power of expression that can be contained in a simple oriental melody fascinates me," he said. For just over a decade he has made regular pilgrimages to Istanbul, the city on the Bosphorus, bridge between Europe and Asia to sit at the feet of masters. "It's a cord that I can't cut, a second home," he said. "Whether it's to make a recording, attend an artist in residence or just drink Turkish coffee with my master. It was formed in this city."

'From master to disciple'

Turkish classical music draws on an oral tradition, sometimes with a written score serving as an aide-memoire to its complex, even arcane, melodies. Driessens did not want to pretend to master it in a few months or even years. "It's a music that is passed from master to disciple," he said, describing long informal sessions with his guides, copying and imitating their playing until the underlying music revealed itself. The music of the Ottoman court has influenced western players since the 15th century. — AFP

Iran film for Oscars stirs debate on home front



Iranians buy tickets for the film "Be Vaght-e Cham" ("Damascus Time") by Iranian director Ebrahim Hatamikia at a cinema in Tehran. — AFP

The Iranian film for next year's Oscars has stirred controversy at home both over the choice of a downbeat movie and for taking part in the Hollywood spectacle at a time of tense Tehran-Washington ties. The Farabi Cinema Foundation tasked with selecting Iran's contestant for the best foreign-language film category has announced its choice of "No Date, No Signature", which won best director and best actor at the 2017 Venice Film Festival. Vahid Jalilvand's film, which has scooped a host of other awards abroad, tells the tale of two men tormented by guilt over the death of a boy in a road accident, set against a background of social injustice.

"Every year the same debate surfaces over whether or not to submit a film" for the contest in Hollywood, Farabi said last Friday while naming its choice. The US decision to pull out of the nuclear accord with the Islamic republic and to reimpose sanctions this year has "led certain parties to propose a boycott of the Oscars", it said, referring to Iran's conservative camp.

Defending its participation, the foundation said that members of the Academy which organizes the event were among leading critics of "the populist government of (President Donald) Trump and of its policies tainted with racism and unilateralism". The choice of "No Date, No Signature" was vindicated by its success abroad and "the efforts of its distributor" to bring the movie to screens

in the United States, Farabi said. But the ultra-conservative press was unimpressed. "Like the strategy used by Trump in interviews and tweets to depict Iran as a nation abandoned by hope and mired in poverty and misery, 'No Date, No Signature', a most bitter and dark film, has been chosen for the Oscars," Javan newspaper said in a commentary.

It said the foundation had squandered "a golden opportunity" to enlighten the outside world on the values of Iran by nominating another movie, "Damascus Time", on its battle against jihadists in Syria. Director Ebrahim Hatamikia's film, funded by the Revolutionary Guards, the country's ideological army, has been a hit at the Tehran box office.

After three films were shortlisted from a 110-strong field, "the decisive factor that made 'No Date, No Signature' the best choice was its professional and effective foreign distributor which the others did not have", said Houshang Golmakani, a critic with "Film Magazine", a monthly on Iranian movies he co-founded. The subject matter makes it "a caustic film" as regards its portrayal of life in Iran, he told AFP. "But art is not a matter of tooting for your country." In 2017, Iranian director Asghar Farhadi won his second Oscar for best foreign movie with "The Salesman", but he boycotted the awards ceremony in Los Angeles in protest at Trump's controversial policies on immigration. — AFP

TIRED LONDONERS RENT SLEEP PODS FOR SOME ZZZ'S

Exhausted Londoners hoping to take a rest from their busy schedules are being offered an alternative to coffee breaks: a sleep pod where they can grab some shut-eye for £15 (\$20) an hour. Inspired by Japanese capsule hotels, Pop & Rest in London's trendy Shoreditch area boasts four "sleep pods" - rooms with dark walls and a lavender aroma to aid relaxation, each supplied with ear plugs and an eye mask. Mauricio Villamizar, 28, said he and his Pop & Rest co-founder Yoann Demont came up with the idea for their venture after observing Londoners' hectic lifestyle and long working hours. "You could see they were tired all the time and just with coffee and tea wasn't enough, so we thought we should set up something like a private space where they can relax in peace," he said.

According to Villamizar, Pop & Rest currently averages between 30-35 customers a week, among them many freelancers and people working in the gig economy. Graeme Daniel is a director of a fashion company and has visited Pop & Rest several times since it opened in June this year.



Mauricio Villamizar, co-founder of Pop & Rest sits on a bed at his premises, allowing workers and travellers a place to rent by the hour to relax and rest in Shoreditch, London, Britain.

The 58-year-old says that the pods are helpful to catch up on sleep after a late night followed by a busy working day. "If I go out late in the evening and I've got maybe meetings spread throughout the day, it's just nice to have one hour catch up on the sleep that I've probably missed the night before," he said. "What can you get for 15 pounds in Central London, you know, you have a lunch... So 15 pounds to have a decent rest and clear mind for the afternoon or for a meeting late on in the day is perfect as far as I'm concerned," he added.

Designer Dan Andrews, 30, works near Pop & Rest and says the pods offer him a chance to meditate. "Even if you try and take that time to meditate or be mindful on a park bench or in the corner of the office or anywhere it's just really hard to get that disconnection," he said. Andrews has visited the pods up to four times since June, and believes the cost to nap is "fair". "It's good, if you think about the cost of your mental health and your sanity," he said. Villamizar says he aims to "flood" the city with sleep pods, eventually expanding to other UK cities and across Europe. — Reuters

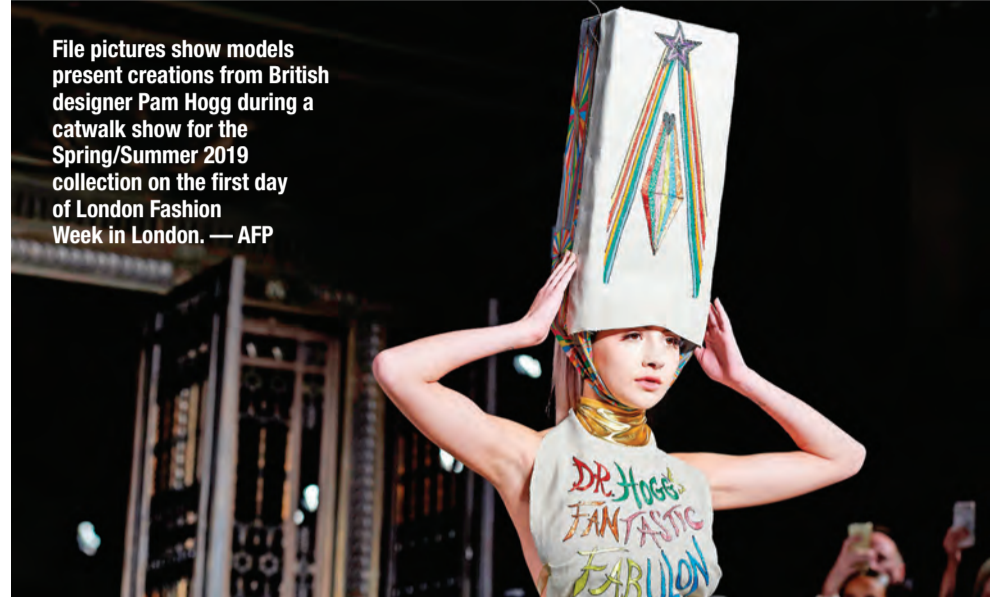
Bright and frilly

Designers unveil Brexit wardrobe



If you have been wondering what to wear when Britain leaves the European Union next spring, here are some pointers: Hot pink, skirts slashed at the thigh and plenty of lace and ruffles. At least that is what designers at London Fashion Week unveiled in their spring/summer 2019 collections which will start hitting UK shops just before Brexit - a divorce many in the industry opposed in the 2016 referendum. The economic uncertainty facing the 32.3 billion pounds (\$42.39 billion) fashion industry when Britain leaves the bloc on March 29 has not translated into gloomy looks on the catwalks with designers showing bright lines rich in intricate detailing.

Hot pink appeared at the Richard Malone, Gareth Pugh and Pam Hogg shows with the former also using bright blues and greens. Hogg,



File pictures show models present creations from British designer Pam Hogg during a catwalk show for the Spring/Summer 2019 collection on the first day of London Fashion Week in London. — AFP



known for her fantastical creations, presented revealing bodysuits and frocks decorated with masses of tulle as well as jumpsuits and dresses in a carnival-like print. Models wore huge headpieces and towering platforms. "I'm not politically outspoken but it's in my work," Hogg told Reuters. "Life is for living and there's too many people holding people down...I just want to bring some joy back into life." Soft romantic looks of ruffles, floral prints and lace dominated at Bora Aksu, Preen and Roland Mouret. There was also a voluminous shoulders trend - puffed up at Preen or pointy at Julien Macdonald, who dressed models in sparkling dresses slashed all over. His menswear also had sparkles. Asked if his bright line was a response to Brexit, Malone said: "It is, constantly, yeah... That's what we are doing by creating, you are kind of defying a system that doesn't want you to create."

Deal or no deal?

Like other sectors, Britain's fashion industry is waiting to hear whether the country will strike a deal with the EU. Many designers get textiles from Europe and there is now a question mark over tariffs and costs. "We haven't had a problem because...we're dealing with the best suppliers so it's fine," Alice Temperley said after showing her collection of feminine dresses and sequined suits. "But...there's so much uncertainty that it's just very hard to know do you have to factor yet more into your costing...and do we end up losing margin and we don't really know yet." Most London-based designers opposed Brexit, according to a pre-referendum survey by the British Fashion Council (BFC). They will have to prepare their autumn/winter lines, unveiled in February, somewhat blindly.

"The biggest challenge we have is the unknown," BFC Chief Executive Caroline Rush said. "The whole of the (fashion) industry didn't want to exit the EU. We want tariff free, frictionless borders, movement of people and talent and so as much as we can do that to protect our businesses, having access to that talent and being able to ship goods efficiently, quickly is incredibly important." Others were

less worried about Brexit. London-based Turkish designer Aksu said a specific focus for him was Asia Pacific.

"Fashion is so global you can't actually put it in a country box," he said. "I don't think (Brexit) will (have a) massive negative effect on fashion." Fashion theory might suggest hemlines drop in tough times but amid warnings that Britain's economy will shrink without a Brexit deal, designers appear to be paying no heed to this. "In challenging times in fashion, we always see the outpouring of creativity," Rush said. "And where perhaps sometimes things may feel a little pared back in the fashion industry, I think we might see the opposite." — AFP

Model with Down's syndrome makes strides worldwide



Model Madeline Stuart stands backstage between two male models at two New York Fashion Week in New York City, US. — Reuters

Rosanne Stuart recalls attending an annual fashion parade with her daughter, Madeline, in their hometown of Brisbane, Australia, in 2015. In the midst of the high-energy glamour on the runway, Madeline, who has limited speech, turned to her mother and firmly announced that she would like to be a model. Stuart, 46, who described her daughter as the kind of tomboy who would slip on a pair of leggings and "throw football with the guys," said that it was not something she had expected from Madeline, but she immediately supported her.

