

6 200,000 Rohingya rally to mark 'Genocide Day' in B'desh camps



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Nasrallah, Hariri slam Israeli drone attacks on Hezbollah

Israel says air strike in Syria sent 'no immunity' message to Iran

BEIRUT/JERUSALEM/DAMASCUS: Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said yesterday the fall of two Israeli drones overnight in suburbs of Beirut dominated by the Iranian-backed group amounted to a very dangerous move. Nasrallah, whose group fought a month-long war with Israel in 2006, said in a televised speech: "The latest Israeli development (is) very, very, very dangerous." There were no signs the bitter enemies were headed for a conflict. But Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri said the drones were designed to stir up regional tensions.

In the first such incident in more than a decade, one drone fell and second exploded before dawn near the ground and caused some damage to Hezbollah's media center in the Dahiyeh suburbs, a Hezbollah official told Reuters. "The new aggression...constitutes a threat to regional stability and an attempt to push the situation towards further tension," Hariri said in a statement from his office. The Israeli military declined to comment.

The incident took place hours after the Israeli military said its aircraft had struck Iranian forces and Shiite militias near Syria's capital Damascus which it said had been planning to launch "killer drones" into Israel. War monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said two members of Hezbollah and one Iranian were killed in the Israeli strikes around Damascus.

The Israeli military said its aircraft struck "Iranian

Quds Force operatives and Shiite militias which were preparing to advance attack plans targeting sites in Israel from within Syria over the last number of days". The elite Quds Force is the overseas arm of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). "Iran has no immunity anywhere. Our forces operate in every sector against the Iranian aggression," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Twitter. "If someone rises up to kill you, kill him first."

Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Conrucus, an Israeli military spokesman, told reporters "a number of attack drones", each armed with several kilograms of explosives, were to have been launched simultaneously at targets in northern Israel on Thursday but the plan was thwarted. He did not disclose what measures Israel took that day. He described the "killer drones" - designed to slam into targets - as highly accurate.

The military released grainy black and white surveillance footage purporting to show the Iranian operatives on Thursday near the drones' launching site. In the footage, four people are seen walking in an open area, one of them carrying an object that the military identified as a "killer drone". Conrucus said the drones, accompanied by the Iranian operatives, had arrived at Damascus airport from Iran several weeks ago and were taken to a Quds-controlled compound in a village southeast of the city.

Continued on Page 24



BEKAA VALLEY, Lebanon: Sympathizers of the Hezbollah movement gather to watch the transmission on a large screen of a speech by the movement's leader Hassan Nasrallah in the town of Al-Ain yesterday. — AFP

Probe ordered into child's death at dental clinic

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah announced yesterday the formation of a neutral committee to investigate the death of a child at a dental clinic in Fahaheel. Speaking to Al-Anbaa newspaper, Sheikh Basel said that a neutral committee was formed of professors at the Faculty of Dentistry at Kuwait University to investigate the circumstances of the death of Abdulaziz Al-Rashidi, stressing that the result of the investigation will be announced immediately.

Sheikh Basel confirmed coordination with Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to prevent the doctor who caused the incident from traveling. The doctor was suspended from work until investigations are completed, he added. He stressed that the ministry adopts a policy of zero tolerance when it came to the safety of the citizens and residents, and allows no error or negligence by staffers of health facilities. The ministry will take the necessary legal measures in case if there was any medical error behind Rashidi's death, he said.

Continued on Page 24

Zarif visits G7 summit, meets Macron

BIARRITZ, France: Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif flew into Biarritz in southwestern France for the G7 summit yesterday in an unexpected and dramatic attempt to break a diplomatic deadlock over Tehran's disputed nuclear program. Zarif's presence had not been announced and represented a risky attempt by French host Emmanuel Macron to find a way to soothe spiraling tensions between Iran and the United States. He was not expected to hold face-to-face talks with US President Donald Trump, but the

presence of the two men in the same place sparked hopes of a detente.

Before he left Biarritz, Zarif said he held talks with Macron, while the French presidency hailed 'positive' talks with the top Iranian diplomat. Zarif wrote on Twitter he had met Macron after talks with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and also gave a briefing for British and German officials. "Road ahead is difficult. But worth trying," he said.

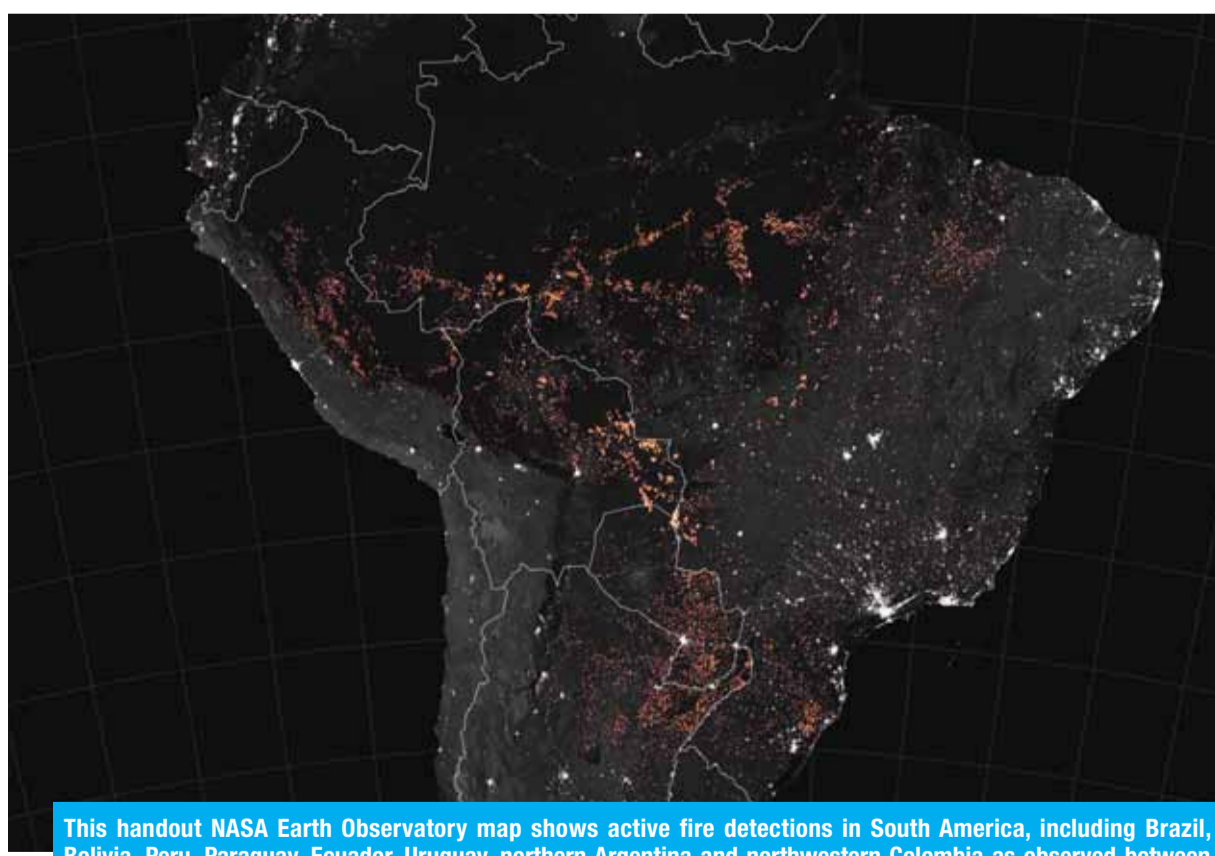
Zarif will "continue talks regarding the recent measures between the presidents of Iran and France," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi earlier tweeted, after flight tracking sites spotted that Zarif's plane had landed in Biarritz. Zarif went straight into talks with his French counterpart to assess what conditions could lead to a de-escalation of tension between Tehran and Washington, a French official said.

Continued on Page 24



BIARRITZ, France: The plane which carried Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif stands on the tarmac at the airport of this French seaside resort during the G7 summit yesterday. — AFP

Army fights Amazon fires as more flare up



This handout NASA Earth Observatory map shows active fire detections in South America, including Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Ecuador, Uruguay, northern Argentina and northwestern Colombia as observed between Aug 15-22, 2019. — AFP

PORTO VELHO, Brazil: Brazil yesterday deployed two C-130 Hercules aircraft to douse fires devouring parts of the Amazon rainforest, as hundreds of new blazes were ignited ahead of nationwide protests over the destruction. Heavy smoke covered the city of Porto Velho in the northwestern state of Rondonia where the defense ministry said the planes have started dumping thousands of liters of water, amid a global uproar over

the worst fires in years.

Swathes of the remote region bordering Bolivia have been scorched by the blazes, sending thick smoke billowing into the sky and increasing air pollution across the world's largest rainforest, which is seen as crucial to mitigating climate change. Experts say increased land clearing during the months-long dry season to make

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Shrugging off Trump, FBI tackles white extremists

WASHINGTON: One man had three assault rifles, extra-large magazines and a gas mask. Another had over 18 weapons, including sawed-off shotguns, AR-15s, and a grenade launcher. Earlier this year, the two might not have drawn the attention of US law enforcement. But ever since a young racist slaughtered 22 at a Texas Walmart, and another man murdered 10 in Ohio three weekends ago, the FBI has arrested at least seven rightwing extremists in what appears to be a more earnest effort to target white nationalist threats in the United States.

These are some examples of the deeply disturbing cases. On Aug 8, a 23-year-old Las Vegas security guard who communicated with neo-Nazis was arrested with bomb-making materials and indications he might target a synagogue or gay nightclub. A week later, a Connecticut man, 22, was detained after suggesting online that he would carry out a mass shooting. At his home, investigators found multiple hand and long guns, camouflage outfits, titanium body armor and a combat helmet.

On Aug 12, an 18-year-old who voiced support for mass shootings was indicted for threatening to kill law enforcement officers. At his home, he had a vault full of weapons and 10,000 rounds of ammunition. Four days after that, Florida police arrested a 25-year-old man who texted his girlfriend that he was planning a mass shooting and envisioned "100 good kills".

On Aug 17, a 20-year-old white nationalist was arrested in Ohio for threatening a Jewish community center. At his home, he had amassed multiple

Continued on Page 24

News in brief

Ice Breakers gum banned

KUWAIT: The decision to ban the import of Ice Breakers chewing gum of all flavors has gone into effect after its publication in the official Kuwait Al-Youm gazette. The assistant undersecretary for supervision and consumer protection at the commerce and industry ministry banned imports of the product because it contains pork gelatin. The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition recommended the withdrawal of the product from the market and taking the necessary measures. — Al-Qabas

Iran satirist jailed for 11 years

TEHRAN: An Iranian court has sentenced writer and satirist Kioomars Marzban to 11 years in prison after convicting him of charges including cooperation with the United States, state media reported. The official IRNA news agency said Marzban had "collaborated" with Radio Farda and Manoto television - broadcasters that are based abroad and banned in Iran. Marzban had been facing charges of "assembly and collusion against national security, cooperation with a hostile state, spreading propaganda against the system, and insulting sanctities and officials". IRNA quoted his lawyer as saying, "The court cleared him of the first count of assembly and collusion but found him guilty of the other four charges. — AFP

Local

Amir receives congratulatory cables from Senegalese President, Lebanese party leader

Sheikh Sabah offers condolence over Qatar royal family member's death

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a congratulatory cable from Senegalese President Macky Sall on his recovery from a recent health setback. In the cable, the Senegalese President wished His Highness the Amir good health and wellness. In response, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to President Sall, thanking him for his kind words and sentiments and wished him long healthy life.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a congratulatory cable from the leader of Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) in Lebanon Walid Jumblatt. In the cable, the Lebanese party leader wished His Highness the Amir good health and well-being. In response, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to Jumblatt, thanking him for his kind sentiments.

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah addressed a condolence cable to Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani over the death of Sheikh Ali Bin Khalifa Al-Thani. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy upon the deceased. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad A-Sabah sent similar cables to Sheikh Tamim. —KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Crown Prince meets Poland's Foreign Minister



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jacek Czaputowicz. —KUNA Photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



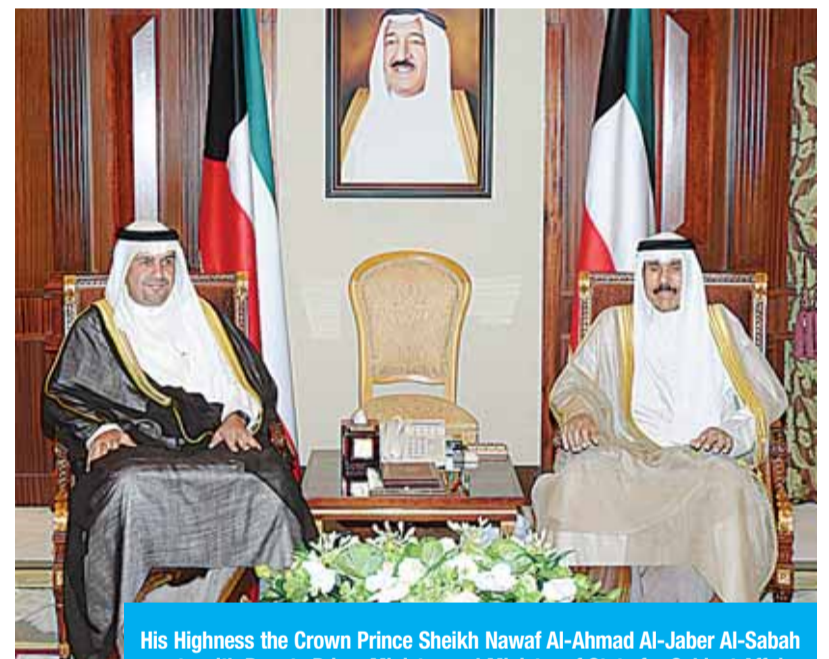
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



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



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



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs

Jacek Czaputowicz. Head of Protocols at the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. —KUNA

Kuwait FM meets Polish counterpart

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday met the visiting Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jacek Czaputowicz and his accompanying delegation. Both ministers tackled close relations between both friendly countries and ways and means of promoting them in various fields, in addition to the latest regional and international developments. They also addressed joint cooperation and effective coordination in the context of both sides' non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2019. The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Poland Khaled



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jacek Czaputowicz. —KUNA Photos

Al-Fadhli, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Counselor Mohammad Hayaty and several other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Marzouq



Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jacek Czaputowicz.

Al-Ghanem also met the visiting Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, and they mulled ways and means of pushing forward the level of cooperative ties between both friendly countries, in addition to an array of regional

and international dossiers, the parliament's 'Al-Dustour' news network reported. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Poland Khaled Al-Fadhli and Polish Ambassador to Kuwait Pawel Lechowicz were present at the talks. —KUNA

Yalla Watani welcomes new batch of trainees

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) welcomed its 14th batch of trainees attending the 'Yalla Watani' program for training newly hired employees to work in the bank's various branches. The trainees were welcomed by NBK executives, local branch managers as well as recruitment, training and human resources management staff.

The training course covers a wide array of topics including the development of soft skills like self-esteem, self-evaluation, achieving outstanding performance, change and innovation, management and effective communication techniques, work ethics, and teamwork.

The training program, which was attended by 23

trainees over a period of three weeks, aims at providing the required training on bank branches working mechanism through skill development prior to embarking on field training at the bank branches. Several banking aspects are covered by the program as well, including banking principals, credit cards, loans, account types, insurance, fraud risks, money laundering and bank branches and systems evaluation.

Yalla Watani is one of the most important career developments programs held in the private sector for Kuwaiti fresh graduates. The course seeks to provide participants with professional training through covering various banking aspects arming them with the necessary qualifications required to work within the bank's professional system.

The training program is an integral part of NBK's annual training programs aimed at attracting young national talents, as the program is tailored to meet the labor market's demands through providing training and developing opportunities to fresh graduates who have passed the prequalification exams to join the course.



Local

Council denies hiring company to prepare development plan

SCPD secretariat general prepares 2020-2025 national development plan

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr Khalid Mahdi denied claims by some people that the secretariat general assigned a company with the duty of preparing the development plan. Mahdi said SCPD was aware of the role of the company in question, as the specialized committee held several meetings with the planning secretariat general and the company to discuss its roles and duties.

He said the Tri International Consulting Group (TICG) was contracted this year with the aim of for-



Meetings to discuss company's roles and duties

mulating the methodology of the national development plan with the secretariat general of the SCPD, designing the strategic planning process to prepare the 2020-2025 national development plan and preparing the necessary documents to manage the project of supporting the preparation of the national plan to implement it through the office of the project management using the principles of project management according to a program.



KUWAIT: The Abdulhussein Abdulredha Theater in Salmiya hosted a concert Saturday evening for an Egyptian cello band as part of the 14th Summer Cultural Festival that is organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

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Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Traditional ships displayed outside the maritime museum in Kuwait City. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

First batch of new teachers arrive to Kuwait on September 4: Ministry

321 teachers from Palestine, 101 from Tunisia and 91 from Jordan



By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Education Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs Fahd Al-Ghais revealed a time schedule for the arrival of new teachers who were contracted abroad, and that in preparation for the start of the school year in two weeks. The first batch will arrive on September 4 with 86 teachers of both genders from Tunisia and Jordan out of 192. He added the number of teachers from Jordan is 91, while those from Tunisia are 101. As for Palestinian teachers, their number is 321, making the total 513.



KD 200 loan for each teacher

Ghais said a plan was made to receive the teachers in batches, who will be taken to the hospitality center in Dasma and transport, residence and food will be prepared for them. He said the ministry has facilitated for them a KD 200 loan, with a maximum of three loans until they are settled. Meanwhile, Director of Education Affairs at Ahmadi Education Zone Hamad Al-Saeed said the zone worked on providing all members of the administration and teaching faculties in various specialties, in addition to covering all vacancies. He said that 300 teachers of both genders joined Ahmadi education zone through direct contracting, adding that this number covers all schools' needs, in addition to local and foreign contracting.



KUWAIT: These pictures show preparations taken at a public middle school ahead of the start of the school year. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation said yesterday that works have started to apply liquid asphalt on the 'Kilometer 20' bridge on Wafra road, in addition to applying a second layer of asphalt on the 'Kilometer 10' bridge on Wafra road as part of its ongoing road maintenance operations.

Local

KD 28.5 million to plant trees in two areas unbelievable: Lawmaker

MP inquires about regulations of sending state employees to retirement



KUWAIT: The National Assembly's building in Kuwait City. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei found it strange to have a tender to plant trees in two areas at a cost of KD 28.5 million, adding "this is unbelievable." He said in a press statement that "we support greening to protect the environment, as our climate is harsh, but it is not realistic to spend such an amount of money to plant trees in two areas only." Tabtabaei said he sent questions to Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri to make sure about the feasibility study, the plan and type of trees. He said there was a youth greening initiative in Kuwait years ago and before the establishment of the agriculture authority under the slogan "Green dream" to reduce sand storms and lower the temperature, but the initiative was not accepted because it was by

Kuwaiti youth and not a foreign company, and the cost was no more than KD 5 million.

Meanwhile, MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said he submitted questions to all ministers about those who are retired and exceptions made since 2017. He said the success of government departments is linked to the success of its workers and their job security. "Job security needs the presence of clear and transparent rules for retirement in government departments," he said, noting that state departments are still taking decisions with regards to sending employees to retirement without legal bases, and the Civil

Staff sent to retirement without legal bases

Service Council and Civil Service Commission still do not have rules for sending employees to retirement, leaving each ministry or government department to take decisions independent from other government departments.



Govt determined to resolve bedoon problem: Saleh

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said yesterday that the government is determined to find a lasting solution for the decades-old problem of the stateless people or 'bedoons'. Saleh said the desired solution will be reached in cooperation with the National Assembly and will take into consideration security, humanitarian, cultural and economic situation of the country.

The minister recalled the call of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the two authorities to resolve the problem of bedoons who have been living in the country for over a half century and claim the right to Kuwaiti citizenship.

Some 120,000 bedoons live in Kuwait and say they are Kuwaitis while the government insists that only some of them qualify for consideration to be naturalized. Several MPs have proposed a draft law

granting bedoons full humanitarian and civil rights until their issue can be resolved. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said last month that the desired solution for the bedoon problem will be reached this summer or at the start of the new assembly term next October.

In the meantime, MP Khalil Al-Saleh yesterday sent a question to Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel inquiring about the number of Kuwaiti employees who resigned from the private sector since the beginning of 2017.

Additionally, he asked about the number of Kuwaitis who resigned from the private sector and where either appointed in government jobs, reappointed in the private sector or just retired. Saleh also asked about rumors that Kuwaitis shun private sector jobs and asked for the reasons, and asked if the government has conducted a study on the reasons for the resignation of Kuwaitis from the private sector.



Anas Al-Saleh

Seven arrested for firing gunshots during wedding

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Police arrested seven people who reportedly fired gunshots and drove their vehicles recklessly while celebrating a wedding in Kuwait recently. Four AK-47 rifles, two handguns and ammo were found with the suspects, who were referred to the proper authorities to face legal action after admitting to their crime during interrogations following their arrest, the Interior Ministry said in a statement yesterday. The arrest came after police identified the suspects following investigations after gunfire and reckless driving reports were made.



Firemen battle Sharq tower blaze

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Firemen from the Hilali and Capital fire stations put out a blaze in the basement of a tower in Sharq Saturday night. The fire was contained and prevented from spreading. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the fire.



'Eager Lion' exercises kick off in Jordan

AMMAN: Co-organized by Jordan and the US, a military training, dubbed 'Eager Lion', kicked off in Jordan yesterday with the participation of 27 countries, including Kuwait. The exercise, which lasts until September 5, will include operations on combating terrorism and ways to enhance border security with the participation of 8,000 military personnel. Media spokesperson for the maneuvers, Brigadier General Mohammad Thalji, told a press conference. The spokesperson stressed the importance of the exercise to strengthening the capabilities of the armed forces of various types of

weapons to work together in the face of one enemy, adding that the scenario of the exercise will simulate reality dictated by the circumstances and challenges facing the region and the world.

Thalji also pointed out that the military exercises will include training and exercises to strengthen the crisis management center by dealing with problems that may appear in the military field, such as the refugee crisis and the spread of epidemics and food shortages. Women have a prominent role in the Eager Lion training in order to enhance the role of women in the general command and in various military action, he added. Armed forces from Kuwait, France, Germany, Britain, Spain, Italy, Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Norway, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Japan, Brunei, Kenya and Tajikistan are participating in the exercise, alongside Jordan and the US. — KUNA

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South Africa seizes Air Tanzania plane

Muslim man left in coma after Thai army interrogation dies

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UKHIA: In this file photo, Rohingya refugees who were stranded walk near the no man's land area between Bangladesh and Myanmar in the Palongkhall area next to Ukhia. Some 200,000 Rohingya rallied in a Bangladesh refugee camp on August 25, 2019 to mark two years since they fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar forces, just days after a second failed attempt to repatriate the refugees. —AFP

Rohingyas rally to mark 'Genocide Day'

Thousands flee brutal offensive, persecution

KUTUPALONG: Some 200,000 Rohingya rallied in a Bangladesh refugee camp to mark two years since they fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar forces, just days after a second failed attempt to repatriate the refugees. Around 740,000 Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine state escaped in August 2017 during the brutal offensive, joining another 200,000 who fled earlier persecution in vast camps in southeast Bangladesh.

Children, hijab-wearing women, and men in long-skirt lungis shouted "God is Great, Long Live Rohingya" as they marched at the heart of the world's largest refugee camp to commemorate what they described as "Genocide Day". Under the scorching sun, thousands joined in a popular song with the lyrics "the world does not listen to the woes of Rohingya". "I have come here to seek justice for the murder of my two sons. I will continue to seek justice till my last breath," 50-year-old Tayaba Khatun said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Myanmar had said they were conducting counter-insurgency operations against Rohingya extremists after they attacked police posts, but the UN last year called for Myanmar's top generals to be prosecuted for genocide over the crisis. Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah said the stateless

minority wanted to return home, but only after they were granted citizenship, their security was ensured and they were allowed to settle back in their villages. "We have asked the Burmese government for dialogue. But we haven't got any response from them yet," Ullah told the rally.

"We were beaten, killed and raped in Rakhine. But still that is our home. And we want to go back," Police officer Zakir Hassan told AFP some 200,000 Rohingya took part in the peaceful gathering. Security has been tight across Kutupalong camp, the world's largest refugee settlement and home to more than 600,000 Rohingya. "Hundreds of police, army and border guards have been deployed to prevent any violence," local police chief Abul Monsur told AFP.

The rally came three days after the failed attempt to repatriate the refugees, which saw not a single Rohingya turn up to return across the border. On Saturday, Bangladesh police said they shot dead two refugees during a gunfight in a camp after the pair were accused of killing a ruling party official. The Rohingya are not recognized as an official minority by the Myanmar government, which considers them Bengali interlopers despite many families having lived in the country for generations. —AFP



MAUNGDAW: Unidentified men carry knives and slingshots as they walk past a burning house in Gawdu Tharya village near Maungdaw in Rakhine state in northern Myanmar. —AFP

Rohingya refugee crisis in key dates

BANGKOK: Two years ago, the Myanmar military led a ferocious crackdown against Rohingya Muslims, leading to an exodus of some 740,000 people into neighboring Bangladesh. Here are the key events since 2017:

Rohingya militants attack

On August 25, 2017, Rohingya militants stage coordinated attacks on police posts in Myanmar's Rakhine state, killing at least a dozen police officers. The army retaliates with operations in Rohingya villages, saying it is trying to flush out insurgents. The army in the mainly Buddhist nation says it has killed 400 rebels. Regime opponents say most victims were civilians. The United Nations says at least 1,000 were killed in the first two weeks.

Refugee storm

By September 5, more than 120,000 Rohingya have flooded into Bangladesh, overwhelming its ill-equipped refugee camps. Many say they have been victims of abuses by the army and ethnic Rakhine, who are majority Buddhist. There are already at least 300,000 Rohingya in Bangladesh from previous waves of violence.

Suu Kyi breaks silence

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi on September 19 makes her first public statement on the crisis and says she is open to resettling some of the Rohingya who have fled, pending a "verification process". In her speech she offers no concrete solutions to stop what the UN calls "ethnic cleansing" and fails to appease critics around the world.

The Nobel Peace laureate, in power since 2016, visits the conflict zone on November 2, making no statement.

Repatriation accord

Bangladesh and Myanmar on November 23 agree to start repatriating refugees in two months, without using the word "Rohingya". A day later the UN High Commissioner for Refugees says conditions have not been met for their safe and lasting return. The accord remains a dead letter. On December 2 Pope Francis meets Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, after visiting Myanmar, asking for "forgiveness".

Possible 'genocide'

UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein calls on December 5 for an international investigation, warning of possible "elements of genocide". On March 6, 2018 the UN says Myanmar is continuing its "ethnic cleansing" of the Rohingya with a "campaign of terror and forced starvation". On August 25, tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees stage protests to mark the first anniversary of the exodus. Two days later UN investigators call for an international probe and prosecution of Myanmar's army chief and five other top military commanders for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. On the same day, Facebook bans the top generals from its platform.

Reporters jailed

On September 3 two Reuters journalists accused of breaching Myanmar's state secrets law while reporting on a Rohingya massacre are jailed for seven years. After more than 500 days in jail and following immense international pressure, they are freed on May 7, 2019.

ICC opens preliminary probe

On September 18, 2018, the prosecutor of the



TEKNAF, Bangladesh: In this file photo, a Rohingya refugee carries a child as they arrive from Myanmar through Lomba Beel after crossing the Naf river, in the Bangladeshi town of Teknaf. —AFP

Hague-based International Criminal Court announces a preliminary probe into the military's alleged crimes against the Rohingya. UN investigators call for Myanmar's military to be removed from politics on the same day. In November an attempt to return 2,260 Rohingya fails, as they refuse to leave without safety guarantees. On December 20 Myanmar forces carry out new "clearance operations" in Rakhine state after attacks, with one incident blamed on Rohingya.

US sanctions

On July 16, 2019, Washington announces sanctions against Myanmar's army chief Min Aung Hlaing and three other top officers for their role in "ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya. On August 5, the UN calls for tougher sanctions against Myanmar's military. From August 22, some 3,500 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are cleared to return home to Myanmar, but none turn up. The UN accuses Myanmar's military of sexual violence against Rohingya, and reiterates the conditions are "not favourable" for a safe repatriation. —AFP

International

Finding homes in ruins - destitute, frustrated Iraqis return to camps

'We stay in the camp because of the food rations'

AL-KHAZER: Her tent is bare, she's unemployed and her family relies on food donations. But Nihaya Issa was forced to pick an Iraqi camp over the unliveable ruins of her native city Mosul. The northern city was freed from the Islamic State jihadist group's grip more than two years ago, but tens of thousands of Iraqis who fled Mosul into sprawling displacement camps have yet to move back home. Many, like Issa, say they tried returning but were shocked by what they saw.

"When I went back to Mosul I didn't find my house. It was destroyed," said Issa, speaking from her stuffy tent in the Khazer camp about 30 kilometers east of Mosul. "I also couldn't afford renting a house, so I came back to this camp again," she told AFP, clapping her hands in exasperation. Dark circles have formed under her eyes, and the widow and mother of eight girls said she and her children "live a tough life" in Khazer. But the 33-year-old feels she has little choice. "We stay in the camp because of the food rations we get every 30 to 40 days," she admitted.

