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Trump ready to meet Rouhani after Macron's G7 diplomacy

Iran president also makes case for talks • Iran has sold oil from freed tanker

Amir thanks all well-wishers



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday thanked officials and ministers from across the Kuwaiti government and National Assembly for their tremendous concern over his wellbeing. HH the Amir expressed gratitude to HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Chief of the Kuwait National Guard HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy National Guard Chief Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH Sheikh Nasser

Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

He also mentioned Kuwait's chief judge Yousef Al-Mutawa and First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in addition to all Kuwaiti lawmakers and citizens. HH the Amir acknowledged Arab heads of states as well for constantly checking on his health, wishing their nations continued prosperity and success. — KUNA

BIARRITZ, France: US President Donald Trump said he was prepared to meet his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani in the next few weeks after talks over Tehran's nuclear program at a G7 summit in France. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif made a surprise appearance on the sidelines of the summit in Biarritz on Sunday at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. Macron said that the "conditions for a meeting" between Trump and Rouhani to take place "in the next few weeks" had been created through intensive diplomacy and consultations.

"If the circumstances were correct, I would certainly agree to that," Trump said at a joint press conference with Macron. Asked by reporters if he thought the timeline proposed by his French counterpart sounded realistic, Trump replied: "It does", adding he thought Rouhani would also be in favor. "I think he's going to want to meet. I think Iran wants to get this situation straightened out," Trump added.

Trump has put in place a policy of "maximum pressure" on Tehran over its disputed nuclear program via crippling sanctions that are seen as raising the risk of conflict in the Middle East. The US president last year unilaterally pulled out of a landmark 2015 international deal that placed limits on Tehran's nuclear activities in exchange for trade, investment and sanctions relief.

Rouhani defended Zarif's Biarritz visit in a speech aired live on state television yesterday. "I believe that for our country's national



BIARRITZ, France: French President Emmanuel Macron and US President Donald Trump pose during a joint press conference yesterday. — AFP

interests we must use any tool," he said. "And if I knew that I was going to have a meeting with someone that would (lead to) prosperity for my country and people's problems would be resolved, I would not hesitate. "The main thing is our country's national interests," he said to a round of applause from those gathered at an event marking government achievements in rural areas.

But hardliners have criticized the initiative, with the ultra-conservative Kayhan newspaper saying the trip was "improper" and sent "a message of weakness and desperation". "These improper measures are taken in the fantasy of an opening but it will definitely have no outcome other than more insolence and pressure," it added.

Continued on Page 24

Indians rush to remit money as rupee plunges

By Sajeew K Peter

KUWAIT: Money exchange centers across Kuwait witnessed an unusual rush yesterday, with Indian expats scrambling to send money home as the Indian rupee tumbled to this year's lowest level. One Kuwaiti dinar fetched 236.93 Indian rupees, while the currency traded around 71.98 against the US dollar in forex markets, recording one of the worst performances in its history.

According to experts, the rupee had been on a rollercoaster ride all along this year, primarily due to the weakening of investor sentiment, with the Indian economy showing signs of a sharp slowdown. "There is a confidence crisis in the Indian market today, prompting foreign funds to flee the country."

Continued on Page 24

Kenya ships first export of crude oil

NAIROBI: Kenya exported its first-ever batch of crude oil yesterday, with President Uhuru Kenyatta declaring the shipment of 200,000 barrels a "special moment" in the country's history. The president unfurled the Kenyan flag aboard a tanker at the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa that will be carrying the oil to Asia. "There are special moments that mark a turning point in the destiny of our nation," Kenyatta said at the ceremony. "The first export of crude oil by our nation, therefore, marks a special moment in our history as a people and as a country."

The maiden shipment was purchased for \$12 million by Chinese trading company ChemChina for export to Malaysia. Kenyatta said the first attempts at finding oil in Kenya date back to 1937 but it was not until 2012 that a commercially-viable deposit was located. This field was discovered in the South Lokichar Basin in Turkana, in Kenya's far north, by British firm Tullow and its joint venture partners. The company estimates the field holds 560 million barrels of oil.

In early June 2018, the company began shipping crude from Turkana to Mombasa by road. It will eventually be shipped via a pipeline under construction.



MOMBASA, Kenya: President Uhuru Kenyatta (center) poses for a group photo with other officials in front of an oil tanker carrying 200,000 barrels of crude oil during its inaugural shipment at Kipevu Oil Terminal yesterday. —AFP

Kenyatta said it "showed the global market that Kenya possesses the know-how and the infrastructure required to facilitate full- fired development". "This first oil pilot scheme has also brought with it prosperity for

the people of Turkana but also the wider republic with very many local communities directly benefiting from employment opportunities in production and logistics," he said. — AFP

More curbs on expats in the works

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Official sources said increasing the minimum salary required for an expat to obtain family visas to KD 500 is not the last decision with regards to controlling the entry of expats in Kuwait, as other decisions related to increasing transaction fees will follow, because the current fees are the lowest in the Gulf. They said the aim behind studying the fee increase is to distinguish between those who enter the country for tourism and visits and those who enter to violate the state's laws.

The sources said new procedures will be applied at the start of the new year to fight visas forgers, as all types of entry visas will be changed, with security features that are hard to forge. They said there are stricter procedures regarding absconding complaints and the legal period to report an absconding case. They said as soon as the authorities are informed, the residency permit is cancelled and referred to the investigations department, adding no residency has been restored of those reported absconding after Jan 4, 2016. The sources said the fine of KD 1,000 for harboring violators is still in force and is being applied.

Indonesia picks Borneo island for new capital

JAKARTA: Indonesia will move its capital to the eastern edge of jungle-clad Borneo island, President Joko Widodo said yesterday, as the country shifts its political heart away from congested and sinking megalopolis Jakarta. The proposed location - near the regional cities of Balikpapan and Samarinda - is an area at "minimal" risk of natural disasters, where the government already owns some 180,000 hectares of land, he added.

"The location is very strategic - it's in the center of Indonesia and close to urban areas," Widodo said in a televised speech. "The burden Jakarta is holding right now is too heavy as the centre of governance, business, finance, trade and services," he added. The announcement ends months of speculation about whether Widodo would follow through on the long-mooted plan - it was floated



SAMBOJA, Indonesia: This aerial picture taken on July 31, 2019 shows a view of the area around Samboja, Kutai Kartanegara, one of two locations proposed by the government for Indonesia's new capital. — AFP

by the newly independent country's founding father Sukarno more than half a century ago.

Shifting from problem-plagued Jakarta would also transfer Indonesia's power base off Java island, where about half of the sprawling archipelago's 260 million people live. "Moving the capital off Java is a gesture that aims to solidify unity," said Jakarta-based political risk analyst Kevin O'Rourke. "Jakarta will continue to be a megacity - as a center for finance and commerce - for a few more decades, but ultimately it is at severe risk to climate change," he added.

A bill for the proposed move will now be presented to parliament, Widodo said. Building is set to begin next year with the move of some 1.5 million civil servants slated to begin by 2024, at a cost of 466 trillion rupiah (\$33 billion), officials said. Known as Kalimantan, Indonesia's section of Borneo - the island it shares with Malaysia and Brunei - is home to major mining activities as well as rainforests, and is one of the few places on Earth with orangutans in their natural habitat.

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Local

Kuwait Airways set to receive first Airbus A320neo on Thursday

Kuwait Airways and Airbus: 36 years of fruitful air transport cooperation

HAMBURG: A delegation from Kuwait Airways arrived in the German city of Hamburg yesterday to receive the airliner's first Airbus A320neo on August 29, part of a 28-aircraft contract with the European manufacturer. The delegation, headed by Kuwait Airways board chairman Yusuf Al-Jassem, will visit Airbus plant to get acquainted with latest aircraft technologies, as well as holding meetings with Airbus executives. The delegation will officially receive the Airbus A320neo on Thursday and then fly back to Kuwait on Friday.

The National Carrier Kuwait Airways has been linked to air transport cooperation relationship with European multinational aerospace corporation Airbus since 1983, when it added its first Airbus A310 aircraft to its fleet. Their cooperation has seen significant progress and development over the years not only in aircraft purchase, but also in maintenance procedures and training courses provided to Kuwait Airways' staff. Airbus is considered to be one of Kuwait Airways fleet's main suppliers of various types of aircrafts as it holds an elite status among best plane suppliers in the world.

The Kuwaiti national carrier enjoys an eminent place among international air transport companies as its persistent cooperation with the European aerospace corporation proves the success of their relationship. The two companies began their cooperation in



Part of a 28-aircraft contract with Airbus

September 1983, when the Kuwaiti national carrier needed to update its fleet in order to expand its route network amid increasing demand for air traveling at that time. It has replaced a number of its old planes with a new generation of two-engine aircrafts, known



for their lower noise and fuel consumption.

Such a significant step led the Kuwaiti national carrier, also known for its 'Blue Bird' tag, to be at the forefront of regional and international air transport companies, and enabled it to expand its route network even further. A total of six Airbus A310-200s were ordered to replace the Boeing 707s on routes to Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, with deliveries starting in 1983. Five more A310 aircraft were added to the order late that year and early 1984. During the Iraqi invasion of the country in 1990, Kuwait Airways suffered devastating damages and massive looting of its aircrafts, replacement parts, plane engines, equipment, modern air devices, and galley.

Following Kuwait's liberation in 1991, the government rebuilt the national carrier company and made a key plan to expand its operations and fleets around the world, purchasing 18 new aircrafts as a result, 15 of which Airbus type, in 1992 to boost its operating profits and increase incomes. At that time, Kuwait Airways was the first Arab air transport company to buy the full collection of modern Airbus planes with



state of the art technology for a total of \$984 million, receiving them all in November 1992. In December 2013, Kuwait Airways signed a contract with Airbus to purchase 25 types of A350 and A320neo, and to rent 12 planes of A330 and A320 pending delivery of the new aircraft. The two sides amended the contract to include 28 aircraft which Kuwait Airways would be receiving up until 2026, by which Kuwait Airways would have a total of 38 planes - five A350-900, eight A300-800neo, 15 A32neo and 10 Boeing 777-300 ER. In October 2018, Kuwait Airways amended a pre-existing commitment with Airbus for 10 A350-900s by reducing it to five of these aircraft, and ordered eight Airbus A330-800neos. Currently, Kuwait Airways' fleet has 25 aircrafts, 15 of which are Airbus

type. The national carrier's route network includes 47 destination around the world.

Established in 1969, Airbus is one of the major aircraft manufacturing and selling corporations in the world. It launched the world's first twin-engine passenger jet, the A300, in that same year. Based in France, Airbus fully owns subsidiaries in the United States, China, Japan, India, and the Middle East region. It also operates training centers in various world countries and has over 150 service offices around the world. Kuwait Airways was established in 1953 as a private company under the name of 'Kuwait National Airlines Limited.' The government of Kuwait acquired 100 percent ownership in 1962 and has about 40 destinations worldwide. — KUNA

Agency urges accuracy in reporting on bedoons



KUWAIT: Head of the central agency for illegal residents Saleh Al-Fadhalah meets with the KJA delegation.

KUWAIT: Head of the central agency for illegal residents (bedoons) Saleh Al-Fadhalah met Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) Secretary Adnan Al-Rashed and his delegation. Fadhalah briefed the delegation on the latest developments regarding the bedoon

issue and the efforts of his department to resolve it. He also gave a detailed explanation with numbers and stats about all services and facilities bedoons get from various state establishments, topped by free education and healthcare. Furthermore, Fadhalah urged

accuracy when dealing with events, especially public issues that may have security repercussions such as that of bedoons. The meeting was attended by KJA's profession affairs committee Bedoor Al-Mutairi, Athraa Al-Rifae, Suleiman Al-Rashidi and Meshari Al-Aloush.

Arabs must unify environmental positions: Kuwait

CAIRO: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice for Legal Affairs Zakarya Al-Ansari stressed the importance of Arab cooperation in shaping international environment trends related through coordinating and unifying Arab environmental positions at international forums. This came in a press statement Ansari made yesterday on the sidelines of the meeting of the Standing Committee for Legal Affairs of the Council of the League of Arab States.

Ansari said that the committee will discuss for three days one item related to the draft

statute amended to the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs. The discussion of the draft comes as a prelude to the meeting of the Council of the Arab League at the ministerial level scheduled on the tenth of September next to consider adoption, he added.

Ansari pointed out that the discussions focused on the amended articles of association of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment in the framework of modernizing the specialized Arab ministerial councils and the work of the Arab League to develop its system. He affirmed that the aim of these amendments is to keep pace with the process of development and modernization and work to strengthen the environmental activities and programs. The Kuwaiti delegation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Arab League was headed by Falah Al-Mutairi. — KUNA

Auditor highlights need to evolve with time

KUWAIT: Kuwait's State Audit Bureau (SAB) has underlined the necessity to keep abreast of the latest advancements in the audit industry, saying it proves crucial for overall growth and development. The remarks by SAB's acting chief Adel Al-Saraawi came during a panel discussion with officials from China's National Audit Office yesterday, which revolved around fighting corruption in the audit field. He spoke of rapid changes in the audit industry, which behooves Kuwait's state audit to employ the most cutting-edge methods in order to ensure steady progress. The official went on to thank the Kuwaiti auditors' Chinese peers for their cooperation, saying such interaction with global audit bodies is necessary for overall growth and efficiency across the national audit spectrum. The talks shine light on the prevalence of corruption in every corner of society, making the scourge one of the most pressing problems global organizations have had to contend with, he added. — KUNA

Kuwaiti delegation learns safe waste disposal methods in Singapore

SINGAPORE: A Kuwaiti ministerial delegation has visited Singapore to benefit from the country's experience in environmental-friendly disposal of waste. The visit was upon an invitation from Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Masagos Zulkifli, the Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, said in a statement yesterday. The delegation included Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Khaled Al-Fadhel, Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel,

Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water Mohammad Boushehri. During the meeting, ministers Fadhel and Aqeel noted the importance of the visit in learning methods of waste management and recycling, in order to protect the environment. Meanwhile, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad stressed the need to bring awareness to the Kuwaiti society on limiting water consumption, especially that Kuwait suffers lack of water resources. — KUNA



SINGAPORE: Members of the Kuwaiti ministerial delegation meet with Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Masagos Zulkifli. — KUNA

KRCS prepares operating room for Sudan flood victims

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has equipped a hospital in Sudan with a miniature operating room to treat scores of people affected by flash floods across the impoverished nation. The venerable charity is collaborating with Kuwait's foreign and defense ministries, in addition to the Sudanese Red Crescent, to make sure that urgent aid reaches the Sudanese people. KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said yesterday, KRCS continues to assess the situation in Sudan to determine the scope of aid needed as a result of the natural disaster, he added. — KUNA



CAIRO: A view of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Arab League's meeting, headed by Falah Al-Mutairi. — KUNA

Amir receives Crown Prince, Speaker, Cabinet members at Bayan Palace

Sheikh Sabah receives cable from Kuwait National Guard's chief

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received Speaker Ghanem at Bayan Palace.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable from Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah concerning his recovery from a recent health setback. In the cable, His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali wished His Highness the Amir good health and wellness. In response, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah in which he thanked him for his kind words and sentiments, wishing good health and welfare. — KUNA



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.

Kuwait National Guard holds new recruits' draw



KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Guard (KNG) held a draw yesterday to select new recruits to join as noncommissioned officer (staff sergeants). Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

Al-Sabah attended the draw and gave words of encouragements to young citizens in attendance, while KNG Undersecretary Lt Gen Hashem Al-Rafaie gave them some instructions and advices.

Ready for the Beach ??

Kuwait Times

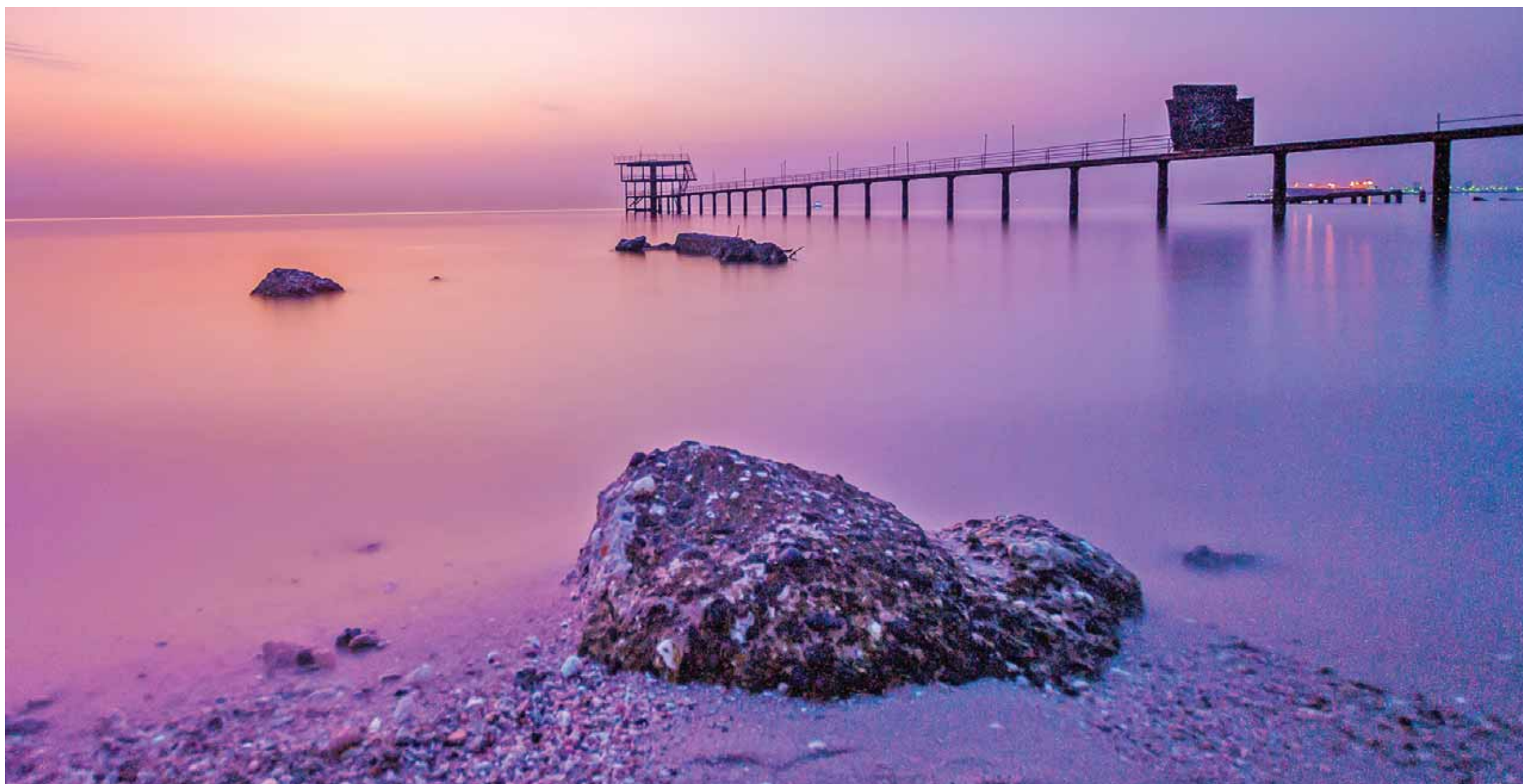
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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Sunrise at a beach in Mahboula. — Photo by Sudhish Somanath (KUNA)

ACK students awarded for participating in Worley internship

Australian Ambassador to Kuwait, other officials attend the event

KUWAIT: Four Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) students were awarded certificates for their participation in an internship organized and conducted by Worley. The Australian Ambassador to Kuwait, Jonathan Gilbert attended the event, along with representatives of Worley.

Representing Worley were Dr Issam Hallal, Location Director, Mark Beardwood, Projects Manager, and Cory Archibald, Training Mentor. Also representing ACK during the event, Professor Isam Zabalawi, President of ACK, Amal Al Shihabi, Assistant to the President for Institutional Relations, and Dr Mohammad Abdul Niby, Dean of the School of Engineering. Worley is a leading global provider of professional project and asset services in the energy, chemicals and resources sectors.

The internship program which was sponsored by the Australian Ambassador took place over the course of two weeks. Worley organized the program where the students were given an overview and an orientation on how a project management consulting firm operates. The students were also given focused sessions with

specialists from their disciplines, along with on-site practical and hands-on experience.

Archibald praised ACK students who participated in the event, noting their hard work and willingness to learn during the program. "The



Focused sessions, hands-on experience

students from ACK are my favorite. They were always very engaged. They are very intrigued and asked a lot of intelligent questions, they enthusiastically participated in the project," said Archibald. ACK would like to thank Worley for providing its students with such a valuable opportunity and is looking forward to future collaboration.



AUB invites staff to attend 'The Lion King' for free

KUWAIT: As part of its efforts to maintain an excellent working environment, Ahli United Bank (AUB) invited its employees and their families to the screening of 'The Lion King' for free on Friday, August 23, 2019 at 7:00 pm at Cinescape 360 Cinema. This invitation is part of the bank's effort to enhance internal communication among its employees.

On this occasion, Mariam Salem Al-Mudhaf, HR Assistant General Manager at AUB said, "We are always keen to get our employees together informally by organizing many outstanding activities for them and their families. The aim of organizing such activities outside of work

is to reward our employees by entertaining them, enhance communication among them and establish a family atmosphere that deepens their relationships with each other in a family environment which reflects positively on their sense of commitment, loyalty and satisfaction with their workplace and foster their motivation and enthusiasm for work. Like all other activities we organize for our staff, this event has been well received and attended by bank staff and their families."

"We are pleased with our continuous success in enhancing the level of communication and interaction among our employees on a personal level and sharing those pleasant moments in their lives, which enhances the loyalty and commitment of our employees to the bank. We at AUB value and appreciate the efforts of our employees and consider them an essential element in supporting the bank's success. We are always keen to reward them for their sincere efforts in their work. In this sense, we make sure to provide them with all the comforts and entertainment through excellent social, health, sports and entertainment programs," Mudhaf added.

NBK supports students through initiative

KUWAIT: Having the back to school season approaching, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized special initiative in collaboration with LOYAC to support students through purchasing school supplies and getting them ready for school.

The campaign covered purchasing school supplies to 30 children from different areas of Kuwait. Each dedicated volunteer was assigned to accompany a child to go shopping. The children had the chance to select their stationery from Jarir Bookstore. NBK Public Relations Team Leader, Yaqoub Al-Baqer, said "This initiative is a part of

NBK's social responsibility towards children and prepare them for school."

"The children enjoyed picking up their favorite stationery," Baqer added. He stressed that NBK firmly believes that this social commitment is a fundamental cornerstone of NBK's objectives as a leading financial institution, expressing his hopes that this campaign had left a positive impact on children and brought them happiness, confirming that NBK's mission is to bring joy and hope for a better future.

The initiative is part of NBK's commitment to its social responsibility program and expanding its reach to cover more sustainable programs. NBK continues to reinforce its leading corporate citizen role committed to bringing positive values to the community through its CSR initiatives that adopt a wide range of objectives. NBK's participation in this initiative is part of its partnership with LOYAC through its participation in similar campaigns covering training, developmental, educational and social services programs.



Local

Consult doctor before using online herbal medicines, says health ministry official

Councilmember inquires about earthquake-resistant building designs

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A Health Ministry official warned against using herbs for treating of diseases without consulting a specialist doctor, as a company was found selling herbs on social media claiming it cures all types of cancer, respiratory diseases, prostate cancer, polycystic ovary syndrome, viruses and others. Assistant Undersecretary for Medical and Food Control Affairs Abdullah Munjid Al-Bader said there are no clinical studies proving claims of this company, besides the dangerous side-effects of some of these herbs on the heart and central nervous system. They are also unsuitable for those with hypertension, as they may increase pressure on the heart and threaten the patient's life. He said the company was referred to the prosecution to face legal action for making medical claims and promote unlicensed plant products in violation of the law.



Proposal to ban water guns in national celebrations

Earthquake-resistant
In other news, Chairman of the Capital committee at the Municipal Council Hassan Kamal presented several questions about earthquake-resistant building designs. He said the executive branch at the Municipality is preparing the fourth structural plan of the state and allocating sites for the state's future projects with its various uses. He said over the past decades, many tremors were detected in Kuwait as a result of earthquakes that took place in neighboring countries.

Kamal said Kuwait is expected to witness a construction boom during the next two decades, which requires Kuwait Municipality and other departments to be technically ready and prepare specifications related to this development that conform to Kuwait's New Vision 2035. He inquired about the municipality's current procedures for earthquake-resistant building designs, and whether the municipality has conducted studies on tremors and quakes and their effect on buildings in Kuwait. He also asked about the municipality's technical preparations for designing buildings and infrastructure that is resistant to tremors and quakes.

Proposals' discussion

Meanwhile, the technical committee at the Municipal Council will hold its first meeting of the second term tomorrow and will discuss the proposal of the council's chairman to allocate stations for tourist transport, and a proposal from member Maha Al-Baghli to ban the use of water balloons and water guns during national celebrations.

The committee will discuss a question from member Mohammad Al-Raqeeb with regards to amending some decisions of the council with regards to co-ops, and a proposal by member Abdullah Al-Roumi to increase the punishment for violating buildings that rent basements within residential areas, which are licensed to be car parking places.



KUWAIT: A boat caught fire near a Khairan chalet yesterday. Four firemen towed the boat away from the chalet and doused the blaze. No injuries were reported. —By Hanan Al-Saadoun

Efforts to reduce next year's hajj costs

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry will start discussions over a plan to reduce prices of hajj missions for the next season, as the ministry's supervision department believes they are highly priced, and it is not realistic for some missions to have prices reaching KD 3,000 per pilgrim. The

sources said a ministry study believes the suitable price for a hajj mission must be between KD 1,500 and KD 2,250. The sources said the Awqaf Ministry operated low-cost hajj missions for Kuwaitis at a maximum price of KD 1,300 and the idea was highly successful, with services that were no less than missions priced at KD 3,000. They said the low-cost hajj missions next year will have double the number of those registered this year, which will force other missions to reduce their prices. Bedoon hajj missions charged prices of KD 1,300 or less - the pilgrim paid KD 650 and the rest was paid by the Awqaf secretariat and Zakat House.

Kuwait youth center blaze injures 4

KUWAIT: A fire that tore through a juvenile care center in the wee hours of yesterday left four people with mild injuries, said a Kuwaiti official. Four people, including a pair of firefighters, were slightly wounded as a result of the inferno, according to the

Kuwaiti Ministry of Social Affairs' Assistant Undersecretary for Social Welfare Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi. Fire crews arrived at the scene promptly and managed to subdue the blaze, pending a probe into the circumstances behind the incident, he added. —KUNA

Man suffers broken nose in domestic fight

KUWAIT: A man suffered a broken nose after his wife assaulted him during a fight, he told local police. The Kuwaiti man told police officers that he had a dispute with his wife, who became very angry and beat him badly, injuring him in the process. He lodged a complaint against his wife, and the case was registered as a felony due to the severe nature of the injuries. Investigations are underway.

Body found

The body of a Lebanese man was recovered by the coroner after he was found dead in his family home with an empty syringe nearby. Police received a call about the man, so paramedics went to the house and pronounced him dead. Investigations are ongoing to find out what happened.

Cabby mugged

Two unidentified men choked an Ethiopian taxi driver and threw him out of the car after stealing all his personal belongings. The victim lodged a complaint at Rawda police station. A police source said the taxi driver told them a man got into the car in Hawally and took him to Rawda. As soon as he stopped behind the area's co-op, another person came, opened the back door and choked him, while the other man punched him several times. They stole all his personal belongings and escaped in a black car. Police are working on the case.

—Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

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DESTINATION	ECONOMY CLASS RETURN FROM (KWD)*	BUSINESS CLASS RETURN FROM (KWD)*
Dubai	63	220
Bangkok	116	449
Munich	134	629
Paris	134	615
Frankfurt	138	630
Prague	145	842
London	161	734
New York	235	930
Los Angeles	310	1,911
Houston	340	1,690

FLY BETTER

Emirates



Iran turns to Asian allies to seek relief from US sanctions

Since pulling Washington out of the

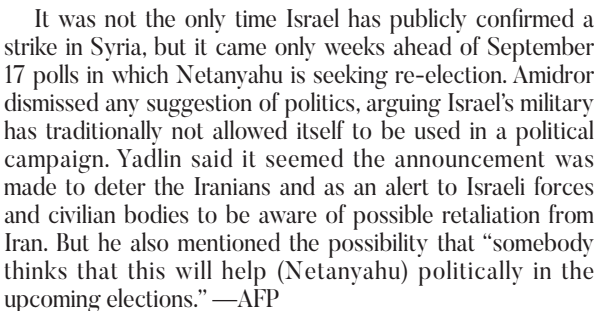
China supported all efforts beneficial to safeguarding the nuclear agreement, Wang added, in comments carried later on the foreign ministry website. It also “understands the reasonable demands put forward by Iran”, he said, adding that China would continue to play a constructive role in easing tension in the Gulf region. Zarif said he was particularly excited by the Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to recreate the old Silk Road with massive infrastructure spending connecting China with the rest of Asia and beyond. Iran considers the Belt and Road

Iran's top diplomat didn't meet US President Donald Trump, French diplomats said, but the presence of the two men in the same place at least sparked hopes of detente. Zarif was a key architect of the 2015 nuclear deal reached between Iran, the United States, European powers, Russia and China. In Beijing, Zarif met with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and

Trump's policy of applying "maximum pressure" on Tehran via crippling sanctions has been criticized by European powers and China and is seen as raising the risk of conflict in the Middle East. In July, the US government imposed heavy sanctions seeking to hamper Zarif's travel, and effectively banning him from the United States. Zarif tweeted that he was heading to Japan and Malaysia in the next leg of his Asian tour without offering details. —Agencies

Iran is Israel's arch-enemy and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to stop it from entrenching itself militarily in neighboring Syria. Iran has backed Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in his country's civil war alongside Hezbollah

But “other parts of the American government can give more weight to the risk to their soldiers”. Karim Bitar of the Paris-based Institute for International and Strategic Affairs.



Trump denies he wanted to drop nuclear bombs on hurricanes

The US is regularly pummeled by hurricanes. In 2017 one named Harvey became the strongest hurricane to make landfall in 12 years. Twitter lit up with reactions to the Axios story, with many users appearing shocked. “Not ‘The Onion,’” one user wrote, referring to the satirical news publication known for outlandish headlines. “What could possibly go wrong?” asked another. Many tweets also included the hashtag #ThatsHowTheApocalypseStarted. Democratic presidential hopeful Kamala Harris weighed in as well, tweeting, “Dude’s gotta go.” —AFP

International

Suspected Israeli drone strikes hit pro-Syria Palestinian group

Netanyahu orders new settler homes at fatal attack site

BEIRUT: A pro-Syrian Palestinian group yesterday accused Israel of carrying out a drone attack on one of its positions in Lebanon, hours after Hezbollah claimed it was targeted by a similar Israeli strike. A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), which has close ties with Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah and Syria's government, said the strike caused only limited material damage. "It was an Israeli strike with a drone," spokesman Anwar Raja said.

There were no casualties, he said, as "the position targeted had been evacuated" before the alleged strike. Lebanon's state National News Agency said "three hostile strikes" after midnight hit near the eastern town of Qusaya "where the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command has military posts". "They responded with a barrage of anti-aircraft fire," it said. There was no immediate comment from Israel.

Qusaya is only about five kilometers from the Syrian border. The PFLP-GC has positions in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley as well as in Al-Naameh just south of Beirut. In July 2015, a security official said a blast at a PFLP-GC base in Qusaya wounded seven people, while the Palestinian group blamed it on an Israeli strike. Raja said the latest attack was Israel "saying that it is able to strike the axis of the resistance wherever it wants" referring to anti-Israeli forces like Hezbollah and its ally Iran.

He also denounced the strikes as "provocation" after Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah on Sunday threatened Israel over what he described as a targeted "drone attack" on his group's stronghold in the south of Beirut. "The time when Israeli aircraft come and bombard parts of Lebanon is over," Nasrallah said. "I say to the Israeli army along the border, from tonight be ready and wait for us," he added. "What happened yesterday will not pass."

Hezbollah, considered a terrorist organization by Israel and the United States, is a major political actor in Lebanon and also a key backer of the government in war-torn Syria. The latest incident also came after Israel on Saturday launched strikes in neighboring Syria to prevent what it said was an Iranian attack on the Jewish state. Nasrallah said the strike in Syria killed two Hezbollah members. Israel did not confirm the alleged "drone attack" on Hezbollah's stronghold.

New settler homes

In another development, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday ordered hundreds of new settler homes to be built near the site of a bomb attack that killed an Israeli teen in the occupied West Bank. The homemade bomb on Friday near the settlement of Dolev, northwest of Ramallah, killed 17-year-old Rina Shnerb and wounded her father Eitan and brother Dvir in what the military called a terror attack. Israeli security forces have detained a number of Palestinian suspects but say the investigation is still under way.

An English-language statement from Netanyahu's office said he ordered that plans be submitted at the next meeting of planning authorities for "the establishment of a new neighborhood in Dolev with approximately 300 new residential housing units". Settler leaders often say after attacks on Israelis that the right response is settlement growth. "We will deepen our roots and strike at our enemies," the statement quoted Netanyahu as saying. "We will continue to strengthen and develop settlement."

Netanyahu and his right-wing allies draw significant support from the settlement movement and they will be fighting what looks like being a tough general election on September 17. Palestinians sporadically attack Israelis in the West Bank, occupied by Israel since the Six-Day War



AVIVIM: Photo shows Israeli soldiers patrolling near the northern Israeli town of Avivim, close to the border with Lebanon. — AFP

of 1967, but bombings have become rare. Recent attacks have mostly involved guns, knives and car ramming. Around 600,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West

Bank and annexed east Jerusalem, next to some three million Palestinians. All settlements are viewed as illegal under international law, which Israel disputes. — Agencies

Israel reduces Gaza fuel supply after rocket attack

JERUSALEM: Israel said yesterday it was cutting by half the amount of fuel it supplies to Gaza's only power plant, in response to rocket attacks from the Palestinian territory. Three rockets were fired from the Hamas Islamist-run enclave at southern Israel on Sunday and two were intercepted by the Iron Dome anti-missile system, the military said. There was no claim of responsibility.

After the attack, Israel launched an air strike against what the military described as a Hamas military compound. No casualties were reported on either side of the volatile border. In a statement, COGAT, a unit in the Defense Ministry that coordinates civilian issues with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said "cutting the amount of diesel in half will significantly reduce" the plant's output.

It said the measure, "following the firing of rockets ... and the continued violation of stability and security" will be in effect until further notice.

Gaza has long suffered from a shortage of electricity and chronic blackouts. A new power line from Israel has been proposed to alleviate the situation. Mohammad Thabet, spokesman for the Gaza power company, described the Israeli decision as collective punishment. "We already are in a crisis and now the Israeli decision will make it worse. It will have a grave impact on the lives of 2 million people and on vital services such as hospitals," Thabet said.

Currently residents get six hours of electricity followed by 12 hours of blackout. Thabet said the fuel cuts would decrease power time to only four-hour periods. In a series of border confrontations in recent weeks, Israel said it killed at least eight Palestinian militants who tried to infiltrate its territory. Israeli and Egyptian blockades have brought the Gazan economy to the brink of collapse. Recent foreign aid cuts and sanctions by the Palestinian Authority, Hamas's rival in the West Bank, have worsened the situation. — Reuters



GAZA CITY: Palestinians stand in a queue outside the post office to receive Qatari cash aid yesterday. — AFP

South Africa fails to stop attacks on foreign truckers

JOHANNESBURG: Dozens of truck drivers in South Africa have died in attacks against foreigners since March 2018, Human Rights Watch said yesterday, calling for stronger protection of foreign workers. The report was released after a recent spate of xenophobic violence fuelled by economic decline and record unemployment in Africa's second largest economy. Groups of South African truck drivers allegedly assaulted foreign drivers with stones, knives, guns and petrol bombs, killing more than 200 and forcing hundreds out of their jobs.

A South African truck owners' association quoted by Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported 75 such incidents since March this year, 15 of which were independently confirmed by the watchdog. They include the deadly stabbing of a Zimbabwean driver and a petrol bomb attack on another Zimbabwean national in the coastal city of Durban, where a spate of violence against foreigners displaced hundreds earlier this year. HRW southern Africa director Deva Mavhinga called on the government to "bring perpetrators to justice".

"The South African authorities are neither protecting foreign truck drivers against violence nor conducting effective investigations into those credibly implicated in attacks," Mavhinga said. Labor ministry spokesman Makhosonke Buthelezi told AFP that his department was not aware of the report, but the government had appointed an inter-ministerial committee to look into the issue and held several meetings with employers and truck drivers in Durban. "It is not true to say [the] government is not doing anything," said Buthelezi. "Whether it is enough, we can only judge later."

Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula said after an interministerial meeting in June that the crisis was caused by an "oversupply of foreign drivers in the industry", many of whom are undocumented. South Africa is a major destination for economic migrants from the southern Africa region, with many moving from neighboring Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in search for work. The latest population census in 2011 shows that numbers spiked in the previous decade, with nearly half of international migrants having moved to South Africa between 2005 and 2010. An unknown number of the migrants are undocumented. "[Employers] prefer [foreign truck drivers] because they can work long hours at a much cheaper cost, so they tend to exploit them," Buthelezi said. Immigrants bear much of the anger about chronic unemployment and limited economic gains made by poor black people since white-minority rule ended in 1994. — AFP



NAJAF: A Shiite Muslim cleric recites a prayer as members of Iraq's Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization units) paramilitary force surround the coffin of their comrade Kazem Mohsen, known by his nom de guerre Abu Ali Al-Dabi, during his funeral procession in the central shrine city of Najaf. — AFP

Iraq probes deadly drone attack near its western border

BAGHDAD: Iraq's military said yesterday it has launched an investigation into a purported Israeli strike that killed one paramilitary fighter and severely wounded another near the country's western border with Syria. The attack on Sunday hit a position near the border town of Al-Qaim held by Brigade 45, a unit belonging to the powerful Hashed Al-Shaabi paramilitary force. "An investigation is ongoing now to determine what happened with the strike," Iraq's military spokesman Yehya Rasool said. The Hashed had been quick to blame Israel on Sunday, saying Israeli drones targeted the position with US air cover.

"As part of the string of Zionist attacks on Iraq, the evil Israeli crows have returned to target the Hashed al-Shaabi, this time with two drones inside Iraqi territory," the statement said. The attack killed Kazem Mohsen, Brigade 45's "logistical support chief" and a member of its rocket squad, also known by his nom de guerre Abu Ali Al-Dabi. Hundreds mourned at a funeral procession for him in Baghdad on Monday morning, including Ahmad Al-Assadi, a member of parliament and spokesman for the Hashed's parliamentary bloc "Fatah".

"We will work in the coming days to hold an emergency parliamentary meeting to discuss this issue and take the appropriate decisions," he said in a video published by the Hashed. The attack was the latest in a string of blasts and drone sightings at Hashed bases across Iraq, for which no one has claimed responsibility. The Iraqi government has carried out investigations into some of those incidents, blaming an unidentified drone for at least one and saying another was a "premeditated" act without making specific accusations. — AFP

DR Congo unveils new government after long delay

KINSHASA: Nearly eight months after former opposition chief Felix Tshisekedi was elected president, the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday unveiled a coalition government dominated by supporters of his predecessor, Joseph Kabila. "The government is finally here. The president has signed the decree and we will begin work soon," Prime Minister Sylvestre Ilunga told reporters.

In gestation for seven months, the new government will see most of the 66 portfolios handed to Kabila's Common Front for Congo (FCC), with Tshisekedi's Direction For Change alliance accounting for most of the rest. Tshisekedi, 56, has vowed to enact sweeping reform and root out corruption but has been hampered by the need to share power with the legislature, which is dominated by FCC MPs.

Forging the coalition government took time as both sides had to "remove everything that could be an obstacle to the functioning of the government," Ilunga said. The new team will get down to work as soon as its members are approved by the National Assembly, he added. The parliament has been convened in special session until September 7 to approve the government. "I believe this has been worth waiting for," Ilunga said. "Here we have a government that manifests the vision of the head of state, in the direction of change. So change starts now. Let's get to work!"

Female foreign minister

Ilunga said 17 percent of government positions were now occupied by women, Ilunga said. "This percentage is still low but it is balanced by the importance of the portfolios attributed to women," he argued. The foreign ministry was handed to Marie Tumba Nzeza, a member of Tshisekedi's Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS). She becomes only the second female foreign minister in the country's history. The first was Ekila Liyonda, who briefly served in the 1980s under former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, who had renamed the country Zaire.

Women have also been named in charge of the employment ministry and ministry for gender affairs. The new government also includes a female vice prime minister from Kabila's party, Elysee Munembe, who takes the planning portfolio, Ilunga said. There are five vice prime ministers in all. The defense ministry went to Aime Ngoy Mukena, a close Kabila supporter and the finance portfolio to another Kabila-era veteran, Jose Sele Yalaghuli.

The interior ministry was attributed to Gilbert Kankonde, a pro-Tshisekedi figure from UDPS ranks, who will face the thorny task of dealing with future protests. Ilunga declared that three-quarters of members were serving in government for the first time, which he regarded as the "most important innovation." Tshisekedi emerged victorious in elections on December 30 that marked the DRC's first peaceful transition of power since the mineral-rich nation gained independence from Belgium in 1960.

But the unstable country's politics remain overshadowed by Kabila, who despite stepping down voluntarily wields extensive clout after 18 years in power. He came to office in January 2001, less than two weeks after the assassination of his father, Laurent Kabila, while the armies of at least six regional nations waged war on Congolese soil.

Swathes of the eastern provinces are still unstable, a haven for rebel militias regularly accused of atrocities against civilians. Moreover, an Ebola epidemic has claimed almost 2,000 lives in one year in the troubled provinces of North and South Kivu, presenting a grueling challenge for the incoming health minister, Eteni Longondo.

Despite cobalt, copper, diamonds and other natural treasure, the DRC ranks just 176th out of 189 countries on the UN's Human Development Index. Poverty is widespread, and inequality is glaring. Another hot potato has landed in the lap of the minister in charge of primary education, Willy Bakonga. — AFP

International

More fires flare up in Amazon; Brazil warplanes fight blazes

Worsening crisis fuels a row between France, Brazil leaders

PORTO VELHO: Hundreds of new fires have flared up in the Amazon in Brazil, data showed yesterday, even as military aircraft dumped water over hard-hit areas and G7 nations pledged to help combat the blazes. Smoke choked Port Velho city as fires raged in the northwestern state of Rondonia where fire-fighting efforts are concentrated, amid a growing global uproar and a diplomatic spat between France and Brazil.

Two C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying thousands of liters of water on Sunday began dousing fires devouring chunks of the world's largest rainforest, which is seen as crucial to keeping climate change in check. Swaths of the remote region have been scorched by the worst fires in years, sending thick smoke billowing into the sky. Experts say increased land clearing during the months-long dry season to make way for crops or grazing has aggravated the problem this year.

The worsening crisis has fueled a row between President Jair Bolsonaro and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, who has been piling pressure on Bolsonaro to do more to protect the forest. Macron yesterday condemned "extraordinarily rude" comments made about his wife Brigitte by Bolsonaro a day earlier. Bolsonaro hit back, accusing Macron of treating Brazil like "a colony or no-man's land." The spat comes as G7 nations meeting in southwestern France agreed to spend 20 million euros (\$22 million) on the Amazon, mainly to send fire-fighting aircraft.



Macron blasts Bolsonaro for insulting wife

The G7 club also agreed to support a medium-term reforestation plan which will be unveiled at the UN in September, Macron and Chile's President Sebastian Pinera said. Although about 60 percent of the Amazon is in Brazil, the vast forest also spreads over parts of eight other countries or territories. Bolivian President Evo Morales said Sunday he would accept international help to combat wildfires raging in his country's southeast as he suspended his election campaign to deal with the crisis. Brazil has accepted help from Israel, which offered to send an aircraft.

Seven states, including Rondonia, have requested the Brazilian army's help in the Amazon, where more than 43,000 troops have been made available to combat fires. It is not clear how many of them are actually involved in fire-fighting efforts so far. After initially blaming the fires on non-government organizations, Bolsonaro on Friday vowed a "zero tolerance" approach to criminal activities in the Amazon and promised strong action to control the blazes.

Dozens of firefighters arrived in Porto Velho on Sunday and Justice Minister Sergio Moro has given the green light for the deployment of security forces to tackle illegal deforestation. The latest official figures show 80,626 forest fires have been recorded in Brazil this year, the highest number of any year since at least 2013. More than half of the fires are in the massive Amazon basin. Some 1,113 new fires were ignited between Saturday and Sunday, according to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research. — AFP



BIARRITZ: French President's wife Brigitte Macron (center right) kisses US President Donald Trump (left), flanked by France's President Emmanuel Macron (right), prior to a family picture with G7 leaders and guests, on the second day of the annual G7 summit in Biarritz. — AFP

Why are the Amazon fires sparking a crisis for Brazil and world?

BRASILIA: A record number of fires ravaging the Amazon has drawn international outrage because of the rainforest's importance to the global environment and prompted Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to dispatch the military to assist in firefighting. Here is what you need to know about the disaster.

Why does the Amazon matter?

The Amazon - 60% of which is in Brazil - is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It is considered a biodiversity hot spot, with many unique species of plants and animals. The dense jungle absorbs a huge amount of the world's carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas believed to be the biggest factor in climate change, so scientists say that preserving the Amazon is vital to fighting global warming.

How bad are the fires?

Forest fires in all of Brazil have hit the highest level since at least 2013 and are up 84% this year to August 23, compared to the same period a year ago, according to Brazil space research agency INPE. There have been 78,383 fires so far this year, with roughly half of those in August alone. Eight out of nine Amazon states have seen an increase, with the largest state of Amazonas seeing a 146% rise. Residents on the ground in the states of Rondonia and Amazonas states said while there are fires every year they have never seen it this bad, with clouds of smoke blanketing the region.

What caused the fires?

Fires in the Amazon are often set on purpose to clear land. After loggers extract wood, speculators burn the remaining vegetation to clear it in hopes of selling the land to farmers and ranchers. The Amazon is several months into its dry season during which these fires can more easily spread out of control. Environmentalists say that those setting the fires have been emboldened because they hear Bolsonaro calling for more development of the Amazon and think they will not be punished. Deforestation has risen 67% year-on-year in the first seven months of 2019 and more than tripled in July alone. Environmentalists believe those deforesting are the same people starting the fires.

How has Brazil reacted?

Bolsonaro initially suggested that the fires were normal, then said that non-government organizations themselves were setting the fires to hurt his government. He did not present any evidence and later backed off from that claim. Bolsonaro has said that the country does not have the resources to fight the fires in an area as large as the Amazon, while also warning other countries not to interfere, saying that foreign money was aimed at undermining Brazil's sovereignty. The government has now decided to mobilize the military to fight the fires and several Amazon states have subsequently requested support. It remains unclear exactly how the armed forces will be deployed and how effective they will be.

What do world leaders say?

French President Emmanuel Macron has called the fires an international emergency and "ecocide," and criticized Brazil's government for not doing more to protect the rainforest. Macron's office said in a statement that it would oppose eventual approval of the free trade deal between the European Union and the South American trade bloc Mercosur, because Bolsonaro lied about environmental concerns at June's G20 summit when it was first agreed to. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have said they are concerned about destruction of the Amazon but said that blocking the trade deal was not the right response. On Sunday, Macron said the leaders of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada were finalizing a possible deal at their annual summit on "technical and financial help" for the countries affected by the fires, including Brazil. — Reuters

Britain 'must pay' Brexit divorce bill even if no deal: EU

BRUSSELS: Britain must pay its Brexit divorce bill even if it crashes out of the bloc without a deal, the EU said yesterday, warning that future ties would be threatened if London failed to honor its commitments. The stern rebuff from Brussels came a day after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson again said that in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit on October 31, Britain would be free from financial obligations to the bloc. With the clock ticking and fears of no deal growing, Johnson and EU Council President Donald Tusk clashed at the G7 in France on Saturday, with the British leader insisting the current divorce deal must be changed.

Asked if the EU would take Britain to court to recover the money, a spokeswoman for the European Commission instead stressed that a future trade deal between Britain and the remaining 27 states could be under threat unless London paid up. "As we have said many times before, all commitments that were taken by the 28 member states



WALES: A general view shows Milford Haven in Wales. Locals in Milford Haven—a once-thriving Welsh fishing community that turned into one of the poorest corners of Europe—see new prime minister Boris Johnson as their last great hope for reviving the local fishing industry. — AFP

should be honored, and this is also and especially true in a no deal scenario, where the United Kingdom would be expected to honor all commitments made during EU membership," commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva told reporters.

"Rather than going into judicial action threat, I think it



ORANIENBURG: Visitors are seen at the former concentration camp Sachsenhausen in Oranienburg, eastern Germany. — AFP

Far-right surge rattles guardians of Nazi era remembrance

ORANIENBURG: A tour group handpicked by the far-right party Alternative for Germany touched off a scandal last summer while visiting the former Nazi concentration camp Sachsenhausen north of Berlin. A few members of the delegation began asking the guide pointed questions about Allied bombing at the end of World War II, implying its impact on the civilian population was comparable to the Nazis' atrocities.

"As our horrified colleague told me, the comments by obviously rhetorically trained people culminated in them questioning the existence of the gas chambers and the mass murders in them," the director of the camp's memorial, Axel Drecoll said. The guide broke off the tour and Sachsenhausen staff threw the group out. Drecoll, 45, demanded an apology from leading AfD figure Alice Weidel, who had organized the visit, but is still waiting for a response.

This month authorities in Brandenburg state indicted a 69-year-old member of the group on charges including inciting racial hatred. Defenders of Germany's sacrosanct atonement for the Nazis' crimes - the foundation of its Basic Law and political culture - warn it is coming under calculated assault from right-wing extremists.

And ahead of three state elections in the coming weeks in which the AfD is set to do well, Germans like Drecoll are growing nervous about erosion of the country's culture of remembrance, which many experts argue is unique in the world. The anti-migrant, anti-Muslim AfD could come in

first in Brandenburg as well as neighbouring Saxony - which both head to the ballot box on September 1 - and is polling strongly ahead of an October election in Thuringia.

'Tears don't educate'

On a walk around the vast windswept grounds, Drecoll said memorials like Sachsenhausen need to evolve to defend their mission and prepare for a time in which there are no more Holocaust survivors alive to bear witness. "That means interactive media in the exhibitions, tablets in the seminar rooms, an up-to-date website and audioguides for visitors which may become multimedia guides," he said.

However he said overemphasis on digital tools or a pivot to gadgets like virtual reality goggles undermined efforts to teach the lessons of the past and the duty to pay respect to the dead. "We are also a cemetery. We need dignified remembrance and not pure emotion - tears don't educate." Drecoll was similarly circumspect about calls for compulsory visits for Germans to the former camps. "I really believe in intrinsic motivation — we want to have a conversation among equals," he said.

"Also some young people are simply overwhelmed by the images they're confronted with at the place where the crimes were committed - you have to respect that." Around 200,000 people - Jews, dissidents from across Europe, gay men and other groups targeted by the Nazis - were held at Sachsenhausen between 1936 and 1945. At least 40,000 were killed or died under brutal conditions. The memorial draws about 700,000 visitors each year from around the world - double the number a decade ago. The vast majority, Drecoll said, are "respectful".

Leading AfD politicians, however, have more and more openly challenged Germany's unflinching reckoning with the legacy of the Nazi terror regime. Party co-leader Alexander Gauland has called the 12-year Third Reich a "speck of bird poop" in an otherwise glorious German past. — AFP

is important to make clear that settling accounts is essential to starting off a new relationship on the right foot based on mutual trust." Jean-Claude Piris, who served as director of the EU Council's legal services for more than two decades, tweeted: "If the UK refuses to pay its debts to the EU, then the EU will not accept to negotiate a trade agreement with the UK."

Johnson has repeatedly said that if Britain leaves without a deal it will not have to pay the 39 billion pound (43 billion euro, \$48 billion) divorce bill agreed by his predecessor Theresa May. He repeated the claim again on Sunday, telling Britain's ITV broadcaster that the money would be "no longer, strictly speaking, owed" and his government would be left with "very substantial sums" to spend. Downing Street has reportedly refused to say how much the UK would be prepared to pay, though a report in the Times newspaper yesterday quoted a figure of seven billion pounds.

The tough line from Brussels echoes comments by a French official last week who warned London against thinking "there's not a deal, so I won't pay", saying "there's no magic wand that makes this bill disappear." Johnson is adamant the withdrawal agreement struck by May - rejected by his lawmakers three times - is dead in the water and changes must be made, particularly on the arrangements for the border between EU member Ireland and British-ruled Northern Ireland. — AFP

Italy's 5-Star, PD struggling to find deal on new govt

MILAN: Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star party and the main centre-left opposition PD are struggling to break a logjam over who could lead a new government as a deadline to avoid early elections draws near. The two parties kicked off talks on Friday to find common ground for a new government after the ruling coalition of 5-Star and right-wing League collapsed last week, forcing Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to resign. But progress has been slow, held up by wrangling over the name of a leader, and Italian president Sergio Mattarella wants to see real signs of progress before opening a new round of consultations today.

Without an agreement on a new coalition, Mattarella is likely name a caretaker government to run the country up to a new vote. On Sunday, as PD leaders met in Rome to hammer out their program, the 5-Star reiterated its demand that Conte be reinstated as prime minister, drawing the ire of the PD which, reports said, had put forward the name of 5-Star lawmaker Roberto Fico. A source close to the PD said the party was vexed and upset by the "continuous ultimatums" laid down by 5-Star.

In a press conference later on Sunday, PD leader Nicola Zingaretti said any new government that wanted to be a break with the past also needed a change of personnel. He did not mention Conte by name. "We will do all we can to find a positive solution that at the moment is not in sight," he said, calling for a meeting with 5-Star on Monday to discuss a common policy platform. In a statement issued almost simultaneously, 5-Star said the solution to finding a deal lay in Conte being named premier and some of its policies being accepted, including plans to cut the number of lawmakers in parliament. "Italy can't wait for the PD. The country needs to move, we can't just stop because of the doubts and strategies of certain people," it said. Earlier on Sunday a source said Fico was happy where he was as president of Italy's lower house of parliament, signaling his unwillingness to consider any premiership role.

"It looks almost as if the 5-Star is fishing for a no. In any case as of this afternoon an early vote looks slightly more likely," said Lorenzo Pregliasco, head of polling and political analysis firm Youtrend. 5-Star support has slumped over the last year and it does not want a return to the polls, but it has warned the PD that it should not push too hard. An opinion poll in Sunday's daily Il Sole 24 Ore showed that 16.6% of respondents supported 5-Star, compared to the 32% support it won in last year's general election, while 24% supported the PD. — Reuters

International

‘Miracle’ Rohingya baby turns 2 on crackdown anniversary

Third Rohingya shot dead in Bangladesh refugee camp

BALUKHALI: Heavily pregnant Rohingya mother Rashida Khatun fled her home in a remote village in Myanmar's Rakhine state two years ago, bone-tired but desperate to find a safe place to give birth. After walking for hours with her husband and three children, Khatun took a treacherous sea journey in bad weather to reach the southeastern tip of Bangladesh.

The family took shelter beside a road and erected a makeshift roof with twigs and a polythene sheet. Several hours later, Khatun gave birth to Ahmad Shah in the pouring rain, helped by other Rohingya women also sheltering nearby. "I was so tired. Yet I wanted to give a safe birth to my unborn baby," the 29-year-old mother said.

"I thought he wouldn't survive because we were getting drenched by the rain." Shah turned two on Sunday—the second anniversary of the mass exodus of some 740,000 Rohingya who fled a brutal military crackdown in western Myanmar and took refuge in vast, squalid camps in Bangladesh. His birth, and his family's ordeal, are a reminder of the struggles the stateless Muslim minority went through to flee their homeland.

Some 200,000 Rohingya took part in a rally at the world's largest refugee settlement on Sunday to mark what the refugees describe as "Genocide Day". Shah's father Mohammad Selim said his son was a miracle child, "Allah saved my kid that night. All praise to Him," said Selim, an imam at a mosque at Balukhali refugee camp. He said his other children still remembered the trauma of the perilous journey. "I am so happy for Shah that he didn't have to go through those woes. I will make him an Islamic scholar someday," he added.

Rohingya shot dead

In another development, Bangladesh police shot dead a third Rohingya refugee yesterday after they were accused

of the murder of a ruling party official that has sparked anger among the local population. Nearly a million Rohingya live in squalid camps in south-east Bangladesh, 740,000 of whom fled a 2017 military offensive against the Muslim minority in Myanmar.

Police said Mohammad Hasan, a suspected Rohingya "dacoit" or gang member, was shot dead after he allegedly opened fire at officers during a raid to arrest him at Jadimura refugee camp. "He is an accused in the murder of Omar Faruk," local police chief Prodeep Kumar Das told AFP, referring to a ruling Awami League party youth wing official who was shot in the head by suspected Rohingya criminals on Thursday.

On Saturday police said they had shot dead two Rohingya refugees at the same refugee camp in the Cox's Bazar district over their alleged roles in the murder. Rights activists, who asked not to be named, said they believe the two Rohingya men were killed by police in what appeared to be a staged encounter. The incident comes days after a second failed attempt to repatriate the refugees which saw not a single Rohingya turn up to return across the border to conflict-scarred Rakhine state.

On Sunday, the Rohingya marked two years since the military crackdown in Myanmar with some 200,000 rallying in a refugee camp where refugee leaders vowed they won't return home unless their rights and security are ensured. Faruk's murder had sparked anger among the local population, with hundreds of furious people blocking a key highway leading to the camp for hours on Thursday, burning tyres and vandalizing shops visited by refugees.

Rohingya refugees have said the recent bloodshed has created an atmosphere of fear in the camp, where security has been tightened. With the latest death, at least 33 Rohingya have been killed by Bangladeshi police and security forces since the exodus in August 2017, a police



COX'S BAZAR DISTRICT: Rohingya refugee Mohammad Selim interacts with his son Ahmad Shah, who was born two years ago when a brutal military clampdown eventually drove away some 740,000 Rohingyas to Bangladesh. - AFP

inspector Ruhul Amin said. He said that most were suspected drug traffickers, accused of smuggling yaba, a popular methamphetamine pill from across the Myanmar

border. UN investigators have said the 2017 violence warrants the prosecution of top Myanmar generals for "genocide". — Agencies

Sudan's persecuted Christians eye long-sought freedom

KHARTOUM: Sudan's Christians suffered decades of persecution under the regime of Islamist general Omar Al-Bashir. Now they hope his downfall will give the religious freedom they have long prayed for. Deep within the maze of dusty alleys that honeycomb Omdurman, Khartoum's sprawling twin city, Youssef Zamgila's church is not visible from the street.

It is hidden in the courtyard of a friend's home and consists of a few iron benches, a pulpit and crosses hastily painted on pillars holding a corrugated roof. "The previous centre got destroyed because we didn't have the right papers. They always refused... So we use the land of our neighbors," says the Lutheran reverend.

Denying the Christian minority permits to build churches has been the main tool of oppression over the years. Another was the all-Islamic culture imposed by the state in schools and in the workplace, despite the former constitution's provisions on religious freedom. "Our youths and children cannot learn about Christianity because their entire environment is made only for Muslims," says Jacob Paulus, a 28-year-old teacher in Omdurman.

Government figures say Christians represent only three percent of Sudan's 40-million inhabitants, although Christian leaders say the real figure is much higher. Copts, Catholics, Anglicans and a number of other confessions are present in the country, yet Bashir's Islamist regime drove many of them underground. Some of the foreign charities assisting Sudan's Christians were driven out, a movement that intensified after the country's Christian-majority south seceded in 2011.

Dark days over?

"The authorities felt that the churches and Christian



KHARTOUM: Sudanese Christians from the Nuba Mountains gather at the protest sight near the military headquarters in the capital Khartoum. Sudan's Christians suffered decades of persecution under the regime of Islamist general Omar Al-Bashir. — AFP

charities supported the south's independence," says Ezekiel Kondo, the Anglican Bishop of Khartoum. Sitting in his office across from his large church in central Khartoum, the prelate says "the state has consistently followed a strategy to weaken the Church".

In its worldwide report on religious freedom, the Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) pontifical foundation ranked Sudan in the most critical category of countries. Bashir, who enforced Islamic sharia laws after coming to power in a 1989 coup, was brought down in April by a wave of protests that erupted over the country's worsening economic crisis. A new civilian-majority administration was sworn in last week, under a deal struck between the opposition and the generals who took charge after Bashir's ouster.

The constitution adopted for the three-year transition notably omits Islam as one of the characteristics defining the state. That and the wind of democratic change in Sudan have given Christians and other minorities hope that

Modi feels he has 'it under control' in Kashmir: Trump

SRINAGAR: US President Donald Trump said yesterday he had no need to help mediate between Pakistan and India over tensions in disputed Kashmir because Prime Minister Narendra Modi feels he has it "under control". On August 5 Modi's Hindu-nationalist government revoked the autonomy of the Muslim-majority territory where tens of thousands of people have been killed in an uprising against Indian rule since 1989, most of them civilians.

Earlier this month, Trump said he was ready to step in, but at a meeting with Modi at the G7 in France, Trump said "the prime minister really feels he has it under control". Trump added he and Modi spoke about Kashmir "at great length" on Sunday. New Delhi's contentious decision angered Pakistan, which has fought two wars with India over the region, and Prime Minister Imran Khan said yesterday he would continue fighting for the rights of Kashmiris.

Khan said he planned to embark on a diplomatic tour soon to raise the issue in international forums including the UN General Assembly in September. "I will tour the world and tell them what is happening... the Modi government is pursuing a policy which brought havoc globally in the past," Khan said in a televised broadcast. "Many Muslim governments, which are not openly supporting us due to their business interests, will sooner or later support our position... It is imperative that we should stand by Kashmiris. We should give a message to Kashmiris that we are with them."

Truck driver killed

The Trump-Modi talks came as police said stone-throwing protesters in Kashmir killed a driver of what they thought was a military truck, amid a crippling security lockdown imposed just hours before the autonomy announcement.

New Delhi sent reinforcements to the estimated half-a-million troops already stationed in Kashmir, cut phone lines and the internet, placed severe restrictions on movement and arrested thousands, according to multiple

religious plurality would be better protected in the coming phase. "We hope there will be change. Christians were also in the protests, they had good reason... I think the darkest days are over," says Reverend Yusef. Sitting next to him in the makeshift church, Reverend Mata Boutros Komi was equally upbeat.

"At least now, our rulers are acknowledging Christians as part of this country. Christians have prayed for this change for decades, we are happy because this change has come," he says. An encouraging sign was the inclusion of a Christian woman on the 11-member joint civilian-military Sovereign Council sworn in on August 21. A protest was held in Khartoum last week by Christians demanding equal rights, something hard to imagine in Bashir's days, when arrests and fines were common.

'Cautiously optimistic'

"We were concerned when the Transitional Military Council announced in May 2019 that sharia law would continue, as a hardline interpretation of sharia has often been used as a hammer to hit Christians with," says John Newton from the UK branch of ACN. "We are cautiously optimistic that the new ruling council might uphold religious freedom for minority groups - as indeed 2005's interim constitution did - but ultimately we will have to wait and see how events unfold."

While he hopes the new administration will ease the pressure on Christians, Bishop Ezekiel Kondo argues that the priority should be to bring peace to Sudan. "A document alone does not alleviate people's suffering. For this transition to work, peace has to happen. Then all the other important things will come more easily," he says.

The country is torn by rebellions and conflicts in several regions populated by non-Arab or non-Muslim minorities. The presence in the Sovereign Council of generals who rose up the ranks with Bashir's blessing had raised widespread concern that Sudan's democratic revolution could be short-lived. "If the transition's principles are really implemented, then yes, we will have change," the bishop says. "But I am still quite pessimistic because the Islamist mentality is still here." — AFP



PESHAWAR: Activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, an Islamist political party, march during an anti-India protest rally in Peshawar in solidarity with India-administered Kashmiri. — AFP

sources. The turning of the former Himalayan kingdom of seven million people into a fortress of barricades and barbed wire has not prevented protests and clashes with security forces taking place however. In the latest demonstration on Sunday in Anantnag district protestors hurled stones at a truck that they believed to be a military vehicle. The 42-year-old driver was struck on the head and died, police said.

The Press Trust of India news agency said two men had been arrested over the incident. India says no civilian has died from police action since August 5. But residents have said three people have been killed, including a young mother who choked after police fired tear-gas canisters into her home. Multiple hospital sources have told AFP at least 100 people had been hurt during the lockdown, some with firearm injuries.

Authorities say they have been easing restrictions gradually but a delegation led by key opposition figure Rahul Gandhi was turned away at Srinagar airport on Saturday after flying in from New Delhi to assess the situation. Regional police chief Dilbagh Singh told AFP Gandhi was turned back because in a situation "getting to normalcy" they wanted to avoid any "controversial statement". Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday defended the restrictions, echoing the government which says the curbs are meant to maintain peace in the disputed region also claimed by arch-rival Pakistan. — AFP

News in brief

5 Turkish generals resign

ISTANBUL: Five generals from the Turkish army have handed in resignations in the wake of a military council meeting earlier this month, opposition newspaper Cumhuriyet said. The Supreme Military Council (YAS), chaired by President Tayyip Erdogan, convened to discuss promotions, dismissals and placements of the high-ranking military personnel on Aug 1. The resignations by one major general and four brigadier generals were submitted as a reaction to council decisions which were described by retired military officers as an attempt to make the Turkish army smaller, the unsourced Cumhuriyet report said. There was no immediate comment from Turkey's defense ministry. Two of the generals were known to be the army officers responsible for Syria's Idlib region where Turkey has a military presence, Cumhuriyet said. — Reuters

Police arrest migrants

ATHENS: Greek police arrested around 100 people, mainly migrants, in dawn raids on Athens squats yesterday, part of a major police crackdown, state news agency ANA reported. Dozens of officers evacuated four squats that had been occupied for several weeks, mainly by refugees and migrants, in the sensitive Exarcheia district of Athens. The new conservative government of Kyriakos Mitsotakis has vowed to bring "order" to the district, promising regular police patrols. The neighborhood has often been the site of clashes between anarchists and police, particularly since 2008, when a police officer shot dead a teenager, sparking days of rioting. The new mayor of Athens, who was sworn in on Sunday, has pledged to make security his top priority. Costas Bakoyannis has accused the previous leftist government of having taken a soft line against vandalism carried out by some anarchist groups. — AFP

Air force jet crashes into sea

MADRID: A Spanish military jet crashed into the sea off the southeastern coast yesterday, killing the pilot, the air force said. The C-101 jet, used for training, came down near La Manga just after 0730 GMT, an air force spokesman said. He said the cause of the crash, the second air disaster in as many days in Spain, was not yet known. The pilot, who was alone in the cockpit, was a flying instructor. Three beaches in the area were closed to sunbathers after wreckage from the crash hit the sand, local authorities said. On Sunday, seven people were killed in a collision between a helicopter and a light plane on the island of Mallorca. — Reuters

'Why steal a cowbell?'

VIENNA: Austrian police are looking for thieves who stole bells from cows grazing in three pastures in the west of the alpine country, a spokesman said yesterday. "Of course people may wonder why someone would steal a cowbell," Bernhard Gruber, a police spokesman from the Tyrol region said. He said police were still investigating the three thefts, which all occurred this month, totaling 10 cowbells. They suspect the thieves in at least the last two cases were the same. Gruber estimated that the bells were worth a total of around 500 euros (\$550). "They don't have a high material value... but for the farmers themselves it's more the sentimental value," Gruber said. Many breeders take their cattle to graze in mountain pastures in the spring, bringing them back down before winter. — AFP

Protests in Papua spotlight demand for independence

JAKARTA: Thousands of Papuans staged another series of rallies yesterday in several towns of Indonesia's easternmost region, after protests that erupted last week over perceived ethnic discrimination provoked some calls for independence. The biggest protests in years led to the torching of a market, a jail and government offices, with about 1,200 police officers flown in to reinforce a region that already has a heavy military presence, due to decades of separatist conflicts.

Yesterday, about 5,000 people took to the streets of Deiyai, a town about 500 km from the provincial capital of Jayapura, carrying four Morning Star flags, a banned symbol used by independence supporters, said protest organizer Yosep Iyai. "At a local government office, the Morning Star flags were raised for 1-1/2 hours," Iyai told Reuters by telephone, adding that the protest went off peacefully. A video posted on Twitter by human rights lawyer Veronica Koman showed thousands of Papuans, some in traditional clothes, marching through a street in Deiyai, carrying sticks, bows and arrows.

Last week's demonstrations were triggered by a racist slur against Papuan students, who were hit by tear gas in their dormitory and detained in the city of Surabaya on Indonesia's main island of Java on Aug 17. Authorities have suspended five soldiers being investigated over the incident, said Imam Hariyadi, a spokesman for the East Java military. But some protest rallies grew into a broader demand for an independence vote.

Referendum calls "were the people's aspiration", Papua Governor Lukas Enembe told reporters yesterday, after meeting President Joko Widodo in Jakarta. He and the governor of neighbouring West Papua are to discuss the referendum demands in a meeting with Widodo, he added. — Reuters

Analysis

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The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

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ESTABLISHED 1961

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ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

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

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.

Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Russia readmission divides leaders at G7

The future reintegration of Russia into the elite G7 group of the world's rich nations has proved an explosive issue at a summit in France, with leaders divided over whether to allow Moscow back in after its 2014 expulsion. Russia was kicked out of what was then the Group of Eight (G8) as Moscow was holding its presidency after it annexed Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, a move never recognised by the international community.

But US President Donald Trump, who will host the next Group of Seven summit in 2020, has spoken out in favor of readmitting Russia. And the host of this year's event, French President Emmanuel Macron, has also said it would be appropriate to include Russia if key conditions were met. However Britain, whose ties with Russia hit a new low following the 2018 chemical poisoning on its territory of Russian ex-double agent Sergei Skripal which London blamed on the Kremlin, has spoken out against Moscow's readmittance.

'Difficult talks'

The issue came to a head during lengthy discussions at the leaders' first official G7 dinner on Saturday, where the premiers and heads of state - also including Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada - put forward "forthright" positions on the issue, said a source close to the discussions, asking not to be named. "You did very well last night President Macron," Johnson told his French host on Sunday as the leaders met for a session to discuss the world economy. "That was a difficult one."

Sources later confirmed that Johnson had been referring to Macron's stewardship of the dinner in the debate over Russia as the leaders pushed their "strong" views on the matter. Diplomatic sources said the leaders agreed to be in favor of reinforcing coordination with Russia, but that it was too early for reintegration. "I think it's advantageous (for Russia to rejoin) but other people don't necessarily agree with me at this time," said Trump as the G7 wound up on Monday. "We will see what happens."

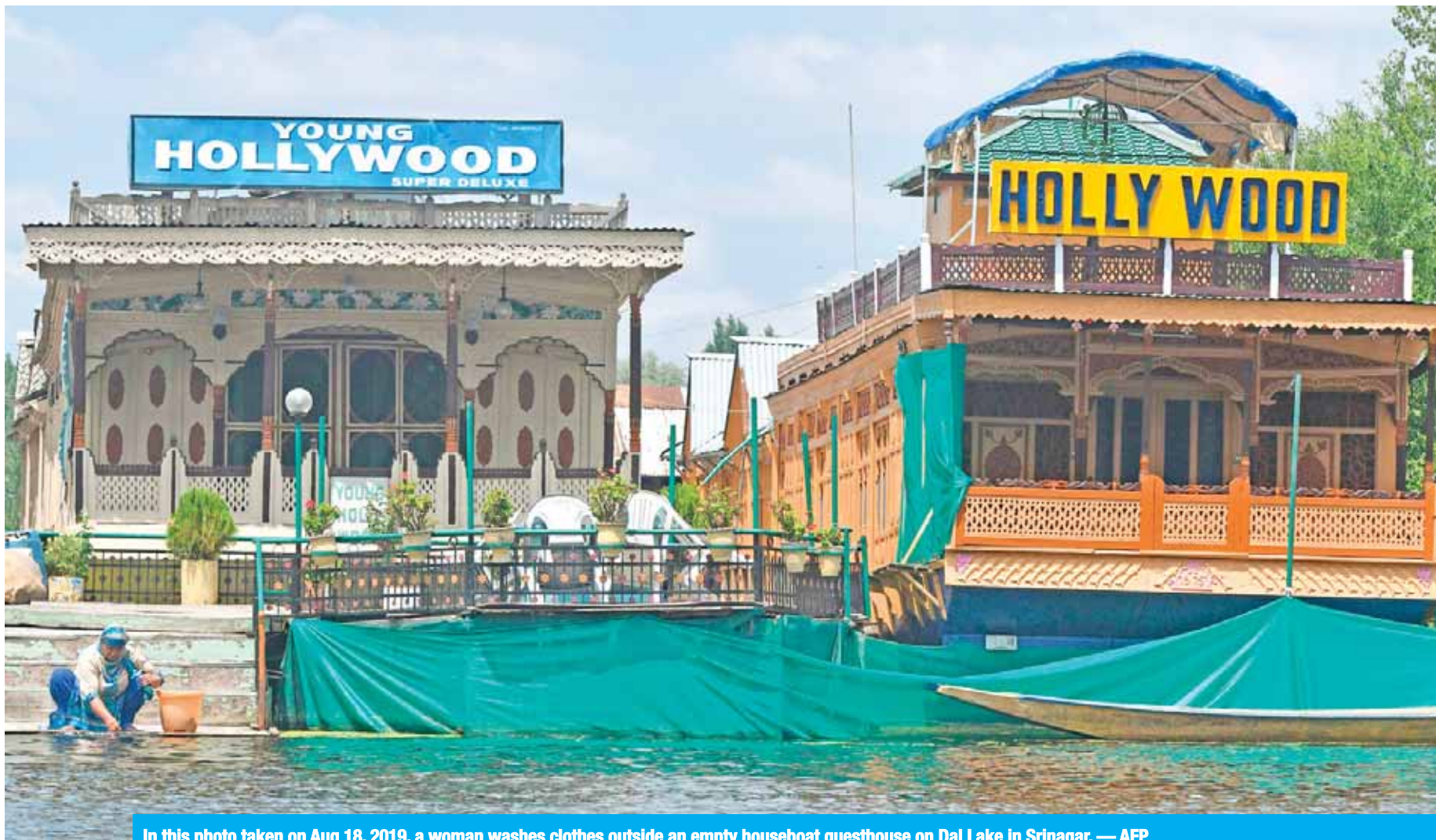
Macron had said in the run-up to the summit that it would be "appropriate" for Russia to rejoin the group and less than a week before the event held several hours of talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin at his summer residence. But Macron said first a solution had to be found for Ukraine, where in addition to the annexation of Crimea, pro-Moscow separatists declared unrecognized breakaway statelets in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Lugansk. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who shares Britain's wariness about Russia rejoining the group, said herself, Macron, Putin and new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky would soon meet in a bid to relaunch the peace process.

'Is Russia on that path?'

Moscow joined the group in 1998 - when the G7 became the G8 - under the presidency of Boris Yeltsin as the West tried to anchor post-Soviet Russia into the international community. But tensions intensified throughout Putin's ascendancy in Russia and he skipped a 2012 G8 summit hosted by the United States shortly after he was re-elected president following a stint as prime minister. Ironically, Russia held the G8 presidency in 2014 but a planned summit in June of that year in the Black Sea resort of Sochi never took place as it was expelled from the group. The other seven countries instead met in Brussels.

Like Britain, Canada also strongly opposes readmitting Russia unless seized Ukrainian territory is handed back. EU Council President Donald Tusk meanwhile said that "under no condition" could he accept the logic that the status quo in Ukraine be accepted and Russia return to the G8. "The reasons why Russia was disinvented in 2014 are still valid," said Tusk. "When Russia was invited to the G7 for the first time (under Yeltsin) it was believed that it would pursue the path of liberal democracy, rule of law and human rights. "Is there anyone among us, who can say out of full conviction, not out of business calculation, that Russia is on that path?" Tusk asked, retorting it should be Zelensky, not Putin, who is invited to the next G7. — AFP

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



In this photo taken on Aug 18, 2019, a woman washes clothes outside an empty houseboat guesthouse on Dal Lake in Srinagar. — AFP

India lockdown major blow for Kashmir tourism

On Srinagar's Dal Lake, intricately decorated houseboats usually packed with tourists lie empty as Kashmir's tourism sector reels from a three-weeks-long lockdown imposed as India revoked the picturesque region's autonomy. With its breathtaking scenery, snow-capped mountains and placid lakes, temperate Kashmir is a popular destination for hordes of domestic and international tourists during the scorching summer season in the rest of India.

But authorities in early August called for visitors to leave "immediately" over "terror threats", sparking a mass exodus just days before New Delhi's controversial decision to bring the violence-hit region under its direct rule. "They went to every houseboat, hotel and street to force every single tourist out of Kashmir," Shikara owner Yaqoob told AFP. "Even now they go around hotels to check if anyone is left."

Streets buzzing with locals and tourists are now mostly deserted. In their place are coils of barbed wire, security checkpoints and tens of thousands of extra troops New Delhi sent to the Himalayan region to reinforce the half a million already there. Authorities cut off all communications - including the Internet and phone lines - making contact with the outside world very difficult. "This is not what we expected," said a Taiwanese couple, the only tourists AFP found in Srinagar, adding they had planned

their trip a year ago. "Nowadays not many people can live daily life without having all this modern technology, without the Internet... That's kind of really hard for people, especially tourists. "We are scared of the entire situation."

'Switzerland of the East'

Kashmir, split at the end of British colonial rule in 1947 between India and Pakistan, was a popular international getaway until an armed insurgency against Indian rule erupted in 1989. The conflict, which has claimed tens of thousands of mostly civilian lives, has challenged efforts to promote tourism in the so-called "Switzerland of the East". Tourist arrivals have ebbed and flowed over the years in line with the scale of the insurgency.

In Kashmir, the number of holidaymakers dropped from more than 1.3 million in 2012 to 850,000 in 2018, according to government figures. But more than half-a-million people visited the valley in the first seven months of this year, with more than 150,000 vacationers arriving last month alone, according to official data. In addition, some 340,000 religious tourists were visiting the valley in July before their Hindu pilgrimage was called off due to the terror claims. A few days later, the valley fell silent. Just 150 foreign travellers have visited Kashmir since August 5 when New Delhi scrapped its autonomy, mostly people who booked their trips in advance.

'Can't remain sane'

The sharp drop-off is sending shockwaves through the estimated \$500 million-a-year tourism industry, which employs some 100,000 people. Many others make a living from related sectors including handicrafts, horticulture and transport. The Indian government has stressed that bringing Kashmir under its direct rule would boost the economy and generate more jobs and development. Locals are skeptical, pointing to the "terror threat" claims that sent visitors scrambling to leave on planes and buses.

"It was a lie. No-one was out to harm the pilgrims. They wanted to revoke the autonomy and used terror as a false flag," houseboat owner Basheer, who uses only his first name, told AFP. This is not the first time the sector has experienced major disruptions, most recently in 2008, 2010 and 2016 when large-scale protests broke out. But with no end to the current crisis in sight, residents fear the uncertainty will keep potential visitors away for a prolonged period of time.

Some countries have already issued advisories against travel to the region and tourist operators fear thousands of jobs could be lost, weakening the economy and further inflaming tensions. "When your business is down and your basic rights are taken away, you can't expect us to remain sane," handicrafts store owner Sameer Wani told AFP. "It will come to a do-or-die situation soon." — AFP

High above Greenland glaciers, NASA looks into melting ocean ice

Skimming low over the gleaming white glaciers on Greenland's coast in a modified 1940s plane, three NASA scientists, led by an Elvis-impersonating oceanographer, waited to drop a probe into the water beneath them. They are part of Oceans Melting Greenland - or OMG - a mission that has flown around the vast island for four summers, dropping probes to collect data on how oceans contribute to the rapid melt of Greenland's ice.

Dressed in a blue jumpsuit and with thick sideburns that give a hint of his occasional pastime impersonating Elvis, Joshua Willis, 44, is the oceanographer from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory behind the project - and, along with his wife, its name. "We're looking at probably metres of sea level rise in the next hundred years and that's a huge threat to hundreds of millions of people around the world, so a bit of alarm and OMG is probably warranted," he said.

Passing over rocky fjords, dazzling glaciers and icebergs, some dozens of metres (feet) high looming out of the water, Willis and the crew took turns dropping the 1.5-metre cylindrical probes and watching as the data came in showing the ocean's temperature and salinity.

'Ice cube under a hair dryer'

Willis is investigating how warmer layers of water off



An aerial photo taken on Aug 15, 2019 shows an iceberg as it floats along the eastern coast of Greenland near Kulusuk. — AFP

the coast come into contact with glaciers and how this effects how quickly they melt. "A lot of people think of the ice here as melting from the air warming, sort of like an ice cube under a hair dryer, but in fact the oceans are also eating away at the ice's edges," Willis said. OMG surveys Greenlandic glaciers in the winter, comparing it with the data they collect about the oceans in the summer over a five-year period, which Willis hopes will allow researchers to better predict sea-level rise.

The island has three quarters bordering the Arctic ocean and is 85 percent covered in ice - if this ice sheet were to disappear completely, it would raise the ocean level by seven metres. The Arctic region has warmed twice as fast as the global average, and Greenland, a resource-rich Danish possession, has become a focal point for climate research - as well an object of desire for

US President Donald Trump, who scrapped a trip to Denmark over its dismissal of his attempts to buy the autonomous territory.

Greenland 'a challenge'

NASA - best known for the moon landings and space travel - started to study the earth's climate in greater depth from the 1970s when its inter-planetary exploration budget was reduced, using its satellites to look at the earth. Today it has more than a dozen satellites in orbit monitoring earth's seas, ice, land and atmosphere, along with missions like OMG, which Willis hopes will provide data to give better predictions of sea-level rise around the globe.

At the rear of the refitted DC3, built in 1942 for the Canadian air force during World War II, project manager Ian McCubbin took his turn by a chute holding the plastic probe, waiting for the order to drop it. Sucked out into the cold air below, the four-foot cylinder parachuted into the water and after a nervous wait, started transmitting data to the team on the plane. With 20 years' experience flying with the JPL, McCubbin also organizes the mission's logistics from the remote airfields it flies out of during the summer.

"Dealing with Greenland's remoteness is a unique challenge," McCubbin said on a break between dropping probes, a baseball cap pulled down over his eyes. Limited communications and transport links and the island's unpredictable weather all make keeping the mission in the air more complicated, but McCubbin said he was happy to put up with the difficulties. "The relevance of this project makes it exciting to work on, given the importance to our society, our children, our children's children," he said. — AFP

Syria soldiers eye Turkish outpost in recaptured town

Syrian soldier Ahmad Amuri rolls up on a motorbike to hand water bottles to comrades standing guard under pistachio trees, just a few dozen metres from a Turkish observation point in northwest Syria. President Bashar al-Assad's troops seized the town of Morek from jihadists and allied rebels on Friday, encircling the Turkish outpost. "Calm has returned to Morek," Amuri told AFP on Saturday, with water bottles in a black plastic bag, a cap on his head and his uniform covered in dust.

A Turkish flag flaps over the post nearby, which is fortified by a tall cement wall and barbed wire, but AFP could not see any Turkish soldiers. "Today is a day of rest," the soldier in his twenties told AFP during a guided government tour for journalists. "We're not at all worried by the presence of a Turkish observation post." Syria's conflict has spiralled into a complex war involving world powers since its beginnings in 2011 with the repression of anti-Assad protests.

In northwest Syria, regime forces have in recent days chipped away at the jihadist-dominated region of Idlib on the Turkish border after months of deadly bombardment. That is despite a deal reached between rebel backer Turkey and regime ally Russia last year to set up a buffer

zone around the region to protect its some three million inhabitants.

'Waiting for orders'

In Morek, Syrian soldiers gather around an officer preparing to deploy across the municipality. He opens up a map, pointing to the location of the Turkish outpost and planned Syrian army positions. The Syrian officer told AFP that the Turkish outpost was an "international matter". "We pass by the Turkish position at Morek, the Turkish soldiers haven't turned on us, nor us on them. We see them clearly and they see us too," he said. "We're waiting for orders to know the next stage," he added. "We will work to bring back civilians as soon as possible." The Turkish-Russian deal in September last year was supposed to avert any full-blown offensive on Idlib, but it was never fully implemented. In January, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham - an alliance led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate - extended its influence across Idlib and nearby parts of other provinces. Increased bombardment by the Syrian military and its Russian ally since late April has killed more than 900 civilians in Idlib. In the same period, the violence has displaced more than 400,000 people including many already displaced from other areas, the United Nations says.

'Didn't recognize' the town

To the north of Morek, regime forces also retook the key town of Khan Sheikhun on Wednesday. Inside Khan Sheikhun, 27-year-old Mohamed Al-Awaj said he was happy to return home after fleeing in 2012. "The town has changed so much," he said. Around him, Khan Sheikhun was nearly empty, its buildings damaged or completely



A member of the Syrian regime forces stares at a Turkish observation post in the town of Morek in the northern countryside of Hama province on Aug 24, 2019. — AFP

ruined. The tracks of armored vehicles were visible by the side of one road. "I found my home burnt and neighborhood destroyed," he said. "I haven't seen any of my neighbors except for Umm Baheera," a 70-year-old woman he said was the only person who stayed behind.

A team of AFP correspondents only saw two civilian families. Gun on his shoulder, Hussein Hassan said he had helped his battalion navigate the streets of Khan Sheikhun, where he grew up. "I spent my childhood playing in these roads. I know them by heart," said the 28-year-old who left his home town several years ago. "It used to be so beautiful," he said. "But I didn't recognize the town for all the destruction." — AFP

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12 Kuwait's real estate sales pick up in Q2, loans rise in H1 2019**13** Net profits of GCC companies fall 14.7% y-o-y led by Saudi Arabia**14** Huawei launches Ascend 910, the world's most powerful AI processor

NEW YORK: Traders work the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. —AFP

US business investment appears weak in Q3

Strong aircraft sales mask July weakness for durable goods

Trump says US, France 'getting close' to tech firm tax deal

BIARRITZ, President Donald Trump said yesterday that American and French negotiators were "getting close" to reaching agreement on the taxation of US tech giants following a dispute between the two nations. "They want to make a deal and we'll see if we can make a deal. We're getting close," Trump told journalists at the G7 summit in Biarritz, following threats to slap tariffs on French wine after Paris voted through a digital tax he has described as "very unfair".

The French parliament passed its new levy in July amid frustration at the slow pace of negotiations to reach a global accord to ensure tech multinationals like Facebook and Google pay a larger share of taxes on their operations. Britain has also announced plans for a similar tax as criticism grows over tech giants of exploiting fiscal rules to sharply cut their tax bills despite soaring profits.

Under EU law, American tax giants can declare their revenues from across the bloc in a single jurisdiction in most cases low-tax jurisdictions such as Ireland or the Netherlands.

But the French move drew accusations of discrimination by Google, Amazon and Facebook—along with Apple the so-called GAFA companies—and threats of retaliation by Trump. The US wants an over-arching agreement on taxation of digital commerce through the Group of 20 economic forum, under the auspices of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In July, G7 finance ministers met for talks at which they reached a consensus on the next steps to take to reach a comprehensive deal by 2020. Speaking alongside Trump, Merkel reiterated: "We have the intention within the OECD to find a solution for each and everyone by 2020."

"That would be an enormous breakthrough to the benefit of everyone," she said. —AFP

WASHINGTON: New orders for key US-made capital goods rose modestly in July while shipments fell by the most in nearly three years, pointing to continued weakness in business investment and a slowdown in economic growth early in the third quarter.

Meanwhile, a continued rebound in sales of American planes lifted the US durable goods sector for the second straight month in July, according to data released yesterday. But the increase in sales of big-ticket US-made goods, the largest jump in nearly a year, hid weaker-than-expected results in the rest of the sector amid President Donald Trump's worsening trade war.

A measure widely seen as a proxy for business investment, which has suffered since late last year, rose for the third month in a row, but at a sluggish pace and economists said the numbers clearly point to a slowing trend. New orders for durable goods rose by a better-than-expected 2.1 percent in July to \$250.4 billion, the largest increase since August of last year, according to the Commerce Department.

But June's result was revised downward slightly from a prior estimate. And so far this year, orders are up a paltry 0.3 percent over the same period in

2018. Coming against the backdrop of an escalation in trade tensions, the report from the Commerce Department yesterday could provide more ammunition for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates again next month.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell told a conference of central bankers last week that trade policy uncertainty seems to be playing "a role in the global slowdown and in weak manufacturing and capital spending in the United States." Though Powell described the economy as being in a "favorable place," he reiterated that the US central bank would "act as appropriate" to keep the longest economic expansion in history on track. The Fed lowered its short-term interest rate by 25 basis points last month for the first time since 2008, citing trade tensions and slowing global growth. Financial markets have fully priced in another quarter-percentage-point cut at the Fed's Sept. 17-18 policy meeting.

Orders for non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, increased 0.4 percent last month, the government said, driven by strong demand for electrical equipment, appliances and components.

Data for June was revised down to

show these so-called core capital goods orders advancing 0.9 percent instead of surging 1.5 percent as previously reported. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast core capital goods orders would fall 0.1 percent in July. Core capital goods orders increased 1.5 percent on a year-on-year basis.

Shipments of core capital goods fell 0.7 percent last month, the biggest drop since October 2016. Core capital goods shipments are used to calculate equipment spending in the government's gross domestic product measurement. Data for June was revised down to show core capital goods shipments were unchanged instead of rising 0.3 percent as previously reported.

US stock index futures held gains after the release of the data while yields on US Treasuries were largely unchanged. The dollar was trading higher against a basket of currencies.

Shipments fall

Business investment has been weak, largely blamed on the Trump administration's trade war with China, which is taking a toll on global economies and US manufacturing. President Donald Trump on Friday announced a new round of tariffs on Chinese

imports, hours after Beijing unveiled retaliatory tariffs on \$75 billion worth of US goods.

Business investment contracted in the second quarter for the first time since the first quarter of 2016. Weak business investment is underscored by manufacturing, where output has contracted for two straight quarters. Manufacturing, which accounts for about 12 percent of the economy, is also being undercut by an inventory bloat and design problems at Boeing. In July, orders for electrical equipment, appliances and components jumped 1.1 percent. But orders for machinery fell 0.6 percent. There was also declines in orders for primary metals and fabricated metal products. Overall orders for durable goods, items ranging from toasters to aircraft that are meant to last three years or more, increased 2.1 percent in July, the most since August 2018, after rising 1.8 percent in the prior month.

Orders for transportation equipment jumped 7.0 percent after gaining 4.1 percent in June. Motor vehicles and parts orders rose 0.5 percent last month. Orders for non-defense aircraft and parts increased 47.8 percent. —Agencies

Wall St bounces as Trump softens stance on trade war

NEW YORK: Wall Street rebounded yesterday after US President Donald Trump sought to ease trade tensions with China, soothing investor nerves after an intense feud between the world's top two economies last week sent stocks into a tailspin. The benchmark S&P 500 index logged its worst run of weekly losses on Friday since a selloff in late May after both sides threatened to slap more tariffs on each other's goods, and Trump told US companies to look for alternatives to doing business.

"The sentiment today is conciliatory, the president is trying to walk back," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at National Securities in New York. "Whether or not he (Trump) has a phone call doesn't matter, the point is that he is attempting to keep the September meeting scheduled and get back to the negotiating bit."

Shares in tariff-sensitive companies including Apple Inc jumped 2 percent, boosting the technology sector, while a 1.9 percent rise in shares of Boeing Co lifted the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Chipmakers, which heavily rely on China for their revenue, rose, with the Philadelphia Semiconductor index adding 1.1 percent.

Concerns about the global economy slipping into recession and uncertainty over the pace of US interest rate cuts have made investors nervous about how far the longest cycle of US expansion would survive. The S&P 500 is now about 5.2 percent off its record high. However, strong earnings from retailers including Walmart Inc and Target Corp in the past weeks have bolstered confidence in domestic growth.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 233.91 points, or 0.91 percent, to 25,862.81 and the S&P 500 gained 23.57 points, or 0.83 percent, to 2,870.68. The Nasdaq Composite added 70.95 points, or 0.92 percent, to 7,822.72 were up 41.75 points, or 0.56 percent.

Data from the Commerce Department showed new orders for key US-made capital goods rose modestly in July, while shipments fell by the most in nearly three years, pointing to continued weakness in business investment and a slowdown in economic growth early in the

third quarter. Among other stocks, Celgene Corp rose 3.8 percent after Amgen Inc said it would buy the company's psoriasis drug Otezla, clearing the way for Bristol-Myers Squibb to go ahead with its \$74 billion deal for Celgene. Shares of Bristol-Myers jumped 4.3 percent.

Shares of Beyond Meat Inc rose 4.5 percent after Yum Brands Inc said it will be testing Beyond Meat's plant-based nuggets at an Atlanta KFC restaurant. Shares of Yum Brands rose 1.3 percent. The defensive utilities and real estate posted the smallest gains among the 11 major sectors. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 6.36-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and by a 3.34-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq. The S&P index recorded no new 52-week high and five new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded five new highs and 29 new lows.

European stock markets clawed themselves off their lows yesterday but sentiment remained fragile after the latest flare-up in the trade war sent investors scrambling into government bonds and battered emerging market currencies. European stock markets were mixed, with the pan-European Eurostoxx down marginally on the day. Germany's DAX rose 0.29 percent while France's managed a 0.5 percent rise. London markets were closed for a holiday. —Reuters

Kuwait’s real estate sales pick up in Q2, loans rise in H1 2019

Stable economic climate helps boost price trends

KUWAIT: Real estate sales remained solid in the second quarter of the year at KD 803 million, up 1.8 percent q/q and 3.7 percent y/y. Higher sales were driven by a marked improvement in transaction volumes, which rose 18 percent y/y to 1,769 and comes amid a significant further rise in real estate loan growth. This can be viewed as a continuation of the positive market momentum seen last year, with confidence helped by a relatively stable economic climate and now positive overall price trends. Prices in all market segments saw notable quarterly and annual gains, with the exception of the residential home sector, which saw a mild quarterly price drop.

The investment sector witnessed a rebound in sales and transactions in 2Q19 after dipping in the previous quarter. Some KD 322 million in sales were recorded in 2Q19, a 30 percent rise from Q1 but still moderately negative on an annual basis (-7 percent). Transactions also rose sharply (24 percent q/q) to 406 deals, over half of which stemmed from single apartment units, with the most active areas being Mahboula and Salmiya.

Demand pick-up in Q2

The rise in activity likely came from a pick-up in demand after several months of consecutive price declines (ending in April) that have improved property valuations for investors, making the market more attractive. The pick-up in demand subsequently led to price rises of 2.8 percent and 5.6 percent q/q for buildings and apartments respectively, with prices now up 9.6 percent and 1.7 percent y/y. But the improvement should be interpreted cautiously, with the sector still facing some downside risk from over-supply and vacancies: reflecting this, apartment rents have seen a mild further decline this year according to the housing segment of the CPI. The residential sector was steady in Q2, with solid sales of KD 369 million from 1,128 transactions. This a marginal decline over Q1, but a notable rise from the same quarter last year (26 percent). The growth in annual



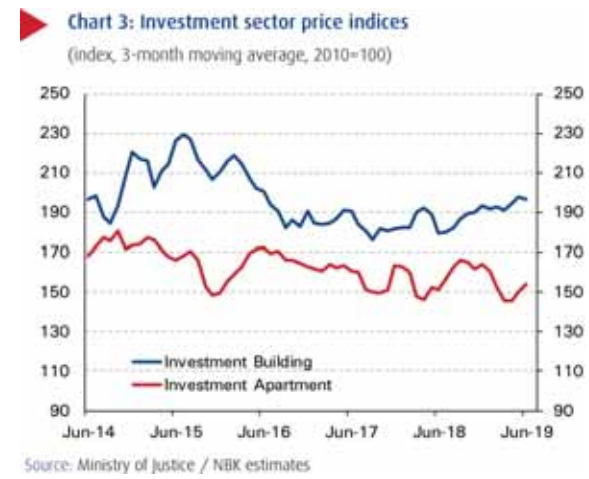
sales was driven by a significant rise in both prices and transactions. Prices of residential homes and land are up a solid 5 percent and 15 percent y/y respectively, while combined transactions have surged by 15 percent y/y. The residential sector, benefitting from strong fundamentals, is likely to remain robust in 2019 despite a lack of news on progress relating to the awaited mortgage law, which is expected to boost demand through better access to financing if and when enacted.

Commercial sales moderate

The commercial sector saw KD 112 million in sales in Q2, moderating from its peak of KD 185 million in 4Q18 despite posting a record volume of transactions (235). This suggests that the type of commercial property traded during the period was small. There is support for this from reports of sales of a large number small shops located in the new cities south of Kuwait (e.g. Sabah Al-Ahmad). Accordingly, there was a sharp drop in average transaction size to just KD 475,500 in 2Q19 compared to the 2Q18 average of KD 4.1 million.

Real estate loans rise

The stronger activity and generally positive price trends we have seen so far this year coincide with a significant rise in loans to the real estate sector. Real estate loans (which are separate from housing loans made to individuals) barely increased at all in the



four years to mid-2018, but have surged 8.9 percent over the past year and at KD8.6 billion are now worth more than 41 percent of all loans to the business sector. This boost also points to rising confidence in the market. Based on the positive trends and restored confidence we have seen thus far this year,

we expect real estate activity to remain solid for the remainder of the year. Investor sentiment could also be supported if gains in the stock market - often viewed as an alternative asset class - show signs of plateauing after the strong rally seen in the first half of this year.

Burgan Bank announces first winners of its 200% Cash Back draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is pleased to announce the first group of its summer campaign 200 percent Cash Back draw winners for the month of July.

The lucky winners of the Cash Back draw are:

1. Saleh Abdullateef Alawadhi
2. Abdullah Alqallaf
3. Bassam Abdulwahab Al-Mufti
4. Hussain Alqabandi
5. Nayef Saad

Supporting its customers’ seasonal financial needs and demands, Burgan Bank’s recent summer campaign entitles its credit, debit and prepaid cardholders a chance to win back double their spending when using their cards. The seasonal offer is designed as a three-month campaign that started on June 16th and ends 29th of September 2019 and announces five winners during July and August and 10 winners during September who will win 200 percent cash back.

Customers who spend more will have higher chances of winning as with every international transaction using debit, credit card or prepaid cards they will receive three chances to enter the draw while every local transaction using credit or prepaid cards provides them with one such opportunity.

Burgan Bank debit, prepaid and credit cards accommodate customers’ different needs with flexibility and convenience for all financial transactions.

Leasing offers continue on Nissan’s latest models

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Company (AABC), the authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait, announces the continuation of the biggest summer leasing offers available across all models to enjoy the exquisite experience on Kuwait’s roads.

Japan denies it gave Trump too much in trade talks

TOKYO: Japan’s top government spokesman denied yesterday that Tokyo made too many concessions in trade talks with the United States, saying the fact the two countries were able to reach a broad agreement was “very valuable.” The United States and Japan agreed in principle on Sunday to core elements of a trade deal that President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said they hoped to sign in New York next month.

A final agreement would cool a trade dispute between the two allies just as a trade war between the United States and China escalates, but some Japanese commentators say Tokyo gave up too much.

In announcing the deal with Abe on the sidelines of a

Nissan Al-Babbain guarantees attractive leasing prices in addition to a benefit package of free comprehensive insurance, free maintenance, a replacement car, roadside assistance and several benefits that comes along with the leasing offer guaranteeing peace of mind to all Nissan’s customers.

The offer includes a line-up of all of its vehicles, some of its popular models include Nissan Patrol, KICKS, X-Trail, Altima, Maxima and Pathfinder. Nissan KICKS has class-leading fuel efficiency thanks to its advanced 1.6-liter engine and lightweight platform. While Nissan X-TRAIL, a customer favorite gives young families and adventure-seekers more premium style options such as the choice between the five or seven-seat version.

The leasing offer includes the new Nissan Altima, the

Group of Seven summit in Biarritz, France, Trump made no public commitment to drop his threat to slap additional tariffs on Japanese automobiles.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said he believed the United States would not resort to fresh tariffs because Trump and Abe had previously agreed that Washington would hold off while talks were under way. “Japan and the US have negotiated based on the joint statement last September,” Suga told a news conference in Tokyo. “Related ministers agreed based on that, so it was very valuable.”

No cards left

The agreement was reached after marathon talks between Japan’s Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in Washington last week. Lighthizer said the deal, which covered agriculture, industrial tariffs and digital trade, would open up Japanese markets to US goods and lead to a substantial reduction in tariffs on such items as beef.

Japan imports about \$14 billion worth of US agricultural products, and the agreement will open up markets to over \$7 billion of such products. Lighthizer said, adding that beef, pork, wheat, dairy products, wine, and

sixth generation of Nissan’s best-selling sedan, Nissan Altima features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two new powertrains, and advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility features. The car also features Apple CarPlay and an 8-inch multi-touch color display for complete in-car entertainment and ease of driver control.

The 4X4 seven-seat family vehicle, Nissan Pathfinder full option comes with a 3.5-liter V6 engine adds direct injection system, horsepower increases to 271, with towing capacity of 1,500 KG and is offered with enhanced user friendliness features ranging from Motion-Activated lift gate to a new touch screen monitor; and 20 inches alloy wheels. Nissan Al-Babbain welcomes all to join in the exclusive leasing offer and visit Nissan Al Babbain showrooms located in Al-Rai and Al-Ahmadi area.

ethanol would benefit. Trump said Japan has agreed to buy excess US corn that is burdening farmers as a result of the tariff dispute between Washington and Beijing. There was little information on what Japan gained from the deal. Japan’s Nikkei newspaper reported the United States will not cut the 2.5 percent tariff it applies on Japanese automobiles for now, and it will be discussed in separate talks.

In May, Trump declared that some imported vehicles and parts pose a national security threat. But he delayed a decision on imposing national-security tariffs under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act for up to six months to allow for more time for talks with the European Union and Japan.

Policymakers in Tokyo fret that Trump could still impose the tariffs or set import curbs on Japanese automakers. Getting Trump to scrap the tariff threat is a key element of success for Japan in signing a deal.

“It’s hard to say whether the deal is a favorable one for Japan, unless it’s exempted from the Section 232 auto tariffs,” said Junichi Sugawara, senior research officer at Mizuho Research Institute. “The US could make harsher demands ahead. When that happens, Japan doesn’t have any cards left,” he said. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.150
Euro	340.950
Sterling Pound	375.020
Canadian dollar	229.810
Turkish lira	52.850
Swiss Franc	314.200
US Dollar Buying	296.850
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.882
Indian Rupees	4.245
Pakistani Rupees	1.939
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.689
Nepali Rupees	2.634
Singapore Dollar	219.840
Hongkong Dollar	38.783
Bangladesh Taka	3.594
Philippine Peso	5.825
Thai Baht	9.984
Malaysian ringgit	77.788
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.161
Qatari Riyal	83.592
Omani Riyal	790.513
Bahraini Dinar	808.160
UAE Dirham	82.863
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.372

Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.222
Tunisian Dinar	110.600
Jordanian Dinar	429.770
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.288
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 Frank	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

Turkish Lira53.195

Singapore dollars218.734

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.365772	0.379672
Czech Korune	0.005065	0.014365
Danish Krone	0.041351	0.046351
Euro	0.331225	0.344925
Georgian Lari	0.102864	0.102864
Hungarian 0.000937	0.001127	
Norwegian Krone	0.029737	0.034937
Romanian Leu	0.054737	0.071587
Russian ruble	0.004580	0.004580
Slovakia	0.009088	0.019088
Swedish Krona	0.027504	0.032504
Swiss Franc	0.305167	0.316167
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.196252	0.208252
New Zealand Dollar	0.187480	0.196980
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.223141	0.232141
US Dollars	0.300050	0.305350
US Dollars Mint	0.300550	0.305350
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002974	0.003775

Chinese Yuan	0.041696	0.045196
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036689	0.039439
Indian Rupee	0.003702	0.004474
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002802	0.002982
Korean Won	0.000239	0.00254
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068857	0.074857
Nepalese Rupee	0.002676	0.003016
Pakistan Rupee	0.001338	0.002108
Philippine Peso	0.005786	0.006086
Singapore Dollar	0.213443	0.223443
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001339	0.001919
Taiwan	0.009536	0.009716
Thai Baht	0.009599	0.010149
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
Arab		
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 Lira	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020984	0.044894
Omani Riyal	0.784869	0.792770
Qatar Riyal	0.082886	0.083720
Saudi Riyal	0.080020	0.081320
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.102321	0.110321
Turkish Lira	0.045774	0.055619
UAE Dirhams	0.082175	0.083003
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069

Business

KAMCO Research Report

Net profits of GCC companies fall 14.7% y-o-y led by Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti companies report net profit growth of 3.6% in Q2

KUWAIT: Total earnings for GCC-listed companies dropped 14.7 percent y-o-y in Q2-19 to \$15.8 billion from \$18.5 billion in Q2-18. Although only three of the six GCC markets recorded a decline in Q2-19 earnings, Saudi Arabia's 37.1 percent decrease in Q2-19 was enough to drag the whole GCC markets earnings down. Saudi Arabia saw the biggest decline among the GCC markets with its total profits sliding \$3.0 billion to reach \$5.1 billion in Q2-19 down from \$8.1 billion in Q2-18. The Kingdom represented 32.2 percent of the GCC profits in Q2-19. Qatari and Bahraini companies also witnessed y-o-y declines in earnings during Q2-19 to the tune of 8.7 percent and 11.2 percent, respectively. On the other hand, UAE, Kuwait and MSM-listed companies saw their Q2-19 net profits rise as compared to the corresponding quarter in the previous year.

In terms of sectors at the GCC level, three of the top five largest sectors by market cap including the Materials Sector, the Real Estate Sector and the Capital Goods sector recorded steep double-digit declines in their Q2-19 net profits resulting in an overall decline in aggregate quarterly profits for the GCC during Q2-19. On the other hand, the Banking and Telecom sector's 3.5 percent and 15.5 percent growth in profits during Q2-19, respectively, failed to offset the overall decline at the GCC level. Profits for the Utilities sector also witnessed a steep drop of 40 percent during the quarter.

GCC earnings also declined during 1H-19 as compared to 1H-18 by almost 10 percent with total net profits reaching \$32.8 billion as compared to \$36.4 billion in 1H-18. Oman closely followed by Dubai were the best performing markets with total 1H-19 earnings growth of 9 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively, while Kuwait reported an earnings growth of 4.7 percent. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia recorded a decline of 24.3 percent during 1H-19 with aggregate profits of Saudi-listed companies reaching \$11.3 billion as compared to \$14.9 billion during 1H-18. Qatar reported the second-biggest drop in earnings in absolute terms during 1H-19 by \$362 billion to reach \$5.4 billion vs

\$5.7 billion during 1H-18.

The Banking sector represented 59.7 percent of the GCC earnings in Q2-19. The sector's y-o-y Q2-19 earnings improved 3.5 percent to reach \$9.4 billion up from billion 9.1 in Q2-18. However, in terms of sequential growth, profits declined by 4.6 percent as compared to Q1-19. The q-o-q decline was the steepest in Saudi Arabia at 27.3 percent while Qatar, Bahrain and Omani banks reported low single digit fall in profits. With the exception of the Saudi Banking Sector, with a profit decline of 18.5 percent y-o-y to \$2.7 billion in Q2-19, all the other remaining five GCC Banking Sectors recorded increases in Q2-19 earnings. UAE's banking sector reported profit growth of more than a quarter. DFM-listed banks posted 47.3 percent rise in Q2-19 earnings to \$2 billion from \$1.4 billion in Q2-18, the biggest percentage increase in Q2-19 earnings among the GCC Banking Sectors, while ADX-listed banks posted a net profit growth of 5.8 percent over the same period. The top three banks in the GCC in terms of Q2-19 net profit were ENBD which recorded a net profit of \$1.3 billion, QNB which posted \$1.0 billion and FAB which recorded \$0.88 billion in profits during the quarter. Profits for the top 10 banks in the GCC stood at \$7.3 billion or 78 percent of the total GCC banking sector profits. Telecoms reported one of the best profit improvements during Q2-19 with Abu Dhabi and Oman being the only markets that reported y-o-y decline in profitability. Profits for Qatari telcos almost doubled during the quarter as compared to Q2-18 while Saudi Arabian telcos reported 29.6 percent profit growth.

In Kuwait, the sector recorded a net profit growth of 16 percent y-o-y and 8 percent q-o-q. GCC Materials Sector witnessed 70.7 percent y-o-y decline in Q2-19 net profits that reached \$0.92 billion down from \$3.14 billion, the biggest decline in Q2-19 earnings among the GCC sectors. The biggest three loss-making companies in the GCC Materials Sector were in Saudi Arabia, namely, National Industrialization Co which posted a loss of \$75.4 million in Q2-19, followed by Saudi Kayan and Saudi Arabian Mining



with quarterly losses of \$72.8 billion and \$65 billion, respectively.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti companies reported a net profit growth of 3.6 percent that reached \$1.54 billion in Q2-19 compared to \$1.48 billion during Q2-18. The biggest impact on higher aggregate stock exchange profits came from the Banking sector which recorded a profit growth of 9.4 percent reaching \$817.3 million in Q2-19 from \$747.3 million in Q2-18. Among the Banks, NBK reported a net profit of \$334.4 million during the second quarter, a growth of 9.9 percent primarily due a 31 percent y-o-y drop in provisions. Similarly, CBK reported a net profit of \$29.2 million for Q2-19 compared to a loss of \$13.28 million of the corresponding period driven by increase in bank's operating profit including allowances which stood at \$191.4 million, total loans by 9 percent, operating revenue by 8 percent y-o-y in 1H-19. KFH reported a Q2-19 net profit growth of 9.4 percent y-o-y that

reached \$184.9 million. Telecoms also recorded positive earnings growth during Q2-19 with a y-o-y increase of 16 percent to reach \$232.6 million.

On the other hand, key sectors that reported decline in net profits during the quarter included Real Estate, Capital Goods and Diversified Financials. The real estate sector was the main contributor for dragging the profitability of the exchange. The sector reported a 50.6 percent y-o-y drop in net income that reached \$41.3 million in Q2-19 as compared to \$83.7 million in Q2-18. Abyaar Real Estate Development posted one of the biggest drop in profitability reporting a loss of \$64.9 million for Q2-19 compared to a profit of \$0.3 million during Q2-18. The company attributed losses to sale of stake in a land plot. In the Diversified Financial sector, Al-Madar Finance and Investment Company posted a net profit of \$0.28 million in Q2-19 against \$38.6 million in Q2-18, while First Investment Company registered a loss of \$10.7 million compared to a profit of \$2.8 million in Q2-18.

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 25th August 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 18-22 August 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

Ameen Esam Ameen Abu Hani
Batoul Hussain Jaafar
Ali Abdulaziz Ali Alghanim
Ahmad Abdullah Ali Alfailakawi

Farid Salim Shublaq

Gulf Bank's third Al-Danah quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 25 September 2019. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1,000,000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event.

Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services. Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open



to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be

charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2019 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

German business confidence at lowest level since 2012: Ifo

BERLIN: Amid growing concerns about a looming recession, confidence among German business leaders fell in August to its lowest level since late 2012, a widely-watched survey showed yesterday. Having already dropped sharply in July, the Munich-based Ifo institute's monthly barometer declined further to 94.3 points, its lowest level since

November 2012, from the revised figure of 95.8 in July. The latest figures, based on a survey of 9,000 German companies, reflect a bleak outlook among business executives in Europe's biggest economy, said Ifo president Clemens Fuest.

"The wrinkles of concern among German corporate leaders are getting deeper and deeper-the signs of a recession in Germany are intensifying," he added in a statement. "The companies again assessed their current situation significantly more negatively. Pessimism also increased with a view to the coming months."

The mood is low in the German business sector due to a slowdown in orders, prompted by the year-long trade war

between the USA and China and concerns about what shape Britain's exit from the European Union will take on October 31. "Germany is on the threshold of a technical recession," declared KfW economist Klaus Borger. "The weak world economy, the threatening chaotic Brexit on Halloween and the escalating trade conflict between the USA and China are a heavy burden in particular for the industrial heart of the German economy."

Last week the German central bank warned that the nation's economy could enter recession in the third quarter as a result of a "sharp contraction" in industrial production.

"In the manufacturing sector, the decline in the business climate indicator

cannot be halted," Fuest noted. "A similar pessimism among industrial firms was last seen during the crisis year of 2009."

A year after the Ifo stood at close to its record high of 104.2 points, the index has now dropped for the eleventh time in 12 months.

"In particular, the German manufacturing sector still seems to be in free fall," said ING analyst Carsten Brzeski. "At least in the short run, there is very little hope for a rebound." With no end in sight to the tensions between Washington and Beijing, "it would take some relief from the ongoing trade conflicts and a general sentiment improvement to boost industrial activity" in Germany during the rest of 2019, said Brzeski. —AFP

Eurozone bond yields drift higher as trade war rhetoric calms

LONDON: Eurozone government bond yields drifted up yesterday after the United States and China sought to ease trade war tensions, lifting sentiment in world markets and taking the shine off safe-haven debt. But yields - which move in the opposite direction to bond prices - remained close to recent record lows, with data from Germany serving as a reminder that a bitter

trade war is pushing Europe's biggest economy toward recession.

The Munich-based Ifo institute said its business climate index fell to the lowest since November 2012.

Most 10-year eurozone bond yields were about one basis point higher on the day, with trade subdued by a public holiday in Britain. "The latest headlines suggest a slight de-escalation," said Rainer Guntermann, a rates strategist at Commerzbank. "...That explains why yields are a bit higher and risk sentiment is picking up."

Germany's 10-year Bund yield was up just 1 basis point at -0.66 percent after falling to as low as -0.704 percent in early trade. Thirty-year bond yields gave up early falls to trade flat on the day at -0.16 percent US 10-year Treasury yields edged off their lowest since mid-2016 but held lower on the day.

Analysts said that even with the more positive trade headlines, the latest round of tariffs suggested more

pain for the global economy. "We believe markets will remain turbulent, as angst and relief about the impact of the trade war on the global economy seem to be alternating quickly," Zurich Insurance Company Investment Management analysts said in a note.

Global trade tensions have stoked concern about the growth outlook this year, pushing bond yields in the euro area deep into negative territory as investors bet on central bank action to shore up growth and inflation. Germany's 10-year Bund yield has now spent 101 days in sub-zero yield territory, according to Refinitiv data.

Italy's bond yields rose 1-3 bps, having dipped briefly on signs of progress towards forming a new government. A deal on forming a government between the 5-Star Movement and the opposition Democratic Party (PD) looked closer after the PD dropped a veto on Giuseppe Conte serving another term as prime minister. —Reuters

broadcasting rights to remain active in the EU", the Dutch agency said.

The Dutch remain in competition with France, Ireland, Germany and Belgium in particular for the spoils of Brexit business, said the NFIA. "The NFIA expects that the Brexit results will grow further in the coming months," it added.

"Brexit remains bad news for the Netherlands, but with Brexit more companies are going to choose our country in the coming years," the agency said. Japanese elec-

tronics giants Sony and Panasonic said several months ago that they were moving their European headquarters across the North Sea to the Netherlands. In addition to relocations by corporations, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), an EU agency, has moved from London to Amsterdam as it could not legally remain in a non-EU country.

Britain is to leave the EU on October 31, with fears growing that it will crash out without a divorce deal, causing huge disruption to trade and transport ties. —AFP

Dutch say 100 firms make Brexit move

THE HAGUE: Nearly 100 international companies have moved to the Netherlands and 325 more are interested owing to uncertainty over Britain's exit from the EU, Dutch officials

Business

Huawei launches Ascend 910, the world's most powerful AI processor

MindSpore, an all-scenario AI computing framework

KUWAIT: Huawei officially launched the world's most powerful AI processor - the Ascend 910 - as well as an all-scenario AI computing framework, MindSpore.

"We have been making steady progress since we announced our AI strategy in October last year," said Eric Xu, Huawei's Rotating Chairman. "Everything is moving forward according to plan, from R&D to product launch. We promised a full-stack, all-scenario AI portfolio. And today we delivered, with the release of Ascend 910 and MindSpore. This also marks a new stage in Huawei's AI strategy."

Ascend 910: More computing power than any other AI processor in the world

The Ascend 910 is a new AI processor that belongs to Huawei's series of Ascend-Max chipsets. Huawei announced the processor's planned specs at its 2018 flagship event, Huawei Connect. After a year of ongoing development, test results now show that the Ascend 910 processor delivers on its performance goals with much lower power consumption than originally planned.

For half-precision floating point (FP16) operations, Ascend 910 delivers 256 TeraFLOPS. For integer precision calculations (INT8), it delivers 512 TeraOPS. Despite its unrivaled performance, Ascend 910's max power consumption is only 310W, much lower than its planned specs (350W).

"Ascend 910 performs much better than we expected," said Xu. "Without a doubt, it has more computing power than any other AI processor in the world." Ascend 910 is used for AI model training. In a typical training session based on ResNet-50, the combination of Ascend 910 and MindSpore is about two times faster at training AI models than other mainstream training cards using TensorFlow.

Moving forward, Huawei will continue investing in AI processors to deliver more abundant, affordable, and adaptable computing power that meets the needs of a broad range of scenarios (e.g., edge computing, on-vehicle computing for autonomous driving, and training).

MindSpore: All-scenario AI computing framework

Huawei also launched MindSpore yesterday, an AI computing framework that supports development for AI

applications in all scenarios. AI computing frameworks are critical to making AI application development easier, making AI applications more pervasive and accessible, and ensuring privacy protection.

The MindSpore AI framework is adaptable to all scenarios - across all devices, edge, and cloud environments - and provides on-demand cooperation between them. Its "AI Algorithm As Code" design concept allows developers to develop advanced AI applications with ease and train their models more quickly.

In a typical neural network for natural language processing (NLP), MindSpore has 20 percent fewer lines of core code than leading frameworks on the market, and it helps developers raise their efficiency by at least 50 percent.

Through framework innovation, as well as co-optimization of MindSpore and Ascend processors, Huawei's solution can help developers more effectively address complex AI computing challenges and the need for a diverse range of computing power for different applications. This results in stronger performance and more efficient execution. In addition to Ascend processors, MindSpore also supports GPU's, CPU's, and other types of processors.

When introducing MindSpore, Xu emphasized Huawei's commitment to helping build a more robust and vibrant AI ecosystem. "MindSpore will go open source in the first quarter of 2020. We want to drive broader AI adoption and help developers do what they do best."

Since its launch, Ascend 310 has already seen wide adoption in a broad range of products and cloud services. For example, Huawei's Mobile Data Center (MDC), which employs Ascend 310, has been used by many leading automakers in shuttle buses, new-energy vehicles, and autonomous driving.

The Ascend 310-powered Atlas series acceleration card and server are now part of dozens of industry solutions (e.g., smart transportation and smart grid) developed by dozens of partners.

Ascend 310 also enables Huawei Cloud services like image analysis, optical character recognition (OCR), and intelligent video analysis. There are more than 50 APIs for these services. At present, the num-



Eric Xu, Huawei's Rotating Chairman, announcing the release of the Ascend 910

ber of API calls per day has exceeded 100 million, and this figure is estimated to hit 300 million by the end of 2019. More than 100 companies are using Ascend 310 to develop their own AI algorithms.

Huawei's ModelArts provides model development services spanning the full pipeline, from data collection and model development to model training and deployment. At present, more than 30,000 developers are using ModelArts to handle 4,000+ training tasks per day (for a total of 32,000 training hours). Among these tasks, 85 percent are related to visual processing, 10 percent are for processing audio data, and 5 percent are related to machine learning.

With today's launch of Ascend 910 and MindSpore,

Huawei has unveiled all the key components of its full-stack, all-scenario AI portfolio. "Everything is moving forward according to plan. We promised a full-stack, all-scenario AI portfolio. And today we delivered," said Xu. This launch is a new milestone in Huawei's AI roadmap; it's also a new beginning.

At the end of his presentation, Xu added that Huawei will debut more groundbreaking AI product at its upcoming conference, Huawei Connect 2019, which will be held between September 18 and 20 in Shanghai. Huawei is working closely with its partners to make AI more pervasive and accessible and help bring the benefits of digital technology to every person, home, and organization.

KFH launches new 'Win with Hesabi' campaign



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched the new "Win with Hesabi" campaign that offers three Jeep Wrangler Sport cars and 120 cash prizes worth KD250 each. This campaign comes as part of KFH continuing efforts to add value to Hesabi customers including advantages, discounts, prizes and exclusive rewards.

Once the social allowance is transferred to Hesabi program, customers enter the monthly draw on 10 prizes of KD250 each, in addition to 3 special draws on Jeep Wrangler Sport cars. KFH offers "Hesabi for Youth" with a variety of privileges as part of its continued endeavor to provide adequate customer care, innovate new products and services and fulfill the needs of all customers of various age categories and interests. Services and products are tailored to suit customers' needs and provide distinguished service as per global standards regarding quality, accuracy and speed.

"Hesabi" program has been designed to meet the needs of youth and aspire for their active life style. This program presents for youth many exclusive offers and a wide range of privileges including Hesabi ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue Hesabi prepaid card (as per credit regulations of KFH), distinguished offers and discounts etc. KFH continues to launch marketing campaigns to reward youth customers. Hesabi for Youth represents the ambitions and expectations of youth category and copes with KFH aspirations to attract the largest portion of youth who represents the major part of Kuwaiti society. Also, the account represents KFH initiative to diversify banking services and products.

Ooredoo offers a range of cutting-edge Apple devices

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait announced that it is offering a strong line-up of six cutting-edge Apple devices featuring the biggest advancements in iPhone history and includes: the smart iPhone XS Max, iPhone XS, iPhone 8 and iPhone 7, in addition to iPad Air and iPad Pro, available in all Ooredoo branches and on eShop.

Customers who purchase any of the offered Apple devices from Ooredoo can choose from the company's data plans the one that best match with the way they use their wireless devices. These plans include unlimited Ooredoo minutes and messaging. Each plan comes with a set amount of data, the higher the plan the more data the customers will get. Furthermore, Ooredoo is offering these new Apple devices with a range of attractive data plans that will allow cus-



Mijbil Alayoub

tomers to connect to Ooredoo's fast 4G LTE network that delivers ultra-fast data speed, ensuring that customers will get the most out of their devices.

Commenting on the launch of this remunerating and unbeatable offer, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director, Mijbil Alayoub said "We are extremely excited to offer this collection of iPhone devices with the aim of providing our loyal customers as well as prospects with another option when looking for a device with exciting features that meet their needs and, at the same time, they can enjoy it on our high-quality network."

Malabar Gold & Diamonds to open its 2nd outlet in US at Iselin, New Jersey

DUBAI: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's largest jewellery retailer, announced ambitious global growth plan in line with the FY 2023 global expansion plan laid down by the brand in October 2018. The brand will be opening 21 new outlets in the coming 6 months.

"We are getting wide acceptance in the global and Indian market place. Our core business values such as adherence to transparency, honesty, quality along with our value added services, product designs that suited to every class of customers' taste cutting across age group are the key factors that give us global acceptance. In 2019 too, we will be opening more showrooms as well as manufacturing units along with skill development centers to groom the youth and absorb them in various job profiles. This will fuel our vision to become the top jewellery retailer in the world," said MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group.

As a part of its expansion plan, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is all set to open its second outlet in the US at Iselin, New Jersey on 31st August 2019. Their first outlet in USA located at West Devon Avenue, Chicago was opened on November, 2018. The Group currently operates retail outlets spread across ten countries in the India,

Middle East, Southeast Asia and the US. Its massive expansion plan will see the company expand its footprint across all Tier I and Tier II cities in North and Central India - in order to cater to the growing jewellery market. The company's plan of major expansion in international market includes new territories such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, Canada, Egypt and Turkey.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the jewellery retail arm of the diversified business conglomerate Malabar Group that includes other business verticals such as real estate developments, shopping malls, hypermarket, technologies, retailing of home appliances & electronics, watches, franchisee retailing and services.

The new expansion will see Malabar Group increase its headcount to 13,500 professionals on direct payroll and expects to further generate more jobs within the next five years to manage the planned growth and expansion. The group has a unique business model where its expansion is fuelled by investors who become shareholders in different entities in a very transparent ownership model. Malabar Gold & Diamonds currently have over 4,000 investors under different entities who share the same vision, dedication and passion. Around 19.4 percent of these investors are full time employees with the Group, including the front-end managers and directors.

We will also continue to strengthen our retail foot print in the states where we currently have strong presence. Our unique business model of sharing and caring has worked for us very well and it makes us a transparent and accountable



Exterior of the New Jersey showroom



organization with a solid foundation where all investors have a financial and moral stake in the company.

Malabar Group believes that the most successful companies are those which integrate sustainability into their core business. The group is always proactive when it comes to CSR activities right from the inception. The key focus areas of the CSR initiatives of Malabar Group are in the

areas of Health, Education, Women Empowerment, Housing and Environment. The organization has kept aside 5% of its profit for the CSR activities in all the regions that they operate. The group, which currently has showrooms across GCC, India, Malaysia, Singapore and the US undertakes several welfare activities with the association of like-minded organizations in the respective regions.

Health & Science

CITES votes to ban trade in endangered otter species

GENEVA: A trade ban is looming for two endangered otter species after some 100 countries voted to increase protections following a social-media fuelled craze for acquiring the silky mammals as pets. Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted overwhelmingly in Geneva Sunday to place the smooth-coated otter on the treaty's most endangered list. On Monday they voted to do the same for the Asian small-clawed otter.

Conservationists hailed the vote, insisting a trade ban was vital for the survival of the two species, which have seen numbers in the wild plummet by at least 30 percent in the past 30 years. This decline is believed to have accelerated significantly in recent years with a fad in Asia, and Japan in particular, of keeping otters as pets. "This is an important conservation victory," Matthew Collis, policy chief at the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), said in a statement.

He said he hoped the move would "send an important message to unscrupulous traders, add further trade controls and enhance scrutiny of captive-breeding operations". The votes were to move the two otter species from CITES Appendix II, where international trade must be regulated and monitored for sustainability, to Appendix I, where all international trade is banned. They still need to be approved in a plenary session before the 12-day conference wraps up on Wednesday. Sumanth Bindumadhav

of Humane Society International hailed the decision to move the two species to Appendix I. In a statement, he said he hoped the move would "send an important and timely warning, not least to online and social media audiences, that these are imperilled species and that trade in them is harmful to their welfare and their overall species survival."

'Otter cafes' feed demand

All Asian otter species have long been listed as vulnerable or endangered after decades of shrinking habitats and illegal trade in their pelts. But conservationists say the recent surge in social media hype around the creatures has sparked such a frenzied demand for baby otters in Asia that it could drive entire species towards extinction.

To meet the growing demand hunters and fishermen, especially in Indonesia and Thailand, are increasingly killing adult otters and snatching the babies, which are caged and shipped off to become exotic pets. The main destination is Japan, where one otter pup can fetch up to \$10,000 (about 9,000 euros). Several "otter cafes" have also popped up in the country, with patrons urged to buy small pieces of food to feed the caged mammals and to snap a selfie with them while drinking a coffee. Countries also voted Monday to move the Indian Star Tortoise — another species being decimated by high demand in the exotic pet trade — to Appendix I. — AFP



A smooth coat otter in the wild.

Asiatic black bear cubs rescued in remote Laos

BANGKOK: Five Asiatic black bear cubs were rescued from a remote stretch of northern Laos and are being nursed back to health at a sanctuary, NGO Free the Bears said yesterday, calling the one-day rescue the largest in its 24-year history.

Across Asia thousands of the animals, classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of endangered species, are kept in cages as pets and used to extract bile from their gall bladders for traditional medicine. Working with Laos police, the team swept in on three different locations in Luang Namtha province near the Chinese border last week.

The cubs were weak and malnourished after being fed on mainly rice porridge but are now "doing well", NGO spokesman Rod Mabin told AFP. "For the first day

or so they were a bit picky as they adjusted to the milk but now they are fully adjusted." He added that they would be in quarantine for a month at a sanctuary near the tourist town of Luang Prabang before being introduced to a nursery enclosure.

The cubs were found in a bamboo paper factory, a cassava plantation, and a private household. All owners claimed to have purchased them from villagers, but in Laos it is now illegal to keep the bears, trade their parts or extract bile. Wildlife authorities in Laos and Vietnam have cracked down on the painful and invasive practice but bear bile farming still persists. Many of the creatures, also known as moon bears, are starved, dehydrated, wounded and psychologically scarred when they are rescued.

The Asiatic black bear population is also threatened by habitat loss. The NGO has rescued 11 bears so far this year and are on track to beat their total of 13 in 2018. Authoritarian Laos has also long been a top transit hub for the smuggling of wildlife products, including pangolins, helmeted hornbills and tiger parts. Widespread corruption and weak law enforcement allows the criminal activity to flourish. — AFP



This handout from Free the Bears taken on August 19, 2019 and released on August 26, 2019 shows an Asiatic black bear cub in a transport crate after it was rescued in Luang Namtha province. — AFP

Dutch doctor on trial in landmark euthanasia case

THE HAGUE: A Dutch doctor went on trial in a landmark case yesterday after euthanizing a patient with severe dementia who may have had second thoughts about dying, prosecutors said. The unidentified doctor appeared in The Hague district court in the first case of its kind after the assisted suicide of a 74-year-old woman in 2016 who was suffering from an advanced stage of Alzheimer's disease.

The female doctor, now aged 68 and retired, is alleged to have put a sleeping drug into the elderly woman's coffee. When the patient woke up, the doctor had to ask her family to hold the patient down while she completed the process. "The doctor is facing a charge of carrying out euthanasia without following the strict guidelines set down for such a process," public prosecution spokesman Vincent Veenman said. "It's the first case of its kind," in the Netherlands, he added.

The Dutch prosecution service however later said in a statement even if the doctor was found guilty in the case, she should not face a sentence. Judges are to hand down their verdict in two weeks. The Netherlands was the world's first country to legalize euthanasia in 2002. It can only be carried out under strict conditions set down in

Dutch law. This particular case started four years before the woman's death, when she was first diagnosed with Alzheimer's, a disease that gradually robs people of their mental faculties.

In a written statement regarding her wishes, she asked to be euthanized rather than being put into a care home for people suffering from dementia, the prosecutors said. But the woman also added: "I want to be able to decide (when to die) while still in my senses and when I think the time is right," public broadcaster NOS said. Shortly after she was eventually taken into care, a doctor specialising in geriatric care judged that she qualified for assisted suicide according to her statement. Two independent doctors confirmed the diagnosis, NOS said.

On the day of her death the woman was given a sedative in a coffee rendering her unconscious, with her daughter and husband present at the procedure. "The woman was in a state of confusion and the doctor did not see any point in consulting her," NOS said. However, the woman woke up during the euthanasia process, sat up and had to be restrained by her relatives before dying, it said. "A crucial question to this case is how long a doctor should continue consulting a patient with dementia, if the patient in an earlier stage already requested euthanasia," prosecution service spokeswoman Sanna van der Harg said. "We do not doubt the doctor's honest intentions," she added. But prosecutors felt the doctors should have had "a more intensive discussion with the demented patient" before euthanizing her, she said. "The law doesn't give a clear answer, that's why we are now asking a judge in this case," Van der Harg said. — AFP



Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg's yacht due in New York today

STOCKHOLM: Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg said she expects to arrive in New York today, completing her zero-carbon Atlantic crossing on a yacht. The Malizia II racing yacht — skippered by Pierre Casiraghi, the son of Monaco's Princess Caroline, and German round-the-world sailor Boris Herrmann — left Plymouth in southern England on August 14 for a two-week voyage in order to enable the Swedish teen to attend a UN summit on zero emissions in September in New York.

The 16-year-old, whose school strikes have inspired children across the world to protest against global warming, refuses to fly because of the carbon emissions caused by planes. Yesterday, the sailboat was nearing the US coast with strong downwinds. "Strong winds are pushing us west. We expect to arrive at North Cove Marina in Manhattan, New York sometime Tuesday afternoon or

evening," Thunberg wrote on Twitter.

In a video post published late Sunday, she said the boat was travelling at "between 20 and 25 knots" and it was "very rough, and very high waves." The teen marked the first anniversary of the start of her school strike on August 20. She began sitting outside the Swedish parliament in August 2018 to raise the awareness of members of parliament to the urgency of climate change. She was swiftly joined by other students around the world, as word of her strike spread through the media, and the "Fridays for future" movement was born.

The 18-metre yacht features state-of-the-art solar panels on its deck and sides while there are two hydro-generators which together provide all the electricity needed on board. Her voyage has however sparked controversy after a spokesman for Herrmann, the yacht's co-skipper, told Berlin newspaper TAZ that several people would fly into New York to help take the yacht back to Europe. Herrmann himself will also return by plane, according to the spokesman. Team Malizia's manager insisted however that the young activist's journey would be climate neutral, as the flights would "be offset." Thunberg has meanwhile said that she doesn't yet know how she will return to Europe when the time comes. — AFP

92% of HPV-caused cancers could be prevented by vaccine

WASHINGTON: An estimated 92% of cancers caused by HPV could be prevented through vaccination, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Thursday, adding that boosting immunization coverage was a key priority. Human papillomavirus was responsible for an estimated yearly average of 34,800 cancer cases between 2012 and 2016, according to a new study published by the CDC, meaning that more than 32,100 cases could have been avoided annually.

The virus can lead to cancers in both men and women, including cancers of the cervix, vulva, vagina, penis, anus, and oropharynx (the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils). "A future without HPV cancers is within reach, but urgent action is needed to improve vaccine coverage rates," said Brett Giroir, assistant secretary for health. "Increasing HPV vaccination coverage to 80 percent has been and will continue to be a priority initiative for HHS, and we will continue to work with our governmental and private sector partners to make this a reality."

The CDC recommends that all pre-teens get the HPV vaccine when they are 11 or 12 years old to protect them before they are ever exposed. But new data showed little progress in increasing vaccination rates among 13- to 17-year-olds. Overall, only 51 percent of teens received all their recommended doses, a two percentage point increase from 2017, with vaccination rates higher among teens whose parents received a recommendation from their doctor.

The report added that although the vaccine is not ordinarily recommended for people over the age of 26, some adults from ages 27 through 45 years who weren't previously vaccinated may benefit if they are at risk and should speak with their doctor for advice. HPV vaccination is also key to preventing cervical cancer, the report added, recommending a Pap test every three years alongside an HPV test in women aged 21 to 29. "The HPV test can provide additional information when Pap test results are unclear for women ages 21 and older," the report said. — AFP

Environmental groups sue over wildlife protection rollbacks

WASHINGTON: US environmental groups have sued the administration of President Donald Trump over rollbacks that weaken the Endangered Species Act, a law credited with saving iconic species from the bald eagle to the grizzly bear. Non-profit Earthjustice filed a lawsuit on behalf of groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club in a federal court in northern California on Wednesday.

"Nothing in these new rules helps wildlife, period," said Kristen Boyles, an Earthjustice attorney. "We're going to court to set things right." Boyles said the regulatory changes were intended to make protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species "harder and less predictable." The changes announced August 12 eliminate a rule that automatically extends the same protections to threatened species as to endangered species.

They also would allow information to be gathered about economic impacts, although ostensibly not used in making listing determinations, which is barred by law. The lawsuit argues that administration officials failed to publicly disclose and analyze the harms and impacts of the changes, in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, and that they inserted new changes that were never made public or subject to public comment.

The third charge was that the administration violated the language and purpose of the act by changing requirements to comply with a section that requires federal agencies to not carry out actions that jeopardize listed species or harm their designated habitats. The group also announced a 60-day notice of intent to sue over the decision to add the provision on gathering information about the economic impact of listing a species.—AFP

Science

G7 agrees to pledge millions to help fight Amazon fires

BIARRITZ: The G7 has agreed to spend 20 million euros (\$22 million) on the Amazon, mainly to send fire-fighting aircraft to tackle the huge blazes engulfing many parts of the world's biggest rainforest, the presidents of France and Chile announced yesterday.

The G7 club — comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — has also agreed to support a medium-term reforestation plan which will be unveiled at the UN in September, France's Emmanuel Macron and Chile's Sebastian Pinera said at the G7 summit in southwest France. Brazil would have to agree to any reforestation plan, as would indigenous communities living in the Amazon.

The initiative was announced after G7 leaders meeting in the resort of Biarritz held talks on the environment, focusing on the record number of fires destroying chunks of the Amazon. Macron had declared the situation in the Amazon region an "international crisis" and made it one of the summit's priorities. He has threatened to block a huge new trade deal between the EU and Latin America unless Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, a climate change sceptic, takes serious steps to protect the forest from logging and mining.

"We must respond to the call of the forest which is burning today in the Amazon," Macron said yesterday. Nearly 80,000 forest fires have been detected in Brazil since the beginning of the year, a little over half in the massive Amazon basin. Bolsonaro has lashed out at Macron over his criticism and suggested that NGOs could be setting the fires to embarrass him — without giving any evidence to back the claim.

But at the weekend he finally caved into international pressure to save a region crucial for maintaining a stable global climate, deploying two aircraft to douse the fires and authorising the army to help tackle the blazes. Speaking in Biarritz, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said new planting was needed "to preserve this universal heritage, which is absolutely essential for the well-being of the world's population." He said that the issue would be discussed during the UN General Assembly in New York in September.

Hundreds of new fires have flared up in the Amazon in Brazil, data showed Monday, even as military aircraft dumped water over hard-hit areas and G7 nations pledged to help combat the blazes. Smoke choked Port Velho city as fires raged in the northwestern state of Rondonia where fire-fighting efforts are concentrated, amid a growing global uproar and a diplomatic spat between France and Brazil.

Two C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying thousands of liters of water on Sunday began dousing fires devouring chunks of the world's largest rainforest, which is seen as crucial to keeping climate change in check. Swaths of the remote region have been scorched by the worst fires in years, sending thick smoke billowing into the sky.

Experts say increased land clearing during the months-long dry season to make way for crops or grazing has aggravated the problem this year. The worsening crisis has fueled a row between President Jair Bolsonaro and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, who has been piling pressure on Bolsonaro to do more to protect the forest. — AFP



BRUSSELS: Protesters dance as they gather in front of the Brazilian Embassy during a demonstration organized by Extinction Rebellion activists. — AFP

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- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
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Dr. Hani Haider
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- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
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Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

daralshifa
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

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Academic Certificates - Training

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

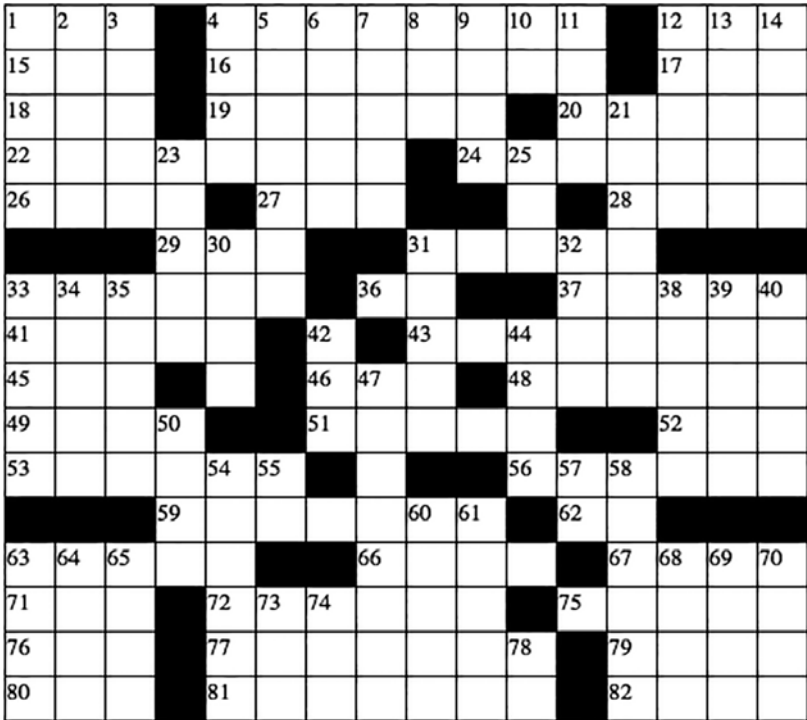
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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Jabriya, 4th Ring Road,Block 1A Floor 9 -Clover Center Mazaya Building

CROSSWORD 2291



ACROSS

- 1. The elementary stages of any subject (usu-ally plural).
- 4. City in central Iran.
- 12. Alsatian artist and poet who was cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich.
- 15. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- 16. Reduced in size as by squeezing together.
- 17. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
- 18. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- 19. Medieval artillery used during sieges.
- 20. (geology) Before the appearance of life.
- 22. Italian architect (1508-1580).
- 24. A three-tone Chadic language.
- 26. A genus of European owls.
- 27. A decree that prohibits something.
- 28. The food served and eaten at one time.
- 29. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- 33. A person who knows or apprehends.
- 36. A bivalent and trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- 37. A member of a Finnish people of Russia.
- 41. The lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle).
- 43. Type genus of the Schizaeaceae cosmo-politan especially in tropics.
- 45. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
- 46. The residue that remains when something is burned.
- 48. (psychology) Characterized by acceptance or approach.
- 49. A city in northwestern Syria.
- 51. German composer.
- 52. Used of a single unit or thing.
- 53. When dried yields a hard substance used e.g. in golf balls.
- 56. Haddock usually baked but sometimes broiled with lots of butter.
- 59. United States industrialist and aviation pioneer (1878-1930).
- 62. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- 63. Obvious and dull.
- 66. Type genus of the Apidae.
- 67. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
- 71. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 72. Old World genus of annual to perennial herbs.
- 75. Designating a solution containing 1 mole of solute per 1000 grams of solvent.
- 76. Having leadership guidance.
- 77. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 79. United States newspaper publisher (1858-1935).
- 80. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- 81. Genus of beetles whose grubs feed mainly on roots of plants.
- 82. The officer below the master on a commercial ship.

DOWN

- 1. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
- 2. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
- 3. (Mexican) Ground beef and chili peppers or chili powder often with tomatoes and kidney beans.
- 4. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
- 5. A bar of sand.
- 6. The capital of Cape Verde on Sao Tiago Island.
- 7. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- 8. Mature female of mammals of which the male is called 'buck'.
- 9. Turned or twisted toward one side.
- 10. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
- 11. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- 12. Eaten as mush or as a thin gruel.
- 13. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
- 14. A unit of weight used in some parts of Asia.
- 21. An African river.
- 23. United States pharmacologist (born in Germany) who was the first to show that acetylcholine is produced at the junction between a parasympathetic nerve and a muscle (1873-1961).
- 25. (Babylonian) The sky god.
- 30. A secret look.
- 31. (Japanese) Rice (with raw fish) wrapped in seaweed.
- 32. (often followed by 'for') Ardently or excessively desirous.
- 34. City in Sudan.
- 35. A projecting bay window corbeled or cantilevered out from a wall.
- 38. A formal expression of praise.
- 39. Any of various plants of the genus Senna having pinnately compound leaves and showy usually yellow flowers.
- 40. Having been taken into the mouth for consumption.
- 42. Common black-and-gray Eurasian bird noted for thievery.
- 44. Consisting of one of two equivalent parts in value or quantity.
- 47. In a series.
- 50. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
- 54. Eurasian perennial bulbous herbs.
- 55. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- 57. Being nine more than ninety.
- 58. Small tree of dry open parts of southern Africa having erect angled branches suggesting candelabra.
- 60. The brightest star in Virgo.
- 61. A plant fiber used for making rope.
- 64. In bed.
- 65. A quantity of no importance.
- 68. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- 69. The basic unit of money in Thailand.
- 70. Other than what is under consideration or implied.
- 73. A fractional monetary unit of Japan and Indonesia and Cambodia.
- 74. A rapid bustling commotion.
- 78. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a wonderful time to add to a collection or to sell part of a collection. A city library could be having an annual sale and this may give you the opportunity to purchase some old edition for your own private book collection. You draw a sense of security from your friends and social involvement this afternoon. Sharing some fun activity with your friends may put you at your most imaginative, at least when it comes to ideas and thoughts. You could be traveling a short distance to a craft or art show and this will certainly fill your day with good memories that last a lifetime. This is a day full of fun times and opportunities to build firm relationships.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Do not try to prove a point today—others hear what you have to say but may not immediately respond the way you want. Clear communication is important to you. You may find yourself listening carefully to what others have to say. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you ready for new adventures. Everything conspires to reveal you at your best, particularly in social situations. Emotional security and a sense of belonging and nurturing are the issues felt instinctively now. You want roots and you crave a sense of intimate connection. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A touch of financial genius can result in phenomenally successful investments. One way or another, changes in your financial status are in the offing—taxes, investments, debts or legacies play a part in this. Interaction with other people will be electric, exciting and unpredictable the rest of this year. Charisma is highlighted now—you develop a deeper understanding of many of life's mysteries and labours. You may discover new facts about your family tree. There is talk of traditions and family. There are old diaries and photos for you to enjoy and organize into a family album. You have a clear vision into your own inner sense of values, how you appreciate and love. This is a good time to examine and think about what is most important to your future.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a good day to get things done, especially around your living area. You have a sense about balance and how to maintain balance in your life. You are successful in whatever task you choose. There may be some repair or yard work you will want to do before the winter begins. You may be close to finishing a remodeling job this weekend. This afternoon is a good time to enjoy the out-of-doors and perhaps, exercise a bit. Perhaps you and the young people in your family, or among your friends, will enjoy one or two of the following: horseback riding, fishing, target shooting, darts, etc.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more meaning now. Being more involved with a meaningful group of people like close neighbors or family members satisfies a deep emotional need. Communicating feelings becomes more important now. A new cycle begins for you—signaling a strong interest in relationships, social connections and the arts—on a more intellectual level than in the past. A family debate helps to show off your problem-solving abilities. You are able to see both sides of an issue—the situation may call out for understanding and compromise. Marriage and other close relationships give rise to great expectations now, as a new cycle gets underway in your life.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your imagination may mislead you to the point of motivating you in a wrong direction. Your realistic thinking could be obscured by some supposed spiritual or humanitarian ideal. Given time to think through some particular situation, you may feel you should reverse your path. This will be a time of introspection—you may find yourself eliminating some of the plans and projects yet uncompleted. Writing and making lists of projects and steps to complete a goal will bring about a good focus. List making could also eliminate false starts.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Secrets have a short half-life around you—you have them out in a wink of an eye. You are brilliant when it comes to insights into the mind—psychology and motivation. Your intensity is obvious and some may prefer to keep their distance rather than subject themselves to your laser eye. Nothing is passed over without being examined inside and outside. Someone may challenge your ideas or good taste. You always seem appreciative of others and can create a positive outcome to most any difficulty. This is, however, not the best time to shop, choose colors, etc. Charisma, self-transformation, the development of personal power—these things play a bigger role in your life now, more than ever before. Remember that tiny causes can lead to big effects.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Don't be surprised if you are not in top mental gear this day. You may feel more like sharing some time with your loved one, or with close friends. Perhaps this would be a good time to visit the zoo or involve yourself in some fall neighborhood activity where you can feel you are a part of a team or group. Close relationships will certainly take on more emotional depth now. It is possible that you are clinging to some recent happening in the past and need time to work through some feelings. Some honest soul-searching as well as being with those you love and who love you are the best actions to take at this time.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Playing sports boosts your confidence and you look for friends or a team to join today. This could also mean you call up a friend and play tennis or golf. The demand for your skills or talents intensifies and you become aware of new options for pastime pleasure. Your home environment and surroundings receive your attention this evening. A mate or close friend may complain that you do not spend enough time together. You are flattered and can find some time to plan or engage in the interactions required to deepen this relationship.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is not perhaps the best time to make important decisions that affect your living situation or life circumstances. Others may challenge your ideas or authority. This is a much better time to relax and plan for the busy days ahead. Divvy up the chores so that no one person has too many things to do before a special day and of course, do your own share. If you are going away for the winter, there will still be some arrangements to be made. You may be sought after for your guidance regarding travel and preparation considerations this afternoon. You will be able to handle most matters, especially if you have arranged your day so that you do not have a lot of stress.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

What were normally clear ideas before today may become a bit fuzzy at this time—it may be hard to be logical. This may be a good time for list making. Seeing both sides of an issue and figuring out resolutions to opposing views are the things that take on the most importance in your life as well. You may get insights into your living situation or support system. There are new ideas about your past history and new approaches to established facts. You could receive unexpected help or support from those around you for whatever you want to accomplish.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You decide to clean and work at polishing floors or some other work that takes high energy and you get much accomplished. It is time to really get down to the business of clearing away the things that no longer serve you. Now there is room for new and better projects. Health, food and physical condition come under scrutiny and you work to give this much attention. You make a big effort to pick out those fat-free foods that will help you feel better; careful, some of them are full of sugar that turns to fat. You can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you for whatever you choose to do this day. This evening there is an opportunity to relax with your loved ones. You may be the winner at a card game tonight.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Christmas Gift Ideas

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell an additional Christmas gift idea.



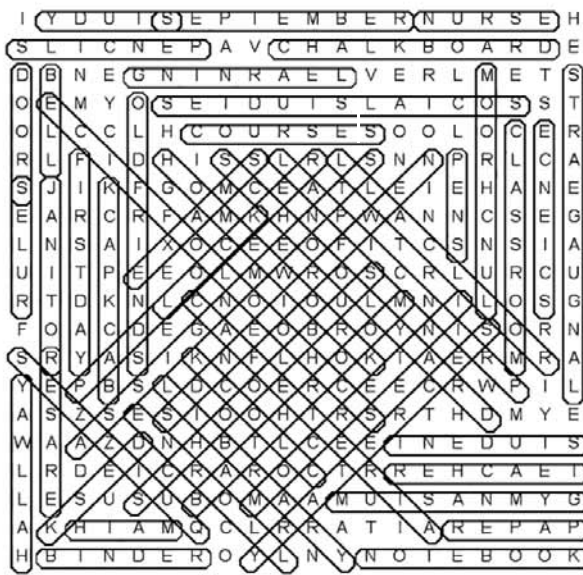
BAKING BELT BOOK BRACELET CANDLES CANDY CHOCOLATES CLOTHES COFFEE MAKER COFFEE MUG COLOGNE

COOKIES DOLL EARRINGS ELECTRONICS FLOWERS GAME GIFT BASKET GIFT CARD HERBAL TEAS JEWELRY MONEY

MOVIE MUSIC NECKLACE NECKTIE PANTS PENDANT PERFUME PLANT SCARF SHIRT SLIPPERS

SNEAKERS SOCKS STUFFED ANIMAL SWEATER TELEVISION TOOL SET TOY TREE ORNAMENT WATCH WINE

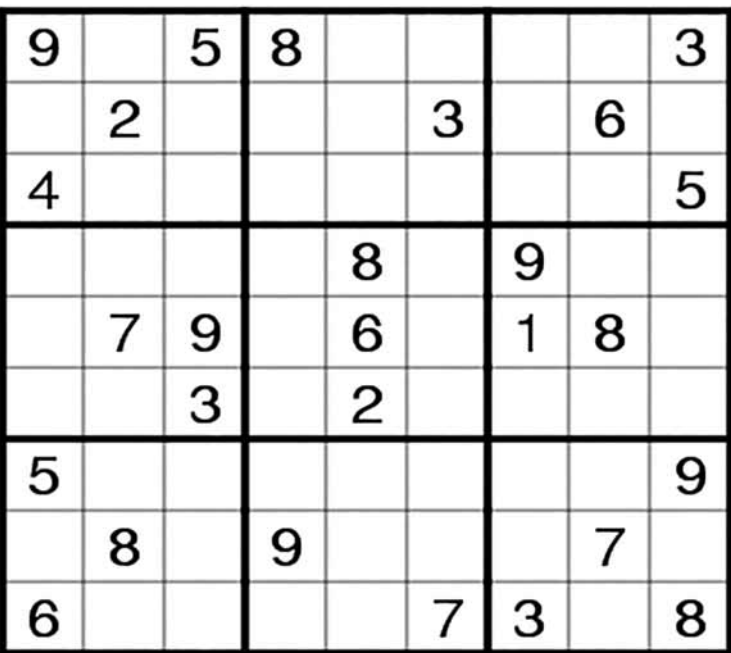
Back to School



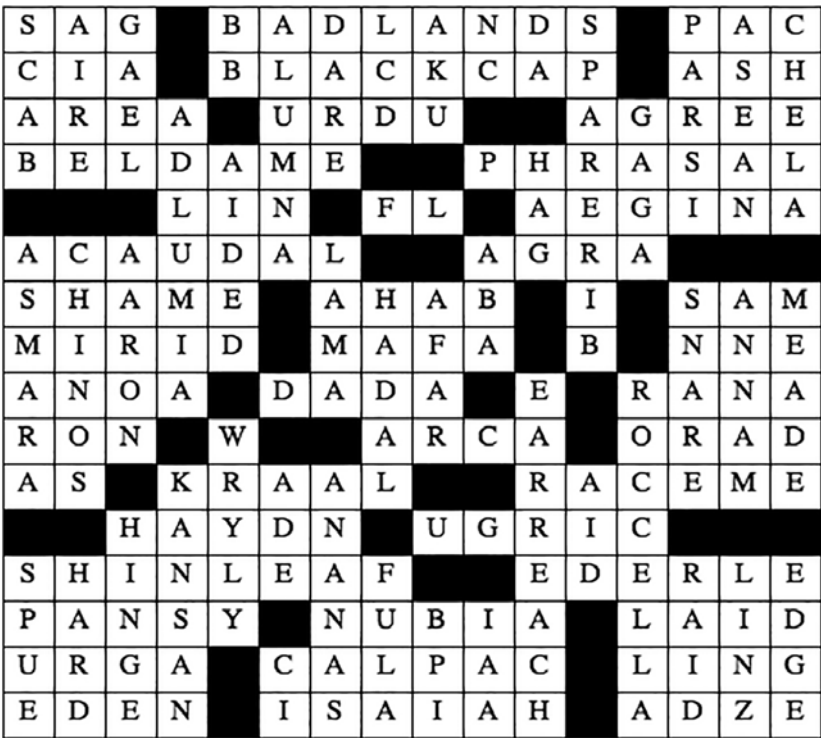
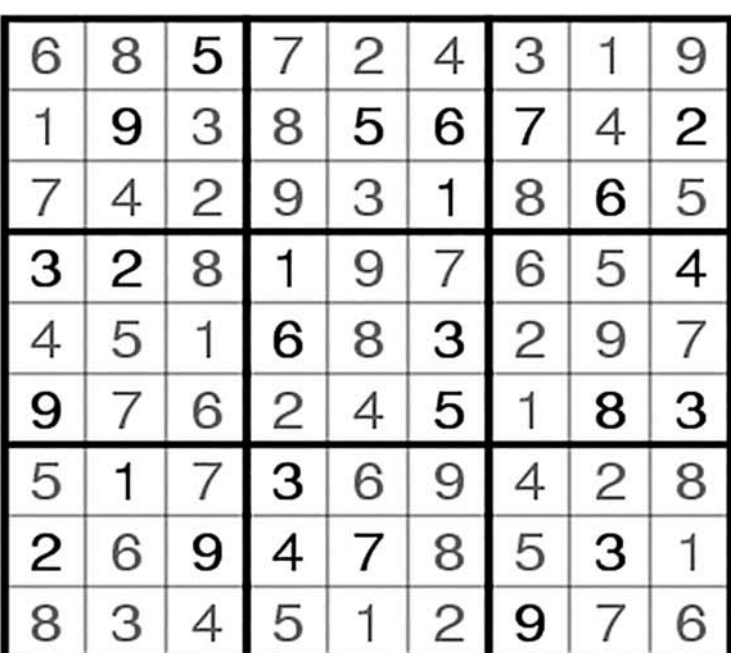
ASSIGNMENTS BACKPACK BATHROOM BELL BINDER CAFETERIA CHALKBOARD CLASSROOM CLOCK COURSES DESK DOORS ENROLL ERASER EXAMS FIRST DAY GYMNASIUM HALLWAY HOMEWORK INTERCOM JANITOR LANGUAGE ARTS LEARNING LIBRARY LOCKER LUNCHROOM MATH NEW FRIENDS NOTEBOOK NURSE OLD FRIENDS PADLOCK PAPER PENCILS PENS PRINCIPAL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

The hidden message is: I HAVE NEVER LET MY SCHOOLING INTERFERE WITH MY EDUCATION.

Daily Sudoku

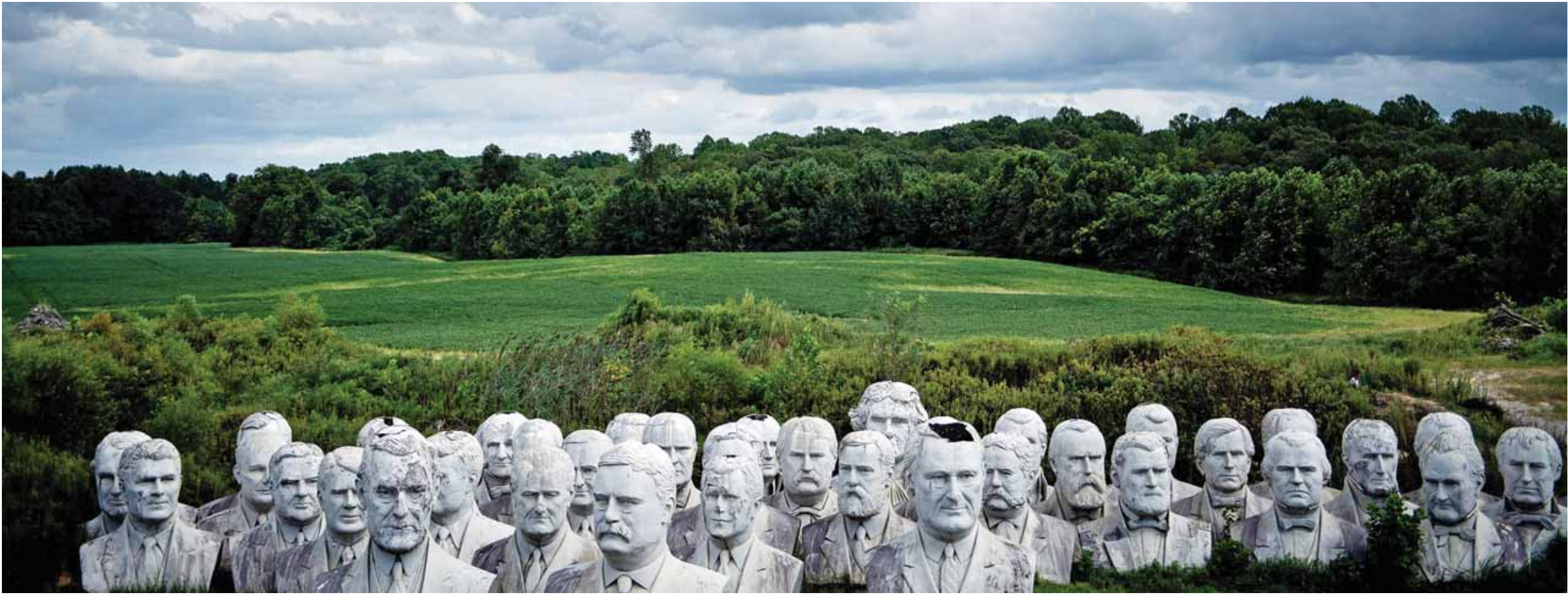


Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019



Salvaged busts of former US Presidents can be seen at a mulching business where they now reside on Sunday, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Howard Hankins rescued the giant busts of former US Presidents from the closed Presidents Park in Colonial Williamsburg when he was commissioned to destroy them. — AFP photos

PLACIDO DOMINGO GETS STANDING OVATION IN SALZBURG DESPITE SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAIMS

Opera legend Placido Domingo on Sunday received a standing ovation at the Salzburg Festival, his first performance since he was accused of sexually harassing women. "Triumph in Salzburg, standing ovation for Domingo despite the Me Too affair," a headline in the regional daily Kleine Zeitung said, following his performance in the Giuseppe Verdi opera "Luisa Miller" at the annual music and drama festival in Austria.

Eight singers and a dancer told the Associated Press earlier this month they were sexually harassed by the former member of the much lauded "Three Tenors", in incidents going back to the 1980s. In a report by the AP, several women, one of whom was identified, accused Domingo of using his position as one of opera's most celebrated singers to pressure them into sexual relationships. The Los Angeles Opera has opened an investigation into the "concerning allegations".

Following the claims, the Philadelphia Orchestra Association withdrew its invitation for Domingo to appear in its opening night concert on September 18. However, the head of the Salzburg Festival in Austria said Domingo would perform there as planned. Madrid-born Domingo was one of the most recognized tenors of the 20th century, starring in alongside famous tenors Luciano Pavarotti and Jose Carreras. In recent years the long-time married opera star has transformed himself into a baritone and still performs to packed audiences at the age of 78. He has made more than 100 albums and picked up 14 Grammy awards. Earlier this year, he celebrated his 4,000th performance in a career that stretches back 60 years. — AFP



Spanish opera singer Placido Domingo, accused of sexual harassment, is seen on stage during the performance of "Luisa Miller" at the Salzburg Festival in Salzburg. — AFP

'Angel Has Fallen' rises to top of N American box office

Lionsgate's new action-packed political thriller "Angel Has Fallen" debuted atop the North American box office with an estimated \$21.3 million in ticket sales, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday. "Angel," which stars Gerard Butler playing a Secret Service agent wrongly accused of trying to kill the president (Morgan Freeman), is the third film in the franchise. It also stars Nick Nolte, Piper Perabo and Jada Pinkett Smith.

Last weekend's leader, Universal's raunchy tween comedy "Good Boys," slipped to \$11 million but managed to

hold onto second spot on a sleepy late-summer weekend. In third place was another new release, Sony's "Overcomer," a Christian-themed movie about a former basketball coach (Alex Kendrick) who agrees half-heartedly to help prepare a young asthmatic orphan girl (Aryn Wright-Thompson) for a huge cross-country meet.

It took in \$8.2 million despite tepid reviews. Just behind in fourth place was Disney's updated version of "The Lion King," which pulled in \$8.15 million, bringing its domestic total over six weeks in release to \$510.6 million and its global total to more than \$1.5 billion. Universal's action

film "Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw" with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Jason Statham came in fifth, taking in \$8.1 million. Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were:

- "Ready or Not" (\$7.6 million)
- "The Angry Birds Movie 2" (\$6.4 million)
- "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" (\$6 million)
- "Dora & the Lost City of Gold" (\$5.2 million)
- "Once Upon a Time in...Hollywood" (\$5 million)—AFP



In this file photo taken on August 20, 2019 (from left) US actors Nick Nolte, Piper Perabo, Lance Reddick, Scottish actor Gerard Butler, US actors Morgan Freeman, Danny Huston, Blake Nelson and English actor Frederick Schmidt arrive for the Los Angeles premiere of "Angel Has Fallen" at the Regency Village theatre in Westwood, California. — AFP

Donald Sutherland to get honorary award in Spain

Canadian actor Donald Sutherland, known for films as diverse as "M*A*S*H" and the Hunger Games series, will receive a lifetime achievement award at Spain's San Sebastian film festival, organizers announced yesterday. The 84-year-old actor will receive the Donostia Award, recognizing "more than fifty years of excellent performances", on September 26.

"Sutherland has shown great talent when embodying dozens of characters, with no regard for genre: from drama to war movies, including thrillers, horror and science fiction films," the film festival said in a statement. In 2017 he was presented with an Honorary Academy Award for his acting career. One of his early hits was his role as an army surgeon in Robert Altman's 1970 black comedy "M*A*S*H", set during the Korea War.

More than four decades later he is better known to younger viewers as the tyrannical President Snow in the blockbuster franchise "The Hunger Games". Over the years, he has starred in a number of acclaimed films including Nicolas Roeg's chilling psychic thriller "Don't Look Now" (1973) and Oliver Stone's biopic "JFK" (1991).

As well as working in Hollywood in the 1970s he starred in films by the major Italian directors Bernardo Bertolucci ("1900") and Federico Fellini ("Casanova"). Sutherland will receive the award before the screening of his latest film, "The Burnt Orange Heresy", which also stars Mick Jagger. Forthcoming projects include a television series, "The Undoing", with Nicole Kidman. — AFP



In this file photo taken on March 05, 2018 Canadian actor Donald Sutherland arrives for the 90th Annual Academy Awards on March 4, 2018, in Hollywood, California. — AFP



Lady Gaga working on new music with audio technician boyfriend

Lady Gaga has reportedly been working on new music at her home studio with boyfriend Dan Horton. The 33-year-old singer has been dating the 37-year-old audio technician since May, following her split from former fiancé Christian Carino in February, and the pair are now said to be “working closely” on the pop superstar’s new tunes at her Hollywood Hills property, which was once owned by late satire artist Frank Zappa. A source told The Sun newspaper’s Bizarre column: “Gaga has been hard at work on her new music for most of August and it’s been really fun as the studio is in her own home now. “Dan hasn’t fully moved in but he has been spending a lot of time there and is working closely with her team.” Gaga has seemed “happier lately” after embarking on a new relationship with Dan - who worked on her Las Vegas residency shows. A source said recently: “Although she

has been very busy, lately she seems happier.” Although things are heating up between the pair, Gaga is planning to take things “slowly” with Dan, who has worked with the likes of Camila Cabello, Bruno Mars, Justin Timberlake, KISS, Lenny Kravitz and JAY-Z, because it’s still early days. Friends of Gaga say she has completely moved on from feeling down after her split with Christian. A source said: “All the attention for the movie [‘A Star Is Born’] and her split from Christian was a bit much. She escaped to Mexico with friends twice just to get out of Los Angeles. She seemed tired and a bit gloomy. The new music will be the ‘Million Reasons’ hitmaker’s first since the ‘A Star Is Born’ soundtrack, which featured the hit single ‘Shallow’. The ‘Million Reasons’ hitmaker’s last studio album was 2016’s ‘Joanne’.

Hayek found it difficult to keep The Eternals role secret

Salma Hayek admits it was difficult not being able to tell anyone about her role in ‘The Eternals’. The 52-year-old actress plays group leader Ajak in the upcoming Marvel movie and says it was a challenge trying to keep the job secret, especially from her husband, Francois-Henri Pinault, who loves the comic book franchise. Speaking to ET Online, she said: “I’ve known for a long time. I’ve known since March. “We have to keep it a secret and it kills you. “It’s like the most amazing thing that can happen to you, but you cannot tell anyone.” The ‘Frida’ star - who has 11-year-old daughter Valentina with the French businessman - also revealed that the movie’s director Chloe Zhao has made her alter ego more like a mother figure. She added: “Chloe, the director, has approached the leadership a little bit more [with a] deeper connection. “So it’s like a family and I’m like their mother, and they’re all beautiful in different ways.” The movie, due for release in 2020, also stars Angelina Jolie and Richard Madden Thana and Ikaris respectively. Plus Gemma Chan is set to portray Sersi and ‘Game of Thrones’ star Kit Harrington plays Dane Whitman. ‘The Eternals’ will follow the fictional species the Eternals, who are offshoots of the evolutionary process and were intended to be the Earth’s defenders, which sees them do battle with the Deviants.



Charli XCX

‘loosely’ discussed collaborations with The 1975 and Robyn

Charli XCX has confirmed she has “loosely” discussed collaborations with both The 1975 and Robyn. After Matty Healy revealed to fans recently that he had sent a “beat” to the ‘Gone’ singer and shared that it’s a “monster tune”, Charli has spoken for the first time about working with the ‘Love Me’ band, and also revealed she has approached Swedish pop star Robyn, too. And that’s not all, the ‘Boom Clap’ hitmaker also revealed she and Grimes recorded a yet-to-be-released “techno banger” together, which didn’t make Charli’s upcoming self-titled LP. She told NME.com: “I was loosely speaking to Robyn, and I was also loosely speaking to Matty Healy. “And also Grimes and I did make a song for the album, and we really liked it and it was really good, but we made a techno song with no words. “And I was going to put it on the album and then I just spoke to her and was like ‘should we not be writing



Post Malone and Twenty One Pilots cover Oasis hit at Leeds

Post Malone joined Twenty One Pilots on stage for a cover of ‘Don’t Look Back in Anger’ at Leeds Festival on Sunday night. The two superstar acts were co-headliners for the final night of the pop festival and, the ‘Rockstar’ rapper - who closed the weekend with a stunning set - surprised fans during the ‘Stressed Out’ duo’s thrilling show when he appeared unannounced with an acoustic guitar for a rendition of the iconic Oasis anthem. Malone - who will be releasing his third LP on September 6 - walked on stage in the middle of a piano-led performance of the track, strumming the guitar and delivering a show-stopping vocal performance. Meanwhile, Friday night headliners Foo Fighters also gave the Leeds crowd a treat when frontman Dave Grohl brought out his daughter Violet, 13, for a touching duet of ‘My Hero’. The rockers delivered a powerful hit-filled set with some deep cuts, and even played an impromptu cover of Queen and David Bowie’s classic ‘Under Pressure’ after spotting a man dressed as Freddie Mercury and pulling him out of the crowd. The 1975 played to a huge gathering at the main stage on the Saturday, while Bowling For Soup had people spilling out of The Lock Up tent as they proved their status as pop punk legends. Billie Eilish flaunted her pop superstar credentials as she looked unfazed by drawing one of the weekend’s biggest crowds on Sunday afternoon. Elsewhere over the weekend, the likes of Enter Shikari, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Patent Pending, Mayday Parade, The Hunna, A Day To Remember and You Me At Six entertained the masses. Carter - along with N.E.R.D. and Bring Me The Horizon - delighted fans with secret sets at last year’s festival, and there were a few surprises this time round. Bullet For My Valentine only treated the Reading site to a performance and Enter Shikari played a third acoustic set down south to break the record for most sets over both festivals in a single weekend (five). Up north, Drengre pulled a huge crowd at the BBC Introducing stage, while Billy Marten was another surprise as Sherlocks played on both sites after teasing the slot days beforehand.



a pop song’, and she was like, ‘Yeah we should write a massive pop song’. “So we were like we’ll come back to that, cause it was like a techno banger. Hopefully we’ll be able to revisit that.” Matty told his Twitter followers two weeks ago that he sent part of the song to Charli. He tweeted: “Sent her a beat at like 5pm yesterday and woke up this morning to a HIT. A MONSTER TUNE!! I’m prolific but she’s on some s*** @charli_xcx (sic) However, when asked whether his band or himself will feature on the track, Matty said that he doesn’t know yet and added that the band No Rome - who are signed to their record label Dirty Hit - and his bandmate George Daniel worked on the song. He replied: “Not sure yet but me and Rome and George produced.” Charli is certainly prolific, so far this year she has dropped songs with the likes of Christine and the Queens (‘Gone’), Lizzo (‘Blame It On Your Love’), BTS (‘Dream Glow’) and Pablo Vittar (‘Flash Pose’). The ‘1999’ hitmaker will release her new album - the long-awaited follow-up to 2014’s ‘Sucker’ - on September 13.

Bell’s daughters ‘know everything’ about Frozen 2

Kristen Bell’s kids know “the entire plot line” to ‘Frozen 2’. The 39-year-old actress, who is returning to voice Anna for the second installment of the 2013 Disney blockbuster, has confessed that she told her two daughters - four-year-old Delta and six-year-old Lincoln, whom she has with husband Dax Shepard - “everything” about the movie and has warned them they could get “big time busted” if they let anything slip. Speaking to E! News at Disney’s D23 Expo, Kristen said: “I did explain to my kids that they can’t talk about it. “I was singing the songs to them very early on and thank god their words are still muddled when they’re singing, which has saved me a couple times when they’ve gone full voice with a new hit from ‘Frozen 2’ in the middle of the living room. “I’m like, ‘Oh, oh, don’t.’ I had to explain to them they couldn’t really talk about it, this had to be a secret.” She added: “I have told them the entire plot line. “They know everything, they know all the new characters, they know all the new songs. “And they can sing them, but they know they’re gonna get big time busted if they tell anyone.” Details of the new movie are being kept secret until its release on November 22. Idina Menzel will return as Elsa, while Josh Gad is also on board to voice talkative snowman Olaf again. Jennifer Lee is again writing the script and she’s also co-directing with Chris Buck, who worked on the original movie. Whilst Evan Rachel Wood and Sterling K. Brown are joining the franchise for the first time, with the former voicing Iduna and the latter’s part currently unknown.



Waititi ‘excited’ about Thor: Love and Thunder

Taika Waititi “couldn’t be more excited” about how ‘Thor: Love and Thunder’ is “panning out”. The New Zealand filmmaker has cast Natalie Portman as the “Mighty Thor” in the fourth installment of the franchise, and insisted she is not a “female Thor”. The Oscar-winning actress previously starred as Jane Foster in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, appearing in the first two ‘Thor’ films in 2011 and 2013. Speaking to ‘Entertainment Tonight’ about bringing back the ‘Black Swan’ star to the franchise, Taika said: “[She’s] a Thor. “There’s still the other Thor, the original Thor [played by Chris Hemsworth].” He added: “She’s not called Female Thor. In the comics, she’s called the Mighty Thor. “I couldn’t be more happy and excited by how its panning out.” Taika starts production on ‘Thor: Love and Thunder’ at the start of 2020, meaning his manga movie ‘Akira’ for Warner Bros. is likely to be delayed due to his ‘Thor’ commitments. However, it is hoped he will return to work on the Japanese-American sci-fi film, which is based on the manga character of the same name, after he’s completed the Marvel flick. Meanwhile, the prolific filmmaker is also set to direct ‘Next Goal Wins’. The acclaimed director will adapt the 2014 sports documentary of the same name - which was directed by Mike Brett and Steve Jamison - for Fox Searchlight after Andy Serkis and Jonathan Cavendish acquired the rights to the project under their Imaginarium Productions banner. The ‘Thor: Ragnarok’ filmmaker is adapting the feature with Iain Morris and brought on Garrett Basch to produce the film, which follows Dutch coach Thomas Rongen as he attempts to help the national football team of American Samoa as they try to qualify for the 2014 FIFA World Cup and recover from the indignity of being known as one of the weakest football teams in the world. The ‘Hunt for the Wilderpeople’ director will release his latest film for Searchlight, ‘Jojo Rabbit’ later this year and the World War II movie will see Scarlett Johansson play a mother who is hiding a Jewish girl in her home during the reign of Adolf Hitler when her German son discovers her secret.

Fillion boards The Suicide Squad

Nathan Fillion has reportedly joined the cast of ‘The Suicide Squad’. The 48-year-old actor, who has a long-history with the movie’s director, James Gunn, having previously starred in his films ‘Guardians of the Galaxy’, ‘Slither’ and ‘Super’, is the latest name attached to the follow-up to the 2016 DC ensemble movie ‘Suicide Squad’ - which is thought to be a reboot of sorts rather than a direct sequel - in an as-yet undisclosed role. German star Flula Borg was recently confirmed and will reportedly play a love interest to one of the characters in the Warner Bros. release. The rest of the cast is comprised of villains Margot Robbie (Harley Quinn), Jared Leto (The Joker), Jai Courtney (Captain Boomerang) and government official Viola Davis (Captain Waller). Storm Reid will play the on-screen daughter of Idris Elba’s new character, which is replacing Will Smith as hitman Deadshot. This is so the 50-year-old star can return to the DC Extended Universe in the future. It is currently not known what DC Comics villain role Idris will take on instead, but reports claim that the decision was made as bosses didn’t want to disrespect Will by replacing him, as he’d helped to bring Deadshot to life on screen for the first time. WWE wrestler John Cena has also joined the cast alongside Daniela Melchior, who will play Ratcatcher while David Dastmalchian will portray Polka-Dot man, a villain who is able to use his ability to turn the polka-dots covering his costume into a variety

of devices, launches a crime wave based on spots and dots in Gotham City. The film’s release date is currently set for August 2021. — Bang Showbiz





Al-Nayzak beach, secret paradise hidden on Earth

The secret paradise hidden on our planet,” as described by the Ministry of Tourism Authority, Al-Nayzak beach is a nature miracle that can easily be one of your favorite places to visit. A three-hour drive south of Hurghada or 20 minutes from Port Ghalib, several kilometers pass the Red Sea coastal town of Marsa Alam you will find an astonishing scenic view with glittery shimmering sea waves. Called by the locals the Shooting Star, it is a natural pool made of a unique rock formation which is believed to have been shaped by a meteorite hitting the coast.

Traveler Mohamed Al-Gondi in an interview with CNN Arabia said he has always been astonished by its natural formation. The 24-year-old engineer said that the beach is surrounded by land, and its connection with the sea keeps the water fresh, allowing sea creatures to live in as well. As he documented the beach via a drone, Al-Gondi, who began his photography career in 2014, was keen to focus on the line that connects the natural beach with the sea, pointing out that the small basin is part of the sea. He also pointed out that there are many stories behind naming it Al-Nayzak, which means “meteor” in Arabic. One of them tells that it was called like that because a meteor hit this place before.

Aside from its stunning turquoise waters, one can relax away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, or go dive. The pool, several meters in diameter, is shaped like an eye filled with the turquoise blue waters of the Red Sea. It is a truly scenic spot which provides an otherworldly background that will add to any summer picture collection.

Marsa Alam: A diving aficionado's dream

Marsa Alam is situated around 700 kilometers south of Cairo and can be reached by car, bus or domestic flight. While flying is the fastest way, travelling by land has the

benefit of giving you a beautiful and soothing coastal view. Al-Nayzak is an amazing place worth the travel and certainly not to be missed by those who already holiday at the nearby summer resorts of Marsa Alam.

In-the-know divers have been heading to Marsa Alam for years, attracted to the seas that offer up some of Egypt's best diving just off the rugged coastline. Despite this, the far-flung destination stayed well off the tourism radar for a long time. While the town itself remains a sleepy, nondescript place, the strip of coast to its north and south has been snapped up by eager developers and is now home to a plethora of resorts and half-built hotels.

Despite the construction, Marsa Alam's coastline is still a diving aficionado's dream, and there are some long-standing beach camps here specifically for those who want to spend most of their time underwater. This is also the best base from which to venture into the southern reaches of Egypt's vast Eastern Desert, where gold and emeralds were once mined by the Romans in the barren, mineral-rich mountains just inland.



Activities and excursions in Marsa Alam

Marsa Alam, in addition to its excellent scuba diving, features interesting day trips, excursions and activities. You can for example:

- Visit the Port of El Quseir and an ancient Gold Mine
- Enjoy a day trip excursion to the Emeral mines
- Visit the Magnificent Karnak Temple
- Enjoy a day tour in the Desert and visit the Wadi Gimal National Park
- Go Snorkeling along the Beautiful beaches (such as Al-Nayzak beach)
- Just relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery

Best time to visit Marsa Alam:

Weather and Temperatures

The weather is sunny and dry all year round. There is a lot of wind especially from November to February. Air temperature varies depending on the season: You can expect 25°C on average from October to March.

Air temperature is much higher in summer from April to September and is usually around 35°C. Best time to visit would be March to May and in October/November time for warm and sunny weather.

Health and Safety

If you are planning an upcoming dive trip or travelling to Marsa Alam, it is a really good idea to invest in travel insurance for scuba diving, because you never know what could happen and when you might need it (because accidents do happen!). This diving insurance is highly recommended as they offer worldwide coverage and focus on providing scuba divers a quality insurance and medical assistance service.

How to get to Marsa Alam?

There are several options to reach Marsa Alam:

Option 1

The fastest and easiest way is to fly directly to Marsa Alam International Airport. However the airport is still small and few companies fly there. You can find direct flights from UK, France, Italy, Netherlands, Russia and other European countries. It takes about 5 hours. Flights to Marsa Alam are also available from Middle East. Once you are at the airport, take a taxi to your Hotel or a pick up at the airport can often be organized by your dive operator.

Option 2

You fly to Cairo then take a one hour flight with Egypt Air to Marsa Alam Aiport. From Cairo, you could also take a 10 hour bus to Marsa Alam.

Option 3

You fly to Luxor and take a taxi for 2 hours to Marsa Alam.

Option 4

You fly to Hurghada and take a taxi for 4 hours.

Do I need a visa for Marsa Alam?

You need an Entry Visa to enter Egypt. You can purchase it at the Aiport for \$25USD.

Getting Around

You can get around either by taxi or mini bus. Be sure to negotiate the price of the taxi before the ride!

Sources: <https://www.egypttoday.com/divezone.net/travel/marsa-alam>



Sharks feel the love as nations push protection of marine species

Sharks appear to be getting an image makeover as countries move to restrict trade in several species of the oceans' top predator in a push to extend more protections to marine species.

International restrictions on trade in 18 species of sharks and rays and three sea cucumber species appear set to take effect, following a series of votes in Geneva on Sunday at a meeting of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The parties voted overwhelmingly to list the marine species under the treaty's Annex II, under which international trade in a plant or animal species is subject to oversight and guarantees of sustainability.

The votes to list the marine species, including makos-the fastest sharks in the ocean-still need to be approved in a plenary session before the 12-day conference wraps up on Wednesday. CITES, which regulates trade in over 35,000 species of plants and animals, came into being more than four decades ago, but it was not until 2003 that a shark species was included in its listings. It has been difficult to summon sympathy for sharks, which have stalked the oceans for more than 400 million years, and which thanks to vivid horror stories and films have long haunted human nightmares.

'The new dolphins'

"Because of these movies, Jaws and all these, sharks for a long time didn't really have a lobby," Ralf Sonntag, a marine biologist International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), told AFP. But perceptions appear to be changing. "Sharks are the new dolphins," Sonntag said, pointing to countries like Fiji where shark hunts have been replaced by adventure tourism offers to swim with sharks, providing an alternative source of revenue. Fishing nations have in the past voiced strong opposition to CITES listings of fisheries species, which are already covered by a number of international treaties.

A number of Asian countries especially argue against more regulation, insisting that available data does not prove sharks and rays are truly threatened. Opes Oceani, which works with the fishing industry, says that regional fisheries management organizations are best suited for managing fish species, warning that with international regulation "you could end up with a ban on commercially species."

But proponents maintain that CITES, which can impose trade sanctions on countries which do not adhere to its rules, has proven far more effective at pushing countries towards better species management. "The parties are becoming more aware" of the importance of protecting even scary predators

from overfishing, said Jennifer Sawada, who heads shark conservation efforts at Pew Charitable Trusts. "They are using CITES as a way to drive more management domestically and internationally," she told AFP.

100 million sharks

Conservationists insist on the urgency of regulating and restricting trade in a range of shark species. Upwards of 100 million sharks are fished every year, mainly for their valuable fins, which are used in the Asian status dish shark fin soup, and can fetch as much as \$1,000 per kilo. The financial incentives for fishing sharks are huge. According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), trade in shark products amounts to nearly \$1.0 billion each year.

Unregulated fishing and trade can meanwhile have a devastating effect for many species of shark and ray mature slowly and have few young, meaning it takes a long time for threatened populations to recover. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said in March that 17 species of rays and sharks face extinction.

But while there is growing recognition of the threat facing sharks, their situation has yet to garner the same level of concern as iconic land species like the elephant and rhinoceros. If they had, Luke Warwick of the Wildlife



Conservation Society said many threatened sharks and rays would already be listed under CITES Annex I, which bans all international trade in the species. — AFP

In this file photo a dead shark and ray lie on the beach of Hann before being filleted for sale, in Dakar. — AFP



This undated handout from Thailand's Royal Office received shows Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn standing with royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi. — AFP photos



Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn posing with royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi.



Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn standing with royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi.

CAMO AND CROP TOP: THAI PALACE PUBLISHES CONSORT PICTURES

Thailand's palace website crashed yesterday after it released unprecedented pictures of the king's consort in a fighter jet, wearing a crop top and dressed in combat fatigues with him and the royal poodle. The unusually candid pictures of King Maha Vajiralongkorn's consort, 34-year-old Major-General Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi, were released along with her official biography. A palace official said the website was being fixed because of the volume of traffic. The palace has a policy of not commenting to media.

The king named Sineenat, a former nurse and his body-guard, as Royal Noble Consort on his birthday last month. It was the first such appointment in almost a century, long before the end of absolute monarchy in 1932. Some of the pictures are in the usual royal tradition, with Sineenat wearing Thai dress and sitting at the king's feet.

But she is also pictured in the cockpit of a fighter jet

and wearing a grey camouflage pattern crop-top at the controls of a light aircraft. Some pictures show Sineenat and the king holding hands while one shows them both in green combat fatigues with the royal pet dog. Sineenat's appointment as consort came after the king married a former flight attendant and deputy head of his personal guard force, Suthida Tidjai, 41, and made her queen just days before his coronation in May. — Reuters



Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn posing with royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi.



Royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi.



Photo shows royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi.



Royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi.



Photo shows royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi.



Royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi, at a firing range.



Royal noble consort Sineenat Bilaskalayani, also known as Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi, wearing a military paratrooper outfit.

Classifieds

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 30 km/h .

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

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	<div>SFC. CHART 26/08/2019 0000 UTC</div>	
KUWAIT CITY	48 °C	33 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	50 °C	28 °C		
ABDALY	49 °C	30 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	49 °C	30 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	40 °C	32 °C		
AHMADI	41 °C	33 °C		
NUWAISIB	49 °C	29 °C		
WAFRA	50 °C	30 °C		
SALMY	50 °C	30 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST					
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction
			MAX.	MIN.	
Tuesday	08/27	Hot and	46 °C	27 °C	NE-SE
Wednesday	08/28	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming over some areas	46 °C	27 °C	N-SE
Thursday	08/29	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming over some areas	45 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE
Friday	08/30	Hot and Humid with a chance for fog forming at night	43 °C	26 °C	VRB-SE

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:59
Sunrise	05:22
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:24
Sunset	18:17
Isha	19:38

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	28 °C
MAX. RH	100 %
MIN. RH	11 %
MAX. Wind	S 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
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Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
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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, Shivanagar, 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

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Call MSALHOTLINE 128

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

EMERGENCY ☎ 112



Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 27/8/2019

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	SAW	701	Damascus	12:30
FEG	241	Alexandria	00:05	THY	766	Istanbul	12:30
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	KAC	614	Bahrain	12:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
KAC	122	AGP	00:20	MSR	610	Cairo	12:45
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:20	JZR	746	Sharm el-Sheikh	13:25
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	222	Riyadh	13:30
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	FBS	118	Sarajevo	13:30
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	UAE	877	Dubai	14:00
KAC	182	NCE	01:10	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
MSR	3134	Cairo	01:20	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	QTR	1078	Doha	14:25
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:35
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:45
MSR	3140	Alexandria	02:00	KAC	618	Doha	14:50
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	KAC	562	Amman	14:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	JZR	788	Jeddah	14:55
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25	KAC	602	Muscat	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	118	New York	15:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15
MEA	400	Beirut	02:50	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:25
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:35
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	546	Cairo	15:50
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	SAW	707	Damascus	15:55
NIA	1601	Luxor	03:10	FEG	341	Sohag	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	142	Al Najaf	16:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	JZR	732	Cairo	16:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:10
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	KAC	502	Beirut	16:15
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	FEG	241	Alexandria	16:45
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	MYW	1219	Tbilisi	17:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	SAW	705	Damascus	17:00
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	JZR	116	Doha	17:05
MSR	3025	Alexandria	05:00	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:10
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	124	Dubai	17:40
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10	KAC	158	Istanbul	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	JZR	104	Bahrain	18:00
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	JZR	302	Istanbul	18:20
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	RJA	640	Amman	19:05
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
BAW	157	London	06:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	KAC	744	Dammam	19:25
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:30
KAC	678	Doha	06:40	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
KAC	106	London	06:40	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	178	Vienna	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	KAC	166	Rome	20:00
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	KNE	381	Taif	20:00
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	NIA	1403	Sohag	20:10
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:10
IRA	675	Lar	08:00	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	RBG	213	Sohag	20:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC	620	Doha	20:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	KAC	542	Doha	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
JZR	724	Alexandria	08:35	ICV	6752	Luxembourg	20:55
JZR	708	Luxor	08:45	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:00
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ALK	230	Dubai	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	UAE	859	Colombo	21:20
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	JZR	708	Paris	21:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	168	Asyut	21:25
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	726	Alexandria	10:20	KAC	564	Amman	21:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	1082	Doha	22:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	309	Abu Dhabi	22:05
KAC	624	Doha	10:55	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:20
QTR	1074	Damascus	11:00	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	BBC	128	Dubai	22:50
MSR	3138	Alexandria	11:00	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	MSC	405	Sohag	23:15
JZR	114	Doha	11:10	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45				
JZR	252	Amman	12:20				

Departure Flights on Tuesday 27/8/2019

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR	3139	Alexandria	12:00
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05
JZR	713	Sohag	00:10	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
MSC	406	Sohag	00:15	JZR	611	Tbilisi	12:20
MEA	407	Beirut	00:20	JZR	141	Al Najaf	12:45
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
FEG	342	Sohag	01:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
IGO	1758	Kochi	01:10	KAC	541	Cairo	13:30
KAC	677	Dubai	01:50	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
JZR	723	Alexandria	01:50	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
THY	773	Istanbul	01:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	285	Dhaka	02:00	FBS	119	Sarajevo	14:45
KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
JZR	111	Doha	02:10	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
MSR	3135	Cairo	02:20	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	JZR	703	Asyut	15:00
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:50	FDB	103	Bahrain	15:05
JZR	707	Luxor	02:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	UAE	878	Dubai	15:30
MSR	3141	Alexandria	03:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
JZR	725	Alexandria	03:35	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
THY	769	Istanbul	03:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
MEA	401	Beirut	03:50	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
NIA	1402	Sohag	04:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:20	FEG	442	Asyut	16:55
JZR	1735	Cairo	04:20	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
QTR	1077	Doha	05:00	SAW	708	Damascus	16:55
LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
OHY	351	Istanbul	05:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	303	Mumbai	05:15	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
FDB	070	Dubai	06:00	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
MSR	3026	Alexandria	06:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:50
IGO	1760	Delhi	06:10	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	MYW	1220	Tbilisi	18:00
KAC	623	Doha	07:00	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
RJA	643	Amman	07:00	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
UAE	874	Dubai	07:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	251	Amman	07:10	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
KAC	167	Paris	07:15	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
JZR	121	Dubai	07:15	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30	JZR	501	Lahore	18:35
JZR	113	Doha	07:30	JZR	261	Beirut	19:10
BAW	156	London	07:40	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
KAC	413	Bangkok	07:45	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
JZR	745	Sharm el-Sheikh	07:45	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	165	Rome	08:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
IGO	1767	Mumbai	08:10	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	08:35	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
KAC	177	Vienna	08:45	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
IRA	674	Lar	08:50	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
KAC	545	Cairo	08:50	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	501	Beirut	08:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	561	Amman	08:55	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
KAC	117	New York	09:05	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
QTR	1085	Doha	09:10	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	157	Istanbul	09:10	NIA	1603	Luxor	21:10
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	RBG	214	Sohag	21:10
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	691	Muscat	09:20	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
JZR	601	Baku	09:20	DXH	171	Bahrain	21:50
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
JZR	731	Cairo	09:45	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	09:55	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
JZR	301	Istanbul	09:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	221	Riyadh	09:55	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
OMA	642	Muscat	10:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	101	London	10:05	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
QTR	1071	Doha	10:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	ICV	6752	Hong Kong	22:55
IGO	754	Ahmedabad	10:40	KAC	795	Madinah	22:55
KAC	617	Doha	10:40	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
SVA	513	Riyadh	10:55	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
SAW	704	Damascus	11:00	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	KAC	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	ETD	1083	Doha	23:20
SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	QTR			

Saudi, UAE renew call for south Yemen peace talks

Coalition destroys six missiles fired by Houthis at Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates renewed a call yesterday for peace talks between Yemen's government and southern separatists, urging a ceasefire following deadly clashes. The Yemeni government has previously insisted it would only take part in talks after separatist forces withdraw from positions they seized in interim capital Aden earlier this month. Riyadh and Abu Dhabi both technically back the internationally recognized government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi in a four-year military intervention against Houthi rebels based in Yemen's north.

But the government has openly accused the UAE of backing forces loyal to the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC). The UAE-backed Security Belt force, dominated by STC loyalists, took control of Aden on August 10 following deadly clashes with government troops that left at least 40 people

dead. In a joint statement Monday, the Saudi and Emirati foreign ministries urged both sides to cooperate with a coalition committee and to attend talks in the Saudi city of Jeddah.

The two countries "call for the speedy engagement in the Jeddah dialogue called by Saudi Arabia to address the causes and consequences of developments in some southern provinces," they said. Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir also urged the two sides to resolve their differences through dialogue. "The only way open to our brethren in Yemen is to overcome internal differences through the dialogue called for by the kingdom," Jubeir tweeted yesterday. He said Saudi Arabia and the UAE would spare no effort to achieve security and stability in southern Yemen.

Facing pressure from Saudi Arabia, the STC has partially withdrawn from some positions it

occupied in Aden, but it retains control of key military sites. Fighting flared again between loyalists and secessionists on Thursday night in the southern province of Shabwa, leaving 11 dead according to medics. Government military sources told AFP yesterday that government troops have taken control of the whole of Shabwa after separatists surrendered.

Yemen's Prime Minister Mueen Abdulmalek made a surprise visit to provincial capital Ataq after the fighting, the official SABA news agency reported yesterday. Later in the day, Yemen's defense ministry ordered its troops in Aden, Abyan and Shabwa provinces to observe a complete ceasefire. That came hours after the Saudi-led coalition spokesman Turki Al-Maliki urged all sides to observe a ceasefire.

On Sunday, the defense ministry reiterated accusations that the UAE was backing sepa-

ratist attacks on government positions in several of southern provinces. But in its statement, the coalition "rejected and condemned accusations and defamation campaigns" targeting the UAE, recalling the country's efforts against the Houthis. The STC is demanding renewed independence for South Yemen, which was a separate country before unification in 1990.

The coalition intervened in support of the Yemeni government in 2015 after the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa and most of the Arab world's poorest nation. Since then, the conflict has killed tens of thousands of people, aid agencies say. The fighting has sparked what the United Nations labels the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia intercepted six missiles fired by Yemeni rebels at the southern city of Jizan on Sunday, a Riyadh-led military

coalition said, as the insurgents escalate cross-border attacks. The missiles fired by the Houthis targeted civilians in Jizan, the coalition said in a statement released by the official Saudi Press Agency. No damage or casualties were reported.

The rebels' Al-Masirah television said the Houthis had launched 10 "Badr 1" ballistic missiles targeting military aircraft and apache helicopters in Jizan airport and nearby military sites. Earlier Sunday, the coalition said they shot down a Houthi drone fired towards the southern city of Khamis Mushait, site of a major military base. The Houthi rebels have stepped up cross-border missile and drone attacks in recent months, saying they are in retaliation for the Saudi-led air war in Yemen. Saudi Arabia has repeatedly accused Iran of supplying sophisticated weapons to the Houthis, a charge Tehran denies. — AFP

Lebanon: Israel drone attack ‘declaration of war’

BEIRUT: Lebanon's president yesterday said an Israeli drone attack on Beirut at the weekend was a "declaration of war" that justified a military response. "What happened is a declaration of war," Michel Aoun told Jan Kubis, the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, in a meeting. "This allows us to resort to our right to defend our sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity," he added, in a statement released by his office. The army said two Israeli drones had violated Lebanese airspace over Beirut before dawn on Sunday, with one exploding in the air.

Hezbollah movement chief Hasan Nasrallah said an armed drone had hit a target in the party's Beirut stronghold, without specifying. It was the first such "hostile action" since a 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel, added the head of the Iran-backed party, also vowing to retaliate. "I have repeatedly said before that Lebanon will not fire a single shot from its border unless it is in self-defense," said Aoun, an Hezbollah ally. "What happened yesterday allows us to exercise this right," he added.

Earlier yesterday, Israeli air strikes targeted a Palestinian faction loyal to the Syrian government in eastern Lebanon. State-run NNA news agency said "three hostile strikes" after midnight hit Lebanon's eastern mountains near Qusaya town "where the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command has military posts". Aoun said Israeli attacks on Qusaya and Beirut



BEIRUT: Members of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement carry the coffin of their fellow comrades who were killed in Israeli strikes in Syria during their funeral in the Ghebeiry neighborhood yesterday. — AFP

violated a UN Security Council resolution ending the month-long 2006 war that killed 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 in Israel. Lebanon had filed a complaint against Israel to the UN Security Council.

On Sunday, Nasrallah threatened Israel after the Beirut attack. "The time when Israeli aircraft come and bombard parts of Lebanon is over," he said in a televised speech. "I say to the Israeli army along the border, from tonight be ready and wait for us," he added. "What happened yesterday will not pass." Hezbollah, considered a terrorist organization by Israel and the United States, is a major political actor in Lebanon and also a key government backer in war-torn Syria. — AFP



WAD RAMLI, Sudan: A Sudanese man sits on his bed amidst floods in this village on the eastern banks of the Nile yesterday. — AFP

Sudan villagers reel from Nile water floods

WAD RAMLI, Sudan: Days after a devastating flood swallowed up his village, Alsediq Abdelqader bulled his truck through the waters in a desperate attempt to locate his small house north of the Sudanese capital. Flash floods from the Nile inundated his home last week in Wad Ramli village on the eastern river bank, expelling him and his family who managed to clamber aboard a ferry to the nearest dry land. His drive through the flash floods was not easy as he had to avoid floating mattresses, house appliances and broken tree branches.

"My entire home is destroyed," said the 57-year-old. "I have lived all my life in this village and I have never seen a flood like this before. I'm struggling to recognize my house and trying to identify it, as some others have done, by the trees around it." His home is among thousands destroyed or damaged by the floods that struck at least 15 states, affecting nearly 200,000 people across Sudan.

The worst hit area was White Nile state in the south. About 62 people were killed and nearly 100 injured overall, said the official SUNA news agency quoting a health ministry official as saying the crisis "did not reach the level of being declared a disaster". Volunteers and aid workers immediately

rushed to Wad Ramli when the savage floods hit. Authorities dispatched lorries and boats to wade through the thick water to rescue families and salvage their furniture and valuables.

But Abdelqader was among the less fortunate, unable to find their belongings. "I have not managed to recover any of my furniture or belongings. My family is now staying with relatives in a nearby village," said Abdelqader.

On the main road outside Wad Ramli, piles of sodden furniture are strewn about as homeless families shelter in dozens of make-shift tents. The crisis comes as Sudan ushers in a political transition to civilian rule. A prime minister and a civilian majority ruling body are to oversee a three-year transitional period following the ouster of veteran ruler Omar Al-Bashir in April. On Friday, the newly-appointed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok visited Wad Ramli and gave directives to intensify aid efforts.

The UN says the crisis is expected to drag on until October. "We have not been able to survey the number of houses affected in Wad Ramli due to the rising water levels," said Farouk Ahmed, supervisor of a Red Crescent aid team. He estimates the village alone had about 6,000 residents. And as Wad Ramli inhabitants reel from the floods, residents of nearby villages are bracing themselves for water levels to keep rising.

In Wawesi Gharb village, about half a kilometre, 35-year-old farmer Sami Ali says he is running out of ways to roll back the water threat. "We placed piles of sandbags around houses to reduce the damage in case we were flooded especially after the water surrounded our village from all sides," he said. — AFP

Indonesia picks Borneo island...

Continued from Page 1

Environmentalists expressed concerns the capital city move could threaten endangered species. "The government must make sure that the new capital is not built in a conservation or protected area," said Greenpeace Indonesia campaigner Jasmine Putri. The region has also been blanketed in choking haze from annual forest fires that ravage vast swathes of land. "That makes Kalimantan unfit as a candidate for a new capital city," said Jakarta-based urban planning expert Nirwono Joga. "And the move won't necessarily free

Indians rush to remit money as...

Continued from Page 1

Many industries are also taking cover and biding time in view of the growing turbulence in the global market," said Deepak Chandra, a market specialist in Mumbai, over the phone.

Global rating agency Moody's last week lowered the growth projection for India during 2019 and 2020 to 6.2 and 6.7 percent respectively. The global economic outlook also remained cloudy following a sharp escalation of a trade war and signs of a looming recession. At the interbank foreign exchange, the Indian rupee opened weaker yesterday at 71.65 a dollar and went on to touch the day's lowest level at 71.98. It finally settled at 71.81, down 26 paise against the American currency, the lowest in 2019.

Jakarta of problems like flooding, traffic jams and rapid urbanization," he added.

Concerns have soared over the future of Jakarta - a city nicknamed "the Big Durian" after the pungent, spiky fruit that deeply divides fans and detractors. Built on swampland, the city is one of the fastest-sinking cities on earth, with experts warning that one third of it could be submerged by 2050 if current rates continue. The problem is largely linked to excessive groundwater extraction.

But the city of 10 million - a number that bloats to about 30 million with surrounding satellite cities - is also plagued by a host of other ills, from eye-watering traffic jams and pollution to the risk of earthquakes and floods. Indonesia is not the first Southeast Asian country to move its capital. Myanmar and Malaysia have both moved their seat of government, while Brazil, Pakistan and Nigeria are among the nations that have also shifted their capital cities. — AFP

"For expatriates, the plunge of the rupee's value may appear as a bonanza as they can send more money to India. But it is a matter of grave concern for Indians and the domestic economy," said Satish Chandran, who works at an investment company in Kuwait City. "High value remittances to India have increased significantly in the last few weeks and volumes also have risen," said Anasuddeen, an employee working with an exchange company in Salmiya.

However, many forex specialists are of the view that a plunge of the rupee usually doesn't help expats in low-income categories much. They are not in a position to increase the amount they regularly remit, they said. Although the Indian government has initiated a few measures to bolster financial market sentiment and boost businesses, many key sectors continued to witness double-digit rates of contraction in net sales in the April-June quarter of financial year 2019. Many experts are of the opinion that the Indian currency may continue to remain volatile as both domestic and global economic prospects remain uncertain, at least for the short term.

Trump ready to meet Rouhani...

Continued from Page 1

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's representative in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps also criticized engagement with Iran's foes. Their "hostility and confrontation with the Islamic Revolution is endless and it cannot be resolved or reconciled through negotiation and dialogue," said Abdollah Haji-Sadeghi. "We should not expect anything else but aggression, attacks, sedition and hostility" from the enemy, he was quoted as saying by the semi-official ISNA news agency.

The reformist Etemad newspaper, however, described Zarif's trip to France as "the most hopeful moment" for Iran in the 15 months since the US withdrew from the nuclear deal. "Given Macron's attempts over the last two months, one can be hopeful that Trump's response to Macron's ideas has been the main reason for Zarif's... trip to Biarritz," it said.

The spike in tensions between Iran and the United States has threatened to spiral out of control in the past few weeks, with ships mysteriously attacked, drones downed and tankers seized. Rouhani said his government was ready to use "both hands" of power and diplomacy. "They may seize our ship somewhere... we will both negotiate... and we may seize their ship for legal reasons," he said, referring to an Iranian oil tanker seized off Gibraltar that has since been released and a British-flagged vessel still impounded by Iran in the Gulf.

"We can work with two hands... the hand of power and the hand of diplomacy," said the Iranian president. "We must use both our power, our military and security power, economic and cultural power and our political power. We must negotiate. We must find solutions. We must reduce problems. "Even if the probability of success... is 10 percent, we must endeavor and go ahead. We must not lose opportunities."

Macron has urged the US administration to offer some sort of sanctions relief to Iran, such as lifting sanctions on oil sales to China and India, or a new credit line to enable exports. In return, Iran would return to complying with the 2015 deal. Commenting on the talks about Iran at the G7, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said: "It's a big step forward. Now there is an atmosphere in which talks are welcomed."

Appearing to refer to Iran's recent combative rhetoric about its ability to attack US interests, Trump suggested Iran would meet "violent force" if it followed through on its threats. "They can't do what they were saying they were going to do because if they do that, they will be met with really very violent force. So I think they are going to be good," he said. Trump said he was not open to giving Iran compensation for sanctions on its economy. However he said that the idea under discussion would be for numerous countries to give Iran a credit line to keep it going.

"No we are not paying, we don't pay," Trump said. "But they may need some money to get them over a very rough patch and if they do need money, and it would be secured

by oil, which to me is great security, and they have a lot of oil... so we are really talking about a letter of credit. It would be from numerous countries, numerous countries."

Though potentially a diplomatic minefield, Macron's gamble with Zarif appears to have worked out for now, as Trump yesterday endorsed the French president's initiative and toned down his usual harsh rhetoric on Tehran. While Trump reaffirmed Washington's goal of extracting further-reaching security concessions from Iran, he said he wanted to see "a really good Iran, really strong", adding that Washington was not looking for regime change.

"I knew (Zarif) was coming in and I respected the fact that he was coming in. We're looking to make Iran rich again, let them be rich, let them do well, if they want," Trump said. "What we want is very simple. It's got to be non-nuclear (as well)," Trump said. "We're going to talk about ballistic missiles.... about the timing. But they (Iran) have to stop terrorism. I think they are going to change, I really do." Trump said it was too early for him to meet Zarif himself.

Macron and Trump hailed the common ground found by G7 leaders at their summit, which was dominated by the Iranian nuclear crisis, global trade tensions and fires in the Amazon. "We have managed to find real points of convergence, unprecedented, very positive, that will allow us to go forward in a very useful way," Macron told the press conference. Trump said Macron had done a "fantastic job" at the G7. "This was a very special, a very unified two and a half days and I want to thank you," Trump told his host.

Meanwhile, Iran said yesterday it had sold the oil aboard the tanker that was released this month after being detained for six weeks by the British overseas territory of Gibraltar. The Adrian Darya 1, formerly named the Grace 1, was seized by Gibraltar police and British special forces on July 4 on suspicion of shipping oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has sold the oil of this ship and right now the owner and buyer of the oil decides... what the destination of the consignment will be," Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei said, quoted by state media. He did not identify the buyer or say whether the oil had been sold before or after the tanker's detention in the Strait of Gibraltar, on Spain's southern tip.

A court in the British territory ordered the tanker's release on Aug 15 despite a last-minute legal bid by the United States to have it detained. The Adrian Darya 1 set sail three days later for the eastern Mediterranean, carrying 2.1 million barrels of oil worth more than \$140 million. The tanker's final port of call is unknown. It had initially listed its destination as Kalamata, Greece before switching it to Mersin, Turkey.

It is now located in the middle of the Mediterranean, its target listed as "for order" meaning it is waiting for its next destination, according to the website MarineTraffic. Rabiei said the sale and delivery of the oil would go ahead despite the ship being tracked by the United States. "The destination is determined by the owner of the oil," the Iranian government spokesman said, according to state television. He accused the United States of "constantly monitoring" the tanker and threatening other countries not to receive it. "This is more evidence for America's interference at the global level," he said. — Agencies

Sports

Captain Kolisi wins fitness battle to lead Springboks at World Cup

Two-time World Cup winners will also play Italy, Namibia and Canada in Pool B

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa captain Siya Kolisi won his fitness battle to lead his country at the Rugby World Cup in Japan yesterday, as coach Rassie Erasmus named the back-row forward in his 31-man squad.

Kolisi had been a doubt since injuring his knee in May, missing the Springboks' triumphant Rugby Championship campaign. However, he returned to play 53 minutes in their last test, a 24-18 win over Argentina in Pretoria on Aug. 17.

The Boks are among a small handful of teams with a realistic chance of being crowned world champions on Nov 2 and Kolisi, their first ever black test captain, is seen as an important figure on and off the pitch.

His presence is a major boost to Erasmus, who provided no big surprises in his selection. "I'm nervous, but also excited because I know who is in my corner," Kolisi said as the squad was unveiled yesterday. "I have guys with a lot of leadership skills. We have been working hard the last two years to make sure we gain some respect back, but our work is not done yet."

Erasmus said he was very happy with the composition of the squad, highlighting its "a good balance of established experience and some exciting youth. Giant lock Eben Etzebeth made the cut despite an incident outside a bar over the weekend that forced South African Rugby to issue a statement in his support. He has denied any wrongdoing.

He is one of four second-rowers along with Lood de Jager, Franco Mostert and RG Snyman. Pieter-Steph du Toit can also provide cover at lock but has been selected at loose forward, where the more mobile Kwagga Smith got the nod ahead of Rynhardt Elstadt.

There is vast experience at number eight with Francois

Louw and Duane Vermeulen. Handre Pollard will orchestrate the backline from flyhalf, one of two out-and-out number 10s along with Elton Jantjies. The versatile Frans Steyn can also cover that position, and at fullback, but has been selected as an inside centre. Faf de Klerk, Herschel Jantjies and Cobus Reinach are the three scrumhalves, with three specialist wings in Makazole Mapimpi, Sbu Nkosi and Cheslin Kolbe. Fullback Warrick Gelant can also play on the wing if needed.

"I am confident that any of this 31 can step into a play-off match at the Rugby World Cup and deliver an outstanding performance," Erasmus said. As expected Aphwe Dyantyi, pleading innocent after testing positive for an unspecified banned substance, was not selected.

The Boks will play a final warm-up match against Japan on Sept. 6 in Kumagaya, before their World Cup opener against defending champions and bookmakers' favourites New Zealand in Yokohama on Sept. 21.

The two-time World Cup winners will also play Italy, Namibia and Canada in Pool B.

Squad:

Forwards (17): Schalk Brits, Malcolm Marx, Bongi Mbonambi, Steven Kitshoff, Vincent Koch, Frans Malherbe, Tendai Mtawarira, Trevor Nyakane, Lood de Jager, Eben Etzebeth, Franco Mostert, RG Snyman, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Francois Louw, Siya Kolisi, Kwagga Smith, Duane Vermeulen

Backs (14): Faf de Klerk, Herschel Jantjies, Cobus Reinach, Elton Jantjies, Handre Pollard, Lukhanyo Am, Damian de Allende, Jesse Kriel, Frans Steyn, Makazole Mapimpi, Sbu Nkosi, Cheslin Kolbe, Warrick Gelant, Willie le Roux. —Reuters



PRETORIA: File photo shows Argentina wing Sebastian Cancelliere (C) prepare to tackle South Africa flanker Siya Kolisi (R) during the 2019 Rugby Union World Cup warm-up Test match between South Africa and Argentina at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria. —AFP

Sindhu toast of India after long-awaited world title

NEW DELHI: Indian badminton star P.V. Sindhu said she won it for her country as her long-awaited maiden world title sparked jubilation back home. Sindhu, 24, thrashed Japan's Nozomi Okuhara 21-7 in Sunday's women's singles final as she was finally crowned world champion after a string of near-misses.

"I won it for my country and I am very proud being an Indian," an ecstatic Sindhu said after the match. "I have no words to express, because I have been waiting for so long. Last time, it was silver, before that it was silver and finally I am a world champion so I am really really happy."

The Olympic silver-medallist has a large following

in India where her success has brought her a number of endorsements, making her one of the world's highest-earning female athletes.

With income of \$5.5 million, mostly endorsements, Sindhu was rated by Forbes magazine as this year's joint-13th highest earner — the only badminton player in the tennis-dominated list, and the only Indian.

"The stupendously talented @Pvsindhu1 makes India proud again! Congratulations to her for winning the Gold at the BWF World Championships," Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on Twitter. Indian newspapers carried front-page photos of Sindhu, with the Hindustan Times saying she had helped India hit a "new sporting high".

"Sindhu's victory puts India on top of the world," read a front-page headline in the Times of India. Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar also congratulated Sindhu after she packed off Okuhara in 37 minutes.

"Amazing performance! Congratulations on becoming the 1st ever to win the BWF World Championships! You have made India proud, yet again," Tendulkar wrote on Twitter.

It was Sindhu's fifth medal at the world championships having already won two silver and two bronze.



P.V. Sindhu

She matches the record of China's Zhang Ning with five world championship medals, after the now-retired former Olympic champion also won one gold, two silver and two bronze during her career.

Prakash Padukone was the first Indian to win a world championships medal with men's singles bronze in 1983, while Saina Nehwal bagged women's singles silver and bronze in 2015 and 2017. —AFP

Toyota GR Supra makes 24 hours of Nurburgring debut in Germany

TOKYO: GAZOO Racing participated with the GR Supra in the 24 Hours of Nurburgring in Germany for the first time recently and performed well under challenging conditions to finish the race third in the SP8T class. MORIZO, also known as Toyota President Akio Toyoda, was one of the four drivers to take the wheel of the No. 90 GR Supra during the 47th edition of the endurance race, which marked a highly significant anniversary for the GAZOO Racing team.

This year's first qualifying session was affected by a sudden thunderstorm. The weather had cleared by the second session, yet high temperatures soon brought on severe conditions for both the vehicles and their drivers. The No. 90 GR Supra started from 99th place on the grid among a total of 158 vehicles that lined up for the 24-hour race. MORIZO was the first driver for the GR Supra, and was followed by his team mates Masahiro Sasaki, Uwe Kleen, and Herwig Daenens.

The No. 90 GR Supra made a good start and gradually raised its position. However, the soaring temperatures had a negative impact on all of the vehicles, resulting in multiple collisions across the course. Thereafter, the race became one of survival. It was at this time that the GR Supra made contact with a competitor vehicle. Fortunately, the team was able to continue, with the vehicle running smoothly into the following day.

The second day of the race took place on 23 June, a date that is written in the history of GAZOO Racing. Hiromu Naruse, the master driver of Toyota who co-launched GAZOO Racing and was MORIZO's former driving teacher, passed away suddenly on the outskirts of Nurburgring nine years ago on this date. At this year's 24 Hours of Nurburgring, it became a special day for Akio Toyoda and the GAZOO Racing team, as running with the new Supra had long been Toyoda's dearest wish.

Toyoda, who was Vice President at the time, established GAZOO Racing with the goal of making 'ever-better cars' and started his driver training at the Nurburgring in 2001. However, the following year, production of the Supra was discontinued. This remained a source of great regret for Toyoda, who was determined to revive the Supra and refine it on the rigorous Nurburgring roads before launching it into the world.

Akio Toyoda, President of Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: "First of all, I'd like to thank everyone. Today is a day of remembrance for Naruse's passing. At the time of Naruse's funeral, I resolved to stay on this path, alongside a handful of passionate people who wanted to continue doing this with me. Our GAZOO Racing activities have continued through the great support of growing numbers of people to



bring us to this point today. And as a matter of fact, this event has taken a central place in our continued activity of making ever-better cars and developing human resources."

The Nurburgring circuit offers 170 corners of varying lengths and a maximum elevation difference of 300 meters; it has been said that the circuit condenses the world's roads into a single course, making it the ultimate vehicle proving ground. The extended nature of the 24 Hours of Nurburgring race also allows engineers to supplement clinical machine data with the subjective analysis of experienced master drivers, who can provide more nuanced, emotion-led feedback.

GAZOO Racing's Hideyuki Tanaka, Chief Mechanic for the Supra, said: "For the GR Supra, the longest race we had experienced until now was just four hours, so I am happy that we completed 24 hours for the first time. Our drivers and many supporters helped

us to accomplish it. I am full of gratitude and I want to thank everyone."

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsport, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nurburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established GAZOO Racing, to consolidate all of its motorsport activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' GR highlights the role of motorsport as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsport events, GR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

Judo's coming home: Clinical Japan bag world double

TOKYO: Hosts Japan snatched double gold at the world judo championships yesterday as Joshiro Maruyama and Uta Abe powered to victory to fire a warning ahead of next year's Tokyo Olympics. After failing to win a title on day one at the weekend, normal service was quickly resumed for the Japanese at the capital's iconic Budokan martial arts venue. World number two Maruyama produced a shock win over countryman and defending champion Hifumi Abe in the men's 66-kilogram division before battering South Korea's Kim Lim-hwan in a politically charged final.

While Abe was denied a hat-trick of world titles, his younger sister Uta — the poster girl of Japanese judo — retained her crown in the women's 52-kilo class by dispatching Russian Natalia Kuziutina in just 28 seconds.

Japan dominated the 2018 world championships in Baku, capturing eight of the 15 gold medals available, and will be chasing a similar haul at the 2020 Olympics on home soil. They came into the competition having won a total of 354 world championship medals, 153 of them gold — more than double the tally of their nearest rivals France.

A question mark remains over how Japan's judoka will cope with the suffocating pressure of competing at home but many of those fears were dispelled by the swagger shown by Abe and Maruyama.

Maruyama, who had broken the pain barrier to beat Hifumi Abe in a barnstorming semi-final, dished out a beating to Kim in a gold medal match played out against the backdrop of a simmering diplomatic row between Japan and South Korea.

After an ill-tempered final, the 26-year-old delivered the coup de grace by tossing his Korean opponent over his shoulder like a rag doll to complete an emotional ippon victory that sparked raucous cheers from a packed home crowd.

"It's been a difficult road to come this far," said a tearful Maruyama after bagging his first world title. "I've struggled more than most fighters, so this is a big win for me. But the goal is to win gold at the Tokyo Olympics so I've got to pick myself up and go again."

Hifumi Abe looked inconsolable after losing a battle of attrition against Maruyama as he was left staring up at the rafters with a black eye and choking back tears. A bronze-medal win over Italy's Manuel Lombardo did little to soften the blow for Abe, who had been tipped for gold again this week.

Uta Abe looked glum watching her brother's semi-final defeat but took her annoyance out on the hapless Kuziutina, who strutted into the arena jutting out her jaw in a show of defiance only to be dumped on her back within half a minute.

Abe, who crushed Kosovo's 2016 Rio Olympic champion Majlinda Kelmendi in the semi-finals, won by ippon — judo's equivalent of a knockout — and was immediately mobbed by autograph-hunters before she even had time to celebrate. "To win the title in Tokyo is awesome," said the 19-year-old crowd favourite. "Beating Kelmendi gave me a lot of confidence and the home support really provided a lift." —AFP



TOKYO: Japan's Uta Abe celebrates as she wins the gold medal after her fight against Russia's Natalia Kuziutina in the women's under 52kg category during the 2019 Judo World Championships at the Nippon Budokan, a venue for the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

New Zealand thrash Sri Lanka in fading light to level series 1-1

Tim Southee, Boult, Patel and William Somerville claimed two wickets each

COLOMBO: New Zealand held their nerve to clinch a hard-fought and comprehensive victory against Sri Lanka in fading light in the second Test yesterday and level the two-match series 1-1.

Victory was achieved with an hour left on day five when Lasith Embuldeniya edged a short delivery from Trent Boult to Kane Williamson at gully. Sri Lanka were bowled out for 122 runs after New Zealand declared their second innings on 431 for six with a first-innings lead of 185.

The game went to the last hour of day five at Colombo's P. Sara Oval, and although 19.4 overs remained when tail-ender Embuldeniya was the last man dismissed, umpires could have called off play at any time with the light fast-deteriorating.

New Zealand's bowlers were hurrying through their deliveries knowing too well that they were racing

against time. The first four days' play had been severely affected by rain, wet ground conditions and bad light, but surprisingly the final day stayed clear despite a 30-minute delayed start.

Sri Lanka had given away the initiative to New Zealand after losing five wickets for 32 runs before lunch, but a terrific fightback by wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella kept their hopes of salvaging a draw.

Dickwella, who wasn't able to keep wicket having sustained a cut on his left little finger, showed plenty of character during a 51-run knock that lasted for three-and-a-half hours.

It was his 13th half-century in Test cricket. There was little support from rest of Sri Lanka's batsmen, with skipper Dimuth Karunaratne's 21 being the second-highest score. Suranga Lakmal and Dickwella had batted for over an hour, but the stand was broken when



COLOMBO: New Zealand's cricket captain Kane Williamson (C) celebrates with his teammates after victory in the final cricket Test match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at P. Sara Oval cricket stadium in Colombo yesterday. New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by an innings and 65 runs in the second Test in Colombo to square the two-match series 1-1. — AFP

Lakmal gloved one to close-in fielder Tom Latham after tea. Sri Lanka were still counting on Dickwella when he fell for his famous sweep shot. The 26-year-old relies heavily on the shot to score his runs, but on this occasion he had stayed away from taking undue risks.

Ajaz Patel switched ends and came on from the Air Force Flats side, and as Dickwella shaped to play the sweep shot, Latham at short leg moved to his left and positioned himself in the perfect place to snap up the chance.

Dickwella could hardly believe his luck before walking off dejected. Latham's close in fielding was brilliant and so was his batting, particularly his battles with Sri Lankan spinners. The opening batsman was named Man of the Match for his 154, a seven-hour vigil in which he faced 251 deliveries and was involved in two hundred plus run stands.

Tim Southee, Boult, Patel and William Somerville claimed two wickets each while Colin de Grandhomme claimed the big wicket of Angelo Mathews. — AFP

Bumrah leads India to 318-run rout of W Indies in first Test

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: Jasprit Bumrah led a devastating fast bowling assault in routing the West Indies for 100 to earn India a crushing 318-run victory in the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday.

Set an improbable target of 419 after Virat Kohli declared the tourists' second innings at 343 for seven in mid-afternoon, the hosts were demolished in 26.5 overs for their lowest Test innings total ever against India with Bumrah returning the outstanding figures of five for seven off eight overs.

Four of his victims were comprehensively bowled in an irresistible spell in which he displayed a previously unseen ability by him to swing the ball both ways. "I've been working a lot on this aspect of my game and I am really happy to see how it worked out today," he said.

"I was a bit stiff in the first innings but it all came out well today. I just have to keep on learning my craft." Ishant Sharma supported Bumrah brilliantly in sharing the new ball, taking three for 31 to finish with eight wickets in the match.

Mohammed Shami chipped in with two wickets which reduced the West Indies to 50 for nine and it took some big hitting from Kemar Roach, who top-scored with 38, to double his side's total.

It was Sharma who ended Roach's resistance and sealed victory via a top-edged hook



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: Shai Hope (R) of West Indies is bowled by Jasprit Bumrah (L) of India during day 4 of the 1st Test between West Indies and India at Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda. — AFP

to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant. After Ajinkya Rahane completed his tenth Test hundred and Hanuma Vihari fell seven runs short of his maiden Test century, prompting the declaration, Bumrah and Sharma were utterly devastating.

Bumrah was first to strike in extending Kraigg Brathwaite's already protracted run of low scores before scattering the stumps of opening partner John Campbell and senior batsman Darren Bravo.

He could have also had the wicket of

Shimron Hetmyer but Kohli grassed a straight-forward catch at third slip. Sharma trapped debutant Shamarh Brooks leg-before and then made Hetmyer pay for his continuing loose play outside the off-stump, Rahane atoning for his captain's earlier error in the slip cordon.

Languishing at 15 for five at tea, Bumrah completed his five-wicket haul by targeting the stumps of Shai Hope and beleaguered West Indies captain Jason Holder with heat-seeking accuracy. — AFP

Australia look to Smith for Ashes revival

LEEDS: Australia will hope star batsman Steve Smith can inspire an Ashes revival after their stunning one-wicket loss to England in the third Test at Headingley.

Ashes-holders Australia were on the brink of retaining the urn only for Ben Stokes's astonishing 135 not out to see England — bowled out for 67 in their first innings — snatch victory from the jaws of defeat as they levelled the series at 1-1 with two to play.

Smith missed the match with concussion suffered when hit by a 92mph Jofra Archer bouncer in the drawn second Test at Lord's. He is expected to play in this week's tour game against Derbyshire, with a view to returning for the fourth Test at Old Trafford on September 4.

In Smith's first Test series since he completed a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal that cost him the Australia captaincy, he has scored 144 and 142 in the opener at Edgbaston, and 92 at Lord's.

Stand-in Marnus Labuschagne has made three successive fifties in Smith's absence but his 80 in Australia's second-innings 246 at Leeds was the only score above 33. "One thing I do know is that we're not batting well enough at the moment," said Australia coach Justin Langer. "I said at the start of the series that the team who bats best will win the Ashes." Langer, a former Australia opener, added: "We've got some real questions to ask for the practice game and for the fourth Test match."

There has been speculation Smith's

return could be at the expense of Usman Khawaja, whose top score in six innings is 40. "Uzzy's played a lot of cricket and averages over 40 in Test match cricket, he got a Test hundred seven innings ago, so we know he's a very good player," said Langer. Something else Australia will look to improve is their use of the Decision Review System. For all Stokes's brilliance, he was reprieved when, with England still needing two to win, off-spinner Nathan Lyon appealed for lbw only for umpire Joel Wilson to ruled in the batsman's favour.

Replays suggested Stokes would have been out, but Australia had no reviews left after wasting one on a speculative Pat Cummins shout in the previous over. Langer, who refused to criticise Wilson, said: "We've been really poor at it this whole series. We've talked a lot about getting better at our reviews. Certainly we have control of that."

Australia must ensure there are no lingering scars from this shattering loss if they are to win their first Ashes series in England for 18 years. The match has been compared to the 1981 Ashes Test, also at Headingley, in which England, inspired by legendary all-rounder Ian Botham and fast bowler Bob Willis, won after following-on.

That '500/1' triumph also started a sequence of three successive wins that saw England come from 1-0 behind to win the Ashes. Langer, however, insisted: "It's 1-1 in the series and we've been so close — one more wicket and we're 2-0 up and feeling pretty good about ourselves but that's sport and we'll pick ourselves up."

"We're all feeling it. My gosh, you've got no idea how much that hurts losing, you have no idea. "But whether you're the captain, coach or a senior player, you've got to get up." One senior player "feeling it more than most is Lyon." — AFP

Stokes travels rocky road from zero to hero

LEEDS: Many sporting careers contain their share of ups and downs but few can match the highs and lows that have come the way of England's Ben Stokes. He became a national hero for the second time in just over a month when his astounding 135 not out saw England to an incredible one-wicket win in the third Ashes Test at Headingley on Sunday.

Stokes's ball-striking that yielded 11 fours and eight soaring sixes was impressive but so too was the maturity he demonstrated during five-and-a-half hours at the crease, with the all-rounder taking 50 balls to score his first two runs on Saturday when it was vital England, then three down, did not lose any more wickets. It had been a similar story in the World Cup final, where an expertly paced 84 not out saw England tie the 241 total of his native New Zealand at Lord's before a seemingly exhausted Stokes then hit the Super Over runs that helped his team to a narrow win.

But "maturity" was not the word associated with Stokes when, in the early hours of the



LEEDS: England's Ben Stokes (R) and England's Jack Leach react after winning the third Ashes cricket Test match between England and Australia at Headingley in Leeds, northern England. — AFP

morning following a one-day international against the West Indies in Bristol in September 2017, he became involved in a fight outside a nightclub that led to his arrest.

Although eventually cleared of a criminal charge of affray, the immediate fall-out from

the incident saw Stokes stripped of the England vice-captaincy and not be considered for selection for the 2017/18 Ashes tour — a series where, in his absence, the team meekly subsided to a 4-0 series defeat by Australia. — AFP

ICC bans two HK cricketers for life

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday banned two Hong Kong players, including one who has already served a 30-month ban, from all cricket for life for breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code in matches played between 2014 and 2016.

Irfan Ahmed, who was banned from all cricket for two-and-a-half years in April 2016 after admitting breaches of the code, was found guilty on nine charges. Irfan's older brother Nadeem Ahmed on three.

The pair were banned for life. Teammate Haseeb Amjad received a five-year ban. The ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal "heard evidence that all three players fixed or contrived to fix matches, failed, for reward, to perform and failed

to disclose approaches to fix during a number of international fixtures across a two-year period".

Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager - ACU (Anti-Corruption Unit), added: "This has been a long and complex investigation which has uncovered systematic attempts to influence moments in matches by experienced international cricketers over a period of time. Their conduct was premeditated and sophisticated and each of the Ahmed brothers sought to corrupt others."

"The main offences relate to the Hong Kong matches against Scotland and Canada where the players fixed specific overs. "These matches were won by Hong Kong so it did not materially affect the results of the tournament, however I cannot reiterate strongly enough to any player considering this that we treat any form of fixing - spot or match - with the upmost seriousness."

Hong Kong is one of 92 associate, or non-Test playing, ICC members, making it a second-tier team and a minnow on the international stage. — AFP

World number one Djokovic to play for Serbia in new Davis Cup

Raonic withdraws from US Open with glute injury

BELGRADE: World number one Novak Djokovic will compete with Serbia in the revamped Davis Cup this November in Madrid, the country's tennis federation confirmed yesterday, ending doubts about the star player's appearance.

"We have fantastic news: Novak will participate in the final tournament in Madrid. I had the opportunity to discuss it with him in New York," Serbia's team coach Nenad Zimonjic said in a statement.

The Serb is currently defending his title in New York at the US open. "It's a huge boost to have Novak. I am very happy to see him join the team after a long absence," Zimonjic added. The 32-year-old, who led Serbia to a maiden Davis Cup in 2010, hasn't played in the tournament since 2017, when Serbia qualified for the semi-finals by defeating Spain 4-1.

Last year he did not show much enthusiasm for the new Davis Cup format, in which 18 teams will be split into three groups, with the winners and two best runners-up to reach the quarter-finals. In October Djokovic said he was unsure about his participation given the competition's proximity to the rival ATP World Team Cup at the start of the 2020 season.

"I just feel like the date of the Davis Cup is really bad, especially for the top players," he said at the time. Serbia will play their first Davis Cup match in Madrid against Japan on 20 November, before facing France the following day.

Before that, Djokovic is expected to play in the London Masters, the final of which is set for 17 November, according to the Serbian tennis federation. Meanwhile, Canadian world number 22 Milos Raonic has pulled out of the U.S. Open with a glute injury, tournament organisers said on Sunday.

Raonic, whose 2019 season has been hit by injuries, has not competed since he retired from a second round match in Montreal during a U.S. Open tune-up in early August.

The 28-year-old former Wimbledon finalist, who reached the fourth round in New York last year, has been limited to 11 events this year due to both back and knee problems.

Raonic, who has now missed three of the last seven Grand Slams, was supposed to play Chile's Nicolas Jarry in a first-round clash on Monday but his place will be taken by lucky loser Kamil Majchrzak of Poland. — Agencies



Novak Djokovic

Cavani, Mbappe injured as PSG's problems pile up despite win

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain lost star strikers Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappe to injuries on Sunday as the French champions' problems continued to mount despite a 4-0 thrashing of Toulouse. Thomas Tuchel's men, who lost at Rennes last time out, have seen the start of their season dominated by the Neymar transfer saga.

The Brazilian was once again left out of the matchday squad at the Parc des Princes amid rumours of a move to Real Madrid or return to Barcelona, and Tuchel saw his strikeforce totally dismantled as Cavani and Mbappe both hobbled off — as did centre-back Abdou Diallo.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scored a second-half double, but only after coming on as a substitute for the injured Cavani, while Mbappe also departed the scene after appearing to pull up with a hamstring injury following a trademark burst into the box.

"We will wait for the tests," said coach Tuchel. "These are different injuries, in different actions."

"There's not a single explanation, we have to look for all the possible reasons. I'm disappointed because we're talking about that when we've been very strong."

The capital-city giants sit three points behind early Ligue 1 pace-setters Rennes, who made it three wins from three by beating Strasbourg 2-0. Tuchel responded to last weekend's defeat by making three changes to his starting XI, including dropping captain Thiago Silva to the bench.

Mbappe twice came close to settling any early nerves in the first four minutes, but was denied both times by Toulouse goalkeeper Baptiste Reynet.



PARIS: Toulouse's French defender Bafode Diakite (L) vies with Paris Saint-Germain's Cameroon forward Eric-Maxim Choupo-Moting during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Toulouse (TFC) at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. — AFP

With Neymar looking increasingly likely to be heading to the exit door, PSG's woes deepened when they lost another member of their fabled 'MCN' forward line as Cavani left the pitch in the 14th minute to be replaced by the usually much less potent Choupo-Moting.

Silva was introduced before half-time as Diallo, a close-season signing from Borussia Dortmund, also broke down injured. The home side started the second period well, though, and it was Choupo-Moting — whose stint at PSG has so far been best known for a shocking miss last season against Strasbourg — who turned past one defender, span around another, and drilled the ball into the bottom corner.

academy, the forward grew up in the small town of Herrera, 120 kilometres away from Seville and he started his career with Sevilla. It did not take long for Spain's big clubs to start circling, with Real Madrid and Barca taking interest in the nine-year-old.

"Real Madrid offered better money than Barca," his father said. "But they were the ones who came to my house with the contract and convinced me. When Sevilla found out they were angry and they didn't play him for a year." Fati joined Barca aged 10 in 2012. It is not just Ansu who is a talented footballer, with both his brothers also on Barca's books. Brahim, 21, is on loan at Calahorra from the Camp Nou while his younger brother plays in the same La Masia youth team as Thiago Messi, son of Lionel.

Such is the club's faith in him, the forward recently signed a deal that will keep him there until 2022 which contains a 100 million euro release clause. He was called up by coach Ernesto Valverde following injuries to Messi, Luis Suarez and Ousmane Dembele after impressing for the Under-19 team in pre-season despite being three years younger than most of his team mates. — Reuters

Who is Ansu Fati, Barcelona's latest talented youngster?

MADRID: Ansu Fati made history for Barcelona during their 5-2 victory over Real Betis as he became the second-youngest player to represent the Catalan giants in La Liga aged 16 years and 298 days.

Here are some facts about the club's latest starlet. Ansu, full name Anssumane Fati, was born in the small west African nation of Guinea-Bissau in October 2002 and moved to Spain, where his father Bori had settled. "He came over here aged six or seven, I'd come over before and didn't know that he played football," Bori told Spanish radio station COPE. "Everyone told me I had no idea how good my son was, he ran rings round everyone."

Despite being the latest gem to emerge from Barca's



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Guinea-Bissau forward Ansu Fati controls the ball during the Spanish League football match between Barcelona and Real Betis at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. — AFP

I tried to copy Messi and LeBron: Griezmann

MADRID: Antoine Griezmann copied Lionel Messi for the goal and LeBron James for the celebration but it was his night for Barcelona on Sunday after he scored twice in a 5-2 win over Real Betis. Griezmann imitated the basketball superstar by tossing confetti into the air to celebrate his second at Camp Nou, a curling effort into the corner that he said was inspired by watching Messi.

"I saw Leo do this in training, so I tried to copy him," said Griezmann. "And for the celebration, I like the ritual that LeBron did so we tried to do it as well." Yet Griezmann was the star, if only for the night with Messi in the stands, the Argentinian still short of fitness following a calf injury.

A brilliant Barcelona performance also delivered a resounding response to the doubts arising from their defeat by Athletic Bilbao last weekend, among them a reliance on Messi, the need for Neymar and the future of Ernesto Valverde as coach.

But as Carles Perez, Jordi Alba and Arturo Vidal made it three, four and five, the gloom was forgotten, along with Nabil Fekir's opener in the 15th minute, that had Betis level at half-time. "After a defeat, there is always a big reaction," Griezmann said. "We really wanted to play another game and when so many players are missing, the team steps up."

Loren Moron slammed a late strike into the top corner for Betis but by then the game was up as Barca ensured no further ground was lost on Atletico Madrid, who beat Leganes 1-0 earlier on Sunday, or Real Madrid, who were held to a 1-1 draw on Saturday by Real Valladolid.

Barcelona will hope to have Messi back for the trip to Osasuna next weekend but with Luis Suarez and Ousmane Dembele both out for longer, Griezmann's statement display was timely.

Whether it also affects the club's attempts to prise Neymar from Paris Saint-Germain remains to be seen. "I have to admit today was an important day for Antoine," said Valverde. The crowd also enjoyed a goal from the 21-year-old Perez, making his first Barca start, and a substitute appearance from Anssumane Fati, who at 16 became the second youngest player ever to play for the club in La Liga.

Court backs tax evasion case against German FA ex-bosses

BERLIN: Four former top football officials face trial in Germany after a Frankfurt court ruled yesterday they must answer tax evasion charges linked to the 2006 World Cup vote-buying scandal. The court ruled that ex-German Football Association (DFB) presidents Wolfgang Niersbach and Theo Zwanziger, as well as former general secretary Horst R. Schmidt, are accused of tax evasion, or aiding and abetting it, over a 6.7 million euros (\$7.5 million) slush fund.

The Swiss Urs Linsi, former general-secretary of world football's governing body FIFA, will also stand trial alongside the Germans with all four under "sufficient suspicion" of tax fraud, according to a court statement.

A shadow has been thrown over Germany's successful hosting of the 2006 World Cup, often referred to as "Das Sommermaerchen" or Summer Fairytale, which became a nightmare for organisers after accusations emerged in 2015 of a vote-buying fund to secure the finals. On Monday, the court validated an indictment against the quartet, who deny the charges. This paves the way for a trial, overturning a regional court's decision last October to reject a tax evasion case. —AFP

Live		
Matches on TV		
(Local Timings)		
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Montpellier HSC v Olympique Lyonnais	20:00	
beIN SPORTS		

Sergio Busquets was at fault for Betis' opener as he gave the ball away, allowing Fekir to drive in his debut goal since he moved from Lyon in July. But Barca were undeterred and after Rafinha missed an excellent chance to equalise, Griezmann took over, volleying in on the stretch four minutes before half-time, past the weak hand of Dani Martin.

If Griezmann's first owed something to the goalkeeper, his second was unstoppable. He collected the ball 25 yards out and used Sidnei as a marker to bend his shot around the defender and inside the far post.

Griezmann ran to the corner where confetti was poured into his hands. He threw it into the air above his head. Barca were relentless as Perez steered a third into the bottom corner and Alba made it four, latching onto a superb Busquets pass inside the full-back.

There was still time for two scintillating strikes, the first from Vidal, who was slid in by Griezmann, and the second by Loren, who was given too much space. It was no more than a consolation.

Barcelona stay behind Atletico, who maintained their perfect start with another 1-0 victory, this time over Leganes as Vitolo came off the bench to score a second-half winner at Butarque.

Joao Felix, Atletico's 126 million-euro (\$140 million) buy from Benfica and much-hailed replacement for Griezmann, was again quiet but again delivered the match's most memorable moment.

The 19-year-old's perfectly-timed pass provided set Vitolo free while Felix had been picked out by Kieran Trippier, who was faultless on his second Atletico start. — AFP

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LOS ANGELES: Justin Turner #10 of the Los Angeles Dodgers takes the throw as Brett Gardner #11 of the New York Yankees is safe at third on a throwing error by relief pitcher Adam Kolarek #56 of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the ninth inning of the game against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

Yankees hit 3 HRs off Kershaw in win

Santander goes 5-for-5 as Orioles handle Rays

LOS ANGELES: Domingo German pitched six strong innings, and the New York Yankees hit three home runs off Clayton Kershaw in a 5-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers that gave them two of the three victories in an interleague series between two of the best teams in baseball. DJ LeMahieu, Aaron Judge and Mike Ford each hit home runs against Kershaw (13-3), as the Yankees went deep nine times in the series. Judge hit a home run in all three games as New York set a major league record for homers in any month, now sitting at 61 with five games left in August. Kershaw had 12 strikeouts without a walk and held the Yankees to only four hits over seven innings, but the three home runs gave him 21 allowed on the season, his second most after the 23 he allowed in 2017. Not only did LeMahieu hit a home run to lead off the game, but Dodgers leadoff hitter Joc Pederson hit his own first-inning home run. It was the fourth time in the major leagues this season that both leadoff hitters opened with a homer.

NATIONALS 7, CUBS 5 (11 INNINGS)

Howie Kendrick scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the 11th inning. Anthony Rendon went 4-for-5 with a homer and two RBIs, and Washington held on for a win over host Chicago to complete a three-game sweep. Asdrubal Cabrera also drove in a pair of runs for Washington, which has won five games in a row, seven of eight and 12 of 14. The Nationals claimed the season series 4-2 against the Cubs. Addison Russell, Victor Caratini and Kyle Schwarber homered in a losing effort for Chicago. The Cubs were swept at Wrigley Field for the first time this season.

ORIOLES 8, RAYS 3

Anthony Santander homered as part of a 5-for-5 day, Jonathan Villar also homered and Renato Nunez drove in three runs as Baltimore defeated visiting Tampa Bay. Santander homered and added four singles. He drove in two runs and scored twice, while Nunez and DJ Stewart both went 3-for-4 to spark a Baltimore offense that finished with 16 hits. The victory let Baltimore split the four-game series with Tampa Bay after losing the first two contests. Villar became the sixth player in Oriole history to hit at least 20 homers (this was homer No. 20) and steal at least 20 bases (he has 28 this season).

BRAVES 2, METS 1

Dallas Keuchel and Josh Donaldson thrived again

against New York, with Keuchel tossing seven scoreless innings and Donaldson hitting two homers as visiting Atlanta completed a three-game series sweep. The Braves have won eight straight. The recent three-game losing streak is the second in August for the Mets, who entered Sunday with the best record in the majors (27-12) since the All-Star Break. Keuchel (5-5) allowed four hits and walked three while striking out seven. The Mets got just two runners into scoring position against the 31-year-old left-hander. The outing was the longest scoreless appearance of the season for Keuchel, who signed with the Braves on June 7.

MARLINS 3, PHILLIES 2

Starlin Castro drilled a go-ahead, two-run double in the sixth inning, leading host Miami over Philadelphia. The Phillies, who are in playoff contention, lost two of three over the weekend to the Marlins, who are 35 games under .500 at 47-82. The Phillies are 7-9 against the Marlins this season, having lost seven of their past nine head-to-head meetings. The Marlins beat Phillies starter Aaron Nola (12-4), who had gone 6-1 since the start of July before the loss. Even though the Marlins have the worst record in the National League, Nola is 0-2 against them this season in three starts.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, BREWERS 2

Archie Bradley retired Christian Yelich with two on and two out in the ninth inning, and Arizona held on for victory over host Milwaukee. The Diamondbacks held a 5-0 lead thanks to a big day from Christian Walker and five scoreless innings from Robbie Ray (11-7) in his return from a brief injured-list stint due to back tightness. Walker hit a two-run homer in the first inning against Zach Davies (8-7), collected three hits and fell a triple shy of the cycle. Ray returned after being out since Aug. 14 and held Milwaukee to three hits. He struck out six, worked around four walks and improved to 6-1 in his last nine starts.

CARDINALS 11, ROCKIES 4

Matt Carpenter and Lane Thomas homered, Tommy Edman had three hits and host St. Louis beat Colorado to sweep the four-game series. Carpenter finished with three hits, and Dexter Fowler drove in three runs for the Cardinals, who have won seven of their last eight and increased their National League Central lead to 2

1/2 games over the Cubs. Nolan Arenado homered and had three hits for the Rockies, who have lost six of their last seven.

GIANTS 5, A'S 4

Evan Longoria grounded a go-ahead, two-run single into left field with one out in the seventh inning, propelling San Francisco over host Oakland and a two-game sweep of its interleague series. After Oakland's Mark Canha had hit two home runs off San Francisco starter Logan Webb, five Giants relievers combined on 4 1/3 innings of one-hit, shutout relief, allowing the Giants to capture the season series 3-1 in the annual rivalry. Longoria finished with three RBIs for the Giants, who completed a 5-4 road trip. Donovan Solano went 4-for-4 with a walk, RBI and run scored.

PADRES 3, RED SOX 1

Manny Machado capped a three-run first inning with a franchise-record-setting home run as San Diego defeated visiting Boston to avoid being swept in a three-game series. Machado's homer was the 190th hit by the Padres this season, eclipsing the club's former single-season record of 189 set in 2017. Left-handed starter Joey Lucchesi (9-7) and four Padres relievers held the Red Sox to a run — which came on J.D. Martinez's third homer in three games — on four hits.

ROYALS 9, INDIANS 8

Ryan O'Hearn capped his two-homer performance by going deep to lead off the 10th inning as visiting Kansas City averted a series sweep by beating Cleveland. After Frammil Reyes completed his sixth two-homer performance of the season with a game-tying three-run shot in the ninth inning, O'Hearn regained the advantage by depositing a 2-2 fastball from Nick Goody (3-1) over the wall in right field. Jorge Soler launched a two-run homer to ignite a five-run eighth inning, and Nicky Lopez drove in three runs for the Royals, who had mustered just five runs over the course of their previous four games, all defeats.

TWINS 7, TIGERS 4

C.J. Cron hit a three-run home run, and Jonathan Schoop added a two-run blast to lead Minnesota over Detroit in the rubber game of their three-game series in Minneapolis. Cron finished 1-for-2 with two walks, three

RBIs and two runs scored, and Schoop also walked and scored twice for Minnesota. The Twins increased their American League Central lead to 3 1/2 games over Cleveland. The Twins, who increased their major league-leading home run total to 253, won just their second home series since the All-Star break.

ASTROS 11, ANGELS 2

Framber Valdez returned from his stint in the minors and delivered six strong innings as Houston completed a three-game series sweep of visiting Los Angeles. Valdez (4-6) was 0-4 with a 15.55 ERA over his previous four appearances with the Astros before being optioned to Triple-A Round Rock after his start on July 15. The 25-year-old left-hander proved exceptional in his return, allowing one run on two hits and five walks with eight strikeouts. The Astros, 6-1 on their current 10-game homestand, managed two runs against Angels right-hander Jaime Barria (4-7), who nearly matched Valdez in effectiveness. The Angels closed their seven-game road trip at 1-6.

MARINERS 3, BLUE JAYS 1

Marco Gonzales pitched seven strong innings to set a career high in victories as Seattle defeated visiting Toronto. Dylan Moore homered for the Mariners, who have won six of their past eight games. The Blue Jays lost for the seventh time in their past eight games. Gonzales (14-10) allowed one run on three hits, with two walks and five strikeouts. Toronto right-hander Clay Buchholz (0-3), making his first appearance since May 5 because of a back strain, went six innings, allowing two runs on three hits.

PIRATES 9, REDS 8

Bryan Reynolds went 2-for-4 with a three-run triple as Pittsburgh hung on to beat visiting Cincinnati for a three-game series sweep. Kevin Newman was 4-for-4 with an RBI single and three runs scored, and Jose Osuna and Starling Marte each had RBI doubles for Pittsburgh. Kyle Farmer, Josh VanMeter and Eugenio Suarez homered for Cincinnati. Pittsburgh rookie starter Dario Agrazal (3-3) pitched five innings, giving up four runs and seven hits. Felipe Vazquez gave up a homer but got a four-out save, his 23rd of the season. Cincinnati starter Trevor Bauer (10-11) lasted only three innings, allowing eight runs, seven of them earned, and eight hits. — Reuters