More than four years later, Madeline, now 21, is the first person with Down's syndrome to ever stride down a runway as a model during New York Fashion Week. With more than 60 catwalks under her belt in cities including London, Paris and Dubai, Madeline's disability has not appeared to be a hindrance. "When she walked that first catwalk every single person in the audience appreciated her," Stuart said. "It truly was the first time she was accepted." Madeline's drive has not let up this year. She just finished strutting down the runway for seven designers during the 2018 New York Fashion Week and is continuing the fashion circuit to walk for seven more designers during 2018 London Fashion Week.

The fashion world more recently has embraced nontraditional models who are not typically white and thin. From top magazines to designers, more women of different races, sizes and abilities are being hired for runway and print work. "I must say, I think things are getting a lot better, especially for Madeline," Stuart said. Like most models, Madeline starts off her day with a healthy breakfast then proceeds to her outfit fittings, gets her strawberry blonde hair and make-up done and prepares for her next runway appearance.

By lunchtime, Madeline is enjoying her favorite meal: a grilled chicken wrap. Madeline has this every single day, according to Stuart. "If they don't have a chicken wrap, she may have a chicken sandwich but she really doesn't want to. She wants to have a wrap," Stuart said. Between her shows, Madeline is usually curled up with her iPad, surfing the web or video-chatting for hours with her boyfriend Robbie, who

also has an intellectual disability. They met during Special Olympic games in Australia more than four years ago.

Dealing with disability

When Madeline was born, her mother, then 26, said doctors told her that her daughter had Down's and would not mature to the age of 7. Stuart, who is a building surveyor and her daughter's full-time manager, said she was determined to give her a chance at a normal life. "When you have a baby, everyone is expected to say, 'congratulations,'" said Stuart, who is a single parent. "But when you say you have a child with Down's syndrome they don't say congratulations, they go, 'oh I'm sorry.'"

Before pursuing modeling, Madeline was struggling with being overweight, an experience that Rosanne says many people with Down's syndrome face. Madeline expressed an interest in getting in shape because of a heart condition and her overall health. "She lost weight before she started modeling, before she was even thinking about modeling because of the holes in her heart," Stuart said. "It just so happens that when she lost the weight, and went to the fashion show, and then we got these photos done, it sort of just all happened."

Stuart in 2015 uploaded photos of Madeline's weight loss on social media to encourage other people with disabilities. The post quickly went viral, earning more than 7.2 million online views in a week and news coverage in about 150 countries, Stuart said. Within a month, South African fashion designer Hendrik Vermeulen asked Madeline to model in his New York Fashion Week show, marking the beginning of her modeling career.

Stuart said that a few critics in the disability community have implied that she is pushing Madeline to pursue modeling, calling her a "dance mom." But the mother says that those who think modeling is not Madeline's choice do not know anything about Down's syndrome. "People with Down's syndrome have a very, very strong will and can be super stubborn," Stuart said. "If Madeline did not want to catwalk she would just sit on the end of the catwalk and wouldn't walk." — Reuters

In Hong Kong, disposable fashion gets a recycled makeover

In Hong Kong, more than 340 tons of textile waste is dumped each day into the city's overflowing landfills, according to the city's Environmental Protection Department. But a new textile spinning mill - the first to open in this former textile manufacturing powerhouse in half a century - aims to reuse that waste, harnessing pioneering recycling technology to try to make the fashion industry more sustainable. "These technologies may be the gateway to a fashion industry decoupled from the use of virgin natural resources," said Erik Bang, who heads innovation efforts for the H&M Foundation, a non-profit funded by the family, founders and main owners of H&M Group.

The clothing retailer has already placed a first order at the mill, as part of its bid to become "fully circular and renewable," according to Cecilia Brønsten, the group's environmental sustainability manager. The Novetex Upcycling Factory in Tai Po Industrial Estate, when it opens this month, will use new technology to separate fabric blends in waste garments and produce yarn. It comes as clothing companies around the world doubled the amount of garments they made from 2000 to 2014, according to a 2016 report by management consultancy McKinsey & Company. Over the same period, the number of garments bought each year, per person, jumped 60 percent, the report said. That has led to a stream of clothing - purchased and thrown away, left unsold, or tossed as textile plant waste - going into landfills.

Curbing 'take-make-dispose'

The government of Hong Kong wants to encourage its 7.3 million people to move away from a "take-make-dispose" model towards a more "circular economy" where waste is reused, according to Kam-sing Wong, the city's secretary for the environment. It is also seeking to make the city a leader in sustainable fashion. To try to achieve the aim, it has since 2006 funded the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRI-TA), which collaborates with industry partners and groups like the H&M Foundation.

Hong Kong's government also funded a two-day "Fashion Summit" in early September, billed as the largest sustainable fashion event in Asia. With many people working in textile sourcing and startups, the city is a good place to introduce new technology to a global audience of fashion executives, according to Yan Chan, director for business development at the HKRI-TA. Fashion companies "are making decisions here. So once the technology is actually ready, then we can spread out across not only Asia, but all over the world," said Chan.

The new mill in Tai Po uses two pioneering technologies, developed and patented by HKRI-TA, to reuse fabric made of mixed fibres. While it's possible to recycle garments made from one material, until now no commercially viable method has existed for recycling blends on a big scale, Chan said. The mill will carry out mechanical recycling, where soiled or damaged fabrics - such as old uniforms or hotel curtains - are sanitized, with buttons and zippers removed, then sorted and stored.

Once an order comes in for a certain color,



A worker disentangles wool yarn at a spinning machine at a factory owned by Hong Kong's Novetex Textiles Limited in Zhuhai City, Guangdong province, China. — Reuters photos

the material is UV-sterilized before being cut into pieces and spun into yarn. No water or dye is needed, and only small amounts of virgin material are used, Chan said. But the mill will also test a system to separate cotton and polyester blends using only heat, water and a small quantities of biodegradable chemicals. The cotton is turned into cellulose powder while the polyester fibre is used for spinning and making new fabric, Chan said. If Novetex can show on the factory floor that the technologies work to make high-quality yarn, it could drive demand globally for recycled yarn and wider use of the technology, its backers say. "As we scale up and make this technology freely available to the industry, we will reduce our dependence on limited natural resources to clothe a growing global population," Bang said.

'Fast fashion'

A 2017 report from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a UK-based sustainability charity, said the total greenhouse gas emissions from producing textiles, at 1.2 billion tons annually, is more than those from all international flights and maritime shipping. An average of 23 kgs of

greenhouse gases are generated to make one kilo (2.2 pounds) of fabric, according to McKinsey. Customers are keeping their clothes half as long as they did 15 years ago, the report added, sometimes wearing them only seven or eight times before disposing of them. This move towards fast fashion - where more clothes are produced but at a lower quality, making them less robust - must be reversed for a sustainable future, researchers from the Mistra Future Fashion program wrote in The Handbook of Sustainable Fashion.

A sustainable fashion survey by auditor KPMG, released at the Fashion Summit this month, showed more buyers are becoming more conscious about the industry's impact on the planet. More than three-quarters of 5,000 consumers surveyed in Hong Kong, Shanghai, London, New York and Tokyo said they were concerned about the environment, pollution and waste. However, only 13 percent of consumers in the survey said they were willing to pay a higher price for sustainable fashion. Sixty percent said they would prefer sustainable fashion if the price was the same as normal fashion. A labelling or scoring system would help, they said. — Reuters



A worker checks a machine that arranges thick yarn at a factory owned by Hong Kong's Novetex Textiles Limited in Zhuhai City, Guangdong province.



BURBERRY'S NEW STAR SHOWS OFF DEBUT COLLECTION IN LONDON

Burberry's new star designer Riccardo Tisci put his own twist on the venerable British company's classic style for its streetwear and luxury fashion show at London's Fashion Week on Monday. The 44-year-old Italian designer's first Burberry show was one of the most anticipated events of Fashion Week, attracting around 800 guests. Kendall Jenner was among the star models debuting for the heavyweight fashion house, which was showing its 2019 spring/summer collection, although the front-row was an unusually celebrity-free zone.

With a soundtrack by trip-hop group Massive Attack the catwalk show took place in a former post office centre under renovation—a metaphor for the change that Burberry hopes Tisci will bring to the label, following his success at Givenchy. "I was thinking a lot about

journeys as I started putting together my first Burberry collection," said Tisci, who was named as Burberry's new chief creative officer in March, replacing Christopher Bailey.

"From my personal journey back to London 20 years after I showed my graduate collection here, to how far I have come. "I was also inspired by how much London—the city that made me dream to become a designer—has evolved," he added. "This show is a celebration of the cultures, the traditions and the codes of this historic fashion house and of the eclecticism that makes up the beautifully diverse United Kingdom." Tisci broke with the label's tradition by presenting a range of evening dresses, a wardrobe it has never catered for before.

Black, sober, long and fluid, sometimes discreetly decorated with fine sequins, the robes embodied the refined luxury that is one of the pillars of Burberry's new strategy. The show opened, 20 minutes late, with Burberry's classic beige trench coat with a brown elastic belt, followed by a latex inspired dress, pleated skirts with long hemlines and a new take on the bum-bag. The second half of the show was more daring, with short hemlines, slip dresses, leather straps and cowgirl gingham on display.

Across town at Kensington Gardens, Serbian designer Roksanda Ilincic brought reggae beats to Fashion Week. Abstract motifs, reminiscent of the 20th Century great painters such as Matisse, Miro and Picasso, decorated her sweaters, dresses and trousers, cementing her reputation as a geometric visionary of the female wardrobe, honed during her time as an architecture student in Belgrade.

These skills were on display with a long sheath dress covered with delicate, alternate coloured rectangles, enhanced with fine black selvedges on the collar, and by large scarves forming the shape of the letter "X", worn over casual raincoats. Her fluid and comfortable style has won a legion of celebrity admirers, including Emma Stone, Cate Blanchett and Kate Middleton.

The collection also explored a bold palette, which the designer described as "bright" and "spicy", evoking "turmeric, poppy and limoncello". London Fashion Week kicked off Friday with all eyes on Victoria Beckham, who debuted at the event on the 10th anniversary of her label's launch. — AFP



Lifestyle | Features

Nigeria's Davido gets on the political campaign trail

He's the Nigerian star of Afropop, feted across Africa and the globe as a multi-millionaire singer-songwriter and record producer. But Davido—real name David Adedeji Adeleke—has recently been more focused on party politics and getting his uncle elected as governor of his home state of Osun this weekend. Ademola Adeleke, dubbed "the dancing senator" because of his penchant for dancing in public, must be hoping his high-profile nephew can win him as many voters as he has music fans. The 58-year-old politician is running for the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) against Gboyega Oyetola of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Candidates from no fewer than 48 parties are vying to replace APC Governor Rauf Aregbesola, who is stepping down after a maximum of two four-year terms. Saturday's poll is the final major electoral test before Nigerians vote for a new president, parliament, governors and state legislatures in February and March next year.