Across Iraq, more than 1.6 million people remain displaced, among them nearly 300,000 from Mosul alone, according to the International Organization for Migration. They are spread out across a handful of displacement camps in the broader Nineveh province that have developed into fully-fledged tent cities. Amenities provided by NGOs include schools and training centers, health clinics and shops, football fields and hair salons - all mostly unavailable in Mosul and other towns ravaged by IS and the ensuing fighting.

'My house was unliveable'

Ghazwan Hussein, 26, hails from Sinjar, a region west of Mosul that was overrun by IS five years ago as it waged a brutal campaign against the district's Yazidi minority. The

father of four fled the region to the Khazer camp, where he eked out a living until his son fell ill a few months ago. He sold his meagre belongings in the camp to afford the required surgery and tried to return to Sinjar. "I found that my house was unliveable. It was demolished and the area didn't have basic services," said Hussein, his toddler perched quietly on his lap outside their tent. "I couldn't stay and came back to Khazer once again."

Only a sliver of Sinjar's native population of 500,000 Yazidis has returned, with the rest saying persistent destruction, the lack of services and the tense security situation have kept them in camps. Hussein said the Iraqi government should speed up reconstruction efforts and compensate displaced citizens. "Does it make sense to keep us in the camp without work for three years, as if in jail?" he asked. "We just eat, sleep, and live on food baskets without any hope the situation will improve so we can go home."

Mosul's migration office said up to 25 families a day are leaving their destroyed homes to return to displacement camps to access better services. "For the past 18 months, we have also seen 'reverse migration' back to the camps or to the Kurdish region," said office head Khaled Ismail. "The reasons for reverse displacement are varied according to the regions: it might be tied to the security situation, the family's financial conditions or the fact that their destroyed homes are unsuitable for living."

'Not a life'

According to the migration office, about 72,000 families have returned to Nineveh since the fighting against IS ended two years ago. Many are returning to the eastern side of Mosul, which was left more intact when fighting ended and where returning residents find



MOSUL: A man rides a scooter cart along a damaged street in the western part of Iraq's northern city of Mosul. — AFP

restaurants and shops reopening. But across the Tigris River in the Old City, mountains of rubble still seal off many streets and unexploded ordnance, rocket rem-

nants, and even decomposing bodies lie under ruined homes. For the most desperate families, those ruins will have to do. — AFP

Islamic scholar targeted by new rape complaint

PARIS: Tariq Ramadan, a leading Islamic scholar charged in France with raping two women, has also been accused of taking part in the gang rape of a journalist, French judicial sources said yesterday. The sources confirmed reports on Europe 1 radio and in Le Journal du Dimanche newspaper that a woman in her 50s had accused Ramadan, 56, of raping her along with a member of his staff when she went to interview the academic at a hotel in Lyon in May 2014.

The woman, who filed a criminal complaint in May 2019, also accused Ramadan of issuing "threats or acts of intimidation" aimed at dissuading her from reporting the alleged attack to the police, the judicial sources added. Ramadan, a married father of four whose grandfather founded Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, was a professor at

Oxford University until he was forced to take leave when rape allegations surfaced at the height of the "Me Too" movement in late 2017.

He has denied charges he raped a disabled woman in 2009 and a feminist activist in 2012. He was taken into custody in February 2018 and held for nine months before being granted bail. Authorities in Switzerland are also investigating him after receiving a rape complaint in that country. His lawyer, Emmanuel Marsigny, refused to comment yesterday on the latest allegations against him in France.

The woman behind the latest complaint told police that Ramadan and a male assistant repeatedly raped her in Ramadan's room at the Sofitel hotel in Lyon. She described the alleged attack as being of "untold violence" and claimed that when she threatened to report them to the police Ramadan replied: "You don't know how powerful I am." She also claimed that Ramadan had contacted her via the Messenger app in January, two months after his release from jail, saying that he wanted to make her an "offer" of a "professional nature", without giving details. — AFP



Swiss Muslim intellectual and professor Tariq Ramadan

South Africa seizes Air Tanzania plane

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa has impounded a plane belonging to Tanzania's national carrier over a farmer's \$33-million compensation claim for his land which the Tanzanian government nationalized decades ago, a lawyer said Sunday. The Air Tanzania aircraft was seized on Friday at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport after it landed during a scheduled flight from Tanzanian economic capital Dar-es Salaam.

Lawyer Roger Wakefield of Werksmans Attorneys said the seizure followed an order granted by the High Court in Johannesburg on Wednesday. In the 1980s, Tanzania's government nationalized a massive, privately-owned bean and seed farm, seizing everything including equipment, 250 cars and 12 small planes.

The Namibian-born Tanzanian farm owner, who the lawyer refused to name, was awarded \$33 million in compensation in the 1990s — but the government only paid \$20 million. The outstanding balance of \$16 million has accrued interest over the decades and now stands at \$33 million, according to the lawyer who specializes in cross-border disputes. The farmer has been fighting for years to get the outstanding amount. He was then declared a prohibited immigrant in Tanzania on what his lawyer called "baseless grounds", and he now lives in another East African country.

The farmer approached lawyers in South Africa, which is party to an international convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitration awards, in a bid to secure the remaining money. "Literally after decades of broken promises, promises to pay, acknowledging the indebtedness, the plaintiff was left with no option, he came to me," Wakefield said. He said the plane was seized "to certify a long outstanding debt to the plaintiff which the government of Tanzania has always acknowledged was owing but they just breached their undertaking".

"The only way that the aircraft can now be released is if they pay the debt or if they put up security for the claim." Tanzania's transport ministry said in a statement that "the plane was prevented from taking off by a decision of the High Court of Gauteng, Johannesburg". It said the Tanzanian government was working to secure the release of the plane so it can "resume its flights as usual". The seized Airbus jet is valued at around \$90 million, according to Wakefield. — AFP

Syrian troops mass in northwest after gains

KHAN SHEIKHUN: Syrian government forces massed in northwest Syria in an apparent bid to press an offensive against jihadists and allied rebels that has heightened tensions with neighboring Turkey. The Syrian military has since Wednesday seized the key town of Khan Sheikhun from jihadists and allied rebels and overran the countryside to the south, encircling a Turkish observation post in northern Hama. In Khan Sheikhun, smoke still curled into the sky from multiple locations on Saturday among buildings partially or fully destroyed by the earlier fighting.

The town was almost deserted of civilians, according to an AFP team on a press visit organized by the Syrian army. The battle in northern Hama, where the army has retaken several other areas, "lasted no more than a few hours, due to the significant fire power that preceded the ground operation", an army officer told AFP, asking not to be named. Loyalist fighters gathered north of Khan Sheikhun on Saturday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"The day after they controlled the area south of Khan Sheikhun, regime forces are massing in the area north of it," Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based monitoring group, told AFP. They are "preparing to continue their advance towards the area" of Maaret al-Numan, a town some 25 kilometers to the north, he said. After eight years of civil war, the jihadist-run region of Idlib on the Turkish border is one of the last to escape the Syrian government's control. In January, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham—an alliance led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate—took full control of the Idlib region.

Backed by Russia, President Bashar al-Assad's forces have chipped away at the south of the stronghold in recent weeks after months of deadly bombardment. On roads serving Khan Sheikhun, tanks could be seen by the AFP reporters, while small trucks carried soldiers, deployed in their dozens in several locations. The Syrian national flag flew near a school, in front of which troops stood guard. AFP reporters spotted just two families in the town.

Russia-Turkey talks

The Turkish military's observation post—an outpost located in Morek, part of the region centered on neighboring Idlib province—stood just under a kilometer away. The position is surrounded by high concrete walls, barbed wire and surveillance cameras. While significant deployments of Syrian government troops clearly controlled the surrounding area - and access routes—there did not appear to be a military cordon around the Turkish position. A small Turkish flag was also visible. Turkish troops have been deployed at a dozen points around the Idlib region of some three million people, in an attempt to set up a buffer zone to protect the area.

A deal between Russia and rebel backer Turkey signed in September last year sought to set up the demilitarized area to avert an all-out government assault, but jihadists



KHAN SHAYKHUN: Members of the Syrian regime forces are transported in the back of military vehicles toward the town of Khan Sheikhun in the northern Idlib province, after they announced the total control of the city a day before. — AFP

refused to withdraw. The apparent isolation of the Turkish position has raised tensions between Ankara and Damascus. "It is an international matter, we do not consider it," the Syrian officer said. "We pass by the Turkish position at Morek, the Turkish soldiers haven't turned on us, nor on them. We see them clearly and they see us too."

But Assad advisor Buthaina Shaaban on Friday accused Turkey of "turning the observation points into spots for transporting weapons and occupying a part of our land". Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu vowed the same day that his country's troops would not withdraw from the position in Morek. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is to visit Moscow on Tuesday for talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. They and their Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani—whose country supports Assad—are also to convene in Ankara on September 16.

Further push north?

On Saturday, heavy bombardment hit the region in an apparent preparation for a further push north. Abdel Rahman said. An AFP correspondent saw thick grey smoke billow up into a clear blue sky after a strike on the outskirts of Maaret al-Numan. After Khan Sheikhun, Maaret al-Numan is the next town on a key highway running across Idlib province that analysts say is coveted by Damascus. Full government control of that road would allow it to fully connect the capital with second city Aleppo, retaken from opposition fighters in late 2016.

Also Saturday, a car bomb in Idlib city killed two people, the Observatory said, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility. Russian and Syrian government bombardment since late April has killed around 900 civilians, the Observatory says. A further 400,000 have been forced to flee their homes, according to the United Nations. Syria's war has killed more than 370,000 people since starting with the brutal repression of anti-government protests in 2011. — AFP

News in brief

Journalist killed in Mexico

TOLUCA: The head of a Mexican news website was found stabbed to death in the center of the country, authorities said Saturday, the 10th such killing this year. The body of Nevith Condes Jaramillo "was found Saturday morning... showing injuries from a sharp object," the state prosecutor said in a statement. An investigation has been opened to determine what happened. Condes Jaramillo, 42, was the head of a local news site in Tejuapilco and was also an announcer on a community radio station. Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said that, according to the journalist's relatives, Condes Jaramillo had received threats in June and November of last year, and had sought federal protective measures as a result. But relatives said he refused to follow through on the protection process due to the bureaucratic procedures involved, according to RSE. — AFP

5 die as copter, plane collide

MADRID: At least five people, including a minor, were killed yesterday in a collision between a helicopter and a light plane on the Spanish island of Mallorca, the regional government said. The accident occurred at 1:35 pm time in the municipality of Inca, the Balearic Islands government said on Twitter. It was not known what caused the collision between the aircraft, both of them in private use, Diario de Mallorca newspaper reported. Two people were on board the ultralight plane and three others, a couple and a minor, were in the helicopter, it said. "My solidarity and love for the families of the victims that lost their lives in this tragic accident," Spanish acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez tweeted. — Reuters

Plane crash kills four

QUITO: A Cessna 182 airplane crashed in Ecuador's Amazon region, killing all four people aboard, authorities said yesterday. The plane was carrying a pilot and three passengers, the civil aviation authority said. The cause of the crash was not immediately known but an investigation has been launched. The plane went down Friday near the borders of Morona Santiago and Zamora Chinchipe in the southeast. Military personnel and other searchers recovered the bodies Saturday after an hours-long operation. — AFP

Algeria culture minister quits

ALGIERS: Algeria's Culture Minister Meriem Merdaci has resigned, following the deaths of five young music fans in a stampede at a packed concert by rapper Soolking in the capital, the president's office announced. It said Merdaci handed her resignation to interim president Abdelkader Bensalah "who accepted it". On Friday, prime minister Noureddine Bedoui fired the head of ONDA (the National Office of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights), the public authority in charge of organizing concerts. An investigation has been opened amid charges on social media of security failings. Thursday night's stampede that killed five people aged between 13 and 22 came as fans thronged an entrance of the August-20 Stadium in Algiers where France-based Soolking was performing. The president's office later Saturday also announced the dismissal of Algeria's police chief, Abdelkader Kara Bouhadba, who was only appointed in February. — AFP



ALGIERS: Photo shows the exterior of Algiers' August-20 Stadium where five young people were killed and dozens more injured in a stampede at a packed rap concert. — AFP

International

Sink or Swim? British Prime Minister takes G7 ocean dip

French police fire tear gas at anti-G7 protesters

BIARRITZ: Facing accusations from political opponents of being out at sea over his Brexit strategy, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson strode into the Atlantic Ocean for a bracing dip yesterday before tackling trade talks with western allies at a G7 summit. Johnson plunged into the waters off Biarritz flanked by French soldiers and with Britain's ambassador to France, Ed Llewellyn, in tow, a Johnson aide said.

Better known for his fondness of cycling before entering 10 Downing Street, Johnson swam around a rocky outcrop several hundred meters off a Biarritz beach. "Let me give you a metaphor," Johnson told ITV. "I swam round that rock this morning. From here you cannot tell there is a gigantic hole in that rock. There is a way through." "My point to the EU is that there is a way through, but you can't find the way through if you just sit on the beach."

With a deepening political crisis at home, Johnson is making his international debut at a gathering of G7 leaders in the French resort of Biarritz, less than three months before the United Kingdom is due to leave the European Union. Caught between European and US thinking, Johnson was treading a delicate path, needing to avoid angering a volatile Trump and risking trade ties while not alienating himself from other leaders who have a more multilateral approach to world politics.

Police fire tear gas

Meanwhile, French police used tear gas and water cannon to break up anti-G7 protesters in the southern city of Bayonne, as leaders from the world's leading industrialized nations arrived for their summit just a few kilometers away in Biarritz. Since Monday, anti-capitalist activists, environmentalists and other anti-globalization groups have been flocking to a counter-summit in southwestern France that organizers insisted would be peaceful.

More than 9,000 anti-G7 protesters took part in the largest protest on Saturday - a mass march over a bridge linking France and Spain that took place without incident. However the atmosphere was more hostile in Bayonne, where hundreds of protesters chanting anti-capitalist slogans did not seem to follow a route, instead wandering the streets trying to find a way into the city centre.

However the police, who were deployed en masse in the city, put up a barricade blocking their path. The protesters tried to get through the barricade and police faced them down for more than an hour, according to AFP journalists. The angry crowds were eventually dispersed in the evening after the police used tear gas and water cannon. While several people were detained, the local authorities have yet to announce the number of arrests.

'Amazonia is burning'

The larger, peaceful march took place in the French coastal town of Hendaye, about 30 kilometers from Biarritz, with police giving a figure of 9,000 but organizers saying as many as 15,000 people turned up. Biarritz is a popular tourist destination that would normally be basking in its annual summer boom, but with US President Donald Trump and other world leaders flying in for three days of talks, the resort was in lockdown. "Heads of state: act now. Amazonia is burning!" read one banner as the huge crowd rallied under cloudless blue skies in Hendaye, the slogan referring to the wildfires ravaging the world's largest rainforest. "If the climate was a cathedral, we would already have saved it," read another, referring to Notre-Dame in Paris, which was ravaged by a fire in April that prompted donors to pledge 850 million euros (\$954 million) to rebuild it. Waving thousands of flags, they marched across the Bidassoa River heading for the Spanish town of Irun, chanting slogans while some played drums. The colorful crowd was an eclectic mix of environmental activists, families, anti-globalists, a handful of anti-government "yellow vest" protesters and Basque nationalists, AFP correspondents said.

"We are very happy because it was a huge challenge," said Sebastian Bailleul of Alternatives G7, one of the march's organizers. But authorities remain on high alert, with Biarritz in lockdown. "I want to call for calm and for unity," French President Emmanuel Macron said in an address to the nation just before the opening of the summit, where world leaders were to address the Amazon crisis along with other global issues.

13,000 police

Overnight, 17 people were arrested and four police



BIARRITZ: Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, European Council President Donald Tusk, US President Donald Trump, France's President Emmanuel Macron, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attend a working session on 'International Economy and Trade, and International Security Agenda' in Biarritz yesterday. — AFP

lightly injured when skirmishes erupted near in Urrugne, a village some 25 kilometers south of Biarritz. Friday night's confrontation occurred as activists tried to block police from a site where they had set up camp, with police firing tear gas and using controversial rubber rounds known as LBDs to disperse them, AFP correspondents said.

France has deployed more than 13,000 police and gendarmes to secure the event amid fears of disturbances by radical anti-capitalist groups, anarchists or the yellow vest protesters. But the demonstrators insisted their aims were peaceful. "It's important to show that people are mobilized

and do not accept the type of world they're offering us," said Elise Dilet, a 47-year-old activist with Bizi, a Basque anti-globalization group. A raft of unprecedented security measures has been put in place for the summit, with the picturesque Grand Plage beach off-limits to everyone except delegates and those accredited for the summit. Earlier this week, police arrested three German activists carrying a tear gas canister, an icepick and wrenches along with documents "linked to the extreme left", prosecutors said. They were charged with planning violence, sentenced to several months prison and banned from returning to France. — Agencies

Tunisia mogul still presidential runner despite arrest

TUNIS: Media magnate Nabil Karoui remains in the race for Tunisia's upcoming presidential election despite his arrest for alleged money laundering, the head of the country's electoral commission said Saturday. Karoui, one of 26 presidential candidates given preliminary approval this month to run in the September 15 election, was arrested on Friday, his party said.

A judicial official said an arrest warrant had been issued for Karoui and his brother Ghazi for money laundering. "Nabil Karoui is still a candidate and his name remains on the preliminary and definite list of candidates" who are vying to become Tunisia's next president, electoral commission (ISE) head Nabil Baffoun said.

"Following his arrest... as long as there are no changes in his legal status... he remains a presidential candidate," Baffoun told the private Mosaïque FM radio station. According to Baffoun, even candidacies of convicted individuals in Tunisia are accepted so long as the verdict against them does not specifically say they are banned from running in an election. The tycoon was charged with money laundering in early July shortly after stating his intention to stand in the polls, but has remained a leading candidate.

'Degrading, dictatorial practices'

His party, Qalb Tounes, announced his arrest the same day that authorities declared a ban on three local outlets - including Karoui's Nessma TV - from reporting on the election campaign over unlicensed "illegal" broadcasts. On Saturday, the party alleged Prime Minister Youssef Chahed was behind the arrest, but said it would only serve to promote Karoui's campaign. "We are making a direct accusation against Youssef Chahed and his gang of having orchestrated this arrest," a Qalb Tounes (Heart of Tunisia) senior official, Iyadh Elloumi, told a news conference. He said such "degrading and dictatorial practices" would only serve as "free publicity" for Karoui. The Tunisian Human Rights League said Karoui's arrest "raises a lot of doubt and undermines the judiciary".

The NGO, in a statement, called for an enquiry into the decision to arrest him. Rashed Ghannouchi, leader of the Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party said he was "not happy to see a party or party leader hindered". "We want the independence of the judiciary and we expect explanations," he said on local radio. Justice Minister Karim Jamoussi has ordered his ministry to look into the circumstances of the issuance of the arrest warrants of Karoui and his brother "to assure the legality" of the procedures, a ministry official told AFP.

Karoui has been accused by regulators and some politicians of using Nessma to bolster his political ambitions. He was nearly removed from the race in June when parliament passed an amended electoral code that would bar any candidate who handed out "favors in cash or in kind" in the year before the vote. But then-president Beji Caid Essebsi neither rejected nor enacted the bill, leaving the door open for Karoui to run. Essebsi died last month at the age of 92. — AFP

Murder of Colombian activists casts shadow over peace process

SANTANDER DE QUILCHAO: Indigenous leader Edwin Mauricio Capaz pulls on a bulletproof vest every day before getting into the armored car he uses to travel around the restive part of southwest Colombia he calls home. Despite this protection, the 34-year-old worries he could soon join hundreds of human rights activists and community leaders assassinated since a 2016 peace deal, many of them for confronting drug trafficking or illegal mining.

"If they haven't threatened us already we are certain that one day they will - or that one day our lives will be at risk," said Capaz, who lives in the Pacific province of Cauca and has been getting threats from different armed groups since 2014. The 2016 peace accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels ended more than 50 years of war between the government and the group. But though violence fell overall after the deal, so-called "social leaders" continue to be threatened, attacked and killed - many in cases which remain unsolved.

The murders have become a political headache for right-wing President Ivan Duque, who is coming under



BOGOTA: Photo shows Ciudad Bolivar - a poor locality in southern Bogota. The armed group Aguilas Negras (Black Eagles) is the dark 'brand' behind which narcos, paramilitaries or state agents hide to terrorize Colombia. — AFP

pressure internationally to stop them. The government attributes the killings to still-active National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels along with crime gangs and dissident FARC guerrillas who refused to demobilize after the peace accord. All are fighting for control of lucrative drug production and illegal mining areas previously ruled by the FARC. Community leaders and activists involved in efforts to protect the environment, stem illegal mining, oppose the presence of armed groups or promote the eradication of

coca - the base ingredient in cocaine - risk the ire of multiple armed groups, human rights organizations say. "The drug trafficking economy is very powerful and is the principal threat because they're using indigenous land," said Capaz, the father of a 9-year-old son, as he prepares to travel the steep mountains of his community in the company of a driver and a bodyguard.

Though Duque says the number of assassinations fell by more than a third since he took office just over a year ago, he was greeted during a June visit to London by protesters yelling "killer!" In the late 2000s, US lawmakers pushed back against a trade deal with Colombia to protest the killing of union leaders. If outrage over the new wave of killings grows loud enough, it could hurt the Andean nation's ties with the United States and the European Union, which help finance the reintegration of former rebels, coca substitution and other programs.

There is no definitive tally of how many activists and community leaders have been murdered since the peace deal. The attorney general's office pegs the figure at 292, between the start of 2016 and June of this year, while the office of the country's human rights ombudsman says the number is at least 486. Think-tank INDEPAZ says 734 activists have been killed in the same January 2016-June 2019 period. Those figures do not include the FARC tally of 138 former guerrillas it says have been killed since the peace deal, in assassinations the group attributes to crime gangs formed by former members of right-wing paramilitary groups. — Reuters



DRESDEN: Protesters take part in a demonstration titled 'Unteilbar' (Indivisible) against exclusion in Dresden, eastern Germany. — AFP

Thousands march against racism in Dresden ahead of key state polls

DRESDEN: Around 35,000 people marched against hate and racism in the eastern German city of Dresden, organizers said, a week before state elections when far-right party AfD is projected to make huge gains. Under the banner "indivisible", a broad coalition of artists, unionists and politicians gathered to urge voters to reject exclusion, which they argue is championed by right-wing extremists. The three-hour march took place in a relaxed atmosphere under the warm summer sun in the picturesque baroque city, one of the most popular tourism destinations in the former communist east.

But Dresden is also the cradle of the Islamophobic movement Pegida, and the state of Saxony is a stronghold of the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany party.

Organizers had predicted around 10,000 people to turn up for the march, so 35,000 well exceeded their expectations. Many at the protest held aloft signs that read: "No place for Nazis" and "Racism is not an alternative." One of the marchers, 27-year-old Berlin teacher Janna Rakowski, said she wanted "to show the people of Dresden that they are not alone in the fight against racism."

"We want to show our solidarity in this particular situation before the elections in Saxony," she told AFP. A spokeswoman for the organizers, Susann Riske, said: "We want to do something against the current political climate and support those who oppose hatred and violence every day." Greta Schmidt, a 66-year-old retiree from Dresden, held up a sign reading "Grandmas against the extreme right". "The people are very dissatisfied... the big parties have sabotaged their chances," she said.

'Moment of truth'

Before the march started, organizers said they expected at least 10,000 people to turn up at the protest, while about 70 kilometers away, the co-leader of the AfD Alexander Gauland is due to address a rally in the city of Chemnitz. An AfD candidate in the Saxony election, Nico Koehler, on Saturday denied his party is racist, calling such charges "propaganda designed to get left-wing parties into the state assembly". — AFP

Police probe Georgian's 'execution' in Berlin park

BERLIN: German police were investigating yesterday the assassination-style killing in a Berlin park of a Georgian former special forces commando and Chechnya war veteran. Police have arrested a 49-year-old suspect from Russia's Chechnya republic over the shooting on Friday in the Kleiner Tiergarten park. The victim was identified as Zelimkhan Khangoshvili by Georgia's Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC), and was aged 40, according to German prosecutors.

The killer approached Khangoshvili from behind as he was on his way to a mosque, shot him twice and fled by bicycle in what one witness described as an "execution" style killing. "Khangoshvili died on the spot before an ambulance arrived," the EMC said in a statement. Police divers later recovered a Glock handgun, a wig and bicycle from the nearby Spree river. A large sum of money was found in the home of the suspect, according to Tagesspiegel daily.

The victim was reportedly a veteran of the second Chechen War from 1999 to 2009, where he served as a field commander from 2001 to 2005, and later joined a Georgian counter-terrorist unit. In 2012, his Georgian special forces unit engaged in an operation against militants holding hostages in the remote Lopota gorge near the border with Russia's Dagestan republic. German media said the murder was believed to be a revenge killing related to the victim's military past.

One of his sons said Khangoshvili, a father of five, had survived four previous attempts on his life. EMC said the last attack happened in May 2015 in Tbilisi when "unknown people shot him eight times while Khangoshvili was driving, but by chance he escaped death". "The Khangoshvili family was forced to leave Georgia and seek refuge in another country." For the past few years, they had been living in Berlin under assumed identities, German media said. German police had, meanwhile, also listed him as a potentially militant Islamist for reasons still unclear, Bild reported. — AFP

International

Expanded South Korea military drills around disputed island draw protest

South Korea, Japan in worsening political and economic feud

SEOUL: South Korean forces began two days of expanded drills yesterday around an island also claimed by Japan, prompting a protest from Tokyo only days after Seoul said it would scrap an intelligence-sharing pact with its neighbor amid worsening relations. Tokyo and Seoul have long been at loggerheads over the sovereignty of the group of islets called Takeshima in Japanese and Dokdo in Korean, which lie about halfway between the East Asian neighbors in the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea.

The latest military drills began yesterday and included naval, air, and army forces, as well as marines, a South Korean ministry of defense official said. The Japanese foreign ministry called the drills unacceptable and said it had lodged a protest with South Korea calling for them to end. The island is "obviously an inherent part of the territory of Japan", Kenji Kanasugi, the director general at the ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, told the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo in a statement.

Ko Min-jung, a spokeswoman for South Korea's presidential Blue House, said the drill was an annual exercise and not aimed at any specific country. "It's an exercise to guard our sovereignty and territory," she told reporters in Seoul. The exercise included significantly more South Korean forces than previously involved and spanned a wider area in the sea between South Korea and Japan, a South Korean navy official said.

For the first time the drills included an Aegis-equipped destroyer and army special forces, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. Tensions in the region have spiked amid a worsening political and economic spat between South Korea and Japan, a string of missile launches by North Korea, and increasingly assertive military patrols by China and Russia. South Korea announced the scrapping of an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan on Thursday, drawing a

swift protest from Tokyo and deepening a decades-old dispute over wartime history that has hit trade and under-cut security cooperation over North Korea.

Relations between South Korea and Japan began to deteriorate late last year following a diplomatic row over compensation for wartime forced laborers during Japan's



Japan lodges protest at S Korean embassy

occupation of Korea. They soured further when Japan tightened its curbs on exports of high-tech materials needed by South Korea's chip industry, and again this month when Tokyo said it would remove South Korea's fast-track export status.

The disputed islands have long been one of the most sensitive areas of contention between Japan and South Korea. A detachment of South Korean guards has been stationed there since the 1950s and South Korea has conducted annual defense drills in the area. The current exercises had been delayed as relations deteriorated, Yonhap news agency reported. In July, South Korea and Japan responded to what they saw as a violation of their air space near the islands by a Russian military plane.

The South Korean navy said the drills were designed to underscore its commitment to defending the broader area.



DOKDO ISLETS: South Korean Navy's special forces participate in a military drill re-named 'East Sea territory defense training' at the easternmost islets of Dokdo. South Korea yesterday began two days of war games to practice defending disputed islands off its east coast against an unlikely attack from Japan, further stoking tensions between the Asian neighbors. — AFP

"The military has changed the name of the drills to 'East Sea Territorial Protection Exercise' reflecting the scale and meaning of the drills to solidify the military's resolve to

protect the territory in the East Sea," the South Korean navy said in a statement. Previous drills had been called the "Dokdo Defense Exercise." — Reuters

India defends blocking opposition politicians from visiting Kashmir

NEW DELHI: Authorities yesterday defended blocking opposition Indian politicians from visiting Muslim-majority Kashmir, saying it was to "avoid controversy" weeks after stripping the restive region of its autonomy and imposing a major clampdown. India's Hindu-nationalist government has been criticized by the main opposition Congress party over the contentious move on August 5 that brings Kashmir - which has waged an armed rebellion against Indian control since 1989 - under its direct rule. The region remains under strict lockdown with movement limited and many phone and internet services cut, although authorities say they have been easing restrictions gradually.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, still a key figure in India as a scion of the powerful Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, was earlier invited by local governor Satya Pal Malik to visit Kashmir. But video released by Congress showed Gandhi questioning officials about why he was stopped from entering Kashmir's main city of Srinagar at the airport on Saturday. "The governor has said I'm invited. He has invited me so I have come but you're saying I can't go," he said.

"And government is saying everything is OK, everything is normal. So if everything is normal, why are we not allowed out? It is a bit surprising," Regional police chief Dilbagh Singh told AFP police supported the decision. "In an environment that is getting to normalcy, we didn't want any controversial statement from anyone. That's why they were asked to return from the airport itself," Singh said. Malik told the ANI news agency he invited Gandhi out of good will but that he then politicized the issue.

The controversy came as key separatist group Hurriyat Conference, a coalition of local political parties, released



KASHMIR: A general view of Kashmir city from the top of a hill in Srinagar. — AFP

its first official comments since the clampdown and called for locals to "resist at this critical juncture" New Delhi's move. "Each and every person must face the naked Indian brutality with courage... People should organise peaceful protests and demonstrations in their areas of residence," top separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani said in a statement obtained by AFP.

The Hurriyat Conference, which supports Kashmir's

right to choose whether it wants to be part of India or Pakistan, added that Pakistan and the wider Muslim community should "come forward to... help the besieged people". The call came as India's home affairs ministry refuted a report by India's News18 television yesterday that the region was running out of lifesaving medicines, saying supplies were "slightly higher than the monthly average". — AFP

Trump 'not happy' after North Korea's Kim oversees test

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of a high-tech rocket system, state media reported yesterday, prompting criticism from US President Donald Trump, who said he was "not happy" with the latest launch. Pyongyang fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles on Saturday, South Korea's military said, the latest in a series of recent launches in protest at the South's joint exercises with the US which wrapped up last week.

North Korea's official news agency described the weapon as a "super-large multiple rocket launcher", and quoted Kim as saying the country needed to keep stepping up weapons development "for resolutely frustrating the ever-mounting military threats". In France, where he is attending a meeting of G7 leaders, Trump played down the seriousness of the launch.

"I'm not happy about it, but then again he's not in violation of the agreement," Trump said, referring to a deal that prohibits the firing of long-range ballistic missiles. Trump has staked enormous political capital on personal diplomacy with Kim in a so-far unsuccessful effort to persuade the North Korean dictator to give up his nuclear weapons arsenal. The latest missile tests could further thwart the resumption of the negotiations.

Photos carried by North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper yesterday showed a broadly grinning Kim standing in front of an eight-wheeled launcher, and others showing rockets being launched from the vehicle. Saturday's launch appeared to be "the fourth new missile system that North Korea has debuted since the Hanoi holdup", tweeted Vipin Narang, an associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "This is Kim's own maximum-pressure campaign," he added.

Gridlocked talks

Negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington have been gridlocked since a second summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Hanoi in February collapsed without an agreement over the extent of denu-



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (center) celebrates the test-firing of a 'newly developed super-large multiple rocket launcher' at an undisclosed location. — AFP

clearisation in the North and sanctions relief.

The pair agreed to restart working-level dialogue during an impromptu meeting at the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea in June, but those talks have yet to begin. Following Saturday's test, Kim noted August 24 was an "unforgettable good day", recalling successful tests of "strategic submarine underwater ballistic missile" carried out on that day three years ago, KCNA reported.

The comment was "significant" and meant for Trump, said Kim Dong-yub, a researcher at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul. "He is reinforcing that although Pyongyang can't launch them in the dialogue momentum between the US and the North, it possesses these (weapons)," Kim Dong-yub said. Trump has previously played down Pyongyang's tests and insisted that his personal relationship with Kim remains ideal.

Earlier this month Trump tweeted that Kim had sent him

a letter expressing hope that talks would resume once the joint exercises—which ended on August 20 - are over. Washington stations nearly 30,000 troops in the South to help defend its security ally from the nuclear-armed North. Last week, Stephen Biegun, the US special envoy for North Korea, said during a visit to Seoul that Washington was "prepared to engage" as soon as it hears from Pyongyang.

But on Friday, Pyongyang vowed to "remain as the biggest 'threat' to the US" if Washington persisted with sanctions and said the joint drills between Seoul and Washington had "complicated" prospects for nuclear talks. In a statement carried by KCNA, the North's foreign minister Ri Yong Ho also launched a scathing attack on Pompeo, calling him a "diehard toxin" and saying it was "sceptical" whether it can negotiate with him. "We are ready for both dialogue and stand-off," Ri said. — AFP

Indian girl's throat slit in spate of deadly kite accidents

NEW DELHI: A young girl riding on a motorcycle with her father in New Delhi has died after a glass-coated kite string slit her throat, reports said yesterday, the second incident in a week. Kite flying is a popular sport in India, but has turned deadly in recent years, with people using strings coated in metal or glass to try to cut down competitors' kites.

The number of deaths and injuries jumps around Independence Day on August 15 when many people traditionally take to the skies, often with kites painted in the colors of the Indian flag. In the latest incident on Saturday, the four-year-old was travelling to a temple in India's capital with her father when nearly half her neck was cut by the string, the Times of India reported doctors as saying.

A 28-year-old engineer died on Independence Day when his throat was slit by a kite string while he was riding his motorbike, also in Delhi, media reports said. A three-year-old boy was reportedly electrocuted after his kite string—believed to be wet and coated with metal—came into contact with an electric wire in the city. Last month, a three-year-old died when a kite string was entangled around her uncle's neck in southern Delhi. The pair, who were riding on a motorcycle, hit a divider and fell off a flyover, News18 television reported.

Authorities and animal rights activists say birds have also been maimed or killed by the strings, known locally as manjha. The Delhi government three years ago issue an immediate ban on the production, sale and storage of strings modified to be razor-sharp, after a spate of deaths. The government said anyone caught with the strings faced a five-year jail term and a 100,000-rupee (US\$1,400) fine. But several neighborhoods in and around New Delhi continue to sell such strings, despite the ban. — AFP

Muslim man left in coma after Thai army interrogation dies

BANGKOK: A Muslim man left in a coma after being interrogated at a notorious Thai detention centre died yesterday, as pressure mounts on the army to release further findings of a probe into the case. Abdulloh Esomusor, a suspected rebel from the country's restive south died yesterday morning, more than a month after he was taken to the Inkayuth military camp, his cousin Mohammadtrahmat Mamu said.

The army could not immediately be reached for comment but previously said Abdulloh's severe brain swelling could have been due to an aneurysm or suffocation. A rebellion against Thai rule in the culturally distinct "Deep South" bordering Malaysia has left nearly 7,000 dead—the majority civilians—since 2004. Inkayuth is the Thai army's biggest detention centre in the south, where suspects are taken for interrogation and held under emergency laws and where rights groups have documented torture.

The treatment of 34-year-old Abdulloh—who was unconscious when he was transferred to a hospital hours after arriving at the camp—cast a rare spotlight on clashes in the region and could be linked to a deadly raid and separate bombings in Bangkok. The death is a test case for the Thai government, said Sunai Phasuk, senior Thailand researcher for Human Rights Watch. "Will they allow rogue officials to organize a cover-up, or will they ensure a transparent and impartial criminal investigation and prosecute those found responsible?" His family says he was not involved with insurgents launching bloody attacks in a fight for more autonomy. An umbrella organization representing some of the shadowy rebel groups has said they suspect "foul play" in the case. — AFP

Analysis

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David Kotok: An 'old curmudgeon' not afraid of Trump

Investment advice from financial managers generally follows a predictable template: Update clients on the economy and stock market, endorse long-term investing - and avoid hot-button topics. David Kotok, a veteran financial advisor, takes a different approach, mixing in deep dives on gun control, the First Amendment and other political issues with discussions of stocks and bonds. An outraged Kotok blasted Donald Trump last month after the US president said four non-white US Congresswomen should "go back home" and led a rally where his supporters chanted "send her back" against Democratic Representative Ilhan Omar, who is Muslim.

"Send them back" is "an affront to everything our great nation stands for," Kotok wrote in a July 24 note for his firm, Cumberland Advisors, that bemoaned a culture



David Kotok

"inundated by political trash" and excoriated Trump's relentless personal attacks on Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell. In an interview, Kotok said his disagreements with the president stem originally from economics. Millions of jobs remain unfilled because of Trump's restrictive immigration policies, Kotok argues, limiting the economy's ability to grow. And businesses are deferring key investments

because of uncertainty aroused by Trump's swerves on trade and use of punitive tariffs, he said.

But Kotok also had harsh words for Trump's overall conduct in office - criticism that is common in entertainment, academic and some other circles, but rare in the financial world. "In a civil democratic society of the type we like to have, you have to have diverse views and you have to permit them," Kotok, 76, told AFP. "And you have to be prepared to debate them and you don't have to use personal, negative, racist forms of attack that are directed at ethnic composition." Kotok said he disagreed with the politics of Omar and the other three Democratic lawmakers, but respects their service to the country and believes Trump's attacks degrade public discourse. "What troubles me is we are becoming worn down by this recurring type of ugly, nasty, directed rhetoric from the president," Kotok said. "He hurts himself doing it. He hurts the country he serves doing it. He encourages others to do it."

Rare voice in 'one percent'

Friends and business associates of Kotok say he has always been outspoken. "Most people in this business are afraid of their shadow and they go to great pains to say nothing, but David's not like that," said Jim Bianco, who runs his own economic research firm. The two men have known each other for more than a decade and Bianco says Kotok was also tough on former president Barack Obama. A senior employee of a large commercial bank who said his position bars him from speaking on political topics praised Kotok for showing "courage" in speaking out. "I don't think he's a lone voice, but it's just that this stuff doesn't usually come from the one percent," the banker said. "He's a very civil person in a world where civility is lacking."

John Silvia, the former chief economist for Wells Fargo and a longtime friend, said Kotok straddles the investment and "big ideas" worlds and that his success as a money manager has afforded him freedom. "David has his own clients and perhaps his clients appreciate his frankness on a lot of these different issues," Silvia said, adding that even if clients disagree with Kotok on politics, they "keep him around."

Kotok said he has on occasion lost clients who disagree with his views, but also hears from associates who are eager for him to address the issue du jour. "Because I'm independent and an old curmudgeon, I am not afraid of Donald Trump," he said. A native of New Jersey, Kotok co-founded Cumberland in 1973 after raising a few million dollars from friends and family, a rocky period that included oil shortages, spiking interest rates and the Watergate political crisis.

He attributes the firm's early success to a decision to buy fully into the stock market as it bottomed, figuring the US would recover. The firm, based in Sarasota, Florida, now has 45 employees and manages more than \$3 billion in assets through fixed income portfolios and exchanged traded equity funds. Each August, Kotok organizes a retreat for about 50 people in the Maine woods where financial professionals, journalists and executives fish, drink fine wine and debate monetary policy, trade and other issues. Kotok rues the bland public statements from investment banks and trade associates that are "antiseptic" versions of the angry, frustrated comments he hears in private. — AFP

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Dem presidential field shrinks as debate cut looms

The 2020 presidential election is still more than 14 months away, but with an early key deadline looming this week, the record field of Democratic hopefuls is dwindling. With a trio of 70-somethings breaking away from the pack - former vice president Joe Biden, independent Senator Bernie Sanders and fellow progressive Elizabeth Warren - four of the cash-strapped, younger or lesser-known candidates have so far thrown in the towel. Others are likely to bow out in the coming days, as the list of those qualifying for the party's third round of debates is to be revealed on Thursday.

Only 10 of the remaining 21 candidates have met the qualifying criteria - based on poll numbers and fundraising success - and most of those are still struggling to catch up with the Big Three. Even two high-profile candidates from New York state - New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - may fail to reach the debate stage, effectively leaving their candidacies in limbo.

Biden has managed to maintain a significant lead despite a rocky summer marred by a proclivity for gaffes - which some have called a worrying trend given the months and months of campaigning ahead. The Democratic primary season really only starts in earnest with the Iowa caucuses in February - and some analysts question whether the 76-year-old Biden might lack the fire or the endurance needed to stay on top.

That has kept hope alive for second-tier candidates, but that sense of optimism could fade if they miss a chance to go toe-to-toe with their rivals on national television on Sept 12 in Houston, Texas. The debate offers an opportunity to both make a direct pitch to American voters - and attract all-important donors. "Without access to a debate audience, some candidates have realized that their bids are hopeless," said Kyle Kondik of the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "I suspect more will come to this conclusion soon."

Making the cut

Leading the pack so far is Biden (at 29 percent in a RealClearPolitics average of recent polls), followed by Sanders (16 percent), Warren (15 percent), Senator Kamala Harris (seven percent) and Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana (five percent). Also securing spots in the debate are former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke, Senator Cory Booker, businessman Andrew Yang, former Obama-era cabinet member Julian Castro and Senator Amy Klobuchar.

If any other candidates make the cut before Thursday, the group might be split in half and a second debate will be added on Sept 13. Of course, failing to make the debate stage is not necessarily a death knell for a candidacy - but it certainly doesn't help. Some candidates who fall short of

qualifying will likely decide to battle through regardless, at least until Iowa, said Christopher Arterton, a professor of political science at George Washington University. "There's kind of an ever-hopeful quality to presidential candidates," Arterton told AFP.

Democrats are quick to point to the experiences of Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama, two men who defied the oddsmakers and the political pundits by pulling off surprise victories in Iowa before going on to win the White House. Biden - Obama's vice president for eight years and a senator before that for decades - has not yet been seriously challenged in the race despite the gaffes, fears about his age, the increasingly frontal attacks of his rivals and Donald Trump's cutting gibes. For many Democrats, the absolute requirement of any candidate is the ostensible ability to defeat Trump in Nov 2020. Biden's campaign team itself, including his popular wife Jill, makes this argument.

"Your candidate might be better on, I don't know, health care, than Joe is but you've got to look at who's going to win this election and maybe you have to swallow a little bit ... but your bottom line has to be that we have to beat Trump," she told a group of Democratic voters. Biden's lead - due in part to strong support from blue-collar workers and African-Americans - has been surprisingly steady. — AFP

Austria's love of cash in poll campaign spotlight

It may sound like a strange thing to enshrine in a country's constitution: The right to pay cash. But a debate on whether to do just that has entered Austria's election campaign, shining a light on the country's love of cold, hard currency. The Austrian People's Party (OeVP) recently made the suggestion as part of its campaign for a parliamentary election in late September, for which it has a commanding poll lead.

This led to other parties - though sceptical of the OeVP's proposal - vaulting their commitment to protecting cash, with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPOe) demanding an end to fees levied at cashpoints. And it is not hard to see why all major parties see protecting cash as a vote-winner. "In Austria, attitudes change slowly," an employee of Weinschenke, a burger restaurant in downtown Vienna, told AFP. The woman in her 30s, who only gave her name as Victoria, says she prefers to use cash because "you don't leave a trace".

Invasion of privacy

Financial law expert Werner Doralt says Austrians put a high value on privacy and are wary of anything that



could be used to keep tabs on them, such as card transactions. "If for example I go shopping, and it's recorded exactly how much schnapps I've bought, that's an invasion of my privacy," he says. A recent survey conducted by the ING bank in 13 European countries, Australia and the US, showed Austrians were the most resistant to the idea of giving up cash payments.

Just 10 percent of those surveyed in Austria said they could imagine doing without cash, compared to a European average of 22 percent. According to European Central Bank data compiled in 2017, cash accounted for 67 percent of money spent at points of sale in Austria, compared to just 27 percent in the Netherlands. Even in neighboring Germany, another country known for its attachment to cash, the rate is only 55 percent. Academic and author Erich Kirchler, a specialist in economic psychology, says in Austria and Germany, citizens are aware of the dangers of an overmighty state from their World War II experience. "In that case the efficiency of state institutions becomes dangerous," Kirchler told AFP.

'Lived freedom!'

It is a theory that finds a resounding echo in the slo-

gan printed in bold on the menu of one Vienna restaurant and bar, Caffe Latte: "Cash is lived freedom!" "When we have no more cash, we become totally exposed. A totalitarian state would then have unfettered power over us," the menu reads. Admittedly the cafe accepts cards as its owner Philipp Klos says he has to think about business too. "In five years, there will be no more cash. I'm 100 percent sure," he told AFP, saying the OeVP proposal to amend the constitution is "empty talk".

Other parties and experts have also pointed out that Austria would not have the unilateral right to protect cash through constitutional changes because it uses the euro, which is under the purview of the European Central Bank. Even 17 years after the euro came into circulation, some Austrians are still finding notes and coins in their previous currency, the schilling, much of it left in forgotten hiding places in homes.

The haul from under the nation's mattresses, which until now could be exchanged at the "Euro-Bus" of the Austrian National Bank (OeNB), which toured the country, was almost 19 million schillings (€1.38 million) this year. Unlike several other parts of the eurozone, Austrians still have an unlimited period to exchange their schillings at the OeNB. Austrian banks, too, are behind some of their counterparts elsewhere when it comes to the ease with which clients can access debit or credit cards. Following a recent EU directive, Austrian banks are phasing out "ATM cards" and renaming them debit cards. And some banks are currently planning to equip the new debit cards with the ability to make payments online, as is common elsewhere. — AFP

South Africa rare earths mine hopes for boost from US-China feud

It's old, doesn't look like much and is located well out the way in an arid part of western South Africa. But the Steenkampskraal Mine may be about to become piping hot mining property thanks to some of the world's highest-grade deposits of rare earth metals. "Steenkampskraal will become a very important source of rare earths for the global industry," Trevor Blench, chairman of Steenkampskraal Holdings Limited, said during a recent tour.

The mine, located about 350 km north of Cape Town, used to produce thorium, a component of nuclear fuel, in the 1950s and 60s. But now it's been found to also have monazite ore which contains extremely high grade rare earth minerals including neodymium and praseodymium - elements vital to cutting-edge industries. Manufacturing uses range from tinted welding goggles to industrial magnets, strong alloys for aircraft engines, military hardware, hybrid cars, consumer electronic devices, medical equipment and even the flints in cigarette lighters.

Nothing like it

China produces the largest share of so-called "tech minerals", with a domestic output of 120,000 tons in 2018. That's vastly more than the United States, which relies on China for about 80 percent of its rare-earth imports. But now Beijing has threatened to cut off the supply as trade frictions mount, prompting US President Donald Trump on

July 22 to give the Pentagon an executive order to find other sources of the crucial elements. Rare earth elements are a group of 17 minerals unique for their magnetic, catalytic and electrochemical properties. For the first time since 1985, China last year became a net importer of some rare earths for its industrial needs, while the government cracked down on illegal exploration and production. Global sales of electric cars, which need the minerals, jumped by 68 percent in 2018 to 5.12 million, with China selling over a million vehicles, according to the International Energy Agency. "China may, as a result of its own requirements, just export less and less to the rest of the world," Blench said. Steenkampskraal Mine could just be the answer to growing demand, he suggested.

'Abundance of rocks'

"About 14 percent of this rock is rare earths. That is an extraordinarily high grade and we don't know anything like it on the planet," Blench said, holding a small but heavy reddish brown rock. Worldwide, many mines have around six percent or less rare earths in their ore. No mines for rare earth elements currently operate in South Africa, but the government confirms the presence of yet-to-be tapped tech minerals. "South Africa is certainly on par with any other country that would lay a claim to being able to supply rare earths elements to meet this increasing demand," said mineralogist Dshentthree Chetty at Mintek, a government mineral and metallurgy research department. She added that it would be "a great deal for our country to be able to supply, and we are in a position to do so, as long as those markets are favorable." "We have an abundance of rocks in which rare earth elements are found," Mosa Mabuza, CEO of the Council for GeoScience, which surveys mineral deposits, told AFP. Steenkampskraal has secured all the licenses required to start mining. It plans an



Andree Muntingh (right), Steenkampskraal (SKK) mine geologist, guides a group of visitors underground at the SKK rare-earth mine on July 29, 2019, about 80 km from the Western Cape town of Vanrhynsdorp. — AFP

initial production of 2,700 tons a year once funding of \$50 million has been secured, with further plans to expand.

Expect competition

But the road to global success risks being rocky for the South Africans, cautioned Diego Oliva-Velez, a commodities analyst with Fitch Solutions in London. The rare earth sector in South Africa is largely undeveloped, and could easily fall behind the US, Australia, India, Russia and Vietnam which all have "significantly larger proven reserves of rare earths", he said. Steenkampskraal's reserves are also mostly so-called "light rare earths", which are comparatively abundant. "Steenkampskraal will have to compete with many other producers in this area globally," said Oliva-Velez. — AFP

Business

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BIARRITZ: (Left to right) Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, European Council President Donald Tusk, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, US President Donald Trump, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, France's President Emmanuel Macron, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attend a working session on "International Economy and Trade" in Biarritz, south-west France yesterday on the second day of the annual G7 Summit. — AFP

Trump offers Brexit Britain a 'big' trade deal

Johnson says trade talks with US will be tough

BIARRITZ, France: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday said he and President Donald Trump were "gung-ho" about a post-Brexit trade deal but cautioned the United States would be tough negotiators and that he would not rush talks.

Trump promised a big trade deal for Britain after it leaves the European Union, which he said had been a drag on Britain's ability to cut a good deal. Facing a delicate task of assuaging European allies while not angering Trump at a G7 summit in France, Johnson said there were huge opportunities for British businesses in the US market, but hinted at differences between the two sides on the scope of a deal.

Moreover, he added, Washington would have to relax some "protectionist" policies. "They want to do it within a year, I'd love to do it within a year, but that's a very fast timetable," he told Sky News.

Earlier, before the two leaders began a trade-focused bilateral meeting, Trump said he was looking forward to discussing big numbers with Johnson. "We're going to do a very big trade deal - bigger than we've ever had with the UK," Trump said. "At some point, they won't

have the obstacle of - they won't have the anchor around their ankle, because that's what they had."

Brexit uncertainty

With less than three months until an Oct. 31 deadline, it is still unclear, how, when or even whether Britain will leave the EU. The uncertainty around Brexit, the United Kingdom's most significant political and economic post-war move, has left allies and investors aghast and roiled markets.

Britain has yet to agree any kind of exit deal to smooth the divorce between the world's fifth largest economy and its biggest trading partner, raising fears of shortages and widespread disruption. However, Johnson said meetings with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron last week had helped his case for a better exit deal. There was a "dawning realization" in Brussels that Britain's objections to the existing deal were implacable.

"I think it's going to be touch and go but the important thing is to get ready to come out without a deal," he told the BBC. Opponents fear Brexit will make Britain

poorer and divide the West as it grapples with both Trump's unconventional presidency.

Supporters acknowledge the divorce might bring short-term instability, but say in the longer term it will allow the United Kingdom to thrive if cut free from what they cast as a doomed attempt to forge European unity. Johnson also met European Council head Donald Tusk, who on Saturday said Johnson would go down as "Mr No-Deal" if he took Britain out of the EU without a withdrawal agreement.

A British official said Johnson told Tusk that Britain would be leaving the EU on Oct. 31 whatever the circumstances. Sky News reported that Johnson would tell Tusk Britain would only pay 9 billion pounds (\$11 billion) instead of the 39 billion pound liability agreed by former prime minister Theresa May under a no-deal Brexit. Asked about the report, Johnson said: "If we come out without an agreement it is certainly true that the 39 billion is no longer, strictly speaking, owed."

Trade differences

Trump and Johnson were in the French seaside

resort of Biarritz for a summit of G7 industrialized nations where sharp differences have emerged over trade protectionism and an array of issues including Iran and North Korea. On his arrival on Saturday, Johnson said of the escalating trade war that he was "very worried" about the growth of protectionism. Those who "supported tariffs risked incurring the blame for the downturn in the global economy", he said.

Sitting opposite Trump yesterday, Johnson praised the performance of the US economy before adding: "But just to register a faint, sheep-like note of our view on the trade war - we are in favor of trade peace on the whole." London's preference is for a comprehensive free trade deal with the United States post Brexit, UK government officials say, while some US officials including Trump's national security adviser John Bolton have talked of a sector-by-sector approach. As Johnson said London and Washington would do a "fantastic deal", Trump interrupted to say: "lots of fantastic mini-deals, we're talking about many different deals but we're having a good time." — Reuters

Fed's Mester sees downside risk from rising trade war

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo: Cleveland Federal Reserve President Loretta Mester said she sees "big downside risk" from rising trade uncertainty, and will be watching how businesses and consumers react ahead of the US central bank's next policy meeting.

Mester, who opposed the Fed's interest rate cut last month, spoke a day after the US-China trade war escalated sharply, with Beijing and Washington slapping additional tariffs on each other's goods and President Donald Trump calling on US companies to exit China.

Whether trade and other policy moves will knock a US economy chugging along at an expected 2 percent annual growth rate remains to be seen, Mester told Reuters on the sidelines of the Fed's annual central banking conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Mester said she and her team of economists at the Cleveland Fed are still formulating their forecasts ahead of the central bank's Sept. 17-18 meeting, at which it is widely expected to reduce borrowing costs for the second time this year.

"You want to be very cognizant of the fact that we are already at neutral, unless the economy takes a turn for the worse," Mester said, referring to the neutral rate of interest that neither brakes nor boosts a healthy economy.

She added that "the more this trade war escalation happens, the more weight you have to put on that other (weak growth) scenario." If there's a lot of uncertainty, particularly from trade, "a natural inclination for business or the consumer is, 'I've got to like, pause,'" she said. "I think that is a big downside risk here."

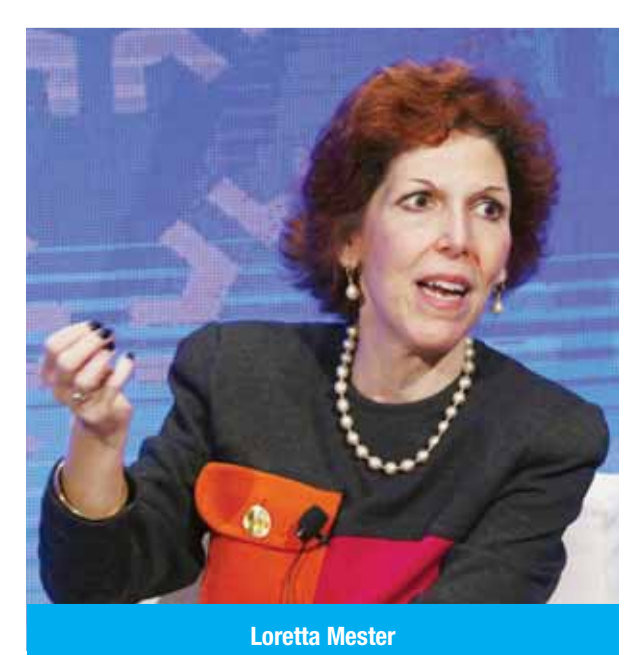
On Friday, Fed Chair Jerome Powell cited the trade uncertainty in a keynote speech to the conference in

which he reiterated his promise that the Fed would "act as appropriate" to keep the economy growing, with unemployment low and inflation near the central bank's 2 percent annual target. He did not tip his hand on whether he thought rate cuts at the Fed's next policy meetings would be appropriate, as financial markets are currently betting.

Mester said she would be "open-minded" on the rate-cut debate, focusing on "economic and financial market reconnaissance" including a close look at what business contacts are saying and doing.

"We have three weeks: We're going to gather more data, we are going to look at what the economy is," she said, adding that she'll be focused on whether declines in business sentiment are translating into real actions that slow the economy. "If you were ever data-dependent, you are uber data-dependent now," she said. "It would be a bad thing to keep reacting to things that haven't materially affected the outlook."

On the other hand, she added, "if your outlook has changed from, the modal forecast is 2 percent to the modal forecast is much lower, you'd want to move, perhaps, your policy rate down." — Reuters



Loretta Mester

Business

NBK Money Markets Report

Dollar edges lower amid lack of guidance, trade tensions

Fed rate reduction seen as a mid-cycle adjustment

KUWAIT: The Federal Reserve released the minutes of its last rate-setting committee meeting that ended on July 31. It showed that most officials saw the 25 basis point reduction in the Fed's main interest rate as a "recalibration of the stance of policy, or a mid-cycle adjustment, in response to the evolution of the economic outlook".

During the meeting, Chairman Jerome Powell faced a split among US central bank officials as he pressed ahead with a one-notch rate cut last month. The minutes showed that within the general consensus, there were a few members that said they would have preferred an immediate 50 basis point cut pointing the need for "stronger action against stubbornly low inflation."

On the other hand, several officials argued that "the real economy continued to be in a good place," favoring to keep the rates steady. Two members, Esther George and Eric Rosengren, presidents of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and Boston had voted against the committee's decision.

The diversity of views about last month's reduction, in addition to the confusion and uncertainty growing over the US fiscal policy, after President Donald Trump put down suggestions that he was considering new tax cuts to stimulate economy just a day after confirming that they were on the table, all are issues confronting the Fed's Chair. Investors are expecting a new move by the central bank to cut interest rates in the next FOMC meeting in September to insulate the US economy from the impact of trade tensions and a global slowdown.

The Fed's minutes, accompanied by hawkish Fed remarks from both members George and Harker saying that they saw little reason for additional interest rate cuts beyond the quarter point reduction in July, lead to a third inversion of the yield curve this month on Thursday. The yield on two-year US Treasury bills jumped above that of the benchmark 10-year note during the trading day. Another portion of the yield curve that reflect the difference between the three-month and the 10-year bills, slipped deeper into negative territory, but the inversion flattened out by the end of the day.

Trade escalation

On the trade front and in a retaliatory move to Trump's trade war with China, Beijing announced that it will apply additional tariffs of between 5 percent and 10 percent on \$75 billion of US imports starting September. The news pushed Brent down more than 2 percent reaching \$58.52 a barrel amid concerns about the impact of tariffs and a slowdown in global trade on crude demand. Donald Trump promised a response to

latest round of tariffs and instructed American companies to "immediately start looking for an alternative".

