



2 Youth eager to put Kuwait on space exploration map



19 Canada's Cirque du Soleil dazzles Riyadh despite row



24 Iran mourns dead from parade attack as Guards vow revenge



25 Tiger back on the prowl with Ryder Cup in sights



Russia to give Syria S-300 air defense after plane shot down

Putin tells Netanyahu he rejects Israeli version of events • US warns of ‘significant escalation’

MOSCOW: Russia announced yesterday it will supply an S-300 surface-to-air missile system to Syria in two weeks despite strong Israeli objections, a week after Moscow blamed Israel for indirectly causing the downing of a Russian military plane in Syria. The White House said it hoped Russia would reconsider the move, which US National Security Advisor John Bolton called a “significant escalation” of the seven-year war.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow had in the past obliged Israel by refraining to supply Syria with the system. But last week’s crash, which killed 15 Russian service members, had forced Russia to take “adequate retaliatory measures” to keep its troops safe. “A modern S-300 air defense missile system will be transferred to the Syrian armed forces within two weeks,” he said. The system will “significantly increase the Syrian army’s combat capabilities,” he said.

Under the new measures, “in regions near Syria over the Mediterranean Sea, there will be radio-electronic suppression of satellite navigation, on-board radar systems and communication systems of military aviation attacking objects on Syrian territory”, Shoigu said. President Vladimir Putin discussed the decision by phone yesterday with Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Kremlin said. “The information provided by the Israeli military...runs counter to conclusions of the

Continued on Page 24

Kuwait activists combat rise in banning of books

KUWAIT: In 2014, the Kuwaiti press hailed Gabriel Garcia Marquez as a literary “giant”. But since his death, the Colombian writer and a slew of others have been banned as censorship takes root in the state. More than 4,000 books have been blacklisted by Kuwait’s information ministry over the past five years, according to local media reports, including Marquez’s “One Hundred Years of Solitude” and Victor Hugo’s “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”.

Dozens of writers and activists have taken to the streets - on Sept 1 and again two weeks later - to protest ahead of Kuwait’s annual book fair in mid-November. Kuwaiti novelist Mays Al-Othman is among the blacklisted writers, following the 2015 publication of her novel “The Wart”, the story of a woman raped during the 1990-1991 Iraqi occupation of the state.

Continued on Page 24



KUWAIT: A vendor organizes books at a bookstore in Kuwait City on Sept 17, 2018. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News in brief

New roads to open next week

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) will open next Monday a new service road and traffic entrances on both Mohammed bin Qassem Street and Alexandria Street. The Alexandria exit, located between the Faculty of Literature and Kuwait Sport Club in Kaifan, will be opened along a 550-m service road and two traffic lanes parallel to Jahra Road, said Director-General of PART Ahmed Al-Hassan. He added that Mohammed bin Al-Qassem St’s entrance leading to the PAAET headquarters will be 100 m in length with three traffic lanes in both directions. Hassan said the authority has developed an integrated plan to execute 74 projects to develop roads and infrastructure to facilitate traffic, allocating KD 500 million for these projects. — KUNA

Drug prevention in schools

KUWAIT: The education and interior ministries are collaborating to introduce a school curriculum raising awareness on the social and psychological dangers of drug abuse. Representatives of both ministries held a meeting yesterday as part of a national drug abuse prevention campaign, which highlighted the need to increase public awareness, especially among students, on the perils of substance abuse. The meeting examined the measures that need to be taken, including lectures and courses, in addition to social clubs, all of which reveal the devastating effects drug abuse has on behavior and the mind. — KUNA

MoH to hire bedoon pharmacists

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah issued yesterday issued a decision approving employment of pharmacists with illegal residency (bedoons) and children of Kuwaiti women with no practical experience. A press release by the ministry said the decision had been taken to provide these segments of the population the opportunity to work at the health ministry. A second decision stipulated reorganizing the health department of ports and borders. A third decision dealt with transferring the central tuberculosis laboratory to public health labs in order to organize work at the public health department. — KUNA

Iran says oil to rise

LONDON: Saudi Arabia and Russia won’t add significantly more oil to the market because of a lack of capacity, a top Iranian official said yesterday, predicting prices will probably rise further. On Sunday, ministers and officials from OPEC plus Russia and other allies ruled out an immediate oil-output boost, in effect rebuffing US President Donald Trump’s calls for action. The move helped push crude prices to a four-year high near \$81 a barrel yesterday. Iran’s OPEC governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili said Saudi Arabia and Russia were unable and unwilling to add more production at short notice. — Reuters

Maldives strongman concedes defeat after opposition leader wins polls

COLOMBO: The strongman leader of the Maldives yesterday conceded defeat in the presidential election, easing fears of a fresh political crisis in the archipelago at the center of a battle for influence between India and China. “The Maldivian people have decided what they want. I have accepted the results from yesterday,” President Abdulla Yameen said in a televised address to the Indian Ocean nation a day after the joint opposition candidate unexpectedly triumphed. “Earlier today, I met with Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, who the Maldivian electorate has chosen to be their next president. I have congratulated him,” Yameen said.

Implant helps paralyzed man walk again

PARIS: Five years after he was paralyzed in a snowmobile accident, a man in the US has learned to walk again aided by an electrical implant, in a potential breakthrough for spinal injury sufferers. A team of doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota say the man, using a front-wheeled walker, was able to cover the equivalent of the length of a football pitch, issuing commands from his brain to transfer

weight and maintain balance - all previously thought impossible for paralyzed patients. The man, now 29, severed his spinal cord in the middle of his back when he crashed his snowmobile in 2013. He is completely paralyzed from the waist down, and cannot move or feel anything below the middle of his torso. In the study, the results of which were published yesterday in the journal Nature Medicine, doctors in 2016 implanted a small electronic device in the man’s spine. The wirelessly operated implant, about the size of a AA battery, generates electrical pulses to stimulate nerves that - due to the injury - had been permanently disconnected from the brain.

“What this is teaching us is that those networks of neurons below a spinal cord injury can still function after paralysis,” said Kendall Lee, neurosurgeon at the Mayo

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Abdulla Yameen



Mohamed Solih

claiming victory. Nearly 90 percent of the 262,000 electorate turned out to vote, with some waiting in line for more than five hours. Celebrations broke out across the archipelago on Sunday night, with opposition supporters waving yellow flags of Solih’s Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and dancing in the streets. Yesterday, the situation was calm.

Continued on Page 24

Clinic and lead study author. Within weeks of the device being switched on, the man began to take his first steps since the accident - but was still suspended in a harness. Astonishingly, after several more sessions of rehab and physiotherapy, he was able to support most of his own body weight and take steps on a treadmill.

“We didn’t limit our expectations and continued to safely advance his performance as he gained function,” Kristin Zhao, director of the Mayo Clinic’s Assistive and Restorative Technology Laboratory, told AFP. “This is important because the patient’s own mind was able to drive the movement in the legs,” she said. Although the device was able to help generate power and control in the patient’s lower body, it did nothing to restore sensation in his legs.

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Teen rescued after 7 weeks adrift at sea

JAKARTA: An Indonesian teenager survived seven weeks adrift at sea after his tiny fishing trap lost its moorings and ended up some 2,500 km away in waters near the Pacific island of Guam, his family said yesterday. Aldi Novel Adilang’s harrowing tale began in mid-July when the 18-year-old was working solo on a fishing hut anchored about 125 km off Indonesia’s Sulawesi island. His job was to keep the vessel’s lamps lit to attract fish. Its owner would reportedly come by weekly to drop off food, clean water, fuel and other supplies.

The floating fishing trap, known as a rompong, had no engine or paddles and was anchored to the seabed with a long rope, but heavy winds knocked it off its moorings and sent Adilang out to sea, local media said. Rompongs are traditionally used to trap fish in Indonesia, but are often unmanned, secured by buoys and ropes.

Local media reported that the owner of Adilang’s rompong had as many as 50 moored in the surrounding waters. “His boss told my husband that he went miss-

ing,” Adilang’s mother Net Kahiking told AFP from her home in Sulawesi. “So we just surrendered to God and kept praying hard.”

The teen, who only had enough food to last several days, survived by catching fish. Mirza Nurhidayat, the Indonesian consul general in Osaka, who oversaw his eventual return, told the Jakarta Post. After Adilang ran out of the cooking gas, “he burned the rompong’s wooden fences to make a fire for cooking,” he said. “He drank by sipping water from his clothes that had been wetted by sea water.”

Another diplomat at the consulate, Fajar Firdaus, told the paper that “Aldi said he had been scared and often cried while adrift”. “Every time he saw a large ship...he was hopeful, but more than 10 ships had sailed past him. None of them stopped or saw (him),” Firdaus was quoted as saying. The malnourished teen eventually changed the frequency on a portable radio and his distress call was picked up near Guam by a Japan-bound Panamanian-flagged vessel on August 31, according to the Post.

“I was shocked when his boss told us,” he had been rescued, Adilang’s mother said. “I was so happy.” Adilang is the youngest of four siblings and arrived back home on Sept 8, in good health despite his ordeal. “He is now back at home and he will be 19 on September 30 - we’re going to celebrate,” his mother said. — AFP



WORI, Indonesia: This picture taken on Sept 16, 2018 shows Indonesian teenager Aldi Novel Adilang holding a landing permit. — AFP

Local

Amir invited to World Youth Forum, PM heads to New York

PM to attend the 73rd UN General Assembly



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea to the State of Kuwait Hong Young-ki.



Sheikha Dr Nada Jaber Al-Khalid Al-Jaber Al-Sabah presented His Highness with a PhD thesis.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Secretary-General of the Libyan National Army (LNA) Abdul Kareem Hadiya. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter yesterday from Egyptian President Abdulfattah Al-Sisi, inviting His Highness to the second edition of World Youth Forum, due to be held in the resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh in November. The letter was delivered to Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Sheikh Dr Nada Jaber Al-Khalid Al-Jaber Al-Sabah by Ambassador of the Egyptian Republic Tarik Mahmoud Mustafa Al-Koni.

Separately, HH the Amir received at Seif Palace the Secretary-General of the Libyan National Army (LNA) Abdul Kareem Hadiya, who delivered a letter to His Highness from the LNA General Commander Khalifa Haftar, on bilateral ties, regional and international issues. The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Sulaiman Al-Jarallah. He also received the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Kuwait, Manville Badian, on the end of his tenure. HH also hosted Sheikh Jaber Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikh Dr Nada Jaber Al-Khalid Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who presented His Highness with a PhD thesis, title of which dealt with providing information to the Kuwaiti elite about internal and external political issues.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the newly-appointed Swiss Ambassador to Kuwait Benedict Gubler at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness also separately

received newly appointed Czech Ambassador to Kuwait Martin Dvorak and South Korea's Ambassador Hong Young-ki. The meetings were attended by head of protocols at HH the Crown Prince's Diwan, Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

In related news, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, headed to New York yesterday to attend the 73rd UN General Assembly. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, heads of the army, police, the Kuwait National Guard (KNG), and senior state officials saw off HH the Prime Minister.

The delegation of HH the Prime Minister includes Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs, Labor, and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Hamad Al-Azmi, Health Minister Dr Basel Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah, as well as senior officials in the Foreign Ministry and the Diwan of HH the Prime Minister. Earlier that day, HH the Prime Minister received the chairman of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Abdulrahman Al-Nemash. Al-Nemash handed HH the Prime Minister Nazaha's midterm report. — KUNA



HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah leaves for New York City to head the Kuwaiti delegation at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Kuwait FM in New York for UN General Assembly

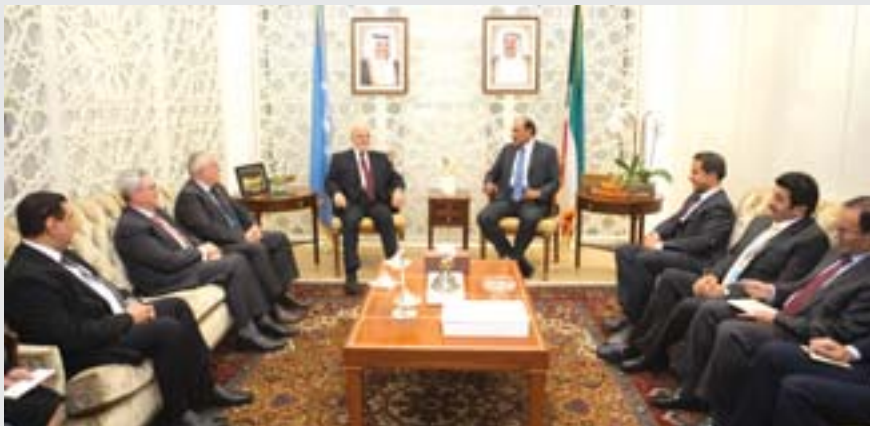
NEW YORK: A high-level week of 73rd session of UN General Assembly will begin today with the theme "Making the UN Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies." Around 100 world leaders are expected to attend the General Assembly, established in 1945 under the Charter of the UN, which is one of the six principal organs of the UN. The Assembly is the principal organ of deliberation, policy-making and representation in the UN. Its membership includes all 193 Members of the United Nations, all of which are equally represented according to the rule of one vote for each nation.

On the sidelines of UN General Assembly meet, Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks at the UN Mission in New York Sunday with GCC Secretary General Abdullatif Al-Zayani on GCC meetings with regional and interna-

tional organizations. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the minister's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Nasser Al-Muzayyen, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UN Mansour Al-Otaibi and Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Nasser Al-Hayyen.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah had also met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari in New York to discuss bilateral ties. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 73rd session. Along with this, he met several other international counterparts including Norway's Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soreide, Gambia's Foreign Minister Mamadou Tangara and Libya's Foreign Minister Mohamed Taher Siala. Many issues of mutual concern and cooperation in all fields were discussed and senior officials of Kuwait's Foreign Ministry attended these meetings.

After the meetings, he attended the 13th annual dinner banquet on Middle East peace. International Peace Institute's (IPI) President Terje Rod-Larsen — in coordination with the UAE, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the World Economic Forum (WEF) — organized the event which was held on the sidelines of the 73rd UN General Assembly. — KUNA



NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari. — KUNA photos



NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during the 13th annual dinner banquet on Middle East peace.

Youth eager to put Kuwait on space exploration map

KUWAIT: Space definitely deserves the moniker the "final frontier" for the unnumbered of mysteries that still baffles the human mind. Scientists from all over the world have been working tirelessly around the clock to decipher events in the cosmos in relation to the earth and the known universe. On the regional level, the UAE had been taking thoughtful strides to realize its ambition in space science, establishing the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre in 2006 and United Arab Emirates Space Agency in 2014.

Recently, the UAE announced that Emirati astronauts would join the crew at the International Space Station (ISS), an event that sparked enthusiasm in the heart of the youth of the region especially Kuwaitis. Nasser Ashkanani is one of the many inspired by the recent regional space exploration news. He recently launched the 'Space Vaults', a private educational club promoting space science. Ashkanani, with fellow student Suleiman Al-Fuhaid, joined together in their desire to launch rockets into the orbit after gaining authorization from the government.

Speaking to KUNA, Ashkanani indicated that the prototype model, dubbed the (KSR 1), would be the precursor for the advance KSR 2, a project aimed at putting Kuwait on the proverbial space exploration map. "We aim at highlighting Kuwait's name through showcasing its youth capabilities in space exploration and astronomy," affirmed Ashkanani who indicated that KSR 1, a rocket which outer shell consists of alu-



Nasser Ashkanani

minum, gained recognition from International Astronautical Federation (IAF).

A full report will be handed on October 1 before the launch of the two-meter/300-kilo KSR 2 rocket, said the student. He indicated that the rocket would cover a distance of 100 kilometers before entering orbit, adding that it would be mainly used to study the highest levels of earth's atmosphere. Regarding his Space Vaults Club, Ashkanani said that he was very keen on instilling the love of space exploration and education in the hearts of children in the hopes that they would continue to carry the flag in the future.

Some 30 individuals have signed up to the Space Vaults Club's various courses and it was successful in the first year. Reacting to the 2025 vision of transforming in space exploration into a viable market option, Ashkanani said that it was important for Kuwait to join this supposed futuristic entity, which will diversify and alter the world economy. While Ashkanani's enthusiasm and passion for space seems to be unique, Mohammad Al-Obaidi — a Space Vaults member — shares the



A model of orbital missile KSR1

student's same dreams and aspirations. Al-Obaidi said that the outfit provided him and his peers a chance to fully immerse themselves in space exploration beyond the halls of education. He indicated that the Space Vaults was eager to produce local products aimed at promoting space education and sciences to the masses to arouse the national interest in this important field. On her part, Sara Al-Maraghi said that she enrolled her children in the course offered by Space Vaults to encourage their enthusiasm and enlighten their curiosity.

She affirmed that the young ones were very interested in space, assembling water-pressured rockets emulating launch procedures at legitimate stations. While the road to space for Kuwaitis might be long, individuals like Ashkanani and others are keen and possibly able to inspire future generations to follow the footstep of humanity towards the stars. — KUNA

KISR stresses on achieving food security

KUWAIT: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) yesterday confirmed the Institute's goals in supporting and enhancing food security in the country and preserving natural resources. This came in a press release marking the International Day of Social Responsibility yesterday titled "Aching Zero Hanger" where KISR is celebrating with the United Nations.

The Institute plays an important and effective role in addressing various challenges, through the development of research projects on sustainable food production, the KISR said. The institute carried out several projects for the preservation of the natural resources and it organized several workshops for achieving food



security, it said. KISR has also organized awareness campaigns on this field as well as a seminar on the collapse aimed at preserving fish wealth and achieving sustainable development. KISR's Environment and Life Sciences Research Center

has directed a large part of its research programs to strengthen this area within its strategic plan 2015-2020, in addition to its active participation in the national plans and its support to many state institutions concerned. — KUNA

Kuwait Times celebrates 57th anniversary



Flowers sent by the Minister of Information and State Minister of Youth Affairs Mohammed Al Jabri.



(From left to right) Tufic Salloum Operations Manager Oliver Maki, Assaad Marouni Kuwait Times Marketing & PR, Abdelhak Mehdi Marketing & Business Development Coordinator Oliver Maki and Jamie Etheridge Kuwait Times Managing Editor.



Flowers sent by the Under Secretary to the Information Minister Tariq Al Mirzim.



Wavemaker



(From left to right) Jamie Etheridge Kuwait Times Managing Editor, Rasha Adawi Kuwait Times Media Coordinator, Ayah Joudeh Senior Account Executive Action Global Communication and Amal Mohammad Digital Marketing Manager of Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa.



Asdaa Burson-Marsteller



Cake from Sheraton Hotel



Al-Yasra



Al-Anbaa



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Nepal Yagya Bahadur Hamal hosted a reception on the occasion of National Day at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Higher officials, diplomats, a cross section of the community and media persons attended the event. —Photo by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman and the US embassy hosted a reception to welcome the new Public Affairs Counselor Ravi S Candadal at the Sky Lounge in Radisson in Salwa on Sunday evening. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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Local

Speaker Al-Ghanem confirms depth of Kuwait-Saudi ties

Welcomes the upcoming visit of the Saudi Crown Prince



KUWAIT: The ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Sultan Bin Saad bin Khalid Al-Saud held a reception on Sunday on the occasion of the national day of his country. It was attended by HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed, the Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, ministers, ambassadors and a large number of dignitaries. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem affirmed on Sunday the depth and solidarity of the Kuwait-Saudi relations, as he congratulated King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, along with the Saudi people on the occasion of their national day. In a statement to the press during the embassy's national day celebrations, Al-Ghanem welcomed the upcoming visit of the Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman to Kuwait.

On the occasion of the 88th national day, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah congratulated the Saudi leaders, praising the achievements of the Kingdom in political, economical, investments and energy areas, citing Saudi Arabia's membership of the G20 economic group. Al-Jarallah pointed to the critical political role played by Saudi Arabia on the international and regional arenas, as a major country considered by all.

He added that the Saudi citizen has received the care and attention of the Saudi leadership as the 2030 vision is being implemented, paving way for a bright future for the kingdom. Al-Jarallah also welcomed Prince Mohammad bin Salman's historic visit to Kuwait towards developing relations for greater coherence. The most important issues that will be raised during the visit will be bilateral matters, and regional files of common concern, stressed Al-Jarallah. —KUNA



Alghanim Industries employees donate to Kerala Relief Fund

KUWAIT: Employees of Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, concluded a donation campaign to support victims of the recent Kerala floods. The collected funds were donated to contribute to the efforts towards rebuilding homes and facilities in the devastated South Indian state.

The company's internal donations campaign lasted over two weeks, giving employees the options of donating directly from their salaries or in cash, in special boxes distributed around Alghanim Industries offices across Kuwait. Additionally, Alghanim Industries operations in India participated in the campaign; employees at the company's Kirby and Rockwell factories and offices came together in support of the cause.

In a statement to the press, Kutayba Y Alghanim, Chairman of Alghanim Industries said: "I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to those affected by the tragic floods in Kerala. Many have lost their homes and some have lost their lives. Our organization, Alghanim Industries, launched an employee donation drive to support the people of Kerala and help them rebuild their lives. We were heartened by the empathy and

compassion shown by our employees, who have contributed to these efforts. Giving to those in need is an inherent trait within Kuwaiti society and I am pleased that our company can play a role in our nation's long heritage of giving back."

"In solidarity, our company will be matching the amount donated by our employees and contribute to the relief efforts in the friendly state of India," he added. Described as the worst flooding to hit Kerala in more than a century, the heavy downpour in August killed more than 370 people and displaced over 1,000,000. The floods waters destroyed homes, dams, bridges, and roads, forcing people into relief camps.

Throughout its operations around the world, Alghanim Industries is committed to its belief in giving back to the community as part of its corporate social responsibility strategy. Its long-term local and regional partners include the Kuwait Red Crescent and the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees. Alghanim Industries previously held employee donation campaigns to support victims of the Nepal earthquake in 2015, and to aid the victims of Typhoon Haiyan which struck the Philippines in 2013.



Kutayba Y Alghanim



An image of the flooding damage in Kerala.

Massive car fire in Eqaila due to faulty wiring

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department commented on a

video clip on social media about a fire in several cars outside an Eqaila mall. It said a call was received about a fire in a car due to faulty wiring, which spread to two other vehicles. No injuries were reported.

ATM break-in

Police arrested a suspect who attempted to break into an ATM at night. Detectives located the suspect in Naseem, where he was arrested and confessed to the charges. The tools he used, along with the clothes he was wearing during the crime, were found.

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Year 11 (I)GCSE A*-C 93%

Maria Elias



English 1st Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science
Arabic 1st Language
Arabic 2nd Language
Geography
French
German

Narayan Raam Sankar



English 1st Language
French
German
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
English Literature
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science
Economics
Arabic
Geography

Rekha Ravikumar



English 1st Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science
Economics
Design and Technology
Geography
English 2nd Language
Arabic

Siddhant Singh



English 1st Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science
Economics
Design and Technology
Geography
English 2nd Language
Arabic

Noor Al-Kadi



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Biology
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Physics
Arabic 2nd Language
Geography
French
English 2nd Language
Arabic 1st Language

Hashem Hashem



English 1st Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science
Arabic 2nd Language
Arabic 1st Language
Geography
Business Studies

Ali Shamohammadi



English 1st Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science
Economics
Biology
Geography

Naser Alkhalaf



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Biology
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Physics
Arabic 2nd Language
Arabic 1st Language
Economics
English 2nd Language
Business Studies

Edward Burgan



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Physics
ICT
Arabic 2nd Language
Economics
English 2nd Language
Biology
Chemistry
Business Studies

Mohamed Akbar



English 1st Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Physics
Arabic 2nd Language
Economics
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science

Poorvi Mishra



English 1st Language
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Chemistry
Physics
Business Studies
Economics
Arabic
English 2nd Language
Design and Technology

Riad Abdallah



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English 2nd Language
Mathematics
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Physics
Biology
Business Studies

Ali Alobaidan



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science
English 1st Language

Karim Maffouz



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Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
English 2nd Language
English Literature
Arabic
ICT

Ahmad Gad



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Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
English 2nd Language
ICT
Business Studies

Woosuk Jang



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Chemistry
Physics
Arabic
Computer Science
Business Studies
Graphic Design
English 2nd Language

Sumaiyah Afeefah



English 1st Language
French
English Literature
Physics
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Geography

Ghassaq Nassir



English 1st Language
Fine Art
Mathematics
Arabic 2nd Language
Arabic 1st Language
Chemistry
Physics
French
English Literature

Edward Tyler



Mathematics
Chemistry
Physics
Economics
English 1st Language
Biology
Geography
History
English Literature

Fatimah Alzahra Mahusain



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Computer Science
Arabic 2nd Language
Photography
English Literature
Biology
Physics
Chemistry

Dana Almezal



English 1st Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Arabic 2nd Language
Biology
Chemistry
Geography
Physics

Abdulatif Alghanim



Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Arabic 2nd Language
Arabic 1st Language
Graphic Design
English 1st Language
English 2nd Language

Nooran Sultan



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Biology
Arabic 2nd Language
Chemistry
Physics
Graphic Design
Business Studies

Aale Alkandari



French
Mathematics
Chemistry
Arabic 2nd Language
Arabic 1st Language
Biology
Geography

Karim Elkasaby



Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science
Business Studies
English 2nd Language

Lena Kacorzyk



Fine Art
English 1st Language
English Literature
French
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Business Studies

Rayan Altowayan



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Business Studies
English 2nd Language
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Geography

Maria Micu



English 1st Language
English Literature
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Geography
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Business Studies
History

Zuha-Rehman Akhtar



English 1st Language
Chemistry
Mathematics
Physics
Business Studies
English Literature
Economics
History

Ruby Qasem



English 1st Language
English Literature
Arabic 2nd Language
Fine Art
Biology
Chemistry
French
Mathematics
History

Adham Sanoufi



English 1st Language
Mathematics
Physics
Physical Education
English 2nd Language
Chemistry
Biology
Arabic 1st Language
Business Studies

Mahmoud Matar



Mathematics
Chemistry
Arabic 2nd Language
English 1st Language
Biology
English 2nd Language
Physics
Business Studies

Omar Abdelgalil



Mathematics
Chemistry
Physics
Biology
English 2nd Language
ICT

Madhawiy Alshammari



English 1st Language
Arabic 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
History
English Literature
Geography

Ahmad Alawadh



Mathematics
History
English 1st Language
English 2nd Language
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Geography
Arabic 2nd Language

Karim Elbishouty



English 1st Language
Mathematics
English 2nd Language
English Literature
Physics
Computer Science
Business Studies
Biology
Chemistry

Damian Reddy



Mathematics
Computer Science
Physics
Economics
ICT
Geography
English 1st Language
English 2nd Language
Biology
Chemistry

Mohamad Kalso



Mathematics
Arabic 2nd Language
English 2nd Language
Chemistry
ICT
Computer Science
English 1st Language
English 2nd Language
Physics

Mahmoud Elkady



Chemistry
Physics
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
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English 1st Language
Arabic 1st Language

Mohamed Ibrahim



English 1st Language
Arabic 2nd Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
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Computer Science
Biology
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Business Studies

Mazahir Anwar



English 1st Language
Economics
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Business Studies
Physical Education
Biology
Geography

Kinda Bahaa Eddin



English 1st Language
Arabic 2nd Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Fine Art
Physical Education
Biology
Chemistry

Mariam Elsebaey Shalaby



English 1st Language
Arabic 2nd Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Geography

Yousef Al-Neamah



Arabic 2nd Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
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ICT
Computer Science
English 2nd Language

Vivian Sequeira



English 1st Language
Music
English 2nd Language
Arabic
Chemistry
Physics
Mathematics
Economics
History

Christian Zeidan



Arabic 2nd Language
English 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
English 1st Language
ICT
Business Studies

Bebe Jamal



Arabic 2nd Language
Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
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Geography
English 2nd Language

Nour El Din Sewilam



Physics
English 1st Language
English 2nd Language
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Biology
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Business Studies



Indian govt stands firm on warplanes deal amid protest

Kremlin loses regional votes amid anger over pension reform



WASHINGTON: Protesters rally against Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh as they make their way from the Supreme Court on Capitol Hill yesterday. Christine Blasey Ford, who has accused Kavanaugh of sexual assault, has agreed to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. —AFP

US Supreme Court nominee under fire

Kavanaugh faces new sexual misconduct claim

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump’s embattled Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh was hit by a second accusation of sexual misconduct Sunday, leaving Republicans scrambling to save a confirmation that until recently had seemed all but certain. The latest claims of impropriety during Kavanaugh’s youth came as he was already facing a dramatic hearing where his testimony was to be weighed against that of a university professor who has separately accused him of assault.

