



4 Scientific Center expansion to advance knowledge, science



6 Thousands flee Kashmir after 'terror' warning



24 Demise of US-Russia nuclear treaty fuels fears of arms race



28 Mbappe magic, Di Maria free kick help PSG claim Champions Trophy



Iraq 'identifies' remains of 32 Kuwaitis found in mass grave

Kuwait cautious, says more tests needed to determine their identity

Kuwait, Iraq sign contract to exploit shared oilfields

AMMAN: Kuwait and Iraq signed in the Jordanian capital a contract for conducting a technical study for joint frontier oilfields. Both neighboring countries picked British energy advisory firm ERC Equipose (ERCE) to determine the optimal way to invest into and tap their shared oilfields. The contract was inked by Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Oil Ministry Sheikh Talal Nasser Al-Sabah and the Iraqi Oil Ministry's petroleum contracts and licensing directorate chief Abdulmahdi Al-Ameedi.

Speaking to KUNA following the signing, Sheikh Talal said the agreement came at the behest of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who had instructed the creation of vistas of cooperation with Iraq. He added the contract with the British advisory firm aims at carrying out a technical study on the most effective way to capitalize on oilfields, expecting the study to be completed in two and a half years at most.

He said pursuant to the contract, the British company would conduct studies on border oilfields between Kuwait and Iraq and technical and legal mechanisms for tapping and investing in these oilfields. The Kuwaiti official



AMMAN: Acting Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Oil Ministry Sheikh Talal Nasser Al-Sabah and Iraqi Oil Ministry's petroleum contracts and licensing directorate chief Abdulmahdi Al-Ameedi sign a contract on border oilfields on Friday. — KUNA

spoke highly of the contract as the "fruit of six years of efforts exerted by both countries' working teams". On scheduled meetings by both sides and the British advisory firm yesterday, he said these technical meetings are mainly intended to mull the scope and mechanisms

of working in shared frontier oilfields. Ameedi said the meetings would be a significant step towards the determination of the optimum means to capitalize on joint oilfields. Speaking to KUNA, the Iraqi official said the

Continued on Page 24

BAGHDAD/KUWAIT: The Iraqi foreign ministry declared on Friday "identifying" remains of 32 Kuwaiti prisoners who were found in a mass grave in South Iraq months ago. The ministry spokesperson, Ahmad Al-Sahaf, said in a statement that the "Iraqi technical team tasked with the file of the missing Kuwaitis and prisoners was able, in cooperation with the Red Cross, to locate the mass grave in the Governorate of Al-Muthanna on March 6". The grave contained 46 human corpses, he said, adding that preliminary DNA examination revealed that 32 of them were of Kuwaitis who had been missing.

The ministry spokesperson also said in the statement that Iraq would cooperate with Kuwaiti authorities to transfer the remains to Kuwait and provide proper support for forthcoming tasks in the case. Sahaf has affirmed that Iraq is seeking with utter concern to end ramifications of this humanitarian tragedy that involved Kuwaiti brothers in the beginning of the "Saddami invasion of their country in 1990 and determine the destiny of the missing and Kuwaiti prisoners".

He was alluding to the Aug 2, 1990 invasion carried out by troops of the executed Iraqi ruler at the time, Saddam

Hussein. Iraq will spare no effort for determining the fate of the other missing Kuwaitis and "what has been discovered recently depicts continuation of the efforts that has led to information about the remains", he said.

But Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Nasser Al-Hayyen said later on Friday that more examinations are required to determine the identity of the 32 bodies. "Knowing about the identities of the exhumed bodies needs further examinations," Hayyen told KUNA, noting that Iraq recently sent to Kuwait results of the DNA tests it carried out on the bodies. He pointed out that Kuwait has presented an official request to Iraq to receive the recovered bodies to carry out its own tests and compare the results with its DNA database of Kuwaiti POWs and missing people.

Recognizing the identities of the recovered bodies is the sole responsibility of Kuwait's General Department of Criminal Evidence, which has the complete DNA database related to POWs and missing people, he clarified. He affirmed that once the identity of any body is known, their family would be notified. — KUNA

News in brief

Rights council visits detained bedoons

KUWAIT: A delegation of the National Diwan for Human Rights has visited the central prison inspecting conditions of detained bedoons (stateless residents). Yousef Al-Sagr, a board member, said in a statement yesterday that the delegation met the detainees for four hours on Thursday. They examined their conditions, inquired about their interrogations and listened to their remarks. They met the detainees individually, he said, indicating that reports would be filed to competent state authorities, calling for a permanent solution to this issue. The government has affirmed necessity of cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities to find a "fundamental and decisive" solution to the problem of illegal residents. — KUNA

Trump invited Zarif to White House

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump invited Iran's foreign minister to the White House last month at the height of tensions between the two countries, a magazine reports. The invitation, extended by Senator Rand Paul with permission from the president, was turned down for now, The New Yorker reported Friday. The minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said it was up to Tehran to decide on accepting it. Zarif told the magazine he would not want a White House meeting that yielded just a photo op and a two page statement afterwards, The New Yorker said. At the one hour meeting with Paul on July 15, Zarif suggested ways to end the nuclear impasse and address Trump's concerns, The New Yorker said. — AFP

SF airport bans sale of plastic bottles

SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco International Airport is banning the sale of single-use plastic bottles and will require fliers to buy refillable bottles if they're not already carrying their own, US media reported on Friday. The new rule comes into effect on Aug 20, the San Francisco Chronicle reported, and is part of a five-year plan to lower landfill waste, net carbon emissions and net energy use to zero. The ban will apply to all restaurants, cafes and vending machines, though not to planes using the airport. It exempts brands of flavored water. Filtered water is provided for free at 100 "hydration stations", where fliers can top up glass or metal bottles. "We're the first airport that we're aware of to implement this change," airport spokesman Doug Yakel told the newspaper. "We're on the leading edge of the industry, and we want to push the boundaries of sustainability initiatives," he said. — AFP

Erdogan lays stone for first new church

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday laid the foundation stone for the first new church in Turkey since it became a modern republic in 1923. The church in the Istanbul suburb of Yesilkoy will serve the 17,000-strong Syriac Christian community, which is also paying for the new building. "It is the Turkish republic's duty to meet the need for space to worship for the Syriac community, who are the ancient children of this geography," Erdogan said during the stone-laying ceremony.

Syriac Christians are part of the east-

ern Christian tradition and pray in Aramaic, which Jesus is believed to have spoken. Erdogan said he hoped the construction of the Syriac Orthodox Mor Ephrem Church would be completed within two years. He had ordered the Istanbul metropolitan municipality to find space for the building in 2009 while he was prime minister. It is being built on land belonging to the Latin Catholic Church and which is part of an Italian cemetery, the head of the Beyoglu Virgin Mary Syriac Orthodox Church Foundation in Istanbul, Sait Susin, said.

In recent years, Turkey has restored and reopened churches but the Islamic-rooted government has been criticized for trying to Islamize the official secular country. Christian minorities including Armenians have also complained of being treated as second-class citizens in

Continued on Page 24



ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (center), Syriac (Assyrian) Orthodox Patriarch Yusuf Cetin (left) and Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I pose during the stone-laying ceremony of modern Turkey's first church in the Yesilkoy district yesterday. — AFP

No 'Guardian of the Galaxy': US raccoon goes viral

WASHINGTON: He may lack the poise of "Guardians of the Galaxy" superhero Rocket Raccoon but this futuristic little adventurer is becoming an Internet star in his own right after coming off worse in an encounter with a storm grate. The mischievous mammal went viral after he was snapped by US firefighters managing to look simultaneously startled and cute as a button during a bungled escape from a sewer on Thursday. "He had been stuck for a while but we are happy to report he is free!!!" the local fire department tweeted after freeing

the trapped trash panda in Newton, Massachusetts.

Firefighters were dispatched when a passing cyclist saw the raccoon clinging desperately to the grill, head and tiny paws visible through the metal struts, local media reported. "We sent a fire truck and we tried to remove his head from the sewer grate with soap and water," said Newton Fire Lieutenant Michael Bianchi. When that failed, the firefighters called in local government animal control experts, who sedated the raccoon, calming it enough to pull its head out of the grate.

"It was quite the operation," said Bianchi. The whole rescue mission lasted two hours. "We rescue citizens both big and small!!!" tweeted the Newton fire department. Raccoons, which are omnivorous, live around two to three years in the wild. They are known for their strange fixation with "washing" their food and hands, a ritual believed by scientists to be related to their innate tendency to forage for food near water sources. — AFP

Praise, ire as Saudi Arabia eases travel curbs on women

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's easing of travel restrictions on women was hailed in the kingdom Friday as a historic leap for gender equality, but it also drew anger from hardliners backing contentious male "guardianship" rules. The Muslim kingdom announced it was effectively allowing women over the age of 21 to obtain passports and travel abroad without securing the permission of their "guardians" - husband, father or other male relatives.

The reform, which also covers civil rights such as allowing women to register childbirth, marriage or divorce, does not dismantle but diminishes the guardianship system. "The new regulations are history in the making," Princess Reema bint Bandar, named earlier this year as Saudi Arabia's first woman ambassador to Washington, said on Twitter. "They call for the equal engagement of women and men in our society. It is a holistic approach to gender equality that will unquestionably create real change for Saudi women."

The decision triggered a wave of jubilation on social media, with the hashtag "No guardianship over women travel" gaining traction. Many also posted humorous memes of women dashing to airports lugging suitcases and being chased by male relatives. The changes come after high-profile attempts by women to escape alleged guardianship abuse despite a string of reforms by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, including a landmark decree last year that overturned the world's only ban on women drivers.

Some Saudi women said they had to hack into their guardian's phone to alter the settings on a government app that would allow them to exit the country. Among the women who fled was 18-year-old Rahaf Mohammed

Continued on Page 24



NEWTON, Massachusetts: A juvenile raccoon looks out from a grate after getting stuck on Aug 1, 2019. — AFP

Local

Kuwait recalls French town's hosting of nationals during Iraqi invasion

Kuwaitis become attached to Divonne-les-Bains since then: Diplomat

DIVONNE-LES-BAINS, France: Kuwait will never forget the French town of Divonne-les-Bains' embracing of its nationals in the delicate time of the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said. Kuwait remembers how Divonne-les-Bains welcomed, supported and offered all facilities to citizenry, who moved to it during this difficult time, to pursue their lives and study, Jarallah said on the sidelines of his participation in a function organized by the Kuwaiti embassy in Paris on Friday for Kuwaiti tourists visiting the French town.

"Since then, many Kuwaitis have become attached to this town due to its picturesque landscape and ideal location near the Swiss city of Geneva and the rest of the south of France," Jarallah stated. He underlined that Kuwait also recalls the French government's support to Kuwait and its remarkable contribution to the liberation war. The Kuwaiti official hailed the warm welcome of Kuwaiti tourists during their visits to Divonne-les-Bains every year. In addition to Jarallah, the ceremony was also attended by Chairman of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Al-Ghanem, Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman and a large audience of Kuwaiti diplomats and tourists as well as French officials and public figures, including Divonne-les-Bains Mayor Vincent Sacttolin.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador Suleiman highlighted the depth of



DIVONNE-LES-BAINS, France: A group photo taken during a function organized by the Kuwaiti embassy in Paris on Friday for Kuwaiti tourists visiting the French town of Divonne-les-Bains. — KUNA

Kuwaiti-French relations and their great future prospects. He expressed appreciation to Mayor Sacttolin and town council for their welcome of Kuwaitis, who prefer to spend their summer vacations in their beautiful town. "Our choice of the second of August reminds us of the noble stance of Divonne-les-Bains during the plight of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait which started on the same day in 1990," Suleiman said in a speech during the ceremony. "The town

has provided all facilities to Kuwaiti citizens who stayed here throughout the seven-month-long Iraqi occupation," he noted. He renewed Kuwait's gratitude for France's principled stance and support to Kuwait during the occupation ordeal and its participation in the liberation war. In a statement after the ceremony, Suleiman unveiled that he held a fruitful meeting with Mayor Sacttolin before the start of the function. He disclosed that they dis-

cussed efforts to bolster relations with the French town as well as investment opportunities in Divonne-les-Bains and Kuwait.

In the meantime, Mayor Sacttolin said that the remarkable Kuwaiti presence in town has given it a distinctive character. Divonne-les-Bains remembers those difficult days experienced by Kuwaiti visitors during the Iraqi invasion of their country, he said, recalling how the local community extended a helpful hand to the Kuwaiti

guests in a great show of solidarity, especially with children. He also recalled how local schools had opened their doors for Kuwaiti children to enroll and continue their study. Relations with Kuwait have developed over the past years and began to take cultural, economic and humanitarian dimensions as the Kuwaiti visitors have become part of Divonne-les-Bains' community that "We cherish and respect," he concluded. — KUNA

Kuwait Martyrs Office marks Iraqi invasion's anniversary

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: On the 29th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Kuwait Martyrs Office held various activities in Kuwait over the weekend. The three days of activities took place at 360 mall, Avenues mall, and Hamra mall. Similar events were held at the headquarters of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources. The activities included displaying huge billboards with photos of martyrs, activities for children such as drawing competitions and theatrical performances. Competitions for adults were held as well. The Kuwait Martyrs Office holds such activities to remind the younger generations of a very important part of Kuwait's history, as over half of the Kuwaiti population is under 29.



KUWAIT: Officials attend a function organized by the Kuwait Martyrs Office at 360 mall to commemorate Kuwaiti martyrs. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Children attend the event.



A memorial commemorating Kuwaiti martyrs displayed at 360 mall.

Kuwait grateful for int'l community efforts to end Iraqi occupation

NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi has reiterated Kuwait's gratitude and appreciation for the international community's efforts to liberate Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation which took place on the same day 29 years ago. "I would like to renew my thanks to all the countries which backed the right, justice and international legitimacy at this hall," Otaibi said at a UN Security Council session on the children and armed conflicts on Friday. He recalled with appreciation the UN Security Council's adoption of resolution No. 660 on the same day of the Iraqi



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi speaks during a UN Security Council session on the children and armed conflicts. — KUNA

invasion which condemned the invasion and demanded Iraqis to withdraw immediately and unconditionally to positions as they were on 1 August 1990.

"Thanks to God and the UNSC's commitment to enforcing its resolutions, at the forefront of which resolution No. 660 (of 1990), my country has been liberated," he said. He noted that the image of the UNSC meeting to discuss liberation of Kuwait was engraved in hearts and minds of every Kuwaiti. "Many of Kuwait's brave sons were killed during this invasion and many others were taken as prisoners of war or gone missing," he regretted.

On the protection of children during armed conflicts, Otaibi affirmed Kuwait's support to all efforts aligned with the United Nations Charter to safeguard children's rights, especially in armed conflicts. He pointed that the council has adopted several resolutions to guarantee the protection of children against grave violations and to guarantee their access to humanitarian assistance. Citing violations against children in Syria, Yemen and the occupied Palestinian territories, the Kuwaiti envoy emphasized the importance of protecting children, with governments bearing primary responsibility in this regard. He also underlined the pivotal role of the UN, international and regional organizations in offering required protection to children across the world. — KUNA

local spotlight

Invasion of Kuwait



By Muna Al-Fuzal

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

Last week brought up a bitter memory that Kuwait cannot forget despite the passage of 29 years - the Iraqi invasion of the country. There are still details of those difficult days that are unknown. The invasion was an attack by the Iraqi army against Kuwait on Aug 2, 1990 by a direct order from the former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. All international embassies in Kuwait were abolished, Kuwait was declared the 19th province of Iraq and names of streets and facilities were changed. The Iraqi army carried out all kinds of torture and humiliation that led to the death and disappearance of many Kuwaitis.

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait lasted for seven months. The occupation ended with the liberation of Kuwait on Feb 26, 1991, after the Second Gulf War. The war was waged by coalition forces from 35 nations led by the United States in response to the invasion. The memory of the Iraqi invasion is a vital phase in the history of the nation. The whole world supported Kuwait and it was a rare example of international unity against a criminal act.

His Highness the Amir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited Iraq in June in a move that was described as historic. Today, the Iraqi and Kuwait governments continue to heal the wounds of the invasion, but it is not easy. This issue is still an open case and under consideration by the Kuwaiti and Iraqi sides.

Recently, some Kuwaiti academics spoke about the importance of documenting the Iraqi invasion in full, criticizing the absence of a formal project documenting this act of aggression in all its details and events. They said documenting the invasion is needed in order to avoid any possible fallacies that may be published by some people or sources about the history of Kuwait, especially with the emergence of new and suspicious studies calling for rewriting the history of Kuwait away from the truth. It will also highlight the role of the Kuwaiti resistance and the issue of prisoners and martyrs of the invasion. It will be a living memory for generations, and will not die over the years.

I do not think there is a deliberate intention not to document the events of the Iraqi invasion, but perhaps it was not done because it is a memory that cannot be forgotten or ignored. I agree to the need for younger generations to learn about the reality of the Iraqi invasion and that there are still martyrs and persons whose fate is unknown. Raising the matter annually in local and international media is required, so that the current and future generations know the details of the brutal invasion.

The Iraqi foreign ministry confirmed in a statement last week efforts of the authorities to end the effects of the invasion by the Saddam regime. This issue has left many sad memories for all those who lost their families and loved ones, and calls for the importance of peace and avoiding war and aggression. No one can emerge victorious from aggression.

Local



Nick Butter running in Kuwait.

British runner completes marathon in Kuwait to raise prostate cancer awareness

Nick Butter runs 42 km coastline within five hours

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Running marathons in 162 countries is not easy. But for Nick Butter, it was a task that took his full dedication for the sake of his friend Kevin Webber, who has terminal prostate cancer. The British Embassy in Kuwait supported Butter to complete his 164th marathon in Kuwait on Friday. He started out from Radisson Blu Hotel on Taawoun Street, running 42 km to Shuwaikh Port within five hours. On his route, he met many people out for morning exercises, cyclists, fellow runners and even some Harley Davidson enthusiasts.

Butter has raised £70,000 during his trip around the

world. "I met my friend Kevin Webber and learned he was dying, but was still full of hope. I decided to spread awareness about prostate cancer that many do not know much about," he said. In Jan 2018, Butter set off to run a marathon in every country in the world - he plans to run through 196 countries including war-torn areas and places of political unrest to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. "I spent two years planning this trip. I gathered a team and started my trip to run around the world on January 2018," he told Kuwait Times.

Butter is an inspiration for many on social media. He inspired a lot of people to get their prostate cancer check-up and some were diag-

nosed with it. "Early detection tests will lower the risk of death from prostate cancer," he said. He hopes to smash world records and raise at least £250,000 for Prostate Cancer UK, as well as raising awareness that all men should get checked regularly.

He revealed the difficulties he faced running in Africa for hours in the heat. "You need a lot of water, but not finding water at the right time is scary. I drink five to eight liters of water during a marathon. Also, I was bitten by a dog. Stray dogs always want to chase runners. Running usually takes between three to five hours. Running through beaches, desert sand or in bad weather is always tough and slow," Butter said.

"I have to take into account that some countries have laws and rules - like I cannot run topless or may get arrested for spitting while running. Also, traffic is a big issue, where some drivers drive anywhere they like. You have to be careful, as some countries do not have traffic lights or electricity, so it is chaotic," he pointed out.



Raised £70,000 during trip around the world



KUWAIT: Nick Butter speaks to Kuwait Times. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Zain launches Hajj roaming promotion for free

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the launch of its special promotion for customers traveling to perform Hajj this year. The promotion offers post-paid and prepaid (eeZee) customers the opportunity to use Internet roaming for free at Hajj ritual locations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Zain's annual promotion comes as a contribution to keep customers who travel to the Sacred House connected to each other and to their loved ones for free during Hajj season without any additional charges from their part. The company is keen on being close to its customers every year by sharing this spiritual occasion with them.

The offer allows postpaid customers to use their existing local Internet capacity while roaming for free, while prepaid (eeZee) customers will get 2 GBs of Internet roaming capacity for free. When customers exceed the limit of their Internet roaming capacity, they will receive a free renewal at no additional charges. The offer is valid at Hajj ritual loca-



tions in Makkah and Madinah during Hajj season. Upon arrival to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, customers can simply manually select Zain KSA as their preferred network and then send DATA ON to 99990 to enjoy the Hajj Internet roaming offer. The limited time offer starts from August 1 and continues until August 15.

Zain continuously offers services that are tailored to match its customers' expectations and needs during their travels, and to keep them connected to their loved ones and businesses with more convenience and around the clock. By launching this exciting offer, Zain continues to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best services and offers to meet customers' professional and personal telecommunications needs.

Kuwaiti ophthalmologist to broadcast operation live

KUWAIT: The Annual Meeting of the American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS) has chosen Kuwaiti ophthalmologist and retina specialist Dr Khaled Al-Sabti to broadcast live one of his intricate operations to the conference venue. Dr Sabti, who was taking part in the 2019 convention, also conducted three complicated surgeries, also broadcast live to the conferees, using a device he had invented for treating retinal detachment.

The device is quite effective for complicated retinal conditions, the Kuwaiti eye specialist said, adding that another operation was performed for treating retinal fibrosis. Three other ophthalmologists, one from America, another from Italy and the third from Belgium, were selected to screen live some of their complex operations. The audience interacted, addressing questions and holding debates regarding applied techniques. Dr Sabti added that the ASRS convention that concluded last week grouped

1,500 surgeons. The meeting, held annually every 20 years, witnessed live screening of operations for the first time. He has boasted of this achievement that places Kuwait on the global map in medicine, namely ophthalmology. Kuwait deserves to hoist its flag at international medical quarters because it hosts elite doctors in various specialties.

The renowned Kuwaiti doctor holds the Canadian board and fellowship in ophthalmology since 2000. He had served as head of the retinal treatment ward at the Kuwaiti Al-Bahar Ophthalmology Hospital where he served for eight years, during which he conducted more 5,000 surgeries. He registered two patents and a third one, he had presented at a conference in the US. Moreover, he developed a device for eye treatment, accredited by the World Health Organization (WHO). Kuwait Specialist Eye Center, represented by Dr Sabti, was among seven centers, chosen from diverse countries to partake in 'FLOREtina' eye treatment conference, held in Italy earlier this year, to air live eye operations from Kuwait to the meeting venue. Kuwait was the sole Arab country that participated in this international event, organized every two years. At least 3,000 surgeons from various countries take part in the regular medical gathering in Italy. —KUNA

Ready for the Beach ??

Kuwait Times

Subscribe or renew your subscription & get K.D 50

1 Coupon FREE

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

Local

Photo of the Day



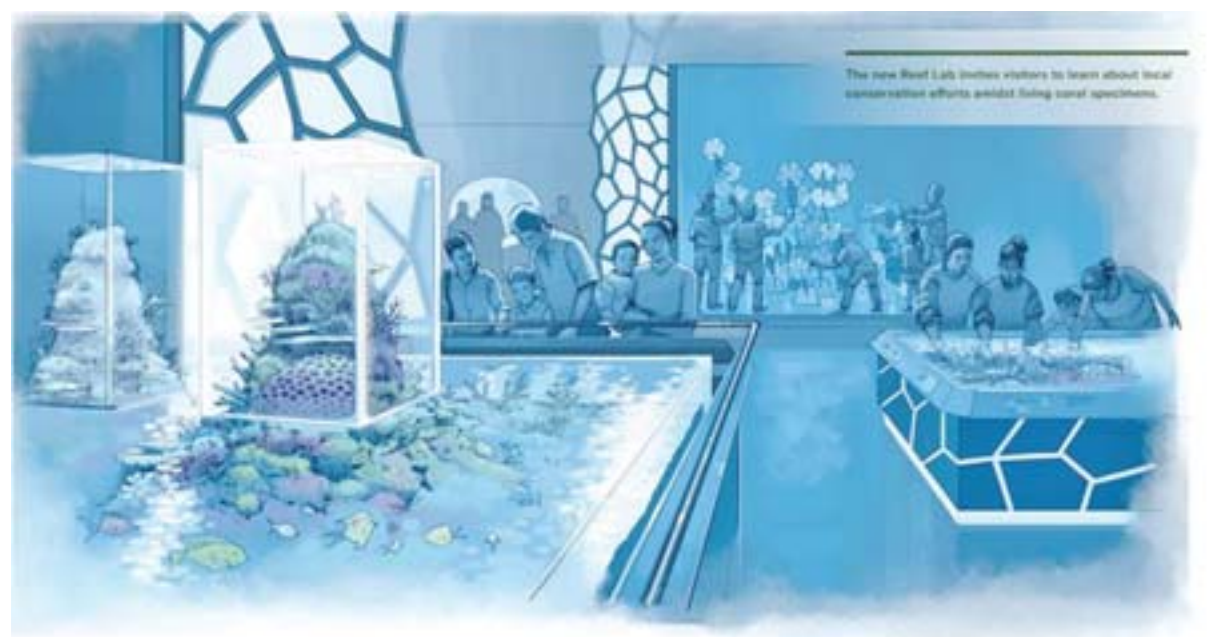
KUWAIT: Close-up looks of a starfish found on the Khairan beach. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Scientific Center's expansion contributes to knowledge, science advancement in Kuwait

Project to build a three-storey building over an area of 30,000 square meters



KUWAIT: Ongoing works at the Scientific Center expansion project. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: The expansion of the Scientific Center of Kuwait will contribute to the advancement of science and knowledge in the country in accordance with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's vision. The expansion - supported by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) - aims at encouraging current and future generations to continue pursuing knowledge, science and education.

Speaking on the issue, Deputy KFAS Director Dr Salem Al-Hajraf said that the center, established in 2000 under the auspices and attendance of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was a cornerstone in Kuwait's scientific education. KFAS, a non-profit institution founded in 1976, will use all of its resources to back all efforts for advancing science, affirmed Hajraf.

General Manager of the Scientific Center Rana Al-Nibari said meanwhile that the expansion project would include a three-storey building at a space of 30,000 square meters in addition to outer renovations to the old building. The new facility will cater to the needs of visitors and will include classrooms, training halls, and new intriguing facilities, she indicated, revealing that the initial



Rana Al-Nibari



Dr Salem Al-Hajraf

expansion process began on June 2018 with a budget of KD 36 million. The expansion project is expected to finish on June 30, 2021.

In regards to the original center building, Nibari revealed that in 2018, the facility hosted some 500,000 visitors of which 20 percent were from schools and various education facilities. The center also offer internship



programs for volunteers during the summer season, she indicated. In April 2013, the Scientific Center inked the initial agreement to develop the expansion project, which will

include new and interesting facilities. The Scientific Center was the brainchild of late Amir Sheikh Jaber. It was built at a cost of KD 25 million. — KUNA

NBK sponsors 'Donate for their education' initiative

KUWAIT: In line with National Bank of Kuwait's commitment towards community development and its deep-rooted beliefs that education is a human basic right, NBK extended its sponsorship for the fifth consecutive year to Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) program 'Donate for their education' to assist children of low-income and vulnerable families. The program aims to provide education opportunities to 5,000 students through covering their school tuition fees for the upcoming academic year 2019/2020. Sponsoring this program is in line with NBK's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, a cornerstone to the bank's strategy to promote sustainability and as part of the strategic partnership between NBK and KRCS over the years.

"NBK's sponsorship of 'Donate for their education' program for the fifth consecutive year is in line with our CSR framework guiding our efforts towards promoting the education sector. Investing in education is of the utmost importance as it is considered the solid foundations on which the country's development is built on," Isam Al-Sager, NBK CEO said. "We are committed to developing our society and we believe that education paves the way to a promising future in Kuwait," he added.

Sager highlighted that NBK is keen on increasing the number of students benefiting from the campaign which successfully managed to cover the tuition fees for about 5,000 students last year. Such efforts contribute to social stability for families in need and also provide opportunities to create an educated and knowledgeable generation.

"We are committed to supporting various humanitarian and charitable initiatives as we always strive to helping those in need as part of our responsibilities towards the community, in line with our aim to set the foundations of sustainable development in line with the strategic development vision "Kuwait 2035," Sager added.

Sager stressed that educational development and youth empowerment are two of the

main pillars of NBK's strategy to promote sustainability. Over the past three years, NBK has consistently increased its contributions and managed to successfully reinforce its position as a global sustainability leader, culminating in its inclusion in the world's leading FTSE4Good index.

Meanwhile, Dr Hilal Al Sayer, Chairman of KRCS said: "We are delighted to have such a strategic partnership with NBK and highly value its contribution to this humanitarian project, which aims at providing the necessary support to the children in need."

"A donation campaign to support education is an excellent developmental project. Through such initiatives, we are able to provide education for children who come from families in need. That highly contributes to reducing illiteracy and assists in developing and preparing those children for the labor market, thus equipping them with the necessary tools to support their families and eradicate poverty, along with its negative impact on the society," Dr Sayer added.

"Donate for their education' program is part of KRCS' contributions in partnership with NBK which goes back to 2015. The project successfully covered the school tuitions for 500 students in its first year,



KUWAIT: Isam Al-Sager, NBK CEO, receives a letter of appreciation from Dr Hilal Al Sayer, Chairman of KRCS.

2,565 students in its second year, 4,275 students in the third year and 5,000 students in its fourth year. NBK maintains its leadership position as the best bank in maintaining CSR practices among regional banks and private sector institutions. NBK has an unwavering

commitment to contribute to humanitarian organizations and social initiatives that support a wide range of objectives, especially KRCS which is a leading humanitarian organization with wide impact at both local and international levels.

Proposal to end food subsidies gains momentum in parliament

MPs propose up to KD 50 monthly allowance to replace subsidized food



By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Cabinet agreed to meet with the parliament's financial committee in September to discuss a proposal calling for reviewing subsidies given by the state for public services. Sources said the parliamentary request includes a proposal calling for a new mechanism to present subsidies for services in order to save state funds and rationalize spending in the public budget.

The proposal calls for the state to cancel state-purchased food supplies that are sold to citizens at supply centers, according to the sources. With this, the centers will be closed and workers will be terminated or relocated to other departments. On the other hand, the state would give each married citizen who has a rental contract a financial allowance for the value of food supplies that may reach KD 40 to KD 50 monthly. They said the value of the allowance equals half the financial value allocated for the state to buy the supplies.

The sources said the same applies to gasoline prices, as MPs believe that the number of expat cars is double those of citizens, so they are benefiting more from gas prices. MPs propose that KD 20 be paid monthly to every Kuwaiti who has a driving license, as gas prices will be liberalized and sold at the same price in the Gulf or worldwide. MPs Ahmad Al-Fadhl, Safa Al-Hashem,

Salah Khoursheed and other MPs have started to frame the parliamentary proposal and prepare details related to it, said the sources.

Earlier this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that Kuwait needs to implement deeper reforms to secure adequate savings for future generations, urging the Gulf state to gradually phase out fuel, electricity, and water subsidies and transfers.

In other news, informed sources said MP Riyadh Al-Adasani plans to submit a grilling motion against Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah before the upcoming parliamentary term scheduled to start at the end of October. They said Adasani decided to prepare the grilling motion and not just threaten with it, and wants it to be the first grilling of the new term.

Adasani believes many grillings will be filed against ministers at the start of the term, and delaying this grilling means losing its value, the sources said. They added that Adasani plans to submit a new grilling against His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, so he wants to finish with the interior minister early. MPs Abdulkareem Al-Kandari, Abdulwahhab Al-Babtain, Shuaib Al-Muwaizri and Mohammad Al-Mutair are ready to sign a no-confidence motion in support of Adasani's grilling, according to the sources.

Bus stops in Kuwait lack basic components



KUWAIT: Many passengers using buses to commute in Kuwait suffer while waiting at various bus stops that lack proper seating, adequate shades and other basic elements. As a result, a large number of people think twice before using buses, especially under current extreme weather conditions, despite strong campaigns to encourage mass transportation as a measure to ease traffic jams. — KUNA photos



Firemen battle Fifth Ring Road bridge blaze



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Firemen put out a fire in a bridge under construction on Fifth Ring Road, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said. Sulaibikhat,

Ardiya, Mishref and backup fire station responded and put out the blaze before flames could spread any further. No injuries were reported, while an investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.

we're hiring

JOIN OUR TEAM

Social media graphic designer

The ideal candidate should have a minimum of 3 years of experience in the field, be able to meet deadlines and deliver a high standard of work in a fast-paced environment. The ability to create 2D animation is desirable but not essential.

Technical experience:

- Strong graphic, typography, and digital design skills.
- Advanced knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign.
- Comfortable using Mac OS X & preparing print-ready artwork.
- Good knowledge of social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter).

To apply jobsinkwt8@gmail.com

Hundreds 'bachelors' evicted in ongoing campaign

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality workers discovered 119 violating houses whose owners responded by evicting the bachelors after receiving warnings. Meanwhile, 120 dwellings rented illegally by single expatriate men were evacuated after power was cut, the municipality's public relations department said. "Field tours will continue as scheduled to evict 'bachelors' from private residential areas as part of a campaign that started on July 1," the department said in a statement, noting that the municipality is keen on dealing with complaints by citizens and expats about bachelors residing in residential areas.

Luxury Apartments for Rent with 5 Star Amenities

جمان
juman

Key Features and Services

- Pleasingly located in the booming area of Mahboula
- Secure underground parking
- Night and day Guest relations desk
- On site Facilities maintenance - 24 hours
- CCTV Surveillance and security guards - 24 hours

Entertainment Facilities

- BBQ and Chill-out areas
- All weather swimming pool
- Exercise/lap pool and open air Jacuzzi
- International squash court
- A fantastically equipped fitness center

Types of Apartments

- 1 Bedrooms Fully Furnished
- 2 & 3 Bedrooms
- 4 & 5 Bedrooms - Duplex & Villas

In The Heart of Mahboula - Off Fahaheel Expressway

* Located near several English and American schools * Close to Oil sectors

For Inquiries

22285616 - 97272745

International

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019



Sudan protesters reach full agreement on civilian rule

Hundreds detained at Moscow opposition protest

Page 8

Page 7



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri people stand in a queue at a petrol station in Srinagar. — AFP

Anxious tourists flee Kashmir

Indian govt warns of threat of 'terror' attacks

SRINAGAR: Thousands of tourists and students scrambled to get places on planes and buses leaving Kashmir yesterday after the Indian government warned of the threat of "terror" attacks. Thousands of military reinforcements were arriving in the Himalayan territory, also claimed by Pakistan, where a three-decade old insurgency has left tens of thousands dead.

The Jammu and Kashmir state government said late Friday that holiday-makers and religious tourists should leave "immediately" because of new intelligence about "terror threats" to a major Hindu pilgrimage in the region. A separate government notice also advised hundreds of students from other Indian states to leave the Himalayan Valley. Britain and Germany have issued warnings against travel to the region.

Anxious visitors, including some foreigners, flooded the airport at the main city Srinagar on Saturday, many without tickets for flights that day. Visitor numbers have been boosted by the Amarnath Yatra pilgrimage in recent years,

with more 300,000 Hindus devotees visiting the ice-stagnant cave shrine in the Himalayas. The pilgrimage has been cancelled because of the scare. A huge security force had been guarding the route even before the alert. A second smaller pilgrimage, the Machail Mata Yatra, in Jammu region was also cancelled Saturday.

Airport chaos

"Passengers who were scheduled to return in coming days have turned up in panic at the airport today," said the manager of one airline operating the Delhi-Srinagar route. "It's chaotic and not many will manage seats unless there are additional flights." Hundreds of Indian students from outside Kashmir were evacuated in buses. "All the non-local students have left the campus for their respective states," an administrative official at the National Institute of Technology in Srinagar told AFP.

Kashmiri residents formed long lines outside petrol stations, food stores and bank cash machines on Friday night

after the alert was announced. But the queues eased Saturday. India's military head in Kashmir, Lieutenant General Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon, said Friday that a sniper gun and a mine with Pakistani markings had been found on the route of the Amarnath Yatra. "This proves Pakistani attempts to attack the Yatra," said Singh, who has 500,000 forces in Kashmir battling the insurgency.

India and Pakistan divided Kashmir when they became independent in 1947 but both claim it in full and have fought two of three wars since over the territory. The Indian government has admitted that 10,000 extra troops were sent to Kashmir a week ago. Media reports Friday said a further 25,000 had been ordered there. The government has declined to say how many are in the new reinforcements.

While military authorities and the state government highlighted the security risk, Kashmir politicians have raised fears that the troops are sign that the Hindu nationalist government could carry out a threat to scrap

Kashmir's special status under the constitution. Political leaders in the territory have warned that cancelling constitutionally guaranteed rights, which mean only state domiciles can buy land in the region, could spark unrest in the disputed Muslim majority state.

The main opposition Congress party accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government of preparing for a "misadventure" which leader P. Chidambaram said would be "fraught with very serious legal and political consequences". "It is clear to me that they (government) are preparing for some misadventure and I would warn them not to embark upon any misadventure," the former federal home minister told reporters in New Delhi.

Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik, who is named by the New Delhi government, said "unnecessary panic" was being created by "rumors". Modi's government has refused to say whether it is about to scrap the constitutional article, though he has often spoken against it. — AFP

US, Taliban resume peace talks in Doha

DOHA: Washington is hoping for a breakthrough after talks between the US and the Taliban resumed in Doha yesterday amid renewed efforts to plot an end to Afghanistan's 18-year-long conflict. The US, which invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban in 2001, wants to withdraw thousands of troops and draw down its longest ever war. But it would first seek assurances from the insurgents that they would renounce Al-Qaeda and stop other militants like the Islamic State group using the country as a haven.

The talks were paused yesterday evening and set to resume today at 0700 GMT, a Taliban source told AFP. The source also said efforts were underway to organize a direct meeting between US envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban co-founder Mullah Baradar, who heads the movement's political wing. Washington is hoping to strike a peace deal with the Taliban by September 1 — ahead of Afghan polls due the same month, and US presidential polls due in 2020.

US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday that "we've made a lot of progress. We're talking". A coalition led by Washington ousted the Taliban accusing it of harbouring Al-Qaeda jihadists who claimed the September 11, 2001 attacks against the US that killed almost 3,000 people. "We are pursuing a peace agreement not a withdrawal agreement, a peace agreement that enables withdrawal," Khalilzad tweeted on Friday as he arrived in Doha after talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad. "Our presence in Afghanistan is conditions-based, and any withdrawal will be conditions-based."

No Afghan is inferior

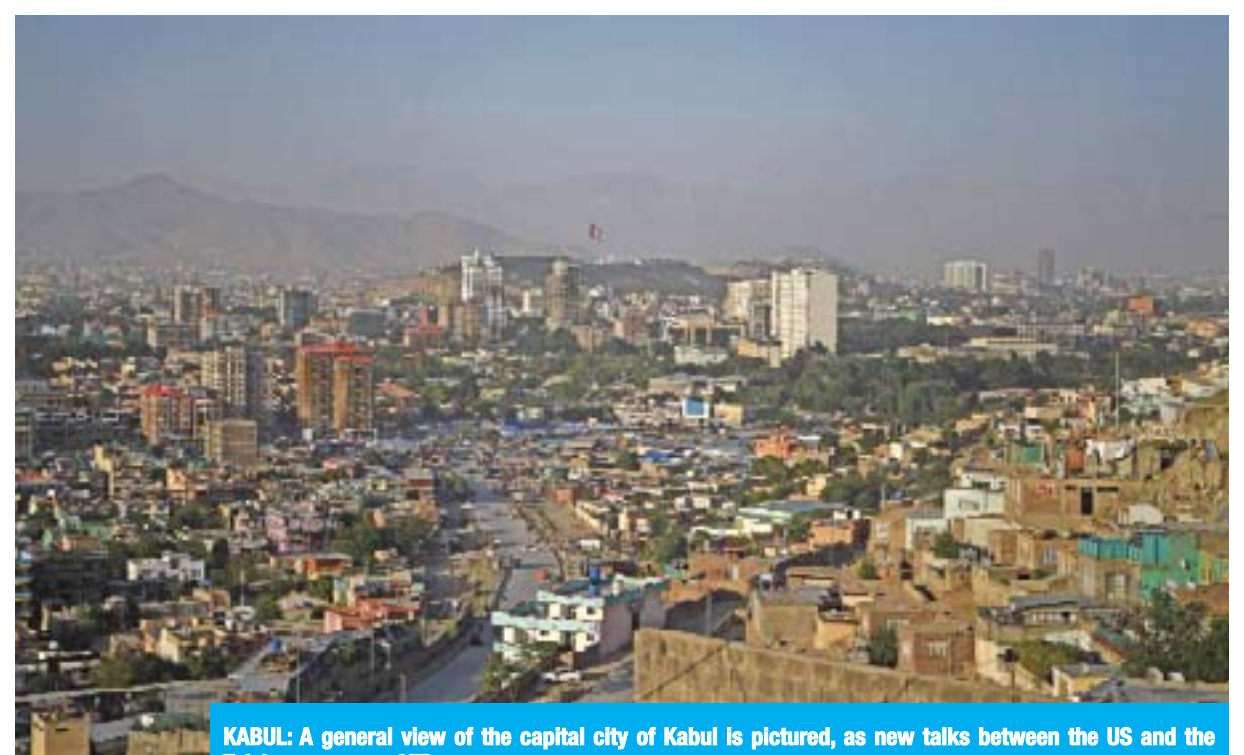
In another sign of progress, the Afghan government has formed a negotiating team for separate peace talks with the Taliban that diplomats hope could be held as early as later this month. The Washington Post reported Thursday that an initial deal to end the war would see the US force in Afghanistan reduced to as low as 8,000 from the current level of around 14,000. In exchange, the Taliban would abide by a ceasefire, renounce Al-Qaeda, and talk to the Kabul administration.

An Afghan official hinted last week that the government of President Ashraf Ghani was preparing for direct talks with the Taliban, the details of which have yet to be announced. "We have no preconditions to begin talks, but the peace agreement is not without conditions," Ghani wrote in Pashto on his Facebook page on Friday ahead of the talks. "We want a republic government not an emirate," he said, a challenge to the Taliban which has insisted on reverting to the "Islamic Emirate" name Afghanistan bore under its rule. "The negotiations will be tough, and the Taliban should know that no Afghan is inferior in religion or courage to them."

Joined at the hip

Council on Foreign Relations counter-terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman said that he doubted the Taliban would ever renounce Al-Qaeda-potentially hindering any deal. "I believe that the Taliban and Al-Qaeda will remain joined at the hip," he told AFP, questioning the sense of "believing the word of terrorist organizations". "The Taliban can negotiate with the United States," he added but suggested that the Taliban would be unlikely to break their personal pledges to Al-Qaeda.

"It means that Al-Qaeda was going to continue fighting, counting on that once the US left Afghanistan it (the US) wasn't going to come back. "Al-Qaeda and the Taliban would have free rein. It's not a far-fetched assumption." The thorny issues of power-sharing with the Taliban, the role of regional powers including Pakistan and India, and



KABUL: A general view of the capital city of Kabul is pictured, as new talks between the US and the Taliban go on. — AFP

the fate of Ghani's administration also remain unresolved. The latest US-Taliban encounter follows last month's talks between influential Afghans and the Taliban which agreed a "roadmap for peace"—but stopped short of calling for a ceasefire. Kabul resident Ali Yarmal, 23, said he hoped the US and the Taliban would sign a peace deal. "We want a prosperous Afghanistan, we want a peaceful Afghanistan. I hope this peace process turns Afghanistan into prosperous country again," he said.

Apparently believing they have the upper hand in the war, the Taliban have kept up attacks even while talking to the United States and agreeing to the Afghan dialogue. The United Nations has said that civilian casualty rates across Afghanistan jumped back to record levels last month, following a dip earlier in the year. More than 1,500 civilians were killed or wounded in the conflict in July, the highest monthly toll so far in 2019 and the deadliest single month since May 2017. — AFP

International

Sudan protesters reach full agreement on civilian rule

Thousands took to streets to celebrate prospect of civilian govt

KHARTOUM: Protest leaders reached "full agreement" with Sudan's ruling generals yesterday on a hard-won constitutional declaration, the African Union said, paving the way for a promised transition to civilian rule. Thousands of jubilant Sudanese took to the streets of the capital Khartoum when the deal was announced before dawn to celebrate the prospect of a civilian government. The declaration builds on a landmark power-sharing deal signed on July 17 and provides for a joint civilian-military ruling body to oversee the formation of a transitional civilian government and parliament to govern for a three-year transition period. The deal is the fruit of difficult negotiations between the leaders of the mass protests which erupted last December against the three-decade rule of president Omar al-Bashir and the generals who eventually ousted him in a palace coup in April.

"I am announcing to the Sudanese, African and international public opinion that the two delegations have fully agreed on the constitutional declaration," AU mediator Mohamed El Hacem Lebart told reporters. He said further meetings would be held to work out the technical details of the deal and discuss the signing ceremony. An initial inking of the agreement is expected to take place on Sunday, protest leaders said, ahead of a formal signing in front of foreign dignitaries.

The talks between the protest movement and the generals had been repeatedly interrupted by deadly violence against demonstrators. They were suspended for weeks after men in military uniform broke up a long-running protest camp outside army headquarters in Khartoum on June 3, killing at least 127 people according to doctors close to the protest movement. They were briefly suspended again earlier this week when paramilitaries shot dead six demonstrators in the city of Al-Obeid, four of them schoolchildren.

Revolution succeeded

Demonstrators among the crowds that took to the streets in the early hours hailed victory in their struggle

for a new Sudan. "For us, the revolution succeeded now and our country set foot on the road towards civilian rule," said 25-year-old Ahmed Ibrahim as he joined the cavalcade of vehicles that criss-crossed the streets of Khartoum, horns blazing. Fellow protester, Somaiya Sadeq, said she hoped there would now be justice for those who had given their lives.

"We have been waiting for a civilian state to seek fair retribution from the murderers of our sons," she told AFP. Doctors linked to protest umbrella group the Alliance for Freedom and Change say more than 250 people have been killed in protest-related violence since December. Protest leaders have blamed much of the violence on the feared paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces, who sprang out of the Janjaweed militia notorious for alleged war crimes during the conflict in Darfur.

The military announced on Friday that nine of them had been dismissed and arrested on suspicion of involvement in this week's fatal shootings in Al-Obeid. Protest leaders said they had won the military's agreement that the RSF irregulars would be integrated in the army chain of command. "The paramilitary RSF will report to the head of the armed forces," said protest leader Monzer Abu al-Maali.

"We agreed on sensitive issues related to security and independence of the judiciary," another protest leader, Ibrahim al-Amin, told AFP. Many Sudanese expressed relief that an end was finally in sight to the seven and a half months of protests and political unrest that have gripped the increasingly impoverished country. "We cannot keep protesting indefinitely. It was important to reach a middle ground between all factions," said Gomaa Hussein, 45.

Blood of the martyrs

Others criticized the protest movement's negotiators for the compromises they had made in their quest for a deal, particularly over accountability for the killing of



KHARTOUM: Sudanese demonstrators wave their national flag as they celebrate in Khartoum early after Sudan's ruling generals and protest leaders reached a 'full agreement' on the constitutional declaration. —AFP

protesters. "It is good that we reached an agreement but it is unacceptable to forget the blood of the martyrs," said 22-year old Mohamed Yasine. "It's the martyrs who drove us to this defining moment." But protest leader Madani Abbas Madani vowed that there would be no impunity.

"The constitutional declaration provides for the formation of an independent investigation committee to look into the violations," he said. "The blood of the

martyrs will not be compromised." The protest movement's legal affairs negotiator Ibtisam al-Sanhouri said the constitutional declaration sets the stage for a parliamentary system with a civilian prime minister.

The premier will be nominated by the protest movement and confirmed by the new sovereign council, which will have a civilian majority, Sanhouri said. The protest movement will be allocated 201 of the 300 seats in the new parliament, she added.—AFP

Nigeria ban on Shiite group sparks fears over crackdown

ABUJA: A ban by the Nigerian authorities on a prominent Shiite movement for "terrorism" has driven fears of a worsening crackdown that could ignite a new conflict. The government announced last weekend the outlawing the pro-Iranian Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) after protests demanding the release of detained its leader Ibrahim Zakzaky descended into bloodshed.

The move has inflamed a long-running standoff amid an increasingly hostile approach from authorities under President Muhammadu Buhari, who has close ties to Sunni power Saudi Arabia. The Islamic Movement in Nigeria is the most widely known Shia group in Nigeria, where the vast majority of Muslims are Sunni. Those inside the IMN fear the group could now face the most hard-hitting clampdown yet—and accuse the authorities of seeking to push them underground.

"They're trying so hard to get the Islamic movement to a point where we say, 'that's it, let's defend ourselves and take up weapons'," said Zakzaky's daughter Suhailah Maleshiya, who studies in Malaysia. "Watching your brothers killed again and again would change how anyone thinks," she told AFP.

The touchpaper for the latest surge in tensions has been almost daily protests by the IMN in the capital calling for Zakzaky's release as fears grow over his deteriorating health. The cleric has been in custody since violence in December 2015 that rights groups said saw the army shoot and burn to death some 350 of his followers in the northern city of Zaria.

Enemy of the state

In recent months, demonstrators sometimes numbering in their thousands have marched in Abuja, chanting "death to Buhari, death to Saudi Arabia, free Zakzaky, die for Zakzaky".

The rallies have mostly been peaceful. But sometimes they have been met by deadly force. Last week, at least six protesters, a senior police officer and a trainee journalist were killed in violent clashes. The IMN put the number of dead demonstrators at 20.

The language from authorities since the ban was imposed has been uncompromising. Police chief Mohammed Adamu on Tuesday said anyone associated with the group was considered "a terrorist, enemy of the state". He accused it of "extremist, illegal acts" and called on the public to help track down its members. Human Rights Watch has condemned the Nigerian authority's "rush to use firearms" against the protesters. It called for the ban to be reversed and warned it could "portend an even worse security force crackdown".

No point fearing death

So far the reaction from the IMN has been cagey. Some members put out a statement suspending protests pending a court ruling Monday on whether to release Zakzaky for medical treatment abroad. But others within the group quickly renounced it and pledged more demonstrations. Any rallies since the ban have been brief. Protesters gather and disperse within minutes before police arrive. Those taking part insist they are ready for the consequences.

"You can die at any time, in a car crash or something. If I become a martyr is that not better?", said Muhammed Soje, flipping through pictures of dead comrades on his phone. "Right now there is no point fearing death." Firebrand Zakzaky evokes zealous devotion among his followers. Shiites make up a small minority in mainly Sunni northern Nigeria, but still number an estimated four million.

A court in 2016 ordered the release of Zakzaky and his wife but the government rejected it and filed fresh charges, including homicide. As fears increase over his health there is a growing desire by some in the IMN for a more aggressive approach, a protester said on condition of anonymity. Younger, more vehement members have little trust in the legal process and are committed to demonstrations, however violent they become. "After a while, the anger and the unfairness is too much," the protester told AFP.

Specter of Boko Haram

The threat of religious unrest in Nigeria has drawn comparisons with Boko Haram's jihadist insurgency that has devastated the northeast of the country over the past decade. The conflict started in 2009 when a string of attacks by the radical Salafists was met with a deadly crackdown that killed leader Muhammad Yusuf. But the differences between the two groups are stark—least their split between the Sunni and Shiite sects.

The IMN, founded in the 1970s as a student movement, is inspired by Iran's Islamic revolution but under Zakzaky has advocated a peaceful approach. "He is not a violent person and does not preach violence," a veteran Muslim activist told AFP on condition of anonymity. He said, however, that like Boko Haram the group does celebrate members killed by the security forces as "martyrs" and if Zakzaky dies a more radical leader could take over.—AFP

Five years on, Yazidis remember brutal IS onslaught

LALISH, Iraq: Iraq's Yazidi minority held its summer festival on the weekend, five years after jihadists seized their ancestral heartland of Sinjar, in a brutal assault that still haunts the community. On August 3, 2014, Islamic State group fighters seized Mount Sinjar, and went on to slaughter thousands of Yazidi men and boys and abduct girls to be used as "sex slaves". The United Nations has said IS's actions could amount to genocide, and is investigating jihadist atrocities across Iraq.

Yesterday, women wearing white T-shirts paraded around Lalish temple, the Yazidis' holiest shrine, brandishing banners to commemorate the "genocide" and portraits of IS victims. They were led by Hazem Tahsin Bek, who late last month was enthroned as the community's prince at a ceremony in Lalish, succeeding his father Tahsin Said Ali who died in January after a long illness.—AFP

WE ARE HIRING!

Videographer

We are looking for a self-motivated, proactive and creative social media videographer. The ideal candidate should have a minimum of 3 years of experience in the field, envision and create videos from concept to completion, be able to meet deadlines and deliver a high standard of work in a fast-paced environment.

- Creative experience in filmmaking and videography.
- High level of experience with lighting, audio, lenses, and camera systems.
- Proficiency in Premiere or other editing program.
- Knowledge of all types of cameras, lighting, and production gear.
- Ability to direct talent.
- Openness to critique and willingness to collaborate with other videographers.
- Ability to transport, set up, and operate video equipment on location and in studio.
- Manage and schedule creative volunteers.

To apply jobsinkwt8@gmail.com

gulfair.com

KEEP YOUR PHONE ON AIRPLANE MODE

BOOK EARLY. SAVE MORE.

Our exclusive fares to some of our favourite cities are available now!
Book for travel between 1 September and 10 December 2019

Call us on
222 43 777

International

Washington wants to quickly deploy new missiles in Asia

US free to deploy weapons following withdrawal from INF treaty

SYDNEY: Washington wants to quickly deploy new intermediate-range missiles in Asia, US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said yesterday. The new Pentagon chief said the US was now free to deploy the weapons following its withdrawal Friday from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia. "Yes I would like to," Esper said when asked if the US was considering deploying new medium-range conventional weapons in Asia.

"We would like to deploy a capability sooner rather than later," Esper told reporters on a plane to Sydney at the start of a week-long tour of Asia. "I would prefer months... But these things tend to take longer than you expect." "That should be no surprise because we have been talking about that for some time now," he said. "And I want to say that 80 percent of their inventory is INF range systems. So that should not surprise that we would want to have a like capability," he said. But Esper stressed the US was not embarking on a new arms race.

"The traditional sense of an arms race has been in a nuclear context," he said. "Right now, we don't have plans to build nuclear-tipped INF range weapons. It's the Russians who have developed non-compliant likely, possibly nuclear-tipped weapons," he said. "So I don't see an arms race happening. I do see us taking corrective measures to develop a capability that we need for both the European theatre and this theatre, the Indo-Pac-Com theatre."

Reassure our allies

The INF treaty was considered a cornerstone of the global arms control architecture but the United States said the bilateral pact had given other countries free rein to develop their own long-range missiles. The rise of a militarily more assertive China in the region has worried traditional US allies such as Australia and New Zealand, and Beijing's actions in the South China Sea have alarmed neighbors with competing territorial claims to the strategic waterway.

Esper did not specify where the US intended to deploy the weapons. "I would not speculate because those things depend on plans, it's those things you always discuss with your allies," he said. Esper said he chose Asia for his first trip since taking office on July 23 "to affirm our commitment to the region, to reassure our allies and our partners." The Pentagon chief and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo are due to meet with their Australian counterparts on Sunday.

Washington withdrew from the INF treaty on Friday after accusing Russia of violating it for years. Under the pact signed in 1987 by then US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Washington and Moscow agreed to limit the use of conventional and nuclear medium-range missiles (with a range of 500-5,000 kilometers, 300-3,000 miles). But its unraveling had been on the cards for months amid worsening ties between Russia and the US. —AFP



SYDNEY: US Defense Secretary Mark Esper and his wife Leah arrive at Sydney Airport.—AFP

Brazil research chief sacked over Bolsonaro deforestation spat

BRASILIA: The head of Brazil's National Institute for Space Research said on Friday he would be sacked following a row with President Jair Bolsonaro over deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. Ricardo Galvao had accused far-right Bolsonaro of "cowardice" for publicly questioning satellite data produced by the institute, known by its initials INPE, that showed Amazon rainforest deforestation had increased 88 percent on-year in June.

"My words about the president have caused annoyance, so I'm going to be fired," said Galvao. Two weeks ago, Bolsonaro had told reporters: "With all the devastation that you are accusing us of doing... the Amazon region would already have been extinguished." Bolsonaro, a climate change skeptic, also called on Galvao "to come to Brasilia to explain the data that was released to the press."

The president has previously floated the idea of opening up protected rainforest areas to agriculture, a highly controversial move given the existing level of deforestation. In his row with Galvao, Bolsonaro suggested the INPE president is "in the service of some NGOs." A day later, Galvao hit back, blasting Bolsonaro for making "undue accusations against people of the highest level of Brazilian science" and comparing the president's suspicions to "a joke by a 14-year-old boy." Bolsonaro upped the ante on Thursday, claiming the INPE figures "don't correspond to the truth" and were damaging to the institute and the country.

Axed

Galvao previously insisted he wouldn't resign, but speaking on Friday he admitted he had discussed the possibility he might be fired with Minister for Science and Technology Marcos Pontes. Galvao told the press that his dismissal wouldn't affect INPE, an institution of international repute. The latest data released by INPE shows that deforestation has increased 40 percent in the last two months compared to the same period a year ago.

For many years, NGOs defending the environment and the territorial rights of indigenous people have criticized the agriculture industry and major land owners for constantly trying to expand into virgin lands, including those protected by law. Bolsonaro, though, was helped in his election last year by support from the powerful agriculture lobby.

In Europe, other organizations have used the INPE figures to question the recent free trade agreement signed between the European Union and Mercosur, the trade bloc made up of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. "The deforestation data reveals what we all know: that it's advancing at a rapid rate. And that creates a problem for the government because there's huge national and international pressure," former deputy environment minister Joao-Paulo Capobianco told AFP.

"There's a massive offensive from sectors that profit greatly from the occupation of the Amazon, and the president of the republic has already shown before his election that he is completely ignorant about this issue. He doesn't consider it relevant," Capobianco said.

Bolsonaro suffered a blow on Thursday when the Supreme Court canceled a decree transferring the right to demarcate indigenous lands from the National Indian Foundation to the Ministry of Agriculture, a bulwark of the agriculture industry's interests.—AFP

Hundreds detained at Moscow opposition protest

MOSCOW: Police detained hundreds of protesters at an unauthorized opposition gathering in Moscow yesterday, as authorities upped the pressure on top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny by launching a criminal probe into his anti-graft group. Crowds of people marched in the capital's central boulevards for a protest "stroll" over the refusal by officials to let a number of opposition candidates run in September polls for city parliament seats.

Most of those candidates and opposition leaders, including Navalny, are being held by police following a protest rally last weekend, in which 1,400 demonstrators were detained—one of the biggest crackdowns in years. Yesterday, riot police were deployed in large numbers in central Moscow, some shops and cafes were shut, metal barriers were erected and the mobile internet was down for several hours.

At least 300 people were detained by police about two hours into the rally, according to OVD-Info, a non-governmental organization that operates a hotline for detainees. AFP correspondents also observed dozens of arrests along the route of the protest, as lines of police attempted to break up the flow of the crowd by blocking it with a human chain and grabbing people indiscriminately.

Lyubov Sobol, currently three weeks into a hunger strike after being barred

from taking part in the local polls and an ally of key opposition leader Navalny, was dragged from a taxi and detained Saturday as she set off for the rally. Many opposition leaders who attempted to run in the polls next month argue that the authorities have arbitrarily declared signatures they gathered to qualify invalid. People in the crowd on Saturday said they just want the opposition to have a chance to run.

"I want there to be big changes... now there is an atmosphere of total control," Varvara, a 22-year-old artist, told AFP. "I believe everyone should have a right to take part" in the polls," 39-year-old Robert said. Riot police appeared to outnumber small groups of protesters who were walking along stretches of the leafy Boulevard Ring. Authorities have launched investigations into last weekend's "mass riots" and "violence against police", echoing similar probes into protests against President Vladimir Putin in 2012 which saw several people jailed.

New laundering probe

In the polls in September, the opposition hopes to end the monopoly of Kremlin loyalists in Moscow's parliament. The body decides the city's multi-billion-dollar budget but lacks political independence from mayor Sergei Sobyanin, an ally of Putin. Sobyanin has warned the opposition against "new provocations". Navalny and other protest leaders argue corruption is rife in the capital. His anti-corruption foundation FBK this week published a new investigation into Sobyanin's deputy,



MOSCOW: Riot police officers detain a participant of an unsanctioned rally urging fair elections at Moscow's Pushkinskaya Square.—AFP

accusing her of selling prime Moscow property to family members at rock-bottom prices.

On Saturday, FBK, which previously made other high-profile investigations into the questionable wealth of top officials, became a target of a new probe into "laundering" a billion rubles (\$15.3 million). Employees of the Foundation for Fighting Corruption (FBK) "received a large sum of money from third parties which they knew was procured illegally," investigators said. "Accomplices" of FBK "gave a legal appearance" to the funds by transferring them to bank accounts and

ultimately to the accounts of the FBK, they said.

The popular FBK collects money through donations, and Navalny's ally Leonid Volkov dismissed allegations of money laundering as an attempt to stamp out Navalny's national network of volunteers. Navalny, currently in jail, was rushed to hospital last weekend in an incident his personal doctor blamed on possible poisoning with an unknown chemical substance. A state toxicology lab said no traces were found. President Vladimir Putin has yet to comment on the situation in Moscow.—AFP

Judge blocks Trump asylum restriction

WASHINGTON: A judge on Friday blocked a move by US President Donald Trump's administration to stop migrants from claiming asylum unless they had entered the country at an official border crossing, news outlets reported. The policy, enacted by Trump last year, is among a host of measures his government has taken against the movement of hundreds of thousands of

migrants from Central America and elsewhere who have recently tried to cross into the US from Mexico and request asylum. Federal judge Randolph Moss, sitting in Washington, ruled that the policy was "in excess of statutory... authority," ABC News reported. Moss said it contradicts standing US immigration law, which allows undocumented people who are physically present in the country to apply for asylum even if they did not enter at an official port of entry. The Hill newspaper said. The policy had earlier been blocked by a judge in San Francisco, a ruling the government is appealing.

Trump's immigration policy has been the subject of numerous court challenges. Last week, a federal judge in California issued a preliminary injunction blocking the administration's new rule barring most immigrants

from obtaining asylum in the US if they transit through Mexico. That policy would have effectively prevented most Central American asylum seekers from gaining entry into the United States at the southern border, as the majority come through Mexico.

Day later, Guatemala signed an agreement with the US that, according to Washington, makes it a "safe third country," meaning migrants who want to seek asylum in the United States but travel through Guatemala must request asylum in the Central American country. The number of border-crossers detained by the US Border Patrol surged to a 13-year high of more than 144,000 in May before easing to 104,000 in June—still up 142 percent from a year earlier. Most are families from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.—AFP

March to end murder in violence plagued US city

BALTIMORE: The misery and hope of the city of Baltimore are on display at the corner where 40 year old, Levar Bailey was shot dead. As part of a "Ceasefire" weekend that began early Friday, activists marched to the Park Avenue corner and other sites in Baltimore's downtown to remember victims of violence in a city with one of the highest murder rates in the US.

"Bestow your healing touch upon this city," the crowd of about 100 said in unison, praying in front of a park near where Bailey was murdered in November 2017. That was the year of the first Ceasefire—an event held every three months that seeks to stand up to violence, create awareness, and strengthen community bonds with the ultimate goal of ending murder. "So many have died, and so little has been said," Bob Hoch, of First and Franklin Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, says through a megaphone on Park Avenue across from a building daubed with graffiti. Most of the marchers—a mix of black and white faces—wear blue T-shirts with the logo of the Presbyterian Church USA. A man leaning on a metal crutch clunks past them on the road.

A small step

The activists continue their "peace walk", past a man lying motionless on the sidewalk across from buildings with a sign up outside them that says: "Now leasing: 1-2-3 bedroom apartments." Some marchers tie small purple ribbons on a fence above the motionless man. His mouth is open and a bottle of liquid pokes out from the back pocket of his jeans. The marchers turn right, onto another street to remember Dwight Taylor, 25, shot dead in a barber shop in April 2011.

Men hang out on the busy street, which is lined with small retailers. Although more than 300 have been killed each year in Baltimore since 2015, activists say they are making a difference. "This may be a small step, but it's a positive step," Keith Paige, pastor of Baltimore's Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian Church, told AFP, sweat glistening on his forehead in the humid evening air. The activists are "putting a face on violence, letting people know that we are not statistics," Paige said. He stops to help a stranger who has fallen into the street after a screaming match with a woman outside a shop.

It's rough

Gary Wheeler, 35, stood outside Baltimore Celebrity Cutz, the barber shop where he has worked for the past decade, and praised the activists who had stopped there for more



BALTIMORE: People take part in a Baltimore Ceasefire 'peace walk' to push for a 72-hour weekend period without any homicides and commemorate victims of gun violence in Baltimore, Maryland.—AFP

prayers. "I think they need a lot more of this than just down here," he said. Wheeler said he hadn't seen "too much" trouble near his workplace but in West Baltimore, where he lives with his family, "it's rough right now." Baltimore Police said three men were shot and wounded in separate incidents Friday. Along with the peace walk, the Ceasefire weekend includes the installation of

peace flags and posters, neighborhood festivals, musicians spreading "a message of love," and worship in honor of victims and their families. The prayer group continued their walk around the city center, past a theater advertising "Cats" and "Miss Saigon," until they met Phyllis Felton, pastor of Baltimore's Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, waiting for them in a park.—AFP

International

Dismissing missile tests, Trump says Kim won't want to 'disappoint me'

Missile launch intends to increase pressure on Washington

SEOUL: US President Donald Trump downplayed on Friday North Korea's missile tests, saying that while they may violate a UN resolution, Kim Jong Un will not want to "disappoint" him because he has "too much to lose." Underlining his intense personal support for the North Korean leader, Trump fired off three tweets brushing aside the short-range missile launches.

"There may be a United Nations violation, but Chairman Kim does not want to disappoint me with a violation of trust, there is far too much for North Korea to gain," Trump said. "Also, there is far too much to lose," he continued. "I may be wrong, but I believe that (Chairman) Kim has a great and beautiful vision for his country, and only the United States, with me as President, can make that vision come true."

Nuclear-armed North Korea is barred from ballistic missile tests under UN resolutions. Its recent short-range missile tests have been condemned by European members of the UN Security Council. Hours later, Pyongyang said it never has, and never will, recognize the Security Council's resolutions. North Korea is angry at the Council "groundlessly slandering" its development of conventional weapons "while turning blind eyes to the war exercises in South Korea and shipment of cutting-edge attack weapons into it," read a foreign ministry statement carried by state news wire KCNA.

US-South Korean military exercises due to start next week have angered Pyongyang, and analysts say the launches are intended to increase pressure on Washington. North Korea has signaled that further denuclearization talks could be derailed by the refusal to scrap the annual maneuvers, describing last week's launch as a "solemn warning to the South Korean warmongers."

KCNA also said that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the early Friday test firing of the country's new "large-caliber multiple launch guided rocket system" — apparently a reference to the missile launches on the same day. Kim "expressed great satisfaction" over the results, KCNA said.

Very standard

Trump, however, dismissed the missile tests, calling them on Thursday "very standard," and suggesting via Twitter that his personal touch would persuade Kim to reverse the regime's push for a nuclear arsenal. "He will do the right thing because he is far too smart not to, and he does not want to disappoint his friend, President Trump!" the US president said.

Trump has invested a huge amount of political capital in his attempt to persuade Kim to end the country's isolation and give up its nuclear weapons. However, despite three face-to-face meetings and numerous letter exchanges, Trump has little to show for his diplomacy. On the sidelines of a regional meeting of foreign ministers in Bangkok, a senior US State Department official said the launches had not gone unnoticed. "Those provocations, paired with a failure to follow through on their own commitments to engage in diplomacy, were noticed by virtually every country attending this summit meeting over the last three days," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Third missile test in eight days

Kim and Trump agreed to resume denuclearization talks during their June encounter in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that divides the peninsula, but that working-level dialogue has yet to begin. On Friday, the North carried out its third weapons test in eight days, firing two projectiles from its east coast that flew some 220 kilometers, reaching speeds of Mach 6.9, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said — unusually fast for a short-range weapon.

The flight profile was similar to a Wednesday test, and Seoul's presidential office said the weapons were likely "a new type of short-range ballistic missile." Kim had been "emboldened" by his DMZ handshake with Trump, said Jean Lee of the Wilson Center in Washington, and was "seeking to create a sense of urgency on the Korean Peninsula to improve his hand in anticipated nuclear negotiations." "This is Kim's answer to Trump's claim that he's in 'no hurry' to negotiate a nuclear deal," she added. After high tensions in 2017, when the two leaders traded per-



SEOUL: A replica of a North Korean Scud-B missile, right, and South Korean Hawk surface-to-air missiles, left, are displayed at the Korean War Memorial in Seoul. —AFP

sonal insults and threats of war, last year saw a rapid diplomatic rapprochement.

Tit-for-tat brinkmanship

Pyongyang had an "array of military platforms" it could test in response to the exercises, said Harry Kazianis of the Center for the National Interest. "This tit-for-tat

brinkmanship will clearly delay working-level talks for at least until the fall to allow both sides to save face," he said. The Pentagon has said the joint military drills will press ahead. There are 28,500 US troops stationed in South Korea to protect it against its nuclear-armed neighbor, many of them based south of Seoul at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek. —AFP

New Singapore opposition party launched as polls loom

SINGAPORE: A new opposition party backed by the estranged brother of Singapore's prime minister was launched yesterday in a fresh challenge to the government as speculation mounts elections could be called soon. The Progress Singapore Party (PSP) — aiming to contest an election due by 2021 but widely expected earlier — is led by Tan Cheng Bock, a medical doctor and former government stalwart who once ran for president and nearly defeated the establishment candidate.

The group has received the support of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's brother, the latest sign of a bitter falling-out within the city-state's first family over their father's legacy. The rare row within Singapore's elite erupted following the 2015 death of the men's father, revered founding leader Lee Kuan Yew, who led the country for three decades. Under his People's Action Party (PAP), Singapore transformed from a gritty port into one of Asia's most advanced economies — although authorities also faced criticism for curtailing civil liberties and free speech.

Speaking to hundreds of supporters at a hotel ballroom and live on social media, the 79-year-old Tan decried what he said was a climate of fear preventing people from speaking up. He also claimed there was an "erosion of trust" between the government and citizens due to lack of transparency, independence, and accountability. Beneath Singapore's gleaming skyscrapers "is an underlying tale of disquiet," he said, adding, "we cannot allow this current style of managing the country to go unchallenged".

The group joins a handful of other parties seeking to take on the dominant PAP, but the fractious opposition — which has just six out of 89 elected seats in parliament — is not viewed as a serious threat. However, backing from the premier's sibling,



SINGAPORE: Tan Cheng Bock, right, Secretary General of the Progress Singapore Party (PSP), speaks at the party's launch in Singapore. —AFP

Lee Hsien Yang, could provide a boost to Tan. In January, 62-year-old business executive Lee, who did not attend the PSP launch, said in a Facebook post that Tan was "the leader Singapore deserves". In a separate post, he wrote PAP had lost its way and was no longer the party of his father.

During a press conference last week, Tan said he may be willing to take Lee into the party formally. Lee's association with the party can boost Tan's profile as "one of the 'nice' people to have represented the PAP during its glory days," said Michael Barr, a Singapore politics specialist at Flinders University in Australia. "The presence of the

prime minister's brother in, or at least on the fringes of an opposition party, is a reminder that Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is not his father... and that this family is fractured over Lee Kuan Yew's legacy," Barr told AFP.

A Lee Hsien Yang candidacy under the PSP would be a "game-changer" as it would "do immense damage to the brand of Lee Hsien Loong's branch of the family". However, Singapore Management University law lecturer Eugene Tan said Lee Hsien Yang's support for the party is a "double-edged sword" as it could overshadow the PSP's agenda and focus attention on the family feud. —AFP



PANDEGLANG: Villagers look at a damage house in Pandeglang, Banten province after a strong earthquake hit the area. —AFP

Four dead, several injured after quake rocks Indonesia

JAKARTA: Four people died and several were injured after a powerful undersea earthquake rocked Indonesia's heavily populated Java island, triggering a brief tsunami warning, the national disaster agency said yesterday. The 6.9 magnitude quake on Friday evening sent residents fleeing to higher ground, while many in the capital Jakarta ran into the streets.

An official from Indonesia's national disaster agency warned the quake could generate a tsunami as high as three meters, but the alert was lifted several hours later. Three people died of heart attacks as the strong quake rocked the region, agency spokesman Agus Wibowo said on Saturday. Another person fell to his death while trying to flee his house when the jolt happened, he said.

Four more people were injured and more than 200 buildings were damaged,

with some 13 houses destroyed, he added. Over 1,000 people, who had earlier evacuated to temporary shelters, returned home after authorities convinced them it was safe to do so. Wibowo said, "There was thundering noise-it sounded like a plane overhead—and I was just so scared that I ran," said 69-year-old Isah, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, at an evacuation shelter in Pandeglang at the southwest end of Java.

In December, the area was hit by a volcano-sparked tsunami that killed over 400 people. Indonesia experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide. Last year, a 7.5-magnitude quake and a subsequent tsunami in Palu on Sulawesi island killed more than 2,200 people, with another thousand declared missing. —AFP

Kennedy curse: RFK granddaughter's death latest in tragic history

The death of Robert Kennedy's granddaughter at age 22 is the latest in a long list of tragedies stretching back to the 1940s to have struck America's most famous political dynasty. Saoirse Kennedy Hill was found unresponsive at the Democratic family's sprawling compound at Hyannis Port on the Cape Cod peninsula in Massachusetts on Thursday, according to multiple US media reports.

Her cause of death wasn't immediately confirmed but The New York Times said she had died from an apparent drug overdose. Kennedy Hill had written about her struggles with depression. "Our hearts are shattered by the loss of our beloved Saoirse," the Kennedy family said in a statement to AFP. "She lit up our lives with her love, her peals of laughter and her generous spirit." "The world is a little less beautiful today," said 91-year-old Ethel Kennedy, Saoirse's grandmother and widow of Robert Kennedy who was assassinated in 1968 while on the campaign trail.

Saoirse was the daughter of Courtney Kennedy Hill, one of 11 children that Ethel and Robert, younger brother of former president John F. Kennedy, had together. One of the first police responders answering an emergency call at the Kennedy property radioed that the victim was in cardiac arrest when he arrived, according to the local daily Hyannis News. An autopsy revealed no trauma inconsistent with lifesaving measures, the paper added.

The Kennedys, often considered the closest thing the United States has to a royal family, have been plagued by tragic and

untimely deaths for decades. Edward Kennedy, John and Robert's brother, once even talked about whether there was a "curse" hanging over the family. Commentators and US media regularly refer to the "Kennedy curse." Four of patriarch Joseph Kennedy's nine children died violently.

The most famous of them—John—was assassinated on November 22, 1963 during a visit to Dallas, Texas when he was president and just 46 years old. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested and charged with Kennedy's death but was himself shot dead by Jack Ruby before he could be put on trial. Numerous conspiracy theories surround the assassination despite an official commission ruling in the year after Kennedy's death that Oswald had acted alone.

By the time of John's death, the Kennedys had already been struck by tragedy. The eldest son of Joseph and Rose Kennedy, Joseph Jr, was killed in action in August 1944 while serving as a bomber pilot during World War II. Then in 1948, their second eldest daughter Kathleen died in a plane crash in the south of France aged just 28. Robert "Bobby" Kennedy, who was US attorney general during JFK's presidency, died in Los Angeles on June 6, 1968 as he campaigned to become the Democratic nominee for that year's presidential election.

Kennedy, the leading candidate for the nomination, was shot and mortally wounded by 24-year-old Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan as he walked through a crowded hotel kitchen after winning the key California primary. —AFP

News in brief

Boats capsize in Philippines

MANILA: Eleven people died and three others were missing after three passenger boats capsized in rough seas off the central Philippines yesterday, authorities said. Sixty-three survivors were plucked from the water after huge waves swamped the boats in the Guimaras Strait, regional police chief Rene Pamuspusan told reporters. All three vessels plied the short 20-minute hop between the port city of Iloilo and the island of Guimaras, with two of the accidents happening almost the same time around noon, forcing the coast guard to temporarily shut down ferry services. Services resumed in the afternoon, which was when the third boat capsized, the coast guard said. —AFP

Maldives ex-vice president deported

NEW DELHI: India yesterday deported former Maldives vice president Ahmed Adeb, who faces attempted murder and corruption charges at home, after he tried to enter the country on a tugboat, officials said. Adeb arrived at the southern port of Tuticorin on Thursday in the boat and was detained for attempting an unauthorized entry without a passport. A top police officer in the port city in Tamil Nadu state said that Adeb and the boat's crew were handed over to Maldivian security at their maritime border in the Indian Ocean. —AFP

Rebels killed in gunfire

NEW DELHI: Indian special forces killed seven suspected Maoist rebels in a raid on a jungle camp yesterday that triggered a gunfight lasting several hours, police said. The far-left rebels in the central state of Chhattisgarh are part of a long-standing conflict that has left tens of thousands dead since the 1960s. They were in a camp in dense forest in Rajnandgaon district, some 70 kilometers from the state capital Raipur. "So far seven bodies have been recovered from the encounter spot," a senior police officer in the district said on condition of anonymity. He said arms and ammunition were recovered from the camp. —AFP

Footage shows Bangkok bombing in mall minutes from ASEAN summit

BANGKOK: Footage emerged yesterday of the moment a bomb exploded in a Bangkok mall as the city hosted a major summit, the device apparently hidden inside a cuddly toy animal. There were nine successful or attempted bomb blasts on Friday throughout Bangkok which left four wounded as the city hosted a regional summit attended by top diplomats, including US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Footage showed an explosion in a shopping mall minutes from the summit venue in the early hours of Friday morning, after it was apparently planted by a man dressed in a student's uniform about 12 hours earlier. The man, wearing a fedora and face mask, entered a store in Siam Square mall at around 3:30 pm on Thursday, according to time stamps on the footage obtained by AFP.

Milling around the store, he stopped at a shelf full of cuddly toy seals and polar bears and fiddled with one of them for a few seconds before placing it back on the shelf. The next video recordings showed an explosion in the store originating from the shelf around 4:45 am on Friday morning, which caused a fire and a swirl of smoke as the store's sprinkler system was activated. No one was injured and police confirmed the bomb blast. —AFP

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

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

Dried-up pastures push Maasai to mix cattle with crops

James Shakita had raised cattle for more than 30 years when he decided the only way to save his livelihood was to break with generations of tradition and swap some of his cows for crops. The Maasai herder, 43, used to keep about 180 animals until a severe drought hit southern Kenya's Kajiado County last year and decimated his herd, leaving him with fewer than 80. "I just gave up," he sighed, directing his remaining cows into a field for grazing.

In the past, the nomadic Maasai tribespeople shunned crop farming for livestock-keeping. But as worsening drought linked to climate change destroys the pastures they depend on to feed their cattle, a growing number are turning to agriculture for extra income. Shakita, realising he could no longer rely on cattle for a living, sold a few of his cows last year and used the money to sink a borehole for irrigation. Then he devoted a third of his 30-acre farm to planting kale, onions and tomatoes.

His first harvest made him more than 2 million Kenyan shillings (\$19,333). That allowed him to support his family and gave him the flexibility to better manage the size of his herd by buying and selling cows in line with Kenya's increasingly erratic weather. "Pastoralism is not treating me well at all. Losing animals year after year has weighed me down over time," Shakita said with a weary smile. "I feel crop farming is my salvation."

Growing trend

More than 232,000 livestock died in Kajiado County alone during the 2017-2018 drought, most while in search of pasture, Moses Ole Narok, former county executive committee member for agriculture, told reporters in April last year. Government data shows that figure represents almost a quarter of the total number of cattle in the county. As drought and a boom in housing development eat away at available grazing land, the number of Maasai herders taking up crop farming has grown by 40% over the past decade, said current county committee member for agriculture Jackline Koin.

"The frequent droughts have seen an unprecedented rise in the number of farmers in Kajiado. More crop farms are sprouting all over the county," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Koin said the country had registered more than 5,000 farmers who were previously solely herders. Down the road from Shakita's farm, another herder Brian Kikon, 30, also grows onions and tomatoes on a small piece of his family's expansive 45-acre farm.

Kikon said integrating livestock and crop farming brought in extra money and had let his family reduce the number of cows they keep, meaning fewer to feed. "I saw some of my neighbors practicing agriculture and I thought to myself, 'Why not?' It was new, but with a little help from my neighbors, I got the hang of it," he said.

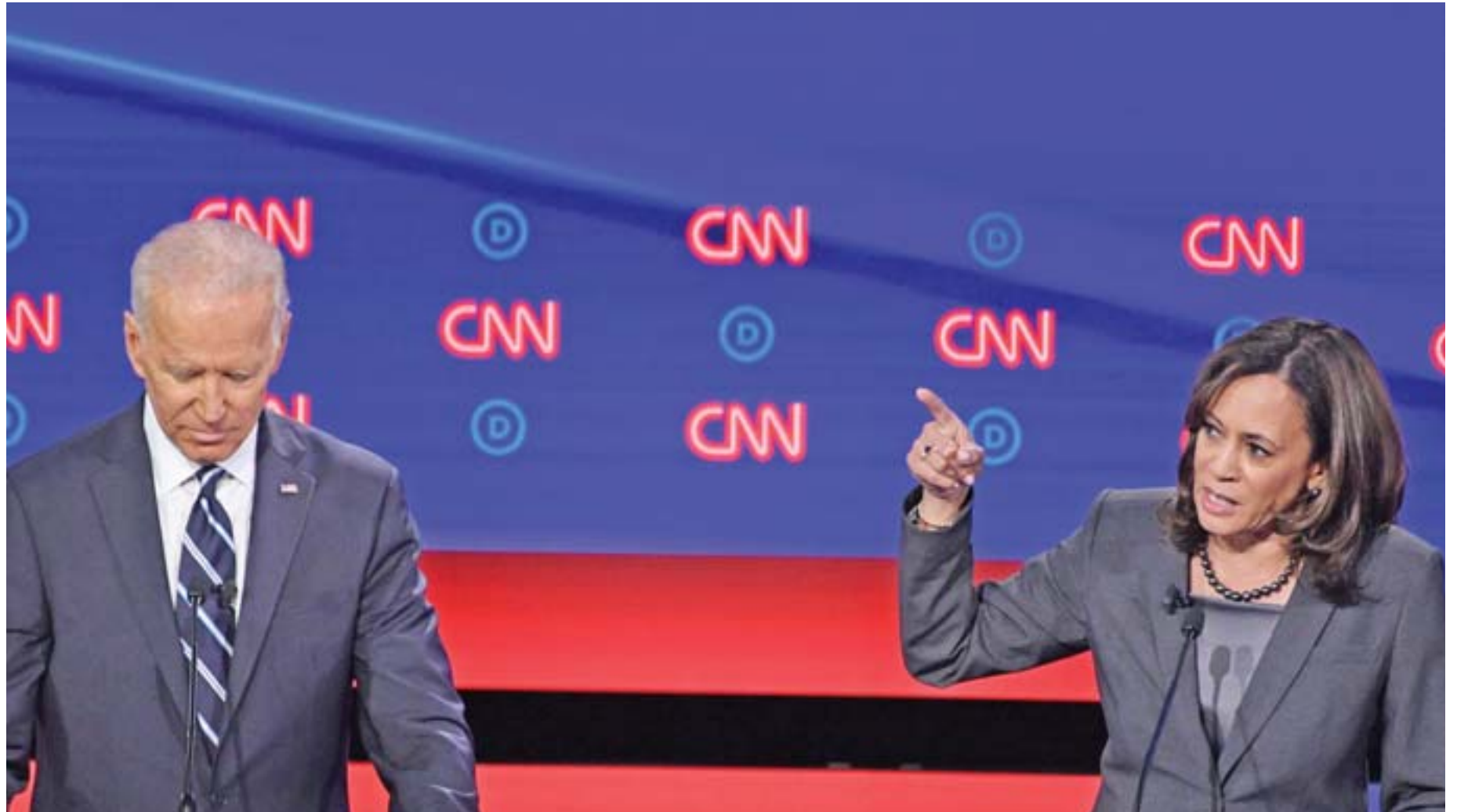
'Unsustainable'

Kikon has the right idea, according to Wilfred Subbo, a professor of development anthropology at the University of Nairobi, who said all Maasai herders should be shrinking their herds if they are to survive Kenya's frequent droughts. "Pastoralism is becoming unsustainable in this day and age," he said. More Maasai should also consider rearing hybrid cattle, such as the Holstein-Friesian dairy cow, he added. One of the most popular breeds of hybrid cattle in Kenya, Friesians are zero-grazing cows, meaning they live on farms and eat hay and fodder instead of travelling around with herders looking for pasture, Subbo explained.

Harry Kimutai, principal secretary for livestock in Kenya's agriculture ministry, believes the effects of climate change will eventually force all Maasai to change their ways. But convincing them to move away from herding is not easy, he said in an interview. "Among the Maasai community, without cattle you are literally a nobody," he said. In Maasai culture, a community member's wealth and social standing is measured by how many heads of cattle they own, he explained. "So saying the Maasai will substitute cattle for crop farming is far-fetched. But definitely they will cut back on their livestock and complement it with crop farming."

To encourage pastoralists to make the move, the Kajiado government has constructed 500 water pans to harvest rainwater for use by herders to irrigate crops, said county official Koin. The new pans are narrow, making it harder for animals to drink from them and take the water meant for farms, she added. The county has also started supplying herders with high-yielding crop seeds and training farmers on sustainable cultivation techniques, including more efficient water use, Shakita, however, believes the answer lies in a government-run abattoir. During a drought, herders rush to sell their livestock, leading to a meat glut in the market, the Maasai farmer said. — Reuters

All articles appearing on this page are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein.



In this photo taken on July 31, 2019, Democratic presidential hopeful Former Vice President Joe Biden looks down as US Senator from California Kamala Harris speaks during the second round of the second Democratic primary debate of the 2020 presidential campaign season hosted by CNN at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. — AFP

Candidate attacks on Obama legacy rankle party

Barack Obama slashed US unemployment, protected child migrants and delivered health care to millions. But several 2020 candidates scorched the popular ex-president at their Democratic debate, a strategy that risks alienating voters as the party seeks to regain the White House. With party divisions over ideology laid bare, progressive rivals to centrist frontrunner Joe Biden challenged the former vice president's record - and by extension several Obama-era policies on deportation, coal, Afghanistan and health care.

Calling into question the legacy of perhaps the most revered living Democratic leader made for startling viewing at this week's presidential debates, when 20 Democrats took the stage over two nights. Despite the strategy being a clear play by rivals to undercut Biden, who has made his eight-year partnership with America's first black president a centerpiece of his candidacy, it alarmed Obama loyalists concerned about repelling the very voters who Democrats need to motivate to the ballot box next year.

"To my fellow Democrats: Be wary of attacking the Obama record," Eric Holder, Obama's first attorney general, tweeted Thursday. "Build on it. Expand it. But there is little to be gained - for you or the party - by attacking a very successful and still popular Democratic President." As the nation's first black leader, Obama was and remains hugely popular among African Americans. But he was also deeply concerned about unnerving white middle-class voters, and so faced resentment for not pursuing policies bold enough to close the racial wealth gap.

David Axelrod, a chief Obama campaign strategist, nev-

ertheless argued Thursday that it was a "perilous path" for Democrats to slam Biden's Obama-era policies because that would require attacking Obama, who would win the nomination "in a walk" if he ran today. Neera Tanden, who directed domestic policy for the Obama campaign and now heads the Center for American Progress think tank, was blunter, likening the approach to "political suicide". "The GOP didn't attack (president Ronald) Reagan, they built him up for decades," tweeted Tanden, referring to the devotion with which Republicans treat their political hero. "Dem Candidates who attack Obama are wrong and terrible," she added.

'Lessons of the past'

The Obama ambush signaled what has become increasingly clear in the era of Trump: the party that seeks to oust him from power has shifted decidedly leftward. While Obama remains a favorite among Democratic progressives, many are keen not to merely expand the Affordable Care Act - popularly known as Obamacare - as Biden is, but replace it with a universal, government-run healthcare system.

Candidates like liberal senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, and even Obama's own housing secretary Julian Castro, suggested Biden was stuck in the past for embracing some Obama policies rather than seeking bold new initiatives. "It looks like one of us has learned the lessons of the past, and one of us hasn't," Castro memorably snapped at Biden, castigating the frontrunner for not splitting more forcefully from Obama's deportation policy.

Warren expressed frustration with the current health system and touted a shift to a government-led "Medicare for All" plan, and blasted "a corrupt, rigged system" that began before Trump and "that has helped the wealthy and the well-connected, and kicked dirt in the faces of everyone else". The fusillade against Obama caught the attention of Trump, who gleefully told supporters at a rally Thursday that Democrats "spent more time attacking Barack Obama than they did attacking me, practically".

Biden acknowledged on Thursday in Detroit: "I was a little surprised at how much the incoming was about Barack." But even Biden himself said he would not raise the deportation rate back to Obama-era levels. And he added that he had opposed Obama's surge of troops in Afghanistan. Biden could have rallied the party faithful with a more spirited defense of the Obama presidency from the debate stage.

But the lack of such full-throated acclamation suggests the balancing act that many candidates are navigating, especially those further to the left of the former president. Candidates like Senator Kamala Harris, who clashed with Biden on health care during the debate, was quick to cheer Obama afterwards, perhaps to smooth over concerns that she was attacking the ex-president's legacy. "I have nothing but praise for president Obama," Harris, who is black, told reporters, noting he was the only recent president to achieve major health reforms. "My proposal is about taking it to the next step," she said, adding that Obama put Americans "on the path where actually this next step is even possible". — AFP

Washington Watch

Forgettable candidates and irritating format

By Dr James J Zogby

I've just returned from Detroit, Michigan, where I attended the second set of Democratic Party presidential primary debates. For many reasons, the debates were a frustrating experience. In the first place, there were simply too many candidates - many of whom, frankly speaking, didn't belong cluttering up the stage. And then there was the way these debates were run - more for TV ratings and entertainment, than for serious discussion and enlightenment.

In 1984, I was in New Hampshire with Reverend Jesse Jackson for one of that year's Democratic presidential primary debates. It was a thoughtful discussion with a professional moderator. At one point, though, I recall looking at the eight candidates on stage and thinking to myself, "Jesse is dominating this debate. He may not win, but he'll always be remembered. A few years from now, how many of these other guys will we even be able to recall were in this race?"

Sure enough, three years later, I made a practice of asking folks how many of the 1984 candidates they could name. After recalling Jackson, Senator Gary Hart, and then Walter Mondale, the eventual nominee - most got stuck. The others, though quite accomplished (four were senators and one was a governor), had been largely forgotten.

I simply couldn't understand why most of them were running in 1984. They were nice enough, smart enough, and each of them had realized some degree of success - but they did not and could not stand out as memorable. While I suppose that they each saw themselves in a larger light, complete with fantasies of sitting in the Oval Office, they were largely gray, rather dull individuals, lacking bold ideas or compelling personalities that would distinguish them from a host of other politicians. Why they thought they could rise above the pack and become president was puzzling then and remains puzzling today.

I say this because I had much the same experience this week in Detroit, Michigan. Twenty of the 25 declared candidates met the standards that had been established to participate in the debates. And, as in 1984, they were largely individuals of some distinction. There were seven Senators, seven others who had served or are currently Members of Congress or Governors, three mayors, a former vice-president, and a former cabinet secretary. And yet, as I watched them debate, the 1984

questions came back to me, "Why are they doing this?" and "Will anyone even remember that they ran three years from now?"

As I watched the debates unfold, it became painfully clear that several of the candidates simply lacked the stature to compete. Why, then, were they there? What did they hope to accomplish? And how could they be so lacking in self-awareness that they would subject themselves to the embarrassment of being so out-classed on stage?

Because there were so many who are running, each of the two debate nights featured 10 candidates on stage. And each night's debates lasted an exhausting two and one-half hours. Especially upsetting was how the debates were run - more as a made-for-television spectacle, designed to boost ratings (and therefore advertising revenues) than as a serious effort to help voters decide who would be best to lead the nation for the next four years.

TV game show

A few weeks back, we got an inkling of how the sponsoring network would be operating the debate when they devoted a full hour to a lottery-style drawing to determine which 10 would go on which night. It was bizarre, with each draw shown live, simultaneously, on three cameras - each from a different angle. The draws were preceded by the musical equivalent of a drum-roll, followed by commentary about "what this draw means". The atmosphere created was more that of a TV game show.

This continued in the days leading up to "Debate Night" - with endless commentary from pundits sounding a lot like sports analysts "gaming the match-ups", as if we were getting set for a professional boxing match. "Will Senators Warren and Sanders go after each other?" "Will Vice President Biden be ready to defend himself against another attack from Senator Harris?"

Debate night featured more of the same, complete with an hour and a half "pre-game show" that featured rousing warm-up speeches - "Are you ready, Democrats?" - and an actual "warm-up guy" who came onto the stage, I kid you not, with this, "You are a great looking audience, really!" - followed by instructions as to when to applaud and when not to. It was like fight night in Las Vegas.

Then came the debate. There was a time (like back in 1984), when the debates were driven by the candidates. Now too much attention and control has been given to the TV personalities. It is they, not the candidates, who drive the process, with their obvious biases on display and their intention to stir the pot in order to make for a good show.

This was clear from the beginning as one of the TV hosts saw it as his job to debunk Senator Sanders' and Warren's proposed Medicare For All legislation. After trying, himself, to set the trap by repeatedly asking Warren whether she would raise taxes for the middle class to pay for her proposal, he shifted gears, prodding some of the

other less known candidates to challenge both Warren and Sanders.

The exchanges that followed became testy (I guess that was viewed as "good for ratings") and also produced some of the evening's more memorable lines. Warren shot back at the TV guy "These are Republican talking points!" and she asked one of her opponents why he was running as Democrat if he couldn't support "big ideas" that helped people. Sanders, for his part, after being badgered by an opponent who continued to interrupt him challenging what was included in the Medicare For All bill, shouted back that of course he knew what was in there because, "I wrote the damn bill!"

He also questioned why we could give billions of dollars in tax breaks to the richest Americans, without any protest, yet balk at spending more to ensure that health care be guaranteed as a right, instead of as a privilege. If the intent had been to deflate Sanders and Warren, it didn't work. They fended off challenges and emerged not only unscathed, but the evening's dominant personalities.

Messy affair

The second "Debate Night" was different. The TV moderators continued to use Sanders' and Warren's progressive agenda as foils, baiting the 10 on stage to challenge them, even though they weren't there to explain what was actually in their proposals. The rest of the evening was a pretty messy affair, as the candidates attacked each other, with the two current on-stage leaders, Biden and Harris bearing the brunt of the attacks.

Biden looked defensive and, at times, flustered. Although Harris was crowned as the "star" of the first debate for her gimmicky challenge to Biden's opposition to federally mandated busing to end school segregation, but when challenged in this debate for her record as a prosecutor, she didn't fare as well. She looked defensive and peevish. In fact, the star of the night was Senator Cory Booker whose winsome personality and calm demeanor kept him largely above the fray.

So, there you have it. After two nights in which millions of dollars were spent (and millions in advertising revenues were earned), what we got were a few memorable lines, a few lasting impressions, a few battered candidates, a few who weathered attacks, and a lot of heat with very little light.

This is not the way it should be. We should be able to elect the person who will lead us (and much of the world) into the future based on their policies, their ability to effectively organize, and their life's work, not on their showmanship or their one-up-man-ship in a reality TV-style game show. And, by the way, as was the case in 1984, I believe that even a year from now most voters will have trouble remembering who else, other than a few notable stars, were on that debate stage in Detroit.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

Business

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019

12 Trump, EU announce deal to sell more American beef to Europe

13 Japan and S Korea trade tit-for-tat export blows

14 Burgan Bank inaugurates Al-Khiran branch in Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City



ABK records 18% increase in net profit for H1 to reach KD 22.6m

Operating profit reaches KD 53.7m, total assets soar to KD 4.73bn in H1 2019

KUWAIT: Maintaining its growth momentum, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recorded strong results for the first six months of 2019 with an increased net profit of 18 per cent to reach KD 22.6 million. Operating profit for the same period grew four per cent to reach KD 53.7 million and total assets also increased by 4 per cent to reach KD 4.73 billion. Earnings per share remained stable at 12 fils due to the AT-1 cost impact. Asset quality remained solid with the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio at 1.96 per cent, and NPL coverage at 318 per cent. Shareholders' Equity was KD 591.1 million and Capital Adequacy Ratio stood at 18.73 per cent.

Commenting on the results, Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, Chairman of ABK, said: "ABK has once again delivered solid results, with steady funding and solid capital ratios. As our growth momentum con-

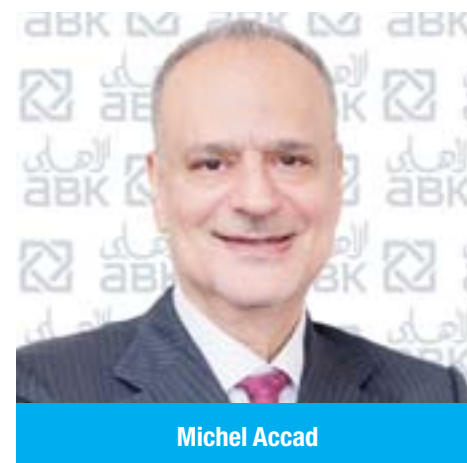
tinues, we are well positioned to successfully execute our strategic priorities and deliver sustained long-term shareholder value."

Michel Accad, Group Chief Executive Officer at ABK stated, "Our continued growth is testament to our balanced and healthy lending portfolio, which is complemented by pioneering technology in all operational areas. Digitization has been a strategic priority for ABK, and we are now developing an omni-channel distribution model that provides customers with simpler, streamlined and personalized services across our delivery channels. This focus ensures that ABK's digital transformation will be comprehensive and will have a direct positive impact on customers."

In line with its 'simpler banking' strategy, ABK has introduced a series of innovative digital banking services in 2019 through its mobile app. These services include:



Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani



Michel Accad

'ABKPay', a service that allows customers to split bill payments or transfer money to their ABK account from other local bank accounts; 'Global View', which enables cus-

tomers to manage multiple ABK accounts through a single login point; and eServices, where customers can instantly open a savings or term deposit account online without

visiting a branch.

Notably, ABK was recognized by The Banker as the Middle East's winner of 'Deal of the Year' in 2018 for their landmark financing facility arranged last year with Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE), which was for \$800 million. The Bank was also ranked No 2 in The Bankers' Movers' in the Middle East list and no 1 in Capital Adequacy Ratio in Kuwait. ABK has been listed by Global Finance in the top ten safest banks in the Middle East. Group CEO, Michel Accad was also recently recognized by Euromoney for his "Outstanding Contribution to the Financial Services Industry in the Middle East."

Recently, ABK led the ALAFCO \$470 million, 5-year unsecured Murabaha Facility, underscoring the bank's capability in leading and arranging syndications in the regional structured loan market.

As trade stumbles, Trump's economy faces a reckoning

WASHINGTON: America's economy is showing signs of sagging under the weight of President Donald Trump's escalating trade war, which is whipsawing industries and financial markets.

Punitive tariffs have stung major trading partners just as those economies were losing vigor-sapping demand for US goods and services and helping to send American manufacturing into recession.

Meanwhile, the uncertainty this has created has rocked US businesses, raising concerns about their supply chains and markets, causing new investment to flat-line and employers to become cautious. Caught in the middle, the Federal Reserve finds itself buffeted by the economic currents and battered by the president's ceaseless attacks.

Fed chief Jerome Powell struggled to explain this week why the looming dangers Trump has helped create justify cutting interest rates this week despite historically low unemployment, and continuing, if slowing, growth and job creation. Trump on Thursday announced tariffs starting September 1 on another \$300 billion in goods, more than doubling the volume subject to punitive US duties. The latest action provoked threats of more retaliation by Beijing.

Gregory Daco, chief US economist at Oxford Economics, told AFP the hit from Trump's year of trade skirmishes came just as the limited boost from the massive tax cuts in late 2017 began to fade out of the economy. "It's come off its sugar high to a place where it's more susceptible," he said.

Trade wars and slower growth are not a good combination and pose a risk to the world economy, but, "Encouragingly, US households are still spending," Daco said. "We're not in a recession by any means."

The International Monetary Fund has warned the tariffs imposed in the trade war-including the latest tranche-could shave a half percentage point off the

world economy by next year, an amount larger than the entire South African economy. The new tariffs alone could cost individual American households an extra \$200 each next year, according to Oxford Economics. Meanwhile, there were sobering aspects to US economic data this week.

'Buckle up'

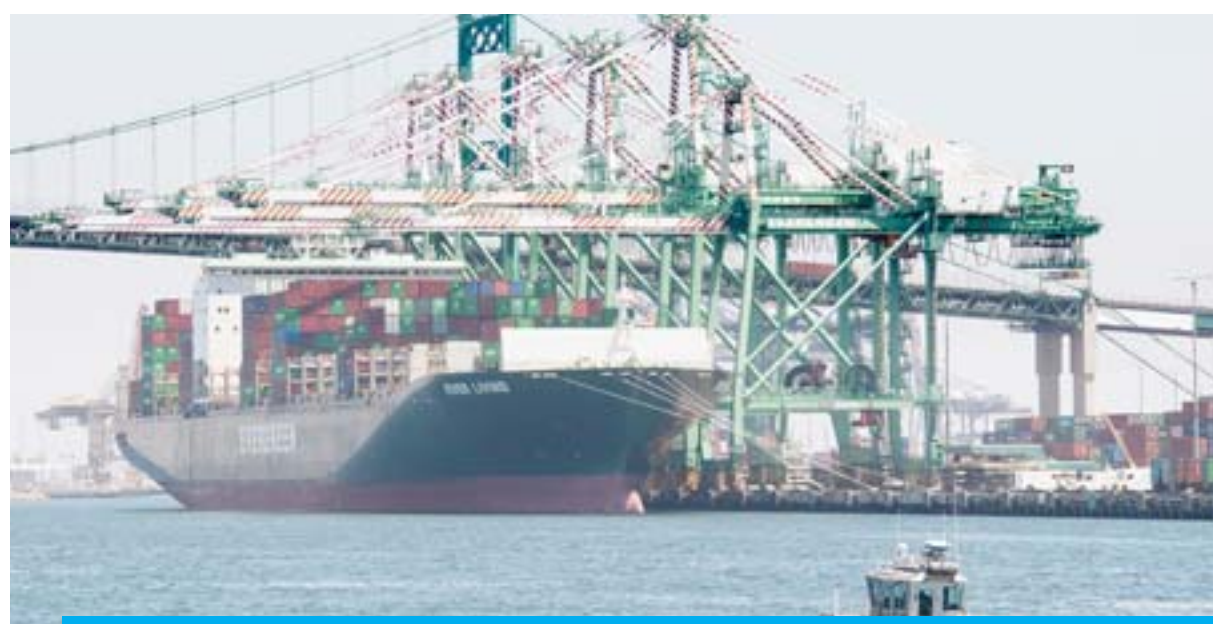
US merchandise goods exports in 2019 are on track to fall for the first time in three years, according to government data published Friday. And the American surplus in services-like software royalties and intellectual property licensing-fell in June to its lowest level since 2016. And with the global economy slowing, foreign buyers took fewer US vacations in June and bought fewer gems and jewelry, fewer passenger cars, medications, telecommunications equipment and computer accessories.

Manufacturing activity is contracting in Germany, Japan, South Korea, Britain and Europe as global trade volumes have fallen. And a survey of the US manufacturing sector showed the fourth consecutive monthly decline in July, increasing worries about domestic industries.

But US wages continue to rise, which should support consumer spending, which dominates the American economy and the key source of growth. A broad measure of unemployment, including people working part time because they cannot find a full-time gig, fell to its lowest level in nearly 19 years. But overall job growth, while still respectable, has slowed sharply since 2018, with the average number of new jobs created in the last three months now just over half the pace seen last year.

Economists warn the impact of Trump's trade war will start to appear in key data. Recent reports suggest growth could be revised down for the second quarter of the year, while weak construction, factory orders and trade caused IHS Markit to cut its forecast for the third quarter. The US has not seen two consecutive quarters with growth below two percent in four years. Economist Joel Naroff said Friday Trump's new tariffs were likely to cause the Fed to cut interest rates yet again.

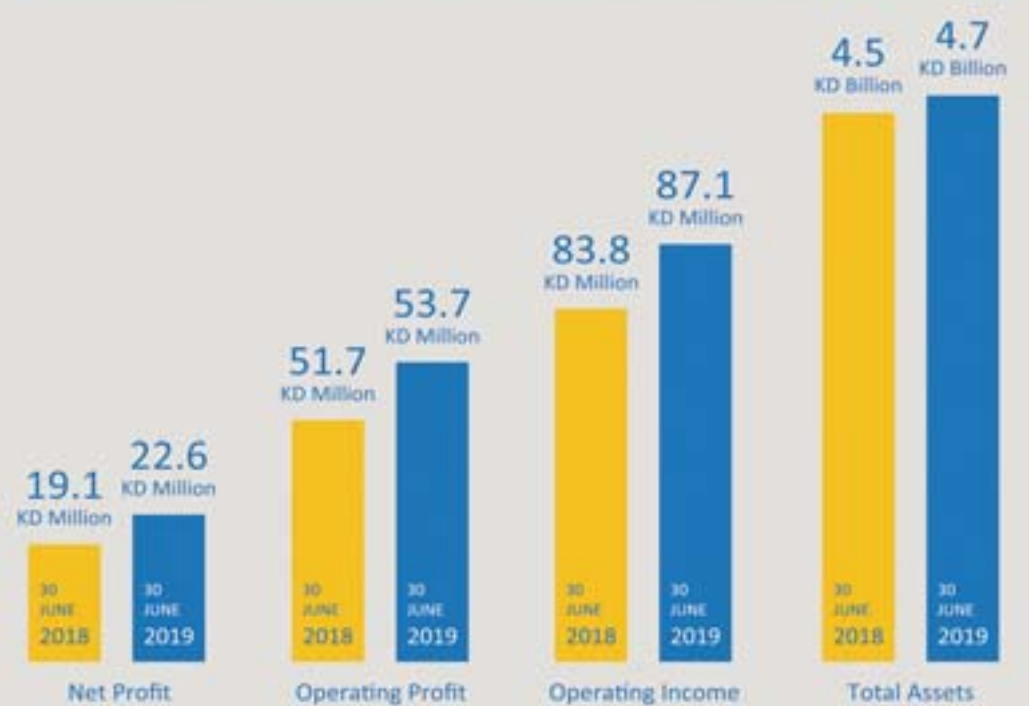
"So buckle up," he wrote in an analysis. "We have a volatile president and an unanchored Fed and what the means for the economy is anyone's guess." —AFP



LONG BEACH: A container ship unloads its cargo from Asia, at the Long Beach port, California on Friday. — AFP

AL AHLI BANK OF KUWAIT FINANCIAL RESULTS FIRST HALF ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

KD 22.6 Million | Net Profit



Business

Trump, EU announce deal to sell more American beef to Europe

Tariffs on European auto exports remain a possibility

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump announced a deal on Friday to sell more American beef to Europe, a modest win for an administration that remains mired in a trade war, but he said tariffs on European auto exports remain a possibility. The European Commission has stressed that any beef deal will not increase overall beef imports and that all the beef coming in would be hormone-free, in line with EU food safety rules. The deal needs European Parliament approval.

"The agreement that we sign today will lower trade barriers in Europe and expand access for American farmers and ranchers," Trump said at a gathering of European Union officials and cowboy-hatted American ranchers in the White House Roosevelt Room for the announcement.

The agreement was then signed by US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Stavros Lambrinidis, the European Union's ambassador to the United States and EU representative Jani Raappana.

Trump joked that his administration was working with the EU "on a 25 percent tariff on all Mercedes-Benz and BMW's coming into our nation."

"So, we appreciate - I'm only kidding," he said to laughter. But talking to reporters later, he said imposing the tariffs on European autos remained a possibility. "Auto tariffs are never off the table," Trump said. "If I don't get what I want, I'll have no choice but maybe to do that. But so far they've been very good." Trump said in the first year duty-free US beef exports to the EU will increase by 46 percent and over seven years will rise 90 percent further. "In total the duty-free exports will rise from \$150 million to \$420 million, an increase of over 180 percent," he said.

Lambrinidis said the United States and Europe could work together to stand against countries that did not compete fairly in the global market. "The agreement shows us that as partners we can solve problems," he said.

Quota

EU sources and diplomats in June said a deal had been reached to allow the United States a guaranteed share of a 45,000 ton European Union quota. There are 17 US slaughterhouses approved to export beef to Europe, run by companies including Tyson Foods Inc, National Beef Packing Company, Greater Omaha Packing and JBS USA's Swift Beef Company, according to US Department of Agriculture records.

"Our ability to participate in trade with the EU over the years has been challenged by limitations," Tyson said. "This agreement provides the opportunity for a more consistent flow of high quality beef product to meet customer and consumer demands." Opportunities for US meat producers to export beef to the EU under the quota have been inconsistent as other suppliers such as Australia, Uruguay and Argentina have been approved to ship under the quota.

The US beef industry believes spotty access to the market is a reason why more American farmers do not raise their cattle without hormones, which speed up growth. The EU bans beef from cattle treated with synthetic growth hormones. "The biggest problem with the European market has been the uncertainty," said Kent Bacus, director of international trade for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, an industry group. US farmers have suf-



WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump (center) speaks during an event on beef trade with the European Union in the Roosevelt Room of the White House on Friday, in Washington, DC. —AFP

ferred from trade disputes with other trading partners, including Mexico.

US and European officials have sought to lay the groundwork for talks on their own trade agreement

but have been stymied over an impasse on agriculture. The agreement on beef could, however, ease tensions between the two sides, which are each other's largest trading partners. —Reuters

Mozambique sues French-Lebanese billionaire over debt scandal

MAPUTO: Mozambique has started legal action against a French-Lebanese billionaire, Iskandar Safa, whose shipbuilding company is at the heart of a \$2 billion debt scandal, officials said Friday. A source at the attorney general's office, in an emailed reply to AFP, confirmed "a case is ongoing" without giving details. In London, an official at the High Court commercial division told AFP the Mozambican government had filed proceedings there against Safa.

The papers were submitted on July 31 and no date has been set yet for the hearing, the source said. Safa is CEO of a giant Abu-Dhabi based shipbuilding company, Prinvest, which signed contracts with Mozambique state companies to supply ships and national maritime security.

The government's legal moves came after testimony in a New York court last month by a former Credit Suisse banker, Andrew Pearse. Safa, he said, had wired him "millions of dollars in unlawful kickbacks from loan proceeds and illegal payments" for help in securing loans from the bank.

Safa has denied any wrongdoing and according to his lawyer Jacqueline Laffont, he "strongly" disputes Pearse's "baseless statements, obtained after several months of pressure from the US Department of Justice". The scandal is rooted in loans of \$2 billion (1.8 billion euros), undertaken by the government between 2013 and 2015, to buy a tuna-fishing fleet and surveillance ships.

The government admitted it borrowed the money secretly, forcing international donors to suspend aid. An independent audit found that a quarter of the loans had been unaccounted for, and another \$750 million, used to buy equipment, had been over-invoiced. —AFP

Pricy truck sales boost GM earnings despite lower volumes

NEW YORK: Strong demand for pricey, high-end trucks in North America boosted General Motors' earnings, offsetting lower car sales, especially in China, the company announced Thursday.

The biggest US carmaker reported slightly higher second-quarter profits, and highlighted the launch of upgraded pickup truck models aimed at the American market, where the economy is strong and demand has held up. The result was a record average price of \$37,126 in North America in the quarter, boosting operating income in the region even as the number of vehicles sold in the quarter fell there and in other markets.

GM has also cited lower costs following a reorganization announced in late 2018 that cut thousands of jobs and closed factories, drawing criticism from politicians from across the political spectrum.

"We're really starting to see the earn-

ings potential of the truck enterprise," said GM Chief Financial Officer Dhivya Suryadevara. The results came as Moody's lowered its outlook to "negative" on the global automotive market, projecting lower sales in 2019 and 2020 and citing "further weakening in demand in Western Europe and in China, which was affected by the ongoing US-Chinese trade talks."

Will higher prices hold?

Net income rose to \$2.4 billion, up 1.2 percent from the year-ago period. But revenues fell 1.9 percent to \$36.1 billion, as global vehicle sales dropped 6.1 percent, a decline of more than 125,000 cars.

In North America, GM vehicle sales fell four percent, clipped in part by lower inventories of some trucks as the company rolls out the updated models. Suryadevara described the launches as "cadenced," aimed first at the light-duty pickup market where vehicles endowed with state-of-the-art connectivity and other features command prices of \$45,000 and higher. GM's market share in this segment rose during the quarter.

The carmaker plans to unveil heavier pickup truck models through the rest of 2019 and into 2020, as well as make available more light pickups at lower prices. Suryadevara shrugged off analyst concerns that truck launches by Fiat



FLINT: In this file photo, a General Motors Co pickup truck is on the line in their Flint Assembly plant in Flint, Michigan. Strong demand for pricey, high-end trucks in North America boosted General Motors' earnings, offsetting lower car sales, the company announced. —AFP

Chrysler and other automakers will dent these profits, pointing to the strong US economy and the age of the fleet being replaced.

"We think the fundamentals remain strong, especially in the truck market," Suryadevara told reporters on a conference call. The company suffered a 12.2 percent drop in vehicle sales in China, where demand was dampened by the slowing economy and pricing pressure.

GM, which had previously projected flat auto sales this year in China, now projects a decline.

Suryadevara said the company reduced vehicle inventory by about 10 percent in China and took other measures to reduce costs. The company plans a series of vehicle launches in China in the second half of the year that should sell well, but Suryadevara said macro conditions remained challenging. —AFP

US job creation slows to 164,000

WASHINGTON: The United States continued to add new jobs last month but at a slower pace, another sign the economy is weakening, while the jobless rate held steady, the government reported Friday.

The weaker result, which came with a sharp downward revision for June, confirmed labor markets have cooled this year from their breakneck pace in 2018. The slowdown raises the prospect that President Donald Trump's record as a job creator could wane as

next year's elections approach.

US employers added a net 164,000 workers in July, still fairly solid and largely in line with expectations. The jobless rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent, the Labor Department reported. But the job gain in June was revised down to 193,000, far slower than the 224,000 originally reported-bringing the average over the last three months to 140,000, well below the average of 223,000 recorded in all of last year, according to the new data.

Wages rose 3.2 percent, year on year, more than keeping pace with inflation as the supply of available workers fell, squeezing employers seeking to attract and retain talent. Despite the slowdown in job creation,

the pace was more than enough to keep the jobless rate trending lower. It has been below four percent for 15 months. The labor force grew slightly even though the unemployment rate was unchanged, suggesting new job seekers who came off the sidelines easily found work.

More rate cuts?

The weaker jobs report comes as the Federal Reserve faces stinging criticism over its decision to cut interest rates this week in the face of generally sound economic data. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has said clouds gathering on the horizon-Trump's trench warfare with trade partners and the world's slowing economy-justified a preemptive strike. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
EAI-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
US Dollar Transfer	304.900
Euro	342.100
Sterling Pound	373.500
Canadian dollar	233.100
Turkish lira	55.540
Swiss Franc	309.540
US Dollar Buying	297.550
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.809
Indian Rupees	4.425
Pakistani Rupees	1.923
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.726
Nepali Rupees	2.763
Singapore Dollar	223.450
Hongkong Dollar	38.959
Bangladesh Taka	3.590
Philippine Peso	6.001
Thai Baht	9.927
Malaysian ringgit	77.980
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.361
Qatari Riyal	83.798
Omani Riyal	792.463
Bahraini Dinar	810.150
UAE Dirham	83.068
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.650
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.384

Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.225
Tunisian Dinar	109.680
Jordanian Dinar	430.860
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.367
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Rate for Transfer	
US Dollar	304.540
Canadian Dollar	232.485
Sterling Pound	371.925
Euro	341.305
Swiss Frank	303.485
Bahrain Dinar	809.885
UAE Dirhams	83.320
Qatari Riyals	84.555
Saudi Riyals	82.105
Jordanian Dinar	430.820
Egyptian Pound	18.375
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.727
Indian Rupees	4.421
Pakistani Rupees	1.906
Bangladesh Taka	3.606
Philippines Peso	5.995
Cyprus pound	18.115
Japanese Yen	3.805
Syrian Pound	1.595
Nepalese Rupees	2.773
Malaysian Ringgit	74.645
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.710
Thai Bhat	10.885

Turkish Lira	55.205
Singapore dollars	223.632
BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL	
CURRENCY	
Europe	
British Pound	0.365417
Czech Korune	0.005154
Danish Krone	0.041357
Euro	0.332934
Georgian Lari	0.132435
Hungarian 0.001151	0.001341
Norwegian Krone	0.030328
Romanian Leu	0.065474
Russian ruble	0.004704
Slovakia	0.009141
Swedish Krona	0.027634
Swiss Franc	0.305134
Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.200042
New Zealand Dollar	0.194275
America	
Canadian Dollar	0.226283
US Dollars	0.301200
US Dollars Mint	0.301700
Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.002995

Chinese Yuan	0.042645	0.046145
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037152	0.039902
Indian Rupee	0.003840	0.004612
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002784	0.002964
Korean Won	0.000244	0.000259
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070202	0.076202
Nepalese Rupee	0.002687	0.003027
Pakistan Rupee	0.001300	0.002070
Philippine Peso	0.005968	0.006268
Singapore Dollar	0.216769	0.226769
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001357	0.001937
Taiwan	0.009953	0.010133
Thai Baht	0.009599	0.010149
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.803654	0.811730
Egyptian Pound	0.018696	0.022056
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000210	0.000270
Jordanian Dinar	0.425704	0.434704
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021473	0.045473
Omani Riyal	0.787850	0.795768
Qatar Riyal	0.083201	0.084037
Saudi Riyal	0.080327	0.081627
Syrian Pound	0.001295	0.001515
Tunisian Dinar	0.101877	0.109877
Turkish Lira	0.047883	0.057728
UAE Dirhams	0.082487	0.083317
Yemeni Riyal	0.000993	0.001073

Business

Japan and S Korea trade tit-for-tat export blows

Tokyo, Seoul rescind each other's favored export partner status

TOKYO: Japan and South Korea rescinded each other's favored export partner status on Friday and Seoul said it would review a military information agreement, as a long-running row between the US allies hit a new low. The two countries—both democracies and market economies—are mired in long-running disputes over the use of forced labor during World War II.

Tokyo, which made the first move despite US calls for both to calm tensions, insisted it was acting on national security grounds rather than retaliation. "The government at a cabinet meeting today approved a revision to the export control law", Japan's Trade Minister Hiroshige Seko told reporters, referring to a so-called "white list".

"South Korea, the only Asian nation on the list, will be removed." South Korean President Moon Jae-in called the move "very reckless", warning that "responsibility for what is going to happen next also lies squarely with the Japanese government".

"We will never again lose to Japan," he added. Hours later his finance minister, Hong Nam-ki, announced Seoul would reciprocate. Tokyo's decision "fundamentally destroys the relations of trust and cooperation that the two countries established", Hong said.

The moves mean hundreds of products that could be diverted to military use will be subject to tighter export controls in both directions. Soon afterwards the dispute spread into the two countries' security relationship as a Seoul security official said the South would reassess a military information-sharing agreement.

The South would review whether "it is indeed appropriate to continue to maintain the sharing of sensitive military intelligence with a country that raises questions towards us about lack of trust and security issues," said Kim Hyun-chong of the National Security Office.

Seoul and Tokyo face common geopolitical threats from the nuclear-armed North and an ever more assertive China. But their relations have been strained

for decades as a result of Tokyo's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

Politicians on both sides exploit the issue for domestic political purposes, according to analysts. And a string of South Korean court rulings ordering Japanese companies to compensate forced labor victims has infuriated Japan, which argues the issue was resolved when the two countries normalized ties in 1965. In remarks to a cabinet meeting called at short notice and televised live, South Korea's Moon said Tokyo had embarked on a "selfish, destructive act that will cripple the global supply chain and wreak havoc on the global economy".

"If Japan—even though it has great economic strength—attempts to harm our economy, the Korean government also has countermeasures with which to respond," he said, threatening to inflict "significant damage".

'Rock bottom'

Some experts said the effect of Tokyo's export decision would be more symbolic than economic, with Nomura Securities senior economist Hajime Yoshimoto saying it would have "only have a limited impact on the South Korean economy". Many major Japanese exporters already have special permission, to ship to non-white-list countries with simplified procedures, according to the trade ministry. But Mun Byung-ki of the Korea International Trade Association said the auto and consumer electronics industries were likely to be among many sectors affected.

In the case of OLED display panels used in smartphones and televisions, among other devices, he said the restrictions "will affect companies outside of South Korea and Japan, as Korean firms-LG Display and Samsung Electronics—are key players in the global market".

Tokyo had already tightened rules last month on exports of three products key to South Korea's chip and smartphone industries, raising fears for global sup-



Protesters hold up placards reading "No (Japan)" during a rally against Japan's decision to remove South Korea from a so-called "white list" of favored export partners, near the Japanese embassy in Seoul on August 3, 2019. Japan and South Korea rescinded each other's favored export partner status on August 2, and Seoul said it would review a military information agreement, as a long-running row between the US allies hit a new low. —AFP

ply in the sectors. Seko insisted the moves did not amount to an export embargo and would not affect global supply chains.

Japanese officials say South Korea has repeatedly violated the rules governing sensitive exports and the moves are necessary for "national security." The row has alarmed Washington and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held trilateral talks with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts, Taro Kono and Kang Kyung-wha, Friday on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Bangkok.

The brief meeting appeared have been frosty as the trio—with Pompeo in the middle—did not speak or shake hands when they posed for photos afterwards. But a senior US State Department official put a positive spin on the meeting, saying: "The fact that we met, the fact that you saw all three parties there means there is interest, of course, in finding a solution to this, or at least resolution". Separately, Seoul's foreign ministry said its vice minister had summoned Japan's ambassador and told him that the citizens of the South can no longer consider Tokyo a "friendly nation". —AFP

US shale boosts output as Exxon Mobil, Chevron results mixed

NEW YORK: US oil giants Exxon Mobil and Chevron reported mixed results Friday, as lower oil and natural gas prices blunted the handsome production increases in the hot Permian Basin shale region. Shares of both companies lost value after the results, which were released amid volatility in the oil and stock markets.

US oil prices recovered somewhat Friday after suffering their biggest drop in more than four years following the latest escalation in the US-China trade war. Other petroleum-linked equities such as Halliburton and Schlumberger also fell sharply on Friday. The poor reception to the results on Wall Street is a "reflection of fears of some sort of global meltdown in the global economy," said Stewart

Glickman, an analyst at CFRA Research.

"Investors may be dubious about oil's prospects if there's some kind of global recession due to the US-China trade war." Profits at Exxon Mobil dropped 20.7 percent from the same quarter last year, falling to \$3.1 billion. Revenues dropped six percent to \$69.1 billion.

The US oil giant scored a 7.2 percent increase in oil and gas production, citing growth in the Permian Basin and at Hebron, an offshore project in Canada. The company also benefited from a one-time gain of \$500 million due to a favorable tax change in Canada. But Exxon Mobil suffered significant drops in profit in chemicals and refining due to an increase in plant "turnarounds," lengthy planned maintenance work, and unplanned downtime at facilities in Texas, Canada and Saudi Arabia.

Chevron profits jump

Chevron, in contrast, saw profits jump 26.3 percent from a year ago to \$4.3 billion, as revenues declined 0.8 percent to \$38.9 billion. As with Exxon Mobil, the results included a one-time gain of \$180 million due to the Canada tax change. There was an additional one-time benefit of \$740 million Chevron



received as a breakup fee when it was outbid by Occidental Petroleum in a takeover battle for major Permian Basin producer Anadarko Petroleum.

Production in the Permian has boosted overall US output to a series of records in recent years. The basin was the prime source of growth of nearly 1.5 million barrels per day from Texas and New Mexico from January 2018 to April 2019, according to the US Department of Energy. Despite the surge, industry analysts caution the expansion may not be sustainable because of field decline and infrastructure bottlenecks.

"There will come a point where production in the Permian starts to disappoint and oil prices will rally," Glickman predicted. Shares of Exxon Mobil fell 0.9 percent to \$71.81 in late-morning trading, while Chevron dropped 1.3 percent to \$119.20. —AFP

Insurance, economy weigh on Berkshire Hathaway profit

OMAHA: Berkshire Hathaway Inc yesterday said its quarterly operating profit fell more than analysts expected, as weaker results from insurance underwriting and a slowing economy weighed on the conglomerate run by billionaire Warren Buffett. The auto insurer Geico suffered larger accident gains, while cargo volumes for consumer and agricultural products declined at the BNSF railroad. Earnings barely budged in Berkshire's manufacturing and its service and retailing lines of business. Second-quarter operating profit declined 11 percent to

\$6.14 billion, or roughly \$3,757 per Class A share, from \$6.89 billion, or roughly \$4,190 per Class A share, a year earlier.

Analysts on average expected operating profit of \$3,851.28 per share, according to Refinitiv IBES.

Berkshire also said quarterly net income rose 17 percent to \$14.07 billion, or \$8,608 per Class A share, from \$12.01 billion, or \$7,301 per Class A share, a year earlier, reflecting higher unrealized gains on Berkshire's investments.

A US accounting rule requires Berkshire to report such gains with earnings. That rule adds volatility to Berkshire's net results, and Buffett says it can mislead investors. The US economy's annualized growth rate slowed to 2.1 percent in the second quarter from 3.1 percent in the first quarter, as an acceleration in consumer spending was partially offset by declining exports, manufacturing and business investment, reflecting the US-China trade war. — Reuters

Wall Street sinks to 1-month low on trade, growth fears

WASHINGTON: US stocks tumbled to one month lows on Friday after a sharp escalation in trade tensions and a tepid July jobs report renewed fears of slowing economic growth and also raised bets of further interest rate cuts this year. President Donald Trump's threat on Thursday to slap more tariff on imports from next month rattled global markets and drove investors to safe-havens like US Treasuries and the Japanese yen.

"The tariff threat was a splash of cold water, the market had become accustomed to the current state of trade negotiations, but a hike in tariffs wakes you up to the fact that the trade war is still with us," said Michael Antonelli, market strategist at Robert W. Baird in Milwaukee. Technology companies were the hardest hit, down 1.75 percent, weighed by iPhone maker Apple Inc and chipmakers. The Philadelphia Semiconductor index slipped 1.28 percent, while shares of Apple fell 2 percent. "If the trade war rhetoric is going to continue to ramp up, then the Fed is going to have to continue to fight that with monetary policy," Antonelli said.

Meanwhile, the Labor Department report showed US job growth slowed in July and manufacturers slashed hours for workers. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 164,000 jobs last month, in line with expectations, and the economy created 41,000 fewer jobs in May and June than previously reported. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq indexes were on pace to post their fifth straight session of losses in a week that saw the Federal Reserve play down



NEW YORK: Traders work after the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Wall Street, on Friday. — AFP

hopes of further monetary easing after cutting interest rates for the first time in a decade.

Hopes that the Fed would be more accommodative to counter the impact of the bruising trade war had helped Wall Street's main indexes hit record highs last month. Traders of short-term interest-rate futures are now pricing in an about 80 percent chance of a rate cut next month, and an about 70 percent chance of a further reduction in December, according CME Group's FedWatch tool.

At 12:33 p.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 185.97 points, or 0.70 percent, at 26,397.45, the S&P 500 was down 23.62 points, or 0.80 percent, at 2,929.94. The Nasdaq Composite was down 111.34 points, or 1.37 percent, at 7,999.78. The S&P 500 slipped below its 50-day moving average, a closely watched indicator of

short-term momentum, during the session. The defensive real estate, utilities, and consumer staples sectors were the only S&P sectors trading higher.

The second-quarter earnings season is in full swing, with about 74 percent of the 380 S&P 500 companies that have reported so far beating profit estimates, according to Refinitiv data. NetApp Inc slumped 21.9 percent after the data storage equipment maker lowered its forecast for the first quarter and 2020, blaming a weakening macro environment. Declining issues outnumbered advances for a 2.01-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and for a 2.39-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P index recorded nine new 52-week highs and 10 new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 14 new highs and 157 new lows. — Reuters

Warba Bank announces winners of Al-Sunbula draws

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, held its weekly Sunbula draw number 29 and Sunbula Kids. The draws announced the 8 lucky winners in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and bank officials.

The bank proudly announced the weekly draw number 29 lucky 5 winners of the KD 1000 prize: Meshari Abdulhadi Mohammad Al-Shammari, Fahad Salem Shujaa Al-Ajmi, Zahraa Mohammad Ramadhan Hussain, Rayan Hamad Abdulwahed Al-Zaid and Salman Mohammad Salman Mulla Ali.

Warba Bank has added Sunbula Kids Account for the first time to Sunbula Draws, it's an investment Saving's account with promising competitive returns along with monthly draws with innovative prizes chosen carefully for the kids. The winners of this month are: The 1st winner of a trip to Dubai Parks is Reem Mohammad Mubarak Al-Douser, the 2nd winner

of a one year subscription at Flex is Haya Naser Abdullah Al-Ajmi and the 3rd winner of a one year subscription in one of the participated clubs is Omar Ahmad Adel Al-Awadhi.

Al-Sunbula both account and fixed deposits are the perfect choices for customers who wish to save money and achieve steady returns while at the same time have the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year.

In line with the bank's mission to develop and differentiate its offerings, Warba Bank has enhanced its Sunbula campaign for 2019 with more cash and prizes reaching more than KD 1 million. Warba Bank will continue its weekly draws for 5 winners of KD 1,000 each. What's new in 2019 are the "Mega Draws" which will be held every quarter to reveal five winners, the 1st winner will get KD 100,000! The four winners thereafter will each get the latest Land Cruiser VXR. Furthermore, the final Mega draw held in January 2020 will feature tow more Land Cruiser VXRs!

EU's IMF race down to two

PARIS: Bank of Finland chief Olli Rehn has withdrawn from the race to be the EU's pick for leading the IMF, a French finance ministry official said Friday, leaving just two candidates in contention.

Rehn's departure from the vote of EU ministers called by French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire leaves just former Dutch finance minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem and Bulgarian Kristalina

Georgieva, the current number two at the World Bank, left in the race.

A second round of voting is now underway to choose between Dijsselbloem and Georgieva, the French ministry official said. The choice of the candidate to lead the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who by convention is a European, had exposed deep divisions within the EU and forced Le Maire to call a vote. Southern countries chafe at the prospect of seeing Dijsselbloem in the post because of his tough stance against nations like Greece when he headed the group of EU finance ministers. — AFP

Business

Burgan Bank inaugurates Al-Khiran branch in Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City

Bank expands its network of 30 branches across Kuwait



KUWAIT: Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Chairman of Burgan Bank, Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chief Executive Officer of Burgan Bank Kuwait Raed Al-Haqhaq, Head of Retail Branches Elham Al-Saleh during the inauguration of the new branch.



KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced the opening of Al-Khiran branch which is located in Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City, under the patronage of Al-Ahmadi Governor, Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khalid Al-Sabah. With Al-Khiran being one of the most popular destinations in Kuwait due to its wide range of lifestyle offerings, Burgan Bank ensured the residents within and the surrounding areas received easier access to financial solutions.

In line with its strategy to expand its range of products and services locally and internationally, Burgan Bank Group currently maintains a strong network of 30 branches across Kuwait and 165 branches across the Middle East and North Africa.

The opening ceremony, held on 1 August 2019, was attended by Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, Chairman of Burgan Bank, Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chief Executive Officer of Burgan Bank Kuwait, Raed Al-Haqhaq, Head of Retail Branches Elham Al-Saleh, as well as senior managers and officials from Al-Ahmadi Governorate and Burgan Bank.

The new branch is equipped with state of the art technology to meet the needs of its customers from Tuesday to Saturday, from

10 am to 5 pm.

The Ahmadi Governor, Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah expressed his delight at the robust economic growth witnessed in Kuwait, enabling a rising lucrative business and investment environment that is a key pillar of Kuwait vision 2035. He noted the importance of the banking sector and its role as the cornerstone for achieving a healthy business climate in the country.

The efforts and commitment of Burgan Bank to increase its presence to reach a growing client base in all areas of Kuwait were highly acclaimed by Al-Khalid and he commended the bank's keenness to providing state of the art services. Burgan Bank was applauded for having established a strong network of 30 branches across Kuwait and 165 branches across the Middle East and North Africa. Al-Khalid added that he looks forward to further expansion by Burgan Bank along with other prominent local and international banks and exchange companies in Al-Ahmadi Governorate, which is distinctively known for its rich economic and commercial activities owing to its large population and new development plans set for the future.

The Ahmadi Governor recognized the importance of the ongoing expansion by the financial and banking institutions in the State of Kuwait in general and in Al-Ahmadi Governorate along with its new residential areas in particular like Sabah Al-Ahmad area. On that note, the Governor thanked both the Chairman of the bank, employees and offered his well wishes to the citizens of Al-Ahmadi for their strategic approaches to staying up-to-date with the financial trends globally and their commitment to offering the best customer care services to its clients.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of Burgan Bank said: "Burgan Bank continues its growth trajectory, marking the Fifth branch in Al-Ahmadi Government. Al-Khiran branch demonstrates our success in expanding our network to facilitate the financial needs of the growing customer base throughout the country, as well as providing the best level of customer service to all community members. In the framework of the vision "Kuwait 2035", we are always keen to keep abreast of the latest developments in the banking sector and strongly aim to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub."



Turkish Airlines adds Republic of Congo's Pointe-Noire to flight network

KUWAIT: Turkish Airlines, flying to more countries than any other airline, has added Republic of Congo's second biggest city, Pointe-Noire to its flight network as its 58th destination in Africa. National flag carrier will operate three weekly flights to Pointe-Noire with a connection in Libreville. With Pointe-Noire, the port city next to Atlantic Ocean, Turkish Airlines expanded its flight network to 125 countries and 313 destinations. Thus, flag carrier further cemented its position as the airline that flies to more destinations in the continent of Africa than any other airline.

During the press conference held for the opening of Pointe-Noire frequency, Turkish Airlines Senior Vice President for Sales (2nd Region), Kerem Sarp said: "With this inaugural Pointe-Noire flight, we increased our destinations to 58 in the continent of Africa. As the flag carrier of Turkey, we cement our position as the airline that flies to more destinations in Africa than any other airline in line with our growth strategy in this continent. Our new flights will offer new opportunities for us to increase our existing cultural connections in the Republic of Congo. We will continue to spread the Turkish hospitality and the continuous travel experience to a wider area in the future."



LuLu Exchange opens new branch in Jahra

KUWAIT: LuLu Exchange, the leading financial services company in Kuwait opened its 23rd branch in Jahra on Wednesday. The new branch was inaugurated by K Jeeva Sagar, Ambassador of India to Kuwait in the presence of Adeb Ahamed, Managing Director, LuLu Exchange, officials and other dignitaries.

"We are thrilled to open our second outlet in Jahra, and we are sure that our customers' needs will be better serviced by this new branch. The journey of LuLu Exchange continues as we reinforce the company's strategic vision ensuring innovative, efficient and convenient products and services to our customers in prime locations across Kuwait," said Adeb Ahamed, MD, LuLu Exchange.

LuLu Exchange offers fast and reliable money transfer worldwide and foreign exchange services to a cross-section of society, powered by a robust network, reputed partners and high standards of customer care. LuLu Exchange also offers the popular LuLu Money app, which allows super quick and easy digital money transfers to your loved ones. LuLu Money app has various features including instant online transactions, payment tracking in real time, rate alert setting and payment history, among others. With the opening of the new branch, the exchange house currently has 23 branches across the State of Kuwait, one each in Egaila, Al-Rai, Mirgab, Dajeej, Mubarakiya and Khaitan; two branches each in Jahra, Mangaf, Salmiya, Fahaheel and Abbasiya regions; three in Farwaniya and four in Mahboula.

LuLu Exchange is part of LuLu Financial Group which is an ISO 9001:2015 certified global financial services enterprise that has its global headquarters in Abu Dhabi and operates more than 185 branches across several GCC countries such as Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain as well as India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Seychelles and Hong Kong.



Travel



How to spend the perfect weekend in *Prague*

Prague may be full of incredible sights, but they are also located close enough that you can take in many of them over the course of a weekend. Find out how to make the most of the city with this perfect weekend itinerary.

Prague Castle & Hradcany

Meander through the courtyards of the expansive Prague Castle, the seat of Czech monarchs for centuries. The site, located high up on the left bank of the Vltava, contains an incredible variety of galleries, museums and historic buildings. Spend your morning exploring key sites such as the St Vitus Cathedral - constructed over a span of 600 years, and not consecrated until 1929, it is a fascinating piece of history to experience.



The Old Royal Palace is also a must: one of the complex's oldest structures, it dates back to 1135. Once inside be sure to plant yourself beneath the Gothic vaulted ceiling within the Vladislav Hall. Although constructed between 1493 and 1502, its lines are almost art nouveau in feel. Before taking in the changing of the guard at noon, try to have a gander at the 16th-century Lobkowitz Palace. Inside are the Princely Collections, which include furniture, priceless paintings by Canaletto, Piranesi, Breughel the Elder and Cranach, and musical memorabilia. Before leaving the castle, grab some goulash or a sandwich for lunch on one of the balconies at Lobkowitz Palace Cafe. The food is as good as the view.

Mala Strana

Make your way down from Prague Castle to Mal-Strana via Nerudova street, which will allow you to admire the baroque beauty and huge copper cupola of St Nicholas Church. Inside, Europe's largest fresco - Johann Kracker's 1770 Apotheosis of St Nicholas - awaits. Kracker's use of trompe l'oeil techniques has enabled his painting to blend almost imperceptibly with the architecture. Next move on to the Wallenstein Garden for a little chill time in its peaceful surroundings. When you eventually decide to leave, take the far side exit and follow the backstreets to Kampa, another of the city's best green spaces. If it's sunny, park yourself with a beverage at Mlynska Kavarna. If not, perhaps pay homage to cubist sculptor Otto Gutfreund and painter Frantisek Kupka by visiting the Kampa Museum.

Stare Mesto

Start your Sunday in the Old Town Square, one of the continent's largest and most majestic urban spaces. Since the 10th century, Staromestske namesti has been the city's principal public square, and was Prague's main market-



place until a little over a century ago. Impossible to miss (thanks to the waiting crowds) is the square's Astronomical Clock, which bursts to life for 45 seconds every hour. For a lofty view over all the proceedings, ascend to the summit of the Old Town Hall Tower. Next, work your way along Celetna to the magnificent art nouveau Municipal House - even its restaurant and cafe stand testament to this design era, so sit back and soak it all in. The building's Smetana Hall hosts concerts, so now might be a great time to purchase a ticket for an evening performance. A tour of Municipal House is also an option.

As the sun begins its descent and casts its soft light across the city, find yourself on Charles Bridge to take in the spectacle. To fuel your evening, dine at Augustine, a hotel eatery that is both relaxed and sophisticated. The menu features creative dishes with locally-sourced Czech ingredients, including delectable choices such as pork cheeks braised in the hotel's very own beer. Stick in Mala Strana for a post-dinner drink - the area is full of hip bars. A great option is the petite U Maleho Glenu, an American-owned bar featuring local jazz and blues bands nightly.



If you didn't dine within Municipal House, try Lokal for lunch. This classic Czech beer hall's menu changes daily, but it always offers a range of tasty Bohemian treats to go with the tankove pivo (tanked Pilsner Urquell). A meaningful way to spend the afternoon is to visit the half-dozen monuments that make up the Prague Jewish Museum. If you're running low on energy and time, best focus on three key sites. The first is the Old-New Synagogue, which was constructed around 1270 - it is Europe's oldest working synagogue and one of the city's earliest Gothic structures.



So old in fact that it was built when the street level of Stare Mesto was much lower (you'll need to step down into it). The Spanish Synagogue, though much younger, is another highlight. Completed in 1868, it boasts an imposing Moorish-Andalusian interior. Lastly, take in Europe's oldest surviving Jewish cemetery. From its founding in the early 15th century to its official closure in 1787, some 100,000 Jews were buried here. Today you'll see 12,000 crumbling headstones stacked together, much like the graves themselves which were layered due to lack of space.

Start your Sunday evening with a memorable meal of locally-sourced Czech produce treated with French flair at Kalina. Fully sated, you're ready for all the after-dark options: enjoy a concert in the Municipal House's Smetana Hall or the Klementinum's Chapel of Mirrors; or take in an opera at the Estates Theatre. Afterwards, seek out cocktails in the Old Town at places such as Hemingway Bar and Cili Bar.

Health & Science

'I like plastic': Pakistan's toxic affair with waste

Rural areas unaware of single use plastic damage



ISLAMABAD: In this picture municipal workers sort out recycling items in Islamabad. — AFP photos



LAHORE: In this picture taken on July 31, 2019, men drive a three-wheeler loaded with used plastic bags.

CHITRAL, Pakistan: From the once pristine rivers of Hindu Kush to the slums of Islamabad, Pakistan is being smothered by plastic due to a lack of public awareness, government inertia, and poor waste management. Plastic bags are a large part of the problem—the nation uses some 55 billion of them each year, according to the Pakistan Plastic Manufacturers Association. Beaches deluged with plastic waste and dying marine life entangled in bags have shocked other countries into action—around 120 have implemented some form of single-use plastic ban.

Pakistan is among them but struggles with enforcement. There is no cohesive national policy and regional efforts often fail to consider the importance of educational outreach—with many in rural areas claiming to be unaware of the damage single use plastic can wreak. "Fighting for the environment? We have no knowledge about that," says salesman Mohammad Tahir, who uses plastic bags to wrap vegetables for his customers.

The 42-year-old hails from the mountainous Chitral district, which first banned the use of such bags two years ago—but to little effect. "I like plastic bags," shrugs resident Khairul Azam, while shopping at a local market. "Once home, I throw them away... I know it is

not good, but we don't have waste bins in my neighborhood," he adds. Instead such waste litters the roadsides and hillsides. It also clogs the streams that feed into the Indus River, which is now the second most plastic polluted river in the world, behind only the Yangtze River in China, according to a study by the German Environmental Research Center Helmholtz.

Eating plastic

Plastics swamp the Arabian Sea coastline, where the sewers of the sprawling port city of Karachi spew its waste. According to the United Nations, single-use plastic bags kill up to one million birds, hundreds of thousands of marine mammals and turtles, along with "countless" fish each year. And yet in Pakistan, authorities say the amount of plastic used is increasing by 15 percent each year.

Recycling options are limited and waste disposal is often woefully mismanaged—even in the capital garbage is often simply burned in the street. "Plastic doesn't degrade. It only becomes smaller and smaller," says Hassaan Sipra, an environmental researcher. "Animals eat it. You eat them. Then it generates liver dysfunctions, diabetes, and diarrhea. But because it is cheap and conven-

ient, people don't see the health consequences," he adds.

A new report by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) estimates that an average person ingests up to five grams of plastic a week—roughly equal to the weight of a credit card. Plastic bags have become part of the "culture" in Pakistan, says Nazifa Butt, a researcher with WWF. "We would never use a cup of tea without a saucer. You will never be sold anything without a plastic bag. It is considered insulting," she adds.

In Chitral, authorities first tried to ban plastic bags in 2017, with an additional measure passed earlier this year stating that only biodegradable bags—also criticized for their environmental impact—can be used in the area. Authorities have also backed new environmental awareness campaigns in schools, according to a local official. But many shops still do not use biodegradable bags and enforcement against single-use plastics remains minimal. "The local government is not sincere," said Shabir Ahmad, chairman of the Chitral traders union. He explains: "They never check the market. They don't fine the shopkeepers."

Health menace

"I can confiscate all the plastic bags in one hour. But then, what is the alternative?" says Khurshid Alam

Mehsud, a district administrative officer in Chitral, who insists more "time" is needed to address the issue. Provincial governments in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with municipal authorities in Lahore have issued similar bans. But little has changed on the ground due to lack of law enforcement. However, Prime Minister Imran Khan's government—which has long vowed to make environmental issues a priority—is hoping to reverse the plastic tsunami, says climate change minister Malik Amin Aslam.

As of August 14, plastic bags will be banned in the capital Islamabad, with violators subject to heavy fines. "This love affair with plastic has to end in Pakistan," says Aslam, who hopes that the ban in Islamabad will serve as a "model" for the rest of the country. Some shopkeepers who spoke to AFP in Islamabad appeared prepared for the move—but others said they were unaware of the new measure. Plastics manufacturers—who say up to 400,000 people work directly or indirectly in the industry—have also raised concerns. But the Khan's government says action is necessary regardless. Aslam says: "It's a health menace, it's an economic menace, it is an environmental menace. It is something that we need to get rid of." — AFP

CLINIC PAGE

248 33 199

CLINIC PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally
Senior Registrar

Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elthamid
Consultant

Dr. Abeer Khattab
Specialist

Cataract Surgery

Glaucoma

Retina

General Ophthalmology

Follow-Up All Treatments

Ophthalmology Services

Follow us on social media @hadclinic

Tel: 1828282
WhatsApp Us: +965-0000 2194

Dr Sahar Ghannam

Dermatology consultant, skin treatment and laser

Timing: Saturdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 am to 5 pm
Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm

Friday is a holiday.

Address: Fourth Ring Road - Abdallah Fadalh Street, Meidan Hawally, opposite fire station - block 35, building 31.

Clinic Phones: 25610407/ 409/ 314 Fax: 25610465
Mobile: 90974754/ 99166746

[saharpolyclinic](#) [Dr.saharghannamclinic](#) Email: drsgderma@gmail.com

To advertise on this Page

Call: 24833199 ext:101,102 or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

WELCOME

Dr Tammam Abou Ali
Consultant ENT, Head & Neck, Facial Plastic Surgeon.

Following of the royal college of surgeons in UK and Ireland.
10 years work experience in UAE Hospital WOH Kuwait.

Ex Head of ENT department in Emirates Hospital WOH Kuwait
10 years work experience in UK and Ireland.

- Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Septoplasty and turbinate reduction surgery by laser or RF
- Snoring and OSAP Surgery
- Rhinoplasty with open and closed techniques
- Microscopic Middle Ear Surgery and Tympanoplasty
- Salivary gland and parotid surgery
- Thyroid and parathyroid surgery
- Micro laryngeal surgery

1 888 883
www.qmc-kuwait.com

[qmckuwait](#)

Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!

Dr. Kiran Turaka
Ophthalmologist

Dr. Zareena Zahir
Ophthalmologist

Dr. Nason Khan
Senior Cardiologist

Dr. P. Sesheendra Nath
Orthopedic Consultant (AUSTRALIA)
Specialized in Neck, Shoulder Hip and Knee

50721507
24551555
www.exircenterkw.com

EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER
Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

Tel : 24568857 / 24568859 info@exircenterkw.com www.exircenterkw.com

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

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

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

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

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

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

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

SPECIALIZED IN:

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

SHARQ, Ahmad Alsheer st., Building 6B, Floor 13.
Tel.: (+965) 22060777
@DrFahadmed, @FahadSabb, @FahadSabb
Email: drfahadmed@beautybeyond.com.kw

To advertise on this Page

Call: 24833199 ext:101,102
or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

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

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

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

- General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- Single Port Surgery
- Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, including Colorectal Cancer
- Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abdomen
- Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- WART Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistaloscope)
- Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve-Gastroctomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernia Surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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

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

Academic Certificates - Training

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

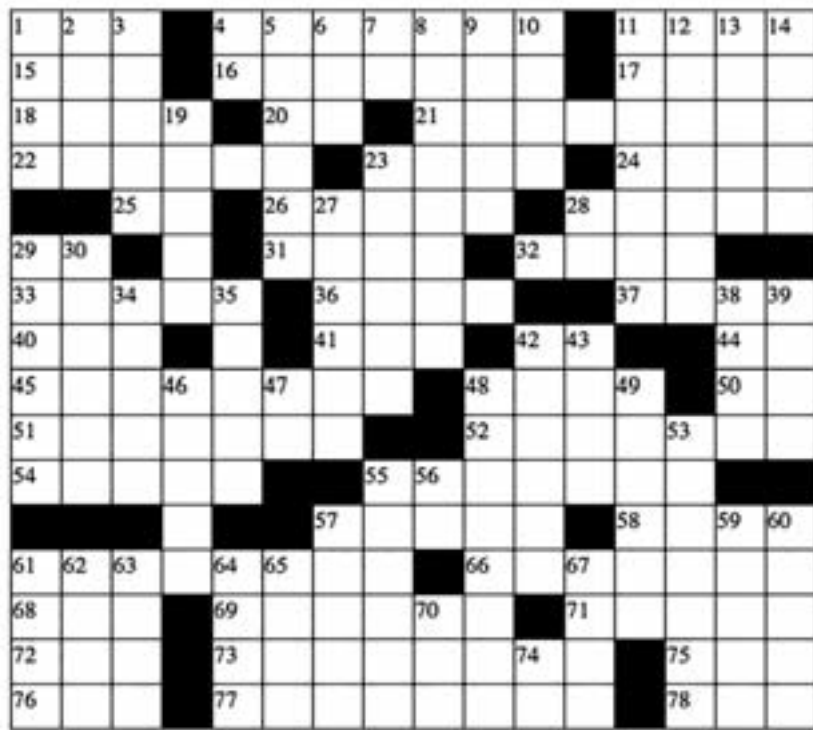
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2274



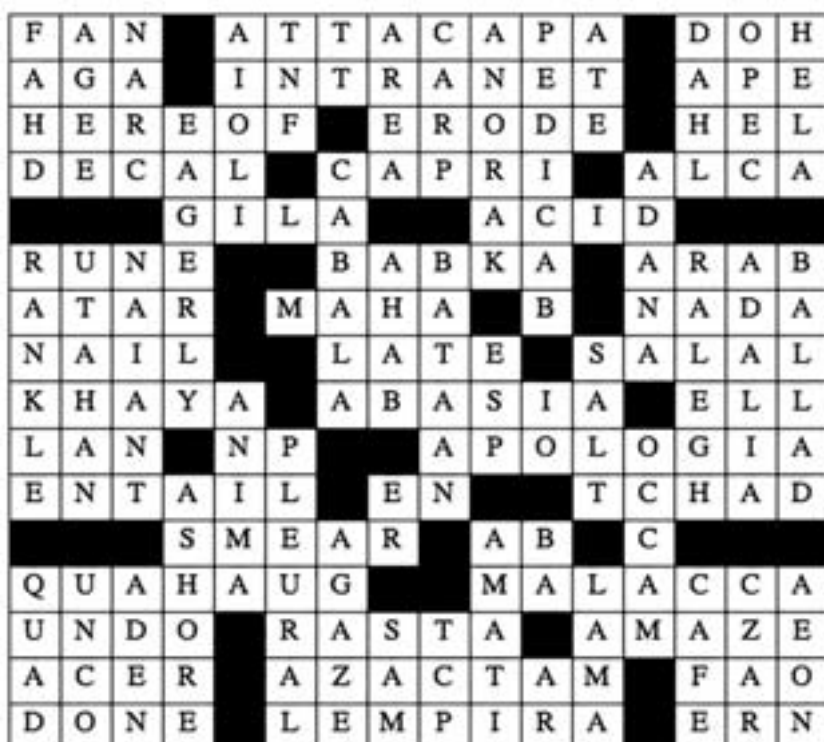
ACROSS

1. (British) The dessert course of a meal ('pudd' is used informally).
4. A light-weight flexible sandal with a sturdy sole.
11. Lie adjacent to another.
15. Hormone released by the hypothalamus that controls the release of thyroid-stimulating hormone from the anterior pituitary.
16. (sports) The chief official (as in boxing or American football) who is expected to ensure fair play.
17. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
18. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
20. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
21. Winter aconite.
22. A state in the United States in the central Pacific on the Hawaiian Islands.
24. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
25. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
26. Affect with wonder.
29. A metallic element of the rare earth group.
31. City in southwestern Colombia in a rich agricultural area.
32. Being two more than ninety.
33. Perennial northern temperate plant with toothed leaves and heads of small purple-white flowers.
36. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
37. King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
40. Japanese ornamental tree with fragrant white or pink blossoms and small yellow fruits.
41. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
44. A rare polyvalent metallic element of the platinum group.
45. A room (as in a residence) containing a bath or shower and usually a washbasin and toilet.
50. A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
51. Bring dishonor upon.
52. A skin disease of adults (more often women) in which blood vessels of the face enlarge resulting in a flushed appearance.
54. African mahogany trees.
58. A member of a North American Indian people speaking one of the Hokan language.
61. A member of the Samoyedic people living on the Taimyr peninsula in Siberia.
66. The front limb of a quadruped.
68. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
69. Of or pertaining to or characteristic of Nepal or its people or language or culture.
71. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
72. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.

DOWN

73. Of or relating to acetone.
75. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
76. The bill in a restaurant.
77. A wandering or disorderly grouping (of things or persons).
78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
1. A major god.
2. The capital and largest city of Mongolia.
3. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
4. A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic element of the alkali metal group.
5. Belonging to or prescribed for celiac disease.
6. A city in the European part of Russia.
7. A heavy ductile magnetic metallic element.
8. Affected with or marked by frenzy or mania uncontrolled by reason.
9. Suggestive of the supernatural.
10. Gather, as of as crops.
11. Not static or stable.
12. An island in the Persian Gulf.
13. A member of the Uniat Church.
14. One of two pieces of armor plate hanging from the fauld to protect the upper thighs.
19. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.
23. A deep bow.
27. The larva of the housefly and blowfly commonly found in decaying organic matter.
28. A white trivalent metallic element.
30. The process of taking in and expelling air during breathing.
34. Any bird of the genus Pitta.
35. A water wheel with buckets attached to the rim.
38. An instinctive motive.
39. The lowest brass wind instrument.
42. An unbroken or imperfectly broken musical instrument.
43. Any orchid of the genus Disa.
46. Austrian composer who influenced the classical form of the symphony (1732-1809).
47. In operation or operational.
48. Detailed instructions, as for a military operation.
49. A political leader (especially of Tammany Hall).
53. An acute intestinal infection caused by ingestion of contaminated water or food.
55. A musical composition of 3 or 4 movements of contrasting forms.
56. A note appended to a letter after the signature.
57. Any of numerous plants of the genus Capparis.
59. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
60. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
62. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
63. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
64. Type genus of the Anatidae.
65. A subdivision of a larger religious group.
67. Any competition.
70. (of roads) Made of logs laid down crosswise.
74. Being nine more than forty.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are experiencing an unrealistic feeling today. You may be having to really resist the urge to daydream. Focusing on the tasks set before you seem impossible. You may find your friends and co-workers become frustrated when dealing with this side of you. A bit of soul-searching may be in order. You need to force yourself to snap back to reality and pick up where you left off. Get to the root of the matter that has you preoccupied so you will be able to push forward. Once you realize what caused this mood you should be able to push on and lead a more productive day.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

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



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Remember to count to ten and take deep breaths. Buckle up. Today will be one of those days. You will need to exercise patience and self-control today. This will be a day you may feel pushed beyond your breaking point. You will easily be able to make clear decisions regarding others today. This is a time even frustration and anger will not effect your ability to remain in control of business.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are feeling some financial stress. That's because you have trouble distinguishing between "Needs" and "Wants." Solve the problem by listing your expenditures in the two categories. To assure objectivity, you may want to enlist the help of a friend to verify the lists. (Utilities are Needs, that new purse is a Want.) Set aside money for Needs, including payments on current debts. Allow yourself the balance to spend on wants. Resisting the temptation to spend more than you have will be difficult at first, but it will soon become habit. And you will be surprised at how quickly you will feel freer, less stressed.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Do you know the difference in sympathy and empathy? This is a day you find yourself you are empathic of others. You are starting to look beneath and beyond the surface what others expose of their self. Call it intuition or whatever you would like. You know how to read people. This may be a talent and curse all rolled into one. The level of empathy you are starting to feel for others may be dragging you down. You have to learn to care for others without emotionally taking their problems on as your own. You are loved and admired for your caring nature.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Resist the need to be "wonderful." Such a reputation may sound good at first, but it's a trap. It sets up unrealistic expectations. It leads to a need to please. And that leads to conflict-inner and outer. Don't punish by trying to maintain an unrealistic reputation. Be yourself. Do what's natural. Remind yourself that you are enough just the way you are.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

When you hear the phone ring today, answer it. You have a friend in need and you are just the person to help them out. You are understanding. There is no issue too personal that your friend feels they can not discuss with you. Your guidance and knowledge are priceless to this person. The first person they feel they need to run to when things go wrong. Be careful to not take on emotional baggage when offering your advice. This is not your circus and these are not your monkeys. You have to remember there is a difference between sympathy and empathy. Use caution, Libra. The weight of the world does not belong on your shoulders.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are experiencing an unrealistic feeling today. You may be having to really resist the urge to daydream. Focusing on the tasks set before you seem impossible. You may find your friends and co-workers become frustrated when dealing with this side of you. A bit of soul-searching may be in order. You need to force yourself to snap back to reality and pick up where you left off. Get to the root of the matter that has you preoccupied so you will be able to push forward. Once you realize what caused this mood you should be able to push on and lead a more productive day.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A difficult path may lay ahead. You may find that career opportunities could hinder your need for change and self-growth. What may be best for your personal life may totally interfere with your career. Now is a great time to understand those around you. This could be a special time for you and someone you love. Keep your priorities straight and do what is best for your future. Remember, they say money can't buy happiness.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

How do you feel about your position in life? If you answer this in any way other than positive then now is the time for change. You are able to see things very clearly now. Set a goal and make any necessary changes in your life to help accomplish it. With your strength and determination, nothing can hold you back. You are in a great position to be able to communicate your feelings to others. You will find support for your dreams and ideas from those closest to you. Reach for the stars.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a time you may begin to see and truly appreciate the beauty in all that surrounds you. Times when you feel like this, it is best if you steer clear from the mall. These are the times you tend to overindulge and bring home everything in sight. You love it and have to have it are words you would be hearing yourself say. Focus on your family and nature and the beauty all of these things possess. You may find yourself overspending if you focus on material possessions.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

What a wonderful day! Today finds you full of love and appreciation for life. You may have a new outlook on life and a deep gratitude for all that is around you. This mood could leave you showing much affection to those close to you. You find a great sense of peace and fulfillment as you receive this affection in return. You are radiant today. Others will feel attracted and drawn to your warm presence. You may find yourself doing a bit of soul searching as you have found peace in your world and this is a place you want to remain.

Wordsearch Puzzle

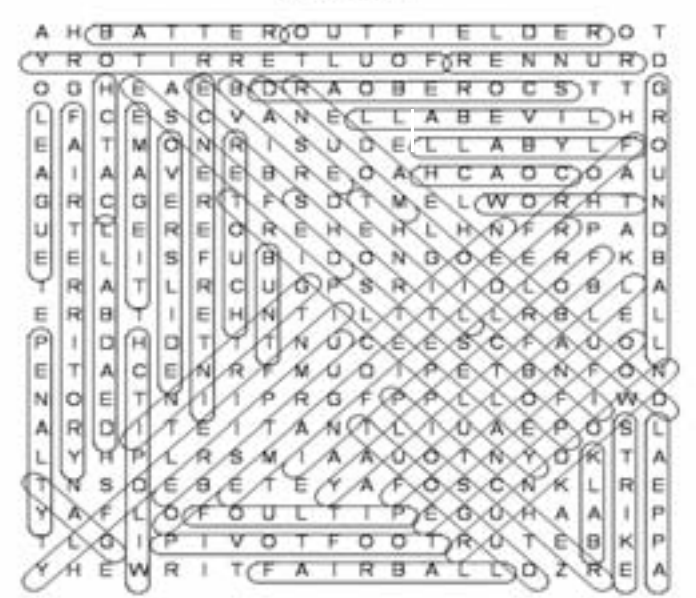
Basketball

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 39 letters spell a piece of Basketball trivia.



- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| ASSIST | FOUL | PASSING | SHOOTING GUARD |
| BACKBOARD | FREE THROW | PLAYER | SHOT |
| BALL | GAME | POINT GUARD | SLAM DUNK |
| BASKET | HALF-TIME | POINTS | SMALL FORWARD |
| BENCH | HOOP | POWER FORWARD | SNEAKERS |
| BLOCK | JERSEY | QUARTER | SUBSTITUTIONS |
| CENTER | LAY-UP | REBOUND | TEAM |
| CLOCK | NET | REFEREE | THREE POINTER |
| COACH | OUT OF BOUNDS | RIM | TIME-OUT |
| COURT | OVERTIME | SCOREBOARD | TRAVELING |
| DRIBBLING | | | |

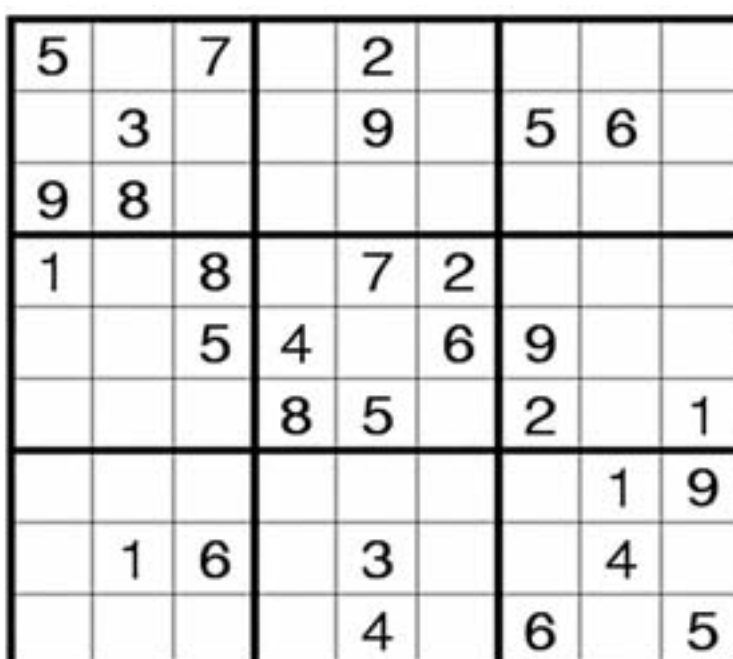
Baseball



- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| APPEAL | FAIR TERRITORY | INTERFERENCE | RETOUCH |
| BALK | FLY BALL | LEAGUE | RUN DOWN |
| BATTER | FORCE PLAY | LINE DRIVE | SCORERBOARD |
| BUNT | FORFEITED GAME | LIVE BALL | SCOREBOARD |
| CATCH | FOUL BALL | MOUND | SHORTSTOP |
| COACH | FOUL TERRITORY | OBSTRUCTION | STRIKE |
| DEAD BALL | FOUL TIP | OFFENSE | TAG |
| DEFENSE | GROUND BALL | OUTFIELDER | THROW |
| DOUBLE HEADER | IN FLIGHT | OVERSLIDE | THE GAME |
| DUGOUT | INFIELD FLY | PENALTY | TRIPLE PLAY |
| FAIR BALL | INFELDER | PITCHER | UMPIRE |
| | INNING | PIVOT FOOT | WILD PITCH |

Hidden sentence: A HOT DOG AT THE BALL PARK IS BETTER THAN STEAK AT THE RITZ

Daily Sudoku



Friday's Solution



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019



Thalia Olvino representative of the Delta Amacuro reacts during the Miss Venezuela beauty pageant in Caracas, Venezuela.



Miss Venezuela 2019 Thalia Olvino speaks during a press conference in Caracas.

FIRST MISS VENEZUELA CROWNED AFTER DITCHING CONTESTANTS' MEASUREMENTS



Thalia Olvino representative of the Delta Amacuro state poses in a gala dress during the Miss Venezuela beauty pageant.

A 19-year-old student has been crowned Miss Venezuela, becoming the first winner of the annual pageant since it opted not to publish contestants' waist, hip and bust measurements. Thalia Olvino prevailed in Caracas on Thursday after organizers—facing criticism for the contest's primary focus on physical appearance—said they wanted to push back against stereotypes about what an ideal woman looks like. "I did this with all my heart and total dedication," Olvino said after the pageant—during which contestants paraded on stage in swimsuits nevertheless. In the past presenters would tell the audience the exact size of each contestant, many of whom underwent cosmetic surgery and followed strict diets to achieve the supposedly ideal physique: a 90-centimeter (36-inch) bust, 60-centimeter waist and 90-centimeter hips.

But this year organizers tried to shift the focus, quizzing the contestants about their character. "Determination," "excellence" and "initiative," marketing student Olvino replied when

asked to highlight her main qualities. In another round, fellow candidate Melissa Jimenez said that "Miss Venezuela has evolved and serves to empower women."

"A woman can inspire others to follow their dreams," she added. Miss Venezuela, which has been running since 1952, is normally big business in the crisis-wracked Latin American country, but it is suffering from the same difficulties as the rest of the population. One of those is frequent blackouts and a spokeswoman for the pageant last week revealed that the contest did not have enough money to put in place contingency measures in case of a power outage. Several beauty queens sent messages of solidarity to the Venezuelan people. "I wanted to share with you how much love and support I have for all of you in Venezuela right now who are going through a very difficult time," former Miss Universe Natalie Glebova said.—AFP



Thalia Olvino (left) representative of the Delta Amacuro state is crowned as the new Miss Venezuela during the Miss Venezuela beauty pageant.



Contestants perform during the Miss Venezuela beauty pageant.



Miss Venezuela 2019 Thalia Olvino (left) and Miss International Venezuela Melissa Jimenez attend a press conference in Caracas.



Contestants perform during the Miss Venezuela beauty pageant.



Contestants pose in a gala dress during the Miss Venezuela beauty pageant.—AFP photos

Lifestyle | Gossip

06
FAL
M

Blue thinks Four of Diamonds are destined for greatness

Jonas Blue says Four of Diamonds' debut album is coming along well, and thinks "there's a gap in the market for a new girl group" to make it big. The 30-year-old DJ and record producer is executive producing the upcoming debut album of girl group Four of Diamonds, who rose to fame when they competed on the 2016 season of UK talent show 'The X Factor', where they finished in eighth place. And Jonas - who also produced the group's single 'Blind' last year - has now said he believes the quartet could be the next big girl group. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, he said: "We're working on the album at the moment. It's fun because my background is pop songwriting and idols of mine like Max Martin write for other artists. I want to give my advice and share my experience with them. I'm actually acting as the executive producer on the album and it's just great to be involved with the girls and I think there's a gap in the market for a new girl group. They're such incredible girls and they're so likeable and so talented as well. It's just another avenue to put my songwriting efforts and production efforts and do something a little

bit different on the side, it's great being behind them and helping. We're working on the new single at the moment, they have a lot of good stuff coming." The 'Rise' DJ admits he isn't directly working on every track of the group's album, but is "overseeing everything creatively". He added: "I'm not producing everything and I'm not writing everything, there are a few records I'm doing. It's mainly overseeing everything creatively and making sure everything is in line and correct and we're not jumping from one sound to the next, just making sure everything is right and we have a steady build for them." Jonas is also still working on his own music alongside producing for the band - comprised of Caroline Alvares, Lauren Rammell, Sophia Saffarian and Yasmin Broom - and recently released new track 'Ritual', which features Tiesto and Rita Ora. Asked whether he sees himself as the next Simon Cowell, he said: "It's nice to be able to do this and do Jonas Blue too, it's nice to be able to dip into that once in a while rather than be Simon Cowell sitting behind a desk committing to it 24/7."

Mike Moh talks working with Quentin Tarantino

Mike Moh says Quentin Tarantino's knowledge of Bruce Lee on 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' was "unbelievable". The acclaimed director's ninth movie is set in Hollywood in 1969 and follows fading Western star Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt) and features appearances from real-life famous figures of the time such as Sharon Tate (Margot Robbie), Charles Manson (Damon Herriman) and martial arts icon Lee (Moh). Mike, 35, explained that the 'Pulp Fiction' director knows "so much" about "every single movie ever made" by Lee and revealed that upon meeting the pair spent half an hour chatting about the legendary actor where he realized how "important Bruce was to him personally". In an interview with Collider, he said: "[Tarantino] is a massive Bruce Lee fan and he knows so much about every single movie ever made. It's unbelievable, actually. I remember the first time I met him when I auditioned for him. We just talked Bruce [Lee] for like 20 to 30 minutes. "After I met him, I just felt how important this was to him and how important Bruce was to him personally and to this film." The 'Inhumans' star -



who is a fifth-degree black belt in American Taekwondo - went on to open up about what inspired him to explore martial arts and credited Lee's 1973 action film 'Enter The Dragon' as what "busted the door wide open". He said: "Starting from when I was a kid and the first kung fu movie that got me like hooked before I even started martial arts was 'Rumble In The Bronx' - Jackie Chan and that was kind of my introduction. "Then I saw 'Enter The Dragon' and that busted the door wide open it was like a worm hole not only to Bruce Lee but also to martial arts."

Drake drops previously unreleased music

Drake has released a new 'Care Package' compilation album, featuring unreleased tracks. The 'God's Plan' rapper took to Instagram this week to announce he was dropping the new compilation, which gathers loose songs and tracks from throughout his career. Posting on social media on Thursday to announce the release, Drake wrote: "Available Friday on all platforms. Some of our most important moments together available in one place. Care Package." The surprise project includes fan favorite tracks such as 'Can I' - which was leaked around the time 'Views' came out - 'Girls Love Beyonce', and 'Paris Morton Music'. Drake's album also includes features from J. Cole, James Fauntleroy and Rick Ross. The album comes just a few months after the 32-year-old musician - whose real name is Aubrey Graham - re-released his 2009 album 'So Far Gone', finally making the 10-year-old project available to stream on all platforms. 'Care Package' follows Drake's critically acclaimed 2018 album 'Scorpion', and comes as he previously promised fans a new album would be coming in 2019. Speaking toward the end of his 'Aubrey & the Three Migos Tour' alongside trap trip Migos, Drake said he planned to head straight into the studio once he'd given himself a "little break" at the end of the tour. He said on stage: "Okay, six shows left. I guess, you know, I guess - I'm gonna tell you what I'm going to do. Because I keep having nights like this that remind me why I love my job so much, I promise you that as soon as this tour is over and maybe I take a little break, I'm gonna get right to work on a new album so we can be back right here in Edmonton and have a new party."



Mabel's 'difficult' anxiety song

Mabel's 'OK (Anxiety Anthem)' was her most difficult song to write. The 23-year-old singer/songwriter drew on her own experiences with anxiety and depression to pen the song, which features on her album 'High Expectations', and Mabel admitted that emotionally it took a toll. She said: "It was really difficult for me to write my song OK (Anxiety Anthem) because it was about dealing with my anxiety and looking at it in a positive light. "I always say it took a day to write the song, but the actual process was longer than the making of the whole album, because it's about me actually coming to terms with my anxiety." Mabel has been working on the album for over two years but didn't want to release it until she was completely satisfied with every track. She told the Belfast Telegraph: "It's been a two-year process making this record. I've really put everything into it," she says. "Some of the songs are old to me now and I've been performing them live for a while, but I can't wait for people to sing them back to me. "It is nerve-racking and quite emotional because I'm really attached to it. "It's been my identity in many ways for the last few years. It's been my purpose." Mabel's parents are singer-songwriter Neneh Cherry and Massive Attack producer Cameron McVey and she revealed it took some time for her to emerge from their shadow. She said: "I used to be really afraid that my parents were the only thing that people were going to care about. "It's frustrating when you're making good music and you're working hard. You're just like, 'Why are we talking about this?'. "But at the same time, I'm really proud of what they've accomplished and I've got to a point with it where it's not embarrassing to talk about and it's not going to take away from me as an artist because they're amazing people that have accomplished incredible things. "With the confidence I have now, it doesn't bother me as much."



Leto in talks for The Little Things



Jared Leto is in talks for 'The Little Things'. The 47-year-old star is being lined up for a role as a serial killer in the Warner Bros. movie, which Denzel Washington and Rami Malek have also been in negotiations to join. According to Variety, Washington will take on the role of deputy sheriff Deke who joins forces with a detective - portrayed by Malek - to track down the killer. John Lee Hancock will write and direct the movie, which is scheduled to start shooting this autumn. It wouldn't be the first time Leto has shot a Warner Bros. movie, after starring as The Joker in 'Suicide Squad', and he featured in 2017 motion picture 'Blade Runner 2049'. And earlier this year, Leto admitted he would "definitely" be up for reprising his role as The Joker following his 2016 portrayal. He said: "I would definitely play The Joker again. It all depends on the script and the circumstances as it always does." Leto's latest movie saw him star in 'The Outsider' last year, which told the story of his US prisoner character becoming a member of the Japanese yakuza, a transnational crime syndicate originating in the country. The 'Dallas Buyers Club' star has wrapped filming on 'Morbius', after starring as the titular superhero, and the Sony movie will also feature Adria Arjona, Matt Smith, Jared Harris, and Tyrese Gibson. What's more, Leto - who is the lead singer for Thirty Seconds to Mars - recently turned his hand to documentary producing on 'A Day in the Life of America'.

Witherspoon to produce and star in Pyros

Reece Witherspoon is set to star in and produce 'Pyros'. The 43-year-old actress has teamed up with 'X-Men: Dark Phoenix' director and writer Simon Kinberg to produce the upcoming sci-fi film adapted from Thomas Pierce's short story 'Tardy Man' which was originally published in The New Yorker. The flash fiction story follows a contractor for an insurance company called Wick who wears a protective suit fused to his spine and whose job it is to enter dangerous areas such as wildfire zones and retrieve the items of wealthy clients. It is strictly forbidden for contractors to stray from their missions even when other humans are at risk, however, the protagonist decides to make an exception to this rule. Reese and Kinberg are producing with Lauren Neustadter and Genre Films' Audrey Chon and the pair reportedly have a number of offers from various studios on the table. The 'Legally Blonde' star will operate from within her newly created media company Hello Sunshine, which aims to create and discover stories by and for women through TV shows, movies and digital content. Speaking about the company recently, Reese said: "My life-long passion has been to tell women's stories with authenticity and humor. This partnership will allow me to reach a greater audience that is eager for more female-driven content. Hello Sunshine is deeply committed to creating content that will reach women where they spend time, whether it is at a movie theatre, at home or on their mobile device. Women are looking for entertainment that speaks to them about what they value. Hello Sunshine will make content that entertains, educates and brings women together." — Bang Showbiz



Jim Carrey's Sonic concerns

Jim Carrey has shared his concerns about fans forcing a 'Sonic the Hedgehog' character redesign. Following criticism - which took aim at Sonic's human teeth and bizarre looking calf muscles - after the first trailer dropped, Paramount pulled the film from its release schedule in order to redesign the character and Jim admitted he had his own worries about the drama. Speaking at TCA panel for his Showtime series 'Kidding', Jim - who plays villain Robotnik - said: "I don't know quite how I feel about the audience being in on the creation of it, while it's happening. Sometimes you find that the collective consciousness decides it wants something and then when it gets it, it goes, 'OK, I don't want it... You become a Frankenstein's monster at some point, right?' Meanwhile, film director and visual effects artist Tim Miller, who is executive producing the live-action film based on the blue hedgehog from the iconic video game franchise, previously said it was important to "listen" to the fans. He said: "This is a franchise, and it has to be great. Look, I was with fans and so was Jeff [Fowler, the movie's director]. When the s**t hit the fan, I went over there and said, 'The most important thing to do, man, is say, I messed up.' He'd already sent a tweet out an hour before I got there. He's a good man. It was exactly the right way to handle that. The fans have a voice in this too. There's a right way to listen." And Miller believes the new design will please fans. When asked if

he's seen the new look, he said: "In fact I have. And I think the fans will be pleased." Following the need for a redesign, the movie - which stars Ben Schwartz as the voice of Sonic - has been pushed back to a February 2020 release.



Lifestyle | Features



The winner celebrates after winning the donkey race at the festival "Festibaz" in the village of Beni Ammar. — AFP photos



This picture shows the beauty pageant winner donkey, Cleopatra (first right), at the festival "Festibaz" in the village of Beni Ammar.



A Moroccan child decorates a donkey during the festival "Festibaz" in the village of Beni Ammar.

'Cleopatra' wows Morocco village at donkey pageant

Wearing a crown of flowers, "Cleopatra" the donkey delighted villagers in central Morocco by bucking the trend to clinch top prize in a beauty pageant. Named after the ancient Egyptian queen, she triumphed at the Festibaz event-becoming the first female donkey ever to win the contest, held in the village of Beni Ammar. "It's a devoted and tireless animal, but it must be looked after," said Abdeljalil, the winner's 26-year-old owner. A farmer, he took home a prize of 2,500 dirhams (\$260, 235 euros) and a sack of barley, as the pageant returned in late July after a five-year break caused by funding difficulties.

As well as a flower crown, Cleopatra wore glamorous sunglasses and was dolled up to the end of her hooves for the nine judges. The panel included a vet and a philosophy professor, who closely examined the donkeys' appearance, health and bond with their owners. The twelfth edition of the festival in Beni Ammar, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of the capital Rabat, was intended as a celebration. The donkey "plays an essential role in the life of village resi-

dents", said Mohamed Belmou, who works in Rabat but is originally from the village. Donkeys are a key mode of transport and pull heavily-laden carts in rural areas, but the animals have a bad reputation in popular culture and their name can be used as an insult.

"We want to rehabilitate the image of man's old companion, victim of abuse and bad-mouthing," added Belmou. One competitor saw the contest as a way to promote donkey's milk. "It seems that this milk sells at a high price for its cosmetic properties-I'm hoping to create a cooperative to be able to export it," said Mohamed, a 47-year-old farmer. The annual contest also entertains villagers, whose youth gathered to watch around 20 donkeys take part in a one-kilometer race ahead of the pageant. In less than five minutes, "Rambo" passed the line ahead of competitors including "Fire" and "Bluetooth"-supposedly named for his speed. "Long live the donkey!" the crowd cheered.—AFP



Moroccan men ride their donkeys during a race at the festival "Festibaz" in the village of Beni Ammar.



The winner celebrates after winning the donkey race at the festival "Festibaz" in the village of Beni Ammar.



Moroccan men ride their donkeys during a race at the festival "Festibaz" in the village of Beni Ammar.



The winner celebrates after winning the donkey race at the festival "Festibaz" in the village of Beni Ammar.

Netflix debuts Scorsese's 'Irishman' trailer with De Niro, Pacino

Netflix unveiled the trailer for Martin Scorsese's long-awaited new film, "The Irishman"—a major project for the streaming giant featuring powerhouse Oscar winners Robert de Niro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci, all digitally enhanced to look younger. The crime epic tells the story of powerful union leader Jimmy Hoffa (Pacino), crime boss Russell Bufalino (Pesci) and Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran (De Niro), who claimed he killed more than 25 people on their orders. The film is adapted from "I Heard You Paint Houses," a book by Charles Brandt based on interviews with Sheeran.

This is the first time that Pacino has worked with Scorsese, and the ninth that De Niro has collaborated with the Oscar-winning veteran director. Producers have

used anti-aging digital effects-based on a technology first developed by Industrial Light & Magic, founded by George Lucas. The result is striking, particularly on the 75-year-old De Niro, who is made to look decades younger. The film falls squarely in the wheelhouse of Scorsese, known for other crime epics like "Goodfellas," "Casino" and "The Departed." This time, he is working within the confines of real-life events. The project has been in development for a decade and was rejected by several studios, mainly because of its high cost, before finding a home at Netflix.

According to several reports, the budget has exceeded \$140 million. The film will make its world premiere on opening night of the New York Film Festival on September 27. Getting the film is a coup for the festival, as it is one of the most anticipated movies of 2019. Netflix plans to release the film in theaters before year's end to ensure its eligibility for the Oscars. —AFP



In this file photo US actor Robert De Niro (left) and US film director Martin Scorsese (right), arrive at the Marrakech International Film festival in the city of Marrakesh. Netflix unveiled the trailer for Martin Scorsese's long-awaited new film, "The Irishman".—AFP

Thai dissident band in Laos flee to France for political asylum

A Thai activist folk band who went into hiding in Laos have arrived in Paris to apply for asylum in France, a band member and activist said yesterday, after months living in fear of their safety. Laos, which neighbors Thailand, became a haven after a 2014 coup for some of the most outspoken Thai anti-junta activists, some of whom have been accused of criticizing the Thai monarchy. The unassailable institution is protected by one of the world's toughest royal defamation laws, under which anyone who insults or defames the monarchy can be jailed for up to 15 years on each charge.

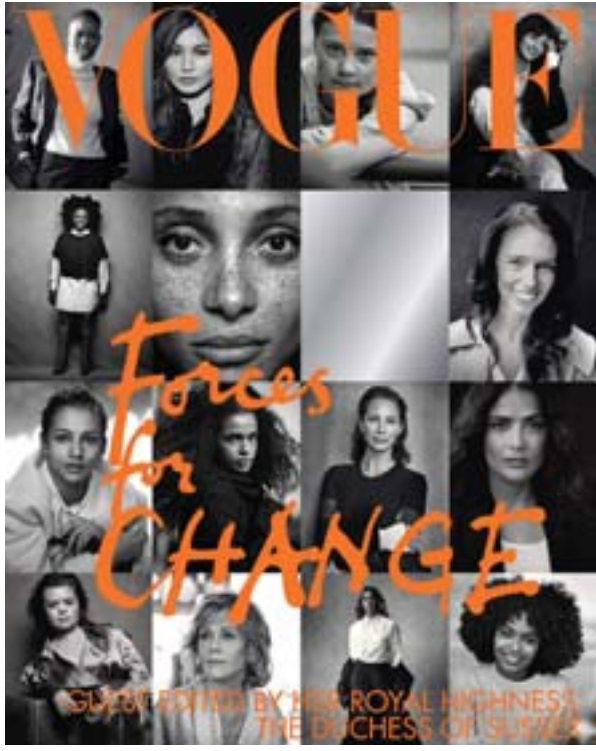
Activist folk band Faiyen—who have campaigned to abolish the lese majeste laws—crossed the border to avoid a summons by the junta and have lived in fear, believing that they are on a hit-list. But in late July, the band received a special visa from France, which allows them to travel to Paris to jumpstart an asylum application process, said Junya Yimprasert,

a Thai activist travelling with them. "The process to apply for status would have to be done in France," she told AFP, adding that it would take six months to a year.

"They are already planning their first street performance at the Place de la Republique," she added. A Faiyen band member said it felt great to leave Laos, where they received innumerable online death threats. The band wish to continue "to make music to tell our story," Trairong Sinsuebpol told AFP from Paris. The French interior ministry has not responded yet to requests for comment on Faiyen's application.

Since 2016, five of Thailand's best-known activists have disappeared from their homes in Laos in what critics believe is a carefully orchestrated campaign of elimination by shadowy arch-royalist groups. The corpses of two of them were found in December in the Mekong river which bisects the countries—their stomachs stuffed with concrete. Rights groups believe three others have been deported from Vietnam to Thailand—although both governments deny any knowledge of their whereabouts.

A prominent Thai academic, known for his criticisms of the powerful military and monarchy, alleged that he was attacked in early July in Kyoto, Japan, by a masked man who broke into his apartment in the middle of the night. "He walked into my bedroom and attacked me and my partner with chemical spray," Pavin Chachavalpongpun said, adding that Kyoto's police terrorism unit was currently investigating it. —AFP



This undated handout photo received in London, issued on July 28, 2019 by Kensington Palace shows the cover of British Vogue's September issue, entitled "Forces for Change", showing photographs by Peter Lindbergh, which is guest edited by Britain's Meghan, Duchess of Sussex.

Readers line up for copy of **British Vogue** edited by UK's Duchess Meghan

Royal-loving readers queued up on Friday to buy the new edition of the British Vogue magazine which was guest edited by Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex and wife of Britain's Prince Harry. Meghan, who gave birth to her first child in May, spent seven months working with the magazine's editor-in-chief Edward Enninful for the September issue which featured 15 women she considered "Forces for Change" on the cover. "I wanted to be one of the first ... and I was very excited," said Vanessa Forstner, 29, a luxury car saleswoman who queued up outside the Conde Nast Worldwide News store in central London.

Sandria Plummer, 55, another of those who waited to buy the magazine, said she was excited about the diverse contents Meghan had chosen. "It's special because the Duchess of Sussex is the editor for this month and ... it's a once in a lifetime thing to have, it's a collectors' item so I'm excit-

ed that I've got two copies now," she said. Former actress Meghan, 37, said in a statement she had sought to steer the focus of the September issue - usually the year's most read - to "the values, causes and people making impact in the world today".

The cover of the magazine features figures such as teenage climate change campaigner Greta Thunberg, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Arden, boxer Ramla Ali and actress and women's rights advocate Salma Hayek Pinault. "I hope readers feel as inspired as I do, by the 'Forces for Change' they'll find within these pages," Meghan said. The issue features a "candid conversation" between Meghan and former US first lady Michelle Obama and an interview by her husband Harry with veteran primatologist Jane Goodall in which he discusses the "unconscious bias" of racism. — Reuters



This undated handout photo issued on July 28, 2019 by Kensington Palace shows Britain's Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, Patron of Smart Works, in the workroom of the Smart Works London office. — AFP photos



This aerial photo shows the boat of Captain Edward Kean passing an iceberg in Bonavista Bay.

Canadian iceberg hunter on the trail of white gold

It's midday and Edward Kean, a Canadian fisherman who now scours the North Atlantic for icebergs that have broken off from Greenland's glaciers, is positively beaming. Using his trusty binoculars, the rotund, 60-year-old captain of the fishing boat 'Green Waters' has spotted his next prize-it's several dozen meters tall and floating just off the coast of Newfoundland. "It's a very fine piece of ice," Kean proclaims. Every morning at dawn, Kean sails out with three other crew members to hunt what has become his own personal white gold: icebergs.

For more than 20 years, he has hauled in the mighty ice giants and then sold the water for a handsome profit to local companies, which then bottle it, mix it into booze or use it to make cosmetics. Business has soared in tandem with the warming of the planet, especially quick in the Arctic, meaning that more and more icebergs find their way south. But it's a tough gig. The days are long and the "harvest" isn't easy. For this particular prize, which he first picked up using a satellite map, Kean has to sail about 24 kilometers (15 miles). To kill time, the crew members swap jokes in the colorful local dialect-English with a Scottish and Irish lilt.

"Even I struggle to understand them sometimes," laughs the captain, who lives in St John's, the capital of the eastern province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Arriving at the foot of the massive wall of floating ice in Bonavista Bay, which opens into the Atlantic, he shoulders a rifle and blasts away in the hopes that some of it will break off. One, two, three shots ring out. The air shudders with the noise and the crew hold their breath. But the ice does not split. "Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't," said Kean.

Race against the clock

As summer gets under way, time is of the

essence in harvesting the icebergs. "They come here and they melt so fast," noted the captain, adding that once they are floating off the coast of Newfoundland, it is a real race against the clock. "In Newfoundland, it's like a fallen leaf. They're going to die in a couple of weeks and be gone back to nature anyway," he said. "So we're not here hurting the environment, we're not taking nothing away—we're just utilizing the purest water we can get." Two members of his crew set out on a motorboat, circling the iceberg, even brushing against it, to find blocks of ice that may be bobbing next to it.



A Moroccan child rides a donkey during the festival "Festibaz" in the village of Beni Ammar.

Armed with a pole and net, they laboriously wrap up the precious fragments, each one weighing a ton or two, and fasten them to a hook at the end of a crane on the fishing boat's deck, which winches them aboard. Kean then hacks the blocks up with an ax and puts the pieces into 1,000-liter (265-gallon) containers to melt over the coming days. In the high season, from May to July, the crew can gather 800,000 liters of water, which they then sell to local merchants for a dollar a liter. Those busi-

nesses in turn market the iceberg products as made from some of the purest water money can buy.

Niche market

Dyna Pro, one of Kean's clients, sells the water in glass bottles for Can\$16 (US \$12) each. They are targeting a wealthy clientele and have hopes to expand their business abroad. "We're probably a lot bigger today than we ever were with iceberg water shipping overseas—Europe, Singapore, Dubai," said the company's manager, Kerry Chaulk. "We just picked up clients from the Middle East with our glass bottles." The popular Auk Island Winery, in the tourist village of Twillingate, makes wine from wild berries and iceberg water—and sells it for Can \$10-90 a bottle.

"We use iceberg water because it is the clearest, cleanest water that we have available on the planet, really," says employee Elizabeth Gleason. "It will give you a very clean, very pure taste of whatever it is paired with." US tourist Melissa Axtman, who has family roots in Newfoundland, said she was "enjoying all the things made out of iceberg water." But she acknowledged "good things and bad things" about the increasing number of icebergs, a symptom of climate change.

Experts say the Arctic is warming three times faster than the rest of the planet. Despite the success of the products, the crew of the Green Waters remains small and the tools they use for the harvest have barely changed in decades. "Nobody wants to manually work at this type of work anymore," said Kean, who has trouble keeping crew members for long. "Hopefully we can make it carry on for the coming years, but I'm 60, so time is running out for me," he said. — AFP



This aerial photo shows the boat of Captain Edward Kean passing an iceberg on Bonavista Bay in Newfoundland, Canada. — AFP photos



This aerial photo shows a zodiac from Captain Edward Kean's fishing boat passing an iceberg in Bonavista Bay.

'Iceberg Corridor' sparks tourist boom on Canada's east coast

At dusk, tourists marvel at the sensational collapse of an iceberg at the end of its long journey from Greenland to Canada's east coast, which now has a front row seat to the melting of the Arctic's ice. While the rest of the world nervously eyes the impact of global warming, the calving of Greenland's glaciers—the breaking off of ice chunks from its edge—has breathed new life into the remote coastal villages of Newfoundland and Labrador. Once a hub of cod fishing, the province now plays host to hordes of amateur photographers and tourists hoping to capture the epic ice melt for posterity. As winter ends, iceberg spotting begins.

"It keeps getting better every year," says Barry Strickland, a 58-year-old former fisherman who now takes tourists in his small boat around King's Point in the north of the province. "We've got 135, 140 tour buses with older people coming into the town every season so it's great for the economy." For the past four years, Strickland has taken visitors to bear witness to the death throes of these ice giants, which can measure dozens of meters in height and weigh hundreds of thousands of tons. Winds and ocean currents bring the icebergs from northwest Greenland, thousands of kilometers (miles) away, to Canada's shores. In a matter of weeks, ice frozen for thousands of years can quickly melt into the ocean.

'Incredible' rise in tourism

Strickland's boat excursions are often fully booked during the high season from May to July, with tourists coming from all around the world to King's Point, a village of just 600 inhabitants. The villagers keep track of the icebergs on an interactive satellite tracking map put online by the provincial government. "There's not much in these small outport towns anymore to keep people around, so tourism is a big part of our economy," said Devon Chaulk, who works in a souvenir shop in Elliston, a small town of 300 on "Iceberg Corridor," as the

coastline is now known.

"I've lived here my entire life, and the increase in tourism around here in the past 10 to 15 years has been incredible. It's not surprising to have thousands of people here over the next couple of months," said the 28-year-old. Last year, a total of 500,000 tourists visited Newfoundland and Labrador, a number roughly equivalent to the province's total population. Those visitors spent nearly Can \$570 million (US \$433 million), government figures show.

Melting ice

The tourism boom has helped offset the decline in the region's traditional fishing industry, which is in crisis because of overfishing at the end of the last century. Some are even marketing "iceberg water" as the purest on Earth—and selling it as a high-end luxury item. The melt is also used in vodka, beer and cosmetics.

But beneath the shiny surface of economic success is the dark truth that the area is in part profiting from accelerated global warming in the Arctic, and that the industry is precarious at best. In the village of Twillingate, employees at the Auk Island Winery—which makes its product from iceberg water and locally picked wild berries—have already seen that business can be unpredictable. "We see the difference in the number of tourists from year to year, depending on the amount of icebergs in the area," says Elizabeth Gleason, who works at the winery. "This year was a good year. Last year, we had almost none."

The Arctic is warming three times faster than the rest of the world. In mid-July, record temperatures were recorded near the North Pole. In recent years, the icebergs have drifted further and further south, posing a threat to shipping on this busy route between Europe and North America. For now, tourists are enjoying the view and the experience while they can. "The prevalence of icebergs has good things and bad things about it," says Melissa Axtman, an American traveler. Laurent Lucazeau, a 34-year-old French tourist, says seeing an iceberg was sobering. "It is a concrete image of global warming to see icebergs making it to these places where the water is warm," he told AFP. "There's something mysterious and impressive about it, but knowing too that they are not supposed to be here makes you wonder, and it's a little scary." — AFP



An iceberg collapses near the seashore of King's Point in Newfoundland, Canada. — AFP

Classifieds

Sunday, August 4, 2019

Kuwait Times
Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 42 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Hot to relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 03/08/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	47 °C	36 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	33 °C			
ABDALY	47 °C	32 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	48 °C	33 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	47 °C	31 °C			
SALMIYAH	46 °C	37 °C			
AHMADI	44 °C	36 °C			
NUWAISIB	47 °C	34 °C			
WAFRA	47 °C	34 °C			
SALMY	46 °C	31 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	08/04	Very hot and some high clouds will appear	48 °C	33 °C	NW	15 - 38 km/h
Monday	08/05	Very hot	49 °C	34 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Tuesday	08/06	Very hot	49 °C	35 °C	NW	15 - 45 km/h
Wednesday	08/07	Very hot with a chance for rising dust	48 °C	35 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:42
Sunrise	05:10
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Sunset	18:39
Isha	20:04

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	51 °C
MIN. Temp.	34 °C
MAX. RH	16 %
MIN. RH	05 %
MAX. Wind	N 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mr. POLAKANTI SUBRAMANYAM (Old Name) S/o (Late) PULLAGANTI SUBBARAMAIAH hereby declare that my name is changed as PULLAGANTI SUBRAMANYAM (New Name) R/o Dno. 17/57, J. Vaddipalli Vil, Obulavaripalli Mdl, YSR Dt. A.P. My Passport No. M2310570. (C 5569)

I, GRUPARSHAD hereby change my name to GURU PRASAD. (C 5568) 31-7-2019

I, SALVADOR GABRIEL SOFIA D'SILVA currently holder of Indian Passport No. K4650361 issued at

Kuwait on 11/03/2012, presently residing in Kuwait, my permanent address: Pequeno Rumbordem, Curtorim, Salcette, Goa, pin code: 403709, India, do hereby permanently change my name as SALVADOR GABRIEL SOFIA DA SILVA. (C 5567) 29-7-2019

SITUATION WANTED

Hi, I am looking for a job as a primary teacher, Im new to Kuwait but have good experience in India, BA (Hindi) graduate and certified in Islamic Course & have good computer knowledge. Please contact me on 69006684 if you have any vacancy thanks. 31-7-2019

Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
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

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 4/8/2019				Departure Flights on Sunday 4/8/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	JZR	309	BJV	11:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	SVA	5761	Madinah	12:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05
AHY	119	Baku	00:55	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	JZR	735	Cairo	12:30
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	KAC	1798	Taif	13:20
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	541	Cairo	13:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	ETH	3621	Addis Ababa	13:30
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	515	Tehran	13:55
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	02:25	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	FDB	8192	Dubai	14:50
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	JZR	222	Bahrain	15:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	UAE	103	Bahrain	15:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
PGT	856	Istanbul	03:10	JZR	405	Kochi	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
CLX	7326	Luxembourg	03:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	FEJ	442	Asyut	16:55
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	KAC	1713	Madinah	17:00
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
PGT	7230	Istanbul	04:30	KAC	503	Beirut	17:40
JZR	1738	Cairo	04:45	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	FEJ	242	Alexandria	17:45
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	KAC	621	Doha	17:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	127	Hyderabad	18:25
JZR	708	Luxor	06:15	IRA	664	Shiraz	18:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	QTR	1089	Lahore	18:35
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	KAC	1796	Taif	19:00
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	JZR	261	Beirut	19:10
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
QTR	8511	Doha	07:10	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
IGO	1755	CNN	07:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	724	Alexandria	07:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KAC	1800	Taif	20:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	KAC	351	Kochi	20:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	333	Trivandrum	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
SVA	4761	Jeddah	10:20	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	THY	1403	Dubai	22:25
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	UAE	860	Delhi	22:35
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	KAC	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	114	Doha	11:10	KAC	795	Madinah	22:55
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
JZR	738	Cairo	12:20	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
ETH	3620	Addis Ababa	12:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				KNE	234	Riyadh	23:45
				JZR	701	Asyut	23:45

Demise of US-Russia nuclear treaty fuels fears of arms race

WASHINGTON: The United States vowed to upgrade its cruise and ballistic missile capability as the collapse Friday of a Cold War nuclear pact with Russia triggered fears of a new arms race. As Washington placed the blame firmly on Moscow over the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, President Donald Trump said any new disarmament pact would also need China to come on board.

Russia in turn accused the US of making a "serious mistake" in turning its back on the INF, which the United Nations said had played a pivotal role in maintaining peace and stability for more than three decades. The pact had been widely proclaimed as a beacon of hope when it was signed back in 1987 by then US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as they agreed to limit the use of conventional and nuclear medium-range missiles.

But its unravelling had been on the cards for months amid a worsening in ties between Russia and the US. "Russia is solely responsible for the treaty's demise," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement confirming Washington's formal withdrawal, minutes after Russia also pronounced the agreement void. Russia's suggestion of a moratorium was swiftly rebuffed by NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg as not credible while saying the 29-country transatlantic alliance did not want to see a renewed battle for military supremacy.

"We will not mirror what Russia does," Stoltenberg told a news conference in Brussels. "We don't want a new arms race. And we have no intention to deploy new land-based nuclear missiles in Europe," he said. But there was clear unease in European capitals, with France's foreign ministry voicing concern that the treaty's collapse "increases the risk of instability in Europe and erodes the international arms control system."

"Europe must not become the scene of a new arms race," Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander

Schallenberg urged. But Trump's new defense secretary said the US had already begun work to develop "mobile, conventional, ground-launched cruise and ballistic missile systems." As the United States had "scrupulously complied" with its INF obligations while it was party to the treaty, "these programs are in the early stages," Mark Esper said.

"Now that we have withdrawn, the Department of Defense will fully pursue the development of these ground-launched conventional missiles as a prudent response to Russia's actions," he added, without saying where the missiles could be stationed. Russia's foreign ministry said Washington was making a "serious mistake" pulling out of the treaty, adding in a statement that the US had run a "propaganda campaign" accusing Russia of violating the deal.

'Serious mistake'

Under the deal, missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 km were eliminated. That paved the way for the mothballing of Russian SS-20 missiles and American Pershing missiles deployed in Europe. For years, Washington has accused Russia of developing a new type of missile, the 9M729, which it says violates the treaty - claims that NATO has backed up. The missile has a range of about 1,500 km, according to NATO, though Moscow says it can only travel 480 km.

The White House launched a six-month withdrawal procedure for leaving the treaty in February. Soon after, Moscow began its move to pull out, and last month Russian President Vladimir Putin formally suspended its participation. The INF treaty was considered a cornerstone of the global arms control architecture. But the United States accused Russia of repeated violations and said the bilateral pact had given other countries - namely China - free rein to develop their own long-range missiles.

Trump reiterated on Friday that he wanted to see China also sign up to any new treaty. "We'd certainly



WASHINGTON: This file photo taken on Dec 8, 1987 shows US President Ronald Reagan (left) with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during welcoming ceremonies at the White House on the first day of their disarmament summit, after which both superpower leaders put their names to the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in a first attempt to reverse the nuclear arms race. — AFP

want to include China at some point," Trump told reporters. "That would be a great thing for the world." The INF deal was seen as one of two key arms deals between Russia and the US - the other being the New START treaty, which keeps the nuclear arsenals of both

countries well below their Cold War peak. That deal expires in 2021 and there appears to be little political will from Moscow or Washington to renew it, experts say. China has already rebuffed calls from the US to join the New START treaty in the future. — AFP

US scientists announce 3D heart printing breakthrough

WASHINGTON: US scientists announced Thursday they have successfully built functional heart parts out of collagen with a 3D bioprinter, using a breakthrough technique they say could one day create entire organs. Their method, which was described in the journal Science, replicates the body's own complex biological scaffolds using its most abundant protein at the highest level of precision yet achieved.

The structures are then further embedded with living cells and capillaries at a resolution of 20 micrometers, far greater than most 3D printers used to create plastic structures. "What we were able to show was you can actually 3D print a heart valve out of collagen," Adam Feinberg, a co-author of the paper who is a professor of biomedical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, told AFP. "We have not yet put them in an animal but we built a benchtop system that can simulate the pressure and the flow rate of the human body, and we show that we put it in there and it works."

The team used MRI scans of human hearts to reproduce patient-specific parts, which achieved outcomes like synchronized beating and opening and closing of valves. In April, an Israeli team unveiled a 3D print of a heart with human tissue and vessels, but the organ did not have the ability to pump. Previous attempts at printing the scaffolds, known as extracellular matrices, had been hindered by limitations that resulted in poor tissue fidelity and low resolutions.

Collagen, which is an ideal biomaterial for the task since it is found in every tissue of the human body, starts out as a fluid and attempting to print it resulted in puddle of Jell-O-like material. But the scientists were able to overcome these hurdles by using rapid changes in pH to cause the collagen to solidify with precise control. "That's the very first version of a valve, and so anything that we engineer as a product will actually get better and better," Feinberg said.

The technique, known as Freeform Reversible Embedding of Suspended Hydrogels (FRESH), allows the collagen to be added layer by layer in a support bath of gel, which is then melted away by heating it from room to body temperature, leaving the structure undamaged. The team's designs are open-source, meaning other labs can replicate the results and print the same parts.

In a commentary that appeared in Science, biomed-



This undated image shows a functional heart valve which a team of US scientists have built out of collagen using a 3D bioprinter. —AFP

ical engineers Queeny Dasgupta and Lauren Black, who are at Tufts University and were not involved with the research, wrote: "Other methods of printing vasculature or printing collagen have been demonstrated but did not achieve the precision or resolution" of the new method. They added that the new technique creates structures "that substantially increase cell viability" and angiogenesis, the formation of new blood vessels.

But they cautioned that improvements in functional outcomes are still needed and the ultimate goal would be an even greater resolution of 1 micrometer. In the long term, the technique could one day be used to print viable hearts or other organs. There are 4,000 people in the United States awaiting a heart transplant and millions of others worldwide who need hearts but may be ineligible.

Challenges to that goal include the generation of the billions of cells needed to bioprint large tissues, achieving manufacturing scale, and following regulatory processes so that it can be tested in animals and eventually humans. "I think more near term is probably patching an existing organ," such as a heart that has suffered a loss of function through a heart attack, or a damaged liver, said Feinberg. — AFP

this country, this state belongs to everyone". "Anyone who has affection for, contributes to and is loyal to Turkey is a first-class citizen. There are no barriers to anyone in politics, trade or any other area."

Official statistics show 98 percent of the Turkish population is Muslim but a poll by Konda group earlier this year showed the number of people identifying as atheist rose from one to three percent between 2008 and 2018. In the same survey, 51 percent said they were religious in 2018 compared with 55 percent in 2008, although the number of those who said they were a "believer" rose from 31 percent to 34 percent in a decade. — AFP

tions, especially in view of joint oil production, with both neighbors' sovereignty and interests to be kept intact.

Also speaking to KUNA, Spokesman for the Iraqi Oil Ministry Isam Jihad commended the agreement as an "unprecedented and significant step", saying that the British advisory firm was selected from among four multinationals. He elaborated that the contract states that the firm would carry out technical studies for Ratqa/Rumaila and Safwan-Abdaly oilfields. British energy advisory firm ERC Equipoise (ERCE) is a specialist in oil and gas reservoir evaluation. — KUNA

Erdogan lays stone for first...

Continued from Page 1

the Muslim-majority country. Christians make up around 0.2 percent of the total population in Turkey.

But Erdogan sought to extend a hand to other communities in the country of 82 million, saying "don't forget,

Kuwait, Iraq sign contract to exploit...

Continued from Page 1

available exploitation options include sole operator, national or foreign companies in both countries as per the agreement. Upbeat about the deal, Ameen said thanks to it, both sides would usher in a fresh stage of closer rela-

Privacy missteps cast cloud over digital assistants

WASHINGTON: A series of privacy missteps in recent months has raised fresh concerns over the future of voice-controlled digital assistants, a growing market seen by some as the next frontier in computing. Recent incidents involving Google, Apple and Amazon devices underscore that despite strong growth in the market for smart speakers and devices, more work is needed to reassure consumers that their data is protected when they use the technology.

Apple this week said it was suspending its "Siri grading" program, in which people listen to snippets of conversations to improve the voice recognition technology, after the British-based Guardian newspaper reported that the contractors were hearing confidential medical information, criminal dealings and even sexual encounters. "We are committed to delivering a great Siri experience while protecting user privacy," Apple said in a statement, adding that it would allow consumers to opt into this feature in a future software update.

Google meanwhile said it would pause listening to and transcribing conversations in the European Union from its Google Assistant in the wake of a privacy investigation in Germany. Amazon, which also has acknowledged it uses human assistants to improve the artificial intelligence of its Alexa-powered devices, recently announced a new feature making it easier to delete all recorded data.

The recent cases may give consumers the impression that someone is "listening" to their conversations even if it's rarely true. "From a technology perspective it's not surprising that these companies use humans to annotate this data, because the machine is not good enough to understand everything," said Florian Schaub, a University of Michigan professor specializing in

human-computer interaction who has done research on digital assistants. "The problem is that people are not expecting it and it is not transparently communicated."

Carolina Milanese, a technology analyst with Creative Strategies, agreed that humans are needed to improve the technology. "People have a somewhat unrealistic expectation that these assistants will by magic just get better eventually, that they can do machine learning and get better on their own, but right now we're still at the beginning of AI, and human intervention is still important," she said.

According to the research firm eMarketer, nearly 112 million people - one-third of the US population - will use a voice assistant at least monthly on any device, with many using AI-powered devices for searches, music and news or information. A Microsoft survey this year of consumers in five countries found that 80 percent were satisfied with their experience with digital assistants. But 41 percent of those surveyed said they had concerns on privacy, trust and passive listening.

Some of the privacy fears surrounding smart speakers are based on false assumptions, analysts note. The devices don't record or transmit information until they are "activated" with a keyword or phrase such as "Hey, Siri" or "Alexa". But "there is always a risk of false activation," Schaub noted. "You have to trust the device and the company making the device that the microphone is only locally processing until the activation word is heard." Ryan Calo, faculty co-director of the University of Washington Tech Policy Lab, said that while the devices are not listening, there remain concerns over access to conversations. "If employees are hearing things they shouldn't have access to, that is really a red flag, it's a bad practice," Calo said.

Calo said the privacy concerns around digital assistants are likely to grow as the devices expand their capabilities. "I worry about a trend where these systems begin to listen for more than just your affirmative command - it could listen for breaking glass or signs of distress, or a baby crying. All of a sudden the system is listening for all kinds of things and the frog gets boiled by incrementally heating the water," he said. — AFP

Praise, ire as Saudi Arabia eases travel...

Continued from Page 1

Al-Qunun, whose live-tweeted asylum plea from a Bangkok hotel in January after she fled her Saudi family drew global attention. Qunun eventually sought asylum in Canada, but the Saudi embassy in Bangkok faced global criticism for allegedly attempting to repatriate her to the kingdom against her will.

The amendment, which limits state influence in the private sphere, could provoke family clashes and trigger an exodus of some women who have long waited to untether themselves from controlling guardians, observers say. "The changes will inevitably cause some anxiety in Saudi families as women seek to use this new found freedom," said Kristin Diwan from the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. "Presumably without the guardianship restrictions the government will no longer seek to return them against their will," she told AFP.

The reform also drew backlash from archconservatives, many of whom shared old video sermons on social media by Saudi clerics advocating guardianship laws. Some also denounced the change as "un-Islamic" in a society that traditionally sees men as protectors of women. One Twitter user posted a portrait of women veiled head-to-toe wriggling underneath a barbed wire fence and emerging skimpily clad on the other side.

It was unclear how quickly the changes would take root in a society steeped in conservatism and a bureaucratic machinery perceived to be averse to change. The reform, which grants women greater autonomy and mobility, comes as the petrostate reels from low oil prices and seeks to boost employment opportunities for women

- currently facing high joblessness. "This can be the beginning of economic migration that relieves pressure on (the crown prince) to create jobs for educated women in a liberalized economy with less public sector opportunities," said Madawi Al-Rasheed, a Saudi expert at the London School of Economics.

But many women activists who long campaigned to dismantle the guardianship system are currently on trial after being arrested last year in a sweeping crackdown on dissent or face a travel ban. That includes Loujain Al-Hathloul, a prominent rights activist who marked her 30th birthday this week in a Saudi prison. "These changes are a clear testament to the tireless campaigning of women's rights activists who have battled against rampant discrimination in Saudi Arabia for decades," said Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International's Middle East research director, demanding the release of the activists.

Muna AbuSulayman, a prominent Saudi influencer and a former talk show host, took to Twitter along with thousands of Saudi women to celebrate what many described as a new era. "A generation growing up completely free and equal to their brothers," she said, referring to the freedom to travel. A hashtag calling for marriage without a guardian's consent was among the top trending along with a hashtag thanking the crown prince and another touting the new travel rules.

"Mohammed bin Salman has dedicated himself to fixing what extremists broke ... This is not about openness as some call it, it is about equal rights for all," a user called Wael tweeted. The prince has pushed back against the religious establishment, including by arresting scores of clerics and dissidents. Many citizens remain wary of the fast pace of change. "We are a Muslim community not a Western one, may God keep our daughters safe from all evils," said Sarah, a Saudi woman in her late 40s who declined to give her surname. "Imagine if your girls grow up and leave you and don't return, would you be happy?" she told Reuters. — Agencies

Sports

'A golden chance': Japan's Fukushima eyes Olympics for recovery message

From nuclear disaster to fully-fledged Olympic sports venue

NARAHA: The J-Village sports complex in Japan's Fukushima was once a staging ground for battling the 2011 nuclear disaster, but next year it will host Olympic teams and the torch relay, sending a message of recovery. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic torch relay will begin at the centre, and Olympic softball and baseball matches will be played elsewhere in Fukushima, as part of efforts that officials and residents hope will help repair the reputation of a region now synonymous with the nuclear meltdown.

"The torch relay is a golden opportunity to send a message about our reconstruction to the world," said Yusuke Takana, a 32-year-old official at the J-Village, from where the Olympic torch will set off on March 26, 2020. "The J-Village overcame the disaster and has been revived in its original form as a sports training centre," Takana said. Built in 1997 as a fully fledged sport training complex, the J-Village was radically transformed by the nuclear meltdown.

Thousands of workers wearing radiation protection suits, gas masks and dosimeters were dispatched every day to the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant from the sports centre, located just on the edge of the initial 20-kilometre no-go zone. Sports fields were used as a heliport, a decontamination centre and temporary houses were set up for plant workers, while armored vehicles and firefighters were stationed at its parking lots.

"It was so painful to see these buildings being put up on the ground where we trained in our youth," said Ayako Masuda, a former goalkeeper with a women's football club run by the nuclear plant operator Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO). The J-Village's pitch was her team's home ground, said the 44-year-old, who stayed with TEPCO as an employee after retiring from football.

'Difficult tasks' remain

The complex clean-up at the nuclear plant continues, but the J-Village's role as a staging centre diminished over time and it reopened fully as a sports centre in April. On a Friday afternoon, schoolboys were kicking and heading a ball on the turf as part of a summer football camp, cheered from the sidelines by coaches and parents. "The pitch is beautiful. It's well worth playing here," said Ryuki Asai, a 12-year-old boy in his team's soccer uniform.

There are few signs of the role the J-Village once played, though a digital display showing radiation levels still operates outside the front gate. It registered 0.111 microsieverts per hour at the gate — barely different from 0.110 in central Japan's Gifu. Emiko Takahashi was visiting with her son from Tokyo, and had checked the radiation levels posted on the J-Village website. "Coming here with my son is a way of supporting Fukushima's reconstruction," Takahashi said.

The complex will be used for training by Japan's men's and women's national football teams ahead of the Olympics, and Argentina's rugby team plans to train there before the World Cup that begins in Japan on September 20. Fukushima Governor Masao Uchibori called the facility a symbol of reconstruction while acknowledging that "difficult tasks" remained.

'I want to come back'

More than 160,000 people were evacuated after the nuclear meltdown caused when a 9.0-magnitude earthquake triggered a massive tsunami on March 11, 2011. Some areas affected by the meltdown remain off-limits, and some 43,000 residents have yet to return home. Levels of radiation in areas directly around the plant remain extremely high, hampering a decommissioning process that is expected to take decades.

And while radiation levels are now largely normal outside the restricted zone, Fukushima is still fighting its association with the meltdown, particularly fears over the safety of local food. "The reputation damage



NARAHA: Picture taken in the J-Village during a media tour in Naraha, Fukushima prefecture. — AFP

remains deeply rooted," said Shunji Miura, an official from Fukushima prefecture. As part of efforts to rehabilitate its reputation, Fukushima will host Olympic matches in softball and baseball — Japan's most popular sport.

Yesterday, children from 13 countries gathered at the Azuma Sports Park that will host the Olympic matches for a baseball tournament. "I hope that when these children go back home they will tell people that Fukushima

was good," said Sadaharu Oh, Japan's retired home-run king, who helped organize the tournament. "And I hope that those who hear that from them will change their image" of Fukushima, Oh added. Yi-Yu Tseng, a 10-year-old pitcher from Taiwan, acknowledged the history of the nuclear disaster made the prospect of visiting "a little bit scary". "But I'm feeling less scared now," he said. "I want to come back to Fukushima." — AFP

Asian Juniors Boxing tournament begins

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The preliminary matches of the first Asian Juniors tournament are set to be completed today. They began yesterday under the patronage of Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad.

The tournament's draw was made in presence of Vice President of International Boxing Association, President of Asian Boxing Federation Anas Al-Otaiba, Kuwait Boxing Federation President Mohammad Mansi, heads of federations and technical managers of participating teams. Teams from Qatar, Bhutan and Indonesia decided not to participate making the total of countries participating reach 21 with around 150 boxers participating in total.

Vice President of IBA, President of ABF Anas Al-Otaiba lauded the organization of the Asian Juniors Boxing tournament. He said "I am pleased with the distinguished organization, that comes after lifting the international sports suspension and significant participation by 21 countries, in the first juniors tournament. I am happy to be in Kuwait as the signs of the tournament's success are now clear. This was only made possible through the outstanding efforts of the organizing committees and their interest in all details. KBF has proved to be a capable host of these continental tournaments.

Al-Otaiba said boxing in Asia now has a special status through the countries' care for



Mohammad Mansi and Anas Al-Otaiba



the sport and its efforts to popularize it. Today, Asia has several champions in various weights and world level facilities, which promises a better future for boxing. Al-Otaiba urged participants to be keen on fair play, and continue training in order to reach even higher statuses in the future.

He said the ABF will continue organizing such tournaments because it serves a large number of promising boxers, adding there will

be two more upcoming tournaments - the Asian Juniors Boxing tournament next October in UAE, and youth tournament in Mongolia in Nov 2019. Head of the Syrian Boxing Federation Mohammad Shabeeb said he is happy to be in Kuwait and thanked Kuwait's Federation for organizing this major event. He said the competition will be strong because most participating countries has specialized boxing schools for many years.

awareness and educating society are the best means that fight the various types of illnesses including cancer which is a true threat to our health.

Meanwhile, Al-Sheikha Sheikhha Al-Abdallah lauded the match's idea as well as the activities that aim at supporting the health sector and called for more sports activities that strengthens the rule of CAN to increase awareness of the importance of early detection of diseases. The match was organized by Haido Academy, within its partnership with CAN and other entities including the Kuwait Ambition Club and its Deputy Chairman Huda Al-Khalidi, Kuwait Olympic Council represented by Deputy Chairwoman Hayat Mustafa, sports activities official CAN and CAN Manager Hanaa Jamal. The activity was hosted by Kazima Sports Club.

pattern that contributes to health and help in protection against diseases. He explained that researches at the American society for tumors attributed nearly 25% of cancer cases in women and 33% in men to factors related to their lifestyle, also a significant number of deaths due to cancer can be linked to those factors. Dr Al-Saleh said the campaign coincides with the important role CAN plays to spread awareness about the disease, out of its social responsibility to spread awareness amongst all groups of society, adding that organizing such activities leaves a good impression with both healthy and ill people.

Dr Al-Saleh also said that CAN is keen to participate in activities that reach out to the entire society, particularly those that care for the health awareness factor. He added that

Froome undeterred by injuries, eyes fifth Tour crown

LONDON: British cycling great Chris Froome is determined to bid for a record-equaling fifth Tour de France crown next year after the horrific injuries he suffered in a crash ruled him out of this year's edition. The 34-year-old Kenya-born rider — whose Ineos team-mate Egon Bernal won the world's greatest cycling race last month — says he is ahead of schedule in recovering from the accident in France on June 12 in which he broke his neck, femur, elbow, hip and ribs.

Froome, who is undergoing three to four hours of physio and two hours of exercises a day, told Team Ineos in his first interview since the accident — which occurred when he took one hand off the handlebars to blow his nose — strange as it sounded his injuries could have been far worse. "It's safe to say I'm ahead of all the predictions made initially of how long it would take," he said. "The news from the surgeon when he said I could make a full recovery and there's nothing stopping me — that's all I wanted to hear at that point. "From then, everything was so positive. I was incredibly lucky not to be more seriously injured."

Froome, who has seven Grand Tour victories to his name (two Vuelta and one

Giro being the others), said all he was targeting was being alongside his teammates at next year's Tour de France. "For me the underlying goal is to get to the start line in 2020 and be at a similar or better position than I was this year," he said. "That's what is driving me at the moment." Froome, who will have strong competition from within the team as to who is team leader next year with both Bernal and 2018 winner Geraint Thomas likely to be lining up, said his initial thought after coming off his bike was would he be fit for this year's Tour de France.

"I can remember lying on the ground and the first responders coming over to me," said Froome. "My coach Tim Kerrison, Garry Blem, my mechanic, and Servais Knaven, my director, were all in the car behind me. "I can remember speaking to them and my first question was 'can I get back on my bike' and 'am I going to be alright for the Tour de France?'. "They very quickly put that out of my mind. They made it very clear that I wasn't moving anywhere and I should lie still and that I wouldn't be carrying on the rest of the race (Criterium du Dauphine a key prep race for the Tour)."

Froome, who admitted he could "barely breathe after undergoing surgery", said he found it tough to come to terms with his emotions the day after the accident. "It was scary when I came round the morning after the operation and felt how hopeless I was lying in that bed," he said. "Just 24 hours previously I had hoped to win the Dauphine and it was polar opposites. It was quite hard coming to terms with that." — AFP

'I can still play,' says free agent Anthony

LOS ANGELES: Carmelo Anthony insisted Friday he is determined to resurrect his NBA career after the disappointment of being released by the Houston Rockets. In an interview with ESPN's First Take show on Friday, the 35-year-old future Hall of Famer said he hopes to land a place on a roster for the upcoming season after a period of "re-evaluating" his commitment to the sport.

"Silence is not my surrender," Anthony said, adamant that he can still contribute at the highest level. "I know I can still play." Anthony, a 10-time All-Star, was let go by the Rockets in January in a trade to the Chicago Bulls. He was then waived by the Bulls on February 1. Anthony said being let go by Houston, where had been recruited to provide support for James Harden and Chris Paul, had left him "emotionally vulnerable" and teetering close to depression. "I honestly felt that I was fired," Anthony said. "I felt like (what) other people go through on a day-to-day basis. People get fired." "I felt like the game didn't want me back at that point in time," he added.

Anthony added that the news of his

release by Rockets general manager Daryl Morey had also come as a surprise. "He came in and basically said, 'Look, your services are no longer needed,'" Anthony said. "I was like, 'What? Hold up. What the hell are you talking about?' ... You telling me I can't make a nine, ten-man rotation on this team? That was an ego hit. That was a pride hit." Anthony joined the Rockets last year after spending the 2017-2018 season with the Oklahoma City Thunder. Prior to that, he spent six years with the New York Knicks after playing for the Denver Nuggets from 2003-2011. Anthony, the all-time leading scorer of the US national basketball team and a member of three Olympic gold medal-winning line-ups, has averaged 24.0 points and 6.5 rebounds over his career.

NBA Christmas slate

In related news, a showdown between the Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers, likely to feature LeBron James against Kawhi Leonard, will be this year's feature NBA Christmas game, ESPN reported Friday. Citing league sources, the sports network's website reported the annual holiday slate with the battle of Staples Center tenants the biggest matchup. Four-time NBA Most Valuable Player James and new teammate Anthony Davis will lead the Lakers against reigning NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and Paul George of the Clippers as the NBA's premier pairs display their skills. — AFP

Cancer Aware Nation organizes basketball match

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) organized a basketball match in cooperation with Kuwait's Special Olympics committee under the slogan "sports is a way of life." The match included both male and female athletes as the two teams had disabled and regular players.

Deputy Chairman of CAN Dr Khalid Al-Saleh said it is important to follow a healthy



Sports

Verstappen celebrates 'incredible' record-breaking maiden pole spot

A closely-fought qualifying session at Hungarian Grand Prix

HUNGARY: Max Verstappen celebrated his long-awaited maiden pole position with record-breaking speed yesterday when he topped the times for Red Bull in a tense and closely-fought qualifying session at the Hungarian Grand Prix. In doing so, he became the 100th different pole sitter in Formula One, doing so at the same Hungaroring track where his father Jos had claimed his first podium for Benetton 25 years earlier in 1994.

The 21-year-old Dutchman's first pole came at his 94th Grand Prix and after he has won seven. Verstappen's success sparked rowdy celebrations among his large following of Dutch fans in the open grandstands after he had out-paced the two Mercedes drivers Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton in a breathless finish. Verstappen's best lap in one minute and 14.572 seconds was just 0.018 beyond the reach of Bottas with Hamilton a close third - ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Sebastian Vettel.

Pierre Gasly was sixth in the second Red Bull ahead of British rookie Lando Norris and his resurgent McLaren team-mate Carlos Sainz with Kimi Raikkonen ninth for Alfa Romeo ahead of Romain Grosjean. "It's incredible," said Verstappen. "I am very happy! There's still a race to do and at the end of the day, it is the most important, but it's very nice and it is great for all the team."

A disappointed Bottas said: "It's obviously very close with Max. They've (Red Bull) been very quick, but as always, there is still the race to come." Hamilton, who lost time in the first section of his final lap, said: "Max did a great job and so did Valtteri, but we're in a great position to win - and I am always up for a fight." The session began in warm conditions with an air temperature of 24 degrees and the track

at 45 degrees Celsius, near perfect for a big crowd boosted by visitors from Finland, the Netherlands and Poland.

Orange army

These fans, backing Bottas, Raikkonen, Verstappen and Robert Kubica, who made his F1 debut in 2006 at the sprawling and sun-drenched basin 25-kilometres north-east of Budapest that houses the Hungaroring track, added color and noise. More than 30,000 Poles were reported to have travelled while another 'orange army' rooted for Verstappen whose consistency had made him this season's form driver.

The 21-year-old Red Bull tyro, linked with a possible move to Mercedes or Ferrari in the escalation of 'silly season' speculation, demonstrated his current elan when he went top in Q1 by smashing the track record, set by Hamilton in the morning, with a lap in 1:15.817. That put him top with Bottas and then Hamilton soon up to second ahead of Leclerc who spun heavily and backwards into the barriers at the final corner, damaging his Ferrari.

This left the Monegasque's pit crew with work to do before Q2 as out went George Russell of Williams, despite a thrilling lap that lifted him to 16th, Sergio Perez and his Racing Point team-mate Lance Stroll, who sandwiched Daniel Ricciardo of Renault, and Kubica in the second Williams. In Q2 Hamilton was faster again, setting another record in 1:15.548. Bottas was one-tenth down in second until Verstappen went second, 0.025 adrift, setting up the prospect of the young pretender starting on the front row again, alongside the old master.

Hamilton was out first for Q3 ahead of Raikkonen



BUDAPEST: Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen steers his car during the qualifying session of the Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix at the Hungaroring circuit. —AFP

and Bottas, to the delight of the white-shirted fans from Finland. Hamilton clocked another record only for the Finns to erupt as Bottas took command before Verstappen went inside 1:15 with his lap in 1:14.958 - an unprecedented benchmark. This double

whammy left Hamilton third before the final runs with Vettel fourth ahead of Leclerc. The momentum was moving and 'people power' appeared to play its part, not to mention a 13 year age gap, as an inspired Verstappen seized his moment. —AFP

Murray moves nearer return while Tsitsipas moves into top five

WASHINGTON: Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray moved closer to a singles return six months after right hip surgery while Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas rolled into the world's top five Friday at the ATP Washington Open. Britain's Murray and his brother Jamie, in their first doubles event since the 2016 Rio Olympics, lost to New Zealand's Michael Venus and South African Raven Klaasen 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (8/6), 10-7 in a quarter-final at the US Open tuneup event.

Murray has practiced singles this week to improve his conditioning after the long layoff. "I feel fine," Murray said. "Practice has been fine. No issues physically. So progressing well. Just keep practicing the next 10 days or so and see what happens." Top seed Tsitsipas beat French 10th seed Benoit Paire 7-5, 6-0 to reach the semi-finals and ensure he will overtake Germany's Alexander Zverev to crack the world rankings top five on Monday.

"Once you're in a certain position for a long time, you really crave for more," Tsitsipas said. "This one position difference might not feel a lot for some people but for me it really means a lot because there has been a lot of hard work behind it, just a lot of suffering in general. I feel I deserve this position. It means a lot for sure." The 20-year-old Australian Open semi-finalist, who lost to Zverev in last year's Washington semis, booked a semi-final against Australia's Nick Kyrgios, who ousted Slovakian lucky loser Norbert Gombos 6-3, 6-3. "I'm excited to play him," Kyrgios said of Tsitsipas. "He's one of the best players in the world right now." Murray, who feared his career might be over after the January operation, hasn't played singles since the Australian Open but says he might return at the ATP Cincinnati Masters starting August 12. "If I feel like I'm ready, I'll give it a go. If not, I'll wait probably until after New York. But so far it has been fine," Murray, set to play doubles next week at Montreal alongside Spaniard Feliciano Lopez, doesn't want his first singles matches back to be the best-of-five-set variety offered in Grand Slams.

He ruled out playing in Winston-Salem the week before New York, figuring he would be better off practicing for a post-US Open return. "I've never competed the week before a Slam," Murray said. "If I'm not ready five or six days beforehand, I'm assuming that I'll probably just give it a miss." The 32-year-old Scotsman, a former world number one now ranked 222nd, captured Grand Slam singles crowns at the 2012 US Open and at Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016.

Tsitsipas's shoe issues

The Tsitsipas victory was marked by his third straight game with a delay to change left shoes, having said he damages the laces when he slides incorrectly. "There's nothing I can do about it," he said. "The only thing is probably change my footwear, stop doing that." Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev advanced to the semi-finals by defeating Croatian sixth seed and 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic 6-4, 7-6 (9/7).

Medvedev, chasing his fifth career ATP title, took the only break at the start and never faced a break point. "I managed to do what I had to do, hold my serve and win the tie-breaker," Medvedev said. "I'm really happy with my level of play." Next up for Medvedev will be 122nd-ranked German lucky loser Peter Gojowczyk, who outlasted British 13th seed Kyle Edmund 6-3, 4-6, 6-3. Gojowczyk, who only made the event after Australian Bernard Tomic dropped out with a finger injury, won his only title in 2017 at Metz. In the accompanying WTA event, Taiwan's 31st-ranked Hsieh Su-Wei lost to Catherine McNally 6-4, 6-3. —AFP

Gone in 1.88 seconds: Secrets of F1 pit stops

PARIS: Blink and you miss it. In the last few weeks, the cutting-edge of Formula One technology, coupled with old-fashioned muscle and hand-eye co-ordination, has witnessed record-breaking pit stops. At the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in mid-July, Red Bull managed to change the four wheels of Pierre Gasly's car in a mind-boggling 1.91sec. However, last weekend at the German Grand Prix in Hockenheim, that lightning fast maneuver was made to look almost pedestrian when the Red Bull team got race winner Max Verstappen rebooted in a new world record time of a staggering 1.88sec. The average in the sport is closer to three seconds.

"It's so fast that you do not even have time to see the guys change the wheels," said Gasly. "You are focused on the light (which tells the driver that he can start off again) you are already pressing on the accelerator. It is an incredible job on the part of the mechanics." Until this season, the previous record was 1.92sec, jointly held by Red Bull at the 2013 US Grand Prix on the car of Australian driver Mark Webber and Williams at the European

Grand Prix in 2016 in Azerbaijan with Brazil's Felipe Massa at the wheel.

"Going under two seconds is difficult because we are touching the limits of human performance," said Red Bull boss Christian Horner. "It's like the 100m. We are still beating the record, but the progress is becoming slimmer and slimmer." It's all a far cry from the days when cars stopped in the pits only when it was necessary. The modern idea of a pit stop was first carried out by the Brabham team in the 1982 season who used it at the Austrian Grand Prix in August that year.

At the time, besides changing the tyres in about seven seconds, cars were also refueled which took around 15 seconds in total. Mid-race refueling was banned in F1 between 1984 and 1994 (mainly for safety reasons) and again since 2010 (mainly for financial reasons). Now, teams will pit cars at least once in a race, more often in the rain.

'Training, training and more training'

"With new tyres, you are going a lot faster, so if you lose 20 seconds in the pit lane, you can still catch up on the track," said Horner. The objective is to gain enough time over your opponent in the pits to eventually gain a crucial edge back on the track, especially with overtaking proving to be at a premium at most races. "So you have to choose the right time for a pit stop and do it as quickly as possible," added Horner. "So we need to be able to rely 100% on

Ponting calls for cricket to ditch neutral umpires

SYDNEY: Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting yesterday called for cricket to ditch its requirement to have neutral umpires after a number of incorrect decisions in the first Test of the Ashes series in England. Alec Dar of Pakistan and West Indian Joel Wilson have drawn criticism after a number of their calls were overturned by the

review system during the opening days at Edgbaston.

Ponting, who is part of the Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) influential Cricket Committee, said he would ensure the matter is discussed at their next meeting. "It's already been spoken about a lot among the players. If it's not brought up (at that next MCC meeting), I'll make sure it's added to the agenda," he told the Cricket Australia website. "I would like to think the game has come far enough now for the game to not have neutral umpires. People might say that with all the technology we've got now, it doesn't matter that much. But it's not a

good spectacle when pretty obviously wrong decisions are made," he added.

"There's been a lot of negativity about the DRS (Decision Review System) over the years, but we're pretty lucky that we had it (at Edgbaston)." The International Cricket Council mandated the use of neutral umpires in 2002, meaning English and Australian officials — widely considered among the best in the world — cannot be part of the Ashes series. Ponting pointed to England's Richard Kettleborough as a top umpire forced to miss out. —AFP

An holds halfway lead at US PGA Wyndham

MIAMI: South Korea's An Byeong-hun, chasing a first US PGA Tour title, fired a five-under-par 65 on Friday to take a one-shot lead into the weekend at the Wyndham Championship. An, who shared the overnight lead with compatriot Im Sung-jae in the final regular-season event prior to the US tour's playoffs, had five birdies without a bogey at Sedgfield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina, for a 13-under-par total of 127.

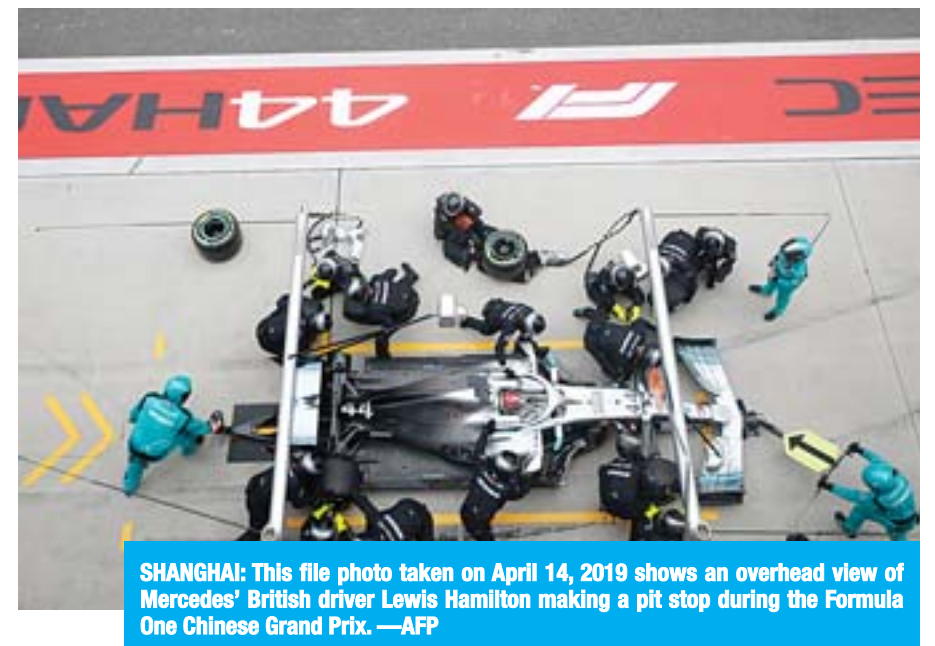
He was one stroke in front of American Brice Garnett, who carded a six-under 64 for 128, with half a dozen players sharing third on 129. "I had to grind it out to make it bogey-free today," said An, who teed off on 10 and birdied 14 and 15. He launched a run of three straight birdies with a near-ace at the par-three third, where he stuck his tee shot a foot from the pin. He rolled in a 30-foot birdie putt at the fourth and two-putted for birdie from 32 feet at the fifth to reach 13-under and salvaged par from the right rough at the ninth to stay there.

"It was slightly worse than yesterday," said the 27-year-old from Seoul, who has twice lost in playoffs on the PGA Tour — at the 2016 Zurich Classic and at Memorial last year. "I didn't have as many birdie chances as yesterday, but I made some long putts and made all the birdies at the par-fives. I think that was the key today." Garnett had six birdies, draining a 36-foot putt at the 18th — his ninth hole of the day. "The putter's been working nice for about the last eight weeks or so," he said. "I don't think the ball-striking's been quite up to par, but sometimes if you wiggle the putts in it doesn't really matter." Im followed up a first-round 62 with a 67 to join the group on 129.

Svensson flirts with 59

That also included Canadian Adam Svensson, who had nine birdies in a nine-under-par 61. "It was pretty exciting," said Svensson, who had seven birdies on the front nine and two coming in. "Coming down the stretch I was a little nervous," he admitted. "I was actually looking at the scorecard again, I was like, is this a par-70? I have a chance to shoot 59 — it kind of started to get in my head a little bit."

Even so, Svensson managed to avoid any big mistakes to join Im, Patton Kizzire,



SHANGHAI: This file photo taken on April 14, 2019 shows an overhead view of Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton making a pit stop during the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix. —AFP

those who carry them out."

He added: "Every stop involves about 25 people and everyone has to work in a perfectly synchronized way. The driver has to stop in exactly the right place, the equipment has to run smoothly and the mechanics need to be in complete harmony" to unscrew the nuts, remove the old wheels, fit the new wheels and screw in more nuts. In 2010, a pit stop took about four seconds. Very quickly, this was slashed in half. "Since the end of refueling, we have been focused entirely on the speed of changing

the tyres," added Horner.

Developments in technology have also been crucial. For example, teams have perfected the power guns used to unscrew and screw in wheels. "The equipment plays a key role, of course, but the human factor is much more important," insisted the Red Bull chief. "It's training, training and more training. It's hard to quantify, but the mechanics train almost every day at the factory and of course on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during a Grand Prix weekend." —AFP



GREENSBORO: Byeong Hun An of South Korea hits a tee shot on the 18th hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship at Sedgfield Country Club. —AFP

Josh Teater, Webb Simpson and fellow Canadian Mackenzie Hughes on 129. Svensson, 25, likely needs at least a top-three finish if he's to break into the top 125 points and maintain his tour card. Although he has struggled plenty in his rookie season, he's hoping he can draw on

his experience at the Sony Open in January, when he opened with a 61 before fading to finish tied for 43rd. "I just played too aggressive trying to get out front," he said of following up his low round there. "Tomorrow I'm just going to play my normal game." —AFP

Sports

Astros hammer 6 HRs to demolish Mariner's 10-2

HOUSTON: Rookie Yordan Alvarez slugged the first of Houston's season-high six home runs as the Astros bashed their way to a 10-2 victory over the visiting Seattle Mariners on Friday. The Astros posted three runs in the second, fourth and fifth innings, all via the home run. Alvarez recorded a leadoff blast to straightaway center field in the second to ignite the surge. Later that frame, Jake Marisnick clubbed the first of the Astros' three two-run homers, extending the lead to 3-0.

Houston homered twice more against Mariners rookie left-hander Yusei Kikuchi (4-8), who is winless over his last six starts. The Astros followed the same pattern in the fourth inning, with recently acquired catcher Martin Maldonado slugging a solo home run the opposite way to right three batters before Jose Altuve lined a two-run shot to left. George Springer tripled to right-center field with two outs prior to Altuve's homer, the first of his four hits on the night.

White Sox 4, Phillies 3 (15)

Jose Abreu singled home Leury Garcia for the winning run in the top of the 15th inning to lift visiting Chicago past Philadelphia. Abreu's hit came against outfielder Roman Quinn, who entered the game to open the 14th. JT Realmuto's attempted tag of Garcia at the plate was reviewed, but the call of safe was upheld. Abreu also homered, while Eloy Jimenez, Tim Anderson and Garcia had two hits apiece for the White Sox. Matt Skole, in his season debut and fifth career game, tied it with an RBI single against Jose Alvarez with two outs in the ninth.

Pirates 8, Mets 4

Starling Marte hit a three-run homer, and Melky Cabrera had a two-run double as host Pittsburgh snapped New York's seven-game win streak. Josh Bell, Jose Osuna and Elias Diaz each added an RBI single for the Pirates, who rode a five-run fourth. They had lost 10 of their previous 11. Pete Alonso and JD Davis each had an RBI double for the Mets. New York starter Steven Matz (6-7) lasted 3 2/3 innings, allowing five runs and six hits, with

four strikeouts and one walk — vastly different from Saturday, when he threw his first complete game, a shutout against the Pirates.

Rangers 5, Tigers 4

Lance Lynn struck out 10 in seven innings, Hunter Pence and Rougned Odor homered, and host Texas held off Detroit. Lynn tied the Astros' Justin Verlander and the Nationals' Stephen Strasburg for the major league lead with his 14th win. He allowed one run on four hits with two walks. Niko Goodrum had three hits, a run scored and an RBI for Detroit, while Harold Castro added two hits and an RBI. Travis Demeritte added a triple, two walks and a run scored in his major league debut.

Yankees 4, Red Sox 2

James Paxton settled down after allowing a home run in the first inning and pitched six effective innings as New York beat visiting Boston in the opener of a four-game series. The Yankees won for the third time in four games since dropping the first three of last weekend's four-game set at Fenway Park. Boston dropped its season-high fifth straight game, and it is the first time since an eight-game skid in July 2015 that the Red Sox have lost at least five in a row. Gleyber Torres hit his second career grand slam in the bottom of the first inning, after which no runs were scored. JD Martinez hit a 2-run shot in the top of the first for the Red Sox's only points.

Twins 11, Royals 9

Nelson Cruz hit a home run, doubled twice off the wall in right-center and drove in five runs, while Max Kepler had two doubles, two walks and scored three times to lead Minnesota to a wild victory over visiting Kansas City. Jorge Polanco went 2-for-5 with two runs scored and Eddie Rosario went 2-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored for the Twins, who remained three games in front of the Cleveland Indians in the American League Central. Hunter Dozier hit two home runs and Cam Gallagher also homered and had two hits for Kansas City, which lost its fourth straight game.

Padres 5, Dodgers 2

Left-hander Eric Lauer spoiled the major league debut of Los Angeles prospect Dustin May with six strong innings, pitching visiting San Diego to victory. Josh Naylor contributed a two-run double to a three-run sixth inning, ending May's night and helping the Padres even the four-game series after suffering an 8-2 loss on Thursday. The highly regarded May (0-1) was pulled after 5 2/3 innings, charged with four runs (three earned) on nine hits. He struck out three and did not walk a batter.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 2

Freddy Galvis and Brandon Drury both homered as visiting Toronto extended its winning streak to five games with a victory over Baltimore. The Blue Jays have won the first two games of a four-game series after taking three in a row against Kansas City. Toronto banged out five homers in the opener Thursday, an 11-2 victory, and now has seven in the series. Baltimore's young pitching staff has given up a major-league high 214 homers this season.

Indians 7, Angels 3

Yasiel Puig and Carlos Santana each drove in a pair of runs, and Mike Clevinger tossed 6 1/3 strong innings as host Cleveland posted a victory over Los Angeles. Roberto Perez belted a solo homer, and Jose Ramirez had an RBI double for the Indians, who have won 13 of their last 14 home games versus Los Angeles. Mike Trout launched his American League-leading 36th homer, and Matt Thaiss had a pinch-hit two-run double in the ninth inning for the Angels, who have lost six of their last eight contests.

Cubs 6, Brewers 2

Javier Baez had three hits, including a two-run homer, and drove in three runs to lift Chicago over visiting Milwaukee in the opener of their three-game series. Kris Bryant had two hits, and Jason Heyward homered for the Cubs, who had dropped seven of 10 coming into the series. Chicago left-hander Jose Quintana (9-7) allowed two runs, seven hits and struck out five in six innings. For the fourth straight game, the Cubs' starter did not



HOUSTON: Carlos Correa #1 of the Houston Astros hits a home run in the fifth inning against the Seattle Mariners at Minute Maid Park. — AFP

walk a batter. Quintana also drove in a run with a single in the three-run third.

Nationals 3, Diamondbacks 0

Five pitchers combined on a one-hitter, Juan Soto homered for the fourth time in five games and Washington beat Arizona in Phoenix. Matt Adams' two-out, two-run double gave the Nationals a 2-0 lead in the sixth inning before Soto's solo blast to right field in the eighth. The 20-year-old has a seven-game RBI streak. Starter Joe Ross (1-3) struggled early, walking five batters in the first 2 1/3 innings, but he didn't give up a hit until rookie pitcher Alex Young hustled to beat out an infield single with one out in the fifth. Ross lasted 5 1/3 innings, striking out three and walking five.

Reds 5, Braves 2

Left-hander Alex Wood pitched 6 2/3 strong innings and earned his first win of the season as visiting Cincinnati defeated Atlanta. Wood (1-0) was making his second start of

the season after coming off the injured list with a back issue. He allowed two runs on four hits with one walk and five strikeouts. It was his first win in a Reds uniform and evened his career record against his former team to 3-3. Michael Lorenzen worked 1 1/3 perfect innings in relief of Wood. Raisel Iglesias pitched a clean ninth and earned his 21st save, his fifth since the All-Star break. Iglesias struck out Atlanta sluggers Freddie Freeman and Josh Donaldson to end the game.

Rockies 5, Giants 4

Ryan McMahon and Trevor Story each homered, and the Colorado rallied to beat San Francisco in Denver. Rockies outfielder David Dahl was carted off the field in the top of the sixth inning with what looked like a serious injury to his right ankle, which buckled as he tried to reach back and catch Scooter Gennett's liner. Mike Yastrzemski homered, and Steven Duggar had two hits for San Francisco. The Giants had won four straight against the Rockies. — Reuters

Klopp warns LFC to deal with Champs League scrutiny

LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp says Liverpool must learn to deal with their standing as European champions as they kick off their campaign against Premier League winners Manchester City in today's Community Shield at Wembley. Klopp admits his side has been under intense scrutiny since their Champions League final success against Tottenham in June, but the Reds boss is confident his stars will not allow any distractions to stop them from being focused on the coming season.

"If you win something, everybody feels the need to tell you — first of all congratulations, then where they watched it, how they watched it, how they felt, how their family felt, how their friends felt, how the dog felt," Klopp said. "It's all nice, but it keeps you in that moment. I want to be completely focused on a new season. "It's very important and we will learn it. But no one gives you a book 'How To Deal With a

Champions League win'. You have to do it by yourself and we will do that."

Klopp added there was no extra pressure on them following Liverpool's sixth European title and a subsequent absence of high-profile signings in the close-season. With only Daniel Sturridge and Alberto Moreno missing from the squad that won the Champions League and finished runners-by just a point up to City, Klopp is adamant extending contracts of key men Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andrew Robertson was as vital as landing any new recruits. "These are the transfers we did, keeping the boys together, staying on our toes, staying aggressive, greedy," he said.

After a difficult pre-season where several of his players were absent for international tournaments, Klopp is looking forward to working with his full squad before next Friday's Premier League opener against Norwich. But while desire and expectation are high at Anfield, Klopp insists City are clear favorites to claim a third successive league title.

"Because they've won the league twice in a row... We have to prove again that we can be on that level — 97 points was not a coincidence," he said. "But the champions didn't lose a player, apart from (Vincent) Kompany. They are pretty consistent, a



GENEVA: Liverpool's German head coach Jurgen Klopp (L) and Liverpool's British midfielder Jordan Henderson (R) celebrate at the end of the International friendly football match between Liverpool and Lyon on July 31, 2019. — AFP

good age group, experienced, they are clear favorites. How could we be favorites? "If somebody said we were favorites for the Champions League, I probably couldn't deny it. We have been in

Makelele joins Chelsea to mentor to new stars

LONDON: Former Chelsea star Claude Makelele has returned to the Premier League club to work as a technical mentor to young players. Makelele is working with Chelsea for the first time in 11 years after the former France midfielder had coaching roles at Paris Saint-Germain, Bastia, Swansea and Belgium's Eupen since his retirement in 2011.

Makelele made 217 Chelsea appearances and won two league titles, an FA Cup and two League Cups during his five-year spell with the club. "I am very happy to come back home; this club gave me a lot and now I want to give back and help the young Chelsea players dreaming of a

Rodgers regrets departure of 'special' Maguire

LONDON: Harry Maguire, described as a "special player" by Leicester City manager Brendan Rodgers, is set to become the world's most expensive defender after Manchester United agreed to pay a reported fee of £80 million (\$97 million). The 26-year-old central defender — coveted by United since he starred as England reached the World Cup semi-finals — is to undergo a medical at

the final twice in a row and obviously know the way to the final. "Does that mean we'll be in it again? Probably not... It's not PlayStation where you can go to the next skill or whatever." — AFP

career in football," Makelele said. "I want to use all my experience to help them become professionals in every aspect and I am looking forward to getting started."

Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia is confident Makelele will make a big impact, saying: "We are very pleased to welcome Claude back to Chelsea, where he made such an impact during five excellent years as a player. "His long and successful career on the field, added to his winning mentality and experience as a coach in recent years, make him the ideal person to pass on his expertise to our talented youngsters. "He will be a valuable asset to both our Academy and first-team coaching staff."

Meanwhile, former Chelsea goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini moves into a new role as loan player technical coach. Cudicini formed part of both Antonio Conte's and Maurizio Sarri's backroom staff at Chelsea, but while he has not been retained in Frank Lampard's first team set-up, he will remain at the west London club. — AFP

United over the weekend. "The clubs have agreed (a fee) and there's still some work for it to go through," Rodgers told Sky Sports. "He's a special player, he's not a player that of course we would want to lose. "He's a top-class player, he's a good man as well, and everything about Harry over the course of this pre-season, he knows there has been interest over the summer and he's been super professional."

Maguire's fee out-strips Dutch international Matthijs van Ligt who in July moved to Juventus from Ajax for a combined fee of 75 million euros plus 10.5 million euros of add-ons. De Ligt's compatriot Virgil van Dijk cost Liverpool £75 million when he moved from Southampton in January 2018. — AFP

Aston Villa revival sparked by local boys

LONDON: Led by a manager steeped in the club's rich history and inspired by a dynamic young star who bleeds claret and blue, Aston Villa return to the Premier League united at last after years of turmoil. After three seasons in the Championship wilderness, Villa are back in the big time with boss Dean Smith and midfielder Jack Grealish providing a home-grown foundation that could give them a base to take on English football's monied elite.

Villa are more than just another club to Smith and Grealish, with the locally born boss once sweeping terraces of the Holte End while his father Ron worked as a steward in the Trinity Road Stand. A down-to-earth character, the 48-year-old Smith served his managerial apprenticeship at Walsall and Brentford before taking over at Villa following Steve Bruce's sacking in October. Guiding his boyhood team to promotion with a 2-1 Championship play-off final win over Derby was a sweet moment for Smith in front of his family and friends.

But the celebrations at Wembley were tinged with sadness due to the absence of his ailing father, who suffers from dementia. "I think this team has caught the imagination of our supporters. There's a great bond between the two," Smith said as he counts down the days to Villa's Premier League opener at Tottenham on August 10. Grealish, born a stone's throw from Villa Park, is equally ingrained in the ethos of the club he supported in his youth.

The 23-year-old has been at Villa since he was six, a time when he used to dive into the bushes in his back garden to mimic the celebrations of players who would leap into the stands when he watched his heroes in claret and blue. Now Villa's captain, Grealish has cast off a reputation as something of a wild child and showed his maturity by responding to being punched by a Birmingham fan during last season's derby at St Andrew's by scoring the winner that kept his side on course for promotion.

Cautionary tale

"The day we got relegated, it was always in my mind to get Villa back," Grealish said. "When I was 19, 20, maybe I took it for granted a little bit. I didn't realize how lucky I was to be playing with Villa in the Premier League. "Now I'm back there I need to grab it with both hands." It is a decade since Villa were last regarded as a Premier League force, with their sixth-place finish in 2010 followed by years of struggle fuelled by mismanagement in the boardroom and on the bench.

For a club crowned European champions in 1982 — 12 months after winning the most recent of their seven English titles — Villa's decline was a cautionary tale. By the time they were relegated in 2016, ending a 28-year stay in the top-flight, there was a sense of resignation and apathy among supporters. But Villa's spell in second-tier purgatory may have been the best thing for a club that had grown complacent.

There is a renewed sense of purpose about Villa now, sparked on the pitch by Smith and his assistant John Terry and off it by chief executive Christian Purslow and ambitious billionaire owners Nassef Sawiris and Wes Edens. Some fans have questioned Smith's £115 million pre-season spending spree on a largely unproven group of 12 players, including Brazilian striker Wesley, Egypt midfielder Trezeguet and young Brentford defender Ezri Konsa. Villa's sale of their stadium to their owners in order to meet English Football League spending limits was criticized as exploiting a "loophole" in the current rules. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this file photo taken on July 7, 2019 Brazil's Dani Alves celebrates after defeating Peru to win the Copa America football tournament at Maracana Stadium. — AFP

Brazil captain Alves heads to Sao Paulo

BASILIA: After 17 years playing for the top clubs in Europe, Brazil captain Dani Alves has decided to return home, signing a three-year deal with Sao Paulo. A free agent after his contract with French champions Paris Saint-Germain expired in June, Alves explained his decision on a Twitter video posted on the club website.

"I could have picked any team to play for but I chose to return to Brazil, to my country, my people, to the club that I love," said the 36-year-old who has been in Europe since he signed for Sevilla in 2002. The right back went on to play for

Barcelona, Juventus and PSG, collecting nine national league titles along the way — six in Spain, one in Italy and two in France. He has collected 40 trophies in all with club and country including three Champions League titles with Barcelona and two UEFA Cups with Sevilla.

He has also won two Copa Americas with Brazil, most recently in July when he was named player of the tournament as he captained them to victory over Peru in the final at the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro. "Once, I told Daniel that he would come to play at Sao Paulo, the club of his heart," said club president Carlos Augusto de Barros e Silva in a statement. "Today I have the immense joy and pride to have kept that promise." Sao Paulo, the former club of 1994 World Cup winner Rai, now the general manager, and legendary goalkeeper Rogerio Centi, are currently fifth in the Brazilian championship. — AFP

25 'A golden chance': Japan's Fukushima eyes Olympics for recovery message



26 Verstappen celebrates 'incredible' record-breaking maiden pole spot



27 Klopp warns Liverpool to deal with Champs League scrutiny



SHENZHEN: Paris Saint-Germain's players pose with the trophy as they celebrate winning the French Trophy of Champions football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Rennes (SRFC) at the Shenzhen Universiade stadium. —AFP

PSG claims French Champions Trophy

Mbappe magic come through to overcome Rennes

SHENZHEN: Kylian Mbappe provided the moments of magic as Paris Saint-Germain collected their first silverware of the new season with a 2-1 French Champions Trophy victory over Rennes in Shenzhen yesterday. PSG's German boss Thomas Tuchel looked relieved more than delighted afterwards, given his side were behind at half-time.

"There's fatigue for everyone," said Tuchel, pointing to the steamy conditions in the southern Chinese city and the fact the game came at the end of a long road trip. "We have had a lot of reorganization with new players but we still played very well. The win is a good reward for us. We had about 10 shots that somehow didn't go in. But we found gaps and we turned it into a good performance. It was a good opening for us for the new season."

In revenge, of sorts, for PSG after a loss on penalties to the same club in the French Cup back in April, PSG went on to win the French title — their sixth in seven years — but the Qatar-owned side have made no secret that their eyes are the Champions League this season. That's still a long way off but there were positive signs as the French season officially kicked off inside Shenzhen Universiade Sports Centre Stadium. The

25,000-odd gathered on a steamy night had eyes — and hearts — only for Mbappe, screaming at the French World Cup-winner's every move. The 20-year-old superstar duly rose to the fanfare in the second half as PSG came back from 1-0 at the break to seal the trophy.

Spotlight on Mbappe

After threatening with some crazy runs throughout the first half, Mbappe finally found himself front and centre as the ball caromed around the box on 57 minutes. It finally fell at his feet just a few yards out, and Mbappe made no mistake. Emboldened, PSG started dominating play with Argentine forward Angel Di Maria in particular giving the Rennes defense the run around.

His hard work paid off on 73 minutes when he fired in a free kick that caught Rennes keeper Tomas Koubek napping. It was some effort but the night belonged to Mbappe — and the Chinese fans wouldn't let anyone think otherwise. For his part Tuchel was at pains to share the glory, singling out also defender Abdou Diallo, Di Maria and skipper for the night Marquinhos for special mention. "Diallo just kept attacking," said the German.

"He's a very important player for us and he brings oth-

er players into the game. Di Maria came into the game when it was at a dangerous time for us and he delivered. Marquinhos showed his quality and he was perfect. He can control the whole field." With injured Brazilian star Neymar serving a three-match ban, Mbappe had the spotlight to himself in what must be ominous signs for defences in France — and beyond — as the youngster said pre-match he wanted more than the 33 goals he scored last season.

There were plenty of half-chances early on before PSG defender Thilo Kehrer rattled the crossbar with a towering header in what was the match's first real threat on goal. It seemed to spark Rennes into life and on 13 minutes striker Adrian Hnouo ghosted past his marker and into the box. Replays showed he was a touch off-side, maybe, and with a deft flick of his left foot he guided the ball by the flapping Alphonse Areola.

It had given the underdogs some hope at the break. But then came Mbappe, and now PSG turn their attention to their opening domestic encounter against Nimes on August 12, and to a season that promises plenty. "We are still working on creating our own style but this has been a good step to take," said Tuchel. —AFP

Guardiola urges City to strike early blow against Liverpool

LONDON: Pep Guardiola has urged Manchester City to prepare for the "incredible challenge" of battling Liverpool for the Premier League title by landing an early blow against their rivals in today's Community Shield. Guardiola's side pipped Liverpool to the Premier League by one point last season after a thrilling title race went down to the last day.

The two clubs renew their growing rivalry when they meet at Wembley in the annual curtain-raiser to the English top-flight season this weekend. While City won an unprecedented English treble of Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup last term, and are the bookmakers' favorites to win the title for a third successive year, Guardiola is well aware of the challenge likely to be posed by Liverpool. Jurgen Klopp's men lost only once in the league last season — at City — and erased the frustration of failing to catch Guardiola's team by beating Tottenham to win the club's sixth European Cup in June. Despite a spat between the pair this week when Guardiola hit back at Klopp's jibe over City's big spending on transfers in recent years, the Spaniard remains a huge admirer of the Liverpool boss and the team he has built at Anfield. "He inspires me in many things. He is a class manager, a top manager. He's so good and it is an incredible challenge for me every time I face his teams," Guardiola said. Guardiola's irritation at Klopp's suggestion that City are one of a handful of clubs who live in a transfer "fantasy land" lit the fuse on what promises to be a fascinating 10-month battle for supremacy between City and Liverpool.

With City yet to win the Champions League and Liverpool without an English title since 1990, it is possible they would gladly settle for a trophy-swap this season. But Guardiola knows Community Shield holders City could become the first team to win three consecutive Premier League titles since Manchester United between 2006 and 2009, so he won't settle for only targeting European glory. "We won almost every trophy; not all of them. It was quite remarkable," he said of last season. "We start from zero now - we start again - but we are ready to accept the challenge." —AFP

Messi banned from Argentinean team for three months

ASUNCION: Argentina star Lionel Messi was banned from playing for his national team for three months and fined \$50,000 on Friday by CONMEBOL after he heavily criticized the South American football governing body during the Copa America. The 32-year-old Barcelona forward had accused CONMEBOL of "corruption" after he was sent off against Chile during the third-place play-off during the tournament in Brazil, which ended last month. Messi was angered by two incidents during the June-July Copa hosted by bitter rivals Brazil.

Argentina were denied two penalty claims in their 2-0 semi-final defeat to the hosts, after which Messi claimed Brazil were "managing a lot in CONMEBOL these days." And when he was harshly dismissed in the next game, which Argentina went on to win 2-1, he couldn't contain

his anger. "Corruption and the referees are preventing people from enjoying the football and they're ruining it a bit," Messi said. He was given his marching orders after a first-half scuffle with Chile captain Gary Medel in which television pictures suggested he'd done little wrong.

The CONMEBOL statement on its website didn't specify why Messi was being punished but said it was related to articles 7.1 and 7.2 of its disciplinary regulations. One such clause refers to "offensive, insulting behavior or making defamatory protests of any kind." Another clause mentions "breaching the decisions, directives or orders of the judicial bodies." The ban means only that Messi will miss a handful of friendly matches as Argentina's next competitive fixture is not until the South American qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar begin in March.

However, he has already received a one-game ban from CONMEBOL for his red card against Chile meaning he'll miss the first of those. Argentina have two friendlies lined up in the United States in September against Chile and Mexico and another in October away to Germany. Messi would miss all three of those but be free to play for his country again in November. —AFP



BELO HORIZONTE: In this file photo taken on July 02, 2019 Argentina's Lionel Messi gestures during the Copa America football tournament semi-final match against Brazil at the Mineirao Stadium. —AFP