Markets did not like the sound of that. The S&P 500 fell 1.6 percent, while the Nasdaq Composite declined 1.7 percent. The yield on the US 10-year slid 7.3 basis points to 1.535 percent, while that on the two-year declined 8.7 basis points to 1.5209 percent. Trump's response also saw the yellow metal spiking after it had already increased in response to tariffs announcement hitting a high of \$1,526.10.

Jackson Hole

On Friday, Jerome Powell gave his highly anticipated speech in Jackson Hole, an event that is closely eyed by investors as it is customary for the regulator to outline future plans. Powell gave no indication about the outlook for interest rates; he repeated a line he has used since June "we will act as appropriate to sustain the expansion." In his comment on the trade situation, Powell said that the central bank is in an unprecedented situation, mentioning that "while monetary policy is a powerful tool that works to support consumer spending, business investment and public confidence, it cannot provide a settled rule book for international trade."

He left the issue in the congress and administration's hands, saying that the Fed's assignment is to use monetary policy to foster its statutory goals. In view of the current economic context Powell said that they have seen further evidence of a global slowdown, noting Germany and China, he also mentioned the possibility of a hard Brexit, and the dissolution of the Italian Government. He ended his economic brief mentioning that the US has continued to perform well overall, driven by consumer spending. Powell also marked that inflation has been "highly stable" during the US economic expansion but has run "somewhat below" the Fed's 2 percent target this year.

Donald Trump has responded to Powell's speech, accusing the Fed of doing "nothing." He also criticized the Central Bank for not consulting with him.

The sudden escalation of trade war and lack of a concrete way ahead by the Fed took its toll on the Greenback, having it slide 0.82 percent on Friday closing at 97.639. The Japanese Yen and Swiss Franc both benefited from their safe haven status strengthening against the Dollar. The USD/JPY pair slid 1.21 percent to close at 105.39, while the USD/CHF pair shed 1.34 percent to close at 0.9745.

US manufacturing

Data released on Thursday showed that activity in America's manufacturing sector has contracted for the

first time in almost a decade. The US manufacturing purchasing manager's index dropped to 49.9 in August, falling below the neutral level of 50 for the first time since September 2009, and missing economist's expectation of 50.5. The survey showed that growth in new orders cooled to the weakest level in a decade with new export sales dropping at the fastest pace since 2009.

Time is short on Brexit

In the UK, a leaked official document suggested that there are some areas of potential disruption the British government cannot mitigate alone in case of a no-deal Brexit. The report covered issues that would affect several factors including shortages in food, medicine and petrol. The document also revealed potential disruptions to cross-channel trade as it expects France to impose controls on goods from day one of a no-deal scenario.

Increased immigration checks may kick in resulting in passenger delays at key points of connection between the UK and France. The government expects that protest and counter-protests will take place increasing public disorder. As far as the Northern Ireland issue goes, the government does not expect a hard border to return immediately after a no-deal Brexit, but EU tariffs and regulatory checks would apply overnight disrupting trade with Ireland.

Boris Johnson went to meet with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel following the report. He commented on their meeting saying that he was "powerfully encouraged" by his meeting, where she expressed hope that the UK and the EU could find a solution to the Irish border issue the next 30 days. Johnson is demanding an overhaul to the withdrawal agreement finalized between the EU and his predecessor Theresa May, the overhaul would involve the removal of the backstop. A day after Johnson's meeting with Merkel, French president Emmanuel Macron cast doubt on Johnson's hopes of significant changes to the existing withdrawal agreement, saying that the backstop was an "indispensable" part of the accord. Macron did agree that the two sides should be able to find "something intelligent" but only if changes did not affect the EU's core demands on Irelands and the European single market. On the same day Merkel provided some clarification on her 30 day commitment saying that she had not given Johnson 30 days to find a solution to the backstop but had just wanted to highlight how little time was left.

The Sterling moved up in response to the meetings after it had struggled to find any hope for the Brexit



conundrum. The meetings were seen by traders as a glimpse of hope that moved the Cable 1.63 percent up from its low this week supported by the weakened Dollar, closing at 1.2277.

ECB signals easing

The European Central Bank released the minutes for its July monetary policy meeting where it sent strong signals that they are preparing a package of new easing measures. The ECB saw downside risks persisting, but it was not ready to signal that the growth outlook had deteriorated compared to the June staff forecasts. Regarding longer-term inflation expectations however, members widely shared the view that the recent declines were a matter of concern, which warranted close monitoring. To combat the fall in inflation, the minutes revealed the possibility of a "package" like policy which included various tools such as rate cuts and asset purchases. The inclusion of the package also sought to counteract the concern among market participants that the Governing Council lacked the "ammunition" to further support its inflation target. September's policy meeting will now be highly anticipated by markets to see if any of the "package" tools are implemented.

The Reserve Bank of Australia

The Reserve Bank of Australia held rates at the record low rate of 1 percent in their August meeting while leaving the door open for further easing. In their meeting minutes released this week, the RBA revealed they want to see a lower unemployment rate accompanied by higher wages to fend off further easing on the domestic front. However, actions from other central banks (particularly the Fed) will also impact their policy timing, as to avoid getting left behind in a race for lower rates.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar USD/KWD opened at 0.30330 yesterday morning.

IMF meets with Argentina's Treasury minister

BUENOS AIRES: Top Argentine finance officials met with a team from the International Monetary Fund on Saturday, the Treasury Ministry said, while tens of thousands of supporters of President Mauricio Macri gathered just outside the presidential palace, waving national flags and cheering.

The IMF officials met with Treasury Minister Hernan Lacunza, who was just installed in that position on Tuesday, and central bank President Guido Sandleris, according to the Treasury Ministry statement.

No details were released on the talks. The IMF team on Friday said it planned to "exchange views" over the weekend with the economic advisers to Argentina's top presidential contenders in the October election, the incumbent Macri and opposition candidate Alberto Fernandez. Macri was trounced in the primary election on Aug. 11 by Fernandez, who is now the front runner for the October presidential election. Center-left Peronist Fernandez has criticized the \$57 billion standby agreement Macri struck with the IMF in 2018, pledging to "rework" the deal if elected. Fernandez's landslide support in the primary vote prompted the peso currency to fall by nearly 18 percent last week amid fears of a return to the interventionist economic policies of former President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who is Fernandez's vice presidential candidate. —Reuters

Infiniti QX80 built to transform driving experiences

KUWAIT: The Infiniti QX80 brought by Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, exemplifies Infiniti's presence in the luxury SUV segment. The Infiniti QX80 takes Infiniti 'Powerful Elegance' design language in a bold new direction, creating a powerful, contemporary and commanding aesthetic.

The flagship SUV model has been created to meet the needs of today's luxury car buyers, and introduces a more modern interpretation of upscale luxury to the full-size SUV segment. It will appeal to a buyer that demands space and utility, hand-crafted quality and modern design, and effortless on-road performance. The QX80 has a refined and spacious cabin that features high-quality materials, a hand-crafted finish and advanced drive-assist technologies. With a taut yet comfort-oriented suspension, and ample performance from its 5.6-liter V8 engine, the new QX80 gives drivers an assured feeling of control and confidence at the wheel.

The QX80's rear entertainment system has also been upgraded. Higher-resolution screens provide the interface for connectivity and entertainment devices. The system also now supports 31 languages, up from three in the outgoing QX80.

The QX80 is newly-available with a range of technolo-



gies to inform the driver of their surroundings, help them avoid potential hazards and ease the monotony of driving in certain conditions. These technologies include: Lane Departure Warning and Prevention, Intelligent Cruise Control, Distance Control Assist, Predictive Forward Collision Warning, Forward Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Warning and Intervention and Backup Collision Intervention.

It is worth noting that the Infiniti QX80 received the 'Best Premium SUV' accolade at the prestigious 'Wheels 2018 Car of the Year' awards or popularly known as COTY which was held in Dubai earlier this year. Infiniti Al-Babtain encourages its customers to explore the unique features of the QX80, by visiting the Infiniti showroom located in Al-Rai. The showroom is open daily except Fridays.



EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.		Yemen Riyal/for 1000		Turkish Lira		Chinese Yuan	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		US Dollar	1.222	53.195	0.041727	0.045227	
US Dollar Transfer	304.150	Tunisian Dinar	110.600	218.734	0.036904	0.039654	
Euro	342.620	Jordanian Dinar	429.800		0.003702	0.004474	
Sterling Pound	377.150	Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203		0.000017	0.000023	
Canadian dollar	231.030	Syrian Lira	0.000		0.002803	0.002983	
Turkish lira	53.930	Morocco Dirham	32.288		0.000241	0.00256	
Swiss Franc	315.840				0.069032	0.075032	
US Dollar Buying	296.850				0.002676	0.003016	
ASIAN COUNTRIES					0.001338	0.002108	
Japanese Yen	2.882				0.005786	0.006086	
Indian Rupees	4.260				0.214303	0.224303	
Pakistani Rupees	1.939				0.001339	0.001919	
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.689				0.009784	0.009964	
Nepali Rupees	2.649				0.009591	0.010141	
Singapore Dollar	221.040				0.00013	0.00013	
Hongkong Dollar	38.783						
Bangladesh Taka	3.594						
Philippine Peso	5.825						
Thai Baht	9.951						
Malaysian ringgit	77.788						
GCC COUNTRIES							
Saudi Riyal	81.161						
Qatari Riyal	83.952						
Omani Riyal	790.513						
Bahraini Dinar	808.160						
UAE Dirham	82.863						
ARAB COUNTRIES							
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.500						
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.372						
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd							
	Rate for Transfer		Selling Rate				
	US Dollar		304.440				
	Canadian Dollar		229.505				
	Sterling Pound		374.860				
	Euro		342.345				
	Swiss Franc		298.290				
	Bahrain Dinar		809.620				
	UAE Dirhams		83.290				
	Qatari Riyals		84.530				
	Saudi Riyals		82.080				
	Jordanian Dinar		430.680				
	Egyptian Pound		18.391				
	Sri Lankan Rupees		1.693				
	Indian Rupees		4.249				
	Pakistani Rupees		1.930				
	Bangladesh Taka		3.605				
	Philippines Peso		5.815				
	Cyprus pound		18.110				
	Japanese Yen		3.885				
	Syrian Pound		1.590				
	Nepalese Rupees		2.660				
	Malaysian Ringgit		73.565				
	Chinese Yuan Renminbi		43.385				
	Thai Bhat		10.880				
BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL							
	CURRENCY		BUY		SELL		
	British Pound		0.367047		0.380947		
	Czech Korune		0.005103		0.014403		
	Danish Krone		0.041391		0.046391		
	Euro		0.331954		0.34554		
	Georgian Lari		0.131935		0.131935		
	Hungarian 0.001146		0.001336		0.001336		
	Norwegian Krone		0.029981		0.035181		
	Romanian Leu		0.065164		0.082014		
	Russian ruble		0.004643		0.004643		
	Slovakia		0.009088		0.019088		
	Swedish Krona		0.027599		0.032599		
	Swiss Franc		0.306031		0.317031		
	Australian Dollar		0.197739		0.209739		
	New Zealand Dollar		0.188967		0.198467		
	Canadian Dollar		0.223932		0.232932		
	US Dollars		0.300050		0.305350		
	US Dollars Mint		0.300550		0.305350		
	Bangladesh Taka		0.002974		0.003775		
	Bahraini Dinar		0.800612		0.808672		
	Egyptian Pound		0.018619		0.021979		
	Iranian Riyal		0.000084		0.000086		
	Iraqi Dinar		0.000209		0.000269		
	Jordanian Dinar		0.424078		0.433078		
	Kuwaiti Dinar		1.000000		1.000000		
	Lebanese Pound		0.000156		0.000256		
	Moroccan Dirhams		0.020984		0.044894		
	Omani Riyal		0.784869		0.792770		
	Saudi Riyal		0.082896		0.083750		
	Syrian Pound		0.080020		0.081320		
	Tunisian Dinar		0.001289		0.001509		
	Turkish Lira		0.018149		0.019849		
	UAE Dirhams		0.046051		0.055896		
	Yemeni Riyal		0.082175		0.083003		
			0.000989		0.001069		

Business

Central bankers face shocks, and hope to avoid the worst

G7 summit at Biarritz is 'last moment' for its members: Tusk

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo: Global central bank chiefs know their job is to keep the economy out of the ditch. What became clear at the US Federal Reserve's central banking conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, over the past couple of days is that not only do other people hold the wheel, some seem intent on steering toward trouble.

"We are experiencing a series of major political shocks: we saw another example of that yesterday," Reserve Bank of Australia Governor Philip Lowe said on Saturday, a day after China and the United States slapped more tariffs on each other's goods and US President Donald Trump called on American companies to shut down their operations in the Asian nation.

As those political shocks slow growth, Lowe said in a panel discussion, "there is a strongly-held view that the central bank should just fix the problem... The reality is much more complicated," and not something monetary policy can likely repair.

His comments spoke to an uncomfortable truth that hovered over an annual symposium where the mountain backdrop and two days of technical debate often seem distant from the world of realpolitik. Even as central bankers and economists referred to the deep connections that now tie the world's economies together, a US-driven trade war seemed to be driving them apart and raising the specter of a broad global downturn.

Worse, it's a downturn none of the central bankers seemed confident about how to fight - coming not from a business- or financial-cycle meltdown that they have a playbook to combat, but from political choices that threaten to crater business confidence. If that's the problem, Lowe and others said, lower interest rates - something demanded by Trump to get an upper hand in the trade war - will do little to help.

"The problem is in the president of the United States," former Fed Vice Chair Stanley Fischer said at a lunch event on Friday. "How the system is going to get around some of the sorts of things that have been done lately, including trying to destroy the global trading system, is very unclear. I have no idea how to deal with this."

It was a rare calling out of Trump, though his presence infused other remarks. Fed Chair Jerome Powell, handpicked by Trump to run the central bank but now an object of the

president's ire, noted in his opening speech that the Fed had no playbook for building a new global trading system.

Last moment

Central banks have asked politicians for years to use fiscal policy more constructively and address structural problems plaguing economies. What they've gotten instead is a fast multiplying set of risks, with the trade war at the epicenter but also including the possibility of a disruptive British exit from the European Union, an economic slowdown in Germany, a political collapse in Italy, rising political tensions in Hong Kong, and longstanding international institutions and agreements under pressure.

European Council President Donald Tusk described this weekend's G7 leaders' summit in the French seaside resort of Biarritz as a "last moment" for its members - the United States, Britain, Germany, Japan, France, Italy and Canada - to restore unity.

Amidst all the tumult, and with interest rates across the globe already lower than they've been historically, monetary policy may be no match. "There is not that much policy space and there are material risks at the moment that we all are trying to manage," Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said here on Friday.

Small countries like Sweden and Turkey, buffeted by volatile capital flows as central banks worldwide cut rates, are now struggling to deal with the possibility that the global trading order may be changing for good. Meanwhile, large nations worry they will slip into a rut that may be hard to escape.

For the US central bank, if trade uncertainty drives down business investment and starts to hurt consumer spending, it may find itself cutting rates back to zero with the economy still muddling along, forcing Powell and his fellow policymakers to weigh whether to restart crisis-era tools even outside a crisis or recession.

"There's only so much a monetary policy action can do," Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester told Reuters on the sidelines of the conference on Saturday. "You have to recognize that the US economy is affected by what's going on in the rest of the world... I do worry about this whole undermining of institutions globally."



JACKSON HOLE, Wyo: Central bank chiefs attend the central banking conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

In a development that has cheered some policymakers, Germany has signaled it may deliver some fiscal stimulus to offset a manufacturing slump. But with the European Central Bank signaling it too is ready to battle slowing growth by easing policy further, Powell's Fed may be forced to act despite its desire to stay above the day-to-day fray of changing trade policy. "You need to respect that we are part of the global economy; the global economy is slowing, other central banks are easing, and they are responding to a common global slowdown," Fed Vice Chair Richard Clarida said on Friday.

"What monetary policy can do is to use its tools to do the best it can to keep the economy close to full employment and stable inflation; depending upon the shock hitting the economy and depending upon the response to that shock, the insulation may not be perfect," Clarida said. —Reuters

AUB wins 'Best Online Cash Management Bank in Kuwait'

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it has been awarded the "Best Online Cash Management Bank" in Kuwait 2019 in corporate banking for the third year in succession, by Global Finance, the leading international finance magazine.

This award is given to banks that offer advanced local, regional and international banking solutions combined with the latest innovative digital technologies with the aim to offer modern products and services that meet the needs and aspirations of customers.

AUB's Cash Management capabilities is led by its market leading 'B2B' platform which offers companies the capabilities to manage their cash, payments and receivables through the internet and over the mobile.

AUB won this award based on a set of specialized criteria, including the Bank's strong strategy in acquiring and serving digital customers, success in migrating customers to digital platforms, the growth

of the digital customers base, the breadth of digital products offerings, providing evidence of tangible benefits for the Bank's digital initiatives and the unique design of the Bank's website.

Ahli United Bank was selected for this award through a rigorous assessment process conducted by a world-class jury at Infosys, a global leader in technology services, consulting and external support. The editors of Global Finance took over the final selection process for all winners and considered only the banks that entered the competition for the awards.

On this occasion, Tareq Muhmood, AUB Acting Chief Executive Officer said "We are pleased to receive this prestigious award from Global Finance for the third time in a row, which is a recognition of the success of the Bank's initiatives. Over the past 18 months we have seen growing adoption by our customers of our B2B platform which is a key differentiator for Ahli United Bank in Kuwait".

Muhmood added "Ahli United Bank has always been at the forefront of innovation in the banking sector. This prestigious award confirms our successful efforts that focus on our customers first within our digital transformation. Tareq congratulated AUB's Cash Management Team for their vigorous efforts to continue, develop and expand AUB banking service in accordance with an ambitious business plan that is aligned with the



Ali Al-Naqi



Hisham Zaghloul

Bank's vision of digital transformation."

Hisham Zaghloul, AUB Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Corporate Banking, said "We are proud to receive this prestigious international award from a leading financial magazine as Global Finance. We are always striving to provide a unique banking experience, innovative and integrated quality services to our customers. We consider this prestigious award as evidence of the Bank's leadership in digital services in a competitive environment as well as the success of the digital transformation plan that the Bank systematically implements."

draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Mohammad Al-Wazzan
2. Al-Sayed Fadhel Al-Sayed Ghaith
3. Abdulnaser Mohammed Abutaleb
4. Majidail Altameemi
5. Tasnim Abbas Surti

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi

central bank are weak and very low."

"However," he said, "there won't be a forced prescription from the IMF or the World Bank on Sudan." On the politically tricky topic of government subsidies for bread, fuel, electricity and medicine, Hamdok said any changes would only be made after "deep discussions" with the people.

"The people are the ones who will make the decision on this issue," he said. He also said he had been talking with the United States to remove Sudan from its list of state sponsors of terrorism - a designation which has left Khartoum isolated from most of the international financial system since 1993. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. government, the IMF or the World Bank.

Devalued currency

Sudan has been in economic turmoil since it lost the bulk of its oil production in 2011 when South Sudan seceded after decades of civil war. It has devalued the pound several times but not been able to halt the fall. One dollar currently fetches 65 pounds on the black market versus the official rate of 45.

"We will work to unify the exchange rate, and to manage the exchange rate using a flexible managed exchange rate," Hamdok said, without going into details. He said Sudan needed to restore trust in the banking system. Hamdok, who studied agricultural economics, has also worked at the African Development Bank and most recently as a special advisor at the Trade and Development Bank in Ethiopia. He said Sudan needed to tap its agricultural potential.

Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Sudan is rich in agricultural resources but high taxes, corruption and mismanagement have held back investment in the sector for decades. "We want to take the Sudanese economy from an economy based on consumption and imports to a productive economy, and stop exporting products such as livestock and agriculture as raw materials," Hamdok said. "Instead, we will aim to process them so as to create added value."

He also said he wants to focus on peace-building in a nation that has seen conflicts flare in multiple parts of the country, and endured a civil war that ended in the succession of the South.

"Stopping war, which represents 70 percent of the expenditure in the budget, will create a surplus that can be invested in production and particularly agriculture, livestock, and related industries," he said. Shortly after Bashir was ousted, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia pledged \$3 billion in aid to Sudan, in the form of a \$500 million deposit in the central bank, which Sudan has already received, as well as fuel, wheat, and medicine. The generals who forced Bashir from power took over and then, after months of wrangling and further violent protests, agreed to set up a transitional body including civilians to pave the way to elections in three years' time.

Many hope Hamdok can shepherd Sudan through the transitional period, but some opposition members and analysts worry that the power-sharing deal may fall short of expectations in a country where the military, backed by Islamists, has dominated for decades. —Reuters

Strong first half of year for German incoming tourism

DUBAI: With an increase of 3.3 percent in June, German incoming tourism is continuing its steady growth. According to provisional figures from the Federal Statistical Office, 39.8 million international overnights were registered across hotels and accommodation establishments with more than ten beds between January and June - a three percent (1.2 million) rise on the equivalent period of the previous year.

"Destination Germany is positioning itself well within the increasingly competitive market", says Petra Hedorfer, Chief Executive Officer of the German National Tourist Board (GNTB). "According to the latest trend analysis by IPK International to develop international travel in line with the World Travel Monitor, Germany's incoming tourism is performing better than the worldwide average (plus 3.5 percent) with an increase of 3.7 percent. Germany is even generating a growth of four percent from European source markets, according to IPK, placing it well ahead of the European average (plus 2.5 percent)." There was a 4.7 percent increase on comparative figures of the previous year in flight bookings made by overseas visitors throughout the first half of 2019, according to analyses by market research company Forward Keys. The segment of advance bookings (at least 120 days prior to departure) grew far above average by 11 percent.

Destination Germany's partners confirm positive development

Gabriela Ahrens, Senior Director of Leisure Sales Home Markets (DACH) at Lufthansa Group, explains: "As our home market, Lufthansa's focus is on Destination Germany. We have recognized the importance and potential of Germany's incoming tourism, and are increasingly targeting the segment with various target group-oriented activities with the German National Tourist Board." Andreas von Puttkamer, Head of Aviation at Munich Airport, adds: "In the first half of 2019, Munich Airport registered a new record of 22.7 million air passengers, with an increase just short of five percent (more than one million additional passengers). Once again, the intercontinental segment proved to be the driver of growth, seeing a rise of over ten percent within this period." And there is a further record year in sight for Germany's hotels, according to Markus Luthe, Managing Director of the German Hotel Association (IHA): "Holidays in Germany are back in trend in Germany in particular. In addition, bookings made by international guests are continuing to rise. With an increase of four percent, the average return per room (RevPAR) is even above the European average of 3.3 percent."

With its "German Summer Cities" campaign, the German National Tourist Board has already been able to strengthen the popularity of Destination Germany this year. Visitor attractions are enjoying an especially dynamic increase in demand. Dr.-Ing. h.c. Roland Mack, Managing Partner of Europa-Park GmbH & Co Mack KG, explains: "Europa-Park kicked off the 2019 season with many new, exciting attractions. "Kronasar - The Museum-Hotel" was completed in May and is welcoming its first guests. In addition, we have recently celebrated the reopening of the Scandinavian themed area. These highlights have played a role in increasing our overnights from France, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates within the first half of the year already."

Evelina Hederer, Director of Business Development at Expedia Group Media Solutions, comments: "The demand from Germany's TOP 5 incoming markets - the USA, Great Britain, Japan, Canada and Australia - increased by more than five percent in comparison to the previous year within the first half of 2019. Berlin and Hamburg were particularly popular with steady growth throughout the first six months, as were Cologne, Dsseldorf and the Black Forest, which even registered double-digit growth."

Cautiously optimistic outlook for second half of year
Early indications for the second half of 2019 suggest ongoing stable development. According to Forward Keys, the advance bookings for flights from overseas markets to Germany were 2.1 percent above the comparative figures of the previous year at the end of July.

Petra Hedorfer adds: "These latest analyses should not let us forget that we still have major challenges such as weaker economic growth in the eurozone, climate discussions, trade conflicts and the possibility of a no-deal Brexit to overcome."

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account

Sudan needs up to \$10 billion in aid to rebuild economy: PM

KHARTOUM: Sudan needs \$8 billion in foreign aid over the next two years to cover its import bill and help rebuild its ravaged economy after months of political turmoil, its new prime minister said on Saturday. Abdalla Hamdok, sworn in three days earlier to head a transitional government after the ousting of veteran leader Omar Al-Bashir, said up to another \$2 billion of foreign reserves deposits were needed in the next three months to halt a fall in the currency.

The 61-year-old economist, who has worked for the UN Economic Commission for Africa, said he had started talks with the IMF and the World Bank to discuss restructuring Sudan's crippling debt, and had approached friendly nations and funding bodies about the aid.

Mounting public anger over shortages of food, fuel and hard currency triggered mass demonstrations that eventually forced Bashir from power in April. "We are in communication to achieve this," Hamdok said in his first interview with a foreign media outlet. "The foreign reserves in the

Business

Al Mulla Automobiles launches latest Mercedes-Benz collection catalogue

Available in Mercedes-Benz Boutique in The Avenues, Al-Rai showroom and Ahmadi



KUWAIT: Al Mulla Automobiles Co, the sole authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait has launched the latest collection of accessories by Mercedes-Benz, offering customers and visitors the full range of exclusive new products designed by Mercedes-Benz and catering to every segment of car enthusiasts and fans.

Featuring modern, innovative and timeless stylish products, the collection promises detail, perfection and high quality in every piece available in five sub-collections, which include the Mercedes-Benz Collection, Mercedes-AMG Collection, Mercedes-Benz Classic Collection, Mercedes-Benz Trucks Collection, and Mercedes-Benz Van Collection.

Commenting on the new collection, Michael Ruehle, Divisional General Manager of Mercedes-Benz Passenger Cars & Vans at Al Mulla Automobiles, said "We have the pleasure

to introduce to our customers and every car enthusiast in Kuwait the latest collection of accessories by Mercedes-Benz which are synonymous with outstanding engineering and unrivalled technology. The accessories do not fall short in integrating the Mercedes-Benz signature high-grade craftsmanship, whether in the modern collection of the accessories, the classic or the special AMG, in addition to a wide range of vehicle accessories."

Mercedes-Benz invites its customers and guests to explore the new collection of accessories by Mercedes-Benz at its locations at the Mercedes-Benz Boutique at The Avenues, as well as its showrooms in Al-Rai and Ahmadi. Also available on their visit is the new Mercedes-Benz Catalogue 2019, which provides them with a comprehensive and detailed compilation of the Mercedes-Benz Collection items 2019.

The Collection: Modern, innovative, time-

less and high-quality

The Mercedes-Benz Collection combines emotion, functionality and timelessness using modern and innovative materials and cuts in uniquely designed products. The collection has an unmistakable look that integrates the brand's vehicle craftsmanship and design philosophy.

The Mercedes-AMG Collection is dedicated to those who love driving and live for performance. From sporty-functional products to modern but timeless accessories, the Mercedes-AMG Collection blends a range of high-quality materials with details and perfection to promise individual items that make the Mercedes-AMG brand tangible well beyond the car itself for customers and fans alike.

The new Mercedes-Benz Classic Collection features classic lines and high-quality materials, combined with attention to detail, functionality and high-grade craftsmanship from many years

of experience in the manufacture of quality products. Suitable for everyday use and timeless stylish, these products will find many applications among classic car enthusiasts of all ages.

The Mercedes-Benz Trucks Collection brings new colors and shapes as well as completely new branding to create the unique world of the Mercedes-Benz Trucks lifestyle.

As for the new Mercedes-Benz Van Collection, it offers fascinating products that inspire not only drivers, but also fans. For the first time ever, the diversified range of products does not only focus on functionality but also on a design that speaks for itself.

To learn more about the latest collections of accessories by Mercedes-Benz customers are welcome to visit Al Mulla Automobiles Co's new Mercedes-Benz boutique at The Avenues, Mercedes-Benz's Al-Rai showroom, and Ahmadi locations.



Investors look at dollar stores as US recession fears increase

NEW YORK: More investors are watching the shares of discount retailers like Dollar General Corp and Dollar Tree Inc, which perform better during economic downturns, in the hopes of gauging changes in consumer behavior, though higher tariffs may erode the companies' ability to act as economic bellwethers.

Fund managers and analysts say that they are looking for signs of a so-called "trade-down trade", in which consumers forgo shopping at higher-end department stores or supermarkets in favor of the more limited selection but lower prices at deep discounters. Between December 2008 and December 2011, for instance, shares of Dollar Tree soared nearly 200 percent as consumers pinched pennies during the Great Recession, while the benchmark S&P 500 gained just 39 percent over the same time.

For the year to date, shares of Dollar Tree are up 7.3 percent as it integrates its purchase of former competitor Family Dollar, while shares of Dollar General are up 28.4 percent. Both companies are scheduled to report earnings Aug. 29.

"The good news is consumers often shop more at the dollar stores during periods of economic weakness. We wouldn't expect a sharp increase in sales, but we suspect sales will remain stable at the dollar stores while other companies may feel greater pain," said Mark DeVaul, a portfolio manager at the Hennessy Equity and Income fund, who has a position in Dollar Tree.

"We believe the treasure hunt shopping atmosphere will continue to drive traffic and somewhat insulate them from competition from Amazon."

There are no indications that the United States is currently in a recession, though investors are becoming increasingly worried that the longest economic expansion in US history is nearing its end. —Reuters

KFH continues 'Your KFH Visa card, key to your house in Europe' campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues "Your 'KFH' Visa card, the key to your house in Europe" Campaign. This unprecedented campaign aims at differentiating KFH customers by offering them unique experience, where spending KD 1 using "KFH" Visa cards could make their dreams of owning a property of their choice in any European countries come true.

The campaign is valid till 16th of September 2019, where 3 KFH customers will be the winners in the campaign. There are three draw events: once every month. The winner is eligible to get financial funds to purchase a property of their choice only in any European country. In addition, business class tickets to Europe with a companion and stay in a 5-star hotel for five nights will

Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma account draws

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank conducted the weekly draws on Al-Najma Account and the draw on the "Salary and Cash on Top" campaign. The draws were conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jean.

The results of the draw were as follows:

- 1- Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 was for the share of Nesmah Owayad Mohammad Sultan.
- 2- The "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign prize of KD 1,000 was for the share of Mohammad Rashed Al Ajmi.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is fea-

less and high-quality

to be provided to finalize the deal, with KD 1,000 pocket money to be used."

Customers earn one chance for every KD 1 spent locally, and two chances for every KD 1 spent internationally to enter the draw. Customers eligible for the draw are "KFH" Visa cardholders. The campaign that came in tandem with holiday season, contributes in adding value to customers' experience upon using KFH Visa cards.

Getting chances to enter draw of winning a property in any of European countries encourages the usage of cards, revitalizes the market and boosts merchants' sales. KFH continues its efforts to enhance collaboration with Visa to launch and carry out several exciting campaigns as this increases customers' satisfaction and expands the market share of the bank in the field of banking cards.

This campaign is part of KFH's innovation strategy and plays a role in maintaining the leadership position of the bank in the field of banking cards in Kuwait. The campaign is an episode of the success series especially after the successful launch of the first-of-its-kind in Kuwait "Metal Card" for the private banking customers, and the winning of Visa Global award of the Fastest Growing Debit Portfolio in Kuwait.

It is worth noting that KFH announced Shaikha

tured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000, monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the largest prize - linked bank account payout of KD 1,500,000. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes.

As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

As regarding "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees as well as the retirees and which is valid until 31 December 2019 and the mechanism of joining this campaign for availing its bene-



Your KFH Card.. the key to your house in Europe

VISA

Adnan Al-Mathkour as the winner of the first draw of "Your 'KFH' Visa card, the key to your house in Europe" Campaign. There are still two chances for customers to win a property of their choice in any European country.

fits, the Bank explained that Kuwaiti employees with a salary of KD 500 & above whether newly recruited or in service can transfer their salary to the Bank and avail the benefits of this campaign by getting instant cash gift of KD 250 or an interest free loan 5 times the salary up to KD 10,000, add to this they will automatically enter the weekly draw on KD 1,000. As for the expatriate customers categorized under Premier Banking Account with a salary KD of 1,700 and above, they will get instant cash gift.

The retirees with pension KD 1,000 & above will also get an instant cash gift of KD 150 when transferring their pension to the Bank and automatically enter the weekly draw on a prize of KD 1,000 and avail the benefits of this campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees working in private and public sector as well as the retirees. Further, the campaign provides customers with the opportunity to get additional benefits and take advantage of the advanced & unrivalled services & products the Bank provides to its customers to meet their needs and expectations.

What's On

Pepper Restaurant at Jumeirah Messilah Beach hotel & spa wins numerous awards

Pepper Restaurant at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa recently won three internationally recognized awards at the World Luxury Restaurant and Spa Awards ceremony held in St Petersburg, Russia. The prestigious awards are regarded as one of the most significant in the hospitality industry. The hotel's premium steakhouse, Pepper Restaurant is known for its extravagant ambience and delectable signature masterpieces, has won the "Luxury Steakhouse", "Luxury Hotel Restaurant" and "Luxury Grill" awards respectively.

Savino Leone, General Manager of Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, said: "We are honored to be the winner of a wide range of luxury awards and recognitions, on both national and international levels for our Pepper Steakhouse Restaurant at World Luxury Restaurant and Spa Awards. It highlights the quality of service we deliver and this recognition is a result of our combined team work and a reflection of how committed we are to deliver an exceptional dining experience to all our guests." The World Travel Awards are voted for by travel and tourism professionals along with business and leisure travel consumers worldwide.



Indian Embassy announcement

It has been brought to the attention of the Embassy of India that unscrupulous individuals are telephoning Indian nationals, posing as Embassy officials, with a view to extracting money. These individuals may also sometimes provide certain personal particulars to make their claims sound convincing.

All Indian nationals in Kuwait are hereby informed that the Embassy of India never requests for any such payments/money transfers, nor for your bank details, nor for money transfers through telephone calls or through unauthorized means, nor will ask for your banking credentials/credit card details etc.

Established processes and procedures are in place through various services provided by the Embassy, which are clearly laid out on the Embassy's official website (<http://www.indembktwt.gov.in/>). All concerned are therefore requested to exercise caution and not to fall prey to any fraudulent attempts.

FAIPS sizzles at HMUN 2019



A strong team of 30 delegates from FAIPS-DPS, Kuwait participated at the Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN- 2019) held at Hyderabad from Aug 15th to Aug 19th 2019. The four-day conference saw the participation of delegates from over 1800 students from around 188 schools all over the globe, who engaged in multiple rounds of speeches, debates, negotiations and discussions before coming up with resolutions to solve pressing issues in the present world.

The scintillating performances by Sanjana Ravindranath and Katari Prajeeth captured the hearts of the delegates at HMUN India's Got Talent night. Rohan Raju of class X won the Honorable Mention award for representing Portugal in the

DISEC committee. Another feather in the cap for FAIPS - DPS was that Ruth Rachel Zachariah of class XII was selected by HMUN secretariat as an Assistant Director for the Historical North Atlantic Treaty Organization (HNATO) Committee. This is the first time a student from Kuwait schools was selected for this post.

All the delegates from FAIPS-DPS testified that HMUN 2019 was a powerful and transformative activity that would help them grow into global leaders with the ability to see different points of view. The school management, teachers and students of FAIPS congratulated all the winners and participants. FAIPS has an active MUN club and hosts their own MUN conference every year.



For more streamlined chicken enchiladas, use a slow cooker

Chicken enchiladas offer a rich and complex combination of flavors and textures, but traditional cooking methods can be tedious. We wanted a more streamlined recipe for chicken enchiladas, one that utilized our slow cooker to make the filling and that enabled the enchiladas to be quickly assembled and finished in the oven. First we created a simple but flavorful red chile sauce with onion, garlic, spices, and tomato sauce, then braised chicken thighs directly in the sauce, which both enhanced the flavor of the sauce and ensured moist, flavorful meat for our enchilada filling.

Monterey Jack cheese complemented the rich filling nicely, while canned jalapenos and fresh cilantro rounded out the flavors and provided tang and brightness. When it came time for assembly, we brushed the tortillas with oil and microwaved them to make them pliable.

After experimenting with oven temperatures and times, we found that baking the assembled enchiladas covered for 15 minutes in a 450 F oven resulted in perfectly melted cheese, and the edges of the tortillas did not dry out in the process. Serve with sour cream, diced avocado, sliced radishes, shredded romaine lettuce, and lime wedges.

CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

- Ingredients**
 Servings: 4-6
 Cooking time: 4 to 5 hours on low
 Slow cooker size: 4 to 7 quarts
 1 onion, chopped fine
 1/4 cup vegetable oil
 3 tablespoons chili powder
 3 garlic cloves, minced
 2 teaspoons ground coriander
 2 teaspoons ground cumin
 1 (15-ounce) can tomato sauce
 2 teaspoons sugar



- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs, trimmed
 Salt and pepper
 8 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, shredded (2 cups)
 1/2 cup minced fresh cilantro
 1/4 cup jarred jalapenos, chopped
 1 tablespoon lime juice
 12 (6-inch) corn tortillas

Preparation

Microwave onion, 2 tablespoons oil, chili powder, garlic, coriander, and cumin in bowl, stirring occasionally, until onions are softened, about 5 minutes; transfer to slow cooker. Stir in tomato sauce and sugar. Season chicken with pepper and nestle into slow cooker. Cover and cook until chicken is tender, 4 to 5 hours on low.

Transfer chicken to cutting board, let cool slightly, then shred into bite-size pieces using 2 forks. Combine chicken, 3/4 cup sauce, 1 1/2 cups Monterey Jack, cilantro, jalapenos, and lime juice in bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 450 F. Spread 3/4 cup sauce over bottom of 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Brush both sides of tortillas with remaining 2 tablespoons oil. Stack tortillas, wrap in damp dish towel, and place on plate; microwave until warm and pliable, about 1 minute. Working with 1 warm tortilla at a time, spread 1/3 cup chicken filling across center of tortilla. Roll tortilla tightly around filling and place seam side down in baking dish; arrange enchiladas in 2 columns across width of dish.

Pour remaining sauce over enchiladas to cover completely and sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup Monterey Jack. Cover dish tightly with greased aluminum foil. Bake until enchiladas are heated through and cheese is melted, 15 to 20 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes before serving.

Try this dimpled, chewy, herb-topped deep-dish focaccia

Centuries ago, focaccia began as a by-product: When bakers needed to gauge the heat of the wood-fired oven focaccia stems from focolare and means "fireplace", they would tear off a swatch of dough, flatten it, drizzle it with olive oil, and pop it into the hearth to bake as an edible oven thermometer. From there evolved countless variations on the theme. The stuffed pizza-like focaccia in Puglia and Calabria, the ring-shaped focaccia in Naples, focaccia made from rich or lean doughs, and even sweet versions. That said, it's the dimpled, chewy, herb-topped deep-dish focaccia alla genovese that's most fundamental. As is traditional, our recipe starts with a sponge, a mixture of flour, yeast, and water that ferments for at least 6 hours before it's added to the bulk dough. The sponge helped develop gluten (which gives breads structure and chew), depth of flavor, and a hint of tang.

Rather than knead the dough, we simply used a series of gentle folds, which developed the gluten structure further while also incorporating air for a tender interior crumb. (This method was also helpful because our dough was quite wet and therefore difficult to knead: the more hydrated a bread dough, the more open and bubbly its crumb, a characteristic we were looking for in focaccia because steam bubbles form and expand more readily.)

Fruity olive oil is a requisite ingredient, but when we added it straight to the dough, it turned the bread dense and cakelike. Instead, we baked the bread in cake pans coated with a couple tablespoons of oil. Be sure to reduce the temperature immediately after putting the loaves in the oven.

ROSEMARY FOCACCIA

- Ingredients**
 Servings: 12-16 (Makes two 9-inch round loaves)
 Start to finish: 4 1/2 hours plus 6 hours fermenting time
Sponge:
 1/2 cup (2 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour
 1/3 cup water, room temperature
 1/4 teaspoon instant or rapid-rise yeast
Dough:
 2 1/2 cups (12 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour
 1 1/4 cups water, room temperature
 1 teaspoon instant or rapid-rise yeast
 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary



Preparation

For the sponge: Stir all ingredients in large bowl with wooden spoon until well combined. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and let sit at room temperature until sponge has risen and begins to collapse, about 6 hours (sponge can sit at room temperature for up to 24 hours). For the dough: Stir flour, water, and yeast into sponge with wooden spoon until well combined. Cover bowl tightly with plastic and let dough rest for 15 minutes.

Stir 2 teaspoons salt into dough with wooden spoon until thoroughly incorporated, about 1 minute. Cover bowl tightly with plastic and let dough rest for 30 minutes.

Using greased bowl scraper (or rubber spatula), fold dough over itself by gently lifting and folding edge of dough toward middle. Turn bowl 45 degrees and fold dough again; repeat turning bowl and folding dough 6 more times (total of 8 folds). Cover tightly with plastic and let rise for 30 minutes. Repeat folding and rising. Fold dough again, then cover bowl tightly with plastic and let dough rise until nearly doubled in size, 30 minutes to 1 hour. One hour before baking, adjust oven rack to upper-middle position, place baking stone on rack, and heat oven to 500 F. Coat two 9-inch round cake pans with 2 tablespoons oil each. Sprinkle each pan with 1/2 teaspoon salt. Transfer dough to lightly floured counter and dust top with flour. Divide dough in half and cover loosely with greased plastic. Working with 1 piece of dough at a time (keep remaining piece covered), shape into 5-inch round by gently tucking under edges. Place dough rounds seam side up in prepared pans, coat bottoms and sides with oil, then flip rounds over. Cover loosely with greased plastic and let dough rest for 5 minutes.

Using your fingertips, gently press each dough round into corners of pan, taking care not to tear dough. (If dough resists stretching, let it relax for 5 to 10 minutes before trying to stretch it again.) Using fork, poke surface of dough 25 to 30 times, popping any large bubbles. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon rosemary evenly over top of each loaf, cover loosely with greased plastic, and let dough rest until slightly bubbly, about 10 minutes. Place pans on baking stone and reduce oven temperature to 450 F. Bake until tops are golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes, rotating pans halfway through baking. Let loaves cool in pans for 5 minutes. Remove loaves from pans and transfer to wire rack. Brush tops with any oil remaining in pans and let cool for 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Science

Scientists one step closer to saving the northern white rhino from extinction

OL PEJETA: Veterinarians have successfully harvested eggs from the last two surviving northern white rhinos, taking them one step closer to bringing the species back from the brink of extinction, scientists said in Kenya on Friday. Science is the only hope for the northern white rhino after the death last year of the last male, named Sudan, at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya where the groundbreaking procedure was carried out Thursday.

Two females, Najin, 30, and daughter Fatu, 19, are the only survivors of the subspecies of white rhino, and live under 24-hour armed guard at Ol Pejeta. However neither is able to carry a calf. Fatu has degenerative lesions in her uterus and Najin has weak hind legs which could cause complications if she fell pregnant.

The rhinos underwent a highly risky procedure carried out by a team of international vets, which saw them anaesthetised for almost two hours, and their eggs extracted using techniques that have taken years of research and development. "It was a great success, yesterday ten oocytes were harvested which was about the number we hoped for" said Jan Stejskal, of the Dvur Kralove Zoo in Czech Republic, which in 2009 sent four northern white rhinos to Kenya in a bid to encourage them to breed.

Technique developed from scratch

He explained that after the discovery that

the two females were infertile in 2014, over 15 European zoos had given the green light for their southern white rhino females to undergo the newly-developed egg extraction technique. In July 2018 the first-ever rhino embryos were created, a hybrid of southern and northern white rhino.

The oocytes from Najin and Fatu were airlifted to a laboratory in Italy, where they will be fertilised with cryogenically frozen sperm — of which there are samples from four deceased males — likely by the end of the week. Now scientists have to develop a technique to transfer the embryos into a surrogate rhino. This has been attempted in southern white rhinos but has yet to be successful. Then it is a race against time to extract as many more eggs as possible from the living northern white females.

The team working on the project includes Ol Pejeta, Italian biotech laboratory Avantea, Czech zoo Dvur Kralove, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the German-based Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research. "As scientists we are gaining so much results and information about reproduction biology and assisted reproduction that can and will help other species which are not so close to the verge of extinction as the northern white rhino," said Frank Goritz, head veterinarian at the Leibniz institute.

Richard Vigne, the managing director of Ol

Pejeta, said efforts to revive the dying species were crucial to highlighting the "current crisis of extinction that we humans are responsible for."

Wiped out by poaching

There are five rhino species remaining on earth, of which black and white rhinos are found in Africa. The northern white rhino is generally considered a subspecies of white rhino although some scientists believe it to be a sixth species. Rhinos have few predators in the wild due to their size but have been devastated by poaching for their horns — used in traditional Chinese medicine. Modern rhinos have plodded the earth for 26 million years. As recently as the mid-19th century there were more than one million in Africa. The western black rhino was declared extinct in 2011.

If the IVF is successful, scientists say there may be several births of northern white rhino calves, but the approach has its limits. Eggs can only be collected from the females three times a year, and a lack of genetic diversity could hamper the survival of the species. However the consortium of international scientists known as BioRescue is also trying to create artificial sex cells known as gametes via stem cell transformation from the frozen tissue of other, unrelated northern white rhinos, to diversify the gene pool.

The northern white rhino once roamed Uganda, the Central African Republic, Sudan



NANYUKI: Najin, 30, and her offspring Fatu (unseen), 19, two female northern white rhinos, the last two northern white rhinos left on the planet, graze in their secured paddock on August 23, 2019 at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Nanyuki, 147 kilometers north of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. — AFP

and Chad. It is hoped a revived population — which could take up to 70 years — could eventually be re-introduced into secure habitats in these areas. "They lived in an area which really is not that safe right now, but

there are some parts of their former range where they could be released," said Stejskal, adding there was hope for some conflict-torn nations to eventually provide a secure habitat in decades to come. — AFP

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- Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- Breast surgeries
- Hernia repair
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendicectomy
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

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DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368
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DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laprosopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

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

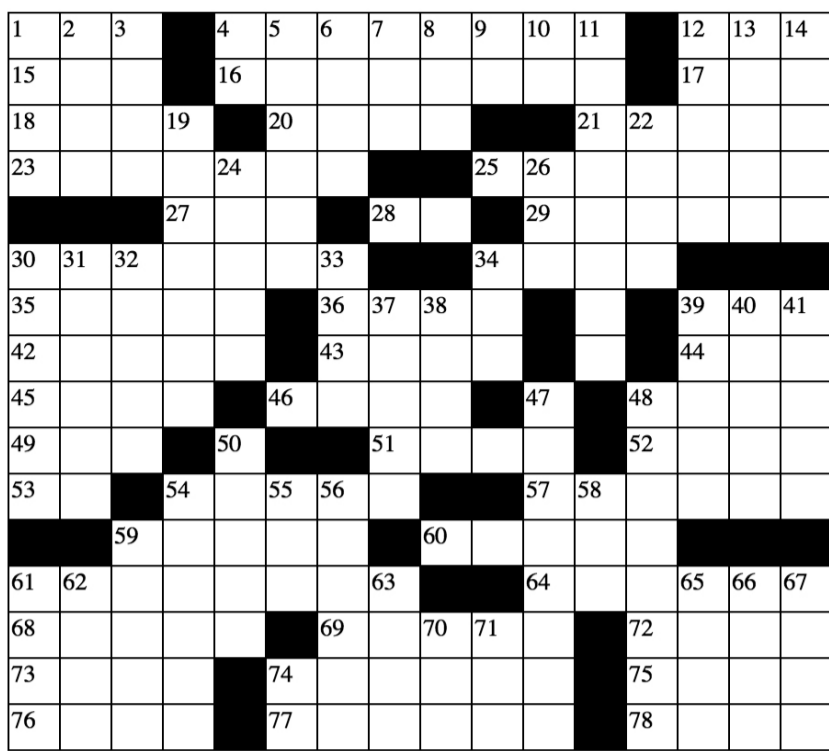
Scope of clinical Practice.

- 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
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Stars

CROSSWORD 2290



ACROSS

1. A shape that sags.
4. Deeply eroded barren land.
12. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
15. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
16. Raspberry native to eastern North America having black thimble-shaped fruit.
17. The residue that remains when something is burned.
18. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
20. Relating to the Urdu language.
21. Be in accord.
23. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
25. Of or relating to or functioning as a phrase.
27. United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).
28. A state in southeastern United States between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.
29. An island in the Aegean Sea in the Saronic Gulf.
30. (zoology) Lacking a tail or taillike appendage.
35. A painful emotion resulting from an awareness of inadequacy or guilt.
36. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
42. A variety of leaf bug.
43. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
44. The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.
45. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
46. An informal term for a father.
49. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
51. Type genus of the family Arctidae.
52. Toward the mouth or oral region.
53. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
57. Usually elongate cluster of flowers along the main stem in which the flowers at the base open first.
60. One of the two branches of the Finno-Ugric family of languages.
61. North American evergreen with small pinkish bell-shaped flowers and oblong leaves used formerly for shiplasters.
64. United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
68. Large-flowered garden plant derived chiefly from the wild pansy of Europe and having velvety petals of various colors.
69. An ancient region of northeastern Africa (southern Egypt and northern Sudan) on the Nile.
72. Set down according to a plan.
73. The capital and largest city of Mongolia.
75. Water chestnut whose spiny fruit has two rather than 4 prongs.
76. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
77. (Old Testament) The first of the major Hebrew prophets (8th century BC).
78. An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.

DOWN

1. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
2. A river in northern England that flows southeast through West Yorkshire.
3. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
4. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
5. A person who has received a degree from a school (high school or college or university).
6. A challenge to do something dangerous or foolhardy.
7. A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
8. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
9. A state in southeastern United States.
10. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
11. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
12. A member of a monotheistic sect of Zoroastrian origin.
13. An association of nations dedicated to economic and political cooperation in southeastern Asia.
14. A Hindu disciple of a swami.
19. 1 species.
22. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
24. Having help.
26. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
31. Trousers made with chino cloth.
32. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
33. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
34. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
37. Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
38. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
39. Something (often something deceptively attractive) that catches you unawares.
40. A communist state in Indochina on the South China Sea.
41. English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
47. The range within which a voice can be heard.
48. A source of the dye archil and of litmus.
50. In a wry manner.
54. A resident of Kansas.
55. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
56. A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
58. A resource.
59. A joint that holds two parts together so that one can swing relative to the other.
62. Not easy.
63. A family of languages of the Fula people of west Africa in the sub-Saharan regions from Senegal to Chad.
65. A sudden short attack.
66. City in northern Austria on the Danube.
67. At or constituting a border or edge.
70. (computer science) A measure of how densely information is packed on a storage medium.
71. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
74. Being one more than one hundred.

Yesterday's Solution

S	I	S		I	O	N	E	S	C	O		W	A	T	S	
C	A	T		S	H	I	N	P	A	D		A	R	A	K	
A	G	A		L	I	M	E	A	D	E		L	U	R	E	
B	O	R	N	E	O			R	A	S	S	L	I	N	G	
			E			G	U	E	V	A	R	A				
A	H	A	B			G	E	N	R	E		B	H	A	G	A
C	O	R	N	C	O	B			I	R		I		N	O	X
C	O	G		A	N				B		D	J	I	N	N	I
E	R	I	T	R	E	A	N			G	R	A	N	A	D	A
D	A	V	I	D		R	A			B	A	L		I	L	
E	Y	E	L	I	K	E			O		B	A	A	L		
			T	A	U	T			S	P	A	N	I	A	R	D
A	B	A			R	E	N	T	E		E	D	G	A	R	
C	A	L	P	A	C		O	R	D	E	R		E	G	O	
I	R	E		S	H	E	N	Y	A	N	G		N	E	W	
D	I	E		L	I	N	E	A	L	L	Y		D	E	N	

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Do you work with a lot of documents, Aries? If so, you might find today that some of the papers you need are missing. They might seem to have vanished into a black hole. Look everywhere, of course, but chances are that someone has them and isn't aware of it. Don't be too shy to ask people about the papers. You could save yourself a lot of unnecessary effort this way.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A missed communication - or miscommunication - with a romantic partner could find you waiting in the wrong place, Taurus. If you're planning to get together with someone special tonight, make sure you get the full details of the location, including the exact address, cross street, and driving directions. Write it down! And don't forget to note the time.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today you could find that you've left something at home, perhaps a book or letter that you need. There's no way around it, Gemini, you'll have to go back. This could make you late. Stay calm! This is a temporary irritation that will pass. Making yourself crazy over it will only stress you out. At lunch, treat yourself to a glass of wine or a soothing cup of tea.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may need to spend a lot of time in the car today, Cancer. You could hit traffic and miss some of the people you need to see. Irritations could quickly turn to anger if you aren't careful. Park your car and walk to some of the places. This will get you out of the crush of cars and work off your frustration at the same time.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Paperwork involving money may need doing today, Leo, and this could take you away from what you love most - working on your own projects and spending time with a love partner. Don't get too crazy over it or you might make mistakes. Correcting those errors would eat up more time. Take care of it methodically and quickly and you'll be able to get back to your life.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

An unhappy visitor, probably a woman, could come to your home today, Virgo. This person has a lot of anger right now and probably won't make much of a conversationalist. If you can't make your excuses, put on some music or perhaps a funny movie. You might be surprised at the results! Some soothing chords or a few laughs might accomplish wonders. Be clever!



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Have you been expecting an important letter, Libra? If so, it may not arrive for a while. If it doesn't appear today, call the person who sent it and ask for a duplicate because the original could be lost in the mail. Better to have two copies than wait for one that will never come.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Money worries could have your nerves on edge, Scorpio. It's better to focus on doing what you have to do to resolve your difficulties than it is to waste time fretting over them. Your business head is operating at a high level today. If you stay focused, you can accomplish wonders. Formulate a plan of action and put it to work.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A lot of tedious paperwork is probably waiting for you, and you will want to get it done as quickly as possible. You might be distracted and irritated by everyone goofing off. Don't worry about everyone else. Concentrate on your own work. You will only cause further irritation by getting upset with everyone. You will be done with your tasks when they're just getting started on theirs!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Some facts that you may need for certain projects might prove elusive today, Capricorn. No matter what website or periodical you consult, you'll probably come across some interesting stuff but not exactly what you're looking for. If the task isn't urgent, it might be a good idea to put it off for a bit. Otherwise you'll spend too much time looking for the impossible.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You should pay attention to your dreams, Aquarius, but tonight your subconscious might send you some garbled information that means next to nothing. If the message is obvious, pay attention to it, but if you have to perform too many mental gymnastics to discern what the symbols mean, they might mean nothing. Sometimes a dream is just a dream.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A miscommunication with a business or romantic partner might cause some ruffled feathers today, Pisces. You can divert this by explaining the facts clearly whenever you give information. Make sure your partner understands what you're saying before they go and act on it! For your own part, don't be shy about asking what someone means. Remember, it's better to ask a stupid question than make a dumb mistake!

Wordsearch Puzzle

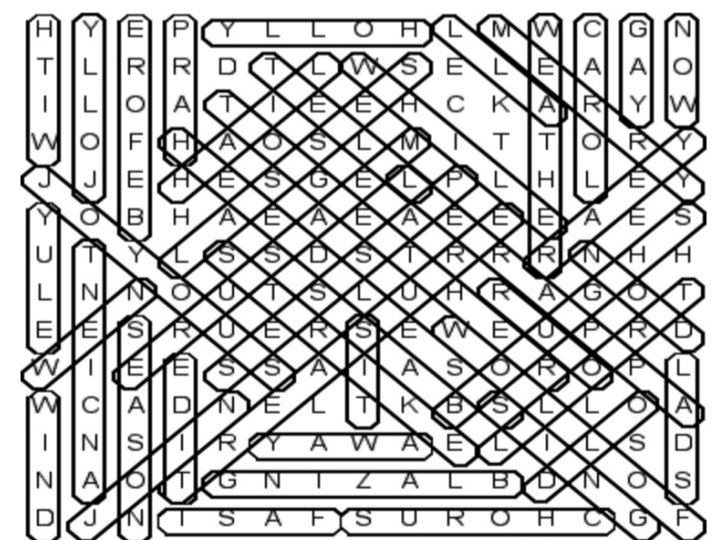
Back to School

Find and circle all of the School related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Mark Twain quotation.

I	Y	D	U	T	S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	N	U	R	S	E	H
S	L	I	C	N	E	P	A	V	C	H	A	L	K	B	O	A	R	D	E
O	B	N	E	G	N	I	N	A	E	L	V	E	R	L	M	E	T	S	
O	E	M	Y	O	S	E	I	D	A	T	S	L	A	I	C	O	S	S	T
O	L	C	C	L	H	C	O	U	R	S	E	S	O	O	L	O	C	E	R
R	L	F	I	D	H	I	S	S	L	R	L	S	N	N	P	R	L	C	A
S	J	I	K	F	G	O	M	C	E	A	T	L	E	I	E	H	A	N	E
E	A	R	C	R	F	A	M	K	H	N	P	W	A	N	N	C	S	E	G
L	N	S	A	I	X	O	C	E	E	O	F	I	T	C	S	N	S	I	A
U	I	T	P	E	E	O	L	M	W	R	O	S	C	R	L	U	R	C	U
R	T	D	K	N	L	C	N	O	I	O	U	L	M	N	I	L	O	S	G
F	O	A	C	D	E	G	A	E	O	B	R	O	Y	N	I	S	O	R	N
S	R	Y	A	S	I	K	N	F	L	H	O	K	T	A	E	R	M	R	A
Y	E	P	B	S	L	D	C	O	E	R	C	E	E	C	R	W	P	I	L
A	S	Z	S	E	S	I	O	O	H	T	R	S	R	T	H	D	M	Y	E
W	A	A	Z	D	N	H	B	T	L	C	E	E	T	N	E	D	U	T	S
L	R	D	E	I	C	R	A	R	O	C	T	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	
L	E	S	U	S	U	B	O	M	A	A	M	U	I	S	A	N	M	Y	G
A	K	H	T	A	M	Q	C	L	R	A	T	I	A	R	E	P	A	P	
H	B	I	N	D	E	R	O	Y	L	N	Y	N	O	T	E	B	O	O	K

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| ASSIGNMENTS | ERASER | LUNCHROOM | ROLL CALL |
| BACKPACK | EXAMS | MATH | RULES |
| BATHROOM | FIRST DAY | NEW FRIENDS | SCHOOL BUS |
| BELL | GYMNASIUM | NOTEBOOK | SCHOOL OFFICE |
| BINDER | HALLWAY | NURSE | SCHOOLYARD |
| CAFETERIA | HOMEWORK | OLD FRIENDS | SCIENCE |
| CHALKBOARD | INTERCOM | PADLOCK | SECRETARY |
| CLASSROOM | JANITOR | PAPER | SEPTEMBER |
| CLOCK | LANGUAGE ARTS | PENCILS | SOCIAL STUDIES |
| COURSES | LEARNING | PENS | STUDENT |
| DESK | LIBRARY | PRINCIPAL | STUDY |
| DOORS | LOCKER | QUIZZES | TEACHER |
| ENROLL | | | |

Mystery Christmas Carol



- | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| ALL | FOLLOW | MEASURE | TIDE |
| ANCIENT | GAY | MERRY | TIS |
| APPAREL | HAIL | NEW | TOGETHER |
| AWAY | HARP | NOW | TREASURE |
| BEFORE | HEDDLESS | OLD | TROLL |
| BLAZING | HOLLY | OUR | WEATHER |
| BOUGHS | JOIN | PASSES | WHILE |
| CAROL | JOLLY | SEASON | WIND |
| CHORUS | JOYOUS | SING | WITH |
| DON | LADS | STRIKE | YEAR |
| FAST | LASSES | TELL | YULE |

The Mystery Christmas Carol is: DECK THE HALLS

Daily SuDoku

		5						
	9			5	6	7		2
					1		6	
3	2		1					4
			6	3				
9				5			8	3
	1		3					
2		9	4	7				3
						9		

hard

Yesterday's Solution

6	1	3	4	9	7	8	2	5
9	5	8	6	2	3	1	7	4
7	4	2	8	5	1	9	6	3
8	7	5	9	3	2	6	4	1
2	3	4	1	8	6	5	9	7
1	9	6	5	7	4	2	3	8
4	8	7	2	6	5	3	1	9
3	2	9	7	1	8	4	5	6
5	6	1	3	4	9	7	8	2

medium

Lifestyle

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019



Aerial view of couples dancing to Mariachi traditional music to break the Guinness World Record of largest Mexican folk dance in Guadalajara, Jalisco state, Mexico, on Saturday. 882 people danced to Mariachi music at the start of the 26th Mariachi International Festival. — AFP photos



Couples dance to Mariachi traditional music to break the Guinness World Record of largest Mexican folk dance Dancers.

Nearly 900 Mexican performers set world record for folk dance

Nearly 900 people twirled and stamped their feet to mariachi music in the Mexican city of Guadalajara to set a Guinness record for the world's biggest folk dance. Searing heat failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the 882 men and women, who turned up Saturday in traditional costumes featuring vivid embroidery and bright colors to break the previous record, also set in Guadalajara in 2011 with 457 participants. "This new record shows that our traditions are continuing to spread among young people," Xavier Orendain, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Guadalajara and the event's organizer, told reporters.

Dancers were required to perform a choreo-

graphed routine for at least five minutes without interruption in order to qualify for the record, said Guinness judge Carlos Tapia. Their outfits were also rated, he added, with male dancers wearing traditional "charro" suits featuring hats and neckties, while the women wore vibrant dresses, bold jewelry and ribbons in their hair. The dancers, who mostly belonged to folk ballet schools, moved to a mix of mariachi standards, dazzling audiences. "It is impressive to see so much coordination and such a full expression of Mexican culture, it is the best," spectator Karla Gallardo, 24, told AFP. "Yes, we can!" participants screamed with joy when the Guinness record was announced. —AFP



Mariachi dancers pose with the Guinness World Record of largest Mexican folk dance in Guadalajara.



Couples dance to Mariachi traditional music to break the Guinness World Record of largest Mexican folk dance in Guadalajara, Jalisco state, Mexico.

Lifestyle | Music & Movies

When Bob was Bobby: Memoir offers insider's look at enigmatic Dylan

From Bob Dylan's first hard-driving blues number at summer camp to the rollicking Rolling Thunder Revue concert tour, the legendary musician's childhood best friend had a front row seat to the action. Now Louie Kemp has released a backstage pass of sorts into the mythology of Dylan, in the form of a memoir released this week, dishing on everything from the folk hero's Passover Seder meal with Marlon Brando to his own food fight at a Chinese restaurant with Joan Baez.

The duo first met in northern Wisconsin in 1953, when Dylan was still Bobby Zimmerman, 12 years old, his guitar already attached as if a limb. As rambunctious pre-teens at a Jewish camp in the northwoods of the Midwestern state-Dylan grew up just over the border in the blue-collar mining town of Hibbing, Minnesota-the friends got in their fair share of trouble, notably for a shaving cream prank on their peers that saw them steal a car.

But despite his antics Dylan was confident in his fate: "He always told me and the other kids that he was gonna be a rock and roll star," Kemp told AFP. "He said it so many times that finally I believed him." "He just had a natural musical talent that was combined with an unbelievable drive."

The rest, of course, is history-but Kemp, now 77, felt compelled to write down his unique perspective in the book entitled "Dylan & Me: 50 Years of Adventures," having known the legend throughout the evolution of his illustrious career. "It would be selfish for me to take all these stories and adventures to my grave," he said. "He felt comfortable with me because he knew I didn't have an agenda. He trusted me just like I



File photo shows Bob Dylan looks on during a photo taken in 1978 while on tour in Europe.

trusted him-but in his case it was more important." "Once you become famous it's hard to make new friends that you can really feel trustworthy with. In our case those roots went back so far, that wasn't a concern."

'Down-to-Earth'

Kemp goes on to describe how his friend Bobby Zimmerman became Bob Dylan on the University of Minnesota campus in the northern state's Twin Cities, hitchhiking through Wisconsin's capital city Madison, then Chicago, before finally reaching New York's bohemian-minded Greenwich Village.

Dylan quickly rose to fame as a regular in the Village's burgeoning folk scene, propelled to

celebrity after Baez began inviting him to play at her concerts.

"The first song that I heard of his was 'Blowin' in the Wind' and I said, 'Oh my God, he wrote that? How the hell did he do that?'" Kemp recalls. "That blew everybody away, including me." "And they just kept coming out of him, like water out of a faucet." It wasn't long before Dylan called on his childhood friend to visit him out East.

He later invited Kemp on a movie set in Mexico-Dylan was scoring the film "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid," which included the classic "Knockin' On Heaven's Door"-and to join his high-profile comeback "Tour '74." The superstar then asked Kemp to produce his "Rolling Thunder Revue"-the concert tour featured in a recent pseudo-documentary by Martin Scorsese-that saw Dylan sweep into smaller towns with a cast of fellow musicians including Joni Mitchell to play for those priced out of his larger concerts.

"He doesn't have the ego that goes with most people in entertainment," Kemp said of his old pal, who is now 78. "He never changed in that respect. He was always down-to-earth." "I gotta give him credit-the fame never got to him." Kemp illustrates a number of amusing anecdotes, including one night when the revered actor Brando turned "chartreuse" after eating too much horseshrimp at a Jewish ceremonial dinner. He also recounts Dylan's role as best man in Kemp's 1983 wedding, where the icon delighted guests with an impromptu performance. "Our relationship was like any two friends-one just happens to be Bob Dylan," Kemp said. "To me he's always been Bobby Zimmerman." — AFP



In this handout photo Bob Dylan (Bobby Zimmerman) (center) looks on during a photo taken in 1957 at Herzl camp. — AFP photos



In this handout photo Bob Dylan (center) poses for a photo at his fiftieth birthday in 1991, with friends Louie Kemp (left) and Larry (last name unknown). — AFP

'Breaking Bad' sequel movie out on Netflix in October

A "Breaking Bad" film set after the events of the hit television show and centered on meth addict-turned-cook Jesse Pinkman will be released on Netflix in October, the streaming giant said Saturday. "El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie" will pick up the story after Pinkman escaped the clutches of a neo-Nazi gang with the help of kingpin Walter White in the AMC show's 2013 conclusion. "In the wake of his dramatic escape from captivity, Jesse must come to terms with his past in order to forge some kind of future," Netflix said in a statement. The "gripping thriller" is written and directed by Vince Gilligan, creator of the original series, which is widely acclaimed as one of the best TV dramas ever made.

"Breaking Bad" ran for five seasons from 2008 to 2013, and told the story of a high-school chemistry teacher diagnosed with cancer who starts cooking crystal meth-often with former pupil Pinkman-to provide for his family. A teaser trailer for the film released Saturday shows another returning character, "Skinny Pete," telling police he has no idea where his friend Pinkman has gone. "No way I'm helping you people put Jesse Pinkman back inside a cage," he says.

News of the long-rumored film broke earlier Saturday after Netflix users spotted a "placeholder" page on the streaming giant's platform giving the title and synopsis. Though the page was subsequently deleted, The New York Times confirmed the report by publishing an interview with Paul. "It's a chapter of 'Breaking Bad' that I didn't realize that I wanted," Paul said. "And now that I have it, I'm so happy that it's there."

Paul told the Times that Gilligan had phoned him two years ago with the pro-



In this file photo US actor Aaron Paul, speaks at the National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, during a memorabilia donation ceremony. — AFP

posal for a movie. "I quickly told Vince that I would follow him into a fire," Paul responded. The movie will be released on October 11, Netflix said. The series' stars Bryan Cranston and Paul both tweeted cryptic messages hinting at a possible film earlier this year. Local media in Albuquerque, where the original series was set and shot, reported last year that filming for the movie was under way. Bob Odenkirk, the star of "Breaking Bad" spin-off "Better Call Saul," also said in a recent interview that he "can't wait to see" the movie. The original series is widely credited with helping to usher in the current so-called "golden age" of television. — AFP

'Star Wars' and 'Frozen 2' footage wows Disney fan fest

New "Star Wars" footage, sequels to "Frozen" and "Black Panther," and an animated epic fantasy about dragons were among a raft of movies presented to screaming fans at Disney's D23 convention Saturday. Hollywood's reigning hitmaker Disney set out a full roster of its upcoming films in a wide-ranging, two-hour "studio spectacular" in Anaheim, California, where devotees assemble every two years dressed as their favorite princesses, pirates and superheroes.

The cast of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker"-including three droids-assembled on stage to kick off the star-studded event. A brief clip appearing to show a darker version of heroine Rey (Daisy Ridley) wielding a red, double-sided lightsaber briefly silenced the cavernous, 6,800-capacity hall-before triggering an immediate social media frenzy. Director JJ Abrams paid tribute to Princess Leia actor Carrie Fisher, describing how footage shot before her death in 2016 will be used in the upcoming film to put her "at the heart of the story."

Disney chief creative officer Alan Horn pledged that the film, out December 20, will "bring this 40-year saga to its epic conclusion." "It's kind of hard for me to understand that the story is ending-but what an ending," said Anthony Daniels, who plays droid C-3PO in all nine of the "Skywalker saga" films, which conclude with the upcoming release. At least two separate "Star Wars" trilogies are in the works, along with three live-action television shows for streaming service Disney+.

'Love you 3000'

"Spider-Man" actor Tom Holland drew a raucous cheer as he appeared to promote new Pixar film "Onward," just days after it emerged his web-slinging superhero could disappear from the Disney-owned Marvel movie universe due to a row between rival studios. "Everyone listen, it's been a crazy week. I want you to know that I'm grateful from the bottom of my heart and I love you 3000," he said, borrowing a phrase from the Marvel films' "Iron Man" character, in his first public comment on the split.

Extensive footage from "Onward," set in a fantasy world where magic has been replaced with humdrum, modern-day realities, showed brothers Ian (Holland) and Barley (Chris Pratt) on a botched quest to bring back their dead father with an obscure spell. It was one of two Pixar originals on display, with Jamie Foxx and Tina Fey announced as the lead voices of metaphysical jazz adventure "Soul."

Prominent musicians including Jon Batiste and Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross will feature in the film, where souls are trained at an otherworldly "You Seminar" before being dispatched to Earth. From Disney's own animated studio, the first footage was shown of fantasy "Raya and the Last Dragon," which sees a young girl seeking the help of a dragon to fend off sinister forces invading a fictional, Southeast Asian-inspired world. The filmmakers said they had toured Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam during research for the film, which will feature Awkwafina as the voice of a shape-shifting dragon. — AFP



Attendees arrive at the D23 Expo, billed as the "largest Disney fan event in the world," at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California.

Disney's dozen: What we learnt at D23 movies panel

Disney on Saturday released plans for a dozen upcoming movies, ranging from Marvel superhero films and Star Wars blockbusters to Pixar and Disney animations. Here is a run-through of everything newly announced at the D23 fan fest's movies panel in Anaheim, California:

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

Lucasfilm is "hard at work" finishing an official new trailer, but unseen footage and a new poster showed Rey and Kylo Ren locked in a duel. The final seconds showed Rey wielding a red, double-sided lightsaber-immediately dubbed "Sith Rey" online. Naomi Ackie and Keri Russell join the cast.

Black Panther 2

Marvel Studios boss Kevin Feige and returning "Black Panther" director Ryan Coogler would not even confirm the hotly anticipated sequel's title, but did set a release date-May 6, 2022.

The Eternals

"Game of Thrones" star Kit Harington and "Crazy Rich Asians" actress Gemma Chan will join an ensemble cast already boasting Angelina Jolie and Salma Hayek. Harington will play a "non-eternal."

Black Widow

An extended version of last month's Comic-Con footage featuring Scarlett Johansson locked in a fight in a Budapest apartment was shown. New clips showed motorcycle chases, mountains and Rachel Weisz.

Jungle Cruise

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Emily Blunt rode into D23 on a riverboat and a vintage car to promote their live-action film based on Disney's theme park ride. In a good-humored takedown of alpha-male action heroes, Blunt introduced her own trailer telling the story from her character's perspective-with Johnson's name in comically tiny font.

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil

Michelle Pfeiffer and Chiwetel Ejiofor join the cast for the sequel to the live-action 2014 hit centered on Snow White's villain. A lengthy clip showed Aurora preparing to marry Prince Phillip-leading to an extremely frosty dinner between her godmother Maleficent and his

parents which quickly descends into conflict.

Mulan

The panel for Disney's live-action remake was notable for the absence of Chinese-American star Liu Yifei, who triggered the #BoycottMulan movement with her criticism of Hong Kong protests. Film footage showed a young Mulan's disastrous meeting with a highly-strung matchmaker, before teasing fight scenes as she takes the place of her ailing father in the Imperial Army.

Cruella

This live-action "101 Dalmatians" prequel will be set in "punk rock" 1970s London. Emma Stone sent a video from the British capital, where filming has begun, and shared a first image of herself in character sporting a Vivienne Westwood-esque shock of black and white hair. Emma Thompson joins the cast.

Soul

Jamie Foxx and Tina Fey were announced as the lead voices of metaphysical jazz adventure "Soul." Prominent musicians including Jon Batiste and Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross will feature in the film, where souls are trained at an otherworldly "You Seminar" before being dispatched to Earth.

Onward

Julia-Louis Dreyfus was revealed as the mother of protagonists Ian and Barley. Tom Holland and Chris Pratt introduced footage setting out plot details of their characters' botched quest to bring back their dead father with a magical spell in a faded fantasy world.

Raya and the Last Dragon

Cassie Steele and Awkwafina lead the voice cast in this animated fantasy featuring the search for dragons in a fictional, Southeast Asian-inspired world.

Frozen 2

The sequel will explore where Elsa got her powers, and a mysterious past involving her parents. Evan Rachel Wood ("Westworld") and Sterling K. Brown ("This Is Us") join the cast, with original songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Bobby Lopez returning. Footage showed flashbacks of sisters Elsa and Anna with their mother, an enchanted forest, and a new song for Elsa (Idina Menzel). — AFP

Films vying for Venice's Golden Lion

There are 21 films competing for the prestigious Golden Lion award at the 76th Venice film festival, which kicks off on Wednesday and will run until September 7.

Here are the films:

- "La Verite" (The Truth), by Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-Eda-opening film
- "The Perfect Candidate", by Saudi Arabian director Haifaa al-Mansour
- "About Endlessness", by Swedish director Roy Andersson
- "Wasp Network", by French director Olivier Assayas
- "Marriage Story", by US director Noah Baumbach
- "Guest of Honour", by Canadian director Atom Egoyan
- "Ad Astra", by US director James Gray
- "A Herdade", by Portuguese director Tiago Guedes
- "Gloria Mundi", by French director Robert Guediguian
- "Waiting For The Barbarians", by Colombian director Ciro Guerra
- "Ema", by Chilean director Pablo Larraín
- "Lan xin da ju yuan" (Saturday Fiction) by Chinese director Lou Ye
- "Martin Eden", by Italian director Pietro Marcello
- "La Mafia Non e Piu Quella Di Una Volta" (The Mafia Is No Longer What It Used To Be), by Italian director Franco Maresco
- "The Painted Bird", by Czech director Václav Marhoul
- "Il Sindaco Del Rione Sanita" (The Mayor of Rione Sanita), by Italian director Mario Martone
- "Babyteeth", by Australian director Shannon Murphy
- "Joker", by US director Todd Phillips
- "J'accuse", French-Polish director Roman Polanski
- "The Laundromat", by US director Steven Soderbergh
- "No.7 Cherry Lane", by Hong Kong director Yonfan — AFP



This aerial photo shows the lodge of the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground in Quebec, Canada. — AFP photos



This photo shows the exterior of communal bathroom at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground.

Glamping with French flair in the wilds of North America

Hidden under a lush green canopy of boreal forest in southeastern Canada are 80 fully-stocked tents featuring feather beds, silk sheets, electric lighting, mini-refrigerators and tableware. Under one of the tents, Celine Bossanne pulls two glasses out of a wicker trunk—a bit of added luxury. “That’s the French touch!” quips Bossanne, the co-founder of Huttopia Group, a French firm that has tapped into the “glamping” trend to bring high-end overnight stays to the Canadian and US wilds. The deluxe package offered by Huttopia, which goes for Can\$140 (\$105) a day, even includes a private bathroom with a toilet. The campsite, which is about a 90-minute drive from Montreal, has proven to be a hit with both Canadians and foreign tourists eager to take in nature but not wanting to deal with tent poles and sore backs.

“Glamping is discovering the true spirit of camping... which is to sleep in the wilderness,” says Bossanne. “But we bring a little extra touch-comfort.” The concept, which Huttopia helped to spread across France before expanding into North America, earns the company Can\$81 million in annual revenues. In Canada’s Quebec province alone, it sold more than 500 tents to provincial parks before launching and operating its own campsites in North America.

Overseas expansion

Each tent is made in northern France according to Huttopia’s specifications. All of its camping gear is also imported from France. That Gallic flair can be felt throughout the campsite, from the slight Parisian accent of several expatriate staff to crepes on the menu and a celebration of France’s national holiday—Bastille Day—on July 14. Bossanne and her husband Philippe started Huttopia in 1999 as a way to push back against the growing popularity of motorhomes encroaching on nature.

Two decades later, the company operates 51 campsites in France. In 2015, Huttopia expanded overseas, opening its first site near the town of Sutton in Quebec. “We were sure the idea would work in Canada and the United States since these are ‘outdoor’ countries,” Bossanne told AFP. With average growth of 15 percent annually, glamping has taken off in nature parks across Canada and the United States, which offer rentals of yurts, tents and teepees in idyllic natural settings. By 2024, the US market alone for luxury camping accommodations is forecast to hit US\$1 billion per year, according to market research firm Arizton.

In 2017, Americans spent a whopping US\$167 billion on campsite stays, equipment such as tents and sleeping bags, and the purchase of RVs (recreational vehicles). Huttopia expanded over the past year to the Netherlands



This panoramic photo shows the interior of a tent at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground in Quebec, Canada.



This photo shows the exterior of The Trapper tent at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground in Quebec, Canada.



The interior of The Trapper tent at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground.



This panoramic photo shows the exterior of a tent at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground.

and the US states of New Hampshire and Maine. It also acquired a large woodlot with a natural spring from Quakers in Los Angeles in California. It is looking to soon open campsites in New York and Oregon, as well as China.

Indigenous designs

Sitting around a roaring campfire outside their tent in Quebec, the Howard family is bursting with excitement. “Before the kids, we would put up a tent in the forest.

Now it’s a bit easier with the tent ready for us,” says Ben Howard, experiencing the outdoors in style with his wife Stephanie and their two young children. Nearby, Marc Dubreuil pulls a small cart along a forested path to his campsite, his two kids in tow. “I hate camping—setting up is hard work. Here it’s all done for you. You just show up with food and bingo!” the Montreal marketing executive tells AFP.

Huttopia’s success has even attracted interest from an

unlikely group: a Canadian indigenous tribe wanting to offer ecotourism on its lands in Quebec’s far north. The Cree commissioned the company to design 50 tents inspired by its traditional longhouses and teepees for its use. Just back from visiting a Cree settlement on the shores of Hudson Bay, 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) from Montreal, Bossanne rejoiced: “I never would have thought I’d be making tents for indigenous people!” — AFP



This photo shows the exterior of communal bathroom at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground.



A family enjoys a campfire at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground.



This panoramic photo shows the interior of a tent at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground.



A boy plays in the children’s playground at the Huttopia Sutton glamping ground.



Lifestyle | Features



View of the resort on an artificial island made with around 700,000 recycled plastic waste collected in the surrounding area. —AFP photos



A view of the resort on an artificial island.

Ivory Coast's 'Floating Island' points to greener tourism

The seaside resort offers visitors a cool drink or tasty meal, a dip in a pool, a karaoke session or an overnight stay, all with a view. Nothing much new there, you may say—creature comforts like this are pretty much standard in tropical hotels. The big difference, though, is that this mini resort is also a moveable island that floats on plastic bottles. Riding on the laguna in Abidjan, Ivory Coast's economic hub, the unusual complex floats on a platform made from 700,000 discarded bottles and other buoyant debris. Its inventor, Frenchman Eric Becker, says his creation can help greener, more mobile tourism—something less harmful to seas and coastlines than traditional fixed, concrete resorts.

His "Ile Flottante"—French for "Floating Island"—comprises two thatched bungalows and a restaurant with a bar, two small pools, trees and shrubs and a circular walkway, spread out over 1,000 square meters (10,700 square feet). Visitors are brought to the moored island by a boat. Water is provided by a pipe from the shore. Electricity is supplied by solar panels, backed by a generator.

The island is bigger than a moored boat and handier than a jetty as it can also be taken to other locations, Becker told AFP. "It really is an artificial island that floats—you can move it." Becker, a former computer entrepreneur, first toyed with the idea of building a catamaran. But it was when he came to Abidjan and saw the lagoon that the vision of a floating, moveable island came into his mind—and he sold everything he owned to achieve it. The first step was to forage for everything floatable—"plastic bottles, bits of polystyrene, even beach sandals". Bemused locals gave him the nickname of "Eric Bidon"—a word that has a subtle dual meaning of jerrycan and phoney. "We bought disused bottles off people, we foraged for them in the lagoon. After a while, we learned to follow the wind and find the places where floating rubbish accumulates," he said.

Eco-break

After living on his island for a number of

years, Becker turned it into a hotel last year. He has around 100 customers a week, mostly curious Ivorians or ecologically-friendly tourists. Others want a relaxing break from the bustling city and to use its swimming pools—taking a dip in the lagoon, fouled by industrial pollution and sewage outflows is an act for the foolhardy. "When you're competing with major hotels, you need an original idea like a floating island. It's become a tourist attraction," said Mathurin Yao Saky, a friend who has been advising Becker on the scheme.

Charles Moliere, a 28-year-old Frenchman who works in Ivory Coast for a large corporation, read about the resort in a guidebook. "It's very original, it's a very untypical place—I've seen nothing like it elsewhere," he said. "I think it's a neat idea to give a second life to plastic like this and to make a kind of small technical breakthrough. I like this place a lot."

The island charges 15,000 CFA francs (\$25, 23 euros) per person per day, which includes a meal and the ferry, and 60,000 CFA francs for a night. Hamed Kone, a computer engineer, said he was visiting the complex after discovering it online. "It's the ecological qualities which impress me most—these days, people are talking more and more about the environment," he said.



In this file photo fishermen work next to an artificial island made with around 700,000 recycled plastic waste collected in the surrounding area, on the Ebrie Lagoon in Abidjan.

Becker "has transformed city rubbish into a pleasant place," said Kone. "It's an idea whose time has come. I hope it inspires other people." Becker says his 200-tonne island could be a prototype for all sorts of projects. It is ideal for the sheltered waters of lagoons—shallow bodies of water separated from the ocean by narrow reefs or barrier islands. "People could live (on floating islands) in lagoons that are pollution-free, and live from fish farming," he said.

Green and greener

Anything that involves human activity always carries an environmental cost, and Becker readily acknowledged that his idea was not totally green, but greener. One concern is that the scheme also adds to the lagoon's chronic pollution problem. The city of Abidjan releases untreated effluent into the lagoon—the mini resort does the same right now, although Becker is testing technology intended to turn human waste into compost. Even clearing the lagoon of all the floating plastic and debris is not enough, Becker said. "But what is nice about this concept is that we are taking something negative—plastic bottle pollution—and turning it into something positive. If only all of us could do this on an individual scale." —AFP



In this file photo Eric Becker (left), the owner and founder of the artificial island made with around 700,000 recycled plastic waste collected in the surrounding area, speaks with his friend Mathurin Yao-Saky, at the resort of the artificial island on the Ebrie Lagoon in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.



People sit in a restaurant on an artificial island.

'Red lights' as over-tourism threatens Corsican nature reserve

Its nature's magical design, says a tourist guide, waxing poetic as he comments on the impressive red cliffs plunging into a turquoise sea at the Scandola nature reserve on France's Corsica island. "Amazing!" exclaims Irena Snyderova, a Czech tourist visiting the UNESCO World Heritage site with her family, along with groups from Italy, Spain and France. Their boat sidles up to the Steps of Paradise, rocks shaped into a stairway some 15 meters (50 feet) long, then glides on to Bad Luck Pass, a former pirates' redoubt.

The ages have sculpted the volcanic cliffs into myriad shapes that beguile the visitor, who might imagine a kissing couple here, a horse's head there, Napoleon's two-corned hat further on... The park, created in 1975, is an ecological dream, being a nature reserve and a protected marine zone that is listed by France's coastal protection agency and Natura 2000, in addition to its recognition by UNESCO. It is a prime destination for the some three million people who visit Corsica each year, 75 percent of them in the summer. The paradox is that growing numbers of tourists are drawn to Scandola's pristine waters and stunning geological vistas, endangering its fragile ecosystem.

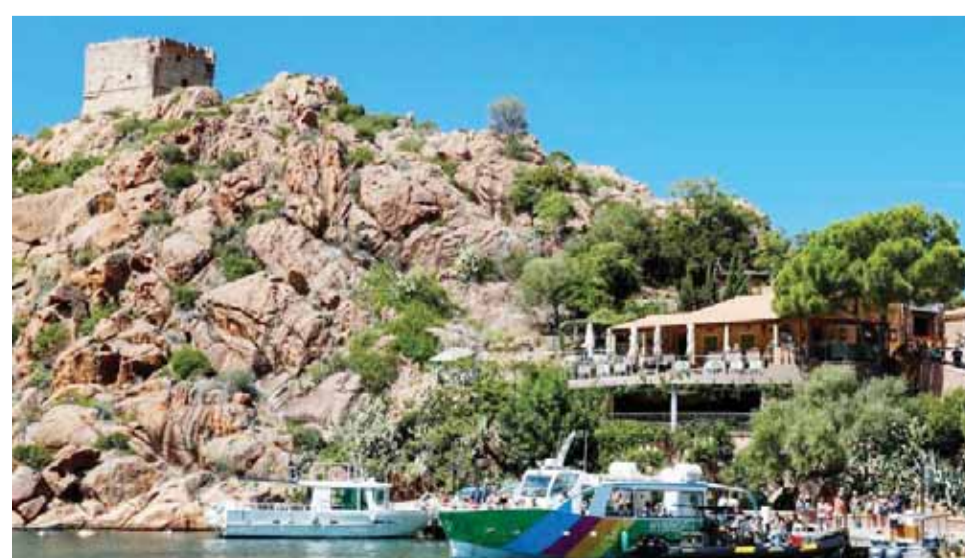
The park, reached only by boat some 40 minutes from the tiny port of Porto, stretches over 10 square kilometres (nearly four square miles) of sea, and a somewhat smaller area of land. "The reserve is a jewel for Corsica and the Mediterranean, but several red lights are flashing," says marine biologist Charles-Francois Boudouresque, listing flora and fauna at risk, including ospreys, seagrass and fish species such as the brown meagre. The tourist season coincides with the ospreys' mating season, notes Boudouresque, an emeritus professor at the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography. Because of over-tourism, ospreys' "reproductive success is zero or near zero, with either no chicks or just one chick" per year, he says. Boudouresque, who also heads Scandola's scientific advisory council, says the osprey could become extinct in 50 years.

'Golden egg'

Since last month, at the urging of the scientific council, boats must keep a distance of at least 250 meters from ospreys' nests during the breeding season. "It's a good start," Boudouresque says. As for the marine park's fish species, Boudouresque says he thinks the thrumming of the tourist boats is scaring them away. But a crew member, who gave his name only as Diego, blamed groupers for the declining population of corb. "They eat everything," he told AFP. Tensions have arisen pitting tour boat operators and fishermen against the reserve's conservationist Jean-Marie Dominici. Boudouresque says the seagrass "is not in the best shape," blaming the anchors dropped by the many boats—some of them private vessels without authorized guides. "It's bizarre for a nature reserve to see all these boats," said Pierre Gilbert, a 65-year-old doctor, who is a regular visitor. "It might be wise to allow access only to professional boats." —AFP



Tourists take a cruise in the Scandola Nature Reserve, on the western coast of the French Mediterranean island of Corsica. —AFP photos



Tourists wait for tour boats on the port of Porto, near Ota, to go on a cruise in the Scandola Nature Reserve, on the western coast of the French Mediterranean island of Corsica.

Tissot Carson Automatic Urban vitality

Juggling work and friends. A sense of both duty and freedom. A career on the rise yet a limited budget. With the Carson collection, Tissot reconciles the inherent contradictions of urban life. Designed to be the very first automatic watch that one buys, the Tissot Carson Lady and the Tissot Carson Gent represent an important step in the life of every young professional - a purchase that is significant, long lasting, and representative of its holder and their status. With its sleek design, self-assured taste and flattering finishings, the Carson collection is perfect for every occasion. Innovators by tradition, Tissot also brings the reputation of its name and the worldwide recognition of the quality of its Swiss Made products.

The Tissot Carson Gent is presented in a rose gold PVD-coated steel case, offering all the advantages of gold - its durability, warmth and precious shine - without impacting the price. This timepiece, with a well-balanced 40-mm diameter, is equipped with a mechanical self-winding movement. The Powermatic 80 is a crown jewel of Tissot's calibres. Noble and reliable, it is a reflection of Carson itself. It boasts finishings of superior quality, including an engraved oscillating weight, visible through a transparent sapphire crystal case back. It offers 80 hours of running time, meaning the watch can, if necessary, be laid down during the weekend and picked back up in perfect working order on Monday morning.

The Tissot Carson Lady is bound to seduce with its soft, classic curves, which make it an essential accessory. It fits perfectly with all styles, occasions and stages of life. Its 30-mm case is polished and mounted on a five-link steel strap that is as bright as it is comfortable. Its dial is composed of a satin-finished outer ring and a central medallion, whose pattern of fine circular lines is guaranteed to catch the light. The dial shines with the eight diamond hour



markers, all of Top Wessellon-quality, the highest used in the watchmaking industry. Its self-winding movement was selected for its reliability and its high quality, and can be forgotten as easily as it can be viewed through the transparent sapphire crystal case back.

All of the models in the Carson collection are imbued with the energy of the city. They are presented in the same variety and diversity of choice as that which makes city life so thrilling. Carson Gent's and Carson Lady's many finishing options include a dial in silver or black, a strap in leather or five-chain steel, and yellow gold PVD steel versions. Because one's first watch can never be ordinary, Tissot has invested the best of its long-established expertise into the Carson collection.



Classifieds

Monday, August 26, 2019

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for mist forming at night.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 25/08/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	41 °C	32 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	28 °C			
ABDALY	46 °C	29 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	46 °C	30 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	38 °C	31 °C			
AHMADI	40 °C	30 °C			
NUWASIB	39 °C	28 °C			
WAFRA	44 °C	27 °C			
SALMY	46 °C	28 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	08/26	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	46 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Tuesday	08/27	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	45 °C	27 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	08/28	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	44 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	08/29	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	45 °C	29 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:57
Sunrise	05:21
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:24
Sunset	18:20
Isha	19:40

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	42 °C
MIN. Temp.	30 °C
MAX. RH	80 %
MIN. RH	15 %
MAX. Wind	E 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

CHANGE OF NAME

Faiza Abdul Karim holder of Passport No. K7914117. I am changing my name to Faiza Abdul Karim Rajiwate with immediate effect. (C 5668) 23-08-2019

I, Kiran Kandathil Radhakrishnan holder of Indian Passport No. J7085559, issued on 30/05/2011 at Bangalore and permanent address being, No. 207, Parway Apts, Tarang near WOC road, Shivnanagar, Bangalore - 560010, Karnataka, India hereby correct my given name as Kiran and surname as Kandathil Radhakrishnan, P.O.Box - 8766, Salmiya - 22058, block 10, lane 18, flat no. 1, floor no. 1, Kuwait. (C 5580) 22-8-2019

I, Mookan Kumar Kannan S/O Mookan holder of Indian Passport No. J0976988 having permanent address 173-68 A, Melapidavoor, Manamadurai, Sivagangai-Dist, Tamilnadu - 630066, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: KUMAR KANNAN, surname: MOOKKAN, S/O: MOOKKAN. (C 5573)

I, JOSEPH MEPURATHU VARUGHESE holder of Indian Passport No. N1869225, issued on 20-01-2016 at Kuwait and permanent address being, Mepurathu House, Kottathoor P.O., Ayroor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala hereby correct my given name as JOSEPH MEPURATHU

and surname as VARUGHESE. Jleeb Al Shouyouk block 4, building no. 144 flat no. 86. (C 5579)

I, RITA PHILIP, holder of Indian Passport No. K7924609, issued on 11-11-2012 at Kuwait and permanent address being, Mepurathu House, Kottathoor P.O., Ayroor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala hereby correct my given name as RITA and surname as PHILIP. Jleeb Al Shouyouk block 4, building no. 144 flat no. 86. (C 5579)

I, JOSEPH MEPURATHU VARUGHESE, holder of Indian Passport No. N1869225, issued on 20-01-2016 at Kuwait and permanent address being, Mepurathu House, Kottathoor P.O., Ayroor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala hereby correct my son's given name as REUBEN VARUGHESE and surname as JOSEPH in his Passport No. N9724089 issued on 19-05-2016 at Kuwait. Jleeb Al Shouyouk block 4, building no. 144 flat no. 86. (C 5579)

I, JOSEPH MEPURATHU VARUGHESE, holder of Indian Passport No. N1869225, issued on 20-01-2016 at Kuwait and permanent address being, Mepurathu House, Kottathoor P.O., Ayroor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala hereby correct my son's given name as REJOY VARUGHESE and surname as JOSEPH in his Passport No. R8273659 issued on 27-08-2017 at Kuwait. Jleeb Al Shouyouk block 4, building no. 144 flat no. 86. (C 5579) 20-8-2019

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Timing: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm & from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE 1st Addl. FAMILY COURT, MANGALURU, D.K..

Between:
Mrs. Vitalis Pais
Mr. Wilson Dsouza
AND
M.C.No:210 / 20 19
Petitioner
Respondent

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

Take notice that the above-named petitioner to Mr. Wilson D'souza, aged about 34 years. S/o Henry Dsouza, residing at United Engineering Services Co., W.L.L.A.L. Rai Area, Block No. 1, Po Box 5759, Sadat 13058, Kuwait, had presented an application to this Court praying for the reliefs and that the 16th day of September 2019 has been fixed for hearing of the Petition and that if you desire to oppose the said Petition. You must appear on the said 16th day of August 2019 at 11:00 A.M., in this Court in person or by a duly authorized pleader and that in default of your appearance, the said application may be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 08th day of August 2019.

(BY ORDER OF THE COURT)

Mangalore 08-08-2019 Advocate for the Petitioner (Lancelot M Dsouza)

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 26/8/2019				Departure Flights on Monday 26/8/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	406	Kochi	00:01	AXB	396	Kozhikode	11:50
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	MEB	405	Beirut	11:55
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	THY	1283	Trabzon	12:00
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSR	1756	CNN	12:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	NIA	1502	Asyut	12:35
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	FEG	1242	Alexandria	13:00
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	AXB	790	CNN	13:10
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	IRA	600	Tehran	14:10
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	RJA	645	Amman	14:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
MEA	400	Beirut	02:50	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	UAE	878	Dubai	15:30
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
JZR	502	Lahore	02:55	SAW	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	105	London	15:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	405	Kochi	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
QTR	122	Doha	03:30	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
MEA	406	Beirut	04:00	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:15
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	KAC	547	Alexandria	16:45
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	FEG	242	Alexandria	16:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:35
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	KAC	621	Doha	17:50
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	SVB	511	Riyadh	18:10
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	403	Bahrain	18:25
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	OMS	226	Hyderabad	18:25
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
JZR	102	Bahrain	07:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	KAC	621	Doha	17:50
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
RBG	211	Luxor	07:25	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	SVB	511	Riyadh	18:10
JZR	724	Alexandria	07:50	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
MSC	401	Alexandria	08:00	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	JZR	403	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	OMS	226	Hyderabad	18:25
IRA	402	Kochi	08:20	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
KAC	352	Kochi	08:25	FEG	1342	Sohag	19:00
KAC	2712	Madinah	08:25	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	261	Beirut	19:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	334	Trivandrum	09:00	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	JZR	403	Bahrain	18:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	OMS	226	Hyderabad	18:25
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
JZR	252	Dubai	10:20	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	621	Doha	17:50
AXB	395	Kozhikode	10:40	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
JZR	716	Sohag	10:55	SVB	511	Riyadh	18:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
THY	1282	Trabzon	11:05	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
IGO	114	Doha	11:10	JZR	403	Bahrain	18:20
NIA	1401	CNN	11:30	OMS	226	Hyderabad	18:25
UAE	855	Dubai	11:35	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
FEG	1441	Asyut	12:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
AXB	789	CNN/Bahrain	12:10	KAC	621	Doha	17:50
SAW	701	Dammam	12:30	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:35
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55

Qatari envoy says aid, contacts helping prevent new Gaza war

GAZA: Qatar's envoy to Gaza says the Gulf emirate's hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinian enclave and its contacts with both Hamas and Israel are helping prevent another catastrophic war. Speaking in an interview with AFP in Gaza City, Mohammed Al-Emadi said a new payment of \$10 million was expected to be distributed yesterday to 100,000 poor families in Gaza, which is run by the Islamist movement Hamas.

It is the latest in a succession of aid payments for fuel for electricity, salaries and assistance for needy families in the Gaza Strip from Qatar, which has budgeted some \$330 million for the program launched last year. More than \$150 million of that has been spent, on top of other large amounts of aid that Qatar has provided to Gaza in recent years, he said.

"The money is essential... because otherwise Gaza will be a place where nobody can survive or live," Emadi said from his office in Al-Mashtal Hotel late Saturday during one of his periodic visits to Gaza City. "We know the situation is very bad, so that's why our money helps a lot, and it helps in preventing a new war." He added that it is "not only the aid". "The aid, the communication, the information... We are coordinating directly with the people who can take decisions."

The payments are part of a wider agreement brokered by UN and Egyptian officials to end several violent flare-ups in recent months between Israel and Hamas, which have fought three devastating wars since 2008. A series of violent incidents in August have again threatened the truce just ahead of Israel's Sept 17 general election, but the new Qatari cash may help relative calm return, at least for now. The incidents have included rocket fire from Gaza, infiltration attempts by armed Palestinians and return fire by Israel, the Israeli army says.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is widely seen as wanting to avoid an escalation in Gaza before the polls due to the political risk involved, but he has faced calls for strong action from his electoral opponents. As a result, there has been speculation in Israel that Hamas has turned a blind eye to rocket



GAZA CITY: Qatari envoy to the Gaza Strip Mohammed Al-Emadi speaks during an interview in his office on Saturday. — AFP

fire and infiltration attempts instead of preventing them in a bid to pressure Netanyahu into further concessions.

For Emadi, the election means longer-term solutions cannot be discussed for now due to political sensitivity, but he hopes talks can later be held on easing Israel's blockade of Gaza. Another war would cost the international community far more in monetary terms, he said, but the humanitarian concerns are even greater, particularly with Gaza still recovering from the last conflict in 2014. "Any new war with this situation, I think it will be catastrophic to Gaza and to the people of Gaza," said Emadi. Emadi said he meets with leaders of both Hamas' political and military wings while also holding separate discussions with Israeli officials. Qatar, like most Arab nations, has no formal diplomatic relations with Israel, and Emadi declined to say specifically who he holds talks with on the Israeli side.

The Gulf state is a rare ally for Hamas, which has never recognized Israel and is designated a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union. The more than decade-long blockade of the Gaza Strip and repeated wars have taken a heavy toll on the economy and infrastructure in the coastal enclave of two million people. According to the World Bank, unemployment is at 52 per-



GAZA: Palestinian demonstrators wave the national flag during clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli forces across the barbed-wire fence following a border demonstration east of Khan Younis on Aug 23, 2019. — AFP

cent, with two-thirds of Gaza's young people jobless. The Qatari fuel aid has allowed for an average of around 10 hours of public electricity per day, compared to as little as four hours daily previously, UN figures show. The truce has also seen Israel expand the area it allows Gaza fishermen out into the sea - though it reduces it or even cuts it to zero in response to violence from the enclave. Emadi said issues such as work permits for Gazans to enter Israel have also been discussed.

"Nobody cares about the people in this place," he said when asked why Qatar was playing the role it has, with speculation that it has been a means to wield regional influ-

ence. "Our concern is the people - to save lives, to provide better lives for these people." That aspect has been "forgotten from both sides, let's say".

Qatar has in recent years stepped funnelled more than one billion dollars into relief projects in Gaza, where poverty and unemployment rates are high. Emadi said Israel consented to his country's relief work in Gaza. In June, Hamas chief, Ismail Haniyeh said a new hospital, industrial zones and a new power line would be built in Gaza as part of a wide truce agreement with Israel. The deal, brokered by Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations, has not been publicly acknowledged by Israel, which

deems Hamas a terrorist organization and shuns direct negotiations. Emadi said the hospital's construction could begin soon.

Some two million Palestinians live in Gaza. The Israeli-Egyptian blockade has brought the Gazan economy to the brink of collapse. Recent foreign aid cuts and sanctions by the Palestinian Authority, Hamas' rival in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, have worsened the situation. "Both sides have no war intentions but there is a lack of money and the humanitarian situation is bad," said Emadi. "Should people feel financially at ease, the ghost of war will be totally removed," said Emadi. — Agencies

Zarif visits G7 summit...

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The French presidency had confirmed his arrival, but emphasized no talks were planned with the American side. A French diplomat also suggested - without confirming - that Trump had been made aware of the arrival during an impromptu two-hour lunch with Macron on a hotel terrace on Saturday. "We work with full transparency with the Americans," the diplomat told reporters on condition of anonymity. Also speaking in Biarritz, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that Trump had in the past said that if Iran "wants to sit down and negotiate he will not set preconditions". Macron held talks with Zarif in Paris on the eve of the G7 summit and has been leading efforts to bring Tehran and Washington back to the negotiating table.

Trump's policy of applying "maximum pressure" on Tehran via crippling sanctions has been criticized by European powers and is seen as raising the risk of conflict in the Middle East. Macron has urged the US administration to offer some sort of relief to Iran, such as lifting sanctions on oil sales to China and India, or a new credit line to enable exports. "To start this approach we need President Trump to agree with the idea that we need to make a pause (in the "maximum pressure" policy)," a French diplomat told reporters last week. This is seen as a first step to get Iran back to the negotiating table, which could then lead to a new international agreement to limit its nuclear program.

Speaking to AFP last week, Zarif said that Macron's suggestions were "moving in the right direction, although we are not definitely there yet". Last year, Trump unilaterally pulled the US out of a landmark deal, of which Zarif

had been a key architect, on the nuclear program reached in 2015 between Iran, the US, European powers, Russia and China.

Trump proclaimed yesterday that the G7 summit was going "beautifully", but there was no masking over cracks between the US president and his allies on many issues. Leaders of the G7 countries - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States - put on a united front as they spent a second day in the high-end French surfing town of Biarritz. Trump arrived in Biarritz fresh from having drastically upped the ante in the trade war with China.

European leaders lined up to press for caution and yesterday Trump gave a glimmer of hope that he was reconsidering his all-or-nothing approach to the dispute between the world's two biggest economies. Asked whether he was having second thoughts about the trade war, Trump, in a rare moment of public self-doubt, replied: "I have second thoughts about everything." Then in an extraordinary turnaround, Trump's spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said just hours later that the president had been misunderstood. He did have regrets, she said, but not what everyone thought. "He regrets not raising the tariffs higher," she explained.

At a breakfast meeting, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson became the latest of the G7 partners to urge Trump to step back from a trade war that critics fear could tip the world economy into recession. "Just to register a faint, sheep-like note of our view on the trade war - we are in favor of trade peace on the whole," Johnson told Trump.

The meeting with Johnson, who is sometimes compared to a British version of the populist, nationalist Trump, underlined the White House's dislike for the powerful European Union. Trump has repeatedly threatened the EU with trade wars and right before his departure from Washington he warned that he would slap wine import tariffs on France if Macron does not retreat on a tax against US tech giants. — Agencies

Syria, where Tehran and Hezbollah provide military help to Damascus. Israel says its air force has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria against what it calls Iranian targets and arms transfers to Hezbollah. Iran and Hezbollah are helping President Bashar Al-Assad in the eight-year-old Syria war. Russia, which is also aiding Assad, has largely turned a blind eye to the Israeli air strikes.

Syrian state media said air defenses confronted the "aggression" and the army said most of the Israeli missiles were destroyed. The United States and Iran are at odds over Tehran's nuclear program and the Gulf, with both sides trading accusations over threats to the strategic waterway's security. Iran also has wide sway in Iraq. Iraq's paramilitary groups on Wednesday blamed a series of recent blasts at their weapons depots and bases on the United States and Israel.

The Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), the grouping of Iraq's mostly Shiite paramilitary groups, many of which are backed by Iran, said the United States had allowed four Israeli drones to enter the region accompanying US forces and carry out missions on Iraqi territory. Netanyahu has hinted of possible Israeli involvement in attacks against Iranian-linked targets in Iraq.

On the Israeli YNet news website, military affairs commentator Ron Ben-Yishai described the alleged Iranian killer drone attack plans as revenge by Tehran for the purported Israeli drone strikes in Iraq. Amos Yadlin, a former head of Israeli military intelligence, said neither Iran nor Israel were interested in all-out war. "We're not there yet," he said on Israel Radio. "But sometimes, someone makes a mistake." — Reuters

Army fights Amazon fires as more...

Continued from Page 1

way for crops or grazing has aggravated the problem this year. "It gets worse every year - this year, the smoke has been really serious," Deliana Amorim, 46, told AFP in Porto Velho where half a million people live.

At least seven states, including Rondonia, have requested the army's help in the Amazon, where more than 43,000 troops are based and available to combat fires, officials said. Dozens of firefighters are en route to Porto Velho to help put out the blazes. Justice Minister Sergio Moro has also given the green light for the deployment of security forces to tackle illegal deforestation in the region. The fires have triggered a global outcry and are a major topic of concern at the G7 meeting in Biarritz in southern France.

World leaders at the summit have agreed to help the countries affected by the fires "as fast as possible", French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday. US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had earlier offered their countries' assistance. Bolivian President Evo Morales said Sunday he would accept international help to combat wildfires raging in the country's southeast as he suspended his

Shrugging off Trump, FBI tackles...

Continued from Page 1

semi-automatic assault rifles, high-capacity magazines, and a gas mask. And last week, police in Long Beach, California, arrested a man for making a mass shooting threat, and found at his home several illegal assault rifles, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and high-capacity magazines.

The arrests brought to light the extent of the threat of extremist ideology on the right, and its ability to motivate uniformly young, white men into acting on their hate. They also, analysts said, mark a change after US justice authorities have been accused for years of doing little about domestic terrorism, which has now killed more Americans since 2002 than Islamist extremism. "I think that federal law enforcement understand that this is at the highest level of concern," said Brian Levin, head of the Study for Hate and Extremism at California State University-San Bernardino. "They are certainly devoting a decent amount of investigative resources."

Analysts say President Donald Trump's refusal to attack white nationalists and neo-Nazis in the wake of several shootings and violent incidents had left the FBI reticent about fully confronting the threat. A NBC-Wall Street Journal poll conducted earlier this month and released yesterday showed

Probe ordered into child's death...

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The death of the child occurred several days ago at the dental clinic in Fahaheel medical center. Head of Ahmadi Oral Health Program Dr Habbaba Al-Mazidi

election campaign to deal with the crisis.

Although about 60 percent of the Amazon is in Brazil, the vast forest also spreads over parts of eight other countries or territories: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. Macron's remarks come amid an escalating war of words with his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro, who he has accused of lying over Brazil's stance on climate change. Bolsonaro has denounced what he calls Macron's "colonialist mentality".

The fires threaten to torpedo a huge trade agreement between the European Union and South American countries, including Brazil, that took 20 years to negotiate. EU Council president Donald Tusk told reporters at the G7 on Saturday that it was hard to imagine European countries ratifying a trade pact with the Mercosur bloc as long as Brazil fails to curb the fires ravaging the Amazon. Pope Francis on Sunday also voiced concern for the rainforest, which he described as a "vital" lung for the planet.

Under intensifying pressure, Bolsonaro on Friday vowed a "zero tolerance" approach to criminal activities in the Amazon and promised strong action to control the fires. Days earlier, he had accused non-government organizations of igniting the blazes. "There are forest fires all over the world, and this cannot be used as a pretext for possible international sanctions," Bolsonaro said. The latest official figures show 79,513 forest fires have been recorded in Brazil this year, the highest number of any year since 2013. — AFP

that 56 percent of those surveyed believe that race relations in the US have gotten worse since Trump's election. The FBI feels held back from opening investigations by Trump's refusal to criticize people he considers part of his loyal voter base, former FBI terrorism supervisor Dave Gomez told The Washington Post. "It's a no-win situation for the FBI agent and his supervisor."

But the agency has now clearly recognized the priority. FBI Director Christopher Wray said in July that they have 850 open "domestic terror" investigations and have made 100 arrests so far. The majority of those cases, he said, are "what you might call white supremacist violence". But Wray also stressed that they were targeting crimes rather than an ideology - a sharply different approach than that for Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda sympathizers, who can be arrested for expressing support for outlawed jihadists.

Wray's predecessor Andrew McCabe said Friday that the agency is overcoming that wariness, even if it could mean encroachments on civil liberties. "I think the FBI appears to be refocusing, and augmenting their efforts on the domestic terrorist threat," McCabe told CNN. Now there is "a much higher degree of sensitivity... to the statements which are now seen as predictors of potentially mass shootings," he said. Levin said the arrests also show that, after the shock of recent mass shootings, the US public is more attuned to the ideological threat and ready to report any hints by perpetrators of their radical ideologies. "I think that has created a familiarity among the public with what certain warning signs are," he said. — AFP

extended her condolences to the family of Rashidi. "We do not know the real cause of death at the moment, as we are waiting for the results of the investigation being conducted by the technical committee and the coroner's report," she said. Mazidi said the child's treatment was according to technical protocols, bearing in mind that Rashidi was in the fourth session of treatment, and was given local anesthetic previously without complications. She added the anesthetic is approved and is given to thousands of patients daily.

Nasrallah, Hariri slam Israeli...

Continued from Page 1

Israel carried out Saturday's attack, Conricus said, after learning that another attempt to launch drones was imminent.

In Tehran, a senior Revolutionary Guards commander denied that Iranian targets had been hit in the Israeli air strikes in Syria, the semi-official ILNA news agency reported. Israel deems Lebanon's heavily armed Shiite Hezbollah movement, backed by Iran, the biggest threat across its border. In their 2006 war nearly 1,200 people, mostly civilians, died in Lebanon and 158 people died in Israel, mostly soldiers. Lebanon has complained to the United Nations about Israeli planes regularly violating its airspace in recent years.

Residents in Dahiyeh said they heard the sound of a blast. A witness said the army closed off the streets where a fire had started. A Hezbollah spokesman told Lebanon's state news agency NNA the second drone was rigged with explosives causing serious damage to the media center. Hezbollah is now examining the first drone, he said. The Lebanese army said that one Israeli drone fell and another exploded at 02:30 am local time (2330 GMT), causing only material damage. "The army arrived immediately and cordoned off the area where the two drones fell," it said.

Israel has grown alarmed by the rising influence of its regional foe Iran during the war in neighboring

Sports

Turner, Gonsolin lead Dodgers 2-1 over New York Yankees

Giants score 8 in the 8th to sink Athletics

LOS ANGELES: Justin Turner hit a home run, and rookie Tony Gonsolin pitched five strong innings as the Los Angeles Dodgers held on for a 2-1 victory Saturday afternoon over the visiting New York Yankees. The Yankees loaded the bases with one out in the ninth inning against Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen on consecutive singles by Gleyber Torres and Brett Gardner, as well as a fielder's choice grounder by Gio Urshela when the Dodgers were late on the throw to second while trying to get Gardner. Jansen then struck out Mike Tauchman and Gary Sanchez to earn his 27th save. It was a sort of redemption outing after he squandered his two previous save opportunities, including one Wednesday against the Toronto Blue Jays. In his fourth career start, Gonsolin (2-1) gave up one run on two hits over five innings with two walks and two strikeouts. Turner's two-run home run in the third inning scored Gonsolin, who had singled. Aaron Judge hit a home run in the fourth inning for the Yankees, his second in two games of the series.

NATIONALS 7, CUBS 2

Yan Gomes went 2-for-5 with two RBIs, and Washington pulled away in beating host Chicago. Howie Kendrick drove in two runs, and Anthony Rendon, Juan Soto and Adam Eaton drove in one run apiece for the Nationals, who will go for the series sweep Sunday. Washington has won four games in a row, six of seven and 11 of 13. Nicholas Castellanos and Jonathan Lucroy each drove in a run for Chicago, which dropped its second straight game after winning the previous five in a row. Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo left the game in the fifth because of mid-back tightness, according to the team.

GIANTS 10, A'S 5

Stephen Vogt capped an eight-run eighth inning with a three-run home run as visiting San Francisco rallied from behind to beat Oakland in the opener of a two-game series. Kevin Pillar broke a 4-4 tie with a two-run double, one of seven hits the Giants pieced together against five A's relievers in the eighth, helping San Francisco end a four-game losing skid and Oakland's three-game winning streak. Mark Canha had a homer for the A's, his 20th of the year, to open the game's scoring in the second inning. He finished with two hits, as did teammates Semien, Matt Chapman and Josh Phegley, while Jurickson Proffar scored three times.

BRAVES 9, METS 5

New acquisition Francisco Cervelli had a monster debut after signing earlier in the day, going 3-for-4 with two doubles and three RBIs as Atlanta won its seventh straight in beating host New York. Ozzie Albies and Josh Donaldson homered in the third for the Braves. Freddie Freeman homered leading off the ninth, his 35th of the season. The Mets, who have the best record in baseball since the All-Star break at 27-12, have lost two straight. New York took a brief lead on Pete Alonso's three-run homer in the fifth. It was the team record-tying 41st blast for Alonso, who shares the record with Todd Hundley (1996) and Carlos Beltran (2006).

PHILLIES 9, MARLINS 3

Corey Dickerson had four hits and five RBIs to help vis-

iting Philadelphia even its three-game series against Miami. Scott Kingery had two hits, including a three-run homer, to spark a six-run fourth inning for the Phillies, who had lost six of their past seven against the Marlins. Phillies starter Zach Eflin (8-11) went six innings, allowing two runs and six hits. Eflin helped himself out at the plate with two hits and a run scored. Jorge Alfaro had three hits for Miami, including a solo home run. He's 6-for-9 in the series. Miami starter Jordan Yamamoto (4-5) threw 90 pitches in 3 2/3 innings. He allowed six runs and six hits, striking out three and walking four.

RED SOX 5, PADRES 4

Brock Holt greeted closer Kirby Yates with a home run into the right field seats on the first pitch of the ninth inning to snap a tie and give visiting Boston a victory over San Diego. The homer, which was just beyond the leap of Padres right fielder Hunter Renfroe, was Holt's third of the season. The win was the Red Sox's second straight in the three-game interleague series. Yates, who leads the major leagues with 36 saves, suffered the loss to fall to 0-4. Yates has been scored upon in five of his 10 non-save appearances this season.

CARDINALS 6, ROCKIES 0

Paul Goldschmidt and Harrison Bader homered, Dakota Hudson pitched six innings of two-hit ball, and host St. Louis shut out Colorado. Marcell Ozuna finished with two hits for the Cardinals, who have won three straight and six of their last seven. The first-place Cards moved 1 1/2 games ahead of the Chicago Cubs in the National League Central. The Cubs lost to the Washington Nationals on Saturday night. Hudson (13-6) allowed only a leadoff double to Daniel Murphy in the second and a one-out single to Trevor Story in the sixth. Colorado has lost five of its last six, including the first three games of this series.

BREWERS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 0

Chase Anderson and four relievers combined on a four-hitter, and host Milwaukee beat Arizona. The Brewers won their third straight game and beat the Diamondbacks for the fifth time in six meetings this season. Milwaukee (67-62) also moved to within two games of the Cubs for the NL's second wild-card spot and tied the Mets. Anderson (6-3) allowed three hits in five innings to win for the first time since July 17. He struck out five, walked two and threw 87 pitches. Eric Thames and rookie Trent Grisham hit back-to-back homers in the fourth against Arizona, which lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

PIRATES 14, REDS 0

Colin Moran's pinch-hit grand slam and a three-run shot by Josh Bell staked Pittsburgh to a blowout shutout over visiting Cincinnati. Trevor Williams (6-6) pitched six innings, with an inning each from Richard Rodriguez, Kyle Crick and Parker Markel, in the seven-hit shutout to hand the Reds their second straight loss. Starling Marte had a two-run double, Bryan Reynolds hit an RBI double, and Jose Osuna, Adam Frazier and Kevin Newman each added an RBI single for Pittsburgh, which had scored 10 runs combined over its previous seven games.

TWINS 8, TIGERS 5

Miguel Sano hit a three-run home run to highlight a



LOS ANGELES: Justin Turner #10 of the Los Angeles Dodgers hits a home run during the third inning of the MLB game against the New York Yankees at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California. Teams are wearing special color-schemed uniforms with players choosing nicknames to display for Players' Weekend. — AFP

five-run fifth inning, and Max Kepler and Jake Cave also homered to lead Minnesota over Detroit in Minneapolis. Kepler also doubled and finished 3-for-5 with two RBIs and two runs scored, and Cave scored twice and drove in two runs. Kyle Gibson (12-6) scuffled through 5 1/3 innings to pick up the victory, allowing five runs (four earned) on 10 hits while striking out eight. Taylor Rogers retired the final five batters, including striking out the side in the ninth, to pick up his 20th save for the Twins.

INDIANS 4, ROYALS 2

Franmil Reyes belted a three-run homer, and Mike Clevinger tossed 5 2/3 strong innings as host Cleveland beat Kansas City. Mike Freeman had an RBI infield single among his two hits for the Indians, who answered a four-run second inning in Friday's 4-1 series-opening win with a four-run third on Saturday. Meibrys Vilorio had an RBI double among his two hits for the Royals, who have lost four in a row and eight of their last 10. Jose Ramirez sustained right wrist discomfort after swinging the bat in the first inning and left the game.

ORIOLES 7, RAYS 1

Pedro Severino hit a grand slam, and John Means threw seven solid innings as Baltimore defeated visiting Tampa Bay. Severino broke the game open with his slam off Austin Pruitt in the third inning. It was the Baltimore catcher's first career grand slam. The Orioles also got homers from Hanser Alberto and Jonathan Villar, and that

gave Means (9-9) more than enough offensive support. The win ended a four-game Baltimore losing streak against the Rays and a skid of 12 in a row against teams from the American League East.

RANGERS 4, WHITE SOX 0

Willie Calhoun and Danny Santana smacked two-run home runs to back 6 1/3 shutout innings from Kolby Allard and boost visiting Texas over Chicago. The Rangers snapped Chicago's three-game winning streak and will try to salvage a split of the four-game series on Sunday afternoon. Calhoun and Nick Solak had two hits apiece for the Rangers, while Jose Abreu had two hits, including the 1,000th of his career, for the White Sox. Chicago's Tim Anderson extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

BLUE JAYS 7, MARINERS 5

Rookie Bo Bichette went 3-for-5 with a double, home run and three RBIs as Toronto snapped a six-game losing streak in beating host Seattle. Teoscar Hernandez also homered, and Rowdy Tellez had a run-scoring double in the seventh inning to break a tie as the Blue Jays spoiled the return of longtime Mariners ace Felix Hernandez, who was making his first start since May 11. King Felix, sidelined by right shoulder issues, pitched 5 2/3 innings, allowing two runs, both on solo homers, on three hits. He walked three and struck out four and received a standing ovation from the crowd at T-Mobile Park when he left with a 5-2 lead. — Reuters

Sindhu wins India's first world title

BASEL: Pusarla Sindhu won India's first-ever title at the world badminton championships when she comfortably beat Japan's Nozomi Okuhara 21-7 21-7 to win the women's singles in Basel yesterday.

Sindhu also ended her own unhappy run after she lost in the previous two world finals, including one against Okuhara in 2017, as well as the Olympic final in 2016 and the Commonwealth Games final last year.

The 24-year-old, fifth in the world rankings, never looked back after racing to an eight-point lead in the first game. "Last time, I lost the finals. Before that, I also lost the finals so it's very important for me to win now," she said.

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his congratulations on Twitter. "The passion and dedication with which she's pursued badminton is inspiring," he said. "PV Sindhu's success will inspire generations of players."

Kento Momota, of Japan, retained the men's title by outclassing 22-year-old Dane Anders Antonsen, who had stunned Olympic champion Chen Long in the quarter-finals, 21-9 21-3 in another one-sided match. The world number one needed only 37 minutes to dispatch his opponent as he became the fourth man to win successive world titles. The world championships are held annually, except in Olympic years. — Reuters



BASEL: First-placed India's Pusarla Venkata Sindhu poses with the gold medal during the podium ceremony after her victory over Japan's Nozomi Okuhara during their women's singles final match at the BWF Badminton World Championships at the St Jakobshalle in Basel yesterday. — AFP

Fast-rising sprinter Lyles focused on the maths

PARIS: "It's all about the execution," is a post-race phrase much heard and repeated by athletes in the bowels of stadiums across the world.

Employing the same, meticulous approach to race day as training is an art form given the extra pressure of putting into practice a performance honed during long hours at an anonymous track without the watchful eyes of thousands of spectators.

New kid on the block Noah Lyles likened sprinting to a maths equation: one simple error and the moment is lost.

"To run fast, you have to make sure you do the exact right thing every time," the 22-year-old said after winning the 200m at Saturday's Diamond League in Paris in a scintillating 19.65 seconds.

"It's like a maths equation. You can't get the maths equation by messing up one thing, it's all over - it's just like track, if you mess up in one part, the race is going to go to someone else."

Lyles has positioned himself as one of the pretenders to fill the large footprints left by now-retired Jamaican



Noah Lyles

legend Usain Bolt, himself a keen advocate of the beauty of execution in his halcyon days on the track when he dominated sprinting, winning 11 world and eight Olympic gold medals.

Just how good is Lyles? Well he stormed to 19.50sec over 200m in Lausanne last month, making him the fourth fastest man over that distance. Only Bolt, with the world record of 19.19sec, fellow Jamaican Yohan Blake and American Michael Johnson have run faster.

Lyles' 19.65sec in Paris has only been bettered by four other sprinters: the American quartet of Walter Dix, Justin

Gatlin, Tyson Gay and Xavier Carter. So he finds himself in exalted company, but warns that there is much more to come. "I'm not even close to peaking right now," Lyles said. "We had a few practice sessions and they were nowhere close to what I was doing back at home a few weeks after the US championships."

"I'm trying to get back to that form and when I get back to that I think something special might happen."

Lyles tantalisingly hinted that he had been posting some impressive practice times.

"I beat my season's best twice in the 100m in practice. It just comes down to executing it in a race - coming to a competition, making sure that each time you do it the same."

He added: "The 200m is a little bit more lenient. Every time I run in practice it's usually equalling or a little faster than what I've done on track."

The world championships in Doha are scheduled for September 28-October 6, meaning a longer than usual season for athletes.

But Lyles insisted he had faith in his pre-season training regime to see him through to Doha, where he will race only the 200m, with an eye on a sprint double at the Tokyo Olympics next year.

"I trust my beginning-of-the-season endurance training. We took a long period of time, three months, doing volume training to get ready for this long season. I knew I'd still be able to come out here and train and race." — AFP

Hoops boss Popovich insists USA better for shock Australia loss

MELBOURNE: Veteran United States basketball coach Gregg Popovich insists his team are better for their shock loss to Australia, which has thrown the upcoming World Cup in China wide open.

The Boomers' 98-94 upset in Melbourne on Saturday was their first ever victory against the USA and snapped a run of 78 consecutive American wins in major competitions and exhibition games.

The defeat came barely a week before the World Cup tips off, where the five-time champions will be defending their title.

And they suffered another setback with Los Angeles Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma ruled out of the tournament with a left ankle injury.

San Antonio Spurs mastermind Popovich, who has a young squad after a host of high-profile NBA stars opted out, said it was all part of the learning curve.

"The loss means that we need to play better, and it's a measure of who you are. Nobody wins forever," he said. "This is a group of guys that has worked very hard to get to know each other and to get to know a system. And whatever comes, we can handle."

"Our job is to try to get better every day, and we learned some things (against Australia)," he added.

"We are actually a better team now than at the start of the game, because of the knowledge that we gained. So, you move on."

The game was an even affair until the third quarter when the USA steamed 10 points clear, but they couldn't capitalise and Australia clawed back to take a narrow two point lead into the final 10 minutes.

It has here that guard Patty Mills, who Popovich coaches at the Spurs, exploded, ending with a game-high 30 points to give the Boomers a famous win in front of 52,079 fans — a record for a basketball game in Australia.

Popovich, who has one more warm-up game against Canada in Sydney on Monday to iron out any issues, said they were not good enough defensively.

"Well that's got to be our calling card. We scored 94, and that's good enough," he said.

"But we didn't hold them to where we needed to defensively, and to us it's obvious that that's what we have to be. We have to be a good defensive and rebounding team." Utah guard Donovan Mitchell, who sank 12 points, echoed Popovich that it was a learning experience, noting that the squad had only been together for a few weeks, in contrast to the Australians who have had a core group of players for years. "We just got to talk a little bit more and communicate," he said. — AFP

Sports

Stokes's stunning century sees England to one-wicket win in Ashes thriller

Stokes played fast bowler Pat Cummins for four to seal a famous victory

LEEDS: Ben Stokes was the hero yet again as his incredible unbeaten century saw England to a thrilling one-wicket win in the third Ashes Test at Headingley yesterday. England — all out for a woeful 67 in their first innings — were 286-9, still needing 73 more runs to reach a victory target of 359 when bespectacled No 11 Jack Leach walked out to bat to join Stokes at the crease.

Leach, however, held firm with World Cup final winning batting star Stokes's astonishing 135 not out seeing England complete their highest successful fourth innings chase as they squared the five-match series at 1-1.

"There's nothing like being out there in the end and getting your team over the line. I didn't get nervous till we needed single figures, I didn't know what to do then," admitted Stokes.

Australia, who would have retained the Ashes had they won, missed a clear chance to run Leach out when Nathan Lyon failed to gather a throw and then paid dearly for squandering a review.

All-rounder Stokes eventually played fast bowler Pat Cummins for four to seal a famous victory arguably even more improbable than England's celebrated 1981 Ashes Test success at Headingley when they won after following-on. This was only the fourth time a team had made more than 300 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Headingley. "It was a very special feeling. Stokesy was unbelievable. It was like nothing I've ever seen before. And the crowd was insane," admitted Leach.

Australia captain Tim Paine said: "It's hard to take, losing that from that position but you tip your hat sometimes. Ben Stokes played an unbelievable innings and in the end he was too good for us."

As Leach looked on, all-rounder Stokes went into one-day mode by driving off-spinner Lyon for two straight sixes and then produced a stunning reverse against him that sailed high over deep point.

Stokes's extravagant scooped six off Cummins reduced the target to 40. Despite Australia captain Tim Paine hav-

ing scattered all his fielders to the boundary, Stokes pulled Josh Hazlewood for four to complete a remarkable 199 ball-century — his second in a row after his 115 not out in the drawn second Test at Lord's — featuring eight fours and five sixes.

Stokes then hoisted the next two balls for six. He rode his luck when a sliced two off Cummins was dropped by a diving Marcus Harris at third man. Stokes, however, commandingly pulled and drove Cummins's next two balls for four to leave England just nine runs shy of victory.

But a single left Leach on strike with two balls left in the over. The first of those sailed over Leach's head and the next saw Australia waste a review for a ball that pitched outside leg stump. England now needed eight — or two boundaries — as Stokes faced Leach.

The third ball of the over saw Stokes drive Lyon for a six that just cleared Marnus Labuschagne at long-on and England needed two to win. A colossal mix-up between Stokes and Leach should have seen the No 11 run out but Lyon fumbled the return.

Lyon then had an lbw appeal against Stokes turned down by umpire Joel Wilson only for replays to suggest it would have been out. But Australia had used up all their reviews. England still needed two to win but Leach, who made a career best 92 as nightwatchman in a recent Test win over Ireland, was on strike to Cummins.

Leach though managed a single that tied the scores as he got off the mark after 59 minutes at the crease. And Stokes then cut Cummins for a boundary to seal an astounding triumph.

The left-handed batsman faced 219 balls in total, with 11 fours and eight sixes in a superbly paced five-and-a-half hour innings. It seemed England's chances had evaporated when they lost three wickets for just 16 runs after lunch to be reeling at 261-7.

England had yet to add to their overnight score of 156-3 when Stokes missed a pull off a Hazlewood bouncer that smashed into his helmet, with the stem guard pro-



LEEDS: England's Ben Stokes celebrates hitting the winning runs on the fourth day of the third Ashes cricket Test match between England and Australia at Headingley in Leeds, northern England, yesterday. Ben Stokes hit a stunning unbeaten century as England defeated Australia by one wicket. — AFP

tecting his neck flying off at the back. But he was cleared to bat on and when captain Joe Root was out for 77 after adding just two to his overnight score Stokes, ably

assisted by Jonny Bairstow (36) counter-attacked, with England scoring 60 runs in eight overs after Australia took the new ball. — AFP

Watling, De Grandhomme put NZ ahead in second Test

COLOMBO: Contrasting half-centuries from B.J. Watling and Colin de Grandhomme helped New Zealand lead by 138 runs in their first innings against Sri Lanka on day four of the rain-hit second Test yesterday.

Only 48 of the scheduled 98 overs were possible as New Zealand reached 382 for five at stumps. The tourists resumed the day on 196-4. The first session was washed out by rain and a wet outfield at Colombo's P. Sara Oval.

De Grandhomme scored 83 in an unbeaten 113-run stand for the sixth wicket with Watling, who finished the day on 81. Watling also played the supporting role in an earlier partnership of 143 with Tom Latham, who hit 154.

Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera broke the marathon stand after trapping Latham leg before on a delivery that pitched and hurried on to the batsman's pad. Latham, who started the day on 111, registered his fifth 150-plus score in Tests. His career-best

264 not out also came against Sri Lanka in Wellington last year.

No. 7 De Grandhomme attacked hitting the home bowlers around the ground, smashing five fours and five sixes. Watling, who started the day on 25, played a patient knock during his 208-ball stay.

Sri Lanka were without captain and opening batsman Dimuth Karunaratne, who strained a muscle of his left leg and will be unable to bat until the fall of the fifth wicket, and wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella. Angelo Mathews is the stand-in-captain and substitute Dinesh Chandimal is keeping wicket in the absence of Dickwella, who sustained a cut on the little finger of his left-hand on day three.

Sri Lanka, who lead the two-match series 1-0, made 244 after electing to bat first in a match that has witnessed numerous rain interruptions. The Kane Williamson-led New Zealand will be looking to bat only once and then let their pace duo of Tim Southee and Trent Boult have a crack at the Sri Lankan batsmen in a bid to square the series.

Play will get under way at 9:45 am (0415 GMT) today, the final day of the match, weather permitting. Latham said he was waiting to see the weather conditions before deciding what score to declare on.

"The way Colin came out and played in that last session was outstanding for us. To put us in a position is really good," he told



COLOMBO: New Zealand's cricketer BJ Watling (R) is watched by Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Dinesh Chandimal as he plays a shot during the fourth day of the final cricket Test match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at P. Sara Oval cricket stadium in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

reporters. "Hopefully we can put some runs on the board and bowl at some stage and put Sri Lanka under pressure."

It was Latham's fourth hundred against Sri Lanka and one of the hallmarks was the confidence with which he played the spinners. "It's just that having different options to different bowlers. They are different to each other and it is important to have dif-

ferent options," he said. "Stick to low percentage of shots for certain bowlers and use the feet and play the sweep shot often. Just managed to do that. "Playing in New Zealand is complete different. Little bit more down the ground and in these conditions playing square of the wicket is good." Sri Lanka have lost five of their last seven Test matches at The Oval. — AFP

Kohli, Rahane stretch India lead as Cummins crawls to 95-minute duck

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: An unbroken century stand between Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane put India in a dominant position at 185 for three in their second innings, an overall lead of 260 runs, at stumps on the third day of the first Test against the West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Saturday.

Having dismissed the home side for 222 in the morning period to take a lead of 75, captain Kohli and vice-captain Rahane defied the best efforts of their persevering opponents on an energy-sapping afternoon in putting on 104 for the fourth wicket.

Rahane, who top-scored with 81 in his team's first innings total of 297, will resume on the fourth morning on 53 alongside Kohli on 51, the Indian captain displaying exaggerated care through his innings which featured just two boundaries against a disciplined but luckless attack.

Kemar Roach was the most unfortunate of the West Indies bowlers as Rahane was dropped at extra-cover early in his innings and then, within sight of 50, captain Jason Holder declined to review a not out verdict to an lbw appeal against the same batsman when television replays showed the decision would have been overturned in the Caribbean side's favour.

Rahane had joined Kohli at 81 for three after Roach produced a superb delivery to breach the defence of Cheteshwar Pujara. Pujara started brightly in getting to 25 but the pacer claimed him for the second time in the match.

Whereas in the first innings he edged to the wicket-keeper, this time he was bowled between bat and pad to give the fast bowler his fifth wicket of the match. Roston Chase's off-spin had earlier accounted for both openers with Mayank Agarwal adjudged leg-before attempting to sweep while K.L. Rahul was bowled round his legs trying a similar shot.

India had spent most of the morning session labouring to claim the final two wickets of the home side's first innings as Holder found sturdy support from Miguel Cummins in putting on 41 for the ninth wicket. Having slipped from 174 for five to 179 for eight late on day two courtesy of the persistent Ishant Sharma, Kohli and company would have been expecting to finish the job swiftly at the start of play. However they did not count on the defiance of Cummins, who hung around with Holder for an hour-



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: Ajinkya Rahane (R) of India hits 4 as Shai Hope (L) of West Indies jump during day 3 of the 1st Test between West Indies and India at Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda. — AFP

and-a-half without getting off the mark.

When the partnership was finally broken — Holder caught behind off Mohammed Shami for 39 — Cummins saw last man Shannon Gabriel pick up two singles immediately. Attempting to get his first runs though, the fast-medium bowler, who bats left-handed, was bowled having a swing at Ravindra Jadeja to give the left-arm spinner his second wicket of the innings.

In facing 45 deliveries for his defiant duck, and spending 95 minutes in the middle without getting off the mark, Cummins goes into the record books for the second longest innings in Test cricket for someone being dismissed without scoring. That dubious record is still held by New Zealander Geoff Allott, who survived for 101 minutes before falling for nought against South Africa in Auckland in 1999. — AFP

Is Kyrgios running out of time to mature?

PERTH: Two weeks after receiving a record six-figure fine for his latest on-court meltdown, Nick Kyrgios returns to the US Open with questions swirling over whether the mercurial Australian will ever mature in time to fulfil his vast potential.

Kyrgios, the 28th seed who will play American Steve Johnson in the first round on Tuesday, arrives in New York on the back of a second round loss at the Cincinnati Masters where he again made headlines for all the wrong reasons.

He was fined \$113,000 there after verbally abusing chair umpire Fergus Murphy and smashing two rackets. The antics came just two weeks after he had tamed his wild ways to win the Citi Open in Washington DC, for his sixth career title.

"I've just been working really hard, on and off the court, to try and be better as a person and as a tennis player," he said at the time. The good behaviour on display that week did not last long, leaving pundits and former players wondering whether the 24-year-old will ever embrace the change necessary to take his game to the next level.

"He has moments where he puts it together but even those moments are fraught with seconds or minutes of something happening that can completely set him off," former world number five Jimmy Arias, the director of tennis at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, told Reuters in an interview.

"I'm not Australian and it drives me crazy because you see how good he is. He would be a guy who could be number one in the world if he had anything upstairs. "Even if he had half of (Rafa) Nadal's fight he would be top four in the world." While prone to losing to modest opponents, Kyrgios often produces his best tennis when up against one of the 'Big Three' of Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Nadal. He has a combined 6-9 head-to-head record against them — 2-0 against Djokovic, 3-4 against Nadal and 1-5 against Federer.

"He can compete hard against (the Big Three) because there's no blow to his ego to lose," said American Arias. "But if he is playing someone ranked a little lower, and he's obviously trying his hardest and he's losing or he possibly could lose, then he just goes in the tank and he's got that excuse for his ego."

"He's created a defence mechanism in his brain that he has to change and that's going to take work and I'm not too sure he's willing to do that work and I don't know it's that important to him in the end. "The thing with today's players, he can try hard two for three weeks a year and still make a million dollars a year or something."

Former world number one Andy Roddick said he would be happy to have a career mulligan if he could be blessed with Kyrgios's gifts. "His talent is unbelievable," the 2003 US Open champion told Reuters. "I would go back and play my career with his game in a heartbeat."

"We need there to be kind of a transcendent star. Like him or hate him, you watch him. I think for the good of the game (and) I'd like to see him deliver on his promise. "I don't want him to be totally different from the way he is because the reason we're talking about him is because you can't take your eyes off him when he's on the court." — Reuters

Neymar excluded from PSG's Toulouse clash

PARIS: Neymar was left out of Paris Saint-Germain's third consecutive Ligue 1 match yesterday as his employers await a resolution to the Brazilian's protracted transfer saga.

Neymar was declared fit to play for the first time since injuring his ankle in May by PSG coach Thomas Tuchel on the eve of Toulouse's visit to the Parc des Princes.

But the club's Qatari owners and sporting director Leonardo have sidelined him as the uncertainty over his future continues to dominate their early season landscape.

In the squad list published ahead of the 1900 GMT kick-off Neymar was marked down as "absent".

The 27-year-old wants a return to Spain, to his former club Barca who sold him to the French champions for a world record 222 million euros (\$264 million at the time) in 2017.

Or to Real Madrid, who reportedly had a 100 million euros bid plus players rejected this week.

Tuchel when quizzed about his wantaway forward on Saturday told reporters: "He can play (against Toulouse) if the situation between him and the club is clear.... Today it's not clear, perhaps tomorrow it will be".

Pressed, the German added Neymar was "ready to play" but the final decision rested with the club's sporting director.

"Perhaps you have to speak to Leonardo," he suggested. "Neymar's had a good week (training) with all the squad, a week with a lot of work and intensity."

The European transfer window closes on September 2. Whether Neymar figures in PSG's fourth league outing next Friday at Metz could be up to the negotiators. — AFP



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Internazionale Milano v US Lecce
beIN SPORTS HD 4

21:45

Fahad Al Jedei Headed to Istanbul for Red Bull Car Park Drift Series Final



Kuwait King of Drift, Fahad Al Jedei, will be headed to Istanbul to compete in the World Series Final of Red Bull Car Park Drift.

Al Jedei will face a fierce challenge on September 1, for the global King of Drift title, competing against drifters from eleven other countries that have participated in the series. The 2019 series kicked off in Kuwait on February 1 and the competition since then continued with qualifiers in Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Algeria, Mauritius, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Georgia, and Jordan.

In front of 2,500 spectators, Fahad Al Jedei, managed

to secure the 2019 Kuwait King of Drift title in an outstanding manner. Second place went to Abdulhadi Hjalil, followed by Saad Al Foudari who rounded the podium.

The competition, first hosted by Red Bull in Lebanon, is back providing drifting amateurs and professionals with the opportunity to highlight their skills and compete for the crown, while capturing the crowd's attention. Last year's final in Lebanon witnessed an exciting turnout, with Lebanese drifter, Oliver Kik topping the podium with a stellar performance.

Lebanon hosted the first ever Red Bull Car Park Drift event in 2008 making it possible for all underground

drifters to put their skills to the test, and placed the spotlight on rally champion Abdo Feghali, making him a drifting legend.

On a global level, the story of drifting goes back to the 1960s on winding Japanese mountain roads. A bunch of likeminded racers set out to beat their A to B times by exceeding the grip limit of their tires when taking sharp corners. It did not do much to help their racing times but instead evolved into an entirely different discipline. Drifting was born, and a Red Bull manager discovered the sport in 2005 and decided to spark a fire in the Middle East, a fire that still burns to this very day.

This year the drifters' performance will be determined based on car look & design (40 points), drifting skills (120 points), boxes (50 points), spiral (20 points), gate (20 points), flipper (60 points), pendulum (50 points), car sound (20 points), and tire smoke (20 points).

With only one drifter from each participating country, Turkey will welcome the 2019 Kuwait King of Drift at the Series Final this September 1 where he will compete to claim the Series Final thrown.

To find out more information or watch it live, visit www.redbull.com.



25 Turner, Gonsolin lead Dodgers
2-1 over New York Yankees

25 Sindhu wins India's
first world title

26 Stokes's stunning century sees England
to one-wicket win in Ashes thriller



BOURNEMOUTH: Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero (C) scores his team's third goal during the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Manchester City at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, southern England yesterday. —AFP

Aguero reaches 400 goals in City stroll

Newcastle stun Spurs, Wolves draw against Burnley

LONDON: Sergio Aguero reached 400 career goals as the Manchester City striker inspired the champions' 3-1 win at Bournemouth, while Tottenham suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Newcastle yesterday. With Premier League leaders Liverpool off to a perfect start with three successive victories, City are already under pressure to keep pace.

Pep Guardiola's side did just that thanks to Aguero as City's record goalscorer hit another milestone with a clinical double in the south-coast sunshine. Raheem Sterling was also on the score-sheet — making it six goals in four games this term for the England winger — as City's second win of the season lifted them to within two points of Liverpool.

It was a landmark day all round for City, with captain David Silva involved in all three of the

goals on his 400th appearance for the club. "We felt Bournemouth's physicality, a nice three points and a big compliment to the players, a few things to improve, that's good it's happened when we are winning games," Guardiola said.

"The quality of our players in front made the difference and we won the game," Guardiola was less enthused by a VAR review that denied City a penalty when Jefferson Lerma appeared to trip Silva. City were last week left frustrated during a 2-2 draw with Tottenham when a last-gasp goal from Gabriel Jesus was disallowed by VAR due to a contentious handball against Aymeric Laporte.

Asked if City deserved a spot-kick, Guardiola replied in an sardonic manner: "No, no, no. Penalty? No. "It was clear hands last game, clear hands. A penalty today? No, please. "The challenge this season will be amazing for us after winning back-to-

back two titles, the challenge will be great."

Meanwhile, Steve Bruce silenced his critics as Newcastle won at Tottenham to secure their first points under the polarising Magpies boss. Since taking over from Rafael Benitez in the close-season, Bruce had found himself under pressure after losing his first two games, with fans doubting his credentials and former players claiming his squad were uncertain about his methods.

But Joelinton first goal for Newcastle in the 27th minute gave Bruce some breathing space for a few days at least. Davinson Sanchez was caught playing the offside trap, allowing Brazilian forward Joelinton to collected Christian Atsu's inch-perfect ball and fire home.

Newcastle were helped by a poor performance from Tottenham, who have won only once in their first three games. Mauricio Pochettino's side were

frustrated by VAR after the decision-review system ruled not to award a penalty when Harry Kane had tumbled under a challenge from Jamaal Lascelles.

Tottenham playmaker Christian Eriksen was only used as a substitute amid uncertainty surrounding his future ahead of the European transfer window shutting next week.

In the day's other game, Wolves forward Raul Jimenez scored a stoppage-time penalty to rescue a 1-1 draw against Burnley at Molineux. Ashley Barnes had put Burnley in front after 13 minutes with a blistering strike, giving the forward four goals in three games this season. But Jimenez netted from the spot in the 97th minute after the Mexican was tripped by Erik Pieters. Wolves have drawn all three of their league games this term. —AFP

Winning team pockets \$15 mn in final of eSports spectacular

SHANGHAI: More than 600,000 people watched captivated online and thousands packed a downtown Shanghai arena to see team OG take home a life-changing chunk of an eSports-record \$34.3 million prize pool yesterday.

The holders defeated fellow European side Team Liquid 3-1 in the grand final of The International, a world championship in the multiplayer battle game Dota 2, to roars of "OG! OG!" from an energised crowd at Mercedes-Benz Arena.

The victorious OG team will pocket at least \$15.6 million and the freshly minted

multimillionaires frantically embraced on stage after getting the final kills of the tournament. Eighteen teams from all over the world, each with five players, took part in the annual competition of professional players specialising in the hugely popular online game.

They may have lost, but there will be the consolation of a cheque of \$4.5 million for Team Liquid for taking second place. Liquid defeated PSG.LGD — the China-based team affiliated to French football giants Paris Saint-Germain — to reach the decider. PSG.LGD won just over \$3 million. The vast viewership and financial sums are proof of the growing interest in eSports, which has launched itself from the bedrooms of teenagers to worldwide prominence in the past decade.

The biggest stars in eSports — most of whom are in their 20s — are already multimillionaires, but professional gaming can be cut-throat with most players ushered into retirement by the age of 30. —AFP



SHANGHAI: Sebastien 'Ceb' Debs (C) of team OG holds the winner's trophy as the team wins the Dota 2 eSports Best of 5 final match during the International Dota 2 Championships in Shanghai yesterday. —AFP

Rins pips Marquez on line for British MotoGP victory

SILVERSTONE: Alex Rins won the British MotoGP in dramatic fashion as he beat world champion Marc Marquez to the finish line by 0.013 seconds at Silverstone yesterday. Rins' sensational finish earned the Suzuki rider a second victory of the season, but Honda's Marquez extended his lead atop the standings to 78 points after closest rival Andrea Dovizioso of Ducati was stretched off the track following a first-lap crash with Yamaha rider Fabio Quartararo.

Yamaha's Maverick Vinales finished third after coming from the back of the pack. "Unbelievable. I don't have words to explain. VAMOS!" Rins said of his incredible pass coming off the final corner. —AFP