Davido's intervention is undoubtedly the highlight of a state election that is being seen as test of President Muhammadu Buhari's popularity in Nigeria's southwest. The region, which includes Lagos, the country's megacity of 20 million people, is a key electoral prize for any presidential hopeful and major political parties.

Political dynasty

Davido, who has become a common sight on the campaign trail, last weekend took star billing at a rally in his hometown of Ede, performing some of his most popular tunes. The 25-year-old artist is currently carrying out his yearlong compulsory national service—a far cry from the glitz and glamour of his private jet and a recent Africa tour. He was pictured singing and dancing for fans on top of PDP vehicles in a field, delighting local party members and a throng of supporters. Billboards in the state also show pictures of the singer in traditional dress, leaning on an empty black leather chair next to the Nigerian flag. "I, Davido, support Senator Nurudeen Ademola Adeleke as governor of Osun State," the roadside advertisements read.

While he may be better known as one of Nigeria's most successful musical exports, Davido also comes from a well-known political dynasty.



David Adedeji Adeleke

His grandfather, Raji Ayoola Adeleke, was a senator between 1979 and 1983 while another uncle, Isiaka Adeleke, was Osun's first civilian governor from January 1992 to November 1993. The performer's father, Adedeji Adeleke, is a wealthy businessman with interests in banking, property, education, shipping, haulage and oil and gas.

Enhanced security

Regardless of whether Davido swings it for the PDP, Nigeria's authorities are taking no chances over security to ensure Saturday's vote goes smoothly. The last gubernatorial vote in the southwestern state of Ekiti in July led to widespread concerns about vote-buying by leading political parties. The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room coalition of civic groups said its monitors "observed widespread financial inducement and vote-buying in and around several of the polling units". The "brazenness" of the practice could undermine democracy, it added. The candidate of Buhari's APC won the poll.

Fear of political violence, which is never far from the surface in Nigeria, has also seen security reinforcements sent into Osun state. Police said 40,000 officers, two helicopters, 30 armoured personnel carriers, 300 patrol vehicles and sniffer dogs have been deployed to ensure the poll is peaceful. Buhari, who is seeking a second term, has promised February's election will be free, fair and safe. —AFP

Fluid flamboyance: French star Christine and the Queens becomes Chris



Heloise Letissier

Heloise Letissier, the million-selling French pop singer who became a global star as Christine and the Queens, cannot stop shape-shifting. For her second album, which is out Friday, Christine has morphed yet again and become Chris. Gone is the long hair and the finely cut suits, replaced by a short butch k. d. lang cut with pirate earrings and open shirts. Even her body seems to have become more masculine, muscular and toned. Her new alias Chris is also more carnal and direct, Letissier told AFP, and "wants to explore 1,000 ways of talking about desire".

Sex and sexuality ooze from the album, also called "Chris", with fiercely personal songs like "Girlfriend / Damn, dis-moi" (Damn, tell me) followed by a daring video for "5 dollars". "An album is always a photograph, and it is quite true to where I am," said the singer, who proudly asserts herself as a "queer woman". "I like to work on the ambivalence of my femininity," she told AFP, even if that does not go down as easily in her native France as it does in Britain and elsewhere. "I find that in France I have to explain myself more," she said. "There is always something that might freak people before it's accepted. In England it's more fluid."

'Gut reaction'

"Chris" is already getting the kind of rave reviews that greeted her debut "Human Warmth" three years ago. "It's an album crossed by strong and conflicting feelings, very visceral, very gut-reaction, and the sound had to be up to the mark," said Letissier, 30. "I have always liked to have a minimalist musical production. But for this I needed something much more carnal and flamboyant," said the singer. She wrote the songs alone on her computer before recording them in Los Angeles with studio musicians who usually work with Annie Lennox of the Eurythmics and rhythm-and-blues star Shuggie Otis.

A hip-hop-obsessed outsider with a turn of phrase reminiscent of David Bowie and Michael Jackson, Letissier found herself being invited on stage by Madonna after her first album propelled her to fame in 2015. She was even worked into the plot of the US television series "Better Things", created by controversial comic Louis C.K. and Pamela Adlon. But the daughter of two university professors from the hip western French city of Nantes has not let herself be swept away by her new-found celebrity and wealth.

Gender rebel

"I can see how it could have a euphoric effect but for me that was not the case. I was in the eye of a cyclone of work and logistics," she recalled. While her new album rebels against a binary masculine and feminine definition of gender, the singer is also trying to shake up what a big touring pop show should look like. Rather than follow the template for a blockbuster live show with huge screens, strobe lights and glitter bombs, she has taken inspiration from opera and theatre for her US and European tour, which starts next month. —AFP

Knights of the tripe: French food cults defend local fare



People pose during the 38th annual general meeting of the Brotherhood of "Tripiere Fertoise", a Normandy's Gastronomic confraternity, aimed at promoting the culinary delights of the lining of a cow's stomach in Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, western France. —AFP photos



A member of the brotherhood of the "True Andouille of Vire" presents an plastic andouille oversized specimen.

On a Saturday morning in September in the Normandy countryside a group of men and women gather for an ancient French initiation ceremony. The merry band bustling about in colorful robes and hats, with oversized medallions hanging around their necks, could be performers in a Shakespeare troupe, members of a medieval guild, maybe even druids. But the glazed pot perched on the top table in the hall in Bagnoles de l'Orne—laden with symbolism like the potion-filled cauldron in the Asterix comics—gives the game away. Those gathered are elders in the area's gastronomic "confreries" or brotherhoods, there for the annual general meeting of an order set up, in this instance, to promote the culinary delights of the lining of a cow's stomach.

Placing their right hands on the pot, its two newest members, Arlette Allix, 70, who used to work in communications, and her 71-year-old husband Christian swear to become ambassadors for tripe—specifically the famous skewered tripe of nearby Ferte-Macé—and to uphold Normandy's tradition "of eating and drinking well". With a tap of a bone on the right shoulder, the "grand master" inducts them into the association and presents them with their red-and-green regalia as well as medallions stamped with a pot and a small skewered bundle.

Seven emissaries from other fraternities are also made honorary members of Ferte-Macé's venerable tripe brotherhood. And then it's off for a parade through town, followed by a five-course meal at a Michelin-starred restaurant where, naturally enough, the plat de resistance is a steaming plate of tripe.

Taking on 'malbouffe'

Similar scenes play out nearly every week across France, home to around 1,500 "confreries" with over 10,000 members—mostly pensioners who are not involved in the production of the delicacy in question. They receive subsidies to crisscross the country promoting their region's produce and partaking in ritualistic food feasts. "We're an association of good-timers," Jean Traon, the jocular co-grand master of Ferte-Macé's tripe fraternity, admitted to AFP. "But we enjoy in moderation," the 73-year-old former police captain emphasized.

"We're one big family!" said Marie-Chantal Eudine, the 74-year-old grand dame of the Bayeux pig society who was one of the guests, cutting a dash in a musketeer-style hat with a yellow plume. The "confrerie" tradition dates back to the Middle Ages, with one of the oldest originating in 12th-century Saint-Emilion, a wine-making town near Bordeaux that was at the time under English rule. In 1199, King John entrusted its aldermen with running the town in return for a promise to give England priority access to the fruits of its vines.

Saint-Emilion's wine brotherhood went on to spawn imitators for everything from oxtail and truffles to barley sugar sweets made by Benedictine nuns. Banned during the French Revolution, together with religious orders, the cultish "confreries" underwent a revival in the second half of the 20th century, spurred by concerns over the rise of industrial "malbouffe" (bad food).

Some serve as little more than a pretext for merry-making but others wield significant economic and political clout. "The rituals may be of another age but there is a positive effect" on producers of the delicacies, said Joaquim Pueyo, MP of the Orne region who was among a handful of politicians attending the weekend festivities. The fact that local butchers continue to churn out tripe—a humble leftover from a leaner bygone era with a small but committed fan base in northern France—is in no small part due to the efforts of the brotherhood, Pueyo argued. "We cannot keep up with demand," Guillaume Delignou, a 29-year-old who recently took over one of Ferte-Macé's best-known butcheries, confirmed.

Lucky charm

It's not just greying gourmets that wear brotherhoods' colors with



Franck Quinton (right), chef of the restaurant The Manoir du Lys, prepares skewered tripe during the 38th annual general meeting of the Brotherhood of the "Tripiere Fertoise".

pride. Several former presidents have agreed to fly the flag for local produce as a sign of their commitment to France's culinary heritage, which was honored with a UNESCO world heritage listing in 2010. Jacques Chirac, a man with a legendary appetite, was inducted into a brotherhood for calves' brains, while Francois Mitterrand was a champion for cassoulet, a sausage and bean stew. Emmanuel Macron was the prize catch at this year's Paris farm fair for the society of the piebald Bayeux pig, with the order's grand mistresses making him an honorary member when he visited their stand.

Many politicians from rural constituencies agree to bat for several brotherhoods, like Nathalie Goulet, senator for the Orne region, a vegetarian who nonetheless plumps for black pudding, white pudding and tripe among other local favorites including camembert. Addressing the crowd gathered for lunch at the Manoir du Lys, she credited her victory in last year's Senate elections to the fact that she was wearing her "lucky charm", the skewered tripe medallion. —AFP



Roger Gaugant (right), grand master of the "Tripiere Fertoise", appoints new members of the brotherhood.

ITALIAN YOUTHS RALLY TO FREE SCREENINGS OF POLICE VIOLENCE FILM



The film "Sulla mia pelle" has entered the collective conscience of Italian youths living under a populist, right-wing government. —AFP

Thousands of Italians are flocking to illegal free public screenings of a new film about a young man's 2009 death in custody, a potent symbol of police violence and a merciless penal system. In city piazzas and lecture theatres around the country, community groups and student organizations are showing pirated versions of the Netflix film "Sulla mia pelle", or "On My Skin". The film tells the tragic story of Stefano Cucchi, 31, who was arrested in Rome in October 2009 in possession of 20 grams (two-thirds of an ounce) of hashish and two grams of cocaine. Director Alessio Cremonini's film has bounced from the red carpet of the Venice Film Festival, where it premiered last month, into the collective conscience of Italian youths living under a populist, right-wing government.

Some of the 2,000 people who attended a screening at Rome's prestigious La Sapienza university on Friday were reduced to tears. "What happened to Stefano Cucchi could have happened to any one of us," said Teo, a 27-year-old cameraman. Student Luca Matteuzzi said the film was "both hard and beautiful. Violent without showing any blood. "It doesn't show the police as animals but it points the finger at a timorous bureaucracy that is incapable of facing its responsibilities." In the film Cucchi, who suffered from epilepsy, spends a week going through the system, at police stations and then Rome's central Regina Coeli prison. Despite being covered in bruises and barely able to walk, a judge remands him into custody and he eventually ends up in the prison infirmary, where he dies a week after being arrested.

Battle for justice

The already slight Cucchi weighed just 37 kilos when he died, and his family took shocking photos of his emaciated and battered body in the morgue. His sister Ilaria has fought for justice for years, trying to establish who was responsible for her brother's death nearly a decade ago. However despite years of legal battles no one has yet been successfully prosecuted. Five police officers are currently on trial over the affair, three of them charged with manslaughter.

"It's moving to see how things are being organized spontaneously to see my brother's story," Ilaria Cucchi told AFP. "He wasn't anybody, and now they'll know him in Spain, in France, around the world," said Cucchi, who after the premiere dedicated the film to far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini. —AFP

Classifieds

Thursday, September 20, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 19/09/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	44 °C	32 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	28 °C			
ABDALY	46 °C	29 °C			
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C			
JAHRA	47 °C	29 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	40 °C	31 °C			
SALMIYAH	40 °C	32 °C			
AHMADI	39 °C	31 °C			
NUWAISIB	42 °C	29 °C			
WAFRA	45 °C	29 °C			
SALMY	45 °C	29 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	09/20	Hot	44 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Friday	09/21	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	45 °C	29 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 26 km/h
Saturday	09/22	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	46 °C	30 °C	VRB-N	08 - 26 km/h
Sunday	09/23	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	46 °C	29 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:15
Sunrise	05:34
Zuhr	11:42
Asr	15:11
Sunset	17:49
Isha	19:06

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	46 °C
MIN. Temp.	30 °C
MAX. RH	87 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	NE 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

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- Vice Principal
- Dean of Students
- Counselor
- English Teacher
- Math Teacher
- Social Studies Teacher
- female PE Teacher

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

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 20/9/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 20/9/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	ABY	122	Sharjah	13:35
FEQ	441	Asyut	00:05	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
SAI	441	Lahore	00:50	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	FEQ	242	Alexandria	14:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	KAC	691	Muscat	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	LUX	060	Dubai	15:05
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	JZR	188	Dubai	15:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	SVK	501	Jeddah	15:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	FBM	8066	Dubai	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	OAI	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:20
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:25
THY	1414	Dubai	05:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	SVK	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:30
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	266	Beirut	19:15
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	151	Istanbul	19:25
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	NIA	162	Cairo	20:30
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:00	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:30	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	09:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
THY	1516	TZK	10:05	JZR	550	Alexandria	21:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	541	Cairo	11:05	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	JZR	1540	Cairo	22:10
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	203	Lahore	22:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
ABY	121	Sharjah	12:55	THY	1401	ADB	22:25
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	1543	Cairo	13:05	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
KAC	792	Madinah	13:40	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	JZR	560	Doha	23:45
				TRQ	231	KRT	23:55



KUWAIT: Shiite mourners flagellate themselves on the eve of Ashoura at the Karbalaia Husseinia in Daiya yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Turkey cuts investment criteria for foreigners seeking citizenship

Turkey, US relations will strengthen with investment and trade: Erdogan

ANKARA: Turkey yesterday made it easier for foreigners to become Turkish citizens by cutting the financial and investment criteria required for citizenship, according to a decree from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Foreigners now need only to have \$500,000 deposits in Turkish banks, down from \$3 million before while fixed capital investment was reduced from \$2 million to \$500,000 dollars, the decree published in the Official Gazette said. Meanwhile individuals can obtain citizenship if they employ 50 people, down from the previous 100, while those who own property worth \$250,000 can become Turkish citizens, compared to the previous value necessary of \$1 million.

The decree is the latest in a series by Erdogan in what appears to be a bid to prop up the embattled Turkish lira and the economy which slowed down in the

second quarter. Last week, the president ordered that contracts for the sale, rent and leasing of property in or indexed to foreign currencies would not be allowed. The Turkish currency fell against the US dollar drastically in August after one of the most bitter spats between Ankara and Washington.

The lira lost nearly a quarter in value against the greenback in August. But there had been investor concerns over domestic economic policy and Erdogan's continued opposition to high interest rates, although the central bank aggressively hiked its main policy rate 6.25 percent to 24 percent last week.

Erdogan later met representatives of American companies working in Turkey at his presidential palace in Ankara. He met 30 senior executives, according to HaberTurk daily, including representatives from

Microsoft and Google. Relations between Washington and Ankara will strengthen with investment and trade, Erdogan told the representatives. The two countries are at odds over issues including Washington's policy in Syria, Ankara's quest for the extradition of a Muslim cleric blamed for failed coup in 2016 and Washington's concerns about US citizens and embassy staff detained in Turkey.

The arrest and detention of Andrew Brunson, a US Christian pastor who has lived in Turkey for more than two decades, deepened the rift and prompted President Donald Trump to impose sanctions on Turkey and double trade tariffs, exacerbating a slide in Turkey's lira currency. In retaliation, Turkey doubled tariffs on some US imports including alcohol, cars and tobacco. "I believe our strategic partnership with the United States

will strengthen further with investment and trade despite all the ups and downs," Erdogan said, according to the text seen by Reuters. The event for US businesses operating in Turkey was closed to the media.

Erdogan said Turkey would continue to take every step so that businesses will not be harmed by the trade measures and would not compromise on free market principles, according to the text.

"We encouraged the business world to cooperate further while we are seeking ways to solve our problems via diplomacy with our counterparts," Erdogan said. "We would never want you to be negatively impacted or your projects to be obstructed due to the issues we are having with the current American government. We will continue to take necessary steps," Erdogan said. — Agencies

Anger at S'pore ads offering Indonesian housemaids for sale

SINGAPORE: Online ads in Singapore offering Indonesian maids for sale were yesterday condemned as "unjust and demeaning", in a rare flare-up of tensions between the neighbors over domestic helpers. Singapore is home to almost 250,000 maids, mostly from poor parts of Indonesia or the Philippines, who head to the wealthy city-state to earn higher salaries than they can back home. While Indonesia regularly protests about abuse and exploitation of helpers in Malaysia and parts of the Middle East, complaints about treatment of maids in tightly-regulated Singapore are less common.

However reports that Indonesian helpers were being offered for sale in the city-state on online marketplace

Carousell quickly drew condemnation from rights groups. The adverts under the user name "maid.recruitment" reportedly offered the services of several helpers from Indonesia, while some ads indicated maids had been "sold". The posts on the e-commerce site, which operates in several Asian countries and describes itself as "a simple way to sell the clutter in your life", have now been removed.

Wahyu Susilo, executive director of Indonesian NGO Migrant Care, said the group "strongly condemned" the adverts and called for those behind them to be brought to justice. "This is very unjust and demeaning to the migrant workers' dignity," he told AFP. Singapore's labor ministry said it was aware of cases where maids were being "marketed inappropriately" on Singapore-headquartered Carousell, and had got the adverts taken down and launched an investigation. "Advertising (foreign domestic workers) like commodities is unacceptable and an offence" under local laws, a statement from the ministry said. Employment agencies found guilty of such practices will have their licenses revoked or suspended, it said. — AFP

suspended the decision that was based on revenge," former minister Ahsan Iqbal told reporters. "This trial is important because even a blind person in Pakistan will see that there was neither law nor constitution in the decision and it was just pre-poll rigging to pave the way for Imran Khan to win elections," he said.

Shahbaz Sharif, who headed the PML-N after his brother's imprisonment, tweeted a verse from the Holy Quran in Arabic that said: "Truth has come and falsehood has departed". Nawaz Sharif's wife died in a London hospital earlier this month and he along with his daughter and son-in-law were granted parole to attend her funeral. "The verdict is a political victory for Nawaz Sharif and he will use it to further assert his narrative that his imprisonment was a political move," political analyst Hassan Askari told AFP.

"The release of Nawaz means he will further mobilize his party and other opposition parties against the government," Askari added. Sharif, now 68, has been prime minister three times but power has been a rough ride. He was expelled from office in 1993 on suspicion of corruption. He won an election in 1997, only to be ousted and exiled after a military coup in 1999. Nawaz returned to Pakistan in 2007 and took power once more in 2013, only to be ousted by the Supreme Court in July last year. — Agencies

King Salman hosts Khan as ...

Continued from Page 1

Images showed Nawaz's younger brother Shahbaz Sharif waving at supporters from the front seat of the vehicle. Dozens of jubilant supporters chanted "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif!" outside the Islamabad High Court after the decision was announced. The court has not yet released a detailed judgment explaining the decision. It was not clear when Sharif's appeal will be heard. The anti-graft watchdog has the right to go to the Supreme Court to contest yesterday's bail ruling.

An anti-corruption court in July sentenced Sharif in absentia to 10 years and his daughter to seven years over properties they allegedly owned in Britain, following revelations in the Panama Papers.

Sharif claims he is being targeted by the country's powerful security establishment. His Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party lost the election on July 25 to the rival Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led by Khan. "Today the court has

Calls grow for UN action on China's camps

GENEVA: France and Germany have called on China to close "re-education camps" in its restive far western region of Xinjiang where up to one million Uighurs and other Muslims are thought to be held for political indoctrination as pressure grows for UN action. Reports of mass detentions and strict surveillance of the Turkic minority in Xinjiang have sparked a growing international outcry since coming to light last month.

Beijing says Xinjiang faces a serious threat from Islamist militants and separatists. Officials deny mistreating Muslims there, instead saying they are putting some people through "vocational" style courses to prevent militancy spreading.

China has blamed a group called the East Turkestan Islamic Movement for many of the attacks in recent years in Xinjiang, though some experts have questioned whether the group exists in any coherent form. The calls by European powers at the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday coincided with the first side-event held on the politically sensitive issue.

"What we are seeing now in East Turkestan is more than just repression, it is an intentional campaign of assimilation by the Chinese government targeting the Uighur identity," Dolkun Isa, president of the exiled World Uyghur Congress, told the panel. "Everything that makes us unique, our language, our culture, our religion - is under attack... Every

Uighur family in the diaspora has a family member detained in the camps," he said. "Mass imprisonment of more than one million people cannot be justified on any grounds," Isa said. "UN member states have an absolute obligation to act immediately." Inmates include his brother and at least 56 professors at Xinjiang University, he said.

Social re-engineering

Adrian Zenz is a German academic and expert on Chinese minority policy whose research is based on government documents and accounts of visitors to the remote region. "We can say this appears to be the most intensive social re-engineering effort of the Chinese state since the Cultural Revolution," he said. "In Xinjiang we are looking at a minimum of several hundred thousand, possibly over one million in possibly over 1,000 to 1,200 facilities," he said.

Zenz based his findings on satellite imagery, government procurement bids for building internment facilities, and recruitment notices for Mandarin teachers. "The aim is political indoctrination, changing people, actually changing the hearts, minds and souls you could say."

UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet called on China last week to allow in monitors after the "deeply disturbing" allegations emerged. But there appears to be little appetite among states for launching a UN probe, said John Fisher of Human Rights Watch. "In similar circumstances in other countries, it would not be at all unwarranted for violations on this scale to be met with calls for a commission of inquiry, a fact-finding mission, a special rapporteur," he said. "Because it is China, states' voices are muted." — Reuters

Sports

Wham-bam as Japan's Naomi Osaka blazes into Tokyo quarters

Nadal to miss Asian tournaments due to knee injury

TOKYO: Japan's Naomi Osaka pulverised Slovak Dominika Cibulkova 6-2, 6-1 to reach the Pan Pacific Open quarter-finals yesterday in her first match since her historic US Open triumph. The 20-year-old, who earlier this month stunned Serena Williams to become Japan's first grand slam singles champion, fired down 10 aces in a fearsome display of wham-bam tennis in Tokyo.

Third seed Osaka came out with guns blazing and ripped a fizzing forehand down the line on the first point, racing away to close out the first set with a pair of thundering aces. A dazed Cibulkova, the 2014 Australian Open runner-up, had no answer to Osaka's firepower as the world number seven wrapped up a comfortable victory with a ferocious cross-court backhand after just 59 minutes.

"I didn't really feel any pressure-I felt it was more fun," said Osaka, who reached the Tokyo final in 2016. "I'm not really thinking about winning the US Open," added Japan's latest sporting celebrity, who has a Japanese mother and a Haitian father and was raised in the United States. "I'm not sure what will happen when things calm down. But (today) as a whole I played at maybe 80 percent-I never know the limit of what level I can go to."

Earlier, sixth seed Garbine Muguruza was upset by American qualifier Alison Riske 6-1, 6-2 in an abject performance from the Spanish former world number one, who looked a shadow of the player who captured the 2016 French Open and 2017 Wimbledon titles.

Riske advances to face fourth seed Karolina Pliskova, another player to have previously held the women's top ranking. The Czech recovered from a set down to beat Australia's Daria Gavrilova 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 and avenge her opponent's defeat of twin sister Kristyna earlier this week.

But she made hard work of it, trashing a racquet in frustration as she slipped behind 4-1 in the deciding set before clawing her way back. "The first set was in my hands but I made some stupid mistakes," said Pliskova, who ended Gavrilova's resistance with a clever drop volley after two hours and 21 minutes.

"I tried to stay positive and even though I broke my racquet I tried to keep fighting, because you always have a chance." Second seed Caroline Garcia flirted with an early exit as the Frenchwoman overcame Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 to reach the last eight of the prestigious Tokyo event, whose list of former champions includes Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf, Kimiko Date and Martina Hingis. Meanwhile, world number one Rafael Nadal has announced his withdrawal from upcoming tournaments in Beijing and Shanghai due to the right knee injury that forced him to retire from the US Open earlier this month. Nadal had to pull out during his semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro in New York and also missed Spain's Davis Cup defeat by France last weekend. The 32-year-old said he visited doctors in Barcelona on Monday and has subsequently made the decision to play neither the ATP 500 event in Beijing nor the Masters 1000 in Shanghai.

"While the annoyances on my knee are nothing new, we have decided together with my medical and technical team not to participate in the Asian tour to recover the knee the way we have always done," Nadal said yesterday.

"I'm sorry I can't be with all the fans in China and with the organisers of the Beijing and Shanghai tournaments that have always had a great relationship with me and my team." Nadal is the defending champion in Beijing, where he beat Nick Kyrgios in the final last year. He was also runner-up in Shanghai, denied by



TOKYO: Naomi Osaka of Japan hits a return against Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia during their women's singles second round tennis match at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

champion Roger Federer.

Missing both tournaments next month leaves the way open for Novak Djokovic to finish 2018 top of the ATP world rankings, despite another positive season for Nadal. The Spaniard clinched his 11th French Open

title in June after also winning clay-court tournaments in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Rome.

He lost in the semi-finals at Wimbledon to Djokovic before the knee problem hampered his progress at Flushing Meadows. — AFP

Whistleblower warns WADA of 'catastrophe' if Russia ban eased

LOS ANGELES: Whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov said Tuesday the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) risked a "catastrophe for clean sport" if it lifts a suspension against the Russian Anti-Doping Agency later this week. Former Moscow laboratory chief Rodchenkov, who lifted the lid on Russia's doping scandal in 2015, said Russia could only be readmitted if it acknowledged the government role in the scandal and provided full access to past test results.

"WADA must not fall prey to manipulation and false assertions from the Ministry (of Sport), the same arm of the Kremlin that facilitated the doping program and asserted false compliance," Rodchenkov wrote in a USA Today editorial.

"To do so, would be nothing short of a catastrophe for clean sport," Rodchenkov's comments come two days before WADA meets in the Seychelles to discuss Russia's status. The global drug-testing watchdog revealed last week that its compliance committee had recommended lifting its three-year suspension after receiving assurances from Russia's Ministry of Sport.

The apparent softening of WADA's stance triggered an outcry from athletes and national anti-doping agencies around the world, who accused WADA of caving in to pressure from the International Olympic Committee.

Rodchenkov, one of the architects of the doping program exposed by WADA's investigations branch under lawyer Richard McLaren, urged the agency to hold firm in its demands. "I feel it's important to clarify what is a clear and firm demand from WADA, that there must be a full recognition of the McLaren Report by Russian sports authorities and that they must hand over all evidence, including the database and all physical samples, in the Moscow laboratory," said Rodchenkov, who now lives in hiding in the United States.

"It is clear that given the circumstances we face in the standoff between WADA and Russia, and any decision by WADA to reinstate RUSADA-which would then be followed by the reinstatement of the Moscow laboratory-would be a catastrophe for Olympic sport ideals, the fight against doping and the protection of clean athletes." The United States Anti-Doping Agency has been scathing of the prospect of Russia being readmitted this week. On Tuesday, the United States Olympic Committee also urged caution, stating that WADA must make a decision that leaves athletes feeling they are competing on a "level playing field, without any doubts." "Anything that stops short of satisfying that will not only be a huge disappointment to the USOC and American athletes, but to the entire Olympic and Paralympic movements," USOC chief executive Sarah Hirshland said.—AFP

USOC must do more to help retiring athletes: Phelps

WASHINGTON: American swimmer Michael Phelps says the US Olympic Committee (USOC) should do more to help Olympians transitioning into retirement, saying they are all too often "brushed aside" as the focus shifts to the next generation of talent.

The retired 33-year-old, who won a record 23 Olympic gold medals across five Games, said elite athletes need assistance navigating the tricky period that follows their Olympic careers, when depression can set in. While the USOC offers career and educational services via its Athlete Career and Education program Phelps, who has spoken openly about his own struggles with depression, told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday he was frustrated to see athletes forgotten about so quickly.

"There is so much more that the USOC can do and they don't do," he said. "I don't think there's been much help for when an athlete retires and takes that next step. That's something that's frustrating for me to see because it is such an honour to represent our country

and to wear the stars and stripes. "But at times when we're done it's kind of like we're just moved along or brushed aside because there's somebody else that's coming up."

"To me that needs to change," he said. Phelps said an upcoming documentary he participated in called "The Weight of Gold" will examine the issue of Olympians and mental health. The movie grew out of an interview veteran sports filmmaker Brett Rapkin did with US Olympic bobsledder Steven Holcomb last year about depression. Days later Holcomb was found dead in his room at the USOC Training Center with high quantities of alcohol and sleeping pills in his system.

WELCOME CHANGES

Phelps said he was encouraged by the change in leadership at the USOC, where in July Sarah Hirshland was named CEO after Scott Blackmun stepped down from the position earlier in the year.

Susanne Lyons was named the USOC Board Chair earlier this month, marking the first time two women have held the organisation's top two positions. "I'm excited to see change," Phelps said.

"I'm excited to potentially see strides made to give these athletes the support that they deserve both on and off the field of play. As somebody who has been on the national team for over 15 years, I hope that the athletes are able to enjoy the experience even better than we did." Phelps, who said he had no intention of



Michael Phelps

making a return to the pool for the 2020 Games in Tokyo, is also hoping to make a difference in conservation efforts via his "Save Water" campaign with toothpaste company Colgate. He said the two-year-old effort is catching on and that globally it could lead to a potential reduction of 50 billion gallons in wasted water per year. "I will go down swinging trying to make a change in the mental health field and with water conservation by spreading those messages," he added.

"These are things that have frustrated me for a long time and I'm ready to stand up and make the change since I'm not competing anymore." — Reuters

Nissan strengthens Formula E partnership with stake in e.dams

KUWAIT: Nissan has strengthened its partnership with e.dams by purchasing a stake in the championship-winning racing organization, ahead of Nissan's debut in the ABB FIA Formula E electric street-racing championship. Nissan is joining Formula E as the first Japanese carmaker to participate in the innovative series and as the global leader in electric cars, with more than 350,000 Nissan LEAF vehicles sold. Nissan's Formula E program will show a new "performance side" of Nissan Intelligent Mobility - the company's vision for changing how cars are powered, driven and integrated into society.

Based in Le Mans, France, and co-founded by team principal Jean-Paul Driot, the e.dams organization emerged from DAMS, a leading contender in European open-wheel and sportscar competition for more than 30 years. In its previous partnership with Nissan's alliance partner Renault, e.dams won the Team Championship in the first three seasons of Formula E. It also holds records for most wins and pole positions.

"For Nissan's first Formula E experience, it makes sense to partner with e.dams and be able to draw on the organization's experience of winning races and championships," said Roel deVries, Nissan corporate vice president and global head of marketing and brand strategy. "The level of competition in Formula E will get even more intense for season five, with a series-mandated all-new car and power train. As part of our commitment to our partnership, Nissan has now purchased an ownership stake in the organization, and we're excited to work with Jean-Paul and his team."

Said Driot, "With our new partner Nissan, we're eagerly awaiting the new challenges ahead. We're very proud of our history in Formula E, and we're looking forward to adding new pages to the series' history books with our new partner and the new car."

Nissan and e.dams have begun testing the all-new "Gen2" Formula E car, which provides more power and range and eliminates the need for the midrace car swap that was a feature of Formula E during the first four seasons.



Sports

Chelsea go to Greece, AC Milan visit minnows as Europa League begins

Chelsea expects a warm welcome in their Group L opener

PARIS: The Europa League group stage begins today, with the likes of Arsenal, Chelsea, AC Milan and Sevilla among the leading sides hoping to negotiate a marathon competition all the way to the final in Baku in May. AFP Sport looks at some of the main talking points ahead of the opening round of games:

EMERY'S FAVOURITE TOURNAMENT

The prize money on offer in the Europa League pales in comparison to the Champions League, or indeed in the continent's top domestic leagues. If Arsenal reach the final in Baku and win it, it would be worth around 25 million euros (\$29.2 million) in prize money to them.

In contrast, winning the Champions League could be worth about five times that, while the team finishing bottom of the Premier League last season pocketed almost £95 million (\$124.8m).

But for a club like Arsenal, who start off at home to Ukraine's Vorskla Poltava, winning the Europa League is still a path into next season's Champions League, while remaining a precious piece of silverware in its own right. And in Unai Emery the Gunners-beaten semi-finalists last season—have a coach who won this trophy three years running with Sevilla.

WARM WELCOME AWAITS CHELSEA

It will be interesting to see how strong a team Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri puts out against PAOK in Greece as they begin their European campaign having won all five Premier League games so far. Europa League winners in 2013, Chelsea can certainly expect a warm welcome in their Group L opener. It is only six months ago that PAOK president Ivan Savvidis stormed onto the pitch with a holstered gun in his belt during a fiery encounter between his side and AEK Athens.

The domestic league was suspended as a result, while the president himself was banned, but PAOK eventually finished second before losing to Benfica in the Champions League play-offs. While the incident involving Savvidis was extreme, the 29,000-capacity Toumba Stadium always has one of the hottest atmospheres in Europe.

TOUGH START FOR GERRARD'S RANGERS

For Rangers, just making the group phase in Steven Gerrard's debut season in charge is a remarkable achievement. The Glasgow club have come through four qualifying rounds to make their first appearance in the group stage of a European competition since the 2010-11 Champions League.

However, Gerrard's side are in a tough group, with a trip to Spain first to face Villarreal. "I am not just going to try and defend and try and nick a point, although a point on the road in Europe wouldn't be a bad result," Gerrard told The Scotsman.

DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH

It is the kind of match-up that would be impossible in the modern Champions League—the mighty AC Milan play their first group game away to little Dudelange, the first team from Luxembourg to compete in the Europa League group stage.

They negotiated a path here after losing in the first round of Champions League qualifying, and the achievement is remarkable for a squad containing several part-timers. "Everyone thinks we will lose by four or five, but I don't think we will embarrass ourselves by any means," said their midfielder Clement Couturier.

Dudelage represent a town of just 21,000 souls, but the visit of Milan means a sell-out crowd of 8,000 for a match to be played at Luxembourg's national stadium.



LONDON: File photo shows Chelsea's Brazilian midfielder William celebrates scoring his team's fourth goal during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Cardiff City at Stamford Bridge in London on September 15, 2018. — AFP

MARSEILLE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Marseille enjoyed an uplifting run to last season's Europa League final, where they were beaten by Atletico Madrid. But the behaviour by sections of their support that night in Lyon means Rudi Garcia's side

start this campaign at home to Eintracht Frankfurt behind closed doors. OM are very strong at home but without any fans behind them at the Stade Velodrome they could find life tougher against last season's German Cup winners. — AFP



Eric Dickerson

NFL Hall of Famers threaten boycott over health, pay

LOS ANGELES: Some of the most iconic names in NFL history have vowed to boycott the sport's annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony until they are given health insurance and an annual salary, reports said Tuesday.

In a letter sent to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith and Pro Football Hall of Fame's David Baker, players said they would stay away from the ceremony unless their demands were met.

The letter was sent by former Los Angeles Rams running back Eric Dickerson, the chairman of the newly created Hall of Fame Board. It was signed by nearly two dozen members that included legendary former players such as Joe Namath, Jim Brown, Jerry Rice, Deion Sanders, Kurt Warner and Lawrence Taylor.

The letter detailed the health challenges faced by many former players in the NFL, which has been battling a concussion crisis that forced the league to make a \$1 billion (\$857 million euro) settlement in 2015. "We, the undersigned Pro Football Hall of Famers, were integral to the creation of the modern NFL, which in 2017 generated \$14 billion in revenue," the letter states.

"But when the league enshrined us as the greatest ever to play America's most popular sport, they gave us a gold jacket, a bust and a ring—and that was it. "People know us from our highlight reels. They see us honored and mythologized before games and at halftime, and it would be reasonable if they thought life was good for us. But on balance, it's not."

'WE ARE STRUGGLING'

"As a group we are struggling with severe health and financial problems. To build this game, we sacrificed our bodies. In many cases, and despite the fact that we were led to believe otherwise, we sacrificed our minds."

"We believe we deserve more. We write to demand two things: Health insurance and annual salary for all Hall of Famers that includes a share of league revenue."

The letter said many Hall of Fame players "can't walk and many can't sleep at night."

"More than a few of us don't even know who or where we are. Our long careers left us especially vulnerable to the dangers of this violent sport, especially those intentionally hidden from us," it said. The letter said the total cost to provide health insurance to every member of the Hall of Fame would be less \$4 million, less than the cost of a 30-second Super Bowl television ad.

"The time has come for us to be treated as part of a game we've given so much to," the letter states. "Until our demands are met, the Hall of Famers will not attend the annual induction ceremony in Canton."

"It's well-known that the NFL is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2020, and while we are proud of our role in building this league, we don't believe 100 years of player exploitation is something to celebrate.—AFP

Shin shines as Suwon see off Jeonbuk in Asian Champions League

HONG KONG: Goalkeeper Shin Hwa-yong was the hero for Suwon Bluewings as the two-time continental champions booked their place in the semi-finals of the Asian Champions League yesterday with a 4-2 penalty shootout win over fellow South Koreans Jeonbuk Motors.

Jeonbuk, champions in 2006 and 2016, went into the game trailing 3-0 from the first leg three weeks ago, but Choi Kang-hee's side scored three unanswered goals before Adriano saw Shin save his stoppage time penalty to take the game into extra time.

Shin then kept out penalties from Kim Shin-wook and Lee Dong-gook in the shootout to give Suwon victory in the most dramatic of circumstances. Suwon won the first leg comfortably only to be level on aggregate by the 71st minute as Jeonbuk shook off the lethargy that affected their previous performance.

Brazilian striker Adriano took the ball round Shin to score from close range with less than 11 minutes on the clock and Choi Bo-kyung's close range header six minutes after the restart left Suwon with a solitary goal advantage.

That was erased when substitute Kim Shin-wook powered his header into the top corner with 20 minutes



SUWON: South Korea's Jeonbuk Motors' forward Carlos Adriano (R) heads the ball against South Korea's Suwon Bluewings during their AFC Champions League quarter-final second leg football match in Suwon yesterday. — AFP

remaining. Jeonbuk looked set to claim a stunning winner in stoppage time, only for Shin to dive to his right to deny Adriano's spot kick. The deadlock continued throughout 30 minutes of extra time before Shin's shootout heroics.

Suwon will now face Kashima Antlers in the semi-finals, with the first leg to be played on Oct. 3 in Japan and the return in South Korea three weeks later. Qatar's Al Sadd will meet Persepolis of Iran in the other semi-final. —Reuters

Stokes, Hales picked for ODI series against Sri Lanka

LONDON: Ben Stokes and Alex Hales were named in England's one-day squad to tour Sri Lanka yesterday despite being charged with bringing cricket into disrepute. The pair face a disciplinary panel hearing in London in December following a brawl outside a nightclub in the southwestern city of Bristol in September 2017. Stokes, 27, was last month cleared of affray following a seven-day trial related to the incident. Hales, 29, was with his England teammate during the altercation but was not charged. Warwickshire fast bowler Ollie Stone, 24, has been called into the 16-man squad for the first time as a replacement for Yorkshire's Liam Plunkett.

Plunkett, who is getting married, will be available again for the last two ODIs of the five-match series.

Stone, who has struggled with injury problems in recent years, has impressed selectors with his consistent performances this season. The first ODI takes place in Dambulla on October 10.

Meanwhile, captain Joe Root has given his backing for seamer Stuart Broad to be included in the test squad for the tour of Sri Lanka amid speculation that the new-ball bowler could be dropped.

Broad took 23 wickets in seven home

tests against Pakistan and India this year but British media reported that national selectors were considering leaving the 32-year-old out of the side for three tests in Sri Lanka starting in November.

Conditions are likely to ensure that England travel with three frontline spinners but Root has backed Broad, the country's second most successful test bowler, to play a pivotal role on the South Asian pitches. "I think Stuart's experience will be vital in Sri Lanka," Root told the Daily Telegraph. He has had a lot of experience in the subcontinent and had a lot of success with teams out there, so I think it is very important that you utilise that and have experience in those testing conditions to help mould the side around it.

Root said team mate Moeen Ali has the full support of the team after the all-rounder said he was called "Osama" by an Australian player during an Ashes test in 2015. Moeen, who is a Muslim, made the allegation in his forthcoming autobiography, saying the apparent reference to Islamist militant Osama bin Laden came during his Ashes debut in Cardiff.

All I want to do is give him the support he needs to feel comfortable with the whole situation," Root added. England take on Sri Lanka in five one-dayers and a one-off Twenty20 international in October, before the first of three tests starts in Galle on Nov 6.

England squad

Eoin Morgan (capt), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler (wkt), Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, Alex Hales, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Ollie Stone, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood. — Agencies



Ben Stokes

Sports

Super sub Firmino hands Liverpool flying Champions League start over PSG

Sturridge and a James Milner penalty put the hosts in command

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool left it late but showed Paris Saint-Germain have plenty of work to do if they are to challenge for a first-ever Champions League title as Roberto Firmino struck a stoppage time winner in a 3-2 victory at Anfield on Tuesday.

Despite the late drama, victory was well deserved for last season's finalists who dominated throughout and bounced back from blowing a 2-0 first-half lead to take the early advantage in Group C.

Daniel Sturridge and a James Milner penalty put the hosts in command before Thomas Meunier reduced PSG's arrears. Having kept Kylian Mbappe and the world's most expensive player Neymar quiet for almost the entire match, Liverpool seemed set to pay a heavy price for one poor pass by Mohamed Salah as Mbappe swept home seven minutes from time in front of a stunned Kop. But Firmino, who started on the bench due to an eye injury suffered against Tottenham on Saturday, had the final say as he twisted and turned before firing into the far corner to stretch Liverpool's perfect start to the season to six games.

"You can bring Bobby Firmino on and that helps a lot," said Klopp after the Brazilian celebrated by covering his injured left eye. "I loved his goal celebration." PSG crumbled on their Champions League travels to Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid in the past two seasons and their ability to challenge for the competition under new boss Thomas Tuchel was again questioned as they struggled to contain Liverpool's greater speed and power in midfield.

"Never at any point did we lose our confidence. We played with bravery and strength," insisted Tuchel. "But this is Anfield. This is what Liverpool do and when they press you it is difficult."

STURRIDGE SHINES

Up front, Firmino's absence opened the door for Sturridge to make his first Champions League start for the club. "It is great to contribute to the team today," said Sturridge. "It is a team here and everybody is going to add to the wealth of the club."

The Englishman has been dogged by injury and lack of form during Klopp's nearly three years in charge, but took his chance on the big stage by powering home a pinpoint curling cross from Andy Robertson to open the scoring on the half-hour mark.

"I told him this is the best shape (you are in) since I know you physically, and you have to use that," said Klopp. "He played a super game, (scored a) super goal." Six minutes later, PSG's deficit was doubled when Juan Bernat tripped Georginio Wijnaldum inside the area and Milner slammed the resulting penalty into the bottom corner.

However, the visitors were handed a lifeline through right-back Meunier, rather than one of their famed front three, as the Belgian skilfully readjusted to volley home Robertson's miscued clearance.

Klopp was annoyed at his side for having to survive a nervous finale at Wembley on Saturday after passing up a series of chances to put the game to bed. And it looked like this time they would pay as Salah had a goal ruled out for a foul by Sturridge before the latter headed a glorious chance into the arms of Areola.

Seven minutes from time, Salah's slack pass was intercepted and quickly fed into Neymar, with Van Dijk's tackle on the Brazilian only rebounding into the path of Mbappe to fire home.

Klopp responded by replacing Salah with Xherdan



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah controls the ball during the UEFA Champions League group C football match between Liverpool and Paris Saint-Germain at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on Tuesday. — AFP

Shaqiri as Liverpool instantly went in search of a winner. Trent Alexander-Arnold's deflected free-kick came

back off the woodwork before they finally got their reward when Firmino powered home. — AFP

Griezmann, Costa combine as Atletico undo Monaco 2-1

MONACO: Atletico Madrid came from behind to beat Monaco 2-1 in their Champions League Group A opener on Tuesday with star strikers Diego Costa and Antoine Griezmann detonating the fightback.

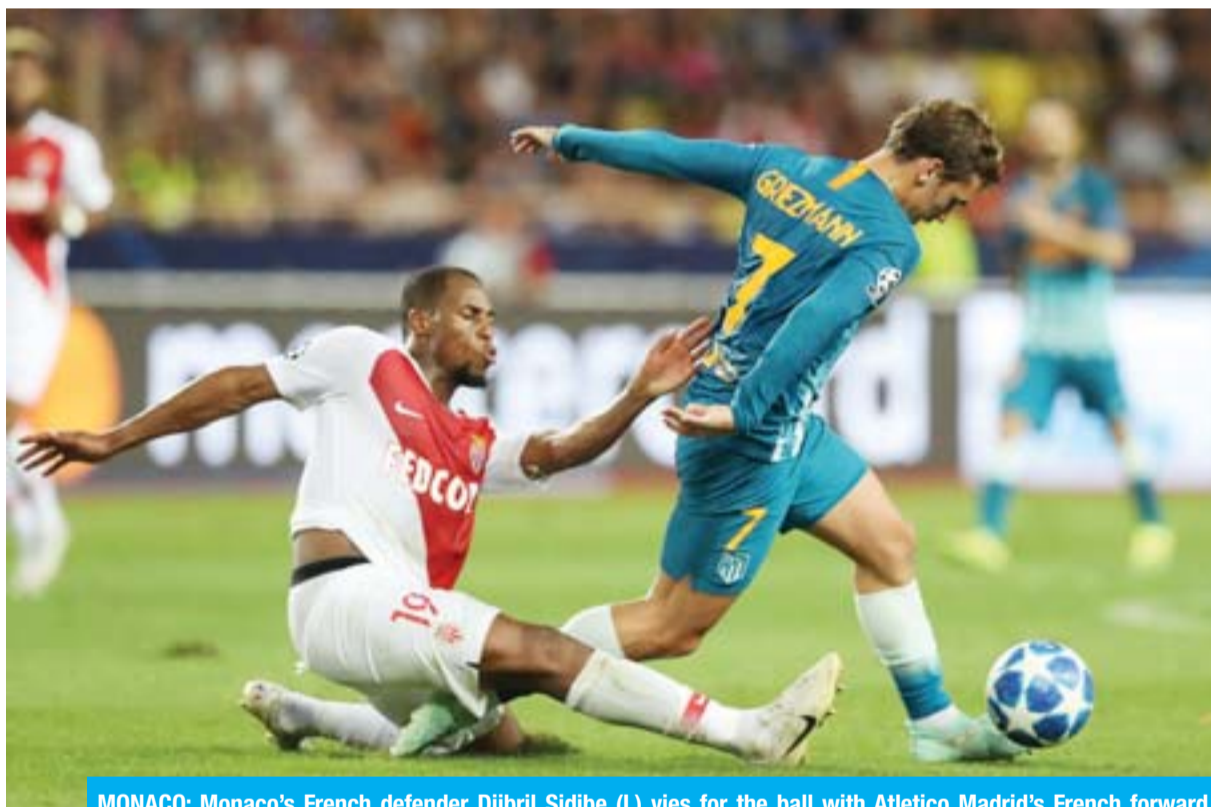
The visitors had fallen behind against the run of play in the 18th minute when winger Samuel Grandisir forced the ball home in a goalmouth scramble after good work from Radamel Falcao.

But Costa then ran onto a wonderful flick-on from Griezmann to fire a snap-shot low and hard past Monaco's onrushing Swiss stopper Diego Benaglio to level the scores on the half-hour. Jose Maria Gimenez-remembered for crying on the pitch when France beat Uruguay 2-0 in the World Cup quarter-finals in Russia-then headed home a corner in first-half stoppage-time to take the wind out of Monaco's sails at a key moment.

"It's always difficult to win the first match of the Champions League away from home," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone. "Griezmann is growing every game. He's a decisive player. He did well in the right moments and his link-up with Costa was good." The pitch cut up worryingly and groundsmen scrambled at half-time to pound in sods of detached turf.

"The game was difficult, the pitch was not good for both teams, there was a danger of injury for the players," said Simeone. Former Monaco striker Thierry Henry and ex-coach Didier Deschamps were in the stands where just 12,000 fans showed up and amongst them a mere 80 Atletico supporters.

Atletico have had a stuttering start to their La Liga campaign, and with Simeone on the final match of a



MONACO: Monaco's French defender Djibril Sidibe (L) vies for the ball with Atletico Madrid's French forward Antoine Griezmann (R) during the UEFA Champions League first round football match between AS Monaco and Atletico Madrid at the Stade Louis II, in Monaco, on Tuesday. — AFP

four-game touchline ban, the visitors were marshalled by the menacing bulk of his brooding assistant German Burgos prowling the line.

Monaco's Polish defender Kamil Glik appeared to be relishing his role, keeping tabs on Costa and apart from the goal did a solid job on the Atletico target man.

Falcao never stopped searching for an equaliser against his old club, almost earning a penalty in the

66th minute and lashing a shot just wide moments later. Glik saw a last-gasp header go just wide with the fans on their feet, but Atletico were otherwise untroubled in the latter stages. France international forward Thomas Lemar was back at the Stade Louis II after his close-season switch to Madrid and came on late as Atletico sweated out the final minutes to clinch three precious away points. — AFP

China's 'Maradona': 'Soccer Nut' still going strong at 63

HANGZHOU: Friends call him "Maradona" and Chinese media have dubbed him "Soccer Nut"-Zhao Chongshan is 63 but he still plays football three times a week and has no plan to hang up his boots.

Zhao looks like any other doting grandfather with his gentle manner and warm smile, but he is something of a celebrity in China's eastern province of Zhejiang because of his enduring fitness and undying love for football.

Zhao's strong legs and broad shoulders hint at the professional player that he once was, even if he is carrying a little bulk around his waist these days. "I will keep playing as long as I can. I feel I have no problem playing three games per week now," he said.

"One of my motivations is that this is my hobby and I like it. Another is that I hope I can be a role model for the younger generation." "Honestly, it is not easy playing at my age," he added.

The impact of football on Zhao's life cannot be underestimated. He began playing as a young boy on the streets, and as a 15-year-old was good enough to join the professional side representing northern China's Shaanxi province.

Had he not been part of the team, he would have been sent to the countryside along with millions of other youths as part of Mao Zedong's disastrous Cultural Revolution. Then a pacy winger, Zhao played for Shaanxi until he was 27, when the family moved to the city of Hangzhou, in Zhejiang, where he lives today.

Zhao said there is no secret to his good health-he is clearly a born sportsman and still also plays basketball and table tennis. Not to be outdone, his wife Peng Qiaoyun-remarkably, they were born on the same day in February 1955 — is a dance coach.



TONGLU: This photo taken on September 15, 2018 shows Zhao Chongshan, 63, taking part in a training session in Tonglu in China's eastern Zhejiang province. Friends call him "Maradona" and Chinese media have dubbed him "Soccer Nut" — Zhao Chongshan is 63 but he still plays football three times a week and has no plan to hang up his boots. — AFP

Zhao was a right winger in his pomp but now plays in midfield or defence after his mobility drained away. From there he can dictate play and is equally comfortable with his right or left foot, a skill which still eludes many top players.

On Saturday, in the stifling humidity of a town outside Hangzhou, Zhao's amateur side of mostly middle-aged men were thrashed 8-0 by Zhejiang's professional women's team. Wearing the number "65" on his jersey-Zhao's next

landmark, according to the Chinese method of counting birthdays-he played the first half against the much fitter and younger women's team.

The game often passed Zhao by, but the quality was still there even if the agility was not, only giving the ball away once and playing simple, first-time passes. Zhao, who is devoted to his only grandchild and takes her to and from school, would prefer to play against people closer to his age-if only there were some.—AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE		
Besiktas v Sarpsborg	beIN SPORTS HD 8	19:55
KRC Genk v Malmö	beIN SPORTS HD 9	19:55
Sevilla v Standard de Liege	beIN SPORTS HD 6	19:55
Akhisar Belediyespor v Krasnodar	beIN SPORTS HD 7	19:55
Olympique Marseille v Eintracht Frankfurt	beIN SPORTS HD 1	19:55
Lazio v Apollon Limassol	beIN SPORTS HD 5	19:55
Villarreal v Glasgow Rangers	beIN SPORTS HD 3	19:55
Rapid Wien v Spartak Moscow	beIN SPORTS HD 4	19:55
PAOK v Chelsea	beIN SPORTS HD 2	19:55
MOL Vidi v Bate Borisov	beIN SPORTS HD 10	19:55
Stade Rennais v Jablonec	beIN SPORTS HD 13 EN	19:55
Dynamo Kyiv v Astana	beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	19:55
AEK Larnaca v Zurich	beIN SPORTS	22:00
Ludogorets Razgrad v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	beIN SPORTS HD 5	22:00
Leipzig v Red Bull Salzburg	beIN SPORTS HD 9	22:00
Celtic v Rosenborg	beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	22:00
Kobenhavn v Zenit St. Petersburg	beIN SPORTS HD 10	22:00
Slavia Prague v Girondins de Bordeaux	beIN SPORTS HD 8	22:00
Trnava v RSC Anderlecht	beIN SPORTS HD 1	22:00
GNK Dinamo Zagreb v Fenerbahçe	beIN SPORTS HD 6	22:00
Sporting v Qarabag Agdam	beIN SPORTS HD 7	22:00
Arsenal v Vorskla Poltava	beIN SPORTS HD 2	22:00
Dudelange v Milan	beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:00
Olympiacos v Real Betis	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:00

Former winners Red Star frustrate Napoli on group stage debut

BELGRADE: Former European Cup winners Red Star Belgrade held Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli to a creditable 0-0 draw Tuesday as the Serbian club made their debut in the Champions League group stage.

Lorenzo Insigne rattled the crossbar in the first half for Napoli, while Red Star defender Milan Rodic made a vital goal-line clearance to deny Jose Callejon in the Group C encounter. Home goalkeeper Milan Borjan also produced a sharp stop to keep out an effort from Poland international Arkadiusz Milik, as Red Star were restricted to a late attempt from Richmond Boakye.

"We didn't do much wrong, we controlled the game but the finishing was lacking," said Ancelotti, who took over at Napoli in the summer. "It's difficult to play against a defence like that of Red Star. Our forwards were alone in front of the goalkeeper several times but we didn't have that bit of luck. I think we could have won."

Red Star last appeared in Europe's premier club competition in 1991-92, the season after they defeated Marseille in the final on penalties in Bari to lift the trophy. Red Star players from that title-winning side performed a lap of honour before kick-off at a raucous Stadion Rajko Mitic, with Ancelotti—a three-time European champion as coach—in the opposing dugout.—AFP

25 Wham-bam as Japan's Naomi Osaka blazes into Tokyo quarters



26 Chelsea go to Greece, AC Milan visit minnows as Europa League begins



27 China's 'Maradona': 'Soccer Nut' still going strong at 63



Yanks prevent Red Sox's celebration

Dodgers extend division lead on Taylor's walk-off HR



NEW YORK: Aaron Judge #99 of the New York Yankees flies out during the first inning against the Boston Red Sox at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday in the Bronx borough of New York City. —AFP

NEW YORK: Neil Walker hit a three-run homer with one out in the seventh inning, and the New York Yankees held on for a 3-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox, preventing their rivals from clinching the American League East crown Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium. The Yankees set up their winning rally when Aaron Hicks and Gary Sanchez drew walks off Brandon Workman (6-1). Boston manager Alex Cora lifted Workman for Ryan Brasier, who fell behind Walker and lost the lead when the first baseman lifted a full-count slider into the second deck in right field. It was Walker's 10th homer, and he became the 11th Yankee to reach double figures in long balls this year. The Yankees tied a major league record in becoming the fifth team to achieve the feat. Yankees right fielder Aaron Judge returned to the starting lineup and went 0-for-4. He hadn't batted since July 26, when he sustained a chip fracture in his right wrist.

DODGERS 3, ROCKIES 2 (10 INNINGS)

Chris Taylor hit a game-ending home run in the 10th inning as host Los Angeles extended its lead over second-place Colorado in the National League West to 1 1/2 games. With one out in the 10th, Taylor unloaded on a 2-2 pitch from Rockies reliever Adam Ottavino (6-4) for his 17th home run of the season and his first career walk-off homer. Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw gave up two runs (one earned) on three hits over seven innings. The Los Angeles bullpen added three scoreless innings, with Dylan Floro (6-3) striking out the only two batters he faced to earn the victory.

ASTROS 7, MARINERS 0

Marwin Gonzalez capped a four-run third inning with a two-run home run, and rookie Josh James made a spot start and earned his first major league win over visiting Seattle. With the victory, their 13th in 16 games this month, the Astros reduced their magic number to clinch a post-season berth to two. They also eliminated the Mariners from contention in the American League West. The Astros, who snapped a five-game home losing streak to the

Mariners, can secure the season series from Seattle with a victory in the three-game series finale on Wednesday. Houston won the season series against its four AL West rivals last season and has already clinched the season series against its three other division foes excluding the Mariners this season.

CUBS 9, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Javier Baez homered for the second consecutive game. Daniel Murphy also homered and visiting Chicago increased its NL Central lead to 3 1/2 games with a victory over Arizona. Top NL MVP candidate Baez has 33 homers and an NL-leading 107 RBIs. For the second consecutive game, he was serenaded by "MVP" chants from a boisterous, pro-Cubs crowd. Baez and Murphy each had two hits and two RBIs, Murphy scored three times, and Anthony Rizzo had a two-run single as the Cubs won for the fifth time in six games and gained a game on the second-place Milwaukee Brewers. The teams do not play again this season.

NATIONALS 4, MARLINS 2

Stephen Strasburg (9-7) struck out 11 batters in six innings, leading Washington past host Miami. He entered the game with a 4-0 record and a 0.67 ERA against the Marlins since April 2017, and was solid again. Strasburg allowed five hits, two walks and two runs. Four Washington relievers closed out the game, allowing no runs in three innings. Sean Doolittle pitched the ninth to earn his 25th save of the season and send the Marlins deeper into the cellar.

INDIANS 5, WHITE SOX 3

Corey Kluber earned his career-high 19th win of the season, and Jason Kipnis homered to lead Cleveland past visiting Chicago. Kluber (19-7) allowed three runs on eight hits over eight innings. He walked two and struck out 11 to give him 205 strikeouts this season, the fifth consecutive season he has registered 200 or more strikeouts in a season. Kluber joins Trevor Bauer (214) and Carlos Carrasco

(206) as teammates who also have struck out at least 200 batters this season. It marks just the fourth time in major league history that three pitchers on one team had 200 or more strikeouts in a season and the first time since the 2013 Tigers (Justin Verlander, Max Scherzer, Anibal Sanchez) did it.

CARDINALS 8, BRAVES 1

Paul DeJong homered for the second straight game to support the strong pitching effort of Austin Gomber as visiting St. Louis stroled to a win over Atlanta, which lost its fourth straight. DeJong hit a two-run shot against Atlanta starter Anibal Sanchez (6-6) in the fourth inning to give the Cardinals a lead they never relinquished. It was the 19th homer for DeJong, 15 of them on the road. The Cardinals (84-68) won their third consecutive game and retained possession of the lead for the second National League wild card. St. Louis is 36-22 since the All-Star Game and improved to 5-0 all time and 2-0 this season at SunTrust Park.

REDS 3, BREWERS 1

Michael Lorenzen allowed one hit in four innings during his first start since 2015, and Cincinnati won at Milwaukee. The right-hander, who has made 42 relief appearances this season, allowed one unearned run Tuesday. Lorenzen walked one and struck out three. He was taken out after throwing 52 pitches. Jose Peraza homered for the Reds.

PHILLIES 5, METS 2

Jorge Alfaro capped a five-run sixth inning with a three-run home run, rallying host Philadelphia to a victory over New York. Thanks in part to a Steven Matz solo home run, his second of the season, the Mets took a 2-0 lead into the sixth inning. Matz pitched five shutout innings, but the Phillies rallied against the New York bullpen. Aaron Nola worked the first 5 2/3 innings for the Phillies, allowing two runs and six hits. He walked two and struck out nine. Pat Neshek (3-1) got the last out in the sixth.

RAYS 4, RANGERS 0

Blake Snell went where only one Tampa Bay pitcher has gone before, winning his 20th game of the season as he shut down host Texas. Snell, the majors' winningest pitcher at 20-5 and a prime candidate to win the American League's Cy Young Award, allowed just one hit in five innings as he won his eighth straight start. He hasn't lost a game since July 12. Snell, who lowered his ERA to 1.97, behind only Boston's Chris Sale at 1.92, walked two and struck out five, giving him 200 strikeouts for the season. He threw 92 pitches before giving way to Chaz Roe to start the sixth inning.

PIRATES 2, ROYALS 1 (11 INNINGS)

Ryan Lavanway, in his second major league at-bat this year, hit an RBI single in the 11th inning, giving Pittsburgh a win over visiting Kansas City. Kansas City tied it 1-1 in the top of the ninth on Hunter Dozier's RBI double. In the bottom of the 11th, Starling Marte led off with an infield single off the glove of Burch Smith (1-6). Josh Bell walked, and both runners advanced on a passed ball. After a strikeout, Adam Frazier was intentionally walked to load the bases for Lavanway, and the pinch hitter smacked the ball into center for his first career walk-off hit.

ANGELS 9, ATHLETICS 7

Kaleb Cowart hit his first home run of the season, a sixth-inning grand slam that rallied Los Angeles from a deficit to a victory at Oakland, Calif. Mike Trout also homered for the Angels, who sent the A's to their third straight defeat, allowing the Rays to climb within 5 1/2 games in the race for the second American League wild-card spot. The homer was Cowart's first since last August and just the sixth of his career.

GIANTS 5, PADRES 4

Chris Shaw dropped a bases-loaded, two-run single in front of charging Padres left fielder Hunter Renfroe with one out in the eighth inning, leading San Francisco to a victory at San Diego. —Reuters

India rout Pakistan by eight wickets in Asia Cup

DUBAI: India crushed Pakistan by eight wickets in their long-awaited Asia Cup match which failed to live up to its hype in Dubai yesterday. Pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3-15) and part time off-spinner Kedar Jadhav (3-23) sent Pakistan, who won the toss and batted, collapsing to just 162 all out in 43.1 overs at

Dubai Stadium. Skipper Rohit Sharma then struck three sixes and six boundaries in his 39-ball 52 while fellow opener Shikhar Dhawan hit a six and six fours in his 54-ball 46 as India romped home in 29 overs.

Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik both finished on 31 not out as India exacted some revenge for their humbling 180-run defeat against their arch-rivals in the final of the Champions Trophy in London last year, the most recent match between the teams until Wednesday.

Both Pakistan and India had already qualified for the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup and will meet again in Dubai on Sunday. Bangladesh and Afghanistan meet in Abu Dhabi in the last Group B match today, having already qualified for the second round after Sri Lanka crashed out.

The top two teams from the Super Fours will play the final in Dubai on September 28. Once Pakistan's unpredictable batting crumbled, Wednesday's match turned into a damp squib for a near-capacity crowd comprising of Indian and Pakistani expats living in the United Arab Emirates.

Kumar ran through the top order by dismissing openers Imam-ul-Haq (two) and Fakhar Zaman (nought) inside five overs, before Babar Azam (47) and Shoaib Malik (43) rebuilt the innings during their 82-run stand for the third wicket.

But after Azam was dismissed in the 22nd over, bowled by left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav, Pakistan lost their last seven wickets for 77 runs. Azam hit six boundaries in his 62-ball knock while Malik, dropped

on 26 by MS Dhoni off Hardik Pandya, cracked one six and one four in a vigilant innings which lasted 67 balls.

Skipper Sarfraz Ahmed (six) became Jadhav's first wicket, holing out to long-on where substitute fielder Maneesh Pandey completed a brilliant catch, throwing the ball back into the field to avoid running over the rope and completing the catch.

But it was Malik's run out which derailed Pakistan, sent back by Asif Ali after setting off for a quick single. Paceman Jasprit Bumrah took 2-23 but India lost all-rounder Hardik Pandya to injury.

Bowling his fifth over, Pandya fell in his follow through and was stretchered off with a lower back injury, the extent of which was being assessed by the India team's medical staff. — AFP