Senate Democrats are now investigating a bombshell claim by Deborah Ramirez, 53, who says Kavanaugh exposed himself to her during a 1980s college party at Yale University, thrust his genitals in her face and caused her to touch them without her consent, according to The New Yorker. Ramirez told the magazine she had become inebriated during a drinking game and was on the floor when the alleged incident took place.

She added afterward, she remembered hearing a person shout from down a hallway, “Brett Kavanaugh just put his penis in Debbie’s face.” “I remember hearing and being mortified that this was out there,” she said. Kavanaugh denied the story, calling it “a smear, plain and simple.” “The people who knew me then know that this did not happen, and have said so,” the conservative judge said in a statement.

Investigation demands

Like Christine Blasey Ford, the professor accusing him of assaulting her when they were teenagers, Ramirez

wants the FBI to investigate the incident, and Democratic lawmakers are backing their demands. Ramirez’s call for an investigation came despite her admission to the New Yorker that there are gaps in her memory of the incident, and that she expects her memories to be questioned as she had been drinking.

Ford, meanwhile, agreed to testify Thursday after an increasingly ugly weeklong standoff that saw her forced to leave her California home as she faced death threats and the president openly attacked her credibility. Kavanaugh, who strongly denies the allegation, said he wishes to testify as soon as possible to clear his name following Ford’s claims that he attacked her at a 1980s high school party. According to The New York Times, the federal judge has calendars from the summer of 1982 he plans to share with senators showing he was out of town most of that time with no indication of the party of concern.

The two parties will testify separately—first Ford, followed by Kavanaugh’s response—the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmed. On Sunday, Senator Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the judiciary committee, urged the panel to halt proceedings in light of the latest

allegation. “I am writing to request an immediate postponement of any further proceedings related to the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh,” she said in a statement.

“I also ask that the newest allegations of sexual misconduct be referred to the FBI for investigation, and that you join our request for the White House to direct the FBI to investigate the allegations of Christine Blasey Ford as well as these new claims.”

Meanwhile, Democratic senator and committee member Richard Blumenthal echoed demands for an investigation.

Confirmation in the balance

“The Senate simply cannot in good conscience vote on this nomination without a full fair FBI investigation of all these allegations,” he said. Separately, lawyer Michael Avenatti—who represents adult film star Stormy Daniels in the dispute over her claim she was paid to remain silent about an alleged tryst with Trump—shared an email exchange on Twitter in which he promised the committee evidence of further misconduct by Kavanaugh at 1980s house parties, related to another unidentified accuser.

At stake is not only the fate of Trump’s hand-picked Supreme Court nominee, but also Republican chances in

November’s midterm elections that face increased risk if the polarizing confirmation battle drags on. White House spokesperson Kerri Kupec dismissed Ramirez’s allegation as “the latest in a coordinated smear campaign by the Democrats designed to tear down a good man.” “The White House stands firmly behind Judge Kavanaugh,” her statement added.

Meanwhile, Lindsey Graham—a member of the panel that must approve Kavanaugh’s nomination before it goes to the full chamber—summed up the position of many Republicans by saying he did not expect Ford’s testimony to change his mind. “What am I supposed to do? Go ahead and ruin this guy’s life based on an accusation?” he told Fox News Sunday. Republicans, who hold a paper-thin majority in the Senate, can ill afford defections if Kavanaugh is to be approved.

After days of relative restraint, Trump lashed out at Ford on Friday, contending that Ford’s decision to wait before going public shows the incident probably was not “as bad as she says”—even if this runs counter to what experts say is the typical reaction of sexual assault victims afraid or embarrassed to report. But Susan Collins—a Republican who sits on the Judiciary Committee—said she was “appalled” by Trump’s tweet. Trump’s outburst saw an outpouring of sympathy for Ford—and outrage at the president—as thousands of women, and men too, shared why they had kept silent after being assaulted, under the Twitter hashtag #WhyIDidntReport.—AFP

Strawberry crisis now tastes a little sweeter for farmers

SYDNEY: Australia’s pins-in-punnets strawberry crisis prompted a spate of social-media driven hoaxes, but sites like Facebook and Twitter are also helping stir a revival in sales that has left some farmers struggling to meet resurgent demand. For almost two weeks, reports of pins and needles being found in fruit across Australia have delivered a gut punch to industry, set grocery-shoppers on edge and left police struggling to find needles in a haystack of copycat pranks. But now Australians—adopting a shrug-and-get-on-with-it attitude—have had enough. They are getting back on their berries.

Wholesalers are reporting an uptick in sales, thanks in part to social media campaigns that encouraged Australians to bake a strawberry pavlova or just “#Smashastrawb” and eat it. “Things are on the up,” said Jim Ripepi of Australian Strawberry Distributors, a family-owned company that grows and sells strawberries wholesale. “The public support has been really overwhelming. Sales are picking up,” he said. “I was selling out every day this week.” Supermarkets are starting to report a similar trend and are even struggling to meet demand after many of their usual

suppliers packed up tools fearing the worst. For some farmers it may be too little too late, but for the industry at large, it’s a godsend.

Mystery remains

The crisis began almost two weeks ago with needles being found in two brands of strawberries in the northeast state of Queensland. The cause of the initial scare and the scale of the problem remain a mystery. Police in Queensland say only that the initial investigation is ongoing, leaving the public to speculate about the motives—could it be a disgruntled employee or competitor? — or how close they are to solving the crime.

The Australian government has instructed police and other agencies to avoid giving specific numbers about how many pins or needles have actually been found in fruit—including bananas, apples and a mango. Indications are that of the 100 or so instances looked at by police, the vast majority were hoaxes or pranks. Two kids are believed to have been cautioned for such copycat stunts and in Adelaide in southern Australia, a father has reportedly been charged with making a false claim to police about his daughter eating tainted fruit.

Australian state governments have offered cash rewards and indemnity from prosecution for anyone providing information about the culprit. Throughout the crisis, the government of new Prime Minister Scott Morrison has strained to appear in control, using its parliamentary majority to introduce longer potential jail sentences for deliberate contamination. Strawberry farmers “were having



QUEENSLAND: Braetop Berries strawberry farmer Aidan Young poses amid strawberries he will destroy following the nationwide needle scare, on his farm in the Glass House Mountains. —AFP

their livelihoods threatened”, Morrison said Monday, heralding the parliamentary response. “We had mums and dads worried about what they were putting in the school kids’ lunches. We were able to act swiftly and get that through the parliament in about 36 hours.”

In the latest twist, needles have turned up in a punnet of Australian strawberries in New Zealand, prompting the authorities there to say each punnet would be screened. Strawberry Growers NZ said there had been no reports of problems with locally-grown fruit. “While this is naturally of concern to our industry, this is an Australian strawberry

issue and there is no evidence to suggest any connection to New Zealand-grown strawberries,” executive manager Michael Ahern said.

New Zealand Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor said it was unclear whether the strawberries had been tampered with before or after they entered New Zealand. But he did not rule out the prospect of copycat sabotage. “It’s the kind of sordid and sick proposition that does arise when these situations are publicized,” he told Radio New Zealand. “We hope that it would not be a New Zealander doing a copycat, we hope that it wouldn’t happen at all.” —AFP

Own up to mass Muslim detentions, Amnesty tells China

BEIJING: China must come clean about the fate of an estimated one million minority Muslims swept up in a “massive crackdown” in its far western region of Xinjiang, Amnesty International said yesterday. Beijing has tightened restrictions on Muslim minorities to combat what it calls Islamic extremism and separatist elements in Xinjiang.

Critics say the drive risks fuelling resentment towards Beijing and further inflaming separatist sentiment. In a new report, which included testimony from people held in the camps, the international rights group said Beijing had rolled out “an intensifying government campaign of mass internment, intrusive surveillance, political indoctrination and forced cultural assimilation”. Uighurs and other Muslim minorities are punished for violating regulations banning beards and burqas, and for the possession of unauthorized Qurans, it added.

Up to a million people are detained in internment camps, a United Nations panel on racial discrimination reported last month, with many detained for offences as minor as making contact with family members outside the country or sharing Islamic holiday greetings on social media. “Hundreds of thousands of families have been torn apart by this massive crackdown,” said Nicholas Bequelin, Amnesty International’s East Asia director, in a statement. “They are desperate to know what has happened to their loved ones and it is time the Chinese authorities give them answers.”

Beijing has denied reports of the camps but evidence is mounting in the form of government documents and escapee testimony. These suggest that Chinese authorities are detaining large groups of people in a network of extrajudicial camps for political and cultural indoctrination on a scale unseen since the Maoist era. —AFP

500,000 children face immediate ‘danger’ in Libya; fighting rages

115 dead, 383 injured as rival factions battle

TRIPOLI: Half a million children are in “immediate danger” in Libya’s capital Tripoli due to fighting, the United Nations children’s fund UNICEF said yesterday. UNICEF said yesterday that “over 1,200 families have been displaced in the past 48 hours alone as clashes intensified in southern Tripoli”. That brings the total number of people displaced by the recent fighting to over 25,000, half of whom are children, UNICEF said.

“More children are reportedly being recruited to fight, putting them in immediate danger. At least one child was killed as a result,” said Geert Cappelaere, the UN agency’s Middle East and North Africa director. UNICEF also said schools are increasingly being used to shelter displaced families, which is likely to delay the start of the academic year beyond October 3. It said residents are facing food, power and water shortages, adding that the clashes have exacerbated the plight of migrants. “Hundreds of detained refugees and migrants, including children, were forced to move because of violence. Others are stranded in centres in dire conditions”, Cappelaere said.

Despite a UN-brokered ceasefire on September 4, fighting broke out again last week in southern districts of the capital. The clashes have pitted armed groups from Tarhuna and Misrata against Tripoli militias nominally controlled by Libya’s UN-backed unity government. The Libyan capital has been at the centre of a battle for influence between armed groups since dictator Muammar Gaddafi was ousted in a NATO-backed 2011 uprising. The country’s unity government has struggled to exert its control in the face of a multitude of militias and a rival administration based in eastern Libya.

Clashes kill 115

Meanwhile, at least 115 people have been killed and 383 injured in month-long clashes between rival factions in Tripoli. Libya’s health ministry said yesterday. The fighting pitted the Seventh Brigade, or Kaniyat, from Tarhouna, a town 65 km southeast of Tripoli, against the Tripoli Revolutionaries’ Brigades (TRB) and the Nawasi, two of the capital’s largest armed groups. Tripoli and western Libya are run by a UN-backed government mainly supported by armed groups, while Eastern Libya is controlled by a rival administration. The country has been riven since Muammar Gaddafi was toppled in 2011.

The Kaniyat and other groups from outside Tripoli launched an assault on the capital in late August amid unease over reports of the wealth, power and extravagant lifestyles of some Tripoli militia commanders. At the Frontline in Tripoli’s southern residential areas of Wadi Rabea and Fatma Zahra, shelled houses, torched vehicles, destroyed shops and deserted streets attest to the intensity of the clashes.

“The death toll could surge because of the critical condition of the injured and the continuing fighting,” Wedad Abo Al-Niran, media officer at the health ministry said. The armed groups which claim official status through the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli patrol the area in armored vehicles and pickup trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns. The fighting has knocked out most power stations in the city and crippled Tripoli’s main airport. Although civilian targets continue to be shelled, Hakeem Al-Sheikh, commander of 42 Brigade loyal to GNA, said “the situation is under control.”

Meanwhile residents in southern Tripoli continue to



TRIPOLI: Fighters loyal to the government of national reconciliation patrol a street during renewed clashes in the south of the Libyan capital Tripoli. — AFP

bear the brunt of the infighting, with many forced to flee their homes. “We are staying with our relatives as we are afraid of looting acts,” said Abdulqader Al-Ryani, a father of three who left everything behind when he left his house. So far, calls by the GNA for all sides to uphold a ceasefire

agreed on Sept 4 have fallen on deaf ears. Adding to the existing tensions, a coalition of armed groups including Misrata military council promised on Saturday to fight alongside Tarhouna’s Seventh Brigade saying that they “reject the rule of militias inside Tripoli.” — Agencies

After Idlib deal, Turkey faces a tough task to oust jihadists

BEIRUT: A Russia-Turkey deal may have stopped a regime assault on Syria’s Idlib for now, but analysts are skeptical that rebel backer Ankara can impose it on the jihadists who dominate the area. Under the agreement announced yesterday, a demilitarized zone is to be set up around Idlib, one of the country’s last major jihadist and

rebel bastions on the border with Turkey. For now, that averts a Russia-backed military offensive on the region, currently hosting some three million people, which many had feared would spark a humanitarian catastrophe.

But the deal hands Turkey the near-impossible mission of ensuring that battle-hardened jihadists and heavy weaponry are removed from the u-shaped zone in just a few weeks. “I don’t see how Turkey will be able to impose its will on jihadists,” Syria expert Fabrice Balanche said. “Implementing the deal will be very difficult,” he warned, adding that it would likely result in “a failure of the ceasefire and a Syrian army offensive in the coming months”. Under the agreement, “radical” groups—seen as meaning the jihadist-led Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance and fellow hardliners—must pull out of the planned buffer zone by October 15. All fighters in the

area, including some pro-Ankara rebels, have until October 10 to hand over their heavy weapons. Almost 70 percent of the planned zone is controlled by either HTS, which is dominated by Syria’s former Al-Qaeda branch, or other jihadists, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Britain-based Observatory says some factions in the buffer area have actually begun reinforcing their positions instead of withdrawing from them. An AFP correspondent in Idlib said there had been no sign so far of hardliners or heavy weapons being pulled out.

On Saturday, Hurras al-Deen, a smaller Al-Qaeda-linked group in the planned buffer area, rejected the agreement. HTS has not officially responded to the deal, but its propaganda channel Ebaa cast doubts on Turkey’s intentions. The group has spent months cracking down on

anyone willing to negotiate with the regime, and its chief Abu Mohammad al-Jolani has previously warned rebel weapons were a “red line”. “If (HTS) abandoned its defense lines, it would find itself in an extremely weak position as no one would protect it in the case of a Syrian army offensive,” Balanche said.

He said he expected Turkey would even have trouble convincing its own proxies in the town of Qalaat al-Madiq and the region of Sahl al-Ghab to relinquish their heavy arms. Pro-Ankara rebels tentatively accepted the deal in a statement on Saturday, but said they remained wary of “betrayal by the Russians, the regime or the Iranians”. Persuading jihadists to leave the buffer area is just one step towards ousting them from the larger region partly encircled by the zone. — AFP

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International

Fall of US scientists points to ethics gap in research

3 prominent US scientists pushed to resign

WASHINGTON: Three prominent US scientists have been pushed to resign over the past 10 days after damning revelations about their methods, a sign of greater vigilance and decreasing tolerance for misconduct within the research community. The most spectacular fall concerned Jose Baselga, chief medical officer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He authored hundreds of articles on cancer research.

Investigative journalism group ProPublica and The New York Times revealed on September 8 that Baselga failed to disclose in dozens of research articles that he had received millions of dollars from pharmaceutical and medical companies. Such declarations are generally required by scientific journals. Links between a doctor leading a clinical trial and manufacturers of drugs or medical equipment used in the study can influence the methodology and ultimately the results. But journals don't themselves verify the thoroughness of an author's declarations. Caught up in the scandal, Baselga resigned on September 13.

Pizza expert

Next came the case of Brian Wansink, director of the Food and Brand Lab at the prestigious Cornell University. He made his name thanks to studies that

garnered plenty of media attention, including on pizza, and the appetites of children. His troubles began last year when scientific sleuths discovered anomalies and surprisingly positive results in dozens of his articles. In February, BuzzFeed published messages in which Wansink encouraged a researcher to extract from her data results more likely to go "viral."

After a yearlong inquiry, Cornell announced on Thursday that Wansink committed "academic misconduct in his research and scholarship," describing a litany of problems with his results and methods. He is set to resign at the end of the academic year, but from now on will no longer teach there. Wansink denied all fraud, but 13 of his articles have already been withdrawn by journals. In the final case, Gilbert Welch, a professor of public health at Dartmouth College, resigned last week. The university accused him of plagiarism in an article published in The New England Journal of Medicine, the most respected American medical journal.



Damning revelations about their methods

Cutting corners

"The good news is that we are finally starting to see a lot of these cases become public," said Ivan Oransky co-founder of the site Retraction Watch, a project of the Center for Scientific Integrity that keeps tabs on retractions of research articles in thousands of journals. Oransky told AFP that what has emerged so far is only the tip of the iceberg.

The problem, he said, is that scientists, and supporters of science, have often been unwilling to raise such controversies "because they're afraid that talking about them will decrease trust in science and that it will aid and abet anti-science forces." But silence only encourages bad behavior, he argued. According to Oransky, more transparency will in fact only help the public to better comprehend the scientific process. "At the end of the day, we need to think about science as a human enterprise, we need to remember that it's done by humans," he said. "Let's

remember that humans make mistakes, they cut corners, sometimes worse."

Attention has long focused on financial conflicts of interest, particularly because of the influence of the pharmaceutical industry. But the Wansink case illustrates that other forms of conflict, including reputational, are equally important. Academic careers are largely built on how much one publishes and in which journals. As a result, researchers compete to produce positive, new and clear results-but work that produces negative results or validates previous findings should also be rewarded, argued Brian Nosek, a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia who heads the pro-transparency Center for Open Science.

"Most of the work when we're at the boundary of science is messy, has exceptions, has things that don't quite fit," he explained, while "the bad part of the incentives environment is that the reward system is all about the result." While moves toward more transparency have gathered momentum over the past decade, in particular among publishers of research articles, there is still a long way to go, said Nosek. "Culture change is hard," he argued, adding: "Universities and medical centers are the slowest actors."—AFP

Kremlin loses regional votes amid anger

MOSCOW: Russia's ruling party suffered two rare defeats in regional elections this weekend as its candidates lost to populists amid widespread discontent over a pension reform backed by President Vladimir Putin. A second round of governorship elections was held in two key regions on Sunday, after the pro-Kremlin United Russia party saw its strongest decline in a decade during a first round on September 9.

Vladimir Sipiyagin, of the nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), won 57 percent of the vote in Vladimir, a region 190 kilometers (120 miles) east of Moscow. He defeated the incumbent United Russia governor Svetlana Orlova, who won 37.5 percent of the vote, results showed yesterday. United Russia also lost to nationalists in the far eastern Khabarovsk region, where LDPR candidate Sergei Furgal won 70 percent of the vote against current governor Vyacheslav Shport.

"There is, of course, an element of surprise," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday, commenting on the election results. But he stressed the results in Vladimir and Khabarovsk proved the votes were "free, honest and just." Last week the Kremlin also suffered election blows in the Primorsky Krai and Khakhasia regions, where its candidates failed to win in the first round. The next-round elections in Primorsky Krai, also in the Far East, were cancelled following protests over vote-rigging and will be held at an unspecified time. Khakhasia has yet to hold a runoff vote.

Pensions protests

The election blows come after widespread discontent over a Kremlin-backed plan to raise the retirement age, which has triggered street protests and led to a major drop in Putin's approval ratings. Voters across Russia are also angry over continuing poverty, partly due to Western sanctions. In a rare show of unity, Russia's liberal and parliamentary opposition have opposed the government's pension reform. The LDPR and the Communist Party are tolerated by the Kremlin and sit in the lower house of the parliament. While they support the Kremlin's foreign policy, they occasionally challenge its stance on domestic issues. —AFP

Turkey orders 61 soldiers detained for 'Gulen links'

ISTANBUL: Turkish authorities ordered the arrest of 61 soldiers from the navy and land forces, including senior officers, for suspected links to a US-based cleric who Ankara said orchestrated a 2016 failed coup, state media said yesterday. Eighteen of those ordered detained were on active duty, Anadolu news agency said, adding the suspects included 13 majors and 12 captains from the land forces and 24 first lieutenants from the navy. Authorities have carried out regular sweeps against alleged members of cleric Fethullah Gulen's network since the coup attempt of July 2016, in which 250 people were killed. Gulen denies involvement.

In a separate operation, Istanbul police said they detained 21 people who were using an encrypted messaging application used by the network. Most of those detained were teachers who formerly taught at the network's schools or public institutions, police said. Turkey's Western allies have criticized the post-coup crackdown, which mostly took place under a state of emergency which was declared shortly after the attempted coup and remained in effect until July 2018. President Tayyip Erdogan's critics accuse him of using the failed putsch as a pretext to quash dissent. Turkey says the measures are necessary to combat threats to national security. —Reuters

A social media network mobilizes blacks ahead of Brazil elections

RIO DE JANEIRO: As Brazil's general elections approach, a new social network is gaining traction aimed at giving greater visibility to black candidates while highlighting anti-racism initiatives in the country tainted by racial prejudice. Black & Black, which has 100,000 users-in a population of more than 200 million-aims to "connect the demands and narratives of the world's black population" and to ensure that "black people get the prominence they deserve."

Brazil was the last country in the Americas to abolish slavery in 1888, and after centuries of racial mixing in Brazil, 55 percent of Brazil's population is either black or mixed race, according to the IBGE institute of statistics. But the black community has historically lacked a uniting factor, according to Luana Genot, executive director at ID_BR, a charity that helps black people find work. "The situation is different in the United States, for example, where the legal separation of races contributed to uniting the black community," said Genot. Enter Black & Black, which allows the black community

to share news, job offers, cultural activities and services.

"Black movements, women who talk about black beauty, black dances, afro religion... We can have different interests, but there's one thing that unites us: the feeling of being black," Celso Athayde, the network's creator, told AFP. Crucially, it's also a space to get stuck into politics, facilitating exchanges with black candidates for October's legislative and gubernatorial elections. Under the government of now-jailed socialist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from 2003-10, quota measures were introduced to increase the numbers of black people attending university or working in the public sector. Those measures were criticized by conservatives, and notably right-wing presidential front-runner Jair Bolsonaro.

Under-representation

Still, black or mixed race people make up only 20 percent of representatives in the lower chamber of Congress-although 46 percent of candidates are black or mixed race in the campaign for October's legislative, gubernatorial and state assembly elections being. That doesn't mean they will win a seat, Athayde says. "Blacks are not elected because you need financial resources for that and they don't have them because they're not employers," he said.

He added the under-representation of blacks in Congress is due to a lack of poli-

Anti-Semitism forces UK Labor on defensive at conference

LIVERPOOL: Having spent the summer fending off accusations of anti-Semitism, Britain's main opposition Labor Party is once again being forced to confront the toxic issue at its annual conference. "Like everybody in this room, I am fed up of talking about anti-Semitism in the Labor party," said frustrated MP Ruth Smeeth at party-affiliated Jewish Labor Movement rally on Sunday in a pub in Liverpool, north west England, yards from the party's main conference.

The issue has dogged party leader Jeremy Corbyn, a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause and critic of Israel, ever since the veteran leftist's 2015 election victory. Several party members have been suspended, expelled or forced to resign for making anti-Semitic statements, but the leader is accused of not doing enough to clamp down on the issue.

Corbyn defended himself vigorously again on Sunday, telling the BBC's flagship political program, that he "will die fighting racism in

any form". But for his critics, Corbyn's words are not enough. "If it was simply a few members saying stupid things on social media, perhaps it would be overblown," Tim Bale, professor at Queen Mary University in London said. "But the fact is that anti-Semitism seems to be almost within the DNA of some people on the hard-left, and many would say that Jeremy Corbyn should be included in that category," he added.

MP Luciana Berger, a target of insults and death threats on social media, called for Labour to clean house and investigate reported cases of anti-Semitism through a "faster, fairer, more transparent system". Corbyn's supporters maintain his accusers are conflating his pro-Palestinian activism and criticism of Israel with racism. Jon Lansman, the Jewish founder of far-left pro-Corbyn group Momentum, told the JLM rally that there was "absolutely no contradiction between fighting anti-Semitism and supporting Palestinian rights", and called for a period of "calm and reflection".

'Real problem'

The issue has bubbled under the surface for years, but intensified over the summer with a series of incidents. Corbyn told Jewish News in March that he was "not an anti-Semite in any way, never have been, and never will be," after Jewish leaders wrote an

In crowded refugee camps in Uganda the group interviewed 249 girls aged 10 to 19 from South Sudan who described "a continuum of violence having become the norm in the home and in the community." "That is not surprising because the conflict in South Sudan has been characterized by rampant cruelty, including levels of extreme violence against women and children," the report said.

The NGO added that "one adolescent in four considered suicide at least once" in the year preceding the study. Seventy-seven percent also said they did not have enough food to eat. In Chad Basin, which Plan International described as being caught in one of the world's most serious humanitarian crises, one in three teenagers questioned said they did not feel safe at home, one in five had been beaten in the month preceding the investigation and one in ten had suffered sexual abuse. —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: A woman signs in to get access to the Black & Black social network app in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. —AFP

cies favoring the community. "If you only have white men (in Congress), they will only think about what interests themselves," he said. The problems aren't confined to politics: of business management positions, non-whites make up just five percent.

Athayde says businesses in general are missing an opportunity to tap into a market that offers huge commercial possibilities. According to the Locomotiva Institute pollster, black consumption in 2017 was worth 1.6 tril-

lion reals (\$336 billion), around 20 percent of GDP. On Black & Black, businesses selling products specifically for black people can communicate directly with their target market. Athayde hopes to use the platform to mobilize black people to boycott businesses they consider racist. "Right now, no-one's afraid of us. We need to strike a bit of fear and I think this platform is starting to enable us to do that. If blacks unite, things will start to change." —AFP



LIVERPOOL: A book on Britain's opposition Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is on sale at the party shop in the conference centre on the second day of the Labor Party Conference in Liverpool yesterday. —AFP

open letter accusing him of siding with anti-Semites "again and again". A few days earlier, he had been forced to apologize for once supporting an artist who had created a fresco containing clearly anti-Semitic tropes.

The issue flared up again in July when the party's decision making body, the National Executive Committee, voted to leave out some of the International Holocaust

Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) internationally recognized examples of "contemporary anti-Semitism" in its own definition of the term. It sparked uproar, with Jewish newspapers accusing Corbyn of posing an "existential threat" to the Jewish community while furious Labor MP Margaret Hodge described her party leader as "racist" and "anti-Semitic". —AFP



SHAH PARIR DWIP: Rohingya refugees arrive by boat at Shah Parir Dwip on the Bangladesh side of the Naf River after fleeing violence in Myanmar. —AFP

International

Hong Kong bans pro-independence party over 'national security' fears

Beijing ups pressure on any challenges to its sovereignty

HONG KONG: Hong Kong banned a political party which promotes independence yesterday, saying it was a threat to national security as Beijing ups pressure on any challenges to its sovereignty. It is the first ban on a political party since the city was handed back to China by Britain 21 years ago. Semi-autonomous Hong Kong enjoys freedoms unseen on the mainland including freedom of expression but the space for dissent is shrinking in the face of an increasingly assertive China under President Xi Jinping.

Hong Kong's security minister John Lee said he had upheld a police request to ban the tiny Hong Kong National Party "in the interest of national security, public safety, public order, and the protection of rights and freedom of others". HKNP is a well-known but small group with a core membership of only around a dozen. Lee told reporters the party "has a very clear agenda to achieve its goal of Hong Kong being made an independent republic", saying that contravened the city's mini-constitution, the Basic Law. Lee said the party had tried to infiltrate schools and had spread "hatred and discrimination" against mainland Chinese people in Hong Kong.

HKNP had also said it would not stop at force, Lee added, but he conceded it had never committed violence and that its leader, Andy Chan, had advocated non-violence. Chan said he would not immediately comment on the decision. Human Rights Watch called the ban "a milestone in the Beijing and Hong Kong governments' assault on Hong Kong's freedoms". Lee's justification that the move was pre-emptive, even though the group had not committed violent acts, set a "dangerous precedent" that could see more pro-

democracy groups banned, said HRW's senior China researcher Maya Wang.

Crackdown on dissent

Police requested the party ban in July under the Societies Ordinance, which stipulates groups can be prohibited in the interests of national security and public safety. The bid was slammed by rights groups and Britain's foreign office, which said Hong Kong's rights must be respected.

Activists calling for Hong Kong's independence from China emerged after mass pro-democracy rallies in 2014 failed to win reforms. But pro-independence campaigners including Chan have since been blocked from standing for office and others disqualified from the legislature. Leading independence activist Edward Leung was jailed for six years in June on rioting charges after clashes with police in 2016. HKNP has lost momentum over the past two years as the government seeks to muzzle pro-independence sentiment.

However, the party was launched back into the headlines after police sought the ban, with Chan later giving a high-profile talk at the city's press club which Chinese authorities demanded should be cancelled. Chan described Beijing as Hong Kong's "colonial master" in his speech to a packed audience at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in August. China's ministry of foreign affairs had asked the FCC to pull the talk but it refused, arguing different views should be heard in any debate. The Hong Kong government said that while it backed freedom of speech and the press, allowing Chan to speak contravened the city's mini-constitution. — AFP



HONG KONG: In this file photo, Andy Chan (right), leader of the pro-independence Hong Kong National Party (HKNP), gives a press conference at the start of a rally near the government's headquarters in Hong Kong. — AFP

Texan who published 3-D guns plans jailed on sex assault charge

TEXAS: A Texas man running a 3-D printed guns company was booked into a Houston jail on a charge of sexual assault on Sunday after Taiwanese officials sent him back to the United States, where he is accused of having sex with an underage girl. Cody Wilson, 30, flew to Taiwan after learning he was under investigation, police said, and was picked up by Taiwanese authorities on Friday after his US passport was annulled. He was deported to the United States on Saturday.

He was booked into Harris County jail in Houston on Sunday, according to the jail's website. Wilson's attorney, Samy Khalil, said in a statement late on Sunday: "We are glad that Cody is back in Texas again where we can work with him on his case. That's our focus right now, representing our client and preparing his defense." As the founder of Defense Distributed, Wilson became a notable figure in the US debate over guns after the company posted on the internet the blueprints for plastic guns that can be made with a 3-D printer.

The files could previously be downloaded for free but a federal judge issued a nationwide injunction last month that blocked the posting of the blueprints online. Wilson was placed under investigation after a counselor told authorities on Aug 22 a 16-year-old girl said she was paid \$500 to have sex with Wilson at an Austin hotel, police said. Investigators later interviewed the girl and obtained a warrant for Wilson's arrest on Wednesday, but by then he had caught a flight to Taiwan. Police said at the time they were aware Wilson traveled often for business but that it was not clear why he had flown to Taiwan. — Reuters

India vows to stand firm on warplanes deal

NEW DELHI: India has vowed to stand firm on a multi-billion dollar deal to buy warplanes from France's Dassault Aviation, as the opposition Congress party called yesterday for an inquiry into allegations of wrongdoing. Former French President Francois Hollande, who approved the deal when he was in office, triggered a political storm in India after he said the Indian government influenced the choice of a local partner in the deal.

New Delhi has denied the allegations, but opposition parties are gunning for Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the 2016 purchase of 36 Rafale planes estimated to be worth \$8.7 billion, saying he overpaid for the planes and had not been transparent. Congress' national spokesman Sanjay Jha said they would call for a joint parliamentary committee to investigate the deal, and organize public protests.

"We will take it to the people's court through protests and demonstrations as what is involved in this massive fraud is the taxpayers money," he told Reuters. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Sunday that the deal would proceed as planned. "These jets will come to India. They will enhance the combat ability of the Indian Air Force," Jaitley told television news agency ANI, a Reuters affiliate.



NEW DELHI: Activists and supporters of the Indian Youth Congress shout slogans as they get detained during a protest against the Rafale fighter jets deal, in New Delhi. — AFP

In recent months, the opposition has questioned the government on the choice of billionaire Indian businessman Anil Ambani's Reliance Defense as Dassault's local partner instead of a state-run manufacturer with decades of experience. On Friday, Hollande told French news service Mediapart that New Delhi had put pressure on Dassault to choose Reliance. "We had no choice. We took the interlocutor that was given to us," Hollande was quoted as saying. Dassault has said it had picked Reliance as a partner for industrial reasons. Reliance has so far not commented on the matter.

Under Indian defense procurement

rules, a foreign firm must invest at least 30 percent of the contract in India to help it build up its manufacturing base and wean off imports.

The French foreign ministry has said French authorities were not involved in the choice of Indian industrial partners involved in the Rafale deal. India's air force says it needs new combat jets to face a perceived twin threat from China and Pakistan. The Rafale planes were picked from a field that included Lockheed Martin's F-16, Saab's Gripen, the Eurofighter Typhoon, Boeing's F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and the Russian MiG-35. — Reuters

Cuba seeks 'civilized' relationship with US

UNITED NATIONS: Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said Sunday his government wants a "civilized" relationship with the United States despite the embargo imposed on the island by the US since 1962. Speaking to the Cuban state press upon his arrival in New York for the UN General Assembly, Diaz-Canel said he would use his speech at the annual gathering to denounce the commercial, economic, and financial embargo "which has already failed and will continue to fail." Of Cuban-US relations, he added Havana seeks "a civilized relationship despite ideological differences."

However, he said the government of US President Donald Trump is "an administration with which it is difficult to form an equal relationship." The General Assembly marks Diaz-Canel's debut on the world stage, after he took office on April 19, succeeding brothers Fidel and Raul Castro. His address is scheduled for September 26 — 58 years to the day since Fidel Castro's first speech there. In a month, the Assembly will vote on a resolution calling for an end to the embargo. The issue has been voted upon annually for over two decades, and has majority support.

Despite its well-known position in favor of the embargo, the US abstained in 2016 after former president Barack Obama and Raul Castro restored diplomatic relations after over 50 years of tension. But after Trump entered office, Washington reported several US diplomats and their relatives in Havana had suffered mysterious symptoms as a result of alleged "acoustic attacks" in late 2016 — an accusation Cuba denies. As a result, the US recalled more than half of its staff from its Havana embassy and expelled 15 Cuban diplomats from Washington. — AFP



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Public hits back at ‘hostile architecture’ in European cities

Short, sharp spikes in a doorway, thick curved arms dividing a public bench to stop people sleeping there, metal railings demarcating a park - such designs are an increasingly common sight on Europe's streets. From London to Hamburg, urban planners are redesigning public spaces to curb rough sleeping, but artists and citizens are fighting back against so-called “hostile architecture” in a battle to make cities more people-friendly. “Cruel” designs like barriers and fences are meant to exclude citizens - particularly homeless people - from public areas, said British artist and curator Stuart Semple.

“They (designs) can be quite invisible ... that's why they're quite dangerous,” he said, adding that he first noticed the “nasty undercurrent” of hostile architecture in his hometown of Bournemouth, when metal bars were added to public benches. This stopped homeless people from lying down and people with physical disabilities from sitting on the benches, he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Across Europe, many countries have seen the number of homeless people rise since the 2007 financial crisis as a result of austerity measures and rising housing prices - with an estimated 4.1 million homeless people in the European Union. In response, authorities have enforced street begging bans in Denmark, Greece and Romania, while Hungary changed its constitution in 2012 to make homelessness a crime.

‘Silent agents’

German photographer Julius-Christian Schreiner curated a series of images dubbed “Silent Agents” to profile cities’ “hostile” installations, including one of stones erected around a bridge frequented by homeless people in Hamburg. “I see this in almost every city, even small cities,” Schreiner said in a phone interview. The growth in privately managed public spaces has also exacerbated the problem, he said, leaving little room for people to lean back, loiter or socialize without the pressure to buy something. “In cities, we are seen more as consumers and if you're a good consumer you can use the infrastructure ... but if you're a bad consumer you're not supposed to be in the area,” he said.

According to British homeless charity Crisis, six in 10 homeless people in England and Wales reported an increase in “defensive” architecture in 2016 over the previous year. “Rough sleeping is devastating enough without people having to endure hostility from their surroundings,” said Crisis director Matt Downie. “This is a sad indictment of how we treat our most vulnerable.” Setha Low, an anthropology professor at the City University of New York's Graduate Center, said that the trend risked changing the nature of public spaces “from being inclusive to exclusive”. “I think it's a really subtle way to say to certain people that we don't want you in public,” she said.

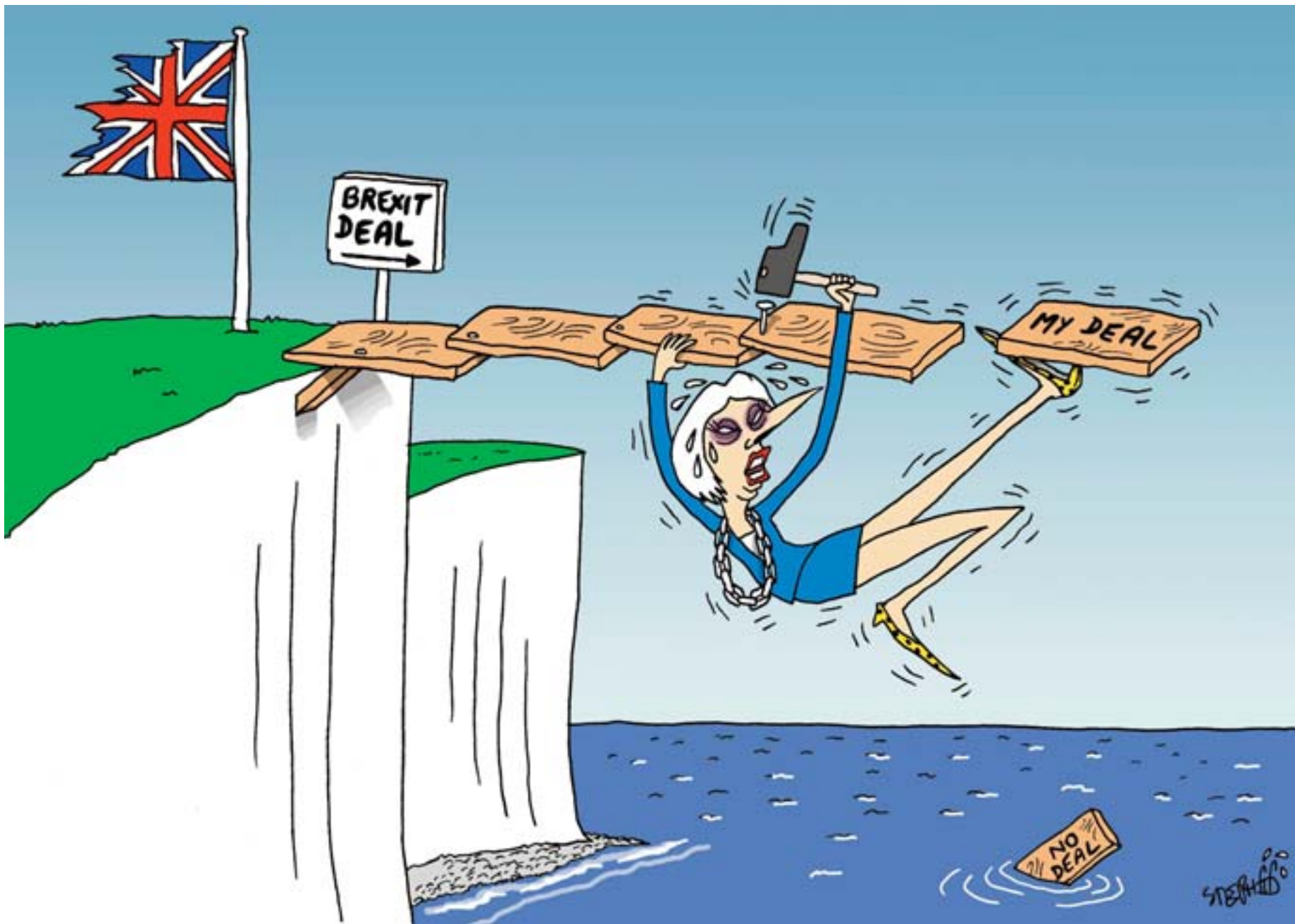
Public reaction

But citizens are subverting and resisting such architecture in creative ways, Low noted. In Britain, people have covered anti-homeless spikes with cushions and mattresses, while in Mumbai similar installations were replaced with flowers following social media outrage. Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has pledged to remove “anti-homeless street furniture” like curved benches from publicly managed buildings such as train stations.

According to Sian Berry, chair of the London Assembly Housing Committee, public opinion is “quite firmly against these things” and people are “actually really compassionate”. Berry said that efforts to tackle “uncharitable instincts” that seek to dislodge the homeless could be part of the “Healthy Streets” initiative, which aims to make London a more livable city. Artist Semple agreed, saying that “the council and urban planners ... are asking more compassionate questions when designing things now and attitudes are starting to shift”.

After an image he posted of a “hostile” bench went viral on social media, he launched an awareness campaign urging people to share photographs of “designs against humanity” to build an online database. In France, a campaign launched by homeless charities mapped hundreds of hostile installations across the country online and on social media, under the hashtag #SoyonsHumains (let's be human) following public uproar.

A spokeswoman for the city administration said by email that Paris “refuses” the use of anti-homeless spikes and that “the only valid answer for people forced to live on the street is social support and support for accommodation”. However, in most cases the authorities cannot intervene to remove the installations because they “are on the private domain and were installed at the initiative of the owner,” she added. — Reuters



The night a billionaire was accused of rape

With the Chinese billionaire Richard Liu at her Minneapolis area apartment, a 21-year-old University of Minnesota student sent a WeChat message to a friend in the middle of the night. She wrote that Liu had forced her to have sex with him. “I was not willing,” she wrote in Chinese on the messaging application around 2 am on Aug 31. “Tomorrow I will think of a way to escape,” she wrote, as she begged the friend not to call police. “He will suppress it,” she wrote, referring to Liu. “You underestimate his power.”

This WeChat exchange and another one reviewed by Reuters have not been previously reported. One of the woman's lawyers, Wil Florin, verified that the text messages came from her. Liu, the founder of Chinese ecommerce giant JD.com Inc, was arrested later that day on suspicion of rape, according to a police report. He was released without being charged and has denied any wrongdoing through a lawyer. He has since returned to China and has pledged to cooperate with Minneapolis police.

Jill Brisbois, a lawyer for Liu, said he maintains his innocence and has cooperated fully with the investigation. “These allegations are inconsistent with evidence that we hope will be disclosed to the public once the case is closed,” Brisbois wrote in an email response to detailed questions from Reuters. Loretta Chao, a spokeswoman for JD.com, said that when more information becomes available, “it will become apparent that the information in this note doesn't tell the full story.” She was responding to detailed questions from Reuters laying out the allegations in the woman's WeChat messages and other findings.

Florin Roebig and Hang & Associates, the law firms representing the woman, said in an email that their client had “fully cooperated” with police and was also prepared to assist prosecutors. Florin, asked if his client planned to file a civil suit against Liu, said, “Our legal intentions with regard to Mr. Liu and others will be revealed at the appropriate time.” The police department has turned over the findings of its initial investigation into the matter to local prosecutors for a decision on whether to bring charges against Liu. There is no deadline for making that decision, according to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

Reuters has not been able to determine the identity of the woman, which has not been made public. But her WeChat messages to two friends, and interviews with half a dozen people with knowledge of the events that unfolded over a two-day period provide new information about the interactions between Liu and the woman, a student from

China attending the University. The case has drawn intense scrutiny globally and in China, where the tycoon, also known as Liu Qiangdong, is celebrated for his rags-to-riches story. Liu, 45, is married to Zhang Zetian, described by Chinese media as 24-years old, who has become a celebrity in China and works to promote JD.com.

As the second-largest ecommerce website in the country after Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, the company has attracted investors such as Walmart Inc, Alphabet Inc's Google and China's Tencent Holdings. Liu holds nearly 80 percent of the voting rights in JD.com. Shares in the company have fallen about 15 percent since Liu's arrest and are down about 36 percent for the year.

‘It was a trap’

Liu was in Minneapolis briefly to attend a business doctoral program run jointly by the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and China's elite Tsinghua University, according to the University of Minnesota. The doctoral program is “directed at high-level executives” from China. Liu threw a dinner party on Aug 30 for about two dozen people, including around 20 men, at Origami Uptown, a Japanese restaurant in Minneapolis where wine, sake and beer flowed freely, according to restaurant staff and closed circuit video footage reviewed by Reuters. Liu, who Forbes estimates is worth about \$6.7 billion, ordered sashimi by pointing his finger at the first item on the menu and sweeping it all the way down to indicate he wanted everything, one restaurant employee said. The group brought in at least one case of wine from an outside liquor store to drink along with the dinner, according to the restaurant staff. Security video footage from the restaurant shows the group toasted each other throughout the night.

Later the woman told a second friend in one of the messages that she felt pressured to drink that evening. “It was a trap,” she wrote, later adding “I was really drunk.” The party ended around 9:30 pm. The tab: \$2,200, the receipt shows. One inebriated guest was helped out of the restaurant by three of his associates, according to the restaurant security video footage. Liu and the woman then headed to a house in Minneapolis, according to one person familiar with the matter. Another source said that the house had been rented by one of Liu's classmates in the academic program to give the class a place to network, smoke, drink whiskey and have Chinese food every night.

But they did not go in. Liu and the student were seen

live along the 27 miles of coast known as Billionaire's Beach have fought tooth and nail to keep their properties private. “People go from just a little to quite far to discourage the public from using public lands,” said Linda Locklin, manager of the state's coastal access program. Some homeowners hire security guards to keep the public out, put up fake no parking or private beach signs, place cones in the roadway or file lawsuits that usually drag on for years, Locklin said.

‘Paradise’ lost

The homeowners argue that visitors produce litter, vandalize property and are a constant nuisance that can turn their dream homes into a nightmare. “Once they opened this up, it was like the gates of hell were unlocked,” Michael Lembeck, a film director, told AFP on a recent morning as he angrily pointed to an access path that opened in 2015 near his Malibu home. “It was paradise here until three years ago,” he added. “A lot of people have moved... and we may be next.” The same arguments about privacy and security are echoed at Privates Beach - a cheeky name earned during its past incarnation as a nude beach. Sean Johansen, a police officer walking on the beach with a fellow officer after surfing, said the fence and access fee were no “big deal”. “If they open that gate, there's a lot of speculation that it could bring unsavory types hanging out at the beach - homeless people and maybe people using narcotics,” he told AFP.

Johansen, like half a dozen people interviewed at Privates, said anyone who did not wish, or could not afford, to pay the annual fee could easily go elsewhere. “There are so many other beaches for people to go,” said Jeff Lebeouf, a local homeowner. “That's the way it's been and that's the way I believe it should be because there are a lot of other options.”

‘I own Central Park’

But advocates of open beach access argue that should the gate operation continue and should Khosla, a co-founder of Sun Microsystems, prevail in the nation's highest court, that could set a bad precedent and rewrite the rules governing California's coast. “We see the beach as part of our soul,”

outside the house before Liu pulled her into his hired car, a person with knowledge of the incident said. In the WeChat message to one of her friends sent hours later, the student said Liu “started to touch me in the car”. “Then I begged him not to... but he did not listen,” she wrote. They ended up back at her apartment, according to sources with knowledge of the matter. Reuters could not determine what happened over the next two hours. According to the police report, the alleged rape occurred at around 1 am.

The woman subsequently reached a fellow University of Minnesota student who notified the police, according to two sources and her WeChat messages. Minneapolis police came to her apartment early that morning while Liu was there, but made no arrests, another source familiar with the situation said. Reuters could not determine exactly what occurred during the police visit, but the source said the woman declined to press charges in Liu's presence.

In a WeChat message with one of her friends, she asked her friend why the billionaire would be interested in “an ordinary girl” like her. “If it was just me, I could commit suicide immediately,” she wrote. “But I'm afraid that my parents will suffer.” By Friday morning, she also wrote to one of her two friends that she had told several people about what had happened, including the police, a few friends and at least one teacher. She wrote that she would keep her bed sheets. “Evidence cannot be thrown away,” she wrote. On Friday afternoon, the student went to a hospital to have a sexual assault forensic test, the source said.

Police officers arrived at a University of Minnesota office shortly after an emergency call around 9 pm that night. The student was present at the office, alongside school representatives, and accused Liu of rape, the source said. Representatives for the University of Minnesota declined to comment on detailed questions from Reuters. Liu came to the university office around 11 pm while police were there, according to the person familiar with the matter. As an officer handcuffed him, Liu showed no emotion. “I need an interpreter,” he said, according to the source.

Liu was released about 17 hours later. Minneapolis police have said previously that they can only hold a person without charges for 36 hours. Within days, Liu was back in China, which has no extradition treaty with the United States. “Liu has returned to work in Beijing and he continues to lead the company. There is no interruption to JD.com's day-to-day business operations,” said Loretta Chao, the JD.com spokeswoman. — Reuters



People walk along the public beach past multimillion dollar homes in Malibu, California on Sept 18, 2018. — AFP

said Noaki Schwartz, a California native and spokesperson for the state's Coastal Commission. “It's very ingrained in California that the beaches are a gathering area.”

Neither Khosla nor his attorney could be reached for comment for this article. But he told The New York Times in a recent interview that he was waging his battle on principle and doesn't even care much for the property. “If this hadn't ever started, I'd be so happy,” he told the Times. “But once you're there in principle, you can't give up principle.”

For now, Martin's Beach is open to the public. But the surfers who use it say that could change overnight if Khosla succeeds in his legal battle. “If the ownership were to prevail, that would set a precedent that would allow incredibly wealthy individuals to purchase land adjacent to the coast and slowly but surely turn that public resource into a private good,” said Eric Buescher, an attorney representing the Surfrider Foundation, which sued Khosla. “It's the equivalent of buying all the property around Central Park in New York and saying ‘Ha, now I own Central Park.’” — AFP

Rough waters for California's not so public beaches

The sandy cove along California's picturesque coast beckons visitors to what is supposed to be a public beach. But the imposing gate, the security guard and the annual \$100 access fee tell a different story. Privates Beach, as the secluded spot in the city of Santa Cruz is known to locals, is at the center of an ongoing battle over the public's right to access the Golden State's fabled shoreline. An hour's drive north sits Martin's Beach, where a David versus Goliath-type showdown has pitted a high-tech billionaire against surfers and state regulators.

For nearly a decade, Silicon Valley entrepreneur Vinod Khosla, who purchased the 53-acre parcel for \$32.5 million in 2008, has sought to limit access to the shoreline through his property. Khosla has now taken the fight to the US Supreme Court, which is deciding whether to take on the case. The two high-stakes disputes reflect the constant wave of legal challenges that have called into question California's landmark 1976 Coastal Act, which enshrines public access to the state's 2,045 km of coastline.

Keep out the riff-raff

Most of the cases usually involve wealthy beachfront homeowners willing to go to great lengths - and to spend a great deal of money - to keep the riff-raff off the pristine sand. “It's relentless and it's just constant pressure,” said Pat Veasart, who oversees enforcement of the Coastal Act in northern California. “People who are wealthy enough, fortunate enough to be able to buy property along the coast are always trying to figure out a way to make them as exclusive as possible.” A majority of the challenges are concentrated in southern California, notably Malibu, where celebrities who

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LONG BEACH: Containers are loaded onto shipping vessels from CMA CGM, the French container and transportation company at the Port of Long Beach in Long Beach, California. — AFP

US tariffs on \$200bn worth of China goods kick in

China says Washington is trying to force it to submit on trade

BEIJING: The United States and China imposed fresh tariffs on each other's goods yesterday as the world's biggest economies showed no signs of backing down from an increasingly bitter trade dispute that is expected to knock global economic growth.

Soon after the new duties went into effect, China accused the US of engaging in "trade bullying" and said it was intimidating other countries to submit to its will, the official Xinhua news agency said, reiterating China's willingness to fight if necessary.

But Beijing also said it was willing to restart trade negotiations with the United States if the talks are "based on mutual respect and equality," Xinhua said, citing a white paper on the dispute published by China's State Council. US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods and retaliatory tariffs by Beijing on \$60 billion worth of US products took effect at midday Asian time, though the initial level of the duties was not as high as earlier feared.

Stocks on Wall Street opened lower. Boeing, the biggest US exporter to China, dropped 1 percent and Caterpillar 0.5 percent, leading the losers on the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Network equipment makers Cisco and Netgear were also lower. "One of the bigger risks with these tariffs going into effect is that the United States may be pushed out of the Chinese market and it is a growing market," said Scott Brown, chief economist at Raymond James in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 56.31 points, or 0.21 percent, to 26,687.19, the S&P 500 lost 7.51 points, or 0.26 percent, to 2,922.16 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 45.88 points, or 0.57 percent, to 7,941.08.

Moody's said yesterday additional US tariffs on Chinese imports are negative for various sectors in both countries and could spread beyond targeted sectors, adding that tariffs are credit negative for US furniture & home goods retailers, with more than half their imports coming from China last year.

The US will levy tariffs of 10 percent initially, rising to 25 percent at the end of 2018. Beijing has imposed rates of 5-10 percent and warned it would respond to any rise in US tariffs on Chinese products accordingly. The two sides had already slapped tariffs on \$50 billion worth of each other's goods.

For US consumers, the new duties could translate into higher prices for Chinese products ranging from vacuum cleaners to technology gear such as home modems and routers, while US goods targeted by Beijing include liquefied natural gas and certain types of aircraft. President Donald Trump is pressing China to reduce its huge bilateral trade surplus and make sweeping changes to its policies on trade, technology transfers and high-tech industrial subsidies. Beijing has denied that U.S. firms are forced to transfer technology and sees Washington's demands on rolling back its industrial policies as an attempt to contain

China's economic rise. The US administration "has brazenly preached unilateralism, protectionism and economic hegemony, making false accusations against many countries and regions, particularly China, intimidating other countries through economic measures such as imposing tariffs," Xinhua quoted the State Council's white paper as saying.

'No end in sight for trade war'

Several rounds of Sino-US trade talks in recent months have yielded no major breakthroughs and attempts at arranging another meeting in coming weeks have fallen through. A senior White House official said last week the US will continue to engage China, but added there was no date for further talks. China, which has accused Washington of being insincere in the negotiations, has decided not to send Vice Premier Liu He to Washington this week. The Wall Street Journal reported late last week.

News of Beijing's decision to skip the talks pushed China's yuan currency down 0.3 percent yesterday in offshore trade, reinforcing investors' fears that both sides are digging in for a long fight. Mainland China markets were closed for a holiday. Economists warn that a protracted dispute will eventually stunt growth across the globe. Companies on both sides of the Pacific are already reporting disruptions to their operations and are reviewing investment plans.

The trade tensions have also cast a pall over broader

relations between Beijing and Washington, with the two sides butting heads on a growing number of issues.

China summoned the US ambassador in Beijing and postponed military talks in protest against a US decision to sanction a Chinese military agency and its director for buying Russian fighter jets and a missile system. Rob Carnell, ING's chief Asia economist, said in a note to clients that in the absence of any incentives Beijing would likely hold off on any further negotiations for now.

"It would look weak both to the U.S. and at home," he said, adding that there is "sufficient stimulus in the pipeline" to limit the damage of the latest tariffs on China's economy.

"The US-China trade war has no clear end in sight."

China may also be waiting for US mid-term elections early next month for any hints of changes in Washington's policy stance, Carnell added. "With generic polls favoring the Democrats, they may feel that the trade environment will be less hostile after November 6."

Bloomberg reported that the China Daily, Beijing's official English newspaper, paid for a four-page advertising supplement on Sunday in the Des Moines Register - the largest newspaper in the politically important state of Iowa - that highlighted the impact of the trade war on soybean farmers. Trump earlier this month accused China of targeting rural voters who support his presidency by hitting agricultural goods. — Reuters

Oil market hears echoes of 2007/8

LONDON: Eleven years ago, on Monday, Sept 24, 2007, the price of Brent crude closed just below \$79 per barrel, not far from where it is today.

Three days later, Brent closed above \$80 for the first time in history. Less than 10 months after that, prices closed at an all-time high of \$146. Past prices are not necessarily a guide to the future, but the events of 2007/08 are a reminder that price moves are highly non-linear, especially around turning points in the cycle.

Price moves tend to accelerate in the run-up to cyclical peaks and troughs, as the market struggles to overcome a worsening deficit or surplus. As a result, oil prices tend to rise far higher, and fall much further, than commentators thought possible just a few months earlier.

A distant mirror

The current situation in the global economy and the oil market has many similarities to what happened in 2007 and 2008. In the earlier

episode, the global economy had been expanding strongly for several years, with rapid growth in oil consumption.

The US economic cycle peaked in December 2007, though that was not evident until about a year afterwards, and oil prices continued rising for another seven months.

Yields on short-term US Treasury notes peaked around June 2007 and US equity markets hit their pinnacle in October 2007. Most of the other major industrial economies tipped into recession in the second half of 2007 or the first half of 2008. In the oil market, persistent concerns about demand destruction were raised, but dismissed by many participants, and validated only after prices peaked.

The introduction of new low-sulfur standards for distillate fuel oil in the United States led to concerns about the availability of enough sweet crude. There were mounting concerns about the exhaustion of OPEC's spare capacity and the organization's ability to add more medium-sweet barrels to meet demand from refiners.

OPEC stays on sideline

Throughout 2007 and early 2008, OPEC leaders continued to insist the oil market was

adequately supplied and they would make additional barrels available if refiners requested them.

But the Brent market moved into a sharp backwardation in the second half of 2007 and the first four months of 2008, indicating traders were concerned about oil availability.

In September 2007, OPEC agreed to increase its collective production by 500,000 barrels per day from the start of November, citing the tightness in U.S. fuel markets and the shift in crude futures into backwardation.

In December 2007, however, OPEC's conference judged the market remained well supplied and that crude and product stocks were at comfortable levels and decided not to increase output further.

In March 2008, the conference continued to judge the market well supplied, noting growing downside risks in the world economy, and blamed the continued rise in oil prices on non-fundamental factors, especially speculators.

In May, the organisation's secretary-general issued a statement saying "there is clearly no shortage of oil in the market" and blaming speculative funds for the increasing volatility in crude oil. — AFP

Miner Barrick agrees to buy Randgold to create gold giant

LONDON: Canadian mining giant Barrick Gold agreed yesterday to buy Africa-focused rival Randgold Resources to create a global industry champion worth \$18.3 billion. The blockbuster all-share deal was described as a merger but is effectively a takeover because Barrick investors will own a majority 66.6-percent stake. Randgold shareholders will hold the rest.

The enlarged company, keeping the Barrick name, will be traded in New York and Toronto. Randgold's London listing will be cancelled. The group will have a combined stock market capitalization of \$18.3 billion (15.6 billion euros) and annual revenues of approximately \$9.7 billion.

"The boards of Barrick Gold Corporation and Randgold Resources Limited are pleased to announce that they have reached agreement on the terms of a recommended share-for-share merger ... to create an industry-leading gold company," read the statement.

Barrick executive chairman John L. Thornton will take up the same role at the new company, while Randgold chief executive Mark Bristow will retain his CEO position. "The combination of Barrick and Randgold will create a new champion for value creation in the gold mining industry," said Thornton in the statement. He added that the gigantic deal would bring "together the world's largest collection of tier one gold assets, with a proven management team that has consistently delivered among the best shareholder returns in the gold sector over the past decade". — AFP

Business

Zain to offer iPhone Xs, Xs Max and Apple Watch Series 4 (GPS) on Sept 28

Customers can pre-order iPhones at kw.zain.com and Zain branches

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, yesterday announced it will offer the most advanced iPhones ever, iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max, and Apple Watch Series 4 (GPS), beautifully redesigned with breakthrough communication, fitness and health capabilities. Customers will be able to pre-order iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max and order Apple Watch Series 4 beginning Friday 21 September at kw.zain.com and Zain branches, and all will be available starting on Friday 28 September. For complete pricing details, please visit kw.zain.com.

iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max are the most advanced iPhones ever, taking the vision for the future of the smartphone to a new level, featuring stunning 5.8-inch and 6.5-inch Super Retina displays that offer remarkable brightness and true blacks while showing 60 percent greater dynamic range in HDR photos. iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max bring an improved dual camera system that offers breakthrough photo and video features, A12 Bionic chip with next-generation Neural Engine, faster Face ID, wider stereo sound, longer battery life, splash and water resistance,* the most durable glass ever in a smartphone, a beautiful new gold finish that joins silver and space gray, and introduce Gigabit-class LTE for even faster download speeds. iPhone XS Max offers a more immersive experience with over 3 million pixels for videos, movies and games, offering the largest display ever in an iPhone. Both phones introduce Dual SIM to iPhone through the use of a nano-SIM and digital eSIM.

Additionally, iPhone XR, bringing the latest iPhone

innovations to more people, will be available to pre-order at Zain on 19 October 2018. iPhone XR features an all-screen glass and aluminum design with a 6.1-inch Liquid Retina display - the most color accurate in the industry, with wide color support and True Tone for a more natural viewing experience. iPhone XR features

A12 Bionic with next generation Neural Engine, the TrueDepth camera system, faster Face ID, an advanced camera system that creates dramatic portraits using a single camera lens, LTE Advanced for fast download speeds and six beautiful finishes.

Apple Watch Series 4 is redesigned and re-engineered to help users stay connected, be more active and manage their health in powerful new ways. It features a stunning 30 percent larger display, a thinner, smaller case and a new interface with more information and richer detail. Apple Watch Series 4 with watchOS 5 brings advanced activity and communications features, along with revolutionary health capabilities including a next generation accelerometer and gyroscope which are able to detect hard falls.

iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max are splash-, water- and dust-resistant, and were tested under controlled laboratory conditions with a rating of IP68 under IEC standard 60529 (maximum depth of 2 meters up to 30 minutes). Splash, water and dust resistance are not permanent conditions, and resistance might decrease as a result of normal wear. Do not attempt to charge a wet iPhone; refer to the user guide for cleaning and drying instructions. Liquid damage not covered under warranty.

Taking the vision for the future of the smartphone to a new level



Coming on 28 September



iPhone Xs

Pre-order now and get it delivered on 28 September

AUB includes 26 new winners in Al Hassad Islamic account weekly draw

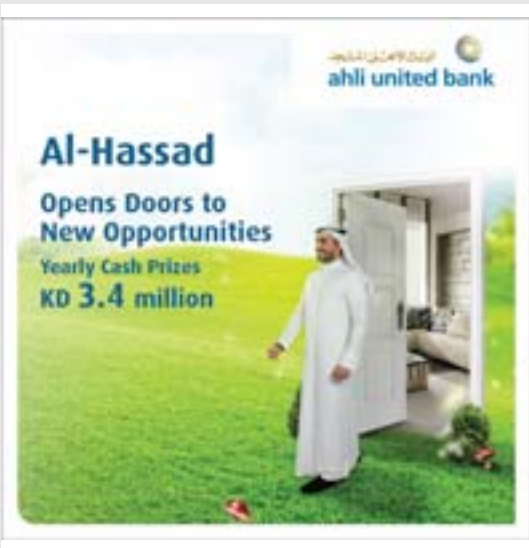
KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) recently conducted its Al Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading Shari'ah compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on September 19, 2018. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion AUB announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Ameenah Ahmad Karam. 25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Salamah Saad Alenezi, Nabil Khalifa Alajil, Khaled Mohammad Alsaqoubi, Reem Abdulwahed Zaman, Bekheetah Mujaleid Alajmi, Mutairah Hammad Alsulaimani, Sultan Rakan Almekrad, Khaled Salem AlMasoud, Yousef Abdulnabi Al Ali, Rashda Saleem Saleem, Bader Ali Alzaabi, Abdulaziz Fahad AlMailam, Nawal Falah Mahussain, Hanaa Bader Mohammad, Mohammad Abdullah Haider, Ibrahim Ismaeil Alsayyar, Adel Abdullah Alojairi, Malek Jaber Fahad, Naser Nashmi Althefer, Meshari Abdullah Alfadhil, Manal Rebhi Al-Ashi, Nwayer Sayyah Smairan, Husain Ali Husain, Sharifa Ameen Ali and Mohsin Ali Ali.

Al Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions AUB added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year."

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For more information on AUB's products and services, customers are invited to visit any of the Bank's branches or dial the customer service "Hayakom", or log on the Bank's website www.ahliunited.com.kw



India struggles to calm financial markets as liquidity fears grow

MUMBAI: The Indian authorities' sought to calm financial markets yesterday but investors paid little heed as fears that the nation's non-banking financial sector is facing a credit crunch led to declines in domestic bonds, stocks and the rupee, adding to losses suffered in a sell-off on Friday.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley made the boldest official pledge yet when he tweeted that "the Government will take all measures to ensure that adequate liquidity is maintained/provided to the NBFCs," in reference to the non-banking financial companies. His intervention came on the heels of assurances on Sunday from both the central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, and market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, that they were closely monitoring developments in financial markets and ready to act if needed.

However, the benchmark Nifty Index closed 1.58 percent lower yesterday, while the benchmark 10-year bond yield was up 2 basis points at 8.10 percent as bond prices dipped. On Friday, the stock index at one stage plunged more than 3 percent in a 30-minute period. The partially convertible rupee was weaker at 72.54 per dollar versus its previous close at 72.1950 and not far off its record low of 72.99 hit early last week.

Investors have been unnerved by credit concerns surrounding two companies in particular. One of the biggest NBFC names in India - Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) - this month defaulted on a series of its coupon payments. Then on Friday, a large fund manager sold short-term bonds issued by home loan provider Dewan Housing Finance at a sharp discount, raising fears of wider liquidity problems in the sector. "The recent tightness of liquidity in the corporate bond markets indicate a contagion effect may be playing out following the default by IL&FS," said brokerage firm CLSA in a research note on Monday.

A big correction in equity markets could hurt Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as they prepare for a series of key state elections later this year and a general election by May 2019. Modi and his BJP swept to power in 2014 on the slogan "Aache din aane waale hain (good days are coming),"



AMRITSAR: Indian farm laborers remove rain water from a flooded spinach field after heavy rains, on the outskirts of Amritsar yesterday. — AFP

but a lack of jobs, falling crop prices and surging fuel costs have sparked discontent and some protests in recent months.

A sell-off in equity markets, which have been one of the few bright spots in the economy, could further dent Modi's popularity among the small business and trading community, a core base of BJP supporters, who were already stung by two of his largest reform moves - demonetization and a nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST). India's equity markets have hit record highs in 2018 despite sell-offs in domestic bonds and weakness in the rupee, which has been the worst-performing Asian currency this year.

Despite the correction this month, the Nifty Index is up more than 4 percent so far this year. But for foreign investors, the drop in the rupee will have wiped out any gains. India's largest bank, the State Bank of India, also sought to calm investors, issuing a statement on Sunday saying fears that banks were wary of lending to NBFCs were baseless.

"SBI lends support to NBFCs in the private and public sector within the regulatory policy framework and will continue to do so," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said in a statement. "There is no concern on liquidity of NBFCs in view of their liquid cash position and availabil-

ity of committed lines." Jaitley is due to chair an annual review meeting with the chiefs of state-run banks on Tuesday, where he is expected to seek updates on their plans to tackle bad loans.

Bear phase

The head of a mutual fund, who declined to be named due to company policies, said a number of factors from the rupee to oil are not supportive for India at the moment. "The underlying sentiment is so weak the market is not taking any assurances from anybody. It's not even taking the government at face value anymore," said the mutual fund head. "The market has entered the bear phase, and when the bears take over panic multiplies."

The RBI's attempts to stem declines in the rupee have driven much of the liquidity tightening in the market, as the bank has been selling dollars and sucking up rupees, leading to higher borrowing rates for big borrowers such as the non-banking financial companies.

In a note to clients, Morgan Stanley warned that the funding costs for NBFCs are likely to stay elevated for some time. "We expect markets to be more conservative in lending to NBFCs, which is likely to push up pricing," Morgan Stanley analyst Anil Agarwal said in the note, warning this would also mean slower growth. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.389275	0.403175
Czech Korune	0.005886	0.015186
Danish Krone	0.043643	0.048643
Euro	0.348432	0.362132
Georgian Lari	0.134511	0.134511
Hungarian 0.001006	0.001196	
Norwegian Krone	0.033145	0.038345
Romanian Leu	0.059497	0.076347
Russian ruble	0.004559	0.004559
Slovakia	0.009051	0.019051
Swedish Krona	0.030429	0.035429
Swiss Franc	0.309293	0.320293
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.212027	0.224027
New Zealand Dollar	0.195986	0.205398

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

America		
Canadian Dollar	0.228996	0.237996
US Dollars	0.299250	0.304550
US Dollars Mint	0.299750	0.304550
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002964	0.003765
Chinese Yuan	0.042779	0.046279
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036738	0.039488
Indian Rupee	0.003645	0.004417
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022
Japanese Yen	0.002608	0.002786
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069907	0.075907
Nepalese Rupee	0.002622	0.002962
Pakistan Rupee	0.001878	0.002648
Philippine Peso	0.005505	0.005805
Singapore Dollar	0.216494	0.226494
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001518	0.002086

Taiwan	0.009753	0.009933
Thai Baht	0.008997	10.009547

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.789966	0.806466
Egyptian Pound	0.014319	0.020037
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000204	0.000264
Jordanian Dinar	0.423552	0.432552
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022392	0.046392
Omani Riyal	0.781604	0.787284
Qatar Riyal	0.079033	0.083973
Saudi Riyal	0.079807	0.081107
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.105456	0.113456
Turkish Lira	0.042131	0.053631
UAE Dirhams	0.081166	0.082866
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986	0.001066

Global Finance names KFH the safest Islamic bank in GCC 2018

Recognition reiterates KFH's robust position as a leading Islamic bank

KUWAIT: Global Finance Magazine has named Kuwait Finance House (KFH) the safest Islamic bank in the GCC for the year 2018. This reiterates the robust position of KFH and reaffirms the sound procedures and prudent decisions that ensure maintaining the prestigious status of the Bank as the world leading Islamic financial institution.

KFH achieves sustainable profitability and is characterized by the growth and diversification of its activities and services, supported by the confidence of customers, the regional and global reliability and credibility, not to mention the prestigious and valuable banking brand.

KFH was selected through an evaluation of long-term credit ratings from Global rating agencies and the total assets of the 1000 largest banks worldwide.

The report issued by the Global Finance Magazine, evaluates the safest banks based on the region. This is in line with the great interest of the Islamic finance industry that is increasingly growing in the world financial markets. KFH attaches great interest in pursuing professional risk management, while paying great attention to service quality, innovation and investing in human capital development.

KFH was established as the First Islamic bank in Kuwait, and it is now the pioneer of the Islamic banking sector. KFH succeeded in developing several financial products including Sukuk and Ijara.

Global Finance, founded in 1987, has a circulation of 50,050 and readers in 189 countries. Global Finance's audience includes senior corporate and financial officers

responsible for making investment and strategic decisions at multinational companies and financial institutions. Its website offers analysis and articles that are the legacy of 31 years of experience in international financial markets. Global Finance is headquartered in New York, with offices around the world.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic

Germany, and the UAE.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of customer service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation, superior customer service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of customer service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.



KFH headquarters

بيت التمويل الكويتي
Kuwait Finance House

THE SAFEST ISLAMIC BANK

IN THE GCC

Safest Islamic Financial Institutions In The GCC 2018

RANK	BANK NAME	COUNTRY
1.	Kuwait Finance House	Kuwait
2.	Al Hilal Bank	UAE
3.	Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank	UAE

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Business

Renault Talisman: Discover the perfect blend between comfort and performance

Abdalmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co rolls out its latest offer on Renault Talisman

KUWAIT: Abdalmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait is pleased to announce its latest offer on the Renault Talisman, known for its sporty edge and flare for luxurious rides. Designed to fulfil customers drive for the perfect blend between comfort and high performance on the road, the dynamic saloon car offers a 10-year warranty and comes with a starting price of KD 4,999.

Offering well-balanced, generous volumes, the Talisman serves as the right fit for customers seeking optimal practicality, enjoyment and premium led experiences through its electronic damper control for outstanding on-road dynamics, a class-leading energy TCe 190 turbocharged direct-injection petrol engine, with 190hp on tap, fuel consumption and CO2 emissions of as low as 17 km/liter and 139 g/km respectively.

With a special focus on personal well-being, the Talisman offers a spacious cabin with perforated, quilted leather seats that contain the class's most comprehensive list of functions (air conditioning, massage

function, heating, ventilation) in the front and a boot of a capacity of 608dm3 (VDA) combined with a sleek exterior profile. Moreover, the vehicle contains an 8.7-inch touchscreen display, exclusive BOSE surround sound with 13 speakers, color head-up display, a cowl 7-inch digital instrument display, easy hands-free trunk access, smart hands-free entry system and a comprehensive range of driver aids including hands-free parking and blind spot warning.

Ensuring a customizable and intense driving experience, the Talisman guarantees a conveniently accessible Multi-sense technology and an intuitive R-link 2 tablet that offers a big-screen multimedia feel and full control of the on-board technology. Drivers can engage the car in accordance to their mood by simply choosing one of five different modes, from sport to comfort mode.

Renault Kuwait encourages its customers to visit the showroom situated in Al-Rai and avail of the opportunity to explore a world of exciting features that come with the Talisman.



ABK prices its highly successful \$300m Tier 1 perpetual bond

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P. ("ABK") yesterday priced a highly successful \$300 million bond, marking the first international capital markets issuance out of Kuwait in 2018. The instrument, issued to further boost ABK's eligible Tier-1 capital has a call date of five years.

The bond issuance is fully Basel III compliant and is also one of the few bank capital issuances in the GCC to carry an instrument rating. ABK had previously conducted meetings with international investors across Hong Kong, Singapore, UAE and the United Kingdom for its debut senior \$500 million bond issued last April 2017. It further continued this dialogue on a deal roadshow with meetings in London earlier this month.

Orderbooks opened on 19th September shortly after the Asia market open, with initial pricing thoughts of 7.375 percent. Following the strong response from investors, price guidance was revised on the same day during the London morning at 7.250 percent +/- 0.125 percent eventually printing at the headline figure.

The transaction was very well received by international investors, culminating in an orderbook twice oversubscribed



at the initial price level.

The transaction received a solid international distribution with over 71 percent being sold outside the region - 46 percent to the UK, 14 percent to Europe, 11 percent to Asia - with the final 29 percent being sold to regional investors in the MENA region.

Top quality investors participated, with 62 percent being sold to fund managers, 13 percent to private banks, 12 percent to bank treasuries, 11 percent to pension funds and insurance companies, and 2 percent to corporates. The transaction marks ABK's second consecutive foray into the international capital markets since its debut deal last year.

The bonds will be issued by Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P. (ABK) and are expected to settle on 26 September, 2018. The bonds will be listed on the Irish Stock Exchange. Citigroup, HSBC, and J.P. Morgan were the Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners for the offering.

HSBC named best cash manager for corporates in Kuwait, Mideast

KUWAIT: HSBC Kuwait was named the leading Domestic Cash Manager for Corporates in the Euromoney Cash Management Survey 2018 for the ninth consecutive year. It was also named Best in Service Cash Manager for Financial Institutions in Kuwait. For six years, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited was also ranked as the Best Cash Manager in the Middle East region.

"This is a remarkable achievement for our Global Liquidity and Cash Management team in Kuwait. Our Global Liquidity and Cash Management business is well placed to help clients effectively manage their cash, especially through our large international connectivity with a geographic footprint that covers 77 per cent of global trade," said Roger Winfield, Chief

Executive Officer in Kuwait.

Noor Adhami, Head of Global Liquidity and Cash Management, HSBC MENAT, said, "These awards are particularly significant because they are decided by our customers and the industry. I am thrilled that we have secured a clean sweep across all our GCC markets, which demonstrates the depth and breadth of HSBC's cash management franchise."

The Euromoney Cash Management Survey is a global survey of more than 25,000 cash managers, treasury professionals and financial officers.

As well as being recognized as the market leader in cash management in the Middle East, HSBC was also named the Best Global Cash Manager by Corporates and the Best Global Cash Manager by Financial Institutions.



Roger Winfield, CEO of HSBC in Kuwait

GIG continues to support The Protégés

KUWAIT: Gulf Insurance Group (gig), the leading insurance service provider in the MENA region, met with representatives of The Protégés, powered by Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO). The Protégés is a non-profit organization that creates programs for students.

The Protégés mentors discussed the experience of Generation 8 and what is yet to come for Generation 9. For eight consecutive years, gig has been supporting youth and sponsoring The Protégés. The Protégés team explained that many young people were exposed to new experiences through The Protégés program, which has helped them grow and gain stronger personalities through a diverse program of workshops, activities, travel, first-hand experience and group work.

Khalid Al-Sanousi, Group Senior Manager at gig said: "It is always a pleasure for us to support The Protégés program, as we believe that these selected group of bright young people are the future and will step up and make a difference in the world. I am proud



to see young Kuwaitis going the extra mile to learn and do what they love".

Rana AlKhalid, Co-founder and mentor The Protégés, said: "The Protégés ultimately encourages young people to invest in themselves while serving their communities in a highly intensive yet engaging

and life-changing setting. Without the generous contributions and continuous support of its sponsors, our organization would not be able to achieve its dreams for social change. The program is deeply grateful for the recognition of its efforts by its partners, contributors and facilitators."

EU palm oil ban sows bitter seeds for Southeast Asian farmers

LANGKAT/IJOK, Indonesia: Indonesian palm oil farmer Kawal Surbakti says his livelihood is under attack, but the threat is from insects or hungry orangutans eating his prized crop.

Half a world away, the European Parliament is moving to ban the use of palm oil in biofuels, while British grocer Iceland has announced it will stop using the commodity over concerns that it causes widespread environmental destruction.

Losing the key European market worries small farmers like Surbakti and millions of others in Indonesia and neighbouring Malaysia-the world's top two producers-as prices drop for an oil found in everything from biscuits and sweets to cosmetics and vehicle gas tanks. "I've suffered serious losses," the 64-year-old Surbakti said from his two-hectare (five acre) farm on Indonesia's Sumatra island. "Before, I could save up a little money but now I can't even do that."

Across the Malacca Strait in Malaysia, grower Mohamad Isa Mansor issued a dire prediction as he plucked reddish-orange fruits from his trees.

"If the EU succeeds in the ban, I'm dead," he said at his small plantation in the coastal town of Ijok. "Without this crop we will be living in poverty. It is the source of income for thousands of people (here)," he added.

'Victims of big corporations'

Europe is one of the world's biggest palm oil consumers, along with India and China.

About half of the palm oil used last year in Europe was for biofuels that ended up in gas tanks, according to environmen-



talists. Indonesia and Malaysia have threatened retaliatory sanctions on European products over the proposed palm oil ban, which calls for a complete phase-out from biofuels by 2030. The legislation is awaiting a final vote and member-state approval.

As the diplomatic row smolders, Indonesian grower Selamet Ketaren says he and other small farmers-the backbone of the industry-are pawns at the mercy of land-clearing multinational firms that buy their crops. "Smallholder farmers like us are just victims of the big corporations," said Ketaren, who has been growing palm oil since the mid-eighties.

Environmentalists accuse the multi-billion-dollar industry of destroying huge swathes of rainforest home to indigenous communities, orangutans and other threatened species. Critics say that palm oil development also contributes to climate change

through deliberate forest-clearing fires, which release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and lung-clogging smog into the region's air.

Many under-pressure firms made "no deforestation" pledges, but activists say they are tough to monitor and frequently broken in the vast jungles of Sumatra and Borneo island.

This week, Greenpeace said a group of Indonesian palm oil firms that supply major international brands including Unilever and Nestle have cleared an area of rainforest almost twice the size of Singapore in less than three years. But Malaysian farmer Mansor rejects the depiction of growers as an environmental threat.

"(The EU) says we cut down the forest. But my land is on peat soil-there was rubber growing here before," he said. "How can the EU claim that I'm killing the earth?" —AFP

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah weekly draw on Sunday announcing the names of its winners for the week from the 16th till the 20th of September 2018, in which five winners will receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

- Najat Shehab Ahmad Al-Qattan
- Hussain Ghazy Shahbaz
- Abdulwahab Abdullah Alwazan
- Njoud Khaled Abd Alnabi Behbehani
- Tareq Ali Habeeb Albuloushi

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

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

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

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

Technology & Science

Ooredoo successfully tests eSIM on its network in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY: Ooredoo Kuwait announced that it has successfully tested the eSIM and is the first to accomplish this as a telecom operator in the country. Ooredoo Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani said, "Ooredoo believes in offering and investing in the best services for the Kuwaiti society, which makes us a leading telecommunications operator."

"The eSIM technology will enable our customers to seamlessly switch between personal and business accounts, enjoy data like never before and take advantage of our voice services on our network," Al Thani added. The eSIMs are embedded SIMs that will enable Ooredoo to offer a fully digitized user experience without having to insert the normal SIM

card in the smart device. This is directly aligned with Ooredoo's digital strategy which is to empower Kuwait's society by driving digital transformation and enrich people's digital lives.

It is worth mentioning that with this advanced technology and alongside our 5G roll-out, customers will be able to switch between their pri-

vate and business numbers in a single phone without the need to physically swap sim cards. eSIM will also be crucial for the 'Internet of Things'. Without the need for a physical SIM card, many devices, such as watches and other wearables, can be connected to the mobile network, completely transforming the digital experience at home or at the office.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani

Google looking to future after 20 years of search

SAN FRANCISCO: Google celebrated its 20th birthday yesterday, marking two decades in which it has grown from simply a better way to explore the internet to a search engine so woven into daily life its name has become a verb. The company was set to mark its 20th anniversary with an event in San Francisco devoted to the future of online search, promising a few surprise announcements.

Starting the engine

Larry Page and Sergey Brin were students at Stanford University-known for its location near Silicon Valley-when they came up with a way to efficiently index and search the internet. The duo went beyond simply counting the number of times keywords were used, developing software that took into account factors such as relationships between webpages to help determine where they should rank in search results.

Google was launched in September 1998 in a garage rented in the Northern California city of Menlo Park. The name is a play on the mathematical term "googol," which refers to the number 1 followed by 100 zeros. Google reportedly ran for a while on computer servers at Stanford, where a version of the search had been tested.

And Silicon Valley legend has it that Brin and Page offered to sell the company early on for a million dollars or so, but no deal came together. Google later moved its headquarters to Mountain View, where it remains. In August 2004, Google went public on the stock market with shares priced at \$85. Shares in the multi-billion-dollar company are now trading above \$1,000. Its early code of conduct included a now-legendary "don't be evil" clause. Its stated mission is to make the world's information available to anyone. The company hit a rev-

enue mother lode with tools that target online ads based on what users reveal and let marketers pay only if people clicked on links in advertising.

Maps and more

It has now launched an array of offerings including Maps, Gmail, the Chrome internet browser, and an Android mobile device operating system that is free to smartphone or tablet makers. Google also makes premium Pixel smartphones to showcase Android, which dominates the market with handsets made by an array of manufacturers. Meanwhile, it bought the 18-month-old YouTube video sharing platform in 2006 in a deal valued at \$1.65 billion-which seemed astronomical at the time but has proven shrewd as entertainment moved online.

The company also began pumping money into an X Lab devoted to technology "moon shots" such as internet-linked glasses, self-driving cars, and using high-altitude balloons to provide internet service in remote locations. Some of those have evolved into companies, such as the Waymo self-driving car unit. But Google has also seen failures, such as much-maligned Google Glass eyewear. Elsewhere, the Google+ social network launched to compete with Facebook has seen little meaningful traction.

In October 2015, corporate restructuring saw the creation of parent company Alphabet, making subsidiaries of Google, Waymo, health sciences unit Verily and other properties. Google is also now a major player in artificial intelligence, its digital assistant infused into smart speakers and more. Its AI rivals include Amazon, Apple and Microsoft.

Privacy concerns

Despite efforts to diversify its business, Alphabet-which has over 80,000 employees worldwide-still makes most of its money from online ads. Industry tracker eMarketer forecast that Google and Facebook together will capture 57.7 percent US digital ad revenue this year. In the second quarter of 2018, Google reported profit of \$3.2 billion despite a fine of \$5.1 billion (4.34 billion euros) imposed by the European Union.

Google's rise put it in the crosshairs of regulators, especially in Europe, due to concerns it may be abusing



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo a Google logo and Android statue are seen at the Googleplex in Menlo Park, California. — AFP

its domination of online search and advertising as well as smartphone operating software.

There have been worries that Alphabet is more interested in making money from people's data than it is in safeguarding their privacy. Google has also been accused of siphoning money and readers away from mainstream news organizations by providing stories in

online search results, where it can cash in on ads. It is among the tech companies being called upon to better guard against the spread of misinformation-and has also been a target of US President Donald Trump, who added his voice to a chorus of Republicans who contend conservative viewpoints are downplayed in search results. — AFP

Drivers see red over Oslo's green 'war on cars'

OSLO: Determined to go green, Oslo is slowly but surely ridding its city centre of motorists, angering some who say the "war on cars" is putting the brakes on individual freedoms. "We have to give the city back to the people, so children can play safely, so elderly people can have more benches to sit on," argues Hanna Marcussen outside Oslo's City Hall, its cobblestone square recently blocked off to traffic.

"In order to do that, you have to get rid of cars, which take up a disproportionate amount of space," the Greens city councillor in charge of urban development says. While they may not seem spectacular, Oslo has devised a series of highly dissuasive measures: it has eliminated 700 parking spots, re-zoned the city centre, turned streets into pedestrian walkways, and has raised the price of congestion tolls.

It's not the outright ban that was initially feared-and which prompted one lawmaker to call it "a Berlin Wall against motorists". But in a 1.9-square-kilometer zone in Oslo's centre-where some 5,500 people live and 120,000 people work-the only cars to be seen are taxis, vehicles for the handicapped, emergency vehicles and a few lost and confused motorists. "In 2020, we will have eliminated most private cars," says Hanna Marcussen.

Sidewalk cafes can already be seen popping up, as well as outdoor furniture, bike paths and bike stands. Designated "European Green Capital" by the European Commission for 2019, Oslo hopes the move will purify its air, encourage more cultural activities and reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which it aims to cut by 95 percent by 2030.

Oslo is spearheading a broader trend, with other big cities like Paris, Madrid, Brussels and Helsinki all trying to reverse from the car-based society. "What is most tragic about this war on cars is that politicians are attacking people's freedoms and their wallets," protests Jarle Aabo. A public relations executive, he writes the newsletter "Yes to Cars in Oslo", which counts almost 23,000 members on Facebook-where comments are at times harsh.

"What people fear is that the centre of Oslo will die, that it will become a very depressing place," he says, contradicting the official line. "I don't know how all this is going to end but I don't think happy cyclists are going to come do street performances and dances in January when it's -20°C (-4°F) with snow up to their knees."

And yet, cyclists are thrilled. "It's going to be great," says Christopher Olsson, a photographer who usually bikes around town. "There are a lot of conflicts between motorists and cyclists." "But if we totally eliminate cars, we need to improve public transport, both in terms of price and quality," he adds. And that's a big problem. With a single ticket costing almost six euros (\$7), public transport remains expensive. Users also complain about delays and problems, made worse when they have to wait in subzero temperatures in winter.

While more than half of residents are in favor of a city centre "with as few cars as possible", some shopkeepers are not happy. A stone's throw from City Hall, a bed store located inside a "no-car" zone since June 1 is glaringly empty. "Our clients complain that they can't come," owner Terje Cosma explains. "We sell merchandise that you can't walk out with under your arm, so a lot of them are dependent on cars." —AFP

The artist as an Algorithm: Robot-made Rembrandt for sale

PARIS: Robots can do many of the jobs previously performed by humans, but could they ever replace artists? A team of French entrepreneurs who believe so have written a computer algorithm that can create original paintings with some resemblance to works by Old Masters such as Rembrandt. The pictures of an imagined "Baron of Belamy" and his aristocratic relations have a smudgy, blurred finish that would not have impressed Rembrandt's clients, but are good enough for the auction house Christie's to put one of them on sale in New York in October with a price estimate of \$7,000 to \$10,000.

"We are artists with a different type of paintbrush. Our paintbrush is an algorithm developed on a computer," said Hugo Caselles-Dupre, a computer engineer who founded the group with childhood friends Gauthier Vernier and Pierre Fautrel, who both have a business background. The artworks are created by the Generative Adversarial Network (GAN), an algorithm that learns to generate new images by being fed a database of existing paintings - 15,000 portraits in the case of the "Belamy" pictures.

"The visual is not the only thing that comprises the final portrait," said Fautrel. "All of the message, and the artistic process to get to the visual, are



PARIS: Pierre Fautrel, of the team of French entrepreneurs called Obvious, poses in front of the artwork 'La Comtesse de Belamy' (2018), created by the Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) during an interview with Reuters in Paris. — Reuters

also important, even more than the final product," he said, admitting that GAN's pictures-printed onto canvas and then framed-are fuzzy. "The fact that it's not yet perfect, I think is logical because it's a technology that is still very new, and to have very good results, we need significant calculating power, that for now we don't have in this small apartment."

The trio sold "The Count of Belamy" for around \$10,000 to Paris-based collector Nicolas Laugero-Lasserre. "What was astonishing was that they knew nothing about art, nothing at all," Laugero-Lasserre said. "In the begin-

ning, I took them for crazy people. And finally, are they crazy, are they genius? We'll see." Some artists are unconvinced that a machine can make real art.

"If there was no anger from Picasso, 'Guernica' would never have existed. If Modigliani were not in love with his models, his nudes would be dull and uninteresting," said painter Robert Prestigiacomo. "There's always a feeling behind a painting, always - whether it's anger, yearning, desire. And artificial intelligence is - well, you have the word 'artificial' in it - there you have it!" — Reuters

habitat and fight against poaching," Man Bahadur Khadka, director general of Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, told AFP.

Deforestation, encroachment of habitat and poaching have devastated big cat numbers across Asia, but in 2010 Nepal and 12 other countries signed a pledge to double their tiger numbers by 2022. The 2010 Tiger Conservation Plan-which is backed by high profile figures including actor Leonardo DiCaprio-quickly began bearing fruit, and in 2016 the World Wildlife Fund and the Global Tiger Forum announced that the wild tiger population had increased for the first time in more than a century.

In 1900, more than 100,000 tigers roamed the world but that fell to an all-time low of 3,200 in 2010. DiCaprio tweeted his support for Nepal's success: "I am proud of @dicaprio's partnership with @World_Wildlife to support Nepal and local communities in doubling the population of wild tigers." Ghana Gurung, country representative of WWF in Nepal, said the country's progress was an example for tiger conservation globally. "The challenge now is to continue these efforts to protect their habitats and numbers for the long-term survival of the tigers," he said. — AFP

Microsoft, Amazon, Google join fight to prevent famine

WASHINGTON: Tech giants Microsoft, Amazon and Google are joining forces with international organizations to help identify and head off famines in developing nations using data analysis and artificial intelligence, a new initiative unveiled Sunday. Rather than waiting to respond to a famine after many lives already have been lost, the tech firms "will use the predictive power of data to trigger funding" to take action before it becomes a crisis, the World Bank and United Nations announced in a joint statement.

"The fact that millions of people-many of them children-still suffer from severe malnutrition and famine in the 21st century is a global tragedy," World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said in a statement. "We are forming an unprecedented global coalition to say, 'no more.'" Last year more than 20 million people faced famine conditions in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, while 124 million people currently live in crisis levels of food insecurity, requiring urgent humanitarian assistance for their survival, the agencies said. Over half of them live in areas affected by conflict.

The Famine Action Mechanism (FAM) will provide early warning signs to identify food crises that could become famines, and trigger pre-arranged funding plans to allow early intervention. "If we can better predict when and where future famines will occur, we can save lives by responding earlier and more effectively," Microsoft President Brad Smith said in a statement.

Google, Microsoft and Amazon Web Services and other technology firms are providing expertise to develop a suite of analytical models called "Artemis" that uses AI and machine learning to estimate and forecast worsening food security crises in real-time. These forecasts will help guide and promote decision makers to respond earlier.

"Artificial intelligence and machine learning hold huge promise for forecasting and detecting early signs of food shortages, like crop failures, droughts, natural disasters, and conflicts," Smith said. The FAM will initially be rolled out in a small group of vulnerable countries building up to ultimately provide global coverage.

On October 13, leaders dedicated to this initiative will gather as part of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Bali, Indonesia to discuss further implementation. —AFP

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What's On



Beirut hosts 12 countries in Red Bull Car Park Drift' World Finals

More than 10 thousand people gathered on September 23, 2018 in the parking lot adjacent to Beirut's Martyrs' Square. Spectators from all over middle east and gulf had the chance to witness first-hand Lebanon's Oliver El Kik clinch the first position in the Red Bull Car Park Drift Finals and accede to the throne of drift in the region. Lebanon's Kifah Hlal ranked second while the third position went to Egypt's Hisham Al Khateeb. Trophies were awarded by the Lebanese Minister of Tourism Avedis Guidanian.

Red Bull Car Park Drift was back in Beirut on Sunday afternoon, 11 years after its birth in 2008 in Lebanon. The 2018 edition was more international with drivers from 12 nations including the host country Lebanon. El Kik claimed the title of the World Finals with an outstanding performance throughout the three stages of the competition. El Kik earned the lead in the car drift playoffs with his adrenaline-pumping drift spectacle setting the crowd ablaze. El Kik obviously impressed the judges earning him 374 points. Hlal also showed good performance finishing second with 374 points, ahead of Al Khateeb's 438 points.

The World Finals in Beirut was in partnership with Total, Falken Tires and Honor by Go Mobile in addition to Solidere, Beirut Municipality and Noise. Media partnership with LBCI, Sawt El Ghad, and NRJ Radio. A total of 17 drivers participated in the event with 4 wild cards and 12 drifters namely from: Lebanon, Oman, the UAE, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, Morocco, Jordan, Mauritius, Turkey, Tunisia and Algeria. All drivers competed in Heat 1 with 8 qualifying to Heat 2 and 4 to the playoffs.



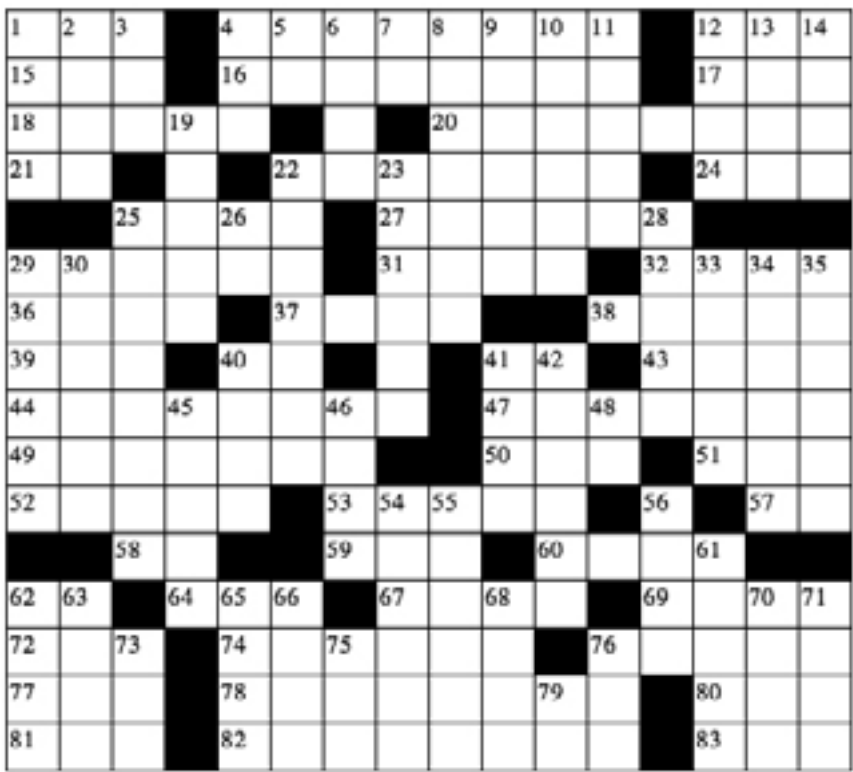
IWG member Nargis Al-Shatti holds farewell luncheon

International Women's Group (IWG) member Nargis Al-Shatti held a luncheon in honor of the wives of ambassadors and friends who will be leaving Kuwait at the end of their mission, with good memories of the State of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti society. She also welcomed some of the wives of the new Ambassadors in the presence of Sheikhha Intesar Al-Sabah and a group of wives and ambassadors wishing

them pleasurable time establishing relationships with Kuwaiti society. The Ambassadors' wives thanked Al-Shatti for her work and great efforts in activating their role by introducing their country and highlighting their activities, which resulted in building friendships between the women's society in Kuwait through her membership in the International Women's Group (IWG).



CROSSWORD 2017



ACROSS

- 1. A woolen cap of Scottish origin.
- 4. Small or narrow cell.
- 12. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
- 15. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 16. A place where eggs are hatched under artificial conditions (especially fish eggs).
- 17. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
- 18. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
- 20. Successfully completed or brought to an end.
- 21. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- 24. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
- 27. Great coolness and composure under strain.
- 29. A slight convexity (as of the surface of a road).
- 31. A related position or degree of value in a graded group.
- 32. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 36. The highest level or degree attainable.
- 37. Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
- 38. A cigar made with light-colored tobacco.
- 39. A Nilotic language.
- 43. Used of the language of the deaf.
- 44. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 47. A group of islands off the west coast of Sicily in the Mediterranean.
- 49. Unarmed feather palms of central and northern South America.
- 50. Support resembling the rib of an animal.
- 51. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- 52. 'Cease' is a noun only in the phrase 'without cease' End v l.
- 53. Having two feet.
- 57. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
- 58. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- 59. The sign language used in the United States.
- 60. By bad luck.
- 62. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 64. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- 67. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
- 69. An anxiety disorder associated with serious traumatic events and characterized by such symptoms as guilt about surviving or reliving the trauma in dreams or numbness and lack of involvement with reality or recurrent thoughts and images.
- 72. An accidental happening.
- 74. Any of various orchids of the genus Bletia having pseudo-bulbs and erect leafless racemes of large purple or pink flowers.
- 77. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- 78. Moths whose larvae are cutworms.
- 80. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.

81. The cry made by sheep.

- 82. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- 83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- 1. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- 2. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- 3. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
- 4. 3 to 30 gigahertz.
- 5. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
- 6. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- 7. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- 8. Any of various small to minute sucking insects with narrow feathery wings if any.
- 9. Jutting or overhanging.
- 10. A person who delivers a speech or oration.
- 11. The woody part of plants.
- 12. Derive or receive pleasure from.
- 13. On or toward the lee.
- 14. An informal term for a father.
- 19. The clay from which adobe bricks are made.
- 22. A university town in southeast Wyoming.
- 23. Youngest daughter of the prophet Mohammed and wife of the fourth calif Ali.
- 25. Not subject to death.
- 26. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur.
- 28. Strong lightweight wood of the balsa tree used especially for floats.
- 30. Ending in a sharp point.
- 33. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
- 34. Lustrous gray.
- 35. A dwarfed ornamental tree or shrub grown in a tray or shallow pot.
- 40. (British) An open river valley (in a hilly area).
- 41. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 42. A family of fish in the order Zeomorphi.
- 45. Of or in or relating to the nose.
- 46. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 48. A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
- 54. (Babylonian and Assyrian) Goddess of love and fertility and war.
- 55. Flesh of large European flatfish.
- 56. The 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- 61. An ancient upright stone slab bearing markings.
- 63. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 65. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- 66. A sudden very loud noise.
- 68. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- 70. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 71. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 73. Seed of a pea plant.
- 75. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 76. The bill in a restaurant.
- 79. Being one more than fifty.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may encounter an unusual amount of stress today. Counter it by taking time for yourself to do what you enjoy most. Paint, write, or escape with a good book. Yoga or meditation may even be something you should consider making a part of your daily routine. Be careful not to shut yourself off from those who care about you. Their support is important. Do not try to conquer every problem on your own.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Reach for the stars. You feel as though you are invincible. Today that may be true. If it can go your way, it does. What a wonderful feeling! You are full of optimism and faith. Your self-confidence is at an all-time high. You may desire to make a change in your living situation. Leave this decision for a later date when your head comes down from the clouds. Taurus. Focus only on the things you can change and let go of the little things.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your dreamy and other-worldly qualities do not seem to sit well with others. You are definitely marching to the beat of your own drum. You may find you are challenged by someone close to you who sees you as impractical and not down-to-earth. You may be caught between the devil and deep blue sea. You yearn to broaden your horizons. You know there is a big world out there. You want to see there is to see and experience all there is to experience. Surrounding yourself with friends from different religions, cultures, and races may be a wonderful start to this spiritual search you are on. This is a wonderful experience for you. Keep an open mind during time spent with others who see things differently from you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Close relationships are where your focus is placed now. As independent as you seem to appear, you need to feel the love and support of those closest to you. This alone makes your life feel complete. You are beginning to truly feel needed and cared for. You may feel as if a fresh start is what you need. You are beginning to develop new habit patterns. Out with the old and in with the new. Make sure new habits are good ones. These will set the tone for years to come. The new you is the best you.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Dream on dreamer. You may find that in times of emotional overload your mind will lead itself into a dreamy state. This is an automatic defense mechanism that you seem to have no control over. Just as pain makes you aware of when you are pushing your body too hard, your mind has a tendency to just check out, when you overload it. Too much of anything can be a bad thing and stress is a bad thing. This is not a good time to make any decisions for you, Leo. Spend your energy on finding an outlet of expression. Find the best method of relaxation for you and do it! You have pushed yourself too far and too hard and now is the time to rest.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may not get much praise for the work you are doing. The reasons are more about other people than about you. Don't be discouraged. The important thing is that you will do the work and learn from it. It will not be wasted. The things you learn will serve you in good stead in the future. Be sure your hard work and dedication will pay off.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Others may be amazed when you turn your creative ideas into reality. Your mind is in overdrive and your creativity is off of the charts. You have a million great ideas running through your head. Today finds you able to turn them into reality. You are gifted and talented in many ways. When your mind takes over you may find it hard to relax. This would be a good evening for escape. Grab a book, light some candles, or curl up on the couch and watch a movie. It will take a while to wind down this evening after this productive day.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be truly enjoying the position in life you find yourself now. You have successfully turned many stumbling blocks into stepping stones. It seems you are deep in reflection and past experiences are helping you deal with your present circumstances. You may realize there is someone in your life you need to forgive in order to be able to move forward. You're experiencing a more sensitive side and putting more thought into seeing things from other people's point of view. This helps you understand those close to you better and helps dissolve boundaries that have been standing in your way. This helps bring more peace into your life and harmony into your world.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Frustration seems to be your middle name. It seems as if you are met with a new obstacle at every turn. You are unable to find comfort at home or work. Poor decisions seem to be the only decisions you are able to make today. It may be one of those days you feel like crawling back in bed and starting all over again. Tensions are high. This would be a great time to step away from everything and get a breath of fresh air. Clear your mind and find a soothing way to relax this evening. Tomorrow is a new day. Face it with a positive attitude and look at it as a new beginning.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You dreamy and other-worldly qualities do not seem to sit well with others. You are definitely marching to the beat of your own drum. You may find you are challenged by someone close to you who sees you as impractical and not down-to-earth. You may be caught between the devil and deep blue sea. You yearn to broaden your horizons. You know there is a big world out there. You want to see there is to see and experience all there is to experience. Surrounding yourself with friends from different religions, cultures, and races may be a wonderful start to this spiritual search you are on. This is a wonderful experience for you. Keep an open mind during time spent with others who see things differently from you.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Lovers, children and other people and things you hold dear are where your focus turns today. You have a deep desire to be appreciated for your gifts and talents. You are a giving and loving person and do not always feel as if those you care for truly appreciate what you do. This is a time you may find taking a risk can bring a great reward your way. Take the chance on this one. You really have nothing to lose.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find your progress being slowed or blocked by one individual. You are fighting to get ahead and be successful and do not have time nor space for this person. This distraction may make you feel as if you are spinning your wheels and no matter how determined you are that you are making no progress. Push on, Pisces. You are too dedicated to your goals to let anyone stand in your way. You may feel a strong desire to take care of someone close to you. In turn you may receive the support from the you need to help you succeed.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Mystery Christmas Carol #2

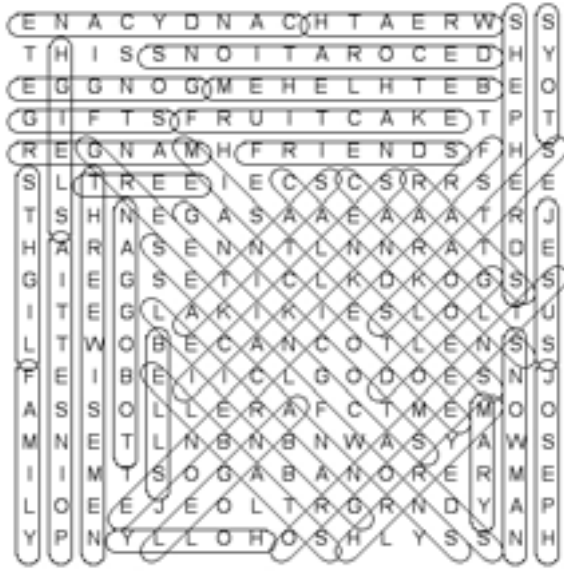
The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. What is it? Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid. The remaining letters will spell the name of the Christmas Carol.



- ALL AND ASK ASLEEP AWAY BABY BED BLESS BRIGHT BUT CARE
- CATTLE CHILDREN CLOSE CRIB CRYING DEAR DOWN FOREVER FROM HAY HEAD
- HEAVEN HIS JESUS LAID LAY LITTLE LIVE LOOK LOOKED LORD LOVE
- LOWING MAKES MANGER MORNING NEAR NIGH POOR PRAY PRAYED SIDE SKY STARS
- STAY SWEET TAKE TENDER THREE THERE THY WAKES WHERE WITH

Yesterday's Solution

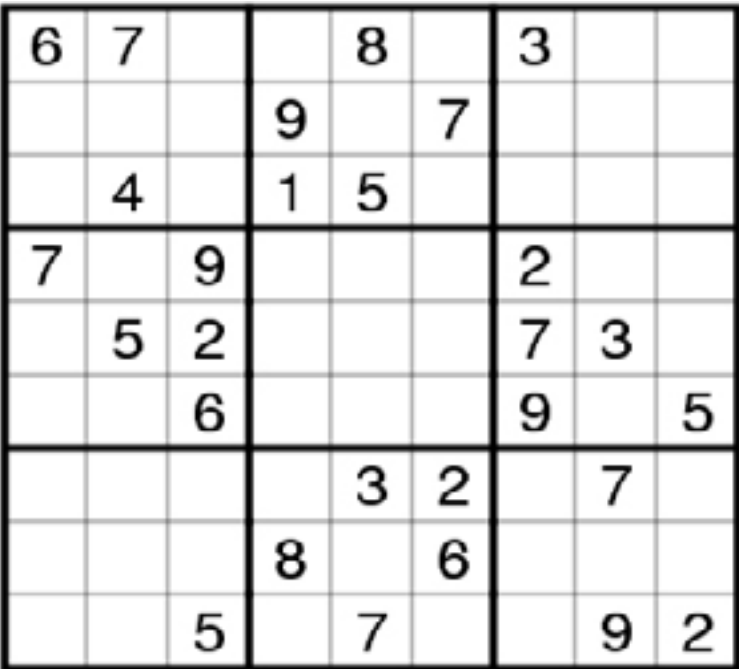
Christmas



- ANGEL BELLS BETHLEHEM CANDLES CANDY CANE CAROLS DECORATIONS EGGNOG FAMILY FRANKINCENSE FRIENDS
- FRUITCAKE GABRIEL GIFTS GOLD GREETING CARDS HOLLY ICICLES JESUS JOSEPH LIGHTS
- MANGER MARY MISTLETOE MYRRH ORNAMENTS POINSETTIA SANTA SHEPHERDS SKATES SLEIGH
- SNOWFLAKES SNOWMAN STABLE STAR STOCKING THREE WISE MEN TOBOGGAN TOYS TREE WREATH

The hidden sentence is: TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018



Customers buy Christmas decorations from a street stall in Manila. The Philippines, the bastion of Christianity in Asia, is more than 70 percent Catholic celebrates the world's longest Christmas season. — AFP

Canada's Cirque du Soleil dazzles Riyadh after diplomatic row

Canada-based Cirque du Soleil staged their first show in Saudi Arabia on Sunday with a dazzling display of high-wire thrills, despite a diplomatic spat between Ottawa and Riyadh. The acrobatic troupe performed in Riyadh to mark the Saudi national day, more than a month after the kingdom expelled Canada's ambassador and froze all new trade following Ottawa's vigorous calls for the release of activists jailed in the Gulf state.



Costumed performers slithered up ropes, swaying, twisting and doing mid-air acrobatics at a packed King Fahd sports stadium, with Cirque du Soleil saying the show was one of its biggest one-off productions ever. More than 80 artists took the stage, with 250 costumes tailor made to conform to local traditions in the conserva-

tive desert kingdom, it said. The announcement of the show was first made in Los Angeles in April during Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's multi-city visit to the United States. But diplomatic tensions had cast doubt over the show.

Canada has refused to give ground in the dispute, which erupted in August, vowing to always stand up for human rights globally, even as diplomats say high-level negotiations are ongoing between the two countries to resolve differences. A furious Riyadh ordered Saudi students to pull out from Canadian universities, though more than 1,000 medical students have been granted an extension in a partial rollback. The diplomatic rupture reflects Prince Mohammed's increasingly assertive foreign policy and it coincides with his growing clampdown on domestic critics.

National day was celebrated across the kingdom on Sunday with a raucous display of concerts and folk dance. Some 990,000 fireworks were planned across 20 cities, including Riyadh, the information ministry said. Iconic buildings in Riyadh were bathed in green light and stereos blared patriotic songs as revelers raced through the streets in cars bedecked with the national flag. The ultra-conservative kingdom has cautiously begun introducing entertainment, including music concerts, despite the risk of riling sidelined hardliners.

It is part of Prince Mohammed's far-reaching liberalization drive that has ended decades-long bans on cinemas and women drivers and allowed women and men to attend some concerts together. In February, Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority (GEA) announced it will stage more than 5,000 festivals and concerts in 2018, double the number of last year, and pump \$64 billion in the sector in the coming decade. — AFP



Members of the Canadian circus troop Le Cirque du Soleil perform a show as a part of celebrations of the 88th Saudi National Day at the King Fahad stadium in Riyadh. — AFP photos



Italian actress and model Monica Bellucci.



Czech model Eva Herzigova.



Italian model Carla Bruni Sarkozy.

Plus-sized models and 1990s 'supers' walk for Dolce & Gabbana in Milan

Plus-sized models led by Ashley Graham joined 1990s-era supermodels and celebrities on Dolce & Gabbana's catwalk on Sunday as the Italian fashion house presented its opulent "DNA" spring-summer collection. VIPs also studied the audience at one of the last shows of Milan's fashion week, with singers Stevie Wonder, Cardi B and Liam Payne surrounded by young influencers in the front row. Church bells rang as a solemn procession of women dressed in black and veiled, carrying candles, opened the show. The curtain rose to reveal a cast including models Eva Herzigova and Helena Christensen and actresses Monica Bellucci and Isabella Rossellini.

Herzigova wore a black ruffled dress with a train resembling those worn by flamenco dancers. Bellucci strutted in a black and white off-the-shoulder polka-dot dress with metallic sandals. Rossellini walked down the pink runway with her family. Italian opera and traditional music, sung by late tenor Luciano Pavarotti, was the soundtrack to the show. For the first time in years plus-sized models walked a major show in the Italian fashion capital, with Ashley Graham dressed in a figure-hugging animal print dress leading them.

English supermodel Karen Elson closed the show wearing a wide dress that seemed to be made of flower-patterned and metallic papier mache. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana incorporated elements seen in many previous collections, with tassels, embroidery, lace, flowers, Sicilian prints, religious iconography, roses, cartoons and more combined in a blaze of color and creativity. Models wore elaborate headpieces, stiletto heels or sneakers, fishnet stockings and tight black dresses. Spring flowers featured as hair accessories and as prints and embellishment on long ruffled dresses. One girl wore a flower crown and a layered skirt with straw tassels, while another was wrapped in jute with flowers in her hair. — Reuters



Italian actress Isabella Rossellini (center) and her daughter Elettra Rossellini Wiedemann (left).



Danish model Helena Christensen.



South African villagers tap into trend for ‘superfood’ baobab

From before dawn, 54-year-old grandmother Annah Muvhali weaves between baobab trees that loom over her rural South African home, collecting fruit that enthusiasts worldwide hail as a “superfood”. About 1,000 women in the village of Muswodi Dipeni, in the northern province of Limpopo, earn a living by harvesting the furry, hard-shelled baobab fruit pods. The seeds and chalky powder inside the pods



Baobab fruits harvester Aaron Muchengeni (58) poses in front of a baobab tree.



Baobab fruits harvester Elisah Paswana, 58, poses under a baobab tree in the village of Muswodi Dipeni in the Limpopo Province, near Mutale.

have become a global health craze celebrated for their vitamin-packed properties and now used in everything from flavored soda, ice cream and chocolate to gin and cosmetics.

“Before, I never knew there was any value in baobab. My family and I would eat the fruit simply because it makes a delicious yoghurt-like porridge that is nutritious and filling,” Muvhali told AFP. “I always use it for my grandchildren when their stomachs are troublesome.” Known locally as “baobab guardians”, women like Muvhali also plant and nurture baobab saplings in their gardens and earn an income for each centimeter that the trees grow. Having started in 2006, the grandmother of five has since been able to build a house for her two children and grandchildren from her earnings. Elisa Phaswana, 59, has been nurturing a single one-meter-high sapling-protected from goats by a makeshift fence-for the past two years. She said the baobab guardian program had alleviated poverty in the community. “It helps the environment and it helps us especially because there is little to no work for us and our children in our village.” “I get about R320 (\$21) per centimeter.”

Soaring demand

Sarah Venter, an ecologist who runs the Ecoproducts company behind the baobab cultivation, said the scheme



Baobab fruit harvesters Annah Muvhali, 55, (left) Cristina Ndou, 58, (center) and Elisah Paswana, 58, (right) walk in front of an open field where they harvest baobab fruits.



Baobab fruits harvesters Annah Muvhali, 55, (left) and Cristina Ndou hold baobab fruits they harvested in the village of Muswodi Dipeni in the Limpopo Province, near Mutale. — AFP photos

rewarded women for their skills and care. “They get paid a certain amount until the tree reaches three meters high and after that it will live for 1,000 years. “It has a value chain where everybody benefits, including a rural person picking up something that’s already in their environment and getting an income for it,” Venter said. “If we are lucky enough as an industry to get to a point where demand exceeds supply, prices will go up and rural producers will get more for what they collect.” Venter said demand for baobab powder has zoomed every year since 2013, with Europe, the United States, and Canada now the biggest consumer markets. Estimates by the African Baobab Alliance show that baobab powder exports grew to 450 tons in 2017.

Baobab Foods, a leading distributor and supplier, has seen an exploding growth in demand for baobab products in recent years. “In 2018 we have more than doubled our annual imports of baobab fruit powder into the United States alone,” it said in a statement. The tree can take up to 200 years to bear fruit, but watering them every day can see that time reduced to 30 years. A tree then produces fruit annually for nearly 200 years.

Traditional healing

Historically credited with mythical and spiritual powers in African folklore, the baobab is known as the “upside down tree”, as its branches look like roots. Fruit like goji and acai berries, pomegranate, cantaloupe and now baobab fruit are described as superfoods by some nutritionists because of their high levels of antioxidants, fibre, vitamins and minerals. “Baobab is one of the highest vitamin C containing fruits. There’s natural antioxidants, some vitamin E and various plant compounds which have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant uses,” Jean Francois Sobiecki, nutritionist and ethnobotanist at the University of Johannesburg, told AFP. “It has got a really good combination of natural vitamins, antioxidants, protein and also healing substances which all together makes it an incredible superfood.” — AFP

Exiled Syrian artist draws torture to ‘continue the revolution’

The characters drawn in black-and-white ball-pen by Najah Al-Bukai look broken, left in pain and despair by the torture the exiled Syrian artist says he went through and witnessed when imprisoned twice in government jails. One drawing shows a group of half-naked men being beaten up. Another depicts a man bent double, lying on his back with his feet over his head, tied up between two heavy wooden boards. “We were around 190 to 220 persons in this room which was 16 meters long and 3 meters wide. This is where the questioning sessions took place, where the torturers were using different techniques,” said Bukai, who now lives in France.

“But the worst was unloading corpses. Once we had to unload three corpses while another (day) we could have to unload 13. They were prisoners who died under torture during questioning or of diseases because of deplorable hygienic conditions.” Syrian government officials have denied past accusations of systematic torture during the country’s seven-year-long war and also denied accusations that authorities have carried out mass executions in jails.

But after years of government silence about the fate of tens of thousands of people that rights groups say have been forcibly disappeared in the conflict, authorities have begun quietly updating registers to acknowledge hundreds of their deaths. “I feel like it is my duty to continue the revolution,” Bukai said in his home in a Paris suburb he would not name for safety reasons. “If I stop drawing on this topic, it means I have given up and I have said to (Syrian President) Bashar Al-Assad: ‘Yes, you won your war against us.’”

Bukai said he was first imprisoned for 11 months in 2011, in camp number 227 near the Syrian capital Damascus. He was arrested after he helped organize a protest against Assad. In 2014, he was arrested again at the Syrian-Lebanese border as he tried to leave the country after two years of hiding at his in-laws’ house. Bukai returned to France, where he first lived as an art student in the early 1990s. 2-1/2 years ago with his wife, Abir, and their 16-year-old daughter. Art is a therapy for him. Haunted by his experiences, he has not been able to draw any other subject for years. “Each time I try to change topic and find another path into my drawing, an exit, a window, I finally come back to the same,” he said. — Reuters



Exiled Syrian artist Najah Al-Bukai poses with a ball-pen drawing that stems from the haunting memories of the torture Bukai says he went through and witnessed when imprisoned twice in Syrian government jails. — Reuters

Spray-can satire creates headache for Thai junta

Thailand’s junta chief caricatured as a “lucky cat” with a paw raised to rake in money, or his face crossed out by a thick, red line-daring graffiti is cropping up across Bangkok as the city’s walls become a canvas for rare political scorn. The pioneer of the new wave of street artists is “Headache Stencil”, whose spray cans satirize the powerful in a country where free expression has been muted since a 2014 coup.

Dubbed Thailand’s “Banksy”, Headache-whose nickname alludes to the pain he hopes to inflict on the mighty-catapulted to fame in January with a piece skewering junta number two Prawit Wongsuwan, who was struggling to explain his collection of undeclared luxury watches. The stencil art showing Prawit’s face inside an alarm clock was a jab at the lack of financial transparency by generals who seized power claiming that only they could save the country from untrammelled graft.

It was a bold move in a tightly-controlled country where simply reading George Orwell’s “1984” novel in public is deemed defiant and whose well-connected elite are quick to file criminal defamation charges. Speaking at his Bangkok studio, Headache is unrepentant. “The root of street art is that people have no rights, no voice,” he told AFP, his face masked as much for a dramatic flourish as protection from authorities. “The aim is to spread the words we want to say but cannot. So we paint them for those who walk by... for officials or the general public to understand.”

After the clock image went viral, police attempted to monitor the artist and city officials hit the streets to paint over subversive graffiti. Prawit insists the watches were borrowed from friends, but nine months later Thailand’s anti-graft body has yet to finish its investigation into the issue. Headache again stole the spotlight in March-this time with graffiti showing a black panther crying tears of blood.

It was a reference to the case of a Thai construction magnate who was later charged with poaching one of the protected cats during an illegal safari hunt in a national park. Once again, the artwork was a hit online, cheered for its brazen lampooning of another wealthy target.

‘Can’t paint over social media’

Much like “Banksy”, the British graffiti artist turned multi-millionaire art auction darling, Headache’s carefully maintained mystique adds to the allure of his work. And it has caught the imagination of a country where an increasing number of people are looking to art to dissect the anti-junta angst that lurks below the surface. “Street art has a fast life... you can cover it with paint but once it is on social media, it stays,” said Apinan Poshyananda, artistic director of the Bangkok Art Biennale which debuts next month and will feature other street artists.

Headache now holds workshops across the country including in the northeastern provinces, the political heartland of the toppled civilian government. Meanwhile a mushrooming number of galleries and studios are hosting dance and art performances addressing the kingdom’s toxic political culture and complex social issues in subtle ways that dodge censure. Among the Thai artists is Kawita Vatanajyankur, 31, whose video installations allude to the notoriously poor working conditions in Thailand’s factories and fishing industry. “It’s such a major issue and it’s something that we need to fix”, she told AFP. Kawita is part of a wider artistic awakening in

Thailand, whose highly-skilled painters, sculptors and performers traditionally took inspiration from the conservative establishment, but who are now confronting different themes.

The launch of the Biennale will display work by headline names such as Marina Abramovic and the late Jean-Michel Basquiat, bolstering Bangkok’s claim to being the art capital of Southeast Asia. Meanwhile the political winds are slowly changing. Last week, Thailand’s junta partially lifted a ban on politics, with a long-delayed election next year promising to pit army-aligned and civilian politicians against each other.

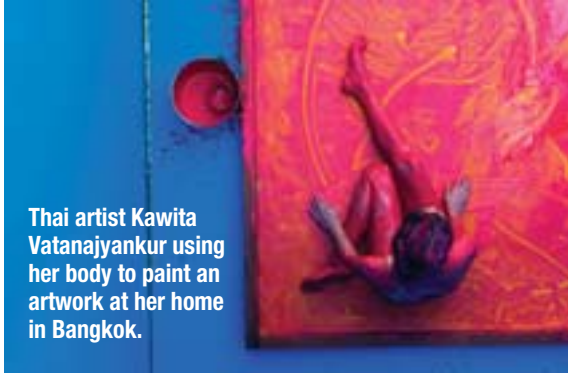
That collision of values could provide ample material for street artist rebels like Headache. His latest work tackles the impact of military spending-which has risen each year since the coup-on Thai society. It depicts a soldier on the heavy end of a see-saw, a young school-girl suspended in the air at the other. “We put more budget towards weapons than brains,” he says. — AFP



This picture shows Thai artist who goes by the name of “Headache Stencil” spray-painting a graffiti on a fence in Bangkok. — AFP photos



Thai artist who goes by the name of “Headache Stencil” working in his studio in Bangkok.



Thai artist Kawita Vatanajyankur using her body to paint an artwork at her home in Bangkok.

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Tuesday, September 25, 2018



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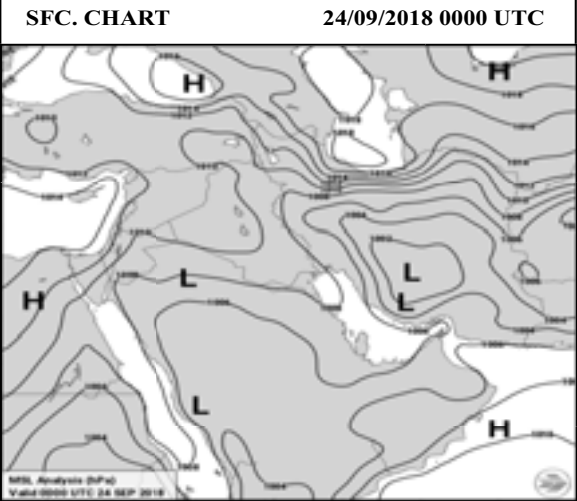
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 10 - 35 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 32 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	<div>SFC. CHART24/09/2018 0000 UTC</div>	
KUWAIT CITY	44 °C	34 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	30 °C		
ABDALY	44 °C	29 °C		
BUBYAN	----- °C	----- °C		
JAHRA	45 °C	32 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	43 °C	30 °C		
SALMIYAH	39 °C	33 °C		
AHMADI	39 °C	34 °C		
NUWAISIB	42 °C	29 °C		
WAFRA	45 °C	27 °C		
SALMY	44 °C	28 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	09/25	Hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	44 °C	28 °C	NW	15 - 42 km/h
Wednesday	09/26	Hot	44 °C	27 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 28 km/h
Thursday	09/27	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	44 °C	26 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Friday	09/28	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	45 °C	27 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:18
Sunrise	05:38
Zuhr	11:40
Asr	15:07
Sunset	17:43
Isha	19:00

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	28 °C
MAX. RH	29 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	SW 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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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
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Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
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Auto Electrician Heavy Equipment

- * Must have minimum three years' experience in heavy machinery
- * Knowledge of trouble Shooting heavy equipment on board electric and remote monitoring system.
- * Extensive heavy mobile equipment
- * Preferably have a Kuwait Driving License
- * Fluent in English - Arabic is a plus

Hydraulic Mechanic

- * Must have minimum three years' experience in this field
- * Fluent in English - Arabic is a plus
- * Preferably have a Kuwait Driving License

Secretary in Maintenance Dept. (heavy Equipment)

- * Must have minimum three years' experience in this field
- * Very good knowledge of spoken and written English is a must
- * Fluent in Arabic - is a plus
- * Skills: MS Office, emails, preparation of reports, Manage Warranties of Equipments's

Workshop Manager (Vehicle & Heavy Equipment)

- * Diploma or Degree (Mechanical)
- * Minimum five years' experience in managing/supervising workshop for Vehicle & Heavy Equipment.
- * Fluent in English - Arabic is a plus
- * Preferably have a Kuwait Driving License
- * Must have experience in vehicle/heavy equipment leasing and annual contracts.

Interested candidates please submit updated CV to:
eqphrd@gmail.com

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



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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 25/9/2018							Departure Flights on Tuesday 25/9/2018								
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSC	412	Asyut	13:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	AZQ	4566	Baku	00:05	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
KAC	102	London	00:50	KNE	1078	Doha	14:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	GFA	233	Riyadh	14:10	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	516	Tehran	14:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	KAC	618	Doha	14:20	JZR	528	Asyut	01:05	FEG	342	Sohag	14:50
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:25	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45	KNE	234	Riyadh	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	15:20	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	ABY	127	Muscat	15:20	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC	502	Sharjah	15:35	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	UAE	857	Beirut	15:35	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KAC	118	Dubai	15:45	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	JZR	535	New York	16:00	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	QTR	8511	Cairo	16:10	JZR	142	Doha	03:45	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05	OMA	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	FDB	051	Doha	16:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KAC	646	Muscat	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	FEG	241	Dubai	16:20	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:45	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JZR	125	Alexandria	16:50	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	KAC	542	Bahrain	16:55	JZR	540	Cairo	04:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	SVA	510	Cairo	17:00	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	GFA	215	Riyadh	17:15	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00	QTR	8512	Doha	17:45
KAC	152	Istanbul	04:20	JZR	145	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JZR	777	Doha	17:35	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JZR	177	Jeddah	17:40	FDB	070	Dubai	05:35	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	QTR	1080	Dubai	17:40	KAC	307	Istanbul	06:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	483	Doha	18:10	THY	771	Cairo	06:30	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	620	Istanbul	18:20	JZR	1542	Cairo	06:40	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	MSR	640	Cairo	18:30	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	RJA	640	Amman	19:00	RJA	643	Amman	07:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	KAC	167	Paris	07:30	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	744	Dammam	19:10	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
RUN	6376	Istanbul	06:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:55	JZR	650	Lahore	18:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:25	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:30	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35	BAW	156	London	08:20	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:45	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40	KAC	165	Rome	08:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:50	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	RUN	6376	Dubai/Ataturk	08:35	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:00	FDB	057	Dubai	19:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:05	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:00	JZR	324	Al Najaf	08:35	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
JZR	529	Asyut	07:20	DLH	624	Doha	20:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
JZR	358	Kochi	07:30	OMA	647	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:00	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	MEA	402	Muscat	20:15	KAC	117	New York	09:05	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	620	Beirut	20:15	KAC	671	Dubai	09:05	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	07:50	KAC	166	Doha	20:25	KAC	561	Amman	09:15	KAC	153	Istanbul	20:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:05	QTR	1088	Rome	20:40	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:25	KAC	172	Doha	20:45	JZR	534	Cairo	09:40	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	08:55	JZR	553	Frankfurt	20:50	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:00	KLM	445	Alexandria	21:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:45	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IRA	675	Lar	09:30	UAE	859	Amsterdam	21:15	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:50	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Dubai	21:15	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	KAC	101	London	09:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:20	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:00	KAC	564	Amman	21:20	KAC	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	ETD	302	Doha	10:00	JZR	1540	Cairo	22:10
QTR	1074	Doha	10:55	KAC	620	Baku	22:00	KAC	617	Istanbul	10:20	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
JZR	541	Cairo	11:00	ICV	675	Luxembourg	22:05	KAC	155	Doha	10:25	KAC	543	Cairo	22:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:05	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:45	ETD	309	Doha	22:05	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
JZR	325	Al Najaf	12:20	KAC	786	Abu Dhabi	22:15	IRA	674	Lar	10:40	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
MSC	411	Chennai/Hyderabad	12:20	AIC	987	Jeddah	22:25	SYR	342	Latakia	11:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	BBC	043	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	PIA	239	Dhaka	22:30	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	JZR	185	Sialkot	22:35	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	KAC	795	Madinah	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JAI	574	Dubai	22:50	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
JZR	1543	Cairo	13:05	MSR	2614	Mumbai	23:00	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	FDB	071	Cairo	23:30	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:10	JZR	241	Dubai	23:35	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45



AHVAZ, Iran: Iranian boys hold images of one of the victims Mohammad Taha Eghdami, 4, during a public funeral ceremony yesterday for those killed during an attack on a military parade on the weekend in this southwestern Iranian city. — AFP

Iran mourns dead from parade attack as Guards vow revenge

AHVAZ, Iran: Tens of thousands of mourners attended a funeral yesterday in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz for soldiers and civilians killed in an attack on a military parade. Four militants attacked the Saturday parade commemorating the start of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, spraying the crowd with gunfire and killing 24 people. Iranian officials blamed Arab separatists, backed by Gulf Arab allies of the US, for the attack.

AFP reporters yesterday saw members of the public and the military carrying coffins draped in the Iranian flag, some bearing pictures of those slain. The mourners, mostly wearing black, also carried pictures of the dead along with banners reading “we will stand to the end” and “no to terrorism”. Under the blazing sun, crowds streamed in from all four main streets leading into the city-center square where the funeral was held, three of them dedicated to men and the fourth to women.

In the square itself, also segregated, a woman dressed in the traditional Arab-style chador wailed loudly and held a picture of her son, Reza Shoaibi, a conscript who was among the dead. As the funeral progressed, her wailing and expressions of sorrow steadily grew louder until she fainted. The heat became so intolerable that trucks sprayed water onto the crowd as temperatures hit 40

degrees Celsius. Mourners waved red, green and black flags with revolutionary messages, as well as the flags of Arab tribes from the surrounding Khuzestan region.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said those behind the “terrorist attack” were “funded by” Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, in his latest remarks after having already blamed “American lackeys” for the assault. “Based on reports, this cowardly act was the work of those very individuals who are rescued by the Americans whenever they are in trouble in Iraq and Syria and who are funded by the Saudis and the (United) Arab Emirates,” he said in remarks posted on his website. He did not give any further details on their identity. None of Khuzestan’s Arab separatist groups are known to have a presence in Syria.

London-based opposition channel Iran International TV on Saturday broadcast a claim of responsibility for the attack from a movement called the “Ahvaz National Resistance”. The Islamic State group also claimed responsibility. The United States vowed to keep exerting pressure on Iran and said new sanctions were in the pipeline while insisting it was not seeking the overthrow of its regime. “As I have said repeatedly, regime change in Iran is not the administration’s policy,” said White House national security adviser

John Bolton. The deputy head of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards also accused the United States and Israel of involvement in the attack and he said they should expect a devastating response from Tehran. Brigadier General Hossein Salami, in a speech broadcast on state TV, said: “You have seen our revenge before. You will see that our response will be crushing and devastating and you will regret what you have done.” Tasnim new agency also quoted Salami as saying that the “horrific crime” exposed the dark side of an alliance that the United States, Saudi Arabia and Israel had created to counter Iranian influence in the region.

‘Devastating’ revenge

Khuzestan, which has a large ethnic Sunni Arab community, was a major battleground of the 1980s war with Iraq and it saw unrest in 2005 and 2011. Kurdish rebels frequently attack military patrols on the border further north, but attacks on government targets in major cities are rare. Yesterday’s ceremony began in front of the square’s Sarallah Mosque with speeches by generals and security officials.

Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi said arrests had already been made. “The terrorists themselves have perished, our agents will identify their remnants and supporters to the last man. A major part of them have already

been arrested,” he told the crowd. After the speeches ended, a famous wartime religious singer chanted songs of lamentation as thousands beat their chests in unison, a traditional mourning practice of Shiite Muslims.

Later, the coffins were transported to the city cemetery and laid to rest. The dead ranged from a preschool boy to a wheelchair-bound war veteran. Pictures of women and children scrambling to find cover evoked an emotional response from Iranians. Abdolzahra Savari, an ethnic Arab who had attended the funeral, called the attackers infidels. “These are ruthless people with no shred of humanity in them,” he said. Sabah Abiad, a middle-aged bank employee who attended the funeral, said the unity among the region’s different groups was self-evident. “As you can see now, all of the people, whether they’re Lor, Arab, Shushtari or Dezfuli, are all here today and all say death to the terrorists,” he told AFP. Iran holds regular military parades to mark national anniversaries and show off its latest military hardware, notably missiles. This year’s parades had special significance as tensions with the United States have peaked since the US withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal in May and began to re-impose unilateral economic sanctions on Tehran. Iran’s presence in Syria has also triggered rising tensions with Israel. — Agencies

Maldives strongman concedes defeat...

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The US State Department, which had warned of “appropriate measures” if the vote was not free and fair, had called on Yameen to “respect the will of the people”. Regional superpower India said the result marked “the triumph of democratic forces”. But China was yet to com-

ment, with yesterday being a public holiday there. Beijing loaned Yameen’s government hundreds of millions of dollars for infrastructure projects like the new “China-Maldives Friendship Bridge” from the airport to the capital Male, which opened in August. The loans stoked fears among Western countries and India about China’s growing influence under its “Belt and Road Initiative” stretching from Asia into Africa and Europe.

Solih had the backing of a united opposition trying to oust Yameen but struggled for visibility. The local media was fearful of falling foul of heavy-handed decrees and reporting restrictions. In February Yameen imposed a 45-

day state of emergency, alarming the international community, in what was seen as an attempt to block a push by his opponents in parliament to impeach him.

A crackdown saw former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom - Yameen’s half-brother - jailed along with the Chief Justice and another Supreme Court justice. Independent international monitors were barred from Sunday’s election and only a handful of foreign media were allowed in to cover the poll. The government had used “vaguely worded laws to silence dissent and to intimidate and imprison critics”, some of whom had been assaulted and even murdered, according to Human

Rights Watch. Solih pledged on Twitter before the election that he would open investigations into the disappearance of journalist Ahmed Rilwan, missing since 2014, and the fatal stabbing of blogger Yameen Rasheed in 2017. He promised also to repeal anti-defamation legislation and “ensure press freedom”.

Foreign monitors said Yameen’s supporters failed to carry out any large-scale fraud thanks to intense international and local scrutiny from civil society groups. “In the face of massive pressure, they had to abandon their plans,” Rohana Hettiarachchi of the Asian Network for Free Elections said. — AFP

Implant helps paralyzed man...

Continued from Page 1

This initially proved challenging. Without the physical feeling of walking registering in his brain, it was hard for him to make the instantaneous balance adjustments most of us make without thinking. The team overcame the problem by installing mirrors at knee height so the patient could see what position his legs were in while walking. Eventually the man was able to walk on the treadmill with only periodic glances down at his legs.

Footage of the experiment shows him walking jerkily on a slow-moving treadmill, using a metal rail for balance. While the device’s effect is remarkable, the man is still paralyzed once it is turned off. “It is important to under-

stand that even with the success that this individual had in stepping ability during the research, he still performs his daily activities from a wheelchair,” Lee told AFP. In 2011, electrodes implanted on the lower spine of a paraplegic man allowed him to stand and regain some movement in his legs, but the team believes this is the first instance an implant has been used to get a paralyzed person to walk.

For safety reasons, the patient currently only uses the device under supervision, but the implications of the study - that paralysis may not be permanent after severe spinal injury - could be massive. “Our results, combined with prior evidence, emphasize the need to reassess our current understandings of spinal cord injury in order to realize the potential of emerging technologies for functional recovery once thought to be permanently lost,” Lee said. The study was conducted in conjunction with the University of California Los Angeles and was partly funded by the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. Christopher Reeve, best known for starring role in the “Superman” film, was left paraplegic after a horse-riding accident in 1995. — AFP

are opening in a country once known for a relatively free press and that ranks as the only Gulf state with elected legislators. Conservatives and tribal leaders have become dominant in parliament, reflecting the changing mood in society. “The idea of content that could contradict good or moral behavior is grounds for a ban - and it’s an extremely vague phrase,” said Talal Al-Ramidhi, secretary general of the Kuwaiti Writers’ Union.

Kuwait was a publishing hub in the 1970s and 1980s, home to the high-brow, pan-Arab cultural journal “Al-Arabi” and a string of popular scientific and literary books. While no one has yet been prosecuted for selling banned books, according to Ramidhi, activists are turning to social media to combat what one termed the “ridiculous” increase in the banning of books. “Ignorance is the only reason for censorship,” writer Bouthaina Al-Issa tweeted this month. “I have drugs in my house,” another activist tweeted alongside a picture of a pile of forbidden books. Writer Aqil Yusef Aidan, two of whose books are banned, points to the “influence of religious circles on cultural institutions”. “Books are sometimes banned over a single word, a single image, and that only harms Kuwait’s image,” Aidan said. — AFP

Russia to give Syria S-300 air...

Continued from Page 1

Russian defense ministry,” the Kremlin said of the call, adding that the actions of the Israeli pilots had led to the plane being targeted by Syrian air defense systems. “The Russian side proceeds from the fact that the actions by the Israeli air force were the main reason for the tragedy,” a statement said. Putin told Netanyahu that the measures had been taken to prevent any threat to Russian troops in Syria.

“Prime Minister Netanyahu said that transferring advanced weapons systems into irresponsible hands will increase the dangers in the region, and added that Israel will continue to defend its security and its interests,” Netanyahu’s spokesman Ofir Gendelman said on Twitter after the call between the leaders. Netanyahu also said he told Putin that Israel would continue to protect its security and interests. The Israeli leader also agreed with Putin on continued coordination between the two countries’ armed forces.

Russia, which fights in Syria to support the government, has said Syria shot the IL-20 surveillance plane down by mistake shortly after Israeli jets hit a nearby target. Moscow blamed Israel for creating dangerous conditions that caused the crash. Israel, which has struck Syria scores of times during the war, said after the incident that it would work to improve “deconfliction” of its missions with Russian forces, but would not halt them. It has long lobbied Moscow not to provide the S-300 to Syria, fearing this would hinder its aerial capability to strike buildups of Iranian and Hezbollah forces in Syria.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters the decision to supply the weapons was not directed at any third country. “Russia needs to increase safety of its military and it should be clear for everyone,” he said. But he also repeated Moscow’s accusations that Israel was to blame for the plane’s downing: “No doubt that according to our military experts, deliberate action by Israeli pilots was the reason for the tragedy and this cannot but harm our (Russia-Israeli) ties.”

Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad’s office said: “President Putin held Israel responsible for bringing down the plane and informed President Assad that Russia will develop Syria’s air defense systems.” Russia in April had hinted that it

would supply the S-300 to Assad’s government despite Israeli objections. The missile system, originally developed by the Soviet military, but since modernized and available in several versions with different capabilities, fires missiles from trucks and is designed to shoot down military aircraft and short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.

“We think introducing the S-300s to the Syrian government would be a significant escalation by the Russians ... and something that we hope, if these press reports are accurate, they would reconsider,” Bolton told reporters. “There shouldn’t be any misunderstanding here ... The party responsible for the attacks in Syria and Lebanon and really the party responsible for the shooting down of the Russian plane is Iran,” he said.

Bolton warned that if the Syrian government used chemical weapons again, the US response would be significant. “If in fact they make the mistake of using chemical weapons again, the retaliation would be much stronger than before and would have the intended effect of creating structures of deterrence that they never do it again,” he said. Bolton said the US was doing everything it could to ensure Syria did not use chemical weapons and had pressed Russia about the issue as well. Bolton said a political process was needed but said Russia’s plans on the missile system made that difficult. He said US troops would stay active in Syria as long as Iran was involved. “We’re not going to leave as long as Iranian troops are outside Iranian borders, and that includes Iranian proxies and militias,” he said.

Amos Yadlin, a former head of Israeli military intelligence who now directs Tel Aviv University’s Institute for National Security Studies, called the accusation that Israel played a role in the crash “fake news... meant to assuage diplomatic pressures and cloud the responsibility of Syrian and Russian officers for downing the plane”. “Supplying S-300 increases risk by unprofessional Syrian operators first and foremost to the Russian air force, to Israel, the United States and the coalition as well as to civil aviation. Israel has been preparing for this threat for 20 years and will know how to handle it,” he tweeted. Alexander Khramchikhin of the Moscow-based Institute of Military and Political Analysis said the S-300 could “seriously affect Israel’s ability to carry out its strikes in Syria”. Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center and a former colonel in the Russian army, said the S-300 would make Israel “more careful in the vicinity of Russian assets”. — Agencies

Kuwait activists combat rise in...

Continued from Page 1

“Censoring a book reflects a profound ignorance... and cruelty,” Othman told AFP. “And unfortunately it’s happening more and more.”

All titles on show at Kuwait’s international book fair will be screened in advance by a censorship committee. The committee works under a 2006 law on “press and publications”, which outlines a string of punishable offences for publishers of both literature and journalism. On the list: Insulting Islam or Kuwait’s judiciary, threatening national security, “inciting unrest” and committing “immoral” acts.

Mohammed Al-Awash, a senior information ministry official, defended the censorship committee, which includes academics not affiliated with the ministry. “Prohibition is an exception. Permission is the rule,” Awash told AFP. But activists fear censorship floodgates

Sports

‘Tigermania’ roars into France as Ryder Cup showdown looms

Americans seeking their first victory on European soil in 25 years

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES: “Tigermania” is back after crowds mobbed Tiger Woods like a rock star to see him snap a five-year win drought, and it’s about to hit France in a major way at the 42nd Ryder Cup. Like the Beatles in America in 1964 or Michael Jordan and the US basketball team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Woods will be the star attraction this week at Le Golf National.

The 14-time major champion, back on top form after spinal fusion surgery, leads holders the United States against Europe starting Friday, the Americans seeking their first victory on European soil in 25 years.

“The comeback is for real and it’s nice for him to prove that to the world,” Britain’s second-ranked Justin Rose said. “The weekend is a pretty good introduction into the Ryder Cup for sure.” Woods won the Tour Championship on Sunday at East Lake for his 80th career US PGA Tour title, two shy of Sam Snead’s all-time record, and his first victory in 1,876 days, an emotional triumph highlighted by a spectator stampede surrounding a police-protected Woods in a rush to see him on the 18th green.

Fans chanted “Ti-ger, Ti-ger” and “U-S-A, U-S-A” and Woods fought back tears before making the final putt to become a champion once again after once fearing he might never play again.

“I was having a hard time not crying on the last hole,” Woods said, his voice choking at times. “I just can’t believe I pulled this off. “It hasn’t been so easy the last couple of years. It’s hard to believe I was able to do it again.”

Nagging back injuries led to four operations since 2014, including a “last chance” spinal fusion that has helped him to regain the form of glory days at age 42. “It’s certainly up

there with obviously all the major championships I’ve won,” Woods said. “I just didn’t know whether this would ever happen again. It means a lot. It really does.

“Eighty is a big number. I’ve been sitting on 79 for about five years now, and to get 80 is a pretty damned good feeling.” “Sam is still ahead of me. Maybe I’ll keep chipping away at that number and maybe surpass it. But what I’ve gone through and what I’ve dealt with, I’ve gotten lucky.”

Rose jokes: ‘About time’

Rose watched with amazement at the endearing response Woods drew from US fans, then joked with him as he walked off the last green. “Jokingly, I said to him, ‘About time,’” Rose said. “I think that it’s been a matter of time and we’ve all been waiting for him to win and we’ve all been wanting him to win. And I think it’s great for the sport. “He truly moves the needle like no one else out here, and he wins in style. He wins with charisma. He’s brilliant to watch.” World number 21 Paul Casey, Rose’s European Ryder Cup teammate, is excited about the Woods victory and what it means for Ryder Cup week.

“I’m pumped for next week,” Casey said. “It’s like next week already. It was like warm-ups. This is quite important. So this is massive. And this is a brilliant victory.” It was obvious when Woods found himself surrounded by well-wishers taking photos of him with their cell phones, what he dubbed a “fevered pitch.”

“I could hear it. I just didn’t really see much,” Woods said. “I was kind of looking forward and I figured that security would hold them back.” — AFP



ATLANTA: Tiger Woods of the United States celebrates making a par on the 18th green to win the TOUR Championship at East Lake Golf Club on Sunday in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

Serena keen to ‘move on’ from US Open row

SYDNEY: Serena Williams says she is trying to “move on” from the meltdown that overshadowed her US Open final loss but remains perplexed at her coach’s admission he illegally signalled to her.

The 23-time Grand Slam champion lost the decider in straight sets to Japan’s Naomi Osaka after a fiery confrontation with chair umpire Carlos Ramos that she later blamed on sexism. Williams called Ramos a “thief” and a “liar” in a running row with the Portuguese official that eventually saw her docked a game. In an interview with Australia’s Channel Ten, the American superstar said a male player would not have been treated the same way. She said women could not get away with “even half of what a guy can do”. “Right now we are not, as it’s proven, in that same position,” she said in an interview that aired late Sunday. “But that’s neither here nor there. I’m just trying most of all to recover from that and move on.” Williams said she felt “on the cusp of this amazing moment” before the 6-2, 6-4 loss to Osaka. A win would have taken her to 24 Grand Slams, equalling Australian Margaret Court’s all-time record. The dispute with Ramos began when Williams was issued a warning for coaching, something her coach sitting in the player’s box, Patrick Mouratoglou, admitted to doing.

Williams said she had not seen the Frenchman make a gesture and labelled his subsequent admission “a really confusing moment”. “I asked him ‘what are you talking about you were coaching?’,” she said. “We don’t have signals, we’ve never had signals. He said he made a motion, and I said ‘OK so you made a motion and now you’re telling people you were coaching me?’.” “That doesn’t make sense. Why would you say that?” — AFP

Aussies in cruise control at Wuhan Open

WUHAN: Australia’s top two brushed aside their first-round opponents at the Wuhan Open yesterday, with straight-sets victories in the \$2.7-million tournament for both Ashleigh Barty and Daria Gavrilova.

Barty, the Australian No.1, downed Britain’s Johanna Konta 7-5, 6-4 to progress, and could face Wimbledon champ Angelique Kerber in the third round. But it was Gavrilova, the Aussie No.2, who caused the biggest upset of the Wuhan Open so far, dumping out 10th-seed and last year’s French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko 6-2, 6-4.

The Latvian, who reached the Wuhan semi-finals last year, mounted a spirited fightback in the second set but was unable to contain her unforced errors and appeared frustrated as Gavrilova held steady to secure the win.

Ostapenko “is a quality player, she always fights and comes (out) firing... so I expected that,” Gavrilova said after the match. It has been a September to forget for Ostapenko, ranked 12th in the world.

Last week, her defence of the Korea Open title was ended in the second round by then-122nd-ranked Ekaterina Alexandrova. Gavrilova could now face another tough challenger in the third round: Karolina Pliskova, who downed US Open champ Naomi Osaka in straight sets in Tokyo on Sunday to win the Pan Pacific title.

Nine of the world’s top 10 are in action at the Wuhan Open as the 2018 WTA season enters its final stretch and the frenzy for ranking points intensifies. Japanese star Osaka, the current No.8, had to withdraw due to illness.

In addition to \$500,000 in prize money, the winner will also lock down 900 points. —AFP

Tennis queen Osaka a role model, says ‘Indian’ Miss Japan

TOKYO: Japanese tennis sensation Naomi Osaka not only hit the cash jackpot with her historic US Open victory-she struck a blow for racial equality, according to a former Miss Japan. Following her 6-2, 6-4 thrashing of childhood idol Serena Williams in New York earlier this month, Osaka is set to become a global marketing force as sponsors prepare to break the bank to sign the 20-year-old.

But Priyanka Yoshikawa, who two years ago was crowned Miss Japan, believes Osaka can also help break down cultural barriers in a country where multi-racial children make up just two percent of those born annually.

“Naomi is definitely a role model,” the half-Indian beauty queen told AFP. “Japan should be proud of her-she can definitely break down walls, she will have a big impact.” Osaka, who has a Japanese mother, a Haitian father and was raised in the United States, is set to shine a light on what it means to be Japanese, predicts Yoshikawa.

“The way she speaks, and her humbleness, are so Japanese,” said the 24-year-old. “Japan puts all ‘haafu’ in the same bucket,” added Yoshikawa, referring to the Japanese for “half”—a word to describe mixed race. “Whether you’re part Russian, American or African, you’re still categorised as ‘haafu’ in Japan.”

Yoshikawa’s Bollywood looks swept her to Miss Japan victory a year after Ariana Miyamoto faced an ugly backlash in 2015 for becoming the first black woman to represent the country.

‘NOT ABOUT LANGUAGE’

Critics took to social media complaining that Miss Universe Japan should have been won by a “pure” Japanese. Unlike Yoshikawa and Miyamoto, Osaka speaks hardly any Japanese after moving to Florida with her family as a toddler.

“It’s not about language,” insists the Tokyo-born Yoshikawa, who was bullied because of her skin colour as a child. “Why does that bother people? It’s just because she has darker skin and is mixed race. People still ask me if I eat curry every day or if I can use chopsticks! “But she’s what she thinks she is. If you think you’re Japanese, you’re Japanese.”

Osaka, who won her first title at Indian Wells earlier this year, is not the first mixed-race athlete to achieve fame in Japan. Koji Murofushi, who is half-Romanian,



Naomi Osaka

captured hammer throw gold at the 2004 Athens Olympics, while half-Iranian Yu Darvish is a starting pitcher for Major League Baseball’s Chicago Cubs.

Sprinter Asuka Cambridge, who has Jamaican blood, claimed a silver medal in the 4x100m relay at the 2016 Rio Olympics, while two of Japan’s Davis Cup tennis team-Taro Daniel and Ben McLachlan-are also of mixed race.

But Osaka is set to become the highest profile, not to mention the richest. Despite having her 10-match win streak snapped by Karolina Pliskova in Tokyo at the weekend, Osaka can take consolation in her ballooning financial worth.

EARNING POWER

Sportswear giant Adidas is reportedly lining up a record sponsorship deal worth more than \$10 million a year that would see Osaka become the second highest-paid female athlete behind Williams, according to Forbes.

Osaka is also endorsed by Yonex, Japanese food company Nissin and watch maker Citizen. A new three-year deal with car maker Nissan underlined her earning power after becoming the first Japanese player to win a grand slam singles title.

“Compared to Kei Nishikori, who is a superstar in Japan but not in the world’s top five, Naomi Osaka has the potential to be number one,” said Hirotaka Matsuoka, sports marketing professor at Waseda University.

“She is tri-racial (Japan, United States and Haiti), a world athlete. Naomi is now the most marketable athlete in Japan, maybe in the world.” But Yoshikawa believes Osaka’s celebrity will help change the DNA of Japanese pop culture, like mixed-race fashion icons Rola, Jun Hasegawa and Jessica Michibata before her.

“Naomi can definitely do so much good in the future” said Yoshikawa. “But it’s still going to take more time for people to think ‘haafu’ can be Japanese,” she warned. “We need more people like Naomi.” — AFP

Squash administrative organization course

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board of Squash Association Adel Al-Ghareeb opened the administrative organization course that was held at Abdullah Al-Salem leadership center in Salmiya.

Dr Hussein Al-Mukaimi, Dr Salman Hajji and Dr Mohammad Baker will lecture during the course which will conclude on Thursday.

Al-Ghareeb welcomed those in attendance, confirming that no effort will be spared to provide suitable sports environment for all, besides providing clubs administrators skills of managing sports teams.

Al-Ghareeb said the Arab Association plans to postpone the Arab Championship from October 10 to Nov 14 and change the host from Bahrain to Egypt, adding that this favors Kuwait teams by increasing training time. He thanked the PAS and its Director General Dr Humoud Fulaiteh for its continued support.



Sports

Astros sweep Angels, Dodgers erupt for 14 runs in win over Padres

Allen’s 11th-inning hit lifts Indians past Red Sox

HOUSTON: Yuli Gurriel and Evan Gattis recorded multi-hit, multi-RBI games while rookie Framber Valdez delivered a strong pitching performance in a pinch as the Houston Astros capped a three-game series sweep of the visiting Los Angeles Angels with a 6-2 win on Sunday. The Astros sliced their magic number to claim the American League West to three. Houston holds a 4 1/2-game lead on the second-place Oakland Athletics. Gurriel finished 2-for-5 with two RBIs. He belted his third home run of the series and 13th on the season in the first inning against Tyler Skaggs (8-9), a two-run shot. Gattis went 3-for-3 with two RBIs. Valdez (4-1) delivered in what amounted to an emergency start, allowing a run on three hits in six innings. He replaced Charlie Morton, who left after one inning due to shoulder discomfort.

TWINS 5, A’S 1

Minnesota denied Oakland a chance to clinch a playoff spot on its home field, riding the strong pitching of Kyle Gibson and a two-run home run from Jake Cave to a victory. The loss by Oakland kept Tampa Bay alive entering the final week of the regular season. The Rays still can earn the second American League wild-card spot by sweeping seven straight from the New York Yankees and Toronto Blue Jays, if at the same time the A’s lose all six remaining games against the Seattle Mariners and the Los Angeles Angels. Gibson (9-13) worked 7 1/3 innings, allowing one run on seven hits. He walked three and struck out three.

DODGERS 14, PADRES 0

Manny Machado, Matt Kemp and Austin Barnes hit home runs, and Hyun-Jin Ryu dominated for six innings as Los Angeles reduced its magic number for winning the National League West to six with a rout of visiting San Diego. The Dodgers remained 1 1/2 games ahead of the Colorado Rockies in the NL West with six games remaining, all on the road at Arizona and San Francisco. Ryu (6-3) enhanced his chances of starting in potential postseason games by giving up just four hits in his scoreless outing. He struck out eight without issuing a walk. He also had three hits at the plate, all singles, for his second career three-hit game.

INDIANS 4, RED SOX 3 (11 INNINGS)

Greg Allen delivered a walk-off single to left field with one out in the 11th inning as host Cleveland edged Boston. Allen drove in Jose Ramirez from third with his bases-loaded bouncing single through the drawn-in infield as Cleveland thwarted Boston’s attempt to win a club-record 106th game for the second consecutive game. The Red Sox also failed to clinch home-field advantage through the playoffs. Mookie Betts was 4-for-6 with his 31st home run and two runs scored for Boston. The Red Sox also lost shortstop Xander Bogaerts in the seventh inning due to left shoulder soreness. He was removed for precautionary reasons, according to the Red Sox.

ROCKIES 2, DIAMONDBACKS 0

Kyle Freeland pitched seven scoreless innings in his 10th consecutive quality start as Colorado kept pace

in the NL playoff races with a victory over Arizona in Phoenix, completing a three-game sweep. Freeland (16-7) gave up seven hits with six strikeouts and one walk. Nolan Arenado had an RBI double, DJ LeMahieu and Garrett Hampson each had two hits, and Charlie Blackmon extended his hitting streak to a career-high 15 games for the Rockies. Colorado remained 1 1/2 games behind the St. Louis Cardinals for the second NL wild card. Arizona was eliminated from the NL wild-card race and the NL West race.

CUBS 6, WHITE SOX 1

Kyle Schwarber homered, doubled and walked twice, and Kyle Hendricks picked up his 13th win by allowing four hits and one run over 7 2/3 innings as the Chicago Cubs cruised to a victory over the host Chicago White Sox. Ben Zobrist went 3-for-6 and scored a run, and Daniel Murphy, Anthony Rizzo and Albert Almora Jr. each had two hits as the Cubs claimed the season series over their city rivals for the second straight year, 4-2. The Cubs, who play their final seven games at Wrigley Field, also sliced their magic number for winning a third consecutive NL Central crown to five over the Milwaukee Brewers, who remained 2 1/2 games behind.

BREWERS 13, PIRATES 6

Christian Yelich and Travis Shaw hit towering home runs as visiting Milwaukee clobbered Pittsburgh. Milwaukee scored four runs on wild pitches, two on bases-loaded walks and one on a bases-loaded hit batsman. The Brewers won two of three in the weekend series but still lost the season series 12-7. Milwaukee remains two games in front of the Cardinals in the race for the first NL wild card ahead of the teams’ three-game battle that starts Monday in St. Louis.

CARDINALS 9, GIANTS 2

Miles Mikolas allowed just two hits in seven innings en route to his 17th win, and Jose Martinez highlighted a five-run sixth inning with a two-run double, allowing host St. Louis to sweep a three-game series from San Francisco. Mikolas (17-4) gave up two runs (one earned). He struck out eight and did not walk a batter as the Cardinals won for the sixth time in seven games. Brandon Crawford homered for the Giants, who lost their fourth game in a row.

ORIOLES 6, YANKEES 3

Pinch hitter Aaron Judge struck out in the seventh inning with a chance to tie the game, and New York fell to visiting Baltimore. Orioles designated hitter Tim Beckham recorded his second career multi-homer game. However, Baltimore lost second baseman Breyvic Valera to a fractured bone in his left index finger on a slide at home in the fifth inning. After the Yankees clinched a spot in the American League wild-card game Saturday, Judge was among the New York regulars to get the day off from starting.

RANGERS 6, MARINERS 1

Pinch hitter Joey Gallo hit a two-run homer, and four Texas pitchers combined for five innings of scoreless relief in a victory over Seattle at Arlington, Texas.



HOUSTON: Justin Upton #8 of the Los Angeles Angels slides home against the Los Angeles Angels at Minute Maid Park on Sunday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

Left-handers Jeffrey Springs (1-1) and Matt Moore and right-handers Chris Martin and Jose Leclerc combined to allow four hits. Springs earned his first major league victory after tossing two innings. Nomar Mazara hit a two-run double to give the Rangers the lead as they batted around in a four-run sixth. Texas rebounded from a 13-0 loss Saturday night to take two of three games in the weekend series.

BRAVES 2, PHILLIES 1

Lane Adams hit a home run, and Anibal Sanchez went five strong innings as Atlanta eliminated visiting Philadelphia from postseason consideration. One day after clinching a National League East title, the Braves completed their first four-game sweep of the Phillies since June 2014 and their first at home since June 1997. Adams hit his second home run of the season in the fifth inning, and the seventh of his career in 115 games. He also had an RBI ground-rule double in the second inning. Sanchez (7-6) gave up one run on four hits with no walks and a strikeout.

RAYS 5, BLUE JAYS 2

Blake Snell struck out 11 as he pitched into the seventh inning without allowing a run to set a club record with 21 wins, and visiting Tampa Bay held on to defeat Toronto. Snell (21-5) held the Blue Jays to three hits and two walks in his 6 2/3 scoreless innings, lowering his American League-leading ERA to 1.90. The left-hander had been tied for the single-season club record in wins with David Price, who won 20 in 2012. C.J. Cron had a solo homer and an RBI double, and Brandon Lowe added a two-run homer as the Rays gained a split in the four-game series.

MARLINS 6, REDS 0

Rookie Trevor Richards pitched seven scoreless innings, and Chad Wallach hit his first career home run, leading host Miami past Cincinnati. Wallach, Miami’s 26-year-old backup catcher playing just his 19th major league game, hit a three-run homer as part of a four-run third inning. The son of Marlins bench coach and former major league third baseman Tim Wallach, Chad Wallach went 3-for-4 for his first three-hit game. Richards (4-9) earned his first win since July 14, holding the Reds to three hits and one walk while striking out nine batters, eight of them on his changeup.

ROYALS 3, TIGERS 2

Cam Gallagher had a go-ahead, two-run single, Adalberto Mondesi homered, and Kansas City edged Detroit in the Tigers’ home finale. Mondesi, Alcides Escobar and Rosell Herrera each had two hits and scored a run for the Royals. Brad Keller (9-6) limited the Tigers to one run and three hits in seven innings. Kevin McCarthy pitched a scoreless inning prior to Wily Peralta notching his 13th save despite giving up a ninth-inning run.

METS 8, NATIONALS 6

Rookie Jeff McNeil racked up four hits, and Michael Conforto’s three-run triple in the fourth inning gave New York the lead for good at Washington. The Mets took three of four from the Nationals to win the season series, 11-8. McNeil hit an RBI single immediately before Conforto’s go-ahead hit. It was the third four-hit game for McNeil, who has at least two hits in 19 of 47 starts since he was recalled from Triple-A Las Vegas on July 24.— Reuters

I’m a ‘scapegoat’, says sacked Sri Lanka captain Mathews

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka’s sacked skipper Angelo Mathews accused the country’s cricket board yesterday of blaming him solely for the island’s humiliating exit from the Asia Cup. The 31-year-old all rounder has threatened to retire from the two shorter formats of the game after being dumped on Sunday as captain of Sri Lanka’s one-day international and twenty20 teams.

“I have been made the scapegoat in this entire saga of Sri Lanka’s dismal performance against Bangladesh and Afghanistan in the Asia Cup,” Mathews said in a letter to Sri Lanka Cricket. The board said it asked Mathews to step down and allow Dinesh Chandimal to lead Sri Lanka during England’s tour which begins next month.

“The national selectors... have requested Mathews to relinquish his duties as captain with immediate effect,” the board said in a statement. It did not elaborate on why Mathews was sacked. But it follows Sri Lanka’s drubbing in the Asia Cup, with losses to lower-ranked Afghanistan and Bangladesh ensuring the island nation’s quick exit from the competition.

Sri Lanka were thumped by 137 runs against Bangladesh in their opening match of the tournament, and have now lost 30 of their 40 matches since January 2017. Chandimal, who was already captain of Sri Lanka’s Test side, now takes the reins in all three formats of the game. Sri Lanka will face England in five one-day internationals, one twenty20 and three Test matches from October 10. — AFP



ABU DHABI: Bangladesh Mustafizur Rahman celebrates the victory during the one day international (ODI) Asia Cup cricket match between Afghanistan and Bangladesh at The Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.—

Bangladesh beat Afghanistan in last ball finish

ABU DHABI: Bangladesh paceman Mustafizur Rahman held his nerves to bowl a final dot ball in the 50th over to give his team a nerve-wracking three-run win over Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. Needing eight to win off the 50th over Afghanistan lost Rashid Khan for five off the second ball while Samiullah Shinwari (23 not out) and Gulbadin Naib managed just two leg byes to finish at 246-7.

Bangladesh had made 249-7 on the back of half centuries from Mahmudullah Riyad and Imrul Kayes at the Sheik Zayed Stadium. The Bangladesh win meant India sailed into the September 28 final in Dubai while Pakistan and Bangladesh meet in Abu Dhabi tomorrow to decide the second finalist.

India thumped Pakistan by nine wickets in a one-sided match in Dubai on Sunday. Afghanistan were helped to their total with a 99-ball 71 by Hashmatullah Shahidi who hit five boundaries while opener Mohammad Shahzad made an 81-ball 53 with eight boundaries.

Skipper Asghar Afghan (39) and Mohammad Nabi (38) made useful contributions but the asking rate climbed to mount pressure in the final over. Earlier, Riyad scored an 81-ball 74 with two sixes and three boundaries while Kayes-recalled as a back-up to strengthen the batting-made an 89 ball 72 not out to help Bangladesh recover from a precarious 5-87.

Opener Liton Das scored 41 and Mushfiqur Rahim made 33 but Bangladesh - who won the toss and batted-owed their total to a solid 128-run stand for the sixth wicket between Riyad and Kayes.

Kayes gave good support to Riyad as the two built the innings after Bangladesh’s star batsman Shakib Al Hasan was run out for nought. Kayes hit six boundaries as Bangladesh played the dangerous spinning duo of Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Ur Rahman who managed a wicket each. — AFP

Cricket Australia closes probe into Moeen ‘Osama’ claim

SYDNEY: Cricket Australia announced yesterday it has closed its investigation into Moeen Ali’s claim he was called “Osama” during the 2015 Ashes series, after failing to unearth new details on the allegation.

The England all-rounder and practising Muslim made the claim in his autobiography, an extract of which was published in Britain’s Times newspaper earlier this month. Moeen said he was on the receiving end of the slur, a reference to late Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, from an unnamed opponent during his Ashes debut in Cardiff.

“An Australian player turned to me on the field and said, ‘Take that, Osama’. I could not believe what I had heard. I remember going really red. I have never been so angry on a cricket field,” said the 31-year-old.

Cricket Australia announced it was launching an investigation, saying the comment was “unacceptable”. But a CA spokesman said: “We have followed up with the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) and our team management and confirmed that the incident was investigated at the time, with a response provided to Moeen.

“Moeen elected not to progress the matter any further and we have not been able to ascertain any new additional evidence through our enquiries. As such, the matter is considered closed.” Moeen said the Australian player in question had denied making the comment to him at the time.

“I told a couple of the guys what the player had said to me and I think (England coach) Trevor Bayliss (who is himself Australian) must have raised it with Darren Lehmann, the (then) Australians’ coach,” he said.

“Lehmann asked the player, ‘Did you call Moeen Osama?’ He denied it, saying, ‘No, I said, “Take that, you part-timer”’.” —AFP

Sports

Gerard Pique rescues point for 10-man Barca against Girona

Barcelona return to the top of the table on goal difference

BARCELONA: American fans will be licking their lips if this is what awaits Miami's Hard Rock Stadium in January after Barcelona and Girona played out an enthralling 2-2 draw at the Camp Nou on Sunday. There were four goals, one for Lionel Messi and two for Girona's Cristhian Stuani, not to mention a controversial red card shown to Barca defender Clement Lenglet.

Gerard Pique salvaged a point for the hosts to complete his own blockbuster night, after clearing one shot off the line and making mistakes for each of Girona's goals.

By the end, Barca had surrendered their perfect record in La Liga, as well as a two-point advantage over Real Madrid. They return to the top of the table, but only on goal difference. Girona move up to sixth. "For us, this is a triumph," Stuani said. "Coming here and getting this result is so valuable for us."

Hanging over this game was always the wider prospect of it not being returned, given La Liga's desire to move the reverse fixture at Girona's Estadi Montilivi on January 26 to the United States. For all the opposition, however, there was a noticeable lack of complaint at the Camp Nou, where there were chants for Catalan independence but precious little in opposition to a trip to Miami.

A point may not be viewed as a bad return either for Barca, having played through the best part of an hour with 10 men, but changes made by coach Ernesto Valverde failed to hit the mark.

Lenglet came in for Samuel Umtiti, presumably to bed in next to Pique, given Umtiti is suspended for Barcelona's Champions League game against Tottenham later this month. But he was, perhaps harshly, sent off in the 35th minute with Barca one up, and they then conceded before Umtiti came on at half-time. Arthur and Arturo Vidal -

also brought in - were substituted before the hour.

"When we got the red card, our intention was to make a change but we had to let him (Umtiti) warm-up," Valverde said. "It looks like an error on my part."

Messi and Pique had changed too, each shaving their beards, but it had contrasting effects based on the evidence of the first half. Within 19 minutes, Messi had put Barca ahead, a slick finish into the corner finishing off Vidal's pass for the Argentinian's eighth goal in six games.

Pique, however, was at fault for the equaliser, a lethargic attempt at a clearance allowing Stuani to poke the ball past Marc-Andre ter Stegen. Girona had been spurred on by Lenglet's red card, after VAR showed the French defender landed an elbow into the face of Pere Pons, and referee Jesus Gil deemed it deliberate.

The red card rippled through the French contingent as Lenglet's dismissal meant Ousmane Dembele was replaced by Umtiti at half-time. It made little difference as Girona, and Stuani, scored another six minutes after the restart, with Pique again the one culpable.

First, he was outrun by Portu and then he brought the striker down from behind for what was probably a penalty. Portu's shot was pushed away by Ter Stegen but Stuani banged in the rebound.

Valverde replaced Vidal and Arthur with Philippe Coutinho and Ivan Rakitic, and Messi struck the crossbar with a free-kick soon after. He was involved in the last goal too as a brilliant exchange with the lively Luis Suarez saw the latter's shot loop across the box. Pique leapt high to head in.

Earlier, Ben Yedder scored a hat-trick as Sevilla thrashed Levante 6-2 while Real Betis came from behind to draw 2-2 at home to Athletic Bilbao. Valencia and Villarreal drew 0-0. — AFP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (L) shoots beside Girona's Spanish midfielder Pere Pons during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Girona FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Sunday. — AFP

Modric threatens to end Ronaldo-Messi era as world's best

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi's decade-long domination of football's individual awards is under threat from Real Madrid and Croatia midfielder Luka Modric and Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah when FIFA's player of the year is announced yesterday. For the first time in 12 years Messi is not even nominated among the three finalists for the award after early exits for Argentina at the World Cup and Barcelona in the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

Both Messi and Ronaldo have won FIFA's award in different guises five times each, and the Portuguese can move out on his own after winning a third straight Champions League title with Real Madrid before heading for pastures new with Juventus in July.

For a sixth straight season, Ronaldo was the Champions League's top scorer with 15 goals and also scored four times at the World Cup, including a hat-trick against Spain in a thrilling 3-3 draw to open Portugal's campaign.

However, Portugal's last 16 exit to Uruguay in Russia and Ronaldo's failure to score in the semi-finals or final of the Champions League has opened the door for Modric.

'THE YEAR OF LUKA'

Croatia's captain was an inspirational figure as they surpassed all expectations to reach the World Cup final and also played a big role in Madrid's Champions League and Club World Cup wins. "I hope that Luka will be the best player in the world," Croatia manager Zlatko Dalic told AFP.

"He deserves it because he was the best player in the Club World Cup and the best player in the World Cup. "Messi and Ronaldo are fantastic players, but this year is the year of Luka." Salah also makes the podium for the first time after an incredible 44-goal debut season for Liverpool that carried the Reds to the Champions League final.

However, a shoulder injury suffered early on in the final robbed him of the chance to help Liverpool lift the trophy and also meant he wasn't in peak condition to lead Egypt's



MADRID: File photo shows Real Madrid's Croatian midfielder Luka Modric controls the ball during the UEFA Champions League group G football match between Real Madrid CF and AS Roma at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on September 19, 2018. —AFP

World Cup bid. Despite scoring in each of his two appearances in Russia, The Pharaohs bowed out at the group stage with three defeats.

France's World Cup-winning coach Didier Deschamps is favourite to win the best coach award ahead of Dalic and former Real coach Zinedine Zidane, who stepped down in June after overseeing three Champions League triumphs in just two and a half years in charge. Even if they lose out on the best player award, Messi and Ronaldo could walk away with a prize as they are both nominated for the Puskas award for best goal. Messi's solitary World Cup goal against Nigeria and Ronaldo's spectacular overhead kick against his future employers in the Champions League quarter-finals are two of 10 goals on the shortlist,

Playing Marouane Fellaini as a shield in the deep midfield role has certainly helped to protect the fragile central defence but at the other end of the field things aren't working as well. Alexis Sanchez was again ineffective on the left, Jesse Lingard's role was unclear and Romelu Lukaku didn't get enough support. There is talent in this United squad and the desire to perform is there-what is missing is a system of play that allows them to impose themselves on opponents in the way that Liverpool and Manchester City do.

WOLVES HARDLY LOOK LIKE A PROMOTED SIDE

Slightly lost in the inevitable focus on United dropping more points at home and slipping to eight points behind Liverpool-was the outstanding performance of Nuno Espirito Santo's Wolverhampton Wanderers.

They played with such confidence and composure on the ball and with evident intelligence and togetherness that it was easy to forget they are a promoted team. They looked more like the kind of opponents United might face in the Champions League group stage.

That is hardly surprising when you look at the team-sheet which features experienced international quality such as Portugal's Joao Moutinho and Mexico's Raul Jimenez as well as younger talent such as the Portuguese pair Ruben Neves and Diogo Jota. With nine points from six games, Wolves have made a solid start to the campaign, particularly when you consider those early games include draws against both Manchester clubs. It would be no surprise to see them finish comfortably in the top ten.

PELLEGRINI'S METHOD STARTS TO BECOME CLEAR

West Ham and their new manager Manuel Pellegrini invested heavily during the close-season but promptly lost their opening four games, raising questions about the Chilean. But after last week's impressive win at Everton, where the Hammers attacked with precision and clinical effectiveness, they showed another side of their game with a solid, well-organised defensive display against Chelsea in Sunday's goal-less draw. Indeed, had Ukrainian Andriy Yarmolenko been as

also including Gareth Bale's acrobatic strike for Real in the Champions League final.

The best goalkeeper prize is to be contested by France captain Hugo Lloris, Denmark's Kasper Schmeichel and Belgium's Thibaut Courtois, whose World Cup heroics earned him a move to Madrid from Chelsea.

Lyon's Norwegian striker Ada Hegerberg and German midfielder Dzsenifer Marozsan are joined by Brazilian five-time winner Marta of Orlando Pride in the running for the best women's player after winning the Champions League with the French giants.

Reynold Pedros of Lyon, Japan boss Asako Takakura and Netherlands coach Sarina Wiegman are in the running for best women's coach. — AFP

sharp in front of goal as he was at Goodison Park, West Ham might have taken all three points off Maurizio Sarri's side. The early season fixture list has not been kind to the Londoners - they have had away trips to Arsenal and Liverpool and their next two home games are against Manchester United and Tottenham. But even if the points tally will still be modest in October at least Hammers fans will feel their team is taking shape and that Pellegrini has a plan for all the new faces.

VAR SURELY A MATTER OF TIME

Everton manager Marco Silva couldn't resist making a call for VAR to be introduced for the Premier League after a clearly offside goal from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang put Arsenal 2-0 up. Video replays showed Aubameyang was in an obvious offside position but with no VAR system in place in the competition there was nothing that could be done. Trials of the system are continuing this season with a view to a possible introduction of VAR in next season's campaign. After the technology was largely a success at the World Cup it is hard to see how it is not brought in to all the top leagues and the Champions League.

WINGERS HELP BURNLEY SHOW SIGNS OF LIFE

After finishing seventh last season, Burnley's poor start to the season, with one point from the opening five games, was unexpected but the 4-0 thrashing of Bournemouth on Saturday was even more surprising.

The scoreline was the best Burnley have produced in the Premier League era and a large part of the credit must go to the team's two wingers. Former Spurs and Everton wide-man Aaron Lennon has struggled for form in recent weeks but his pace was allied with quality delivery as he ripped open Eddie Howe's defence. On the other flank, Iceland international Johann Berg Gudmundsson was the perfect complement with his left-foot deliveries. Belgian midfielder Steven Defour and Ireland winger Robbie Brady are both close to returns from long-term injuries and they should offer much-needed creativity but it is still hard to see the Clarets replicating last season's form. — Reuters

Ranieri coy on Roma link

MILAN: Former Roma coach Claudio Ranieri remained tight-lipped yesterday amid talk that he could be in line to replace under-fire Eusebio Di Francesco in the Stadio Olimpico hotseat. The club's billionaire American owner James Pallotta said he was "disgusted" after the Serie A giants plunged to 14th with a 2-0 loss at Bologna.

The 66-year-old Ranieri led Leicester City to the English Premier League title in 2016, but has been without a club since leaving French Ligue 1 club Nantes last May. "I am a fan, Roma is in my heart, but I hope that Di Francesco can move forward," Ranieri told Radio Anchi'lo Sport when asked if he would be interested in a move back to his hometown club.

Former defender Ranieri started his senior football career in Rome in 1973 and later coached the club for two years from 2009, just missing out on the Serie A title in 2010. "That Scudetto we lost in the last half-hour of the final day still burns. I think about it often, although I partly redeemed myself at Leicester," recalled the former Chelsea, Napoli and Inter Milan boss who has said he is keen to continue in management.

Meanwhile, Ranieri believes Roma are paying the price for selling key players, rather than blaming Di Francesco, 49, who took over in 2017 and led the team to third last season. Brazilian goalkeeper Alisson moved to Liverpool during the summer with Belgian midfielder Radja Nainggolan going to Inter and Dutch midfielder Kevin Strootman to Marseille.

"Di Francesco is one of the best young coaches we have in Italy, for reasons of financial fair play the team has been changed, three players who were the backbone of Rome have been sold," he said.

"When a coach signs a contract, he'll know his team's philosophy. "Di Francesco knew what he was signing up for. "Roma have been selling their best players for years, although it's clear no-one expected the team to perform like they have. "The players seem afraid of touching the ball, as if it's hot. "The potential is there," added Ranieri, "but we must find the spark." According to press reports, Di Francesco has been given two games to save his job, starting against promoted Frosinone midweek, before the city derby agnst Lazio at the weekend.— AFP

Five talking points from the weekend's Premier League

MANCHESTER: Liverpool made it six wins out of six and with Chelsea held to a draw at West Ham United, moved two points clear at the top. Manchester City, who romped to a 5-0 win at Cardiff, are level with Chelsea on 16 points. Manchester United were held to a 1-1 draw by promoted Wolves at Old Trafford.

Here are talking points from the weekend's Premier League action:

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR UNITED'S ATTITUDE?

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho laid the blame for the draw with Wolves on his players' attitude, (LINK: <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-soccer-england-mun-wlv-mourinho/mourinho-scathing-over-uniteds-attitude-after-wolves-draw-idUKKCN1M20SU> suggesting that his side were only playing at 30 percent of their potential. Midfielder Paul Pogba agreed and said the team needed to attack more when at home.

If United's attitude isn't right then fans will rightly ask the question, why? Surely, it is the job of the manager to have the players in the right frame of mind for a match? Doesn't Pogba, as a key player in the side, also have a role in making sure his team mates approach the game in the right way?

Perhaps United's problem isn't, however, a lack of desire. There was no obvious lack of effort against Wolves but what was missing was an effective shape and clear tactical structure. As soon as Wolves scored, United appeared to panic with players charging around the field in desperate attempt to get back in front.



Match on TV

(Local Timings)

SPANISH LEAGUE	
Espanyol v Eibar beIN SPORTS HD 7	21:00
Real Sociedad v Rayo Vallecano beIN SPORTS HD 7	22:00
Atletico de Madrid v Huesca beIN SPORTS HD 3	23:00
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
Internazionale Milano v Fiorentina beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:00
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
Werder Bremen v Hertha Berlin beIN SPORTS HD 5	19:30
Freiburg v Schalke beIN SPORTS	21:30
Bayern Munich v Augsburg beIN SPORTS HD 5	21:30
Hannover 96 v TSG 1899 Hoffenheim beIN SPORTS	21:30
FRENCH LEAGUE	
AS Monaco FC v SCO Angers beIN SPORTS HD 6	20:00
FC Nantes v OGC Nice beIN SPORTS HD 7	20:00
Toulouse FC v Saint Etienne beIN SPORTS HD 8	22:00

25 'Tigermania' roars into France as Ryder Cup showdown looms



26 Astros sweep Angels, Dodgers erupt for 14 runs in win over Padres



27 Luka Modric threatens to end Ronaldo-Messi era as world's best



Allen, Bills stun Vikings in blowout

Rams outclass Chargers in battle of LA



MINNEAPOLIS: Latavius Murray #25 of the Minnesota Vikings is tackled with the ball in the fourth quarter of the game against the Buffalo Bills at US Bank Stadium on Sunday in Minneapolis, Minnesota. — AFP

MINNEAPOLIS: Rookie quarterback Josh Allen ran for two touchdowns and threw for another to lead the Buffalo Bills in a stunning 27-6 victory over the host Minnesota Vikings on Sunday in Minneapolis. Allen was 15 of 22 passing for 196 yards, with a 26-yard touchdown pass to tight end Jason Croom and no interceptions. He also rushed for 39 yards and two scores for Buffalo (1-2), which had been outscored 78-23 in its first two games. After two missed kicks cost Minnesota (1-1-1) a win in Green Bay last week, the Vikings didn't even get close enough to attempt a field goal until the fourth quarter against the Bills. Buffalo's defense, which had allowed 75 points through the first six quarters of the season, pressured Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins into three turnovers.

CHIEFS 38, 49ERS 27

Patrick Mahomes continued to dazzle as a first-year starter, passing for 314 yards and three touchdowns as Kansas City cruised in its home opener. The Chiefs (3-0) treated the crowd at Arrowhead Stadium to five touchdowns on their first five possessions, all in the first half. Mahomes passed Peyton Manning for the most touchdown passes thrown through the first three games of a season with his 13th. The loss could prove especially costly for San Francisco (1-2) after quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo was carted off the field in the fourth quarter with a left knee injury. Garoppolo finished 20 of 30 for 251 yards and two touchdowns.

SAINTS 43, FALCONS 37 (OT)

Drew Brees broke the NFL record for career completions and accounted for five touchdowns, including the winner on an overtime quarterback sneak, as New Orleans won a shootout at Atlanta. The Saints (2-1) won the coin toss for overtime and never let the Falcons (1-2) get the ball, driving 80 yards in 15 plays and taking more than seven minutes off the clock. Matt Ryan had a career-best five touchdown passes for the Falcons, completing 26 of 35 for 374 yards, and also threw a pair of two-point conversions. Rookie wide receiver Calvin Ridley had three of the touchdowns, including a 75-yarder, en route to a 146-yard day.

RAMS 35, CHARGERS 23

Jared Goff passed for 354 yards and three touchdowns, and Todd Gurley rushed for 105 yards and a score as the host Rams remained undefeated with a win over the Chargers in the first meeting between the teams since both returned to Los Angeles. The Rams (3-0) moved to L.A. in

2016, while the Chargers (1-2) moved from San Diego before the start of the 2017 season after playing in Los Angeles in their inaugural 1960 season. Goff became the fourth Rams quarterback since 1958 to pass for at least 350 yards in consecutive games, along with Billy Wade, Kurt Warner and Marc Bulger. He also threw for 354 yards in a Week 2 victory over the Arizona Cardinals.

EAGLES 20, COLTS 16

Carson Wentz started his first game at quarterback in more than nine months and led host Philadelphia (2-1) past Indianapolis (1-2). Wentz, who tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in Week 14 on the road against the Rams last December, was 25 of 37 for 255 yards, one touchdown and one interception. Colts quarterback Andrew Luck was effective, going 25 of 40 for 164 yards and one touchdown. Indianapolis turned to quarterback Jacoby Brissett for a Hail Mary on the game's last play, but the ball was knocked down in the end zone as time expired.

LIONS 26, PATRIOTS 10

Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes while leading a ball-control attack as Detroit gave former New England defensive coordinator Matt Patricia his first head coaching victory by defeating the visiting Patriots. Stafford hit on 27 of 36 passes for 262 yards with one interception. Rookie Kerryon Johnson became the first Lions back to rush for at least 100 yards since Reggie Bush on Thanksgiving 2013. Johnson gained 101 yards on 16 carries as the Lions (1-2) possessed the ball for more than 39 minutes. Matt Prater supplied four field goals. Tom Brady completed 14 of 26 passes for 133 yards, one touchdown and one interception for the Patriots (1-2).

TITANS 9, JAGUARS 6

Marcus Mariota came off the bench to complete 12 of 18 passes for 100 yards as visiting Tennessee held on for a touchdown-less win at Jacksonville. Ryan Succop put Tennessee (2-1) on top for good when he drilled a go-ahead, 28-yard field goal with 4:06 remaining in the fourth quarter. Succop connected on three field goals for all of the Titans' scoring. Josh Lambo made two field goals for Jacksonville (2-1), which was trying to open the season with three straight wins for the first time since 2004. Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles finished 21 of 34 for 155 yards and was sacked three times.

PANTHERS 31, BENGALS 21

Cam Newton threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more as Carolina toppled Cincinnati in Charlotte, N.C. Christian McCaffrey gained 184 rushing yards on 28 carries for the Panthers (2-1). Newton completed 15 of 24 passes for 150 yards as the Panthers won their seventh straight home game. Andy Dalton was 29 for 46 for 352 yards with two touchdowns but four interceptions for Cincinnati (2-1), including one on the game's final play.

DOLPHINS 28, RAIDERS 20

Jakeem Grant caught two touchdown passes—including the go-ahead score on a trick play—to lead unbeaten Miami past visiting Oakland (0-3). The Dolphins (3-0) also were led by quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who completed 17 of 23 passes for 289 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. However, the winning touchdown pass was thrown by wide receiver Albert Wilson, who got the ball on an end around and tossed it to Grant for a 52-yard score with 7:18 to play. Wilson then iced the game by running 74 yards with a shovel pass from Tannehill with two minutes left.

REDSKINS 31, PACKERS 17

Washington shredded Green Bay's defense in the first half, then the Packers dropped the ball in their comeback bid as the Redskins won in Landover, Md. The Redskins (2-1) had 323 yards in the first half, with four plays of 34-plus yards en route to a 28-10 lead. Adrian Peterson rushed for 120 yards and two touchdowns while Washington quarterback Alex Smith finished with a modest 220 passing yards with two scores and an interception. The Packers (1-1-1) scored on their opening possession of the second half to pull within 28-17, but they kept getting in their own way after that, including a dropped pass on fourth-and-2 that would have given the Packers a first down inside the Washington 40.

RAVENS 27, BRONCOS 14

Javorius Allen scored two touchdowns, Joe Flacco passed for 277 yards and a score, and Baltimore handled visiting Denver. Alex Collins rushed for 68 yards and a touchdown for the Ravens (2-1). Case Keenum threw for 192 yards and an interception. He also fumbled in Denver's poorest offensive showing of the young season. The Broncos (2-1) scored on their first two possessions but finished the game with seven straight punts, an interception and a failed fourth-down conversion. Emmanuel Sanders and Royce Freeman scored

touchdowns for the Broncos, who lost two players during the game. Cornerback Tramaine Brock sustained a groin injury in the first half, and running back Phillip Lindsay was ejected for throwing punches in a pileup for a loose ball after Keenum fumbled.

GIANTS 27, TEXANS 22

Eli Manning threw two touchdown passes and rookie Saquon Barkley ran for another as New York won in Houston in a battle of previously winless teams. Manning completed 25 of 29 passes for 297 yards and threw a 16-yard scoring pass to Rhett Ellison and a 7-yarder to Sterling Shepard for the Giants (1-2). Odell Beckham Jr. caught nine of Manning's passes for 109 yards. Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson overcame a slow start to complete 24 of 40 passes for 385 yards, but Houston (0-3) took its third loss by seven or fewer points.

BEARS 16, CARDINALS 14

Cody Parkey kicked three field goals, including the decisive 43-yarder with 4:31 remaining, as Chicago rallied from a two-touchdown deficit to win in Glendale, Ariz. Parkey's final field goal was set up by Khalil Mack's forced fumble as the Bears (2-1) picked up their second straight win. Mack recorded two sacks, and Jordan Howard rushed for Chicago's lone touchdown. Rookie quarterback Josh Rosen made his NFL debut with 4:31 remaining but couldn't prevent the Cardinals from dropping to 0-3. Rosen's initial drive ended when his fourth-and-5 pass from the Chicago 45-yard-line was intercepted by Bryce Callahan with 1:10 remaining. He was then sacked on a Hail Mary attempt to end the game.

SEAHAWKS 24, COWBOYS 13

Russell Wilson threw two touchdown passes and Earl Thomas tallied two interceptions as Seattle won its home opener. The Seahawks (1-2) improved their record in Seattle in the month of September to 14-0 under ninth-year head coach Pete Carroll. After giving up 12 sacks in the first two games, Seattle surrendered only two to the Cowboys (1-2) as Wilson completed 16 of 26 passes for 192 yards with no interceptions. Chris Carson carried 32 times for a career-high 102 yards and a touchdown. Seattle sacked a struggling Dak Prescott five times. He was 19 of 34 for 168 yards with one touchdown and the two picks by Thomas. Prescott has now thrown for fewer than 200 yards in five straight games and nine of his past 11. — Reuters