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MP questions MoI over terror cell as suspects sent to Egypt

Govt praises ministry for busting Brotherhood-linked network

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday sent a series of questions to the interior ministry requesting details on the alleged Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood terrorist network that was busted by Kuwaiti police a few days ago and whose members were handed over to Egyptian authorities. The lawmaker inquired about the names of the members in the cell, verdicts passed against them in Egypt and their confessions in Kuwait. He also asked about the means and date of their entry into Kuwait and where they had been at the time of arrest.

He also asked the minister about the nature of employment of the members, their sponsors and any other details related to their residence permit in the country. Kuwait said yesterday it handed the members of the network to Egyptian authorities just a few days after arresting them. The interior ministry had said on Friday the eight Egyptians belonged to a "terrorist" cell linked to the Brotherhood. They had fled to Kuwait after being sentenced by Egyptian authorities to jail terms of up to 15 years, it said.

Kuwait has not specified the circumstances of their sentencing, and there has been no official comment on the case from Egyptian judicial authorities either. The men were returned under the terms of bilateral agreements, KUNA quoted a

senior foreign ministry official as saying late on Sunday. The interior ministry said investigations are ongoing to discover other cell members.

Later yesterday, the government praised interior ministry personnel for apprehending the terrorist cell. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Jarrah Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet about the circumstances that contributed to the discovery of the cell, the government said in a statement following its weekly meeting chaired by HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He said the cell members confessed they carried out terrorist operations in Egypt and attempted to undermine security in different parts of Egypt. Sheikh Khaled said investigations are ongoing to learn who was covering and cooperating with this cell.

Egypt banned the group in 2013 after late Muslim Brotherhood President Mohamed Morsi, the first democratically elected head of state in Egypt's modern history, was toppled by the military following widespread unrest. Since then, Egyptian authorities have arrested tens of thousands of political opponents, many of them Islamists, according to human rights organizations. The Brotherhood says it publicly renounced violence decades ago and pursues an Islamist political vision using peaceful means.



KUWAIT: Sailors apply a mixture of white cement and animal grease (habab and shouna) to the body of a dhow yesterday as part of preparations for the pearl diving festival. Pearl-diving trips are held annually under the patronage of HH the Amir in order to keep alive traditions that accompanied the once important national trade of pearl diving, prior to the discovery of oil. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 4)

News in brief

Trucks to pay to use causeway

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) said yesterday that truck drivers will start paying fees while using Sheikh Jaber Causeway from today. PART said in a press release that the fees for the transit of trucks on the bridge will be KD 1 per ton of the truck's total weight, adding that payment will be collected at entrances in Shuwaikh, Doha and Subbiya. Truckers should comply with the compulsory route to the truck weighing station to pay the transit fee through bankcards or prepaid cards, as cash payment is unacceptable. Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Jenan Boushehri said the expected revenues will be used to cover part of the cost of maintenance and operation and periodic inspection and supervision. — KUNA

Housing loan for women hiked

KUWAIT: The Cabinet has amended the conditions under which women are given housing loans, said a minister yesterday, describing the measure as an effort to establish gender parity in the state. As per the new changes, Kuwaiti divorced women and widows are now entitled to housing loans worth KD 35,000, said Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr Jenan Boushehri. On previous housing loan figures, she said women received no more than KD 30,000 for private residences and a maximum of KD 25,000 for government-owned properties. The minister said the new law also entails changes to ensure expedited and complete divorce proceedings for women in a bid to ensure stability in their lives. — KUNA

Erdogan hails S-400 deal on coup 'versary

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday hailed the controversial delivery of a Russian missile defense system despite the threat of US sanctions, as Turkey marked the third anniversary of a bloody coup attempt. Just days before the anniversary, the first batch of the Russian S-400 defense system was delivered to Turkey despite repeated US calls for them to cancel the deal or face punishment. "We have

begun to receive our S-400s. Some said, 'they cannot buy them'... God willing the final part of this (delivery) will be in April 2020," Erdogan told a crowd of several thousand in Ankara.

The anniversary comes at a difficult moment for Erdogan. He faces a weakened economy, worsening relations with NATO ally the United States over the S-400 purchase, and a humiliating loss for his party in the recent Istanbul local election. In 2016, nearly 250 people were killed - excluding the coup-plotters - and more than 2,000 injured after a rogue military faction tried to wrest power from the president. Thousands took to the streets in response to Erdogan's call to defeat the uprising.

Continued on Page 24



ISTANBUL: People wave Turkish flags at the Ataturk International Airport yesterday. — AFP

Trump steps up attacks on congresswomen

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump stepped up his attacks on four progressive Democratic congresswomen yesterday, saying if they're not happy in the United States, "they can leave". "All they do is complain," Trump told reporters gathered at the White House for a "Made in America" event. "These are people that hate our country," he added. "If you're not happy here, you can leave." Trump also accused the four Democrats, all of whom are women of color, of having "love" for US "enemies like Al-Qaeda".

Trump spoke out a day after launching xenophobic attacks on the progressive congresswomen on Twitter, saying they should "go back" to the countries they came from. He did not identify the women by name in his initial attack although yesterday he made it clear he was referring to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, who is of Puerto Rican origin, and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who is of Somali origin.

The attacks also appeared to target Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, the first Palestinian-American woman elected to Congress, and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, who is African-American. Ocasio-Cortez, Tlaib and Pressley were all born in the United States while Omar came to the United States from war-torn Somalia when she was a child.

Continued on Page 24



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump waves after signing an executive order during the 3rd annual Made in America product showcase on the South Lawn of the White House yesterday. — AFP

President: Drug gangs behind Lanka bombings

COLOMBO: International drug syndicates orchestrated Sri Lanka's deadly Easter Sunday bombings, the country's leader claimed yesterday, despite earlier blaming the attacks on Islamists. The statement comes amid a nationwide narcotics crackdown, with President Maithripala Sirisena aiming to reintroduce capital punishment for drug offences.

Continued on Page 24

Weapons souq thrives in Taz

TAEZ, Yemen: Once overflowing with handicrafts, the old Al-Shinayni market in Yemen's third city of Taz is now bursting with Kalashnikovs and bullets as traders scramble to scratch out a living in the war-ravaged country. Yemen has been plunged into a devastating war since the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels swept into the capital Sanaa in a late 2014 offensive, sparking a military intervention months later by a Saudi-led coalition.

The southwestern city of Taz is controlled by govern-

ment forces but under siege by the Houthis, who have repeatedly bombarded the city of 615,000 people. Many civilians in tribal Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished country, carry personal arms even under normal circumstances and weapons trade is common. But the war has seen the arms market surge, and traditional trades pushed aside.

"In the past, the city's old souq (market) used to sell mainly handicraft items made by blacksmiths, potters and tailors," said merchant Abu Ali. "When the war erupted, most merchants turned to selling weapons," the tailor-turned arms trader told AFP. "Some sell (Yemen's highly popular mild narcotic leaf) qat, and others have fled. Half of the shops have shut down," he added. — AFP (See Page 21)



TAEZ, Yemen: A man displays a rocket launcher at a shop in Yemen's third city on July 13, 2019. — AFP

Local

Amir receives letter from Ethiopian Prime Minister on bilateral relations

Sheikh Sabah receives invitation to visit Ethiopia



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ethiopian Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation Ahmed Shide. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel and Ethiopian Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation Ahmed Shide. Shide presented a letter from Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to His Highness the

Amir. The letter focused on bilateral relations and ways to enhance them as well as an invitation for His Highness the Amir to visit Ethiopia. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah attended the meeting. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Ethiopian Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation Ahmed Shide.

also met the visiting Ethiopian Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, in the presence of Minister Fadhel, CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Hashem Hashem was present at the meeting.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences

to President of Bangladesh Mohammad Abdul-Hamid over the passing of the late president of Bangladesh General Hussain Mohammad Ershad. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. —KUNA

KFB launches no food waste initiative

KUWAIT: Kuwait Food Bank (KFB) launched yesterday a no food waste initiative for life without hunger to help needy families and exploit surplus food for everyone's benefit in Kuwait. The bank is working to strengthen social solidarity through its activities and initiatives that urge us not waste food, as commanded by Islam to preserve food remains and provide it to poor people, KFB Director General Salem Al-Hamar said in a statement. The initiative aims to provide food and basic needs of beneficiaries through a professional work system in addition to raising the awareness in community to reduce the food waste, he added. The bank goal of this initiative is a world without hunger, especially Kuwait is always a pioneer of good work under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Hamar said. —KUNA



Salem Al-Hamar

Audit Bureau prepares for ASOSAI meeting

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Kuwait's State Audit Bureau (SAB) held a press conference yesterday at its headquarters in Shuwaikh as part of its preparations to host the 54th meeting of the governing board of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) that will take place in Kuwait on July 23-24. During his speech, SAB's assistant undersecretary for financial, administrative affairs and information technology Issam Al-Mutairi stressed the Audit Bureau's keenness to review the latest trends in financial control and accounting and to activate joint cooperation and exchange experiences with participating countries to increase the efficiency of audit work.

Mutairi added 40 members of SAB will participate in the meeting to gain the necessary expertise for the future and benefit from the experience of experts who are participating in the meeting, noting that the meeting will take place before the meeting of the International Congress of the International Organization of the Supreme Audit Institutions (INCOSAI) to be held in September in Russia, which will witness the presence of 12 heads of the highest supervisory body, in addition to the current chairman of the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI).

Director of Training and International Relations at

to attract further investments and support. "The EU and its Member States will maintain their efforts, including in the framework of the Global Coalition against Da'esh, to support the Iraqi authorities in addressing the continued Da'esh terrorist threat, strengthening the justice sector and reforming the police," it said.

The EU expressed full support to the work being carried out by the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD), and cooperation with the Iraqi authorities on the collection and analysis of evidence in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2379. The EU will also continue to provide support to Iraq on civilian security sector reform through the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM Iraq), it said. The EU welcomed the recent dialogue on migration based and stressed the importance of working with the Iraqi authorities on strengthening cooperation and putting into practice their obligation on the return and readmission of own nationals in full respect of the rights. In view of the current tensions in the region, the EU underlined the importance for all countries in the region, and all international actors engaged in the region, to fully respect Iraq's sovereignty and its policy of constructive engagement with its neighbors. —KUNA



KUWAIT: (From left) State Audit Bureau Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative Affairs and Information Technology Issam Al-Mutairi, Director of Training and International Relations at the State Audit Bureau Saud Al-Zamanan and Director of Training and International Relations Department Heba Al-Awadhi during the press conference. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

the Audit Bureau Saud Al-Zamanan reviewed the most important topics that will be addressed at the meeting, including topics on the 12th ASOSAI research project, cooperation of ASOSAI with other regional organizations such as the European Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (EUROSAI) and the African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI), and a report on the preparations for the 23rd INCOSAI.

The meeting, which will be organized by SAB for the first time in its history, will include a discussion on

the activities of the ASOSAI board of directors and the report of the organization on its strategic plan 2016-2021, and discuss the strategic plan submitted by the Korean organization. Zamanan pointed out that on the sidelines of the meeting, the Audit Bureau will sign a cooperation agreement with the audit office of Thailand to enhance bilateral relations between the two bodies. "SAB also will sign a memorandum of understanding with the audit office of Vietnam and the National Accounts Bureau of China," he added.

EU urges int'l partners to deliver Iraq conference commitments

BRUSSELS: The European Union Foreign Affairs Council yesterday called on the EU's international partners to deliver on the pledges they made in Kuwait conference on Iraq "in a timely fashion." The Council in a statement on Iraq called for "improving the business environment, and creating the basis for a more sustainable, diversified, and green Iraqi economy in line with the commitments made at the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq in February 2018." The EU reiterated its steadfast support for Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the importance of Iraqi ownership of the country's internal political and reform processes. The Council, which met in Brussels yesterday, discussed the situation in Iraq and noted that economic and financial reforms are necessary



BRUSSELS: The European Union Foreign Affairs Council's meeting in progress yesterday. —KUNA

Interior Ministry holds blood donation drive

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's relations and security information said it organized a blood donation campaign in cooperation with the Kuwait Blood Bank yesterday under the slogan 'with your donation, you rescue a life.' The campaign was held at Nawaf Al-Ahmad building in Subhan from 9 am until 1:00 pm.



Local

Kuwait regrets persons reside in country wanted by Egyptian judiciary

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister hails strong Kuwaiti-French bonds



KUWAIT: (From left) Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, French Ambassador to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy and Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah cut the cake during the French Embassy's national day reception. —KUNA photos



Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and French Ambassador to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy with guests at the ceremony.



(From left) Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, French Ambassador to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy and Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah attend the ceremony.

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah regretted on Sunday that there were persons residing in Kuwait and wanted by Egypt's judiciary authority, confirming they were extradited to Cairo. Jarallah was referring to security authorities' clamping down on a terrorist cell of the Muslim Brotherhood Organization's Egyptian members who had been convicted of terrorism. Asked by reporters on sidelines of a reception by France's Embassy on the country's national day about branding the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group, Jarallah said Kuwait did not declare the Brotherhood was a terrorist organization. "This position has already been made public," he said. Kuwait extradited those arrested to Egypt in line with an extradition agreement, he said.

Jarallah said security coordination with Egypt "is very high. We are satisfied with this cooperation ... because we realize the security of Egypt and Kuwait were linked." Kuwait's Ministry of Interior said members of the cells had been handed down ver-

dicts by the Egyptian judiciary, indicating some of the detainees had been sentenced to 15 years behind bars in their home country. The interior ministry's personnel located whereabouts of the fugitives, who had escaped from the Egyptian authorities to Kuwait, and arrested them. During interrogations, they admitted to carrying out terrorist operations in Egypt.

Grave mistake

Meanwhile, Jarallah slammed Al-Arabiya anchor's remark as a grave mistake that requires correction. "This a fatal mistake that requires intervention from our brothers in Al-Arabiya channel to redress it as Kuwait worked and will continue to work to heal the Gulf rift," Jarallah told reporters. He cautioned that this egregious error is not compatible with risks undermining credibility and professionalism of the prominent news channel Al-Arabiya. "I believe, this is not the reward that Kuwait should be granted for its efforts to achieve Gulf unity," he lamented. He

pointed out that Kuwait will retain its efforts and calls for ending media campaigns and to make sure that such campaigns will not spoil brotherly relations among the GCC peoples. He emphasized making Kuwait a target for these campaigns "is wrong, unjustifiable and unacceptable."

Kuwait's Ministry of Information has issued earlier on Sunday a statement about the incident and have contacted Al-Arabiya's bureau in Kuwait and the channel officials. In its statement, the ministry said the Kuwait refuses to get involved in matters that do not concern the country and deplored the remark as tantamount to a grave insult. Kuwait will always be committed to the unity of the Gulf region through its efforts to quell any internal discord, read the statement. It called for an end to malicious media campaigns that are detrimental to ties within the Gulf bloc. It noted that Kuwait has contacted Al-Arabiya television officials and will respond appropriately in order to sort out the issue.

Strong bonds

In the meantime, Jarallah lauded Kuwait's strong and deeply-rooted ties with France, extending greetings to the French government and people on their "dear national occasion." He highlighted the continued cooperation between Kuwait and France in all domains, especially, economy, investment, energy, culture, education and military. Jarallah expressed satisfaction with the level of military cooperation between the two friendly countries. Many of the Defense Ministry's personnel are receiving military education and training in France, he pointed out. He expressed Kuwait's appreciation to France for its role in maintaining the security and stability of Kuwait and the whole region as well as to its principled supportive stance to Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation time and its contribution to Kuwait's liberation war. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the Dominican envoy of the Foreign Minister Ambassador Rafael Melo. —KUNA

Deputy FM meets Dominican official

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with the Dominican envoy of the

Foreign Minister Ambassador Rafael Melo, who is on a visit to the country as part of a tour of several countries to discuss ongoing preparations for the Dominican Arab Forum to be held later in the Dominican Republic. They also tackled issues of mutual interest and latest regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to Cuba Mohammad Khalaf and the Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. —KUNA



BRUSSELS: The European Union's High Representative Federica Mogherini speaks to reporters. —KUNA

Kuwait always tries to build unity in region: Mogherini

BRUSSELS: The European Union's (EU) High Representative Federica Mogherini expressed praise yesterday for Kuwait's position to build bridges in the Gulf region. "I was [Sunday] in Kuwait. That is another country that has always expressed a very wise and rational position, always trying to build bridges and rebuild the unity in the region," Mogherini told reports ahead of an EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels. "I think there is enough wisdom and rationality in the Gulf to try and find a useful way forward. Finding a way of liv-

ing together peacefully is not a sign of weakness, is a sign of rationality and looking at interests, first and foremost the security and economic interest of the region," she stressed.

Mogherini, who also visited Iraq over the weekend, said, "I have seen in the region the awareness of the fact that an escalation is dangerous for everybody, no one excluded, that the risk of miscalculation is there. So I think there is an interest today to focus on how to contain the risks, how to avoid a military escalation, or an escalation of any kind. And I believe that the regional conference in Iraq focusing on how to protect the good results that have been achieved in Iraq, for instance, which is a shared interest of all the countries in the region, could be a good starting point." Mogherini inaugurated the EU's embassy in Kuwait on Sunday. —KUNA

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Local



KUWAIT: Participants in the annual pearl diving expedition, slated for later this month, took part yesterday in the 'Habab and Shuna' tradition where they prepared the ships that will be used during the trip. The Kuwait Sea Sports Club organizes the annual trip to commemorate the pearl diving industry which formed the backbone of Kuwait's economy in the pre-oil era. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Industry awards reaffirm Ooredoo's progress towards becoming a global digital enabler

Group honored with 'Best Telco Digital Transformation Project' award

DOHA: Ooredoo Group's transformation into a digital enabler across its global footprint was recently recognized at the 5G World Awards. Ooredoo Group was honored with the 'Best Telco Digital Transformation Project' award at the 2019 edition of the awards in London which showcase innovation in the telco industry.

In recognition of Ooredoo's 5G leadership and innovation, Ooredoo Qatar was also shortlisted in the 5G World Awards for 'Best 5G Commercial Launch' and in the Leading Lights Awards for 'Most Innovative 5G Strategy.'

The pressure is on for telecommunication companies to digitize their operations and drive growth through new revenue streams. Understanding the digital ecosystem and the emerging trends within it has become critical for telecommunication companies looking to succeed and capture digital opportunity.

By championing the digital agenda internally as well as externally, a key component of Ooredoo's success was combining efforts to become a preferred digital partner, digitally improve employees' skills and develop new digital services alongside the seamless transition of customer interactions across its global footprint from physical to digital channels. These changes have broadened Ooredoo's reach beyond traditional products and services and facilitated Ooredoo's re-positioning into preferred digital operator.

Across Ooredoo's global footprint, digital transformation efforts are also receiving recognition. In Qatar, Ooredoo was awarded the 'Digital Transformation Award' at the Microsoft Digital Transformation Awards for its new revolutionary sports AI, which transforms how fans engage with their favourite sports.

Indosat Ooredoo recently won a Gold Stevie(r) Award Asia Pacific for 'Innovation in Technology Development - Telecommunications Industries', which recognised its efforts to keep ahead of Indonesia's insatiable appetite for data and investment into building a video-grade network for a digital Indonesia. Award-winning campaigns



Ooredoo Oman's Best Large ME Call Centre Award.

such as Ooredoo Oman's 'Best Digital Brand Campaign 2019 - Be Digital' and Ooredoo Maldives 'Best Digital Campaign of the Year Maldives 2019' are also testament to Ooredoo's commitment to lead the market in innovation and become a digital partner of choice.

Underpinning this transformation is a push to deliver a better experience for customers already enjoying the convenience of the digital world. Ooredoo Oman's efforts to propel digital growth has led them to win the Transform Bronze Middle East and North Africa (MENA) award for 'Best Rebrand of a Digital Property' for their New Shababiah plan, the Global Business Outlook award for 'Digital Transformation of the Year - Telecommunications Sector' and the Insights Middle East Call Centre award for 'Best Large Call Centre.' Ooredoo Tunisia also won the 'Best Customer Service - Telecommunications Sector' award for leveraging digital improvements to better serve customers while Ooredoo Maldives' focus on innovation in mobile financial services led to Most Innovative Mobile Payment Service recognition for m-Faisaa, its mobile wallet service.



Ooredoo Qatar won 'Digital Transformation Award' at the Microsoft Digital Transformation Awards for its new revolutionary sports AI.

Social responsibility continues to sit at the heart of Ooredoo's digital transformation with Asiaccell, Ooredoo's operating company in Iraq recently recognized by the industry as the Most Socially Responsible Telecom Company in Iraq and an Ooredoo Maldives smart city project recognized for its Innovation in Living, Learning and Working Environments.

Commenting on the win, Sheikh Saud bin Nasser Al Thani, Group CEO, Ooredoo, said: "We are honored to be recognized for our group-wide digital transformation program 'Get Digital.' Today, Ooredoo strives to be a digital enabler for customers and communities in all of our 10 markets. We are united behind a clear strategy to

move beyond traditional telecom products and services to deliver state-of-the-art digital services to customers; a shift that would not be possible without our relentless drive for innovation from within. This has helped us to offer our customers new suites of digital services, the very latest in digital content and the best digital partnerships with ICT and OTT players."

"Across our operating companies, we continue to invest in the latest technology for our networks and introduce cutting-edge services, such as Smart Stadium, Smart City, and new Digital Experiences, with a strong focus on evolution to 5G, in order to enrich people's digital lives," he said.

Tsinghua University picks Kuwaiti academic as committee member

KUWAIT: The Tsinghua University in Beijing recently chose the first Arab Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University Dr Ghanim Al-Najjar to join the Higher Academic Committee at the Institute of International Studies. Dr Al-Najjar said that he highly appreciates the choice especially that the University of Tsinghua is one of the most prestigious universities in the world. He will promote cooperation between Kuwait University and Tsinghua University, which is one of the world's leading universities for political studies as well as engineering and technology. Meanwhile, Tsinghua University is a major research university in Beijing, and a member of the elite C9 League of Chinese universities. The university was established in 1911 and has graduated numerous Chinese leaders in politics, business, academia, and culture. — KUNA



Kuwait University Professor of Political Science Dr Ghanim Al-Najjar (center).



TUNIS: A participant is honored during the conclusion ceremony of a course of Al-Shafi' project for Quran memorization. — KUNA

IIOC honors 225 Quran students in Tunisia

TUNIS: Kuwait-based International Islamic Charitable Organization (IIOC) on Sunday hon-

ored 225 persons who memorized the Holy Quran after concluding a course of Al-Shafi' project for Quran memorization, held in Tunis. The graduation ceremony was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Dhefiri, a number of former and present Tunisian officials and many Islamic scholars, in addition to the Director of Al-Shafi' project Khaled Al-Qassar, and representatives from the Kuwaiti Zakat House and Al-Nouri Charity Society. During the

ceremony, organized in collaboration with Marhamah Charity Society, Al-Qassar said that the project have succeeded in strengthening bonds between the people of Kuwait and Tunisia. Al-Shafi' project, which was launched six years ago, contributed to spreading tolerance values of Islam. Al-Shafi' project targets the youth and helps them avoid extreme ideologies that are threatening societies in the Islamic and Arab world, he added. — KUNA

Local

Govt pushes citizens' employment in private sector as companies 'reluctant' to hire Kuwaitis

More efforts expected to examine expat laborers' degrees

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The government reviewed a report about Kuwaitis' employment in the private sector and implementing the replacement policy in the government sector in specialties Kuwaitis have, informed sources said. Reports on employment obstacles were presented to the government as well as opportunities for Kuwaitis in the private sector, said the sources, adding that private companies are still reluctant to hire Kuwaitis despite the increase in their employment compared to previous years.

In the meantime, the sources said the coming period is expected to see further procedures to verify the authenticity of expats' degrees in cooperation with professional societies as well as the higher education ministry, adding that the examinations may reveal many forgeries committed by expats. The sources said a decision to increase percentages of Kuwaitis' employment in the private sector may be issued before the end of the current year, and will increase the percentage to 90 percent for banks and telecommunications companies.

Meanwhile, labor statistics report for GCC countries from 2013 to 2017 revealed that expat labor in Kuwait rose by 1.8 percent compared to the population. The report showed a drop in Kuwaiti workers in 2017 by 1.3 percent compared to previous years. Compared to numbers mentioned in Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) stats of the total number of workers until the start of this year, expat labor rose to 81 percent of the total workforce in the country, a jump from 66.5 percent.

In other news, informed sources said the com-

pletion percentage in the expat labor cities projects south of Jahra is 65 percent, adding that work on the project began in 2014 and is expected to be completed in 2021. The sources said Kuwait aims to create integrated cities at a highly organized level that provide the necessary services that guarantee a dignified life.

They said that quickly building labor cities is highly important for the Kuwait society because it is related to dealing with a group that did not have suitable residence for a long time, which created negative repercussions on the society. They said the project will provide residence to more than 20,000 laborers in south Jahra at a cost of KD 135 million.

441 percent

The parliamentary budgets committee said estimations of expenses related to the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition for the year 2019/2020 are higher by 441 percent compared with the previous fiscal year, including around KD 2 million to equip laboratories, while the authority continuously finds hurdles to carry out its role. The committee said the authority's expenses during the fiscal year 2017/2018 amounted to KD 6 million, 85 percent of which was spent as the authority carried out 17 financial transfers at a total of KD 402,000, which indicates the budget has lost its importance as a tool of control, supervision, follow up and performance evaluation, as transfers in 26 percent of the total budget items were made due to a lack of technical and financial studies.

The shortage of food testing labs will negatively reflect on prices in the vegetable market on most imported products due to delays in releasing them. The committee said actual expenses of the authori-

ty amounted to KD 5 million, while it collected KD 52,000, with the finance ministry financing the difference according to closing accounts data. Estimation of expenses for the current fiscal year is KD 31 million, with only KD 2 million expected to be collected.

Contracts and agreements

Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah instructed the drugs and medical supplies sector to implement the rules pertaining to contracts and agreements to be signed between the ministry and companies that are contracted to supply materials or render services to the ministry, according to the fatwa and legislation establishment law 12/1960, the rules of law 49/1960 and the rules of law 49/2016 with regards to public tenders and law 30/1960 to establish the Audit Bureau. It is important to comply with the following: The supervisory authorities must be provided with a unified contract number; Names of companies and contract values should match those mentioned in the approved letter from the Central Agency for Public Tenders; Complying with the amendments of the fatwa and legislation department; Writing the full guarantee data (guarantee number, value, bank name, dates of starting and ending); Printing the name of the company representative and his civil ID on the front of the contract, and not handwritten it; The legal representative of the second party must be authorized to sign, and the authorization should be authenticated by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry; All papers of meetings minutes of the permanent drugs committee should be submitted; Contracting procedures should not be delayed.

MPs propose raising pensions

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Five MPs yesterday submitted a proposal to increase pensions paid to retired Kuwaitis by KD 60 monthly every three years instead of KD 30 currently, MPs Ali Al-Deqbasi, Faisal Al-Kandari, Salah Khorshid, Ahmad Al-Fadhli and Khalaf Dumaitheer, who filed the bill, also called for the need to revise the amount of the increase once every five years depending on the rise in the cost of living. The lawmakers said they submitted the proposal to help retired people cope with the steady rise in the cost of living, especially since many pensioners totally depend on such pensions for their living.

In other Assembly news, opposition MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari yesterday declined an invitation by the National Assembly's legal and legislative committee to discuss with him a grilling he had filed against the prime minister and which the Assembly decided to refer to the committee to decide whether it is in line with the constitution. MP Saadoun Hammad, a member of the committee, said Kandari did not attend the meeting and the committee invited the justice minister for a meeting on Sunday to represent the government in the issue. Kandari filed to grill the prime minister several weeks ago and the government insisted that it violated the constitution and demanded that it should be reviewed by the legal committee. Also, MP Khalil Al-Saleh called on the government yesterday to implement recommendations made by the Assembly and its committees, claiming that most of the recommendations are normally ignored. Saleh also called on the government to cancel making exceptions to appoint expatriates who do not fulfill conditions in government jobs.

Fire breaks out at Kuwait University college building

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Firemen put out a blaze at a Kuwait University college campus in Khaldiya yesterday, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS) said. No injuries were reported as the building was immediately evacuated after the fire alarm started. Firemen from the Shuhada and Shuwaikh fire stations battled the blaze, which started in a building containing stored material. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.

Kuwait University later released a statement in which it confirmed that the fire broke out at the Faculty of Science (31 kh) building in Khaldiya. Authorities evacuated the building before the fire was controlled by KFS and the university in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, KU said in a statement. Efforts are under way to resume work at the building, the university said, noting that administration is waiting for a KFS report on the fire causes.



KUWAIT: Smoke billows from the Kuwait University college campus in Khaldiya yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Zubaidi fishing season starts today

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Head of Kuwait Fishermen's Union Thamer Al-Suwayan said the zubaidi

(silver pomfret) fishing season will start today after a 45-day pause in Kuwait territorial waters. Suwayan wondered about the reason for the fishing ban in Kuwait as zubaidi is brought to Kuwait through outlets during the ban period. He demanded solutions to this chronic issue, either by lifting the ban or banning imports from neighboring countries during the ban period, because its sale encourages neighboring countries' fishermen to fish zubaidi during the ban period and sell it to Kuwait as

imported fish. "When we monitor the market during the ban period, we see tons of fresh zubaidi being brought to the market, which confirms that some neighboring countries are not complying with treaty signed with Kuwait since 2004 and earlier," Suwayan said. He called upon concerned authorities and decision makers to reconsider the ban, especially since it does not serve fish stocks and does not increase them amid violations by some neighboring countries.

Kuwait turns municipal building into museum

KUWAIT: The current Municipal Council building will be turned into a museum under the umbrella of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, said Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi yesterday. After relocating to a new one, the old building would be preserved due to its historic significance, Otaibi told a press conference. In this vein, it is worth mentioning that the current building had housed the first National Assembly session in Kuwait's modern history, back in 1963 and continued to be so until 1992. However, the Council had approved a number of proposals during the last term, including one that allows holding festivities and fairs, as well as other related commercial activities at Safat Square, in addition to allocating a 30,000m permanent location for the Public Authority For Food and Nutrition at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, he pointed out. Meanwhile, Council Secretary General Bader Al-Rifaei told the press conference that the new and modern municipal building is 95 percent finished and would be located in Qibla, Kuwait City, on a 77,600m area. —KUNA



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GOING PLACES TOGETHER



Key questions; flight MH17 remembered

Families hide as US launches immigration raids



KHARTOUM: Sudanese protesters take part in a demonstration in the capital Khartoum's northern district of Bahri, to mourn dozens of demonstrators killed last month in a brutal raid on a Khartoum sit-in. — AFP

Videos of brutal Sudan raid go viral

Shock and anger as dozens killed by men in military fatigues

KHARTOUM: Days after a blackout on mobile internet services ended, Sudanese are shocked by the content of online videos and photographs that appear to document last month's deadly raid on demonstrators. Crowds of protesters were violently dispersed—and dozens killed—by men in military fatigues during a pre-dawn raid on a weeks-long sit-in outside army headquarters in Khartoum on June 3.

"The brutal scenes of killings and beatings left me very angry," said Hussein Hashim, a 19-year-old university student from the capital's El-Deem neighborhood. "The perpetrators have no mercy, religion or humanity." Demonstrators who had camped at the site demanding civilian rule were shot and beaten as armed men rampaged through the area, triggering international outrage. But the carnage went largely unseen inside Sudan as the country's military rulers imposed a nationwide blackout on mobile internet services.

The authorities restored mobile internet only last week, paving the way for photographs and videos going viral on social media networks. Services were ordered to be restored after Khartoum based lawyer Abdelaziz Hassan won a case against 3G and 4G service providers. "The aim of blocking the internet was to hide information and evidence of what happened in the massacre," Hassan told AFP.

"It is the right of every citizen to know the real information so that he can form his own views." One photograph, which could not be verified, has stirred particular anger. It shows men in military trousers and boots putting their feet on the face of a purported protester lying on the ground.

Dozens of videos are circulating, including one that shows a group of men—also in military uniform—surrounding a teenage girl as she yells at a man who holds her neck in a tight grip.

Intimidation tactic?

Several videos show gunmen beating protesters with sticks as thick smoke billows from the protest site amid the sound of continuous gunfire. AFP could not independently verify the origins of many of the photographs and videos, as most were posted on accounts that used pseudonyms. Prior to the violent dispersal of the protest site, demonstrators had camped there since April 6, initially to seek the army's help in ousting longtime ruler Omar Al-Bashir. The army deposed Bashir on April 11, but protesters continued with the sit-in after a military council seized power.

Since the internet was restored, groups of people have been seen watching and circulating videos and photographs in shops, cafes and hotels. Some have created a Facebook page to document all the images of the "massacre". "We have to hold the perpetrators of this crime accountable," wrote one user on the page. Another warned "without accountability, punishment and revenge, this spectacular revolution will not succeed."

Protesters and rights groups have accused members of the feared paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of carrying out the raid. While outraged activists and protesters have themselves shared and spread the videos, some believe

the RSF have also had a hand in sending the images viral, in a bid to intimidate protesters. "These videos are meant to scare us," said Samuol, who did not give his full name. "But the horrific scenes will give us a bigger motive to fight for the rights of the martyrs," he added.

'Fabricated' content

RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who is also the deputy chief of the country's ruling military council, has dismissed the accusation that his forces were involved in the raid. "These photos are fabricated," he said at a recent rally, accusing foreign intelligence agents of filming and circulating the videos. "There are some people who have filmed 59 videos in one day ... how is that possible? For sure they have an agenda," he contended.

Many on the streets do not believe Dagalo's assertions. Some footage shows men wielding sticks against protesters and wearing uniforms usually worn by the RSF. The protest movement says the raid killed more than 100 and wounded hundreds in just one day. "These videos are not fabricated, they have been filmed by gunmen themselves," said a driver, showing an AFP correspondent a video in which groups of men in military fatigues are seen beating the protesters.

"After watching these videos I feel like taking revenge for the victims," he said, without revealing his name for security reasons. Women are also angry. "I was happy when the internet was restored but now I feel angry and humiliated," said a Khartoum resident, after watching the online videos.

"They want to intimidate women, but we will not be afraid and will continue to participate in protests," she said without revealing her identity. — AFP



AL RIMELA: Khadom, the mother of Al-Moez visits the tomb of her son, killed when a bullet pierced the window of his workplace and lodged itself in his heart during an anti-government demonstration in the Sudanese capital Khartoum. — AFP

Top Hamas official urges Palestinians to kill Jews

RAMALLAH: A senior member of Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas has encouraged Palestinians across the globe to kill Jews, drawing outrage from both Israeli and Palestinian officials as well as a UN envoy. In video from a speech to participants of weekly protests on Friday, Fathi Hamad, a member of the movement's top political body, can be seen calling on Palestinians across the globe to carry out attacks.

"If this siege is not undone, we will explode in the face of our enemies, with God's permission. The explosion is not only going to be in Gaza but also in the West Bank and abroad, God willing," Hamad said. "But our brothers outside are preparing, trying to prepare, warming up." He continued: "Seven million Palestinians outside, enough warming up, you have Jews with you in every place. You should attack every Jew possible in all the world and kill them."

Since March 2018 Palestinians have been taking part in Hamas-backed protests and clashes along the Gaza-Israel border in part against the Jewish state's crippling blockade of Gaza. At least 295 Palestinians and seven Israelis have been killed in Gaza-related violence since. The Israeli toll recently rose to seven after an 89-year-old woman who fell while running for

a bomb shelter during a severe flare-up of violence in May died from her wounds, according to Israel's foreign ministry.

Hamas is considered a terrorist organization by the United States, European Union and others. Ofir Gendelman, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said the comments showed "what Hamas is about." "Hamas is behind the riots on the Gaza border. Hamas built factories for explosive vests to be used by Gazan boys & girls. Hamas wants to murder Jews worldwide," Gendelman said on Twitter.

"Now you know why we protect the border with Gaza from Hamas," Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the West Bank-based Palestine Liberation Organization, which unlike Hamas has recognized Israel, condemned Hamad's comments. "The just values of the Palestinian cause include love for freedom, justice and equality. The repugnant statement of Hamas leader Mr Fathi Hamad about Jews doesn't represent any of them," he tweeted.

United Nations envoy Nickolay Mladenov also condemned the comments, labeling them a "dangerous, repugnant and inciteful statement! It must be clearly condemned by ALL." Hamas seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority in a 2007 near civil war. Israel and Hamas have fought three wars in Gaza since 2008. Israel says the blockade is necessary to isolate Hamas and keep it from obtaining weapons or material to make them. Critics say it amounts to collective punishment of Gaza's two million residents and creates poverty that can feed extremism. — AFP

IS 'caliphate' in Syria, Iraq

BAGHDAD: The Islamic State group's Iraq and Syria "caliphate" was eradicated in March 2019, five years after it was proclaimed, largely reducing the jihadist militants to scattered sleeper cells. Here is a recap.

'Caliphate' declared

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) declared in June 2014 that they had set up a caliphate, under their elusive leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, in territory seized in Syria and Iraq. Since January that year they had been in control of Syria's northern city of Raqa. They also seized part of the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, on the Iraqi border, as well as positions in the northern province of Aleppo. In Iraq, they took Mosul and Sunni Arab areas bordering the autonomous Kurdistan region in the country's north in June. Raqa and Mosul became the two de-facto IS capitals.

Atrocities

Rebranded the Islamic State, they carried out beheadings, mass executions, rapes, abductions and ethnic cleansing in Raqa. Some of the atrocities were broadcast on video, used as a propaganda tool. In Iraq, IS seized the historic home of the Yazidi minority in Sinjar region in 2014, forcing children to become soldiers and using thousands of women as sex slaves.

Anti-jihadist coalition

In August 2014, US warplanes struck IS positions in northern Iraq. Washington formed a coalition of more than 70 countries to fight the group in both Iraq and Syria, deploying 5,000 soldiers.

Defeats in Iraq

In March 2015, Iraq announced the "liberation" of Tikrit, north of Baghdad. In November, coalition-backed Kurdish forces retook Sinjar. In 2016, Anbar provincial capital Ramadi was retaken, as was the city of Fallujah. In July 2017, then Iraqi prime minister Haider al-Abadi declared the jihadists' defeat in Mosul. In August, the last major IS urban stronghold in northern Iraq, Tal Afar, was also freed. In December, Abadi announced a final victory against the IS.

Defeats in Syria

Kurdish forces drove jihadists out of the city of Kobane, on the Turkish border, in January 2015. In August 2016, the US-backed Kurdish-Arab alliance known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) recaptured Manbij in Aleppo province. Backed by Turkish forces, rebels retook Jarabulus, and then, in February 2017, Al-Bab, the last IS bastion in Aleppo province. In March 2017, Syrian troops backed by Russian jets took back the ancient town of Palmyra. In October 2017, the SDF announced the full recapture of Raqa. In March 2019, the Kurdish-led SDF proclaimed the defeat of the "caliphate" after seizing Baghouz, the IS's final bastion in eastern Syria. — AFP

International

Defiant at inquiry, Zuma denies breaking law with Gupta family

S Africa's ex-leader claims he's a victim of conspiracy

JOHANNESBURG: Former South African President Jacob Zuma told a corruption inquiry yesterday that enemies had plotted to bring him down, and he had never broken the law with the business family at the centre of an influence-peddling scandal. Zuma struck a defiant tone at the public inquiry, saying he was the victim of a "character assassination" by enemies who had tried to get rid of him for more than 20 years.

His appearance at the inquiry - set up to test allegations that Zuma allowed cronies to plunder state resources and influence government appointments - marked a dramatic fall from grace for a politician who long dominated the country's politics. Zuma, ousted by the governing African National Congress (ANC) in February 2018 and replaced by President Cyril Ramaphosa, has consistently denied wrongdoing over his nine years in power.

Referring to the three Gupta business brothers, Zuma said: "I never did anything with them unlawfully, they just remained friends. Never, never did I discuss any matter that does not belong to them". "They were businesspeople and successful businesspeople," Zuma continued.

"I'm not a businessperson, I know nothing about business, I'm a politician, I know something about politics." Under pressure from rivals in the ANC, Zuma set up the corruption inquiry he now sits before in his final weeks as president, as a number of his colleagues, including Ramaphosa, feared scandals surrounding Zuma could indelibly tarnish the party's reputation.

Zuma had avoided establishing the inquiry since a 2016 report by South Africa's anti-corruption watchdog, the public protector, instructed him to do so to investigate allegations that three Gupta brothers had been able to influence ministerial appointments and had won state contracts improperly. The Gupta family denied the accusations and left South Africa around the time that Zuma was ousted.



'Hands off Zuma', say supporters

'Vilified'
"I've been vilified, alleged to be the king of corrupt people," Zuma, 77, said in his opening remarks to the hearing in Johannesburg, which was being broadcast live on South African television. "There has been a drive to remove me from the scene...a conspiracy against me." He said he could trace this to the early 1990s, when he received an intelligence report that two foreign intelligence agencies and a branch of the apartheid government that was in power at the time had come up with a strategy to get rid of him. He did not name where the foreign intelligence agencies came from, only that they were from "big countries".

"They (my enemies) took a decision that Zuma must be removed from the decision-making structures of the ANC. That's why the character assassination, that is the beginning of the process that has put me where I am today," Zuma said. Zuma also hinted that he could spill the beans on ANC comrades who had spoken out against him. "I've been respectful to comrades, maybe I've reached a point where that must

take a back seat."

Asked about Zuma's comments, ANC spokesman Pule Mabe said the party would give the inquiry space to do its work. "The ANC is not on trial here," Mabe said.

Natasha Mazzone, a senior lawmaker with the opposition Democratic Alliance party, said Zuma was trying to whitewash serious allegations. "The fact that we've heard a conspiracy theory dating back to 1990 is proof that the real truth is going to take a long time to extract," Mazzone said. Rudie Heyneke from the Organization Undoing Tax Abuse said the inquiry could find it difficult to pin much on Zuma because he had "always been careful to stay a layer or two away from the action".



JOHANNESBURG: Former South African president Jacob Zuma appears before the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture in Johannesburg, where he faces tough questioning over allegations that he oversaw systematic looting of state funds while in power. —AFP

'Hands off Zuma'

Zuma still has allies and a group of several dozen supporters broke into clapping and chants of "Zuma" as he entered the hearing room. Outside, supporters wearing military clothing emblazoned with the emblem of the former armed wing of the ANC shouted: "Hands off Zuma!" One of them, Bongani Nkosi, said he thought the inquiry was out to get Zuma and that he had enemies because he supported radical economic policies to help poor black people.

Ramaphosa, Zuma's former deputy, has made sweeping personnel changes in government and state-owned companies as part of an effort to curb corruption and revive the stagnant economy.

But he has been hampered by the lingering influence that Zuma and his allies exert over the ANC's top decision-making bodies, as well as by the scale of the problems he inherited.

Zuma, expected to give testimony to the inquiry from Monday to Friday, has also been in court on several occasions over the past year to answer corruption charges linked to a deal to buy military hardware for the armed forces in the 1990s. The inquiry, which is headed by South Africa's deputy chief justice, Raymond Zondo, held its first hearing in August and is due to finish next year. The inquiry is a rare example of an African leader being brought to book soon after losing power. —Reuters

Tombs riddle could see Vatican's efforts to find teen backfire

VATICAN CITY: The Vatican's attempts to help the family of an Italian teenager who went missing 36 years ago have merely deepened the mystery surrounding her fate, and risk backfiring, analysts say. Emanuela Orlandi, the daughter of a Vatican employee, was last seen leaving a music class in Rome aged 15, and theories have circulated for decades about who took her and where her body might lie. Two tombs at the Teutonic Cemetery in the Vatican were opened last week after an anonymous tip-off that they might contain her remains.

But in a surprise twist, not only was there no trace of Orlandi, the remains of two princesses believed to have been buried there were gone too. The Vatican immediately promised an inquiry, saying the bones may have been moved during work on the cemetery and Pontifical Teutonic College during the 1960s and 1970s. This weekend it announced it had found two ossuaries placed under a trapdoor inside the college.

They will be opened Saturday by forensic scientists and in the presence of an expert appointed by the Orlandi family. The latest development sent conspiracy theorists into overdrive again, with some smelling a cover-up by the Vatican. "Most Vatican personnel aren't cunning criminal masterminds from a James Bond movie, and sustaining a highly intricate conspiracy is, frankly, almost always beyond their mettle," Vatican expert John Allen said in religious news site Cruxnow.

'Knew tombs empty'

However, he adds: "As long as people believe the Vatican has something to hide when it comes to two 19th century princesses, and a vanished girl, it's that much harder to believe 'All the Pope's Men' about something serious. "For instance, the clerical sexual



LABUHA, Indonesia: Indonesian people stay out of their homes following 7.3 magnitude earthquake in Labuha, North Maluku. —AFP

abuse crisis and Pope Francis' ongoing efforts to promote reform". The Vatican's communications director Andrea Tornielli insisted the graves had been opened out of "Christian closeness to the Orlandi family" and "certainly not - as has been said - (in) an admission by the Vatican of a possible involvement in the concealment of a corpse". That was not enough to satisfy doubters however, particularly after Orlandi's brother Pietro, who has spent his adult life searching for his missing sibling, told media he had been warned hours before that the tombs would be empty. Orlandi urged the Vatican to question Francesca Chaouqui, a PR consultant who had worked in the tiny state and was mixed up in a separate scandal.

Chaouqui was convicted last year of leaking classified documents to journalists at the end of a highly embarrassing trial dubbed Vatileaks II. She was defended by Laura Sgro, who is the Orlandi's family lawyer. Orlandi told the Italian group Mediaset that Chaouqui called him the day before the tombs were opened to say they would be bare. "In an effort to cushion the latest disappointment (in his search), I told Pietro the tombs would be found empty. This is my only statement on the matter," Chaouqui wrote on Facebook on Friday. —AFP

All names in the family have been changed to protect their identities. Lama has spent half her lifetime held by IS, who forced her to convert to Islam and speak Arabic instead of her native Kurdish. During AFP's visit to her tent in the Khanke displacement camp in northwestern Iraq, Lama appeared engrossed in a mobile shooting game with her cousins Fadi and Karam, freed from IS around the same time.

Like the boys, Lama dressed in black and kept her hair short. The trio spoke Arabic to one another, switching to Kurdish when addressing her mother. "They're still brainwashed. When they're bored, they start talking about how they wish they were back with Daesh (IS)," said Nisrin, saying no psychologist had visited them.

Virtually every generation coming of age in Iraq has been seared by conflict, presenting an "unprecedented" challenge, said Laila Ali of the UN children's agency. UNICEF does not know exactly how many children IS recruited, how many returned or where they live. It estimates that 1,324 children in total were abducted by armed actors in Iraq between January 2014 and December 2017, when Baghdad declared IS defeated, but expects the real number is higher. —AFP

In Iraq, minority children haunted by ghosts of IS

KHANKE DISPLACEMENT CAMP: Brainwashed and broken, the Islamic State group's youngest victims are struggling to recover from years of jihadist captivity as they return to their own traumatized minority communities in Iraq. Dozens of Yazidi and Turkmen children were rescued in recent months as IS's "caliphate", notorious for its use of child soldiers and "sex slaves", collapsed in Syria.

Many have been reunited with their families, but their mental recovery has been slowed by prolonged displacement, a lack of resources, and a milieu accustomed to fearing, not forgiving, IS members. Lama, a 10-year-old Yazidi girl, has repeatedly threatened to stab herself or jump from a tall building in the few months since she returned to Iraq. "I fear she'll never be like other Yazidi children," said her mother Nisrin, 34.

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International

Britain sees a 'small window' to salvage Iran nuclear deal

With Iran deal teetering on brink, Europeans assess next steps

BRUSSELS: Britain said yesterday there was a "small window" of time to save the Iran nuclear deal, as Tehran signaled it would ramp up its nuclear program - seen by the West as a cover for making atomic bombs - if Europe failed to do more to salvage the pact. US-Iranian tensions have worsened since US President Donald Trump decided last year to abandon the nuclear deal under which Iran agreed to curtail its atomic program in return for relief from economic sanctions crippling its economy.

"Iran is still a good year away from developing a nuclear bomb. There is still some closing, but small window to keep the deal alive," Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told reporters on arrival for a foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels. The Brussels gathering will seek to flesh out how to convince Iran and the United States to reduce tensions and start a dialogue amid fears that the 2015 deal is close to collapse.

In reaction to the re-imposition of tough US sanctions, which have notably targeted Iran's main oil revenue stream, Tehran has cut some of its nuclear commitments under the deal, leading the European parties to the pact, France, Britain and Germany, to warn it about not fully complying with the terms. When asked whether European powers would seek to penalize Iran for breaking parts of its nuclear commitments, Hunt said they would seek a meeting of the parties to deal with it.

"We will and there's something called a joint commission, which is the mechanism set up in the deal which is what happens when one side thinks the other side has breached it, that will happen very soon," he said. Iran denies ever having sought a nuclear weapon. In Tehran, Iran's nuclear agency said Iran would return to the situation before the nuclear deal unless European countries fulfilled their obligations.

'Give diplomacy a chance'

"These actions are not taken out of stubbornness but to give diplomacy a chance so the other side comes on its own and fulfills its duties," agency spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. "And if the Europeans and America don't want to fulfill their commitments we will create a balance in this deal by reducing commitments and return the situation to four years ago." Iran says the European countries must do more to guarantee it the economic benefits it was meant to receive in return for curbs to its nuclear program under the deal.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Europe had to stay united in trying to save the deal, and Tehran should reverse its decision not to comply with parts of it. "For us it's important now to remain in dialogue and to contribute to de-escalation," Germany's Europe Minister Michael Roth said echoing Le Drian. France, Germany and Britain have

sought to defuse the tensions, which culminated in a plan for US air strikes on Iran last month that Trump called off at the last minute.

French President Emmanuel Macron dispatched his top diplomat to Tehran last week to offer suggestions on how to freeze the current status quo to gain some time. Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, whose country is currently holding the EU Council presidency, said there would be a strong message for Iran. "Iran should stick to its commitments on the JCPOA (Iran deal). We don't accept the latest news that they are exceeding the limits of enriched materials," he said.

Trade mechanism

The Europeans are trying to set up their Instex mechanism, a conduit for barter-based trade with Iran, but an equivalent Iranian system has yet to start. Should the mechanism go ahead it would initially only deal in products such as pharmaceuticals and foods, which are not subject to US sanctions.

Diplomats have that in any case they fear US blowback, while Iran has repeatedly said Instex must include oil sales or provide substantial credit facilities for it to be beneficial. "We will do what we can to guarantee that there is no economic embargo against Iran and that European companies can continue working there," Josep Borrell, Spain's Foreign Minister and EU foreign chief nominee told reporters.



BRUSSELS: Britain's Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt (2nd left) talks with Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok (left) and Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz (right) during a Foreign Affairs meeting at the EU headquarters in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

"It's very difficult because US laws applied in an extraterritorial manner, in a way that we don't recognise, make it difficult," he said, adding that Spain would join the Instex mechanism. Rouhani on Sunday reiterated Tehran's

stance that it would be ready to negotiate if the US lifted sanctions and returned to the nuclear deal. Trump has shown no sign of backing down for now. "The deal is on the brink," said a European diplomat. — Reuters

News in brief

4 die as train, car crash

AVENAY-VAL-D'OR: Three children and an adult were killed when a train smashed into their car yesterday at a level crossing in eastern France, the mayor of the local town said. Four people aboard the regional train were injured in the crash in Avenay-Val-d'Or in the Marne region, while the driver of the train is in shock, mayor Philippe Maussire told AFP at the scene. Maussire said that according to initial indications, the car driven by a female child carer with the three children as passengers had driven into the level crossing when the barrier was closed. The train linking the city of Reims with Epernay crashed into the car, he added. Reims prosecutors have opened an investigation but have yet to issue a statement. — AFP

May boogies to Abba

LONDON: Theresa May boogied away one of her last weekends as British prime minister, showing off some of her famously awkward dance moves to Abba hits such as "Dancing Queen" and "Mamma Mia" at a festival. In a video clip, she is shown dancing at the Henley Festival as her husband and other men in black tie swing their arms to the tunes. May, whose premiership was riven by crises over Brexit and who was cast as robotic by opponents, occasionally sought to bring some humor to the job by performing dances in public. She last year danced with school children in South Africa and then grooved onto stage at the Conservative Party conference to "Dancing Queen" - exhibiting a puzzling robotic hand movement that went viral on social media. — Reuters

Train collision kills 23

ISLAMABAD: The death toll from a train collision in central Pakistan rose to 23 yesterday after several people succumbed to their injuries overnight, officials said. The incident took place Thursday in Rahim Yar Khan district in Punjab province when a passenger train coming from the eastern city of Lahore rammed into a goods train that had stopped at a crossing. The accident saw mangled carriages flipped on their sides and left debris strewn by the sides of the tracks as rescuers used cranes to enable them to pick through some of the twisted wreckage. "According to the latest updates available with us, the death toll rose to 23 overnight after more people died of their wounds in different hospitals," a senior Pakistan Railways official said. He said a total of 73 people were still being treated for injuries. — AFP

Radio station threatened

KABUL: A private radio station in Afghanistan has shut down after numerous threats from a suspected Taliban commander who objected to women working as presenters, officials at the radio station said yesterday. The incident comes as the Taliban are discussing a peace deal with the United States that could see them re-joining mainstream society, and that has brought new scrutiny of their attitudes to issues like women's rights and the media. The private radio station, Samaa, has been broadcasting political, religious, social and entertainment programs in the central province of Ghazni since 2013. Its 13 employees, including three women presenters, broadcast in Afghanistan's two main languages - Dari and Pashto. The radio station's director, Ramez Azimi, said Taliban commanders in the area had sent written warnings and telephoned in, to tell the radio station to stop employing women. — Reuters

Families hide as US authorities launch immigration raids

CALIFORNIA: US authorities launched small-scale operations seeking to arrest undocumented immigrants over the weekend in an apparent start to President Donald Trump's vow to launch mass deportation round-ups across the United States. The operation, which Trump revealed on Twitter last month, then postponed before telling reporters on Friday that it would proceed, was expected to target hundreds of recently arrived families in about 10 cities who had been ordered deported by an immigration judge.

The removal operations are meant to deter a surge in Central American families fleeing poverty and gang violence in their home countries, with many seeking asylum in the United States. Immigrants and their advocates were bracing for mass arrests, but by Sunday night there were only reports of low-profile operations in a few cities.

"We are doing targeted enforcement actions against specific individuals who have had their day in immigration court and have been ordered removed by an immigration judge," Acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Matt Albence told Fox News when asked for an update. Mary Bauer at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) said there were no confirmed operations in large Southern cities such as Atlanta.

There also were no reports of arrests from the American Immigration Council, which has lawyers on standby to give legal advice at the country's largest family migrant detention center in Dilley, Texas. "Immigrants and immigrant communities all over the country are in hiding

US officials warn of floods, tornadoes as Barry weakens

MANDEVILLE: Barry weakened further on Sunday as the storm churned across the US state of Louisiana, bringing along heavy rains and the possibility of flooding and tornadoes. There have been no reported deaths so far in Louisiana or neighboring states from Barry, which had briefly become the first hurricane of the Atlantic season before the National Hurricane Center downgraded it to a tropical storm and then a tropical depression.

Still, as the storm moved inland on a northern track, it packed a serious punch. Louisianans kept a wary eye on rivers and canals badly swollen by the torrential rainfall, following an extraordinarily wet season farther up the Mississippi River. This is "the wettest year we've had since 1895," Major General Richard Kaiser, who heads the Mississippi River Commission, said on Fox News. He said the broad river is "the highest it's been for a long time" - just below flood stage.

Bands of heavy rain continued to lash New Orleans, the state's biggest city, but its airport was able to resume normal service after canceling all flights on Saturday. Fears that the levee system protecting New Orleans could be compromised eased. Mayor LaToya Cantrell, who a day earlier had urged residents not to be complacent, said in a news conference Sunday that "we absolutely made it through the storm. We are lucky; we were spared."

Dangers remain

As of 4:00 pm Sunday (2100 GMT), the storm's maximum sustained winds had dropped to 35 miles (55 kilometers) per hour. It was located north-northeast of Shreveport in western Louisiana, moving towards Arkansas, the National Hurricane Center said. "Further weakening is expected as the center moves farther inland, and Barry is forecast to degenerate into a remnant low pressure system by Monday night," the NHC said.

US Senator Bill Cassidy said of the storm on Fox News: "We have seen worse." Evacuation orders had already been lifted in several locales including Plaquemines Parish, south of New Orleans, where up to 10,000 residents had been under orders to leave.

But on Sunday, National Guard members were still laying down sand-filled barriers in a bid to contain flooding after "severely high water" overtopped levees in the

and people are living in these terrified, terrorized ways, because that is the point of this whole action, whether enforcement actions take place or not," said Bauer, the SPLC's deputy legal director.

'Lights off, blinds down'

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said there were three ICE operations in his city on Saturday, with no reported arrests. He said there was no ICE activity in New York on Sunday. "This is a political act by this president, he's politicized a United States government agency to help him win re-election," said de Blasio, a Democratic candidate for the 2020 presidential race. In Denver, the Colorado Rapid Response Network of immigration activists said there were unconfirmed reports of ICE or police detaining three people on Sunday in the Potter Highlands area.

The Miami-based Florida Immigrant Coalition said immigrants were sheltering at home after ICE agents were seen near the city's international airport. No arrests were reported. "They've been stocking up on groceries and making plans to stay in their homes with the lights off and the blinds down," the group posted on Facebook. "Some are staying home from work." An ICE spokeswoman declined to comment on operations, citing the safety of the agency's personnel.

Albence told Fox News that enforcement operations would target families who entered the country illegally then mostly failed to attend court hearings to pursue an asylum claim. Immigration rights activists have said that in many cases immigrants do not receive proper notice of their court dates. The operations came as the Trump administration faces criticism for housing immigrants in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions, and there are concerns about migrant children being separated from adults by US authorities.

"While we haven't heard of widespread sweeps, none of our communities should have to live in fear that parents



TEXAS: Jose, 27 (with his son Jose Daniel, 6) is searched by US Customs and Border Protection Agent Frank Pino in El Paso, Texas. — AFP

won't come home from work, or kids won't return from school," said Lauren Weiner, communications director for the American Civil Liberties Union, which sued this week to stop the arrests going ahead. In a typical week, ICE arrests thousands of immigrants who are staying in the country illegally, according to government data. Most of those arrests are made without advance publicity.

Amid protests outside ICE facilities, a 69-year-old gunman was shot dead by police early on Saturday after he attacked an immigration detention center in Tacoma, Washington and set fire to at least one vehicle outside. The suspect, who was armed with a rifle and incendiary devices, was identified on Sunday as Willem Van Spronsen, who was arrested last year for assaulting a police officer during a protest outside the same facility. — Reuters

French police arrest over 200 people after Algeria football win

PARIS: French police arrested over two hundred people on Sunday following Algeria's qualification for the final of the Africa Cup of Nations, which sparked scenes of joy as well as clashes with police in several large cities. Riotous celebrations erupted around France, which is home to large Algerian-origin communities, after the Algerian football team beat Nigeria 2-1 in the semi-final.

The interior ministry said 282 people had been arrested on Sunday night, "almost all" of them linked to the football match while some were detained on the sidelines of France's national Bastille Day celebrations. Fifty people were arrested in the French capital after clashes broke out between football fans and police on the Champs-Elysees avenue, which was littered with broken bikes and scooters on Monday morning.

There was also violence reported in Marseille and Lyon. After the final whistle, thousands of jubilant fans gathered in front of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, jumping and chanting "Long live Algeria." Many leaned out of car windows as they waved red, white and green flags, as police in helmets looked on. More than 200 people were disciplined for dangerous driving, Paris police said.

In the southern coastal city of Marseille, police attempted to stop football celebrations around the historic Old Port area where 15,000 people had gathered to watch Bastille Day fireworks. A few hundred fans of the "Fennecs", as the Algerian team is known, managed to reach the harbor after skipping police barriers. Officers ended up firing tear gas at fans who threw objects near the Porte d'Aix historic arch. Eight police officers suffered minor injuries, local authorities said.

In the eastern city of Lyon, dozens of cars were torched overnight. This often happens on the night of July 14 which celebrates the founding of the French republic. Interior Minister Christophe Castaner on Monday congratulated police and firemen for their "speedy reaction and professionalism" in response to the problems.

Of those arrested, 249 people were in custody yesterday. Paris and Marseille are home to large communities of French people of Algerian origin, a legacy of France's colonial rule in the gas-rich north African country. France's far-right National Rally party condemned the unrest, branding the celebrations the "July 14 of shame". — AFP



MANDEVILLE: Flood waters cover a neighborhood street after Tropical Storm Barry passed through in Mandeville, Louisiana. — AFP

Plaquemines town of Myrtle Grove, according to parish information officer Jade Duplessis. Pete Gaynor, acting administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told Fox that "there are still life-threatening conditions." "The rain is the threat," he added, noting that floodwaters farther up the engorged Mississippi will be moving south in coming days. Many coastal areas remained on alert. Tornadoes were possible in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee, the NHC said.

Rainfall estimates lowered further to between three and five inches over south-central Louisiana but rivers and canals are already near capacity. Across southern Louisiana, Barry's heavy winds scattered tree branches and knocked down power lines, leaving an estimated hundred thousand people without electricity. Reporters saw localized flooding and badly swollen waterways.

The eye of the storm made landfall Saturday at tiny Intracoastal City. Rivers overtopped their levees in several locations, including part of coastal Terrebonne Parish. The Atchafalaya River swallowed a waterfront pedestrian promenade in Morgan City. For many, the storm revived unpleasant memories of Hurricane Katrina. While thousands of Louisianans fled for safety as the storm approached, others hunkered down to ride it out, sometimes defying mandatory evacuation orders. — AFP

International

Monsoon batters South Asia; 14 killed in building collapse

Floods, landslides cause wreak deadly havoc

NEW DELHI: Fourteen people were killed when a building collapsed in northern India following heavy monsoon rains which have left more than 130 dead across South Asia, officials said yesterday. Floods and landslides caused by the annual deluge have wreaked deadly havoc from the Himalayan foothills to low-lying camps housing Rohingya refugees, with officials warning tolls could rise as they scramble to reach affected communities.

In Bangladesh, at least 29 people died in the last week, including 18 hit by lightning and seven who drowned after their boat capsized in choppy waters in the Bay of Bengal. Another 10 died in overcrowded Rohingya refugee camps in the southeast of the country, and thousands of shanty homes were destroyed.

In the latest monsoon-related tragedy in India, a four-storey building on a hillside in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh collapsed, trapping those who had gathered for a party inside. The structure-located near the popular tourist destination of Shimla-came down on Sunday following days of torrential downpours. Rescue workers used heavy machinery to remove heaps of mangled steel and concrete from the muddled debris, and pulled 28 survivors from the rubble.

A statement from the state Chief Minister's office said 14 people died, all but one of whom were soldiers. One soldier pulled from the rubble said they had gathered for a party in the building's restaurant, "but suddenly the building shook and collapsed". Such incidents are common

across the region during the monsoon because dilapidated structures buckle under the weight of continuous rain. In neighboring Nepal, police said at least 67 have been killed in floods and landslides, while 30 more are missing.

Danger levels

The June to September monsoon causes widespread death and destruction across South Asia each year. In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, officials said at least 23 people were killed after heavy rain triggered flash floods and damaged more than 50 houses. Floods have also devastated much of the north-eastern Indian state of Assam where four people died on Sunday after being swept away by sudden torrents.

The state's Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO-recognized reserve and home to two-thirds of the world's one-horned rhinos, has also been seriously affected by the weather. In the eastern state of Bihar, five rivers were flowing over danger levels with more rain forecast over the next few days. The downpours have eased in Nepal but authorities still fear the death toll could rise, said police spokesman Bishwaraj Pokharel, who gave the latest number of dead and missing from floods and landslides.

"There are the challenges of resettlement of the displaced as many houses... have been swept away. We are also cautious about the risk of epidemics due to polluted water," Pokharel said. In Pakistan-administered Kashmir,

More than
130 killed
across
South Asia



NEELUM VALLEY: Pakistani Kashmiri walk along a damaged road following heavy monsoon rains in Neelum valley near the Line of Control in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir yesterday. — AFP

officials also warned the death toll could increase as rescuers struggle to reach affected areas, and with the floods badly damaging communications. Meanwhile Delhi, which

has been grappling with hot and humid conditions, saw its dry spell broken yesterday as long-awaited rain and winds hit the Indian capital. — AFP

Key questions; flight MH17 remembered

THE HAGUE: Five years ago (tomorrow), Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was blasted out of the sky over war-torn eastern Ukraine with the loss of all 298 people on board. The shooting down of the Boeing 777 travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur has prompted sanctions against Russia, a series of international investigations and criminal charges. Here are five questions about the July 17, 2014 disaster:

What happened?

About three hours after take-off from Schiphol airport, MH17 disappeared off the radar screens as it passed over part of eastern Ukraine held by pro-Russian rebels, where conflict had been underway for months. Wreckage rained down on fields near the village of Grabovo, leaving the bodies of men women and children, some still strapped into their seats, strewn across local sunflower fields. Of the 283 passengers, 196 were Dutch and 38 Australian. There were 15 crew. The tragedy was the second in the space of a few months for Malaysia Airlines after the disappearance of flight MH370.

How did the world react?

The shooting down of MH17 sparked international outrage. Then-US president Barack Obama blamed a Russian-made BUK surface-to-air missile system and stressed that it was fired from territory controlled by separatists. Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko called it a "terrorist act". Moscow immediately disputed their claims and offered an array of competing theories, including that the Boeing was shot down by a Ukrainian fighter jet or a Ukrainian BUK. Western nations slapped stinging sanctions on Russia after the incident, toughening measures imposed after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in March 2014. The EU extended the sanctions last month, urging Russia to cooperate with the investigation.

What have investigations found?

Dutch-led investigations into the disaster over the past five years have meticulously narrowed down the cause of the disaster, and the culprits. The Dutch Safety Board said in September 2014 MH17 broke apart after being hit by numerous "high speed objects". In August 2015 it said it



GRABOVO: File photo shows part of the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 at the crash site in the village of Grabovo (Grabovo), some 80km east of Donetsk. — AFP

had identified large fragments "probably" from a BUK surface-air-missile system, which is possessed by both Moscow and Kiev. In October of the same year it concluded that the plane was shot down by a missile fired from eastern Ukraine which exploded "outside the airplane against the left-hand side of the cockpit". A criminal Joint Investigation Team (JIT) of five countries led by the Dutch then took over the probe, and in September 2016 they said they had "irrefutable evidence" that a BUK missile was used and came from the "territory of the Russian Federation". In May 2018 investigators said for the first time that the missile originated from the 53rd Russian military brigade based in Kursk in western Russia. The Netherlands and Australia then said that they held Russia responsible for the shooting down of MH17.

Who has been charged?

The JIT on June 19 charged four people - Russians Igor

Girkin, Sergei Dubinskiy and Oleg Pulatov, and Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko - with murder. All are linked to the separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. They will be tried from March 9 next year in the Netherlands at a high-security courthouse near Schiphol Airport. However it is unlikely that any of the men will be present at the trial as neither Russia nor Ukraine allows its citizens to be extradited. Russian President Vladimir Putin said the probe showed "no proof" of Moscow's guilt.

What happens next?

The JIT has said it will investigate other suspects, particularly those in the "chain of command" of the BUK, and the four-member crew that operated the missile that downed MH17. Separately hundreds of relatives have asked the European Court of Human Rights based in Strasbourg to recognize Russia's responsibility for the crash. Russia has until late summer to respond. — AFP

Mass killing in PNG escalates tribal war

SYDNEY: Authorities in Papua New Guinea have boosted security to prevent a further escalation of tribal violence, officials said yesterday, after at least 24 people were killed in a troubled upland region earlier this month. The country's highland clans have fought each other for centuries, but last week's discovery of bodies, mostly belonging to women and children, marked a deadly departure from a cycle of killing in which the vulnerable are usually off limits.

PNG's new police minister Bryan Kramer said immediate intervention was needed in Hela province - a rugged region in the west of the country - to prevent the latest bout of violence becoming the new norm. "Last week's merciless killings has changed everything," Kramer said in a Facebook post on his return from the affected region. Kramer said the decades-old conflict between two tribes had spiraled following the murder of a tribesman in June, and led to the massacre of women and children which he described as "the worst pay back killing in our country's history".

A defense force platoon and a mobile police squad had been stationed at a local primary school "to provide around the clock security, to prevent any further escalation of violence", he added. Authorities would engage "drone tech-



HELA: Photo shows dead bodies lined up on a road in Hela province. — AFP

nology and satellite surveillance" to track down perpetrators who are believed to have fled the area, Kramer said. The incident has shocked both the nation and the recently appointed Prime Minister, James Marape, whose constituency includes the district where the killings occurred.

Marape has vowed to find the killers, and noted that the death penalty was "already a law". Alili Urr, who lost his wife, a child and nine other family members in the killings told local media he was not seeking revenge but wanted authorities to take action. "I'm calling on the provincial government to get all of us to a neutral area and ask why have these killings gone on like this?" he told the National newspaper. "We, the remaining 500 villagers, need to be relocated because we will not stay here," he added, fearing further violence. — AFP

Fake polio markers highlight the risks to Pakistan vaccination

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's polio eradication campaign has hit serious problems with an alarming spike in reported cases that has raised doubts over the quality of vaccination reporting and prompted officials to review their approach to stopping the crippling disease. The country is one of only three in the world where polio is endemic, along with neighboring Afghanistan and Nigeria, but vaccination campaigns have cut the disease sharply, with only a dozen cases last year compared with 306 in 2014 and more than 350,000 in 1988, according to Pakistani health officials.

However, there has been a worrying jump this year, with 41 cases recorded, 33 of them in the northwestern region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where many people resent what they see as intrusive and coercive vaccination campaigns often involving repeated rounds of visits, officials say. Just as alarming for health services, environmental sampling has shown the presence of the virus in areas across the country, a clear sign of gaps in vaccination, which must cover the entire population to be effective.

Hopes that transmission of the disease could be ended this year have been abandoned. "We need to take the bull by the horns and accept there are problems," said Babar Atta, Prime Minister Imran Khan's point person on polio eradication. As well as the difficulty in reaching very remote areas and keeping track of people moving through big cities like Karachi, there have been problems in collecting reliable data, exacerbated

by resistance to efforts to force vaccination. Efforts to eradicate the disease have for years been undermined by opposition from some Islamists, who say immunization is a foreign ploy to sterilize Muslim children or a cover for Western spies. Local officials say parents suspicious of mass immunization campaigns have been getting hold of special markers, used by health workers to put a colored spot on the little fingers of children who have been vaccinated.

"They themselves would mark the fingers of their children, in case of any official visit to countercheck the vaccinated children," one official associated with an international organization told Reuters in the northwestern city of Peshawar. Officials estimate that so-called fake finger marking, sometimes in collusion with health workers, is hiding the true scale of refusal rates - and thus gaps in vaccination.

In some areas, as many as 8% of families may be refusing or avoiding vaccination, a level which would mean the disease is not eradicated. A senior official of the Health Department in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said the exact data had been deliberately hidden by local health authorities nervous of being blamed for failing to ensure full coverage. "And the result of hiding figures had led us to face an epidemic-like situation today," he said. Polio, a disease transmitted through sewage which can cause crippling paralysis particularly in young children, is incurable and remains a threat to human health as long as it has not been eradicated. — Reuters

'They bombed our livelihoods': Lanka tourism struggles

UNWATUNA: Pearl Divers, a diving school on one of Sri Lanka's most popular southern beaches, shut shop for two months after suicide bombers attacked churches and hotels on the island on Easter Sunday, killing about 250 people. It had no customers as tourists cancelled holidays, and its manager Nuwan Harshana says he took two months leave and a pay cut.

Last week, he dusted off the diving equipment and boats, used to carry scuba enthusiasts off the shore of Unawatuna beach, in the hope that foreigners will start to trickle into the country again and the shop can slowly build back to the \$800 a day in revenue it made before the attacks. But there is no sign of any quick upturn in his fortunes.

"Everything was good before April. Now that situation is finished ... there are no customers," said Harshana, who said he is worried about earning enough to look after his wife and two children, while also meeting his monthly loan payments. The economy of Sri Lanka, a sun-drenched island in the Indian Ocean, depends heavily on the \$4.4 billion tourism industry. Small businesses like Pearl Divers have been on the rise since the nation's civil war ended in 2009 and tourists poured in.

But after the bombings in April, tourist arrivals slumped 70% in May and 57% in June from a year earlier. Many small businesses, that employ thousands, are now either forced to lay off staff or have them work for minimal pay. This is already having a domino effect on the economy, further hitting consumer demand. The government has introduced a series of measures to boost tourism, including lowering airport charges, cutting taxes on jet fuel and pushing hotels to offer discounts. It is planning to relax visa rules for residents of a number of countries.

It has also asked banks to lower lending rates and give loan moratoriums. But the relief is yet to reach many small businesses that make up the backbone of the economy. "Clearly it took banks a bit of time to gear up for it ... As they had to work out the decision making process," central bank governor Indrajit Coomaraswamy said on Thursday.

Dilum Ranjana, who owns a foot spa in the fort city of Galle in the south, said he had to fire three of seven employees and postpone plans to open a second branch because he was getting hardly any income in the past couple of months. "It is not easy to get a loan, there is a lot of paperwork and bureaucracy," said Ranjana, who has monthly expenses of \$2,300 in rent, bills and salaries. He said he has so far made \$570 in July, a tenth of what he did last year. "All my plans are lost, they are ruined," he said.

Rising bad loans

Tourism was the third largest and fastest growing source of foreign currency for Sri Lanka last year, and accounted for 4.9 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018. The government expects a shortfall of \$800-900 million in tourism revenue this year, which will widen its current account deficit to 3% of GDP from the 2.3% it had earlier expected, a top central bank official said. The central bank has also slashed its growth forecast for the year to 3% from 4% earlier. "The main concern is rising non-performing loans due to sluggish economic growth after the attacks," the official said.

When the diving business was booming, Harshana said he took a loan of \$57,000 in 2017 to convert an old house into a no-frills hostel which earned him \$114 a night from tourists in peak season. It is currently closed because he has no bookings.

After letting him postpone loan payments of \$630 for both May and June, the bank is giving no such concession for July, he said. "I have to manage with my savings but I don't have much. People like us, we rise slowly but the fall is sudden," he said. The island received 2.5 million foreign tourists last year and with Lonely Planet magazine endorsing it as 2019's top destination, the government was hoping to draw in more than 3 million this year. — Reuters

Analysis

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Tech entrepreneurs seek to shatter stereotypes about women in farming

When Oluwayimika Angel Adelaja-Kuye started Nigeria's first vertical farming company she already had years of experience advising governments under her belt - yet as a woman, she still struggled to be taken seriously. "In the beginning, even my staff, when they first come on board, are more likely to listen to my husband before me," said the founder of Fresh Direct Nigeria, which grows vegetables hydroponically - farming in water instead of soil.

"These challenges make you hungrier," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Women make up nearly half the global workforce in farming, but many say their contribution has long gone unrecognized, particularly in developing countries. Adelaja-Kuye is among a small but growing group of women entrepreneurs who are helping to change that, many using new technologies to produce food in more sustainable ways.

The 35-year-old, who started farming in the heart of the Nigerian capital Abuja in 2015 and uses shipping containers, said she wanted to support those who did not conform to the stereotype of the poor, uneducated subsistence farmer. Four of the six staff at her farm are young women who previously worked as household help. "I want young people to see agriculture as a solution for them, one that makes good money," she said. "If I'm changing the narrative of who a farmer is, I'm happy with that."

She has that in common with Awa Caba, a computer scientist who co-founded a platform for Senegalese women farmers to sell their produce online. Caba's company Sooretul - meaning "it's not far" - sells more than 400 products from about 2,800 rural women online. "My background is not agriculture," she said. "But it's more sensitive for me to use my knowledge as a woman to target underprivileged groups, and give them more access and income."

"My vision is to have a pan-African e-commerce platform where you can find different agricultural products produced by women in Africa." Sarah Nolet, who works as a consultant to the agricultural technology industry, said more and more women were getting involved in the growing sector. "When you take agriculture, it's male dominated, and tech is often male dominated," said Nolet, the Sydney-based chief executive of AgThentic, which consults on innovation in food and farming. "So you would think AgTech would be worse. But we actually see, especially in Australia, a lot of female founders starting AgTech companies."

Investment gap

Globally, women make up 43 percent of the agricultural workforce, but they tend to have less access to land, credit, technical advice and quality seeds, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). If women farmers had the same access to resources as men, they could increase yields by 20 percent to 30 percent, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has said. But much depends on having the right role models. "We have to change mindsets and show women in lucrative, high-value markets, with access to technology, and innovation," said Tacko Ndiaye, the FAO's senior gender officer.

In 2018, companies working on food and agricultural technology globally raised a record \$16.9 billion, according to AgFunder, a San Francisco-based online investment platform for these businesses. Yet estimates based on available gender information show only 4% of that went to start-ups with one or more female founders, said Louisa Burwood-Taylor, head of media & research at AgFunder.

"However you slice the data, there's clearly a very big gap in the level of female entrepreneurship in food and agriculture technology," she said. "The reasons for this gap are broad including educational and investment biases, so we are investigating how they can be overcome." Benjamina Bollag, who co-founded Britain-based Higher Steaks with stem cell scientist Stephanie Wallis, is among those who did receive funding - at least \$200,000 since setting up 18 months ago.

Higher Steaks hopes to bring laboratory-grown pork to consumers within the next three years. Several companies are seeking to produce cell-based meat, promising less waste and dramatically fewer greenhouse gas emissions than livestock, but most are focusing on beef or poultry. Bollag said being a woman in a male-dominated industry had its difficulties, but added, "there are times when it was helpful too, where people were like, 'actually, we want to diversify so we will pick you.'" Ensuring women's voices are heard in farming was a key motivation for Rose Funja, whose company uses aerial surveillance to help farmers in Tanzania avoid crop losses to insects, disease and other pests. Funja, one of the country's only female drone pilots, said she made a point of going to farms in person because that was the best way to meet the women who worked on cultivating the crop while the men tended to focus on sales. — Reuters

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People play with soap bubbles in the Gardens of Trocadero in front of the Eiffel Tower on July 13, 2019 in Paris. — AFP

Social businesses take tourists off beaten path

With its panoramic, riverside views and perfectly Instagrammable interiors, on first appearances, the Good Hotel seems to be another of London's many trendy boutiques. But the neon sign "Sleep Good, Do Good," on the floating hotel's entrance wall is not just a backdrop to guests' selfies - it signals the company's mission as a social enterprise: To give back to the community as well as make a profit. "Hotels are often internationally owned, and often times filled with people who are quite far removed from the local setting," said the hotel's founder, Marten Dresen. "They mostly serve people who are not local to them."

Ethical tourism is increasingly popular among socially conscious travellers who want to minimise their environmental footprint and boost local economies, rather than global hotel chains or cruise companies that repatriate their profits. Growing numbers of people are on the move, with 1.4 billion international tourists in 2018 according to United Nations data - equal to the population of China - up 53 percent in a decade, as travel becomes cheaper and easier.

Yet locals often bear the brunt of overcrowding in popular sites, pollution caused by cruise ships or soaring rents driven up by tourists paying more for accommodation via sites like Airbnb. London's container-like Good Hotel started out as a detention centre for illegal immigrants in the Netherlands before becoming a pop-up hotel in Amsterdam in 2015 and then towed up the River Thames by tug boats in 2016 to its new home.

Situated in East London's Royal Docks, where ships unloaded their cargo a century ago, the 148-room Good Hotel invests all of its profits in training and education to create jobs and opportunities for locals in one of the city's poorest areas. "The more we grow as a business, the more we can reinvest," said Dresen, who runs a similar Good Hotel in Antigua, a city in the highlands of Guatemala, with a scheme to train and hire single mothers and provide apprenticeships for local schools. More than 80 London

locals who struggled to find work have completed the Good Hotel's four-month hospitality training scheme since 2016. Almost all are now in full-time jobs, including nine who work at the hotel.

Good path

Shaquene Wilson set her sights on working at the Good Hotel after her mother completed the training course and got a job in the kitchen. Two years on, Wilson is one of the senior bar staff, and managers have made sure her shifts do not clash with her mother's so they can share the care of Wilson's young daughter. "The job means so much to me. I feel very comfortable here," Wilson told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We are definitely on a good path and helping others."

The funding for the training schemes is included in the Good Hotel's operating costs, and the business donates any profits after that to its charity partner Ninos de Guatemala. It has given more than \$100,000 to the charity, which runs three schools for poor Guatemalan children, and was founded by Dresen during a 2006 trip but is no longer run by him. London's Good Hotel sources food and drink locally where possible, offers Newham residents a 20 percent discount in its bar and restaurant, and occasionally hosts open bar events for them.

But many guests do not know about its social business model until they check in, choosing to stay at the hotel because of its proximity to London City Airport and the ExCeL centre, host to events such as the 2009 G20 summit and the London Boat Show. Of the five guests the Thomson Reuters Foundation spoke to, just one knew it was a social enterprise before he booked. As a frequent traveller for work, Brad Garrison, an IT executive from Staffordshire in central England, said he seeks out businesses like the Good Hotel when he travels. "Places like this feel less price gouging - it is cheap for London and the quality is high," he said.

Unusual experiences

It is not just locals that want a different kind of tourism - consumers are starting to demand it. "Travellers are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that they are contributing to environmental issues by travelling around the world," said Marloes de Vries, a travel analyst from British research firm, Mintel. "Travellers are increasingly seeking novel activities that enable them to get 'under the skin' of the destination, or unusual experiences outside of the parameters of traditional mass tourism."

Planeterra Foundation is a Canadian charity that seeks to tap into this growing demand for purpose-driven travel. Founded by adventure travel company G-Adventures in 2003, Planeterra describes itself as an incubator, helping to fund and establish 75 social enterprises, including cultural experiences and souvenir makers, in 42 global tourist destinations.

In Peru's Sacred Valley of the Incas, for example, it helped establish a social enterprise restaurant, Parwa, for groups to have a traditional meal as part of a tour of the famed ancient ruins of Machu Picchu. Tourism to Machu Picchu over the past decade has surged to more than 1 million visitors in 2018, with a ticketing system in place to regulate the stream of tourists. Aside from local souvenir sellers, porters and cooks who accompany tour groups, "very little money goes into the community from tourism," said Jamie Sweeting, president of Planeterra.

The off the beaten path restaurant - which employs 65 people, sources local products, sells souvenirs from local artisans and reinvests its profits in community projects - hosts about 16,000 tourists a year. "We are trying to ... take advantage of tourism volume to some of these places, but spread the wealth to people that aren't necessarily benefiting from that tourism," Sweeting said. "The tourism industry, when done right, has the phenomenal ability to raise people up ... It has made tremendous strides in getting more responsible, but there is a long way for us to go as an industry." — Reuters

Robots to install telescopes to peer into cosmos from the moon

As the United States races to put humans back on the moon for the first time in 50 years, a NASA-funded lab in Colorado aims to send robots there to deploy telescopes that will look far into our galaxy, remotely operated by orbiting astronauts. The radio telescopes, to be planted on the far side of the moon, are among a plethora of projects underway by the US space agency, private companies and other nations that will transform the moonscape in the coming decade.

"This is not your grandfather's Apollo program that we're looking at," said Jack Burns, director of the Network for Exploration and Space Science at the University of Colorado, which is working on the telescope project. "This is really a very different kind of program and very importantly it's going to involve machines and humans working together," Burns said in an interview at his lab on the Boulder campus.

Sometime in the coming decade, Burns' team will send a rover aboard a lunar lander spacecraft to the far side of the moon. The rover will rumble across the craggy and rough surface - featuring a mountain taller than any on earth - to set up a network of radio telescopes with little help from humans. Astronauts will be able to control the rover's single robotic arm from an orbital lunar outpost called Gateway, which an international consortium of space agencies is building. The platform will provide access to and from the moon's surface and serve as a refueling station for deep space missions.

The goal is to give astronauts control of the rover "in a quicker fashion and more like doing some sort of video game," said Ben Mellinkoff, a graduate student at the university. His project is telebotics, or using artificial intelligence to give users better control over robotic movements from afar. "It has a lot of potential, especially applied toward space exploration," he says.

The rover, being built at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., will plant the shoeboxed telescopes on the moon's regolith - the dust, soil and broken rock that covers its surface. Unfettered by the noisy radio interference and light that hinders Earth-bound space observations, the telescopes will

peer into the cosmic void, looking back in time to the early formation of our solar system, Burns says.

Robot prototype

Working out of a small lab on the Boulder campus, Mellinkoff and two fellow graduate students have built a prototype of the robot named Armstrong (named for the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong). It is made from computer parts and powered by two modified portable cell phone chargers. On a recent visit, Mellinkoff controlled the robotic arm using an X-box gaming controller, driving it toward an assortment of shoe-sized objects created with 3-D printing and resembling the radio telescopes to be planted on the moon.

"It's really going to be a platform for us to start different science studies that we couldn't do from the surface of Earth," said Keith Tauscher, a physics graduate student. Tauscher is working on a lunar orbiter designed to take advantage of the radio silence of the far side of the moon to discover when the first stars and black-holes formed during the formation of the universe. The lab has dubbed this mission "the Dark Ages Polarimeter Pathfinder, or "DAPPER."

The work in Boulder and elsewhere underscores NASA's plan to build a lasting presence on the moon, unlike the fleeting Apollo missions in the 1960s and '70s. Vice President Mike Pence in March announced an accelerated timeline to put humans on the moon in 2024 "by any means necessary," cutting the agency's previous 2028 goal in half and putting researchers and companies into overdrive in the new space race.

The Americans are not alone in their latest moon quest, unlike a half-century ago. In January, the China National Space Administration landed a spacecraft on the far side of the moon, with a long-term aim of building a base on the moon. India was scheduled to send a rover to the moon this month. Another key difference between the Apollo program and the Artemis program, as NASA chief Jim Bridenstine named the new lunar initiative in May, is bringing in help from commercial partners such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin. Those companies are working to slash the cost of rocket launches with a longer-term ambition of doing their own projects on the moon and eventually Mars.

"It's a new way of operating in which the private sector is intimately entangled with NASA," Burns said. He predicts that in roughly 20 years, the moon will be dotted with inflatable hotels for deep-pocketed tourists and mining sites where robotic drills dig under the moon's south pole for frozen water that can be synthesized into rocket fuel for missions back to Earth or further out to Mars. — Reuters

As election nears, are economic stars aligning for Macri?

Argentine President Mauricio Macri is making an election race comeback, bolstered by a stronger peso and glimmers of economic revival as the South American nation looks to escape from a biting recession. That had looked unlikely a few months ago with the peso at record lows, bonds yields spiking and inflation out of control, hurting the centre-right leader ahead of October elections seen as a referendum on his austerity economics.

Since then, a decision by ex-president Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner not to run has calmed investor fears about a return to unchecked populism, while a dovish turn by the US Federal Reserve has supported emerging market currencies like the peso. Macri's tight monetary policy - enforced as part of a major financing deal with the International Monetary Fund last year - has also finally helped to get inflation in check.

The effect has been dramatic. Argentina's currency has strengthened around 10 percent against the dollar since its April nadir, the equities market is at a record high, bond yields have tumbled and interest rates are slowly retreating. Recent polls now show Macri gaining strength and a handful have him even edging out Peronist Alberto Fernandez, now seen as his main rival with Kirchner as his running mate, in a possible election run-off after the first round on Oct 27. "The last two months have been very good news for the government," said Thomaz Favaro, regional director at consultancy Control Risks. "It's now a much more benign situation for Macri."

The latest data from a closely-watched index by the Torcuato Di Tella University showed consumer confidence, which reached a more than 15-year low earlier in 2019, spiked in June to its highest level in more than a year. Daniel Elsztein, director of IRSA Commercial Properties which operates the Argentina's biggest shopping malls, said exchange rate stability and government stimulus measures such low- or zero-interest credit had noticeably bolstered shoppers. "The change we're seeing in our numbers at the end of the day is really big," he told Reuters.

The country's benchmark interest rate, set by daily auctions of short-term "Leliq" notes, has also been edging down since May from a high of nearly 75 percent to under 60 percent this month for the first time since March. High interest rates have helped prop up the peso by encouraging investments in the currency, but strangled economic growth and companies' ability to borrow. — Reuters

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Zain receives M&O Data Center Certification from Uptime Institute

First telecom in Kuwait to receive this prestigious certification



Zain Kuwait's CEO Eaman Al Roudhan with the company's team

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, received the M&O (Management and Operation) Data Center Certification by Uptime Institute - the IT industry's most trusted and adopted global standard for the proper design, build and operation of data centers, making it the first telecom operator in Kuwait and the third in the region to receive this prestigious certification.

Zain's certification by one of the world's leading advisory organizations comes to demonstrate the company's leadership and commitment in adopting the highest international standards for its data center, which ultimately reflects on the quality and efficiency of its services targeted at the Enterprise Segment within the Kuwaiti market.

Zain's reception of this certification makes it the first telecom operator in the Kuwaiti market and the third across the region to receive this prestigious certification. This achievement will improve Zain's positioning in the Enterprise Segment by proving that its data center is the most efficient and sustainable in the market. This accomplishment also comes in line with the company's digital transformation strategy that aims at empowering a more efficient business sector.

The M&O (Management and Operation) Data Center Certification - issued by Uptime Institute for over 1000 data centers around the world - certifies that Zain's data center is up to the highest international standards in regards to its service reliability and consistency, as well as its operational

excellence. Zain's data center was evaluated based on a number of standards and criteria, including its reliability as a service, up to date equipment, low risk, low human error, reduced downtime, operational efficiency, and more.

Zain stressed that it follows strict procedures when it comes to implementing international standards within all its operations. In line with maintaining and adapting high international standards, Zain Kuwait also has been awarded with ISO certificates on Quality (9001:2015), Environmental (14001:2015) and Information Security (27001:2013) which ensure that the organization meets the requirements for standardization and quality assurance in those fields.

Receiving such international certifications affirms the company's efforts in imple-

menting effective policies and procedures to ensure its systems and operations are up to the best standards. Zain's commitment in implementing such standards reflects its keenness on offering the most efficient services to the Enterprise Segment as well as continuously developing its services in line with its digital transformation strategy.

Uptime Institute is an unbiased advisory organization focused on improving the performance, efficiency, and reliability of business critical infrastructure through innovation, collaboration, and independent certifications. Uptime Institute serves all stakeholders responsible for IT service availability through industry leading standards, education, peer-to-peer networking, consulting, and award programs delivered to enterprise organizations and third-party

operators, manufacturers, and providers. Uptime Institute is recognized globally for the creation and administration of the Tier Standards & Certifications for Data Center Design, Construction, and Operational Sustainability along with its Management & Operations reviews, FORCSS(r) methodology, accredited training programs and the Efficient IT Stamp of Approval.

Through its globally respected Tier Standards and other program offerings, Uptime Institute have helped enterprise and vendor organizations around the globe build and maintain business-critical infrastructure to optimize performance, reliability, and efficiency. It has awarded over 1000 Tier Certifications in over 80 countries and trained thousands of professionals with its Accredited Tier Training programs.

China Q2 GDP growth slows to 27-year low as trade war bites

BEIJING: China's economic growth slowed to 6.2 percent in the second quarter, its weakest pace in at least 27 years, as demand at home and abroad faltered in the face of mounting US trade pressure. While more upbeat June factory output and retail sales offered signs of improvement, some analysts cautioned the gains may not be sustainable, and expect Beijing will continue to roll out more support measures in coming months.

China's trading partners and financial markets are closely watching the health of the world's second-largest economy as the Sino-US trade war gets longer and costlier, fuelling worries of a global recession.

Yesterday's growth data marked a loss of momentum for the economy from the first quarter's 6.4 percent, adding to expectations that Beijing needs to do more to boost consumption and investment and restore business confidence. The April-June pace, in line with analysts' expectations, was the slowest since the first quarter of 1992, the earliest quarterly data on record.

"China's growth could slow to 6 percent to 6.1 percent in the second half," said Nie Wen, an economist at Hwabao Trust. That would test the lower end of Beijing's 2019 target range of 6-6.5 percent.

Cutting banks' reserve requirement ratios (RRR) "is still very likely as the authorities want to support the real economy in the long run," he said, predicting the economy would continue to slow before stabilizing around mid-2020. China has already slashed RRR six times since early 2018 to free up more funds for lending, and analysts polled by Reuters forecast two more cuts by the end of this year.



BEIJING: Vendors selling fruits wait for customers at a market in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

Beijing has leaned largely on fiscal stimulus to underpin growth this year, announcing massive tax cuts worth nearly 2 trillion yuan (\$291 billion) and a quota of 2.15 trillion yuan for special bond issuance by local governments aimed at boosting infrastructure construction. The economy has been slow to respond, however, and business sentiment remains cautious.

Trade pressures have intensified since Washington sharply raised tariffs on Chinese goods in May. While the two sides have since agreed to resume trade talks and hold off on further punitive action, they remain at odds over significant issues needed for an agreement. US President Donald Trump in a tweet linked China's slowing growth to the US tariffs.

"The United States Tariffs are having a major effect on companies wanting to leave China for non-tariffed countries," Trump wrote. "These Tariffs are paid for by China devaluing & pumping, not by the US taxpayer!" Despite the trade dispute, Chinese net exports accounted for a striking 20.7 percent of the first-half GDP growth, as exporters had rushed to sell ahead of higher US tariffs and imports had weakened more sharply amid sagging domestic demand. — Reuters

Tech tax set to dominate G7 finance chiefs' meeting

PARIS: A row over taxing tech giants is set to dominate a meeting of G7 finance ministers near Paris this week, with the world's leading industrialised nations already riven by disruptive US trade policies.

During the meetings tomorrow and Thursday in Chantilly, ministers are set to discuss making taxation fairer as part of wider plans by G7 leaders to address rising inequality when they gather next month in the southern French city of Biarritz. An international effort to update rules so as to rein in multinationals gaming the system by paying in low-tax rate countries has been plodding along.

But France and Britain gave the process a jolt last week when they moved forward with plans to apply sales taxes to digital giants, mostly American companies. France became the first major economy to impose such a tax when legislators gave their final approval while Britain unveiled legislation. The French measure does not specifically target US internet giants, but it is commonly called the GAFA tax, an acronym for Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire will meet separately with his US counterpart Steven Mnuchin, with the tax measure expected to feature prominently in their discussions.

21st century tax rules

Even before the final vote by French lawmakers, the US announced it was opening a so-called Section 301 investigation into the measure. A Section 301 investigation was used by the Trump administration to justify tariffs on China. Washington and Beijing have lashed out at

each other with punitive tariffs on about \$360 billion in goods in a trade dispute that has roiled global financial markets and undermined business confidence. "We will urge Mnuchin to accelerate efforts to define tax rules for the 21st century rather than threaten us with Section 301, sanctions, retaliatory measures, which aren't really the best actions for allies to use on one another," a French government official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"We need 21st century tax rules for a 21st century economy," said the official. French and British officials have indicated their preference for an overarching deal, which is being negotiated via the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the G20, and they would abandon tech taxes if an agreement is reached.

The French government official said the US supports the tax reform effort, but played down the possibility of a breakthrough, such as an agreement on a minimum tax rate, one way to discourage so-called tax optimization by firms. "It won't be possible to set a rate at this meeting," said the official. "It's premature. We need to get agreement on the principle first."

Libra not liked

A number of other thorny issues await ministers, including plans by Facebook to launch a virtual currency called Libra, which has stoked concerns by regulators in numerous countries about regulation and market oversight. "We'll reiterate our intention not to allow a private company to acquire the elements of monetary sovereignty," said the French official. Le Maire has publicly voiced his concerns about Libra, a virtual currency to be backed with a basket of real-world currencies that Facebook says will facilitate online financial transactions. The ministers are also expected to discuss who will take over at the International Monetary Fund after Frenchwoman Christine Lagarde was named to head the European Central Bank. The IMF post has traditionally been held by a European. — AFP

Business

KAMCO Oil Market Monthly Report

Oversupplied oil market ignores extension to OPEC+ agreement

Weak global economic growth rates dampen oil market outlook

KUWAIT: After the rout seen during the second half of May-19, oil prices remained range-bound during June-19 and the first half of July-19 led by factors that focused mainly on tackling the lower expected oil demand with curbing supplies. Prices remained subdued despite OPEC+ announcing a 9-month extension to the ongoing supply cut agreement, in addition to the tensions in the Middle East. These factors were almost completely countered by release of a number of data that pointed to weak global economic growth rates in the near term with the US-China trade conflicts being one of the main factors for the dampened outlook.

Meanwhile, oil prices got a temporary relief over the past week due to a potential storm heading towards US oil facilities. Due to platform evacuations, the storm has reportedly affected 70 percent of Gulf of Mexico output, which accounts for 17 percent of US crude production. Furthermore, due to the summer driving season in the US, the demand for gasoline has increased. The higher refinery runs to fulfill gasoline demand has resulted in higher usage of crude inventories. This has led to declining oil inventories in the US for four weeks in a row, also supporting oil prices.

In its latest Short Term Energy Outlook, the US lowered global oil demand forecast for 2019 by 0.2 mb/d as compared to its previous forecast while retaining its forecast for oil demand in 2020. The OPEC, in its July-19 monthly report, kept global oil demand growth expectations unchanged for 2019 at 1.14 mb/d. The group also for the first time published demand forecast for 2020 in which it projected a constant rate of demand growth in 2020 at 1.14 mb/d.

In terms of oil supply, the US increased oil output to 12.3 mb/d during the first week of July-19, an increase of 0.1 mb/d as compared to the previous week. The latest forecast for US oil production was at 12.4 mb/d in 2019 that will increase to 13.3 mb/d in 2020, according to the EIA. On the other hand, OPEC continued to curb oil production with an output of 30 mb/d during June-19. IEA's latest report highlighted the ineffectiveness of OPEC+ efforts of lowering output and said that the oil market would remain in surplus in 2020. The report said that global oil supply exceeded demand by 0.9 mb/d during III-19.

On the economic front, data points continue to paint a bleak picture for future oil demand. The US has already flagged weak business sentiments and manufacturing slowdown that would almost certainly lead to a rate cut

in the next meeting. New orders for US factory goods also reportedly declined for the second consecutive month. China, on the other hand, has reported a 12 straight month of y-o-y decline in car sales during June-19 with a decline of almost 10 percent. Similarly, Indian car sales fell for eighth month in a row by 25 percent while passenger car sales declined by 18 percent in June-19. In Europe, the European Commission has slashed the Euro-Area GDP and inflation forecasts for next year citing rising downside risks.

Oil prices

Oil prices reached a seven week high during the second week of July-19 on the back of supply outages in the US Gulf Coast caused by an approaching hurricane. The price of WTI breached the \$60/b mark for the first time in two months while consecutive gains since the second day of the month pushed official Brent spot crude above the \$65/b mark. The oil price rise was also helped by declining crude inventories in the US. Crude inventories declined for four consecutive weeks until 5-July-19 aggregating to 26.5 million barrels to reach 459 million barrels. Nevertheless, the market reaction to such events were much modest as compared to previous similar instances. Oil watchers continue to remain skeptical about any sustainable factor that could support oil prices. Especially, the economic trends highlighted by various government agencies recently have failed to provide any positive catalyst. A majority of the economists and agencies point to modest growth across the globe led by a slower pace of growth in global trade resulting in a decline in global manufacturing. These sentiments were reflected in EIA's latest outlook for oil demand growth in 2020. On the other hand, an oil price of \$60/b is enough to compensate oil drillers in the US that are said to be going ahead with their investment plans. Oil rigs in the US has although declined recently, but the production has increased offsetting the efforts of OPEC+ countries that are curbing output. According to Baker Hughes' latest weekly report, oil rigs in the US was down for the second consecutive week and stood at 784 active rigs. Average crude prices for a majority of crude grades recorded double digit declines during June-19 as gains towards the close of the month failed to offset declines since the start of the month. Average OPEC crude prices dropped 10.1 percent m-o-m during June-19 to reach \$62.9/b. Kuwait crude average price declined at a slightly higher pace of 10.7 percent to reach \$62.6/b, while average Brent crude

saw a decline of 9.6 percent to reach \$64.0/b, the lowest level since March-19.

World oil demand

World oil demand growth expectations for 2019 remained unchanged at 1.14 mb/d to average at 99.87 mb/d, according to OPEC's latest monthly report. The OPEC also published its first 2020 oil demand outlook in which it expects flat growth rate in oil demand during 2020 at 1.14 mb/d to average at 101.01 mb/d. The forecast suggested that in the OECD region, a growth in oil demand is expected only in the OECD Americas region, while OECD Europe and Asia Pacific are expected to show a decline in oil requirements in 2020.

In the US, oil demand showed increase during April-19 after a decline in March-19 but preliminary numbers for May-19 and June-19 show a slight decline in demand led by falling residual fuel oil usage. In OECD Europe, improvement in economic growth has led to a slight improvement in oil demand in April-19 as compared to April-18. Preliminary data for May-19 shows a decline in Germany France and Italy while in UK there was an increase. For the non-OECD group, India would be the primary driver of growth followed by China. The region would contribute to 1.05 mb/d of growth during the year. Demand data for China has shown a growth during May-19 for most of the product categories. Demand increased 3 percent y-o-y during May-19 led by higher consumption of LPG, gasoline and kerosene while diesel demand dropped.

The latest monthly report from the IEA showed that global oil demand grew at its slowest pace since 2011 during Q1-19 while a contraction in manufacturing activity, the first in seven years, lowered oil demand growth by a third than anticipated in Q2-19 to 0.8 mb/d. The agency kept its full year growth expectation at 1.2 mb/d for the full year, but said that it would require a demand growth of 1.8 mb/d during 2H-19 to achieve this target. For next year, the agency expects demand growth of 1.4 mb/d.

World oil supply

According to OPEC, world oil supply increased at a much higher pace in June-19 as compared to the previous month by 0.47 mb/d to average at 98.56 mb/d. The increase was once again primarily on the back of non-OPEC supply that increased by 0.54 mb/d to average at 68.73 mb/d mainly coming from US, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Russia and China. Higher non-OPEC production pushed down OPEC market share by 20 bps to 30.3 percent dur-

ing June-19. For the full year 2019, non-OPEC oil supply growth forecast was lowered by 95 tb/d to growth of 2.05 mb/d to average at 64.43 mb/d. The downward revisions reflected continued lower oil production for the non-OPEC members of the OPEC+ production curbs, in addition to downward revisions to Q2-19 production figures for Brazil and Norway. The revision more than offset an upward revision in output from the US by 70 tb/d.

US continues to increase production as seen from the 0.32 mb/d m-o-m increase in liquids output during April-19. For 2020, non-OPEC supply is expected to grow at a slightly higher pace of 2.44 mb/d to average at 66.87 mb/d. The increase in supply comes primarily from the US, Brazil, Norway, and Canada that are expected to more than offset a decline in output from Mexico, Colombia, the UK, Indonesia and Thailand. Production in the US would be dominated by shale output that would get a boost, as the country removes the infrastructure bottlenecks in the Permian region with additional supply capacity of around 2.5 mb/d.

Oil output from the OECD Europe region is expected to grow by 0.17 mb/d on the back of higher output from Norway partially offset by a decline in output from UK and Denmark.

OPEC oil production & spare capacity

OPEC crude production declined slightly during June-19 primarily due to lower output coming from Iran. However, the overall compliance for the 11 members in OPEC to the OPEC+ production agreement declined to 104 percent during June-19 as compared to 117 percent during May-19, according to S&P Platts, as declines during the month came mainly from exempt members. The lower compliance came primarily on the back of an increase in production in Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Iraq, according to the agency. According to Bloomberg data, Iran lowered its production by 100 tb/d to 2.28 mb/d while OPEC secondary sources put the decline at 142 tb/d to reach an average production rate of 2.23 mb/d.

We believe that it is apparent that the glut in the oil market would extend until next year as US produces unabated and demand indicators pointing a bleak picture. KAMCO Research believes that OPEC output is expected to have bottomed and any increase in output from Iran and Venezuela can disrupt the current oil price levels. Nevertheless, positive US-China trade talks has the potential to support demand and prices as it can support an overall improvement in global economy.

Under its expansion policy in Kuwait

"Best Al-Yousufi Electronics" Opens New Showroom at the Avenues Mall

Easa Husain Al-Yousufi & Sons Co. recently opened a new Best Al-Yousufi Electronics showroom at the Avenues Mall – The Forum. This is one of the modern electronics showrooms in Kuwait, being the Fifteenth outlet in Best Electronics chain in Kuwait. The event was attended by company owners & corporate Managers, prominent figures and guests, interested customers, media workers and the press.

The company announced that the opening of its new showroom at the Avenues Mall is part of its strategy aimed at meeting its customers' needs to provide the best services and shopping facilities. Best Al-Yousufi Electronics Co., by expanding the number of its showrooms open to the public, with this showroom being the number 15, seeks to enhance its service level and make them available to the largest possible customer base. Al-Yousufi opened the first location of Best Al-Yousufi Electronics Showroom in Hawally on September 29, 2009. Best Al-Yousufi Electronics also plans to join forces with other international brands for its future showrooms.

To celebrate the new showroom opening, Best



Al-Yousufi Electronics threw in a special opening festivity at the Avenues Mall to all its guests and customers and launched special offers and excellent prices deals for new products.

The welcome speech was presented by General Manager of the Electronics group, Mr. Wael Deeb, who said that this new showroom comes as part of the company expansion policy to please all clients in, also promised of more new showrooms in the coming future.

The opening ceremony also featured musical performances and a variety of entertainments in a distinctive atmosphere where the audience expressed their happiness. In addition to the Robot amazing show which was brought for the first time from Spain especially for the opening of Best showroom.

Easa Husain Al-Yousufi & Sons Co., through its retail network has undoubtedly emerged as the preferred partner for a number of internationally renowned brands, making it the natural choice for international companies wishing to put their products in the Kuwaiti market.



Business

UK banks say business investment slowing further ahead of Brexit

Bank execs say work with business customers has declined

LONDON: Britain's major banks have seen a growing number of business customers delay decisions on investments and borrowing in recent weeks, as the probability of a disorderly exit from the European Union inches higher. Britain's banks have largely played up the resilience of businesses since the June 2016 referendum decision to leave the EU, but senior executives speaking to Reuters say that in recent weeks they have seen a dip in firms' activity levels.

The country's largest lenders - Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Lloyds, Barclays, HSBC, and the UK arm of Spain's Santander - are all set to publish half-year results in the coming weeks, with investors watching for any signs of strain. Bankers responsible for tens of billions of pounds in business debt told Reuters that activity among corporate customers had fallen in recent months, as the two candidates to be Britain's next prime minister have both said they are ready to take the country out of the EU without a withdrawal deal.

"The world has changed a bit," one bank executive who asked not to be named told Reuters. "There is a slowdown across the commercial piece. It started off with people holding off investment, now they're just not transacting."

An executive at a second bank said more big corporates were delaying investment decisions, with the conversion rate of the bank's potential new commercial business pipeline falling from 70 percent to 50 percent in recent months, although lending to smaller firms was holding up. The executives said they were preparing for a potentially disorderly Brexit, including refining 'early warning' systems to identify struggling clients and spot possible weak links in their supply chains. Frontrunner to be the next prime minister, Boris Johnson, has committed to Britain leaving the EU by the Oct. 31 deadline with or without a deal, concerning firms that want to see an orderly departure to avoid disruption to cross-border trade.

RBS, HSBC and Barclays have all previously taken multi-million pound provisions against potential future loan losses if the economy dips. The Bank of England has said lenders are resilient enough to cope with a no-deal Brexit. Banks are also braced for an expected spike in costs for meeting claims for mis-sold insurance known as PPI, which has already cost more than 35 billion pounds (\$44 billion), ahead of an August deadline for claims.

Britain's economy grew more than expected in May, according to official statistics published last week, but economists warned the outlook remained weak.

Small businesses in Britain are planning the least investment in two years, a survey by the Federation of Small Businesses found this month.

Getting on with it

One bank executive said communication efforts with business customers about potential Brexit disruption had been stepped back up after a lull following the extension of the original departure date from March 29. This lender was trying to offer clients products to help, such as extending supplier financing and currency hedging, but said take up had been slow.

Britain's state-backed RBS has committed 5 billion pounds of its 6 billion pound small business growth fund - partly designed to help businesses out with Brexit - although only a small proportion of this has been drawn down, a source familiar with the situation said. RBS has contacted 15,000 businesses to assess their potential exposures, mapping risks



LONDON: HSBC's building in Canary Wharf is seen behind a City of London sign outside Billingsgate Market in London. — Reuters

across supply chains from big retailers like Sainsbury's and Tesco through to farmers and putting in extra credit lines where necessary. — Reuters

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 14th July 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 7th until 11th July 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

- Mohsen Abdulkareem Edrees Al-Mansour
- Mohammad Abd Alnabi Hasan Al-Sarraf
- Naif Khamees Lafi Al-Enizi
- Lubna Hussain Ibrahim Al-Saffar
- Bader Khaled Bader Alomar - minor

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.

AUB congratulates winners of Al-Hassad weekly draw

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced on the 10th of July 2019 the winners of its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic account which is the very first draw account in Islamic banking in Kuwait that has reshaped the lives of thousands lucky winners. Al-Hassad has have over 850 prizes, over a 12 month period. The weekly draw announced the grand prize winner of KD 10,000 as Azizah Nasser Abdullah.

20 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Ali Naser Al-Attar, Hothamah Hasan Ali, Hani Nabeel Mohammad, Badriya Mattar Hassan, Jameelah Mubarak Al-Daihani, Laila Ghloom Abbas, Ibrahim Ismaeil Al-Sayyar, AlGhala Awadh Al-Barak, Fazal Rehman Abdul Manan, Eman Mohamed Salam, Saad Mohammad Al-Azmi, Shaikhah Abdulaziz Al-Muzaini, Sanad Hamed Al-Sanad, Meshal Hammad Al-Kafeef, Mustafa Ebrahim Ali, Abdul Redha Khalaf Ebrahim, Mariam A Karim Makki, Rashid AbdulRahman Mandi, Salah Yousif and Sabah A Hussain Hassan.

Citigroup profit beats estimates

NEW YORK: Citigroup Inc beat analysts' estimates for quarterly profit yesterday, as a tight lid on costs and strength in consumer lending helped the third-largest US bank counter weakness in its trading business. New York-based Citi is the first major bank to report second-quarter earnings. Wall Street titans JPMorgan Chase & Co, Bank of America Corp and Goldman Sachs Group Inc are scheduled to report later in the week.

Bank stocks have been falling in recent weeks amid concerns that their net interest margins, or the difference between what they pay on deposits and earn on loans, have been squeezed by falling interest rates. Citi's interest margin declined slightly to 2.67 percent from 2.70 percent a year earlier and 2.72 percent in the first quarter of 2019.

Citi shares were down 2.3 percent in early trading. Other banks were also trading lower.

Citi continued to add loans and deposits in the most recent quarter, allaying concerns that a weaker economic outlook was hurting consumers' ability to borrow. Total loans at the third-largest US bank by assets rose 3 percent to \$689 billion, while deposits increased 5 percent to \$1.05 trillion, excluding foreign exchange fluctuations. Trading revenue

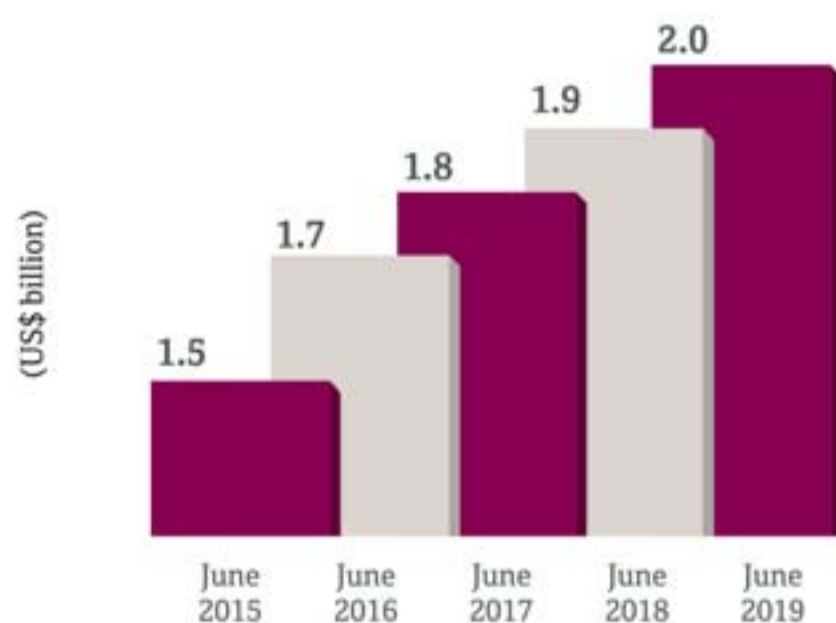
remained challenged. Fixed-income trading fell 4 percent, excluding a gain from Citi's investment in Tradeweb, while it declined 9 percent at its equities business.

Executives at leading US banks had warned that trading revenue would be hit by a slump in client activity due to burgeoning trade tensions and uncertainties around Britain's planned exit from the European Union. "We navigated an uncertain environment successfully by executing our strategy, and by showing disciplined expense, credit and risk management," Chief Executive Officer Michael Corbat said in a statement. A key was that the bank was able to make more money from its lending activities during the quarter. Net interest income rose 2 percent. Net income rose to \$4.80 billion, or \$1.95 per share, in the second quarter, from \$4.50 billion, or \$1.63 per share, a year earlier. The quarter included a one-time gain of 12 cents per share related to the investment in electronic trading company TradeWeb.

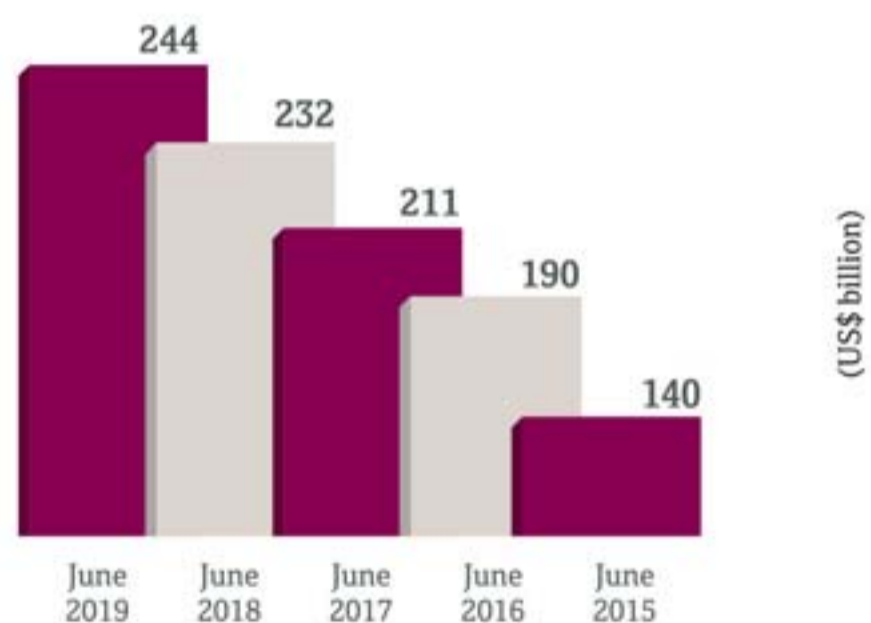
Revenue rose 2 percent to \$18.76 billion, while expenses fell 2 percent. Analysts had expected a profit of \$1.80 per share and revenue of \$18.50 billion, according to IBES data from Refinitiv. One of the broadest measures of performance improved dramatically as Citi posted a return on tangible common equity of 11.9 percent, up more than a percentage point from a year earlier. Banks have been under pressure to cut costs as a weaker economic outlook raised concerns about revenue growth. Chief Financial Officer Mark Mason said earlier this year the bank has already accelerated some cost-cutting plans to cope with potential headwinds. — Reuters

QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the MEA region, continues to deliver strong results for the first half of 2019

Net Profit US\$2.0 billion, up by 4% on June 2018



Total Assets US\$244 billion, up by 5% on June 2018



QNB Group delivers strong financial results for the six months period ended 30 June 2019.

- QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the MEA region, is currently present in more than 31 countries across three continents
- QNB Group is supported by 30,000 staff serving more than 24 million customers through 1,100 locations and 4,400 ATMs
- QNB Group credit rating is one of the highest among top tier banks: Capital Intelligence AA-, Fitch A+, Moody's Aa3, Standard & Poor's A

Call +974 4425 2444 or visit qnb.com

Business

Salah shines in new Mobil engine oil advert with support of Liverpool fans

A new Egyptian ad named 'Moving Millions' has appeared on YouTube

KUWAIT: Mohamed Salah is the star of yet another advertisement in Egypt, with the Liverpool talisman featuring in Mobil 1's latest campaign. Mohamed Salah is perhaps one of the world's most attractive people when it comes to adverts. His influence and football talent have earned him millions of supporters around the globe. Mobil's advert stats that with one move, Salah is 'Moving Millions', as well as Mobil, which had move millions for over a decade.

The 26-year-old now features in a new advertisement by Mobil 1, who are promoting their Mobil engine oil. The advertisement is aired in parallel with the Salah's participation in CAF (Africa Cup of Nations), where Salah is playing as part of his national Egyptian team.

The video starts with a game of table football between Salah and a fan. After Mo wins, he celebrates in yoga fashion making people around the world copy it. The clip shows Salah reading a book called "Protect What You Love" with the Mobil symbol on the cover, as drivers should protect their engine cars by using Mobil. The Salah was joking about his hair in an interview with US journalist Taylor Rooks.

"The general message of the advert is that when Salah does anything, he inspires millions to follow his lead." The advert features Liverpool supporters' iconic song for the winger, with Mobil 1 clearly

keen to explore Liverpool's new-found popularity in the Middle East.

When Mobil chose Salah, it chose him because Mobil is a Leader in its field with an experience and research worth of around 140 years, as well as Salah in his field. According to the Forbes magazine, Salah makes top 100 highest paid athletes of the year ranked at #98. Forbes estimates his earnings as \$25.1million a year with \$16.1m of that being his salary and winnings, and \$9m coming from endorsements.

He topped the Premier League goal-scoring charts alongside Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and fellow Liverpool teammate Sadio Mane, who tied with the Egyptian on 22 league goals.

KAICO Kuwait Automotive Imports Co (Al Shaya & Al Sagar), the exclusive distributor of Mobil Lubricants in Kuwait since 1950, and celebrating its 70 years of valued service to Kuwait market and now offering a 'SCRATCH and WIN Promotion with Mobil Oil. Any customer who buys KD5 worth of Mobil Petrol Engine Oil and chance to win Trip to Formula 1 Abu Dhabi, gold coins and free Mobil 1 and Mobil Super Oil change' which every customer will be a winner, the promotion is valid until 4th of August 2019. This offer is available at all KAICO outlets and major dealers in across Kuwait.



Mobil 1™

PR100 Chrono Sport-Chic lady glamorous watch

Given the success of the PR100 Sport-Chic collection, Tissot decided to add a sporty chronograph to the mix for those who like it sportier. Its generous case size, measuring 38mm, means it is a bigger watch and makes a striking statement. Features of the watches are both robust and beautifully streamlined, as shown by the stronger bezel, and simplified bracelet, making this an easy piece to wear.

Sparkling details

While the PR100 collection celebrates strength, it does not neglect its feminine aesthetic. With different styles to choose from, every woman will find something to love in these Sport&Chic watches that are also practical, thanks to indexes and hands set with luminescent materials providing perfect visibility. Minimalist fans will be drawn to a pure face, while others, after a touch of luxury, will appreciate the shimmering mother-of-pearl on the dial and on the counter or sunray dials decorated with dazzling index diamonds.

Features

- Swiss Made
- Chrono Quartz movement with battery end-of-life (EOL) indicator
- 316L stainless steel case
- Scratch-resistant sapphire crystal
- Top Wesselton diamonds
- Water resistance up to a pressure of 10 bar (100m / 330ft)
- 316L stainless steel bracelet with folding clasp and push buttons
- Diameter: 38mm



Turkish Airlines providing privileged flight experience with new travel sets

KUWAIT: Consistently striving to increase the overall travel comfort of its passengers, the national flag carrier of Turkey now offers new travel kits specially designed by Versace, one of the leading representatives of fashion world, and Mandarin Duck specialized in travel products.

Increasing its market share and number of passengers in the global aviation sector every year, Turkish Airlines has now started to welcome its business class passengers on intercontinental flights with the elegant and sophisticated designs of Versace sets as from July 2nd. Socks, earplug, sleep mask, warning stickers, Versace lip balm, hand lotion, facial mist and hairpin (in women's sets only) are all placed within the sets in order to meet passenger needs in this respect during their travel.

The point that makes the collection distinct from others is that these new amenity kits, designed exclusively for Turkish Airlines, are prepared for men and



women passengers separately considering their needs. The elegant and functional design of the bags, that the passengers may have them in different colors makes their use after the flight more appealing. The moisturizers by Versace, inside the special pocket of the bag, ensure the passengers have a comfortable time during their long flights.

The other travel set offered for economy class passengers on intercontinental flights of the carrier as of July 3, is designed by Mandarin Duck, which is renowned for bringing innovative and functional solutions to travelers with its smart and unique designs. This

set includes sleep mask, socks, earplug, lip balm, toothbrush and toothpaste. Attentive to present natural and high-quality dermocosmetic products to its passengers, Turkish Airlines also offers the products of Atelier Rebull, who has a deep rooted past dating back to 1895, in its new travel kits. The mentioned brand, whose products are currently provided in Economy Class lavatories of the airline, offers lip balms as skin care product in these travel kits. In order to keep providing an unmatched flight experience to its guests above the clouds, Turkish Airlines constantly invests in its all products and services.

Huawei's 2018 Sustainability Report Digital inclusion: Driving equal access for all

KUWAIT: Huawei released its 2018 Sustainability Report. It has published this report for the 11th year in a row. The 2018 report explains Huawei's four strategies for sustainability: digital inclusion, security and trustworthiness, environmental protection, and a healthy and harmonious ecosystem.

Over the past year, Huawei has been working to help achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), build a sustainable and more inclusive ecosystem with its industry partners, and execute its own sustainability strategies. At the launch event for the report, Liang Hua, Chairman of Huawei, said, "Huawei has been creating value for its customers through innovation. We are doing everything we can to bridge the digital divide and meet the world's needs for connectivity." Liang continued, "We want to make digital services more affordable and equally accessible to all, and to do our part in contributing to social and economic development."

Liang explained that environmental protection is also a key component of Huawei's sustainable development initiatives. Liang added, "Energy efficiency has become a major consideration for future communications networks. We have to use less energy to transmit more data, and reduce the overall energy consumption of power systems. ICT technologies can help."

Liang explained that Huawei has made many innovations in the course of its 5G research, product development, and engineering. Huawei has managed to reduce the power consumption per 5G site to 20% less than the industry average. This has been made possible by the new Huawei chipsets, system software, professional services, and advanced hardware and heat dissipation technologies. These innovative technologies have made Huawei's 5G more energy-efficient. With the right solutions, Huawei's 5G will be a green technology.

Kevin Tao, Board Member and Chairman of Sustainable Development Committee of Huawei, remarked, "We want to bring the benefits of digital technology to every person, home, and organization. To this end, we have launched a global digital inclusion initiative called TECH4ALL. For example, our RuralStar solution has connected 40 million rural residents as of the end of 2018."

Tao added, "We currently provide communications services to over three billion



Liang Hua, Chairman of Huawei

people around the world, and we are committed to supporting secure network operations worldwide. We honor this commitment no matter what. For example," he said, "In 2018, after a magnitude 7.7 earthquake hit Indonesia, Huawei was the first and the only vendor to the scene."

Tao also announced Huawei's new sustainability strategies, which include two major changes. First, Huawei has expanded its strategy of bridging the digital divide into a digital inclusion strategy. Building on connectivity, the company is now also pay-

ing more attention to applications and skills. Second, its strategy of supporting stable and secure network operations and protecting user privacy has been upgraded into the "security and trustworthiness" strategy.

Huawei incorporates sustainability in everything it does - in its innovation, value creation, and value sharing with its partners - so that it can deliver greater business value and social value. Looking forward, Huawei will work even harder and do its part in building a better, sustainable future.

Khaled Mahmoud Serdar Khan wins KD 4,000 in Burgan Bank's draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank yesterday announced Khaled Mahmoud Serdar Khan as the winner of the Value Account KD 4000 draw. The winner expressed his excitement of winning the cash prize of KD 4,000.

Dedicated to offer the best in-class serv-

ices, Burgan Bank's Value Account presents customers with exceptional features which were specifically designed to suit the needs of expatriates living in Kuwait. Account holders will be able to enjoy matchless benefits that include receiving a free credit card for one year, application for a loan, in addition to a chance to enter the quarterly draw to win KD 4000 as well as other discounts from selected merchant stores.

Burgan Bank will continue presenting exclusive services and draws with an aim of exceeding customers' expectations while offering them chances to win valuable cash prizes all year round. Opening a Value account is simple, interested Individuals with salaries starting from KD 150 and above are eligible to open a Value Account.



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SENGA BAY, Malawi: In this aerial view fishing boats are seen on the shore of the Lake Malawi at the Senga village in Senga, Malawi. — AFP photos



SENGA BAY, Malawi: A Malawian fisherman checks on fish drying up on charcoal on the shore of the Lake Malawi at the Senga village.



SENGA BAY, Malawi: Malawian fishermen fix their fishing nets as fishing boats are seen on the shore of the Lake Malawi at the Senga village.

Empty nets as overfishing and climate change sap Lake Malawi

World Bank ranks Malawi among at-risk countries to climate change

SENGA BAY, Malawi: On the shores of Lake Malawi, a crowd eagerly awaits the arrival of a white and yellow cedarwood boat carrying its haul. The crew of six deliver a single net of chambo, sardine and tiny usipa fish from the boat, just one of 72 vessels that land their catch every day on the beach at Senga Bay. But overfishing and climate change have taken their toll. Hundreds of local traders gather each morning and afternoon at Senga only to find that fish populations are falling in Lake Malawi, Africa's third largest body of freshwater.

"We were hoping to catch a half-boat full or maybe a quarter-boat... but I'm afraid the fish are dwindling in numbers," port manager Alfred Banda told AFP staring wearily at the small catch as it was dragged onto the sand. "Before, we used to catch a full boat but now we

are struggling," he said, adding that a full boat would earn a team of between six and 12 fishermen about \$300. Bordering three countries—Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique—Lake Malawi stretches across more than 29,000 square kilometers with over 1,000 species of fish.

The 14,000 people living at Senga Bay depend on the lake for food and for their livelihood. "Seven years ago there was lots more fish than today. In 2019 it is different, there's no fish in the water," trader Katrina Male, a 40-year-old mother of six, told AFP as she stalked the nets of newly brought in fish seeking the best deal. "The fish nowadays are more expensive, because they are becoming scarce," Male said. "Some children have stopped going to school because their parents can't find the money."

No alternative to fishing

For both locals and climate experts, declining fish numbers reflect a combination of environmental change and overfishing that augurs ill for the future. The World Bank ranks Malawi among the top 10 at-risk countries in Africa to climate change, with cyclones and floods among the major threats. Senga community leader John White Said says increasing gale force winds and torrential rains have made it harder for fishermen on the lake.

"Our men can't catch fish because of wind which is much stronger than before," he said, adding that the rains are increasingly unpredictable on the lake. "The rain before would not destroy houses and nature but now it comes with full power, destroying everything and that affects the water as well." According to USAID, the num-

ber of rainfall incidents in the aid-dependant country is likely to decrease—but each rainfall will be more intense, leading to droughts and floods.

The threat was highlighted in March when Malawi was hit by torrential rains from Cyclone Idai, killing 59 people. The storm also cut a swathe through Mozambique and Zimbabwe, leaving nearly 1,000 dead. On top of the environmental impact, the number of fishermen in Senga had doubled in the last 10 years due to the lack of other jobs, Said said. "There is no alternative to fishing." One of the few to benefit is 38-year-old boat owner Salim Jackson, who rents out his two vessels. "I got into fishing 13 years ago because I had no other option, I never went to school. But it has brought me good money," he said.

Unsustainable fishing practices

By sunset, the balls of fishing net lay stretched out on the beach and both buyers and fishermen negotiate prices. Traders take their purchases in buckets to makeshift reed tables to be dried, smoked, fried or boiled in preparation for the market. "Declining fish catches are mainly due to unsustainable fishing practices," said Sosthen Chiotha, a Malawian environmental science professor who works for the Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) action group.

"Overfishing is a challenge in Lake Malawi (but) there are efforts on co-management and closed seasons to ensure that the fishery recovers," Chiotha added that climate change was hitting Malawi with "increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events in the major ecosystems including lakes." That leaves Malawi's agriculture-based economy sharply vulnerable to climatic events and entrenched poverty heightens pressure on the environment.

Wearing a black silk thawb robe and white kufi cap, Said stands tall on Senga beach, surveying the scene around him. "I'm worried," he said. "In Malawi most people depend on fishing financially and as a cheap food source. "The men have to cast their nets further and further away from the beach." —AFP



SENGA BAY, Malawi: Malawian fishermen work through their catch on their return ashore.



SENGA BAY, Malawi: A Malawian fisherman rest on fishing nets on the shore.

20 million children miss out on life-saving vaccines

LONDON: More than one in 10 children - or 20 million worldwide - missed out last year on vaccines against life-threatening diseases such as measles, diphtheria and tetanus, the World Health Organization and the UNICEF children's fund said yesterday. In a report on global immunization coverage, the UN agencies found that vaccination levels are stagnating, notably in poor countries or areas of conflict.

"Vaccines are one of our most important tools for preventing outbreaks and keeping the world safe," the WHO's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said in a statement. "It's often those who are most at risk - the poorest, the most marginalized, those touched by conflict or forced from their homes - who are persistently missed," he said. "Far too many are left behind."

The WHO/UNICEF report found that since 2010, vaccination coverage with three doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine and one dose of measles vaccine has stalled at around 86 percent. The report said this was too low, since 95% coverage is generally needed to provide "herd immunity" to those who are not vaccinated.

In 2018 for example, the number of measles cases around the world more than doubled, to almost 350,000. "Measles is a real-time indicator of where we have more work to do to fight preventable diseases," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF's executive director. "An outbreak points to communities that are missing out on vaccines... (and) we have to exhaust every effort to immunize every child."

Almost half the world's unvaccinated children are in just 16 countries: Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. —Reuters

India races for launch fix after Moon mission aborted

SRIHARIKOTA: Indian space chiefs pressed to quickly set a new date to launch a landmark moon mission after aborting one liftoff yesterday just 56 minutes ahead of schedule, media reports said. A committee of experts was looking into the causes of the technical hitch that put back the bid to become just the fourth nation after Russia, the United States and China to land a spacecraft on the Moon.

The Chandrayaan-2 — or Moon Chariot 2 — rocket, a key part of India's ambitious space program, could still blast off on July 29 or 30, media reports said. If that is not possible the launch would have to wait until September or beyond. "Right now, it is not possible to say when the launch can be scheduled. A committee is still investigating what went wrong," an official from the Indian Space Research Organization told the Hindustan Times on condition of anonymity. ISRO blamed "a technical snag" for calling off the launch with 56 minutes and 24 seconds left on the countdown.

"As a measure of abundant precaution Chandrayaan-2 launch has been called off for today," it added. The agency gave no immediate indication when it would try again, but experts said ISRO would be cautious. "If the launch does not happen in the next 48 hours, it could be postponed for a few months until we get an opportune launch window," said Ravi Gupta, a scientist formerly with the state-run Defense Research and Development Organization. Gupta said the last-minute halt to the countdown was "a truly courageous decision" after all the effort put into the preparations.

Low-cost missions

News reports quoted an unnamed ISRO official as saying a problem occurred during the last stage of powering up the rocket, and fuel would have to be taken out which could take 10 days before a new launch date is announced. India has spent about \$140 million on Chandrayaan-2, designing and building almost all of its components domestically. It has hailed the mission as one of the cheapest in the crowded space race. The launch would have been the third to the moon this year. China put its Chang'e 4 mission on the lunar surface in January, while Israel's \$100 million Beresheet crash-landed when it sought to become the first privately-funded mission in April. A soft landing on the Moon would be a huge leap forward in India's space program. National pride is at stake as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to launch a crewed space mission by 2022. It follows another high-profile but low-cost Indian mission—Mangalyaan—which put a spacecraft in orbit around Mars in 2014 at a fraction of the cost of comparable projects by established space powers like the United States, which often cost billions of dollars.

The Indian mission involved a 2.4-tonne orbiter that will circle the Moon for about a year taking images and testing the atmosphere. A lander named Vikram was to take the rover to the surface near the lunar South Pole. The rover, that was to be put on the surface on September 6, was to spend 14 days sending back data on rocks and soil. India's first lunar mission in 2008 did not land on the Moon, but orbited the Moon searching for water using radar. —AFP

DR Congo urges calm after Ebola case in key city

KINSHASA: Authorities in Democratic Republic of Congo have appealed for calm after an evangelical preacher fell ill with Ebola in the eastern city of Goma, the first recorded case of the disease in the urban hub in a nearly year-old epidemic. Goma, which has a population of around one million, is the capital of North Kivu province, the epicenter of an outbreak that has claimed more than 1,600 lives—the second highest toll in Ebola's history.

In a statement, North Kivu governor Carly Nzanu Kasivita stressed the new case "not only was detected at an early stage but also was isolated immediately, avoiding any further contamination." "I call on the population of the city of Goma and its outskirts to keep calm... (and) cooperate with response teams by observing hygiene and prevention measures and notifying any suspected case of Ebola," he added.

According to the latest health ministry figures issued on Saturday, 1,655 people have died from the hemorrhagic virus since August 1 last year, when the disease broke out in North Kivu and spread to neighboring Ituri. Nearly 700 people have been cured, and more than 160,000 been vaccinated. But efforts to roll back Ebola have been hampered by insecurity in a region plagued by militia groups, who have attacked treatment centers.

Local hostility to health workers trying to trace and isolate people in contact with Ebola patients is another hurdle. Two more Ebola workers were murdered in their homes in North Kivu after months of threats, the ministry said.

Health checkpoints

The Goma patient was described as a pastor who had been on a trip to another town, Butembo, one of the towns

hardest hit by the outbreak. There, he preached at seven churches and regularly touched worshippers, "including the sick," the health ministry said Sunday. His symptoms first surfaced last Tuesday, it said. On Friday he took a bus back to Goma from Butembo, along with 18 other passengers and the driver.

He went through several health checkpoints on the road between Butembo and Goma "but did not seem to show signs of the disease. However, at each checkpoint, he wrote down different family names and forenames on the passenger list, which probably indicates a will to hide his identity and state of health," the ministry said. When he arrived in Goma on Sunday morning, he went to a clinic because he didn't feel well and started to become feverish, the ministry said.

"Given that the patient was quickly identified, as well as all the passengers on the bus from Butembo, the risk of the disease spreading in the city of Goma is low," it said. The pastor was swiftly taken back to Butembo, the governor added. The other passengers and the driver will be vaccinated against Ebola on Monday, said the ministry, urging the population of one of Africa's largest countries to "keep calm".

The United Nations was convening a "high-level event" in Geneva on Monday to discuss response and preparedness for the Ebola outbreak. It will be attended by government ministers from the DR Congo and Britain, senior officials of the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other UN agencies.

Global response

Last month, the WHO said the outbreak did not qualify as an international threat—a category that significantly ramps up global response to a contagious disease. Its decision took into account cases of infection that surfaced in Uganda among a family that had travelled to eastern DR Congo to see a relative stricken with Ebola. Ebola spreads when humans touch the blood, body fluids, secretions or organs of an infected person, or objects contaminated by such fluids.—AFP

Manta ray asks divers for helping hand

SYDNEY: A giant manta ray with several fishing hooks caught below its eye appeared to ask two nearby divers for help in removing them, and

then waited patiently for them to do so. Underwater photographer Jake Wilton was diving off Australia's west coast when the three-meter wide animal moved toward him, footage showed. "I'm often guiding snorkelers in the area and it's as if she recognized me and was trusting me to help her," Wilton said in a statement yesterday. "She got closer and closer and then started unfurling to present the eye to me."

Incredible footage shows Wilton repeatedly diving down toward the animal and removing

the hooks, before the manta ray departs after the final impediment is dislodged. "She never moved. I'm sure that manta knew that Jake was trying to get the hooks out," said marine biologist and fellow diver Monty Hall. Manta rays are considered one of the most intelligent underwater creatures and are common off parts of the west coast of Australia. The ocean giants can grow up to seven meters wide and live for about 50 years. They don't have the sharp barb of a stingray and are harmless to humans.—AFP

Health

On the menu soon: Lab-grown steak for eco-conscious diners

REHOVOT: Diners in some upmarket restaurants will soon be able to tuck into laboratory-grown steak, thanks to an Israeli startup that seeks to tap into consumer concerns about health, the environment and animal welfare. While lab-grown hamburgers and chicken are already in development around the world, Israel's Aleph Farms claims to be the first company to have developed steak in a laboratory and is in talks with some high-end restaurants in the United States, Europe and Asia to have it on the market in 2021.

It plans initially to offer minute steak developed from a small number of cells taken from a cow, avoiding the need to slaughter the animal in the process or use antibiotics which can be harmful to meat eaters. Aleph Farms hopes to have its product on a limited number of restaurant menus from 2021 in a trial phase, aiming for an official launch in 2023, first in restaurants and then in stores. Its next product will be a thick steak with "the properties that we like and we all know," said Neta Lavon, vice president for research and development.

A serving of its minute steak - a thin slice of meat that cooks very fast - currently costs around \$50 but Aleph Farms says it hopes to bring that down by 2021 to only a slight premium to current prices of steak offered in restaurants. Eventually it aims for mass production, bringing the price down further and making its steaks viable for sale in lower-priced steak houses. Didier Toubia, co-founder and CEO of Aleph Farms, said the company has ambitions to be one of the world's top three meat producers within 20 years, challenging market leaders like Tyson Foods, which has invested in another Israeli start-up developing cultured meat, Future Meat Technologies.

Toubia, however, did not give a revenue target for its product. He set up the company in 2017 in partnership with Technion - the Israel Institute of Technology and foodmaker Strauss Group's incubator The Kitchen. In



May it raised \$12 million from investors including Cargill, and has now raised \$14 million to date. Demand for traditional meat substitutes is growing and analysts estimate the U.S. plant-based meat market, for example, could be worth \$100 billion by 2035.

The number of start-ups producing laboratory-developed meat has risen from four at the end of 2016 to more than two dozen by last year, according to market researcher the Good Food Institute. Dutch start-up Mosa Meat projects the cost of producing a hamburger will be about 9 euros (\$10) once production scales up. — Reuters

WHO warns of too sugary baby foods

COPENHAGEN: Commercial baby foods often contain too much sugar and display confusing ingredient lists, according to a UN report that proposed new guidelines yesterday to improve infant diets. The World Health Organization (WHO) examined nearly 8,000 products from more than 500 stores in Austria, Bulgaria, Israel and Hungary between November 2017 and January 2018. "In around half of products examined... more than 30 percent of calories were from total sugars and around a third of products contained added sugar or other sweetening agents," the European branch of the WHO stated.

The WHO noted that while foods that

naturally contain sugars, such as fruits and vegetables, can be appropriate in young child diets, "the very high levels of sugars present in commercial products is a cause for concern". A high sugar intake can increase the risk of overweight and dental cavities, the organization warned. And early exposure to overly sweet products can create a potentially harmful lifelong preference for sugary foods.

"Good nutrition in infancy and early childhood remains key to ensuring optimal child growth and development, and to better health outcomes later in life," WHO Regional Director for Europe Zsuzsanna Jakab said in a statement.

Up to 60 percent of inspected food products were labeled as suitable for infants under six months old, contrary to WHO recommendations "that infants receive exclusively breast milk for the first six months of life", said the report. The WHO said it was updating its guidelines to help member countries adopt new legislation to curb high sugar intake. — AFP

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Kuwait Times

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

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

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DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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- Faculty member of (BEST).
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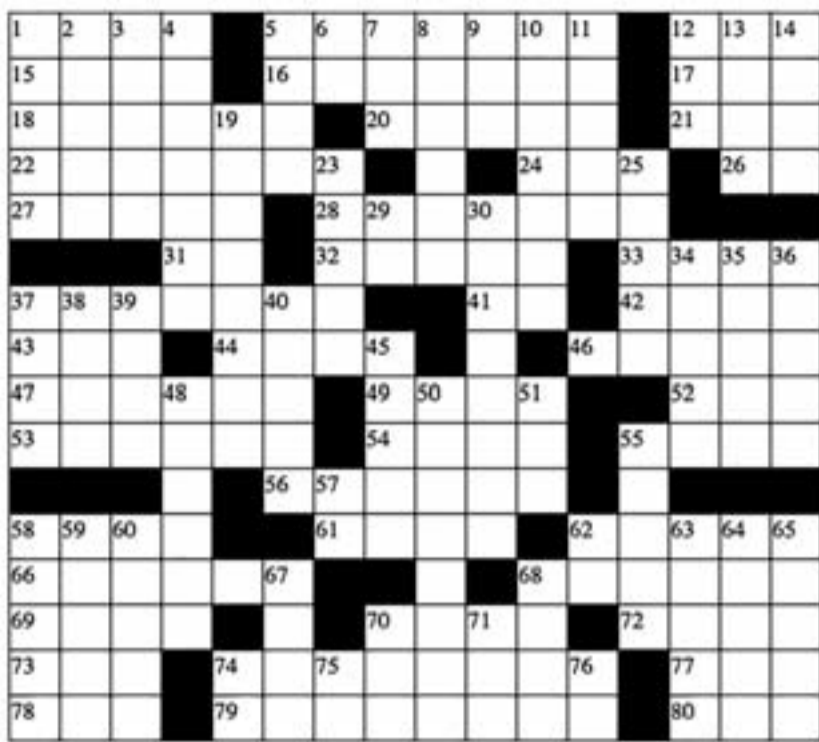
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- Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- G.I. surgeries.
- Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- Anal surgeries.

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Stars

CROSSWORD 2258



ACROSS

1. The rate of moving (especially walking or running).
5. British sculptor (born in the United States) noted for busts and large controversial works (1880-1959).
12. The compass point that is one point south of due east.
15. A constellation in the polar region of the southern hemisphere near Octans.
16. In a stingy manner.
17. (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
18. Covered with paving material.
20. A genus of Platalea.
21. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
22. A genus of Stromateidae.
24. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
26. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
27. The usually cylindrical central vascular portion of the axis of a vascular plant.
28. A doughnut-shaped chamber used in fusion research.
31. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
32. A city of central China.
33. A city in northern India.
37. Small Asiatic wild bird.
41. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
42. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
43. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
44. A heavy open wagon usually having two wheels and drawn by an animal.
46. A strong-smelling plant from whose dried leaves a number of euphoriant and hallucinogenic drugs are prepared.
47. A Japanese cheer of enthusiasm or triumph.
49. Diurnal bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail.
52. An association of countries in the western hemisphere.
53. Remote city of Kazakhstan that (ostensibly for security reasons) was made the capital in 1998.
54. Beside one another in a row or rank.
56. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
58. A loud bombastic declamation expressed with strong emotion.
61. Cattle that are reared for their meat.
66. A narcotic drug that contains opium or an opium derivative.
69. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
72. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
73. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
77. A conspicuous disparity or difference as between two figures.
78. An inflammatory disease of connective tissue with variable features including fever and weakness and fatigability and joint pains and skin lesions on the face or neck or arms.
79. An island northwest of Wales.
80. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Reddish long-tailed monkey of west Africa.
2. Remote and separate physically or socially.
3. French chemist (born in Poland) who won two Nobel Prizes.
4. Intravenous beta blocker (trade name Brevibloc) that acts for only a short time.
5. Electronic warfare undertaken to insure effective friendly use of the electromagnetic spectrum in spite of the enemy's use of electronic warfare.
6. (chemistry) P(otential of H(ydrogen)).
7. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
8. An Iranian language spoken in Iran and Russia.
9. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
10. Small genus of perennial herbs or shrubs.
11. City in Sudan.
12. The compass point that is one point north of due east.
13. A small cake leavened with yeast.
14. A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
19. Of or relating to the United States of America or its people or language or culture.
23. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
25. Jordan's port.
29. A mouth or mouthlike opening.
30. Striped hyena of southeast Africa that feeds chiefly on insects.
34. A seaport in northwestern Italy.
35. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
36. Squash bugs.
38. By bad luck.
39. A period of 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday.
40. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
45. A feudal lord or baron in Scotland.
48. A histamine blocker and antacid (trade name Zantac) used to treat peptic ulcers and gastritis and esophageal reflux.
50. Any plant of the genus Argemone having large white or yellow flowers and prickly leaves and stems and pods.
51. A group of African language in the Niger-Congo group spoken from the Ivory Coast east to Nigeria.
55. A cloth having a crisscross design.
57. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
59. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
60. A daughter of your brother or sister.
62. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
63. An ancient city in northern Portugal.
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
65. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
67. Very dark black.
68. The emotion of hate.
71. A tube in which a body fluid circulates.
74. A state in midwestern United States.
75. 1/10 gram.
76. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are one of a kind. Today all things seem to work to bring out all that is unique and special about you. A kind spirit with a soft heart. You seem to accept others as they are. This is a great day for a breakthrough concerning a new creation for you. Do not be surprised when others turn to you for advice. You are looked at as a role model. You may find much admiration and attention seem come your way today. When it comes to getting to the root of a problem, you are the person for the job. Solution oriented with a quick mind is how others may be describing you today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You should find great pleasure in working with others today. You could find yourself being offered a new position or asked to take the lead on a new project. You seem to begin to develop a desire to start taking your health seriously. Join the gym, take the walk, or start the meal planning. You won't be able to shake this urge. You know to take care of all that you responsible for you first have to take care of yourself. You not only want to feel good about who you but how you look. This is a step in the right direction for you. The beginning of wonderful new time in your life. You have a lot to look forward to.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may not place much value on thoughts and ideas today. Something someone says or communicates to you may offend you and you may take this the wrong way. You could easily find yourself in conflict in this person. It is a day you may find yourselves called upon by friends for assistance today. Circumstances today may force you to reorganize and be more conservative today. This should go smoothly. You may find that others truly appreciate you for your giving nature. Continue to be the friend others want to have.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Get a grip and try to remain calm. You could find yourself in a situation that actually makes you angry today. Keep your emotions in check and try not to fly off the handle. This may be a very difficult time for you to remain calm. Remember, sometimes a fight just isn't worth it. You have a choice in this life. You can be right or you can be happy. Cancer. To infinity and beyond. That is exactly where you have your sights set.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are on fire. Your mind is quick but your wit is quicker. You've got snap! Others are eager to hear what you have to say. You could find that you are extremely persuasive with others. Be sure to use this power in a positive manner. Others seem to hang on every word you say and follow any advice you give. Make sure the advice is truly good advice and something you put serious thought into. Others will take your word and run with it.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today is a day of emotional overload. High energy and high emotions could find you coming across as very forceful in what you say and in the way you think. You seem to be able to really get your point across to others.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Even though you may be feeling fiercely independent today you may want to remember to keep an open mind and be receptive to the input of others. Take a step back and go with the flow when it comes to sharing your opinion today. This will help in avoiding confrontation. Today you may have a deep craving to love and be loved. Leave your door and heart open for what this day may bring your way in that area. Be bold, don't be afraid to stand out today. Wear that bright shirt hanging in your closet and face this day with a "look at me attitude". Some days it is better to let our appearance speak rather than our words. Libra, face this day with a smile on your face.



Scorpio (October 23-November 18)

You may find yourself ready to get out and about and hit the town. You are ready to add a bit of spice to your life and the social scene is what you have your mind set on. Take into careful consideration the company you chose to keep today. You may find there is a fine line between friend and foe. Choose your company wisely as to not encounter conflict. You may find yourself extremely disciplined today when it comes to a task set before you. You have a goal and you become dedicated and devoted to accomplishing this. You seem to be very productive and find things working in your favor today. You may find an extra bit of support from one of your closest friends. This gives you a boost and a sense of reassurance you have been looking for. Scorpio. Being in touch with others seems to give you a sense of peace. Harmony and peace enter your life when you feel others truly understand you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may feel as if you are being disrespected from all directions. Why is it that others seem to find it difficult to treat people as they want to be treated? You strive to treat others this way. You may find you have a great talent for organizing. You are able to focus today on organizing all that surrounds you. It seems you may be noticed in the workplace for your ability to organize people and put them in the best positions. This may make you a prime candidate for a management position. Your talents do not go unnoticed nor unappreciated today. Your hard work is paying off.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

New solutions to old problems seem as clear as the nose on your face today. You are unique. You may find that others are drawn to these qualities. Being different isn't so bad. You are drawn to the unusual and find yourself with a desire to express all that is unique about you. New solutions and inventions could come easily for you today. Your creative juices are flowing. You are starting to embrace your true inner self.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find romance, recreation, and creativity begin to be the factors that give you inspiration. The experiences you have now can truly stir your soul. You could find someone you care about is having a hard time distinguishing the difference between reality and fantasy. You may be approached with a business deal that seems too good to be true. Chances are it is so keep your money to yourself to avoid a bad investment. You may find you have a strong urge to get out and about this evening. Conflict could be found easily so choose your company wisely.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

If you have been on a mission to find yourself, consider the job complete. Today you truly feel as if you are your true self. Your true emotions shine through. It seems as if there is an overabundance of good will and support being showered on you. This is a great time to understand those around you and spend some special time with someone you love. An all around good feeling comes over you and this is a wonderful time in your life.

Wordsearch Puzzle

90's Songs 3

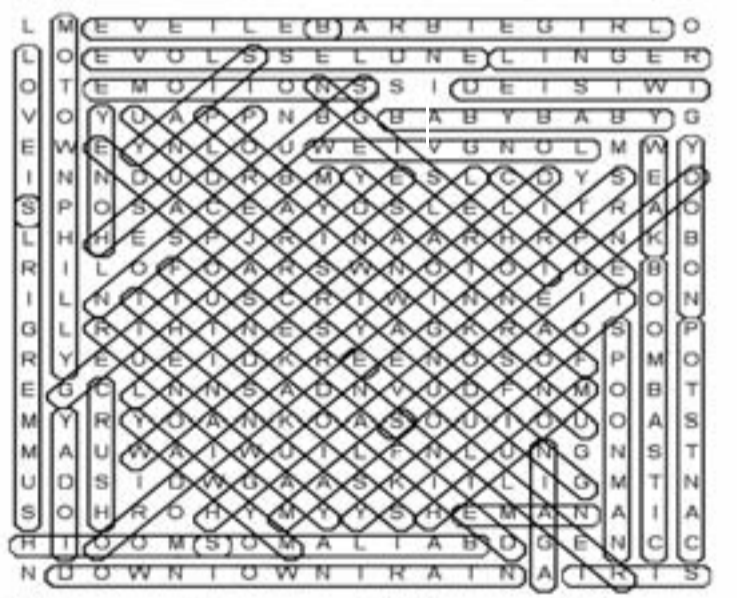
Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.



- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| ANGELS | HANDS | LULLABY | THE POWER |
| ANOTHER NIGHT | HIGH ENOUGH | MEANE | THIS HOUSE |
| BABY | HOLD ON | MY BODY | TOGETHER AGAIN |
| BLACK | HOOK | MY WEEK | TOO MUCH |
| CANDY RAIN | HYPNOTIZE | POISON | TUBTHUMPING |
| CUPID | I BELIEVE | REGULATE | UNPRETTY |
| DITTY | IMPULSIVE | RELEASE ME | WATERFALLS |
| DREAMLOVER | INSENSITIVE | SABOTAGE | WHAT'S UP |
| EVERY MORNING | IRONIC | SHINE | WHATTA MAN |
| FLY AWAY | JEREMY | SHY GUY | WILD NIGHT |
| FORTUNATE | KISS ME | SWEET LADY | ZOMBIE |
| FROZEN | LAST NIGHT | TEMPTATION | |

Yesterday's Solution

90's Songs 2



- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| AGAIN | EPIC | MOUTH | STAY |
| BABY, BABY | ESCAPADE | MY WAY | STRONG ENOUGH |
| BALAMOS | FANTASY | NAME | SUMMER GIRLS |
| BARBIE GIRL | FUNKYPARTY | NO SCRUBS | THE SIGN |
| BELIEVE | GETTO JAM | NOBODY | THIS KISS |
| BOOMBASTIC | HONEY | ORDINARY WORLD | TODAY |
| CRUSH | IRIS | PLUSH | TOO FUNKY |
| CANT STOP | LET'S RIDE | REAL LOVE | TWISTED |
| CRUSH | LINGER | RUNAWAY | UNDERSTANDING |
| DANGEROUS | LONGVIEW | SLAM | UNSKINNY BOP |
| DOWNTOWN TRAIN | LOVE IS | SMOOTH | WEAK |
| EMOTIONS | MOTTOWNPHILLY | SPOONMAN | WONDERWALL |
| ENDLESS LOVE | | | |

The hidden song title is: LOSING MY RELIGION

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019



A visitor looks at a hanging art installation by a group of artists made from scraps of plastics, cans and containers at an exhibition "Reduce the Litter" at the French Cultural Centre in Hanoi yesterday. The exhibition takes on the perspective on production and consumption, portraying pollution from domestic waste causing harmful impact on the environment and people's health. — AFP

Comic-Con hits 50: From hotel basement to Hollywood hangout

From Peter Parker's run-in with a radioactive spider to Superman fleeing an exploding Krypton: comic book fans love a good origin story. So when 135,000 geeks and nerds invade San Diego next week for the 50th edition of Comic-Con—the world's largest celebration of pop culture—the event's humble beginnings will be a hot topic of discussion.

heroes—the comic book creators—at a time when the genre was a million miles away from the mainstream. "We never thought we'd be as big as we are. We never thought we'd be around in 50 years' time," David Glanzer, Comic-Con's marketing chief, told AFP.

Star Wars to Tarantino

"They were the first people who really viewed comic books as art," added Glanzer. Comic-Con's subsequent growth was gradual but inexorable. It increasingly looked beyond comics and catered to film and TV, as well as other genres such as sci-fi. Oscar-winning director Frank Capra was the first genuinely mainstream star to attend. But arguably the tipping point came in 1976 when Lucasfilm's publicist sent a team bearing posters and slides to promote an upcoming "little film called Star Wars," said Glanzer. The ploy to spread word of mouth about its ambitious space opera was "viral marketing before there was viral marketing," he added.

It evidently worked. Big-shot studio executives who had previously attended for fun on their weekends began coming for the whole week, arriving in their business suits to close major licensing deals at San Diego's top restaurants. By the 90s, studios and networks were sending the "talent" itself—star-studded casts and directors—forcing the traditional media to pay attention.

Francis Ford Coppola came to promote "Dracula," while Quentin Tarantino went from wandering the halls as a fan to appearing front and center on stage. "Back in the day we used to give away two or three thousand tickets on the radio because we couldn't get people through the door," recalled Glanzer. "Now tickets sell out within an hour."

Comic roots

The recipe has been so successful that imitations and spin-offs have popped up around the world, from New York to Saudi Arabia. This year San Diego will host a series of retrospective panels celebrating Comic-Con's storied past. But for some, the exponential growth has come at a cost. What was once an intimate event now sees



thousands of bleary-eyed fans—dressed in pitch-perfect monster, alien and manga costumes—lining up long before dawn to squeeze into packed events. Comic retailers who maintained stalls at the event for decades have stopped coming, priced out by rising costs as Comic-Con has filled and spilled out from the 27-acre (11-hectare) San Diego Convention Center.

And many bemoan the fact that, in a world of Hollywood blockbusters and video games, the comic books themselves have been relegated to the back pages. "Yeah we do get a lot of Hollywood people, but entertainment now is very different to how it was in 1970," said Glanzer. "I think that's just a healthy progression and acknowledgement of art in its various different forms. As long as we maintain our roots in comics and other art forms, I hope we'll be okay." — AFP



The sprawling convention today draws Hollywood A-listers like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Patrick Stewart and the cast of "Game of Thrones" to its frantically hyped panels, where billion-dollar franchises are launched. But the first iteration—the brainchild of an unemployed 36-year-old comic collector and his five teenage acolytes—drew just 100 people to a seedy hotel basement down the road in March 1970.

The "Golden State Comic-Con" was first designed as a way for fans to connect with each other and meet their



In this file photo Director Quentin Tarantino attends "The Hateful Eight" press room during Comic-Con International 2015 at the Hilton Bayfront on July 11, 2015 in San Diego, California.



In this file photo Writer/director Francis Ford Coppola attends "Twixt" Press Line during Comic-Con 2011 on July 23, 2011 in San Diego, California.



In this file photo a cosplayer poses for a picture at Comic Con in San Diego.

Lifestyle | Gossip



Bastille tease 'cinematic project'

Bastille are working on a secret "cinematic" project as "a whole other band". Frontman Dan Smith's first love was film and he has continued to drop references to his favorite flicks in their music over the years. In 2017, the 'Pompeii' hit-makers contributed 'World Gone Mad' to the soundtrack of Netflix's 'Bright' by 'Suicide Squad' helmer David Ayer, and there looks to be more film-related work in the pipeline for the British five-piece. Speaking to the Daily Star newspaper's Wired column, Dan said: "We have another project we are involved with, a whole other band, it's very cinematic." The 'Joy' singer also revealed their aspiration to team up with a director for a big screen project in the future. He added: "We are waiting for the right thing to come along. We would love to work with a

director on something. "But for now keep your eyes open for the other project." Speaking on realizing his dream of combining his music and movie passion with 'World Gone Mad', Dan said "The idea of doing film and music together is an absolute dream." The 33-year-old star loved it because it was hassle-free and "one of the most satisfying experiences" of his career. He added: "Often when you hand something in or send something off there's a delay, and as a creative person it can be crushing if you don't hear something back even within a day. "And literally 10 minutes later, I got a call back and everyone was really into it and wanted it to be a single. It was one of the most satisfying experiences like that I've ever had."

Lil Peep's 2nd posthumous album to be released



A posthumous Lil Peep album is to be released. The US rapper - whose real name was Gustav Ahr - died of an accidental overdose in November 2017 aged 21, and his mum has now helped put together a number of his unreleased tracks to make up a new record. A message on his Instagram account read: "Who wants a new album with amazing unreleased Lil Peep music put together by Gus's mom and the songs' original collaborators? You have been asking for this, and I can't wait to get it to you! (sic)" Gus died just three months after dropping his debut album, 'Come Over When You're Sober, Pt. 1', and a year after his death his team released posthumous album 'Come Over When You're Sober, Pt. 2'. The star's producer Smokeasac previously hinted there was more unreleased music to come. Asked if there was more material which could be released following the second record, he said: "There's material for sure. I have a decent amount of songs with him and then he has music with other producers like Harry Fraud, Diplo, and then there's an album with iLoveMakonnen. I'm

glad to be a part of that. I produced, I think, like six of the songs on the Makonnen album. "That's something people can be excited about, too. It was a big change, I guess, in his energy. "Come Over When You're Sober Pt. 2" - 'Come Over When You're Sober' in general, really - and the Makonnen record is some of his best work. He really put his all into those projects. "When the time is right we'll release the stuff with Makonnen. "I speak to Peep's mom all the time and I want to make sure that she approves of everything. "It's a similar thing, in demo form. It's a finished album vocals-wise but me and Makonnen will go back into the studio and finish everything off." Diplo and Bella Thorne were among the stars to pay tribute to Gus following his death. The DJ tweeted: "peep had so much more to do man he was constantly inspiring me. I don't feel good man (sic)" Bella wrote: "I don't know what to say "Peep you deserved more out of life. Life didn't do your greatness justice. (sic)"

will.i.am keen for Cheryl Tweedy collaboration

Mwill.i.am has teased a collaboration with Cheryl Tweedy could be on the cards. The Black Eyed Peas star famously managed the brunette beauty's solo career until they went their separate ways in 2013 but, despite their professional split, they've always remained close friends. The 'Where is the Love?' hitmaker and the former Girls Aloud star previously teamed up on 'Heartbreaker', which was released on Cheryl's debut solo album '3 Words' in 2009, and they could be set to hit the studio again. Speaking to the Daily Star newspaper's Wired column, will said: "We talked about it at a Post Malone concert. "I would love to work with Cheryl again, she is awesome." Cheryl's last single was 'Let You', released in May, which was co-written with her former bandmate Nicola Roberts. will - who supported Robbie Williams with his band at Barclaycard presents British Summer Time Hyde Park on Sunday - previously revealed he was keen to get Cheryl on 'The Voice' with him. The pop producer has been a coach on the ITV singing show since it first hit television screens in 2010 and, although he's willing to work with anyone who joins the program, he admitted two years ago it would be "dope" if the 36-year-old star sat alongside him on the panel. He said: "It would be dope to have Cheryl on 'The Voice'. That would be cool. It would be pretty cool for us to work together." Cheryl initially joined 'The X Factor' as a judge in 2008 - during which time she mentored Alexandra Burke and Joe McElderry to victory - but she left in 2010, before returning four years later.



May slams idea of touring with Mercury impersonator

Brian May has hailed Adam Lambert as a "true phenomenon" and slammed anyone who has suggested Queen should tour with a Freddie Mercury impersonator. The former 'American Idol' star, Brian and drummer Roger Taylor are currently on 'The Rhapsody Tour' in North America, and the 71-year-old guitar legend has heaped praise on the 37-year-old singer, who he called a "modern marvel", and admitted they wouldn't be able to perform and carry on the legacy of Queen without him. Alongside a concert snap of Adam before their San Jose concert yesterday, Brian wrote on Instagram: "And here is the Modern Marvel without whom, for sure, Queen would not be out here delivering at the top level. ADAM LAMBERT is only now beginning to be recognized by the greater public as the true phenomenon that he is. Gifted with a voice in a billion, for himself he is a passionate and unyielding perfectionist. Gifted to us, he is the reason that we are still alive as a functioning rock band. And still able to take on new challenges. "Plus ... he's nice. That's a

big deal when you're a touring family. Freddie would approve, big time. (sic)" Responding to the "few people" who have said they'd be better performing with a tribute frontman in the place of the late great Freddie - who died 1991 aged 45 due to complications from AIDS - the 'We Will Rock You' hitmaker concluded: "(TONITE !!! For One Night Only ! San Jose !!! Are ya ready ?!!! THANKS @ALAlways on Twitter for this photo. Also, and I will say this only once, for the benefit of just a few people who haven't stopped to think clearly. Just imagine how awful it would have been for Roger and myself to tour with a Freddie impersonator. Anyone who suggests such a thing doesn't belong here. To the vast majority of you lovely people out there - BIG THANKS for being respectful to Adam. In supporting him, you are supporting the life blood of the live Queen legacy. Nothing is forever. This is a precious moment. We never pass this way again. Bri (sic)"



McCartney and Starr host mini Beatles reunion

Sir Paul McCartney and Sir Ringo Starr hosted a mini Beatles reunion at the former's Los Angeles show on Saturday. The 77-year-old music legend surprised fans at his 'Freshen Up Tour' concert at the Dodger Stadium when he introduced the iconic Liverpool band's former drummer on stage with him for the first time since the pair performed at the Grammys in 2014. After performing the group's 1968 hit 'Birthday', McCartney announced: "We've got a surprise for us, a surprise for you, a surprise for everyone. "Ladies and gentlemen, the one and only, Ringo Starr." The pair then shared a hug, whilst McCartney gushed: "I love you, man." After setting up his drum kit, they treated fans to renditions of 1978 classic 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (Reprise)', the version which sees Starr start the track by playing the drum part unaccompanied for four bars, followed by a brief bass glissando from McCartney. They then rocked out to heavy number, 'Helter Skelter' - which McCartney was "put off" performing for years because of the song's association with the late cult leader Charles Manson,

who was responsible for the murder of model Sharon Tate and four others at the Los Angeles home she shared with Roman Polanski in August 1969. At the end of the performance, Starr threw his drum sticks into the crowd and then jokingly pretended to offer McCartney's bass to the sold-out stadium. If that wasn't enough, the Los Angeles crowd also witnessed a special guest slot from The Eagles' Joe Walsh for 'Carry The Weight' and 'The End' from 1969's 'Abbey Road' LP, which features the last recording sessions featuring all four members of The Fab Four - which also included the late frontman John Lennon and guitarist George Harrison. 'Let it Be' hitmaker McCartney ended the epic 38-song set by telling his US fans it won't be the last time they will see him. He vowed: "Farewell to you guys. Farewell to America. Only one thing left to be said: 'We'll see you next time!' After the concert, the 'Egypt Station' singer posted a picture of him and Starr from the gig, and wrote on Instagram: "Reunited with my favorite Starr #FreshenUpTour @ringostarrmusic (sic)"

Andre laughs off gig 'grabbing'

Peter Andre thinks being groped during gigs is just "harmless fun". The 'Mysterious Girl' hitmaker recently performed a private concert and found a number of drunk guests grabbed him in a "certain place" while he sang - but he insisted he didn't mind. He said: "Last week I did a private gig in Cheshire for Dr. Nyla Raja, a cosmetic dermatology GP who is a

good friend. It was an amazing night. "There were a few familiar faces such as Amber Turner and Danielle Fogarty, who shared some great clips of me dancing on a table while singing 'Mysterious Girl'. What can I say? It's the Greek in me, ha ha. "A few of the ladies - and even one guys - got a bit drunk and grabbed me in a certain place during the performance, but I just see it as them having a bit of harmless fun." After his performance, the 46-year-old singer - who has children Junior 14, and Princess, 12, with ex-wife Katie Price, and Amelia, five, and Theo, two, with spouse Emily - shunned joining in with the festivities in favor of going back to his hotel to catch up on his favorite TV show, 'Love Island'. He wrote in his column for new! magazine: "My set finishes around 12am but instead of staying I went back to my hotel room to watch the post-Casa Amor recoupling on 'Love Island'. "It was possibly the saddest thing I've ever done but equally the best episode I've seen so far. I'm hooked!"



Florence Welch 'overwhelmed' by British Summer Time experience

Florence Welch admitted to being "overwhelmed" as she played Barclaycard presents British Summer Time in Hyde Park on Saturday. The 32-year-old star - who is the lead vocalist of her band, Florence + the Machine - told the crowd in London that she couldn't believe how far she's come over the last decade. She confessed: "I'm so overwhelmed by this. "To come from playing the Old Blue Last and Camden every week ... so I cannot believe that, 10 years later, we are still here. "The thing that has been so beautiful is the community that has built up around these shows." She added: "This will be our last London show for ... a little bit." Florence also dedicated a song to Arya Stark, a fictional character from the HBO fantasy series 'Game of Thrones'. Prior to performing 'Jenny of Oldstones' - which features on the 'Game of Thrones' soundtrack - she told the crowd: "I would like to dedicate this song to Arya Stark." Florence and her band - who headlined the show in Hyde Park - also performed a string of other hits, including 'June', 'Hunger' and 'Kiss With A Fist'. Elsewhere, The National also entertained the crowd in central London, as they were joined on stage by the likes of Gail Anne Dorsey, Lisa Hannigan and Pauline de Lassus. Other acts earlier in the day included Connie Constance, CC Honeymoon and Roses Gabor.





Military vests are on display at a shop in Yemen's third city of Taz. — AFP photos



A partial view of a weapons shop in Yemen's third city of Taz.



A Soviet-produced TT-33 pistol is pictured at a shop in Yemen's third city of Taz.

FROM CRAFTS TO KALASHNIKOVS: ARMS SOUK THRIVES IN YEMEN'S TAEZ

Once overflowing with handicrafts, the old Al-Shinayni market in Yemen's third city of Taz is now bursting with Kalashnikovs and bullets as traders scramble to scratch out a living in the war-wracked country. Yemen has been plunged into a devastating war since the Iran-aligned Huthi rebels swept into the capital Sanaa in a late 2014 offensive, sparking a military intervention months later by a Saudi-led coalition. The southwestern city of Taz is controlled by government forces but under siege by the Huthis, who have repeatedly bombed the city of 615,000 people.

Many civilians in tribal Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished country, carry personal arms even under normal circumstances and weapons trade is common. But the war has seen the arms market surge, and traditional trades pushed aside. "In the past, the city's old souk (market) used to sell mainly handicraft items made by blacksmiths, potters and tailors," said merchant Abu Ali. "When the war erupted, most merchants turned to selling weapons," the tailor-turned arms trader told AFP. "Some sell (Yemen's highly popular mild narcotic leaf) Qat, and others have fled. Half of the shops have shut down," he added.

Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, have been killed since March 2015 when the Saudi-led military coalition intervened in support of the internationally recognized government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi.

'Arms trade flourished'

Taz has not been spared from the violence. Dozens of people, including children, were killed earlier this year in battles between the rebels and forces loyal to the government, as well as infighting among rival pro-government groups, according to local and medical sources. Abid Al-Rashdi, who still sells handmade goods at Al-Shinayni, said he struggles to keep up his line of work amid a conflict that shows no sign of abating.



Bullets are on display at a shop in Yemen's third city of Taz.



A picture shows military camouflage textiles on display at a shop in Yemen's third city of Taz.

'Bullets and weapons'

Armed men on motorcycles whizz in and out of the market, once a hub for selling clay pots and jugs. Fatigues, tactical vest and helmets are on display outside the shops. Inside, AK47 assault rifles hang on the walls, with bullets and mortar shells neatly lining the shelves. "It's an arms market," said Abu Ali. Different weapons carry different price tags. An AK47 rifle is sold for \$1,090, a pistol for \$818, and a bullet for half a dollar. Like Abu Ali, the war forced Mohammed Tajer, a handicraft merchant, to turn to the arms trade to make ends meet.

"We used to work well" before the war, Tajer told AFP. "But once the war started, we had to resort to selling bullets and weapons. If the conflict ends, we will go back to our previous professions." In front of one shop, a young boy in a yellow T-shirt sits on a cushion as he bangs away on a piece of metal. An older man next to him stands near a forge hammering a sharp object. The conflict in Yemen has triggered what the United Nations describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than 24 million Yemenis—around two-thirds of the population—in need of aid.



"In the past five years, the blacksmith and pottery professions have been greatly impacted while arms trade flourished," he told AFP. Shuttered shops secured with padlocks lie on either side of an open storefront that says "tailoring for men". Inside, on the shelves where threads and fabrics were once placed, bullets and guns now sit, some locally produced and others smuggled into the country. — AFP

A picture shows military fatigues on display at a shop in Yemen's third city of Taz.

As Bauhaus marks 100 years, Tel Aviv's White City stands tall

While many in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv start the weekend at a sidewalk cafe, there is a small group of visitors walking the streets in search of Bauhaus buildings. Practitioners of the minimalist architectural movement, founded in Germany a century ago, were among European Jews who fled to British-ruled Palestine when the Nazis took power. Today Tel Aviv is a leading repository of the modernist style that celebrates its 100th year in 2019.

Bauhaus and its variations are prominent among the 4,000 buildings which make up what is known as Tel Aviv's White City, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The name comes from the white-painted facades, which together with rounded balconies epitomize the Bauhaus style. The Bauhaus design school was founded in Weimar, Germany, by Walter Gropius in April 1919, exactly a decade after Tel Aviv was born as a small seaside village on sand dunes near the ancient Mediterranean port of Jaffa. Driven out by the Nazis in 1933, Bauhaus is part of the modernist movement that had emerged in the 1920s. In a break with the past it favored a functional aesthetic and the use of glass, steel or concrete.

World's biggest

On the streets of Tel Aviv, a group of about 30 from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Sweden were on a walking tour organized by the Bauhaus Centre, which is headed by co-founder Micha Gross. The Swiss psychologist and architecture enthusiast told AFP that no other city in the world has a larger collection of Bauhaus buildings than Tel Aviv. UNESCO says that the master development plan was the work of Britain's Sir Patrick Geddes, a leading modernist. "Tel Aviv is his only large-scale urban realization," its World Heritage website says.

The first stop on the Bauhaus Centre tour was Shulamit Square, just off Tel Aviv's central Dizengoff Street. With its sleek, rounded buildings, the site embodies the way Bauhaus shaped the city with its ethos of seeking to create homes for all social classes. Unlike their predecessors who built for the German climate, the architects who settled in Tel Aviv had to adapt their work to the local climate. They used less glass to minimize heat and incorporated balconies to catch the sea breezes.

Another stop was at nearby Dizengoff Square, a city landmark dominated by prominent Bauhaus buildings, including the immaculate white Hotel Cinema. Gross says that while the number of visitors to the Bauhaus Centre has tripled in recent years, the White City is more of an impulse destination than Jerusalem and its holy sites, which every year attract millions of visitors. Katell Piboules and Yann Becouary are two French visitors to the center in their 40s. Armed with detailed maps showing Bauhaus gems they walk the streets unaccompanied. "There are a lot of things to see here," says Piboules, adding that she and her companion are not great beachgoers.

They say that while some buildings are well-restored and worth seeing, others leave much to be desired. "Maintaining and restoring these buildings is complex," says Gross, who explains that it takes between eight to 10 years to renovate a building. Most of these 1930s buildings are in private hands and restoring them depends on the goodwill of their owners, who get no public funding for the projects.

International style

Architect Sharon Golan Yaron is content manager of the White City Centre, set up in 2015 by the Tel Aviv city council and the German government to "preserve the heritage of the White City". She says that while the Bauhaus influence is notable, other architectural styles have shaped Tel Aviv. Iconic Swiss-born modernist Le Corbusier in particular left his mark, she says, adding that rather than using Bauhaus as a blanket term it would be more accurate to describe Tel Aviv's architectural heritage as "international".

The international style emphasizes space as opposed to mass. It spread throughout the world until the 1980s, driven by the followers of Le Corbusier, Gropius and Oscar Niemeyer. Unlike some other heritage buildings, says Golan Yaron, those of the White City are still lived in.—AFP



Pictures show the Reisfeld House, a building built in 1935 by architect Pinchas Bijonsky. — AFP photos

Lifestyle | Feature



This photo shows people at a night market in Kashgar, in China's western Xinjiang region. — AFP photos



Uighur men dancing after Eid Al-Fitr prayers, marking the end of Ramadan, outside the Id Kah mosque in Kashgar, in China's western Xinjiang region.

AS CHINA LOCKS UP MUSLIMS IN XINJIANG, IT OPENS ITS DOORS TO TOURISTS

From the expansive dunes of the Taklamakan Desert to the snow-capped peaks of Tianshan, Chinese authorities are selling troubled Xinjiang as a tourist idyll, welcoming travellers even as they send locals to internment camps. The government has rounded up an estimated one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic-speaking minorities into re-education camps in the tightly-controlled region in China's northwest, but it has also created a parallel universe for visitors, who are only shown a carefully curated version of traditional customs and culture.



Uighur men walking towards the Id Kah mosque before Eid Al-Fitr prayers, marking the end of Ramadan, in Kashgar.

In the Old Town of Kashgar, an ancient Silk Road city, smiling food vendors serve mouthwatering lamb skewers, while children play in the streets. "It didn't look to me like unless you were picked up and put in a camp—that these Uighur communities seemed to be living in some kind of fear," said William Lee, who has taught at universities in China for 10 years and visited the region in June. "That's just my impression," he added. Xinjiang, a fraught region where flare-ups of interethnic violence have led to unprecedented levels of surveillance, is one of the fastest growing areas for tourism in China.

Armed police and frequent checkpoints have not dampened the flow of vacationers visiting the region, which in 2018 saw a 40 percent increase year-on-year of visits—mainly from domestic tourists—outstripping the national average by 25 percent, according to official figures. Business has grown steadily over the years mainly because "Xinjiang is very stable," explained Wu Yali, who runs a travel agency in the region.

Though tourists are not used to the high-level of security at first, "they adapt after a few days," she told AFP. But travellers are barred from witnessing the most controversial part of Xinjiang's security apparatus: the network of internment camps spread across the vast region. Many of

these facilities are outside main tourist hubs and are fenced off with razor-wired walls. On a six-day trip to the region last month, AFP reporters encountered roadblocks and were turned away by security forces upon nearing some camps.

'Regime of terror'

China describes the facilities as "vocational education centers" where Turkic-speaking "trainees" learn Mandarin and job skills. "The violence that is being inflicted on the bodies of Uighur and other Muslim people...has been rendered invisible," said Rachel Harris, who studies Uighur culture and music at the School of Oriental and African Studies University of London. "For a tourist who goes and travels around a designated route, it all looks nice," she told AFP. "It's all very quiet and that's because there's a regime of terror being imposed on the local people."

According to Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily, the regional government offered travellers subsidies worth 500 yuan (\$73) each in 2014, after tourism plunged following a deadly knife attack blamed on Xinjiang separatists in southwestern China. By 2020, Xinjiang is aiming to hit a total of 300 million visits by tourists and rake in 600 billion yuan (\$87 billion), according to the region's tourism bureau. Tourism packages to Xinjiang often feature the region's rich array of natural beauty, from the azure waters of Karakul lake to Tianshan—a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Many also offer "ethnic" experiences, often in the form of dance performances. Some tour operators even include visits to Uighur homes. Even as Chinese authorities seek to contain the region's Muslim minorities, they are monetizing ethnic culture—albeit a simplified version of it, experts say.

"Uighur culture is being boiled down to just song and dance," said Josh Summers, an American who lived in Xinjiang for more than a decade and wrote travel guides for the region. "What makes me sad is what ends up happening is there are only very specific parts of Uighur culture that get maintained because of the tourism," he said, citing the neglect of Uighur paper-making traditions and desert shrines.

'Discover Xinjiang'

Beijing's security clampdown has also squeezed Yengisar city's artisanal knife trade, said Summers. "Ever since the management of Xinjiang became stricter, the impact on Yengisar's small knives has been very large—now there are very few shops selling small knives," agreed Li Qingwen, who runs a tourism business in Xinjiang. The government wants Uighurs to "show how they excel in singing and dancing, instead of living under religious rules and restrictions," he told AFP.

But while ethnic song and dance is showcased to tourists, Uighurs are often restricted in how they express their own culture. Large, spontaneous gatherings of Uighurs—even if they involve dancing—are less frequent because of tightened security, said Summers. Night mar-

kets too are more controlled. In Hotan, what used to be an outdoor night market is now inside a white tent, where red lanterns hang from the ceiling and uniform food stalls adorned with Chinese flags sell lamb skewers, but also sushi and seafood.

Over the past few years, cultural leaders in the Uighur community have disappeared, raising fears they have been detained. In February, Turkey's foreign ministry claimed that prominent Uighur musician and poet Abdurrahim Heyit had died in a Chinese prison—prompting China to release a "proof-of-life" video of an inmate who identified himself as Heyit. Famous Uighur comedian Adil Mijit is also missing, according to social media posts by his son-in-law Arslan Hidayat.



The Id Kah mosque in Kashgar.

And though tourists are buffered from the ugliest parts of Xinjiang's security crackdown, it is not difficult to bump against the region's many red lines. A traveller from Southeast Asia, who requested anonymity due to fear of reprisals, described the barriers he faced when trying to pray at a mosque.

Many places of worship were closed in Kashgar, he said, unlike mosques in other Chinese cities. At Idkah Mosque, Kashgar's central mosque, the tourist was told he couldn't pray inside—and that he had to buy a ticket to enter. "They want to separate travellers from locals," he said, adding that his visit to Xinjiang confirmed what he had read about re-education camps. He added: "There's a lot more of Xinjiang that I want to discover. But I really hope that Xinjiang will become the old Xinjiang." — AFP



A woman walking in the restored old city area of Kashgar.



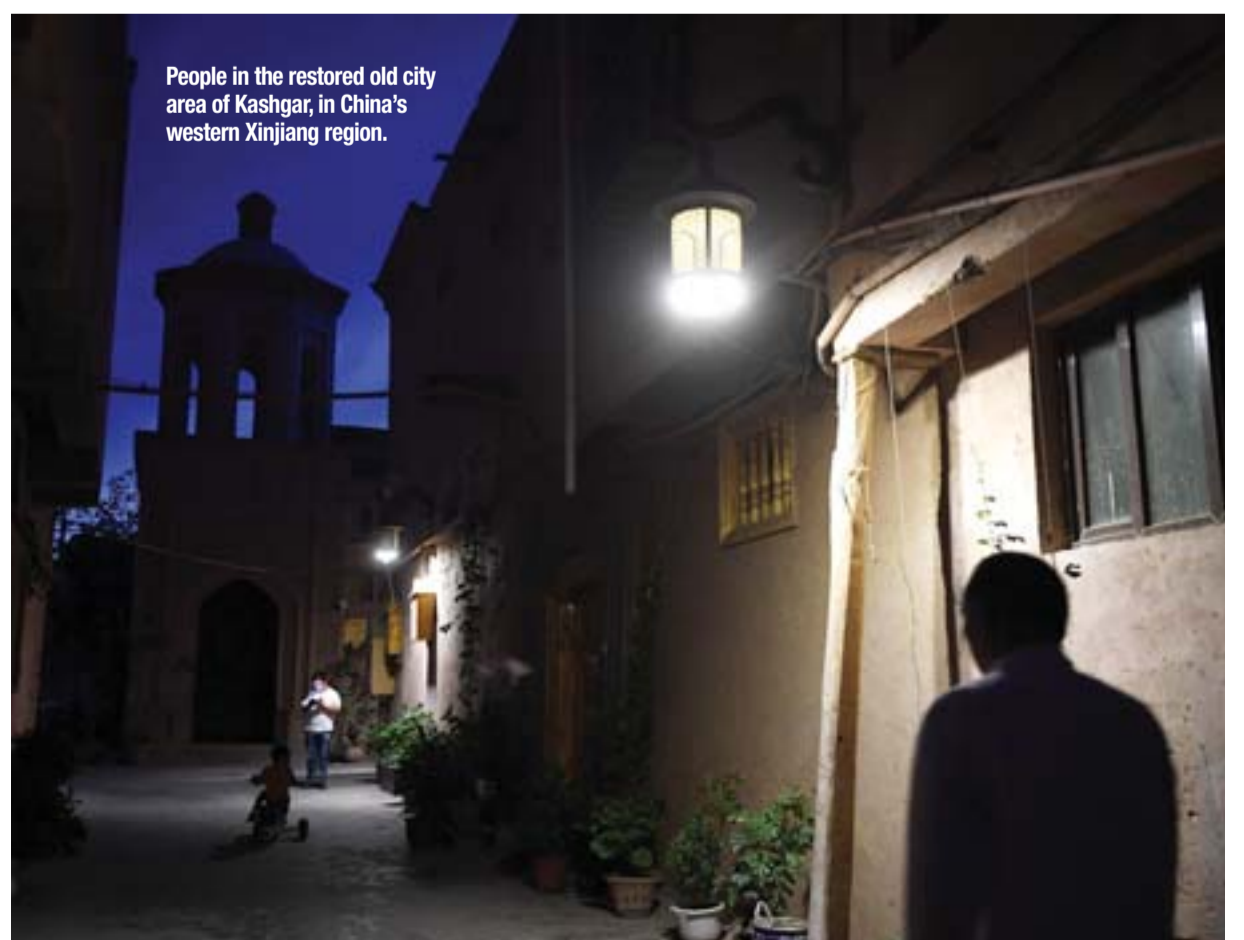
Tourists in the restored old city area of Kashgar, in China's western Xinjiang region.



People taking photos in the restored old city area of Kashgar.



Uighur men sitting in front of a coffee bar in the restored old city area of Kashgar.



People in the restored old city area of Kashgar, in China's western Xinjiang region.

Classifieds

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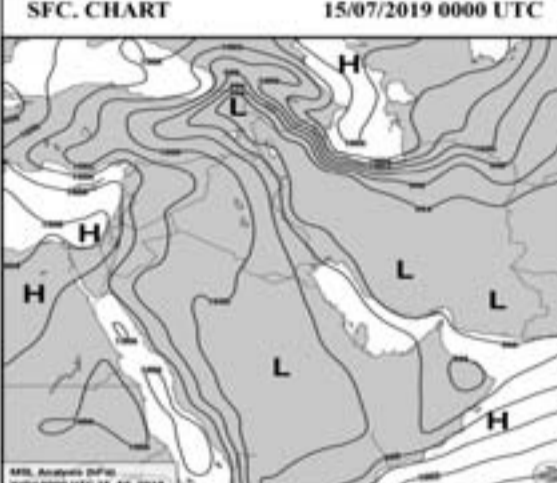
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

BY NIGHT: Hot to relatively hot with light to moderate freshening at times over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 15/07/2019 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	34 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	32 °C		
ABDALY	45 °C	29 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	46 °C	32 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	45 °C	29 °C		
SALMIYAH	42 °C	33 °C		
AHMADI	43 °C	33 °C		
NUWAISIB	42 °C	31 °C		
WAFRA	46 °C	29 °C		
SALMY	44 °C	26 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	07/16	Hot and rising dust	46 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 55 km/h
Wednesday	07/17	Hot and rising dust	46 °C	34 °C	NW	25 - 55 km/h
Thursday	07/18	Very hot and rising dust	47 °C	33 °C	NW	25 - 55 km/h
Friday	07/19	Very hot and rising dust	47 °C	35 °C	NW	25 - 60 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:26
Sunrise	04:59
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:28
Sunset	18:49
Isha	20:19

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	44 °C
MIN. Temp.	29 °C
MAX. RH	22 %
MIN. RH	08 %
MAX. Wind	N 68 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dudekula Masthan Basha, holder of Indian passport No. L7719785 and Civil ID No. 291031002941. Father Name: Dudekula Syed Basha Mother Name: Dudekula Sarthaj Bagum, have changed our names from Dudekula Masthan Basha Father Name: Dudekula Syed Basha, Mother Name: Dudekula Sarthaj Bagum, to Shaik Masthan Basha, Father Name: Shaik Syed Basha, Mother Name: Shaik Sarthaj Bagum here in after in all our dealings and documents, we will be known by name of Shaik Masthan Basha Father Name: Shaik Syed Basha, Mother Name: Shaik Sarthaj Bagum. (C 5558)

PASSPORT NO. Z2809798 hereby declare that I have changed my name from ABBAS to ABBAS SHARAF ALI PAINTER. I shall be known by name ABBAS SHARAF ALI PAINTER in future. (5662) 16-7-2019

I, Dilip Kumar S/o Jalim Prasad, holder of Indian Passport No. K7041953 issued in India has changed the given name in Passport from Dilip Kumar to Dileep Kumar resident of Newal Village, Bangarmau Post, Unnao Dist. (U.P) India. (C 5557)

FRANCINA DIAS - Old Name, FRANSQUINHA DIAS - New Name, change into my passport of my wife name P.P No. L9665868 Manuel Dias. (5661) 15-7-2019

I, ABBAS holder of INDIAN

Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22087426
FlyDubai	22924455
Qatar Airways	22414400
KLM	22423888
Royal Jordanian	22425747
British Airways	22418064/5/6
Air France	22425635
Emirates	22430224
Air India	22921555
Air India EXPRESS	22456700
Sri Lanka Airlines	22438185/4
Egypt Air	22424444
Swiss Air	22421578
Saudia	22421516
Middle East Airlines	22426306
Lufthansa	22423073
PIA	22422493
Bangladesh Airlines	22421044
Indian Airlines	22452977/8
	22456700

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Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 16/7/2019				Departure Flights on Tuesday 16/7/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEQ	241	Alexandria	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	JZR	713	Sohag	00:10
KAC	122	AGP	00:20	MSC	406	Sohag	00:15
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	LZB	7788	Varna	00:55
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FEG	342	Sohag	01:05
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	IGO	1758	Kochi	01:10
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:15
KAC	182	Paris/NCE	01:10	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	285	Dhaka	02:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	111	Doha	02:10
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	JZR	707	Luxor	02:50
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	THY	769	Istanbul	03:50
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	JZR	1735	Cairo	04:40
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	OHY	351	Istanbul	05:00
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
KAC	382	Delhi	04:40	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	JZR	745	Sharm el-Sheikh	06:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	623	Doha	07:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	251	Amman	07:10
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	UAE	874	Dubai	07:10
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	KAC	167	Paris	07:15
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR	121	Dubai	07:15
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	BAW	156	London	07:40
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:45
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	KAC	165	Rome	08:00
KAC	106	London	06:40	JZR	211	Jeddah	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	08:35
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	177	Vienna	08:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	KAC	501	Beirut	08:50
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	545	Cairo	08:50
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	IRA	674	Lar	08:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	561	Amman	08:55
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
IRA	675	Lar	08:00	KAC	117	New York	09:05
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KAC	157	Istanbul	09:10
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	QTR	1085	Doha	09:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
JZR	708	Luxor	08:45	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	691	Muscat	09:20
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	JZR	601	Baku	09:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	KAC	731	Cairo	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	JZR	301	Istanbul	09:55
KAC	384	Delhi	09:55	JZR	221	Riyadh	09:55
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	09:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	OMA	642	Muscat	10:00
OMS	223	Muscat	10:35	KAC	101	London	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	210	Bahrain	10:30
KAC	624	Doha	10:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:30
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	617	Doha	10:40
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	10:40
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	10:55
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	SAW	704	Damascus	11:00
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:30	OMS	224	Muscat	11:15
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	746	Sharm el-Sheikh	12:25	FDB	071	Dubai	12:00

Code-breaker Turing to appear on new British £50 banknote

LONDON: World War II code-breaker Alan Turing has been chosen to feature on Britain's new £50 note, the Bank of England announced yesterday, decades after his tragic death following a conviction for homosexuality. Turing played a pivotal role in the development of early computers, but his career was cut short by his conviction in 1952 for gross indecency with a 19-year-old man. He did not go to prison but was chemically castrated and died of cyanide poisoning in an apparent suicide in 1954, aged 41.

"Alan Turing was an outstanding mathematician whose work has had an enormous impact on how we live today," Bank of England governor Mark Carney said as he unveiled the note worth £50 (\$63). "As the father of computer science and artificial intelligence, as well as war hero, Alan Turing's contributions were far ranging and path breaking," he said at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, northwest England. "Turing is a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand."

Turing received a posthumous pardon from Queen Elizabeth II in 2013. In 2017, the "Alan Turing Law" posthumously pardoned men who had been cautioned or convicted under historical legislation that outlawed homosexual acts in Britain. "It is only fitting that we remember his legacy and the brilliant contribution LGBT people have made to our country on the new £50 note," outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May said. The note, which is due to enter circulation by the end of 2021, shows a photo of Turing taken in 1951.

The Oscar-winning 2014 film "The Imitation Game" starring Benedict Cumberbatch brought belated acclaim for Turing's key wartime role when he helped crack German military communication codes, handing the allies a huge trove of intelligence. "Alan Turing's pioneering work in mathematics and computer science played a crucial part in ending the Second World War," May added.

The Bank of England is putting new faces on Britain's banknotes as it switches from paper to polymer, or thin, flexible plastic film that is seen as more



MANCHESTER: Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, speaks in front of the concept design for the new £50 banknote, featuring mathematician and scientist Alan Turing, during a presentation at the Science and Industry Museum yesterday. — AFP

durable and secure. The new £20 note, due to enter circulation next year, will feature artist J M W Turner on its back. The new polymer £5 and £10 notes

already in circulation show wartime leader Winston Churchill and author Jane Austen respectively. The queen features on the front of Britain's bank notes. The

£50 is by far the least used among the general public, and seen as a note favored by criminals who want to move large amounts of cash. — AFP

Aussie kids take stolen car on 1,000-km trip

SYDNEY: Four children took a stolen four-wheel drive on a 1,000-km road trip across the Australian outback before being nabbed by police, officials said yesterday. A 14-year-old boy, two 13-year-old boys and a 10-year-old girl began their epic journey on Saturday when they took cash and packed fishing rods in a vehicle belonging to one of their families in the coastal Queensland town of Rockhampton, police said. One of the children left a note for his family telling them of his plans.

Queensland police said the car was spotted early on Sunday morning in the outback town of Banana, where the kids allegedly stole petrol, before travel-

ling south. The car was found on Sunday night near Grafton, in the neighboring state of New South Wales, about 11 hours' drive from Rockhampton. New South Wales police said officers had to force their way into the vehicle after the children refused to get out.

"They have locked themselves in the car and police have had to use a baton to get in to arrest them," Coffs-Clarence district acting inspector Darren Williams told reporters. It was not clear which of the children had been behind the wheel, but Williams said it was likely they had shared the driving. "It is a long way, in excess of 1,000 (km) from Rockhampton down to Grafton," he said. "I couldn't imagine one person driving that way in two days."

Police are investigating several alleged offences committed during the road trip, Williams said. The children, who were found unharmed, have been taken into care. Williams said it was unclear what prompted the children to take the trip, but one of the boys was originally from Grafton. — AFP

Cop who killed Ethiopian-Israeli released on bail

JERUSALEM: A police officer who shot dead a 19-year-old Ethiopian-Israeli, sparking nationwide protests, was freed on bail from house arrest yesterday, Israel's justice ministry said. The officer, who was off-duty and said he felt his life was in danger at the time of the June 30 shooting, will be subject to a series of restrictions while the investigation continues. The bail amount was not made public by the ministry following the closed-door court hearing over the shooting of Solomon Teka in Kiryat Haim near the northern port city of Haifa. Israeli media reported the amount at 5,000 shekels (\$1,400).

Teka's death sparked three days of nationwide protests that were often violent over longstanding grievances of Ethiopian-Israelis, who say they are discriminat-

ed against and targeted by police because they are black. There are some 140,000 Ethiopian-Israelis, of whom around 50,000 were born in Israel. They are Jewish, but say they are in many cases still seen as outsiders.

Yesterday's decision coincided with an Israeli parliament session on issues facing the Ethiopian-Israeli community. Outside parliament, a few dozen demonstrators protested and chanted slogans such as "a murdering cop has to be in prison," "we are all Solomon Teka" and "not black, not white, we're all humans". Some sought to block a nearby road before being cleared by police, who arrested seven people.

"As a mother, I'm scared. You raise a child, he goes out and you don't know what police could do to him," said Eden Gamber, a mother of two from Ramle in central Israel. Police said Teka was killed when the off-duty officer saw a fight between youths and tried to break it up. After the officer identified himself, the youths threw stones at him and he opened fire at Teka after feeling that his life was in danger, a police statement said. Police later said the officer hadn't fired directly at Teka but the bullet had ricocheted off the ground and then hit him. — AFP

Trump steps up attacks on...

Continued from Page 1

"These are people that hate our country," Trump said. "They hate it, I think, with a passion. Now, it's possible I'm wrong. The voter will decide." He accused the congresswomen of using anti-Semitic language and voicing hatred for Israel, suggesting that they might be communists. "When will the Radical Left Congresswomen apologize to our Country, the people of Israel and even to the Office of the President, for the foul language they have used, and the terrible things they have said," Trump wrote on Twitter. "So many people are angry at them & their horrible & disgusting actions," Trump said.

Trump has been roundly criticized for his attacks by Democrats, who accused him of racism. Republicans have been slower to respond, but yesterday, moderate Senator Susan Collins called on him to retract his comments. Collins said while she disagreed with the political views of the leftist representatives, "the president's tweet that some members of Congress

should go back to the 'places from which they came' was way over the line, and he should take that down."

Another Republican senator, Lindsey Graham, urged Trump to "aim higher" and take on their policies. "They are American citizens," Graham said on "Fox & Friends." Both Collins and Graham nevertheless accused the women lawmakers of being anti-Semitic. Trump last year reportedly referred to countries in Africa as "s***hole" nations, and has often described the influx of US-bound migrants as an "invasion". He was also a leading proponent of the "birther" conspiracy theory that Barack Obama was not born on US soil and therefore could not legally be president.

Republican Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania said "the citizenship of all four is as valid as mine". "They are entitled to their opinions, however misguided they may be," he added. Will Hurd, the only black Republican in the House of Representatives, told CNN that Trump's tweets were "racist and xenophobic" and "behavior that's unbecoming of the leader of the free world". Senator Tim Scott, a black Republican from South Carolina, criticized Trump for using "unacceptable personal attacks and racially offensive language" while Republican Representative Mike Turner of Ohio said the remarks were "racist and he should apologize". — AFP

Erdogan hails S-400 deal on...

Continued from Page 1

Relations with the West deteriorated after the coup bid, as Turkish officials accused the West of not giving Ankara sufficient support. Over the same period, Erdogan has grown ever closer to Russian President Vladimir Putin, raising concerns in Europe and the United States. Erdogan said Turkey's "next target was joint production with Russia" of the next missile defense system. "We are taking every measure to make sure our people do not suffer the betrayal of 15 July again or something similar," Erdogan added.

Earlier yesterday, the president took part in a tense ceremony at parliament, which was bombed during the attempted putsch. He was scheduled to give a speech in Istanbul later yesterday and inaugurate a museum dedicated to the failed coup of July 15, 2016. Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said on Twitter that Turkey "sends a powerful message of unity and solidarity to the world: We will die but nev-

er let traitors and putschists destroy our country, our freedom and our dignity."

The day, known as "15 July" in Turkey, has become a national holiday. Arzu, who was among the thousands who came to see Erdogan speak in Ankara, said she was there to "honor our martyrs", adding: "Without them, we would not be alive." Ankara accuses former ally-turned-foe Fethullah Gulen, a Muslim cleric exiled in the United States, of having ordered the attempted coup. He lists his movement as a "terrorist" organization.

Some 8,000 military personnel took part in the bid to overthrow Erdogan, backed by 35 fighter jets, three boats, 37 helicopters and 74 tanks, according to state news agency Anadolu. Since 2016, tens of thousands of people have been detained while 150,000 public sector employees have been suspended or sacked over alleged links to Gulen. Anadolu reported Sunday that 110 suspected Gulen movement members have been extradited to Turkey from more than 20 countries. Hundreds of life sentences have been handed down against accused putschists. There are still almost daily police raids to capture suspects accused of ties to Gulen. Based in Pennsylvania, he strongly denies Ankara's claims. His movement rejects the "terrorist" tag, insisting it promotes education and moderate Islam. — AFP



JERUSALEM: Policemen detain an Israeli man of Ethiopian origin during a protest outside the Knesset (Israeli parliament) yesterday. — AFP

President: Drug gangs behind...

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Authorities have said local jihadist group National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) were responsible for the suicide bombings in churches and hotels that killed at least 258 people in April. The attacks were later claimed by the Islamic State group.

Sirisena's office said the day after the bombings that local terrorists and international terror groups were responsible for the attacks. But in a statement issued by his office yesterday, Sirisena said the attacks "were the work of international drug dealers". "Drug barons carried out this attack to discredit me and discourage my anti-narcotics drive. I will not be deterred," he said. Sirisena is waging a battle against efforts by his governing coalition in parliament to abolish capital punishment, which has been subject to a moratorium since 1976.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe discounted the president's claims. "Police completed the investigations within about two weeks," Sudarshana Gunawardana told AFP. "There is no mention of drug dealers being involved. We have no reason to doubt our investigators." He said speedier justice would be a bigger deterrent to drug traffickers than the threat of capital punishment. "We don't believe hanging people will address the issue, especially considering that it takes several decades to get a conviction."

Sri Lanka courts take on average 17 years to com-

plete criminal trials for grave offences such as murder and rape. Gunawardana said Wickremesinghe was opposed to capital punishment as it was against the policy of his United National Party, and noted that there was cross-bench support in the legislature to completely abolish it.

Police officials said investigations into the April 21 suicide bombings were still ongoing, and all the more than 100 people in custody were Sri Lankans. "We are going on the basis that this was a crime planned and executed by a group of radicalized Sri Lankan Muslims," a senior police official told AFP, asking not to be named. "Everyone involved in the attacks is either dead or in custody."

Sirisena has marshaled public support for an end to the moratorium on the death penalty, saying that hangings would deter the illegal drugs trade. "If the government brings legislation to abolish capital punishment, I will declare a day of national mourning," Sirisena said in the statement, adding that public opinion favored hanging condemned criminals. He said the leading Buddhist monk Omalpe Sobitha had advised him to resume hangings and not to abandon his war on narcotics.

Sri Lanka courts routinely hand down death sentences to drug offenders, murderers and rapists but it is automatically commuted a term of life imprisonment. Sri Lanka's Supreme Court earlier this month suspended Sirisena's moves to hang four drug convicts. The court banned any executions until it rules on a petition seeking a declaration that hanging breaches the country's constitution. The next hearing in the case is in October. Sri Lanka's last hangman retired in 2014, but officials said they had selected two new executioners from a pool of candidates. — AFP

Sports

Caster Semenya vs the IAAF: A ground-breaking gender case

'This ruling is judging the identity of that person'

PARIS: Caster Semenya's battle with world athletics' governing body over testosterone-curling regulations for female athletes will likely have long-lasting ramifications for gender definition in sport as a whole. The South African, a two-time Olympic 800m gold medalist, is locked in a bitter dispute with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), and both parties are awaiting a ruling from Switzerland's Supreme Court on Semenya's appeal against the regulations.

Semenya is classified a woman, was raised as a woman and races as a woman. But for the IAAF, women like Semenya, with certain masculine attributes due to differences of sexual development (DSD), are classified, biologically, as men. It is a position hotly contested by South African officials.

The IAAF, seeking "to ensure fair competition for all women", argues that DSD athletes, like Semenya, born with the "46 XY" chromosome rather than the XX chromosome most females have, would have an advantage in all events based on their levels of testosterone that are in the male range. "Does the IAAF have the legitimacy to define the sex of somebody, to question that person's civil state?" asks anthropologist Philippe Liotard, an expert in discrimination in sport. "This ruling is judging the identity of that person."

'Human guinea pig'

In the build-up to the 2009 world championships in Berlin, where Semenya went on to win gold in the 800m, the South African had to undergo gender verification testing to confirm her eligibility to compete in the women's category. She was subsequently put on medication to reduce her testosterone levels, spending six months sidelined by the IAAF.

"The IAAF used me in the past as a human guinea pig to experiment with how the medication they required me to take would affect my testosterone levels," Semenya said last month. Sociologist Beatrice Barbousse, a specialist in sexism in sport, added: "Sport has been built on

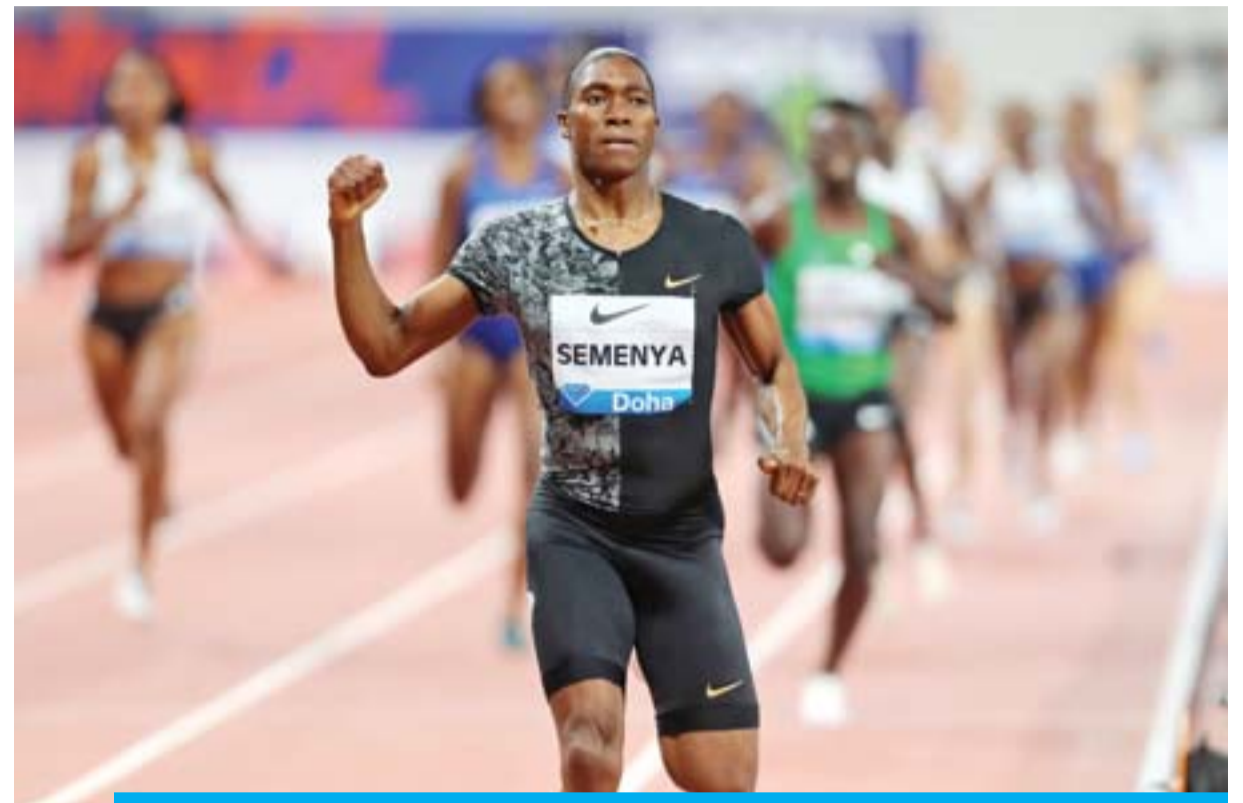
this dichotomy between men and women on a binary concept of sexes. "There's not a biological split between men and women but a continuity because there are people like Caster Semenya, who find themselves in neither camp. "You can only imagine in 50 years when we've reached a sufficiently raised societal level to accept that there's no longer a compulsory categorization of sex. "This affair could completely shake up the organization of sport in the future." World sport's highest court, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), found that the new regulations "were a necessary, reasonable and proportionate means of achieving the IAAF's legitimate objective of fair and meaningful competition in female athletics".

Regulations have contested basis

While the IAAF has been at the forefront at curbing the supposed advantage of DSD athletes, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has set up a group of experts to look into the matter. The IAAF has based its new regulations on a study which has since been highly contested. Published in July 2017 in the British Journal of Sport Medicine, the study of doctors Stephane Bermon and Pierre-Yves Garnier is based around data from testing female athletes between the 2011 and 2013 World Athletics Championships.

By comparing the results of female athletes with the highest concentrations of testosterone with those with the lowest level, the study concluded that the women with a high level of the hormone had a significant advantage in track events ranging from the 400m to the 800m, as well as the pole vault and hammer throw. The results were strongly contested in some quarters. The IAAF admitted some errors and in 2018 published a new peer-reviewed report which it said "confirms with a different statistical method the main findings of the 2017 paper".

To reduce overly high levels of testosterone, the IAAF suggest the female athletes concerned either take a daily oral contraceptive, hormone-reducing drugs or, more



DOHA: In this file photo taken on May 3, 2019 South Africa's Caster Semenya competes in the women's 800m during the IAAF Diamond League competition. — AFP

radically, a gonadectomy — an operation in which testes are removed. But is it possible to force people who are not ill to take medication which could cause secondary effects? No, according to the World Medical

Association (WMA), which called on doctors to shun the IAAF regulations which it said "would constrain the athletes concerned to take unjustified medication, not based on medical need". — AFP

Kuwait Shooting Sport Club honors winners of tournament

By Abdellatif Sharara

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sport Club recently held a ceremony to honor the winners of the Sheikh Saad Shooting academy tournament for 2019. The competition was held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex as well as the club's Jahra and Sabahiya branches. The participants were beginners and juniors in the air pistol and rifle category in addition to Olympic archery. The ceremony was held under the patronage of President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi.

In the 10m air rifle juniors Usama Al-Zafiri won first place while Amer Al-Ajmi won second and



Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi



Nasser Al-Ajmi third respectively. In the 10m beginners rifle - Ahmad Al-Khames came first, Abdelaziz Al-Kandari second, and Mohammad Al-Subaie third. The 10m beginners pistol category saw Ali Suleiman take first place with Yousuf Al-Shaye second and Farhan Al-Roumi third. In archery - Ahmad Al-Enezi was first, followed by Mishal Al-Saudi second and Omar Al-Enezi third, all in the beginners categories.

Eng Al-Otaibi thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the government as well as Director General of Public Authority for Sports Dr

Humoud Fulaiteh for their unlimited support for the sport of shooting.

He said this is the first batch that is graduated from Sheikh Saad Academy this year. KSSC remains keen on organizing several more tournaments for various age groups and recognize winners of top places, while training them for free at the club's facilities. He said the beginners and juniors tournament of Sheikh Saad Al-Aballah Academy are within the KSSC plans that comes as a completion of the "shooter 2000" project that started in 1997 which evolved to the shooting school and then later became the comprehensive academy.

Under fire Vettel gets support from Hamilton

SILVERSTONE: A beleaguered Sebastian Vettel received support from an unexpected source yesterday after another dismal outing for Ferrari in an action-packed British Grand Prix. Two weeks ahead of his home German Grand Prix, the under-pressure four-time world champion endured a race to forget as he slipped 100 points adrift of the victorious record-breaking Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes by finishing a distant 16th.

Another in his growing catalogue of errors, when he slammed into the rear of Max Verstappen's Red Bull and was forced to pit for a new nose, brought him a 10-second penalty and two points on his license. It was also the third consecutive race in which the 32-year-old German was beaten comprehensively by his team-mate Charles Leclerc, who came home third.

The 21-year-old Monegasque is now only three points behind him and many observers suggested that Ferrari will have to make him their main priority, instead of Vettel, in the title race. Those critics, however, do not include five-time champion and long-time rival Hamilton whose record sixth Silverstone win thrilled a sold-out crowd of 141,000.

"He's had a difficult race today, but he's a four-time world champion," said Hamilton. "He will recover. He will redeem himself, if he feels he needs to, and he will come back stronger in the next race — that's what great athletes do." Hamilton's opinion was not shared by many keen Ferrari-observers who have watched Vettel declining in the last year, notably



SILVERSTONE: Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel prepares to drive during first practice at Silverstone motor racing circuit in Silverstone, central England, on July 12, 2019 ahead of the British Formula One Grand Prix. — AFP

since crashing out of the lead on home soil at Hockenheim, gifting Hamilton victory and the impetus in last year's championship. Recently married and a father of two girls, Vettel has lost his momentum at the same time that Leclerc — with four successive podiums — has gathered his to emerge alongside Verstappen, also 21, as a symbol of F1's future.

Precocious talent

Ironically, Vettel's reputation was built on a precocious talent as a teenager before he became the youngest pole-sitter and race winner, aged 21, at the 2008 Italian Grand Prix, driving for the unfancied Toro Rosso team. The second of those two records was taken from him when Verstappen, on his debut with Red Bull after moving from Toro Rosso, won the 2016 Spanish Grand Prix.

This year, Vettel has struggled for consistency and experienced misfortunes with a run of stewards' decisions,

but he rejected claims that he has lost his passion for racing and is heading towards retirement. Ferrari team chief Mattia Binotto, a faithful Vettel supporter, has continued to back him as the team's number one driver.

Hamilton, who misses the threat of a rampant Ferrari team, said he has to imagine he has a competitor ahead, or on his tail, as he urges his former rival to bounce back. "I loved competing with Ferrari and I wish that our battle was with them — it's so different when you're racing within a team," he explained, after finishing 25 seconds ahead of Valtteri Bottas in another Mercedes one-two.

Hamilton now leads Bottas by 39 points after ten of this year's 21 races. "I don't feel necessarily that he (Bottas) is the only one chasing — I am still chasing! I try to put an imaginary individual ahead of myself ... It's my target to improve and beat my previous performances — I always give myself a goal to chase." — AFP

China goes seven for seven at world diving

GWANGJU: Cao Yuan and Chen Aisen destroyed a quality field to win gold in the men's 10-metre synchro platform yesterday as China's peerless divers made it seven from seven at the world championships. Former Olympic champion Cao and Chen, the reigning Olympic king, racked up a winning total of 486.93 points in Gwangju, South Korea — swatting aside their nearest rivals by a whopping 42 points.

Russian pair Viktor Minibaev and Aleksandr Bondar took silver with Britain's Tom Daley and Matthew Lee settling for bronze after a botched fifth dive. Frighteningly for their rivals, Cao insisted there was still room for improvement ahead of next year's Tokyo Olympics after adding the 10m synchro gold to the three-meter synchro he bagged at the weekend.

"I didn't execute every dive the way I wanted tonight," said the 2012 London Olympic champion. "I made some mistakes in the entry. My goal is to dive every dive perfectly." Chen, who completed a 10m synchro and 10m individual platform double at the 2016 Olympics, warned: "We targeted breaking 500 points before the final and we're very close to that. That was probably my best performance of the year but we should set our goals higher still."

Daley expressed his delight at qualifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after reaching the world championship just eight months after teaming up with Lee. "We're massively happy to be world medalists and grab a spot for the Olympic Games," he told AFP. "That was the main thing. At this point in the Olympic cycle bronze is as good as gold in my eyes — to get to the Olympics in the first place, because that's often the hardest thing."

Daley will look to retain his individual 10m platform world title this weekend. Earlier yesterday, favorites Shi Tingmao and Wang Han won synchro gold in the women's three-meter springboard to continue China's dominance. Olympic champion Shi and reigning 3m mixed synchro world champion Wang produced another performance of unerring precision, scoring a total of 342.00 points — more than 30 points clear of the field.

Canada's Jennifer Abel and Melissa Citrini Beaulieu took silver while Mexican pair Paola Espinosa Sanchez and Melany Hernandez Torres the bronze. China scooped a remarkable seven of eight gold medals at the 2016 Rio Olympics and enjoyed a stranglehold again at the last world championships in Budapest two years ago, scooping eight of the 13 titles on offer. — AFP

Frittelli claims Open berth with John Deere win

LOS ANGELES: South Africa's Dylan Frittelli claimed the first PGA Tour title of his career with victory at the John Deere Classic on Sunday to book his place at next week's British Open. The 29-year-old from Johannesburg played immaculately over the final rounds to card a bogey-free seven-under-par 64, ensuring he will join the world's elite at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland next week.

It will be only Frittelli's third appearance in the Open after playing in 2017 and 2018, where he failed to make the cut on both occasions. However, Frittelli will head to the final major of 2019 in good heart after Sunday's win at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois. The South African journeyman said the memory of victories on the European and Asian Tours, and the influence of a sports psychologist, had helped him make his PGA breakthrough.

"I just called on experience," Frittelli said. "Winning around the world, winning on The Challenge Tour as an amateur." "My biggest help was my sports psychologist in San Diego who has helped me my whole career. I chatted to him and I was able to stay calm and worked well today." Frittelli, who had shot a 65 on Saturday to be two off the lead heading into the final round, finished two clear of Russell Henley, who produced an electrifying 10-under-par 61 which took him to 19 under. Frittelli had made a flying start with birdies on his opening three holes.

His first of the day came after a sublime shot from the bunker on the 1st left with him with a tap-in for birdie. A delicate flop shot on the second to a few feet set up a second birdie before he rolled in an 18-foot birdie putt on the third. A fourth birdie followed on the eighth after another superb approach shot, before back-to-back birdies on the 10th and 11th. With Henley already in the clubhouse on 19 under, the closing stages boiled down to a question of whether Frittelli could hold onto his lead. The South African was in no mood to let his maiden victory go begging however, reeling off five pars before a birdie on 17 took him two clear with one hole remaining. — AFP

P&G gives bonus to US women soccer stars

NEW YORK: US multinational Procter & Gamble gave its backing to the United States' women's soccer stars in their fight for equal pay on Sunday, handing the team a \$529,000 bonus following their World Cup win. In a full-page advertisement placed in The New York Times, P&G said the company, one of the team's sponsors through its Secret Deodorant brand, urged the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) to be "on the right side of history."

P&G said it was donating \$23,000 to each of the 23 players who helped the US win a record-extending fourth World Cup title in France on July 7. "After all the toasts, cheers, parades and awards subside, the issue remains. Inequality is about more than pay and players, it's about values," the P&G advert read. "Let's take this moment of celebration to propel women's sports forward. We urge the US Soccer Federation to be a beacon of strength and end gender pay inequality once and for all, for all players."

The advert urged all "fellow fans, friends, supporters, organizations and brands" to fight for gender pay parity. The P&G move comes with the US women in the midst of a legal case lodged against the USSF in March alleging discrimination. The women players lawsuit highlighted the differences in pay with their male counterparts, despite being vastly more successful.

"The USSF discriminates against Plaintiffs, and the class that they seek to represent, by paying them less than members of the MNT (Men's National Team) for substantially equal work," the lawsuit read. Chants of "equal pay" greeted the US women as they received the World Cup trophy in Lyon after their victory over the Netherlands in the final. Fans also adopted the chant when the team were given a ticker-tape parade through New York on Wednesday. — AFP

Sports

Morgan hopes World Cup win will spark a new English cricket revival

'I certainly hope participation levels go up or continue to rise'

LONDON: England captain Eoin Morgan hopes his side's "incredible journey" to World Cup glory will inspire a new generation of fans in the sport's birthplace. There have long been concerns about declining player numbers in English cricket, with the sport hidden behind a television paywall in Britain since England's iconic 2005 Ashes series triumph.

But Sunday's match at Lord's — the first of the 12 World Cup finals to end in a tie and to be settled by a Super Over contest — was on free-to-air television. "I certainly hope participation levels go up or continue to rise," said Morgan, who has overseen England's climb from the depths of a miserable first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup.

Morgan, asked if the final would have resonated far beyond cricket's core audience, replied: "I hope so. Obviously today is a big day of sport with Wimbledon and the Silverstone GP going on. "But with Sunday evening, people normally settle in for a bit of (naturalist) David Attenborough or some random film that's on, so I hope they were tuned into the cricket." England, set 242 to win, were dismissed for 241, with Ben Stokes stranded on 84 not out after Mark Wood was run out off the last ball of regulation play.

They then made 15 in their additional Super Over, bowled by Trent Boult, before New Zealand matched that in their own Super Over, bowled by Jofra Archer. But with Martin Gupthill run out off the last ball of the match going for the winning run, England triumphed on boundary count during the match — 26 to 17. England had a moment of astonishing good fortune with a bonus four runs during their main innings when a Gupthill throw deflected off the bat of Stokes, who was diving to make his ground.

'Allah with us'

But the Dublin-born Morgan, asked if England had

enjoyed the famed luck of the Irish, said: "I spoke to Adil (England leg-spinner Adil Rashid), he said Allah was definitely with us." It actually epitomizes our team, quite diverse backgrounds and cultures." The 32-year-old added: "It was the most incredible game of cricket, with nothing between the sides. "I commend the Black Caps and Kane (Williamson, New Zealand captain), they've been absolutely incredible."

England have consciously tried to emulate New Zealand's aggressive one-day style since the Black Caps thrashed them in a 2015 group match, with Australian coach Trevor Bayliss appointed after that World Cup. "The biggest risk for us throughout the tournament was not playing a positive brand of cricket," said Morgan after England's World Cup win, which following defeats in the 1979, 1987 and 1992 finals.

Williamson, for whom this was a second straight World Cup final reverse after Australia overwhelmed New Zealand four years ago, said he felt "just gutted". "I think throughout this whole campaign I have spoken about 'uncontrollables' and there were a couple today that were pretty hard to swallow," added star batsman Williamson, named man of the tournament for his 578 runs. Barbados-born fast bowler Archer only made his England debut in May but Morgan still entrusted the 24-year-old with the Super Over.

"Jofra was pretty easy, he's an unbelievably talented player," Morgan explained. Archer said his nerves had been settled by Stokes, who three years ago had four straight sixes hit off him by Carlos Brathwaite during a last-over loss to the West Indies in the 2016 World Twenty20 final in Kolkata. "Stokesy came over and told me, win or lose, today will not define me as a player," said Archer.

The success meant England's cricketers matched the nation's 1966 football team and the 2003 rugby union team



LONDON: The winning 2019 England World Cup cricket team (back row LtoR) England's James Vince, England's Ben Stokes, England's Joe Root, England's Jos Buttler, England's Moeen Ali, England's Tom Curran and England's Liam Plunkett, and (front row LtoR) England's Mark Wood, England's Jonny Bairstow, England's Jason Roy, England's captain Eoin Morgan, England's Adil Rashid, England's Chris Woakes and Archer pose with the trophy during a victory event at The Oval yesterday. — AFP

in becoming world champions. But Morgan, asked if he had joined fellow captains Bobby Moore and Martin Johnson on the English sporting equivalent of Mount

Rushmore, said: "Not at all. There's no Mount Rushmore. "Primrose Hill (a northwest London suburb near Lord's), that's about it." — AFP

Technical knockout: Kiwis praise team, query 'cruel' rules

WELLINGTON: Heartbroken New Zealanders expressed pride yesterday in the Black Caps' fighting spirit after defeat to England in the Cricket World Cup final, but also bemusement at the obscure rules that cost them the match. The Black Caps lost even though scores were tied at the end of both regular play and a Super Over shootout, with England's superior boundary count giving them victory.

As Kiwi fans absorbed a second straight loss in the tournament decider, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was concentrating on the positives. "That was undeniably an incredible game. I think as a nation we all aged a year in that Super Over," she posted on social media. "Congratulations to England. And to the Black Caps, I feel nothing but pride. What a team." But her sports minister



LONDON: New Zealand's captain Kane Williamson reacts on the pitch after the 2019 Cricket World Cup final between England and New Zealand at Lord's Cricket Ground. — AFP

Grant Robertson questioned the tie-break method.

"What an extraordinary game. Not sure Super Over is the right end," he tweeted. "Whatever, NZ you can be so, so proud of this team." Former Black Cap Scott Styris labeled governing body the ICC "a joke" over the rules but congratulated both teams on a stunning effort. Former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming's one-word reaction to the result was "cruel",

while even the father of England's Kiwi-born match-winner Ben Stokes felt the Kiwis were hard done by.

Gerard Stokes, a former New Zealand rugby league international who took his son to England as a boy while he pursued his career, said honors were even. "It's a shame there has to be a loser," he told the New Zealand Herald. "They could have shared the trophy but that doesn't seem to be how things are done these days."

England v New Zealand: WC final talking points

LONDON: England beat New Zealand to win their first World Cup in the most dramatic fashion at Lord's on Sunday. Needing a modest 242 for victory, the hosts ended on 241 all out, with Ben Stokes unbeaten on 84, sending the match into a Super Over. The six-ball shootout also ended in a tie, with both sides hitting 15 runs, but Eoin Morgan's side won by virtue of a superior boundary count in the match. Take a look at three things we learned from a memorable final:

Stokes-Buttler team up to make history

With Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root and Eoin Morgan back in the dressing room, it needed a special effort from the England middle-order. Stokes was joined by Jos Buttler at the crease and a defiant 110-run partnership got the hosts back in the game. Both renowned for their big hitting, the two men dug deep, running hard for the singles and twos, while the occasional boundary kept the run rate in check.

But after Buttler's departure it was Stokes who almost single-handedly kept England's World Cup dream alive. The prolific partnership was reunited in the Super Over as Stokes and Buttler combined for 15 runs. Wicketkeeper Buttler also made a telling contribution with the gloves as he ran out Martin Gupthill with the final ball of the match.

Plunkett unbeaten, Archer holds his nerve

England did not lose a single match with Liam Plunkett in the side and he again proved the lucky charm with the prized scalp of Kiwi skipper Kane Williamson. A master of the art of bowling in the middle overs, Plunkett then bowled the dangerous Henry Nicholls for 55 and sent Jimmy Neesham trudging back to the pavilion.

He was ably supported by pace spearhead Chris Woakes, who also took three key wickets. However, it was Jofra Archer whom captain Eoin Morgan trusted to bowl the Super Over. Archer had bowled a brilliant final spell in the New Zealand innings and after a terrible start to the Super Over, the 24-year-old held his nerve to restrict the Black Caps to four runs off the final three balls.

Nicholls, Latham finally step up

Throughout the World Cup New Zealand were over-reliant on Williamson's runs, but the skipper found support in battling innings from Nicholls and Tom Latham on Sunday. Nicholls stood guard with Williamson for a key second-wicket stand after the Kiwis lost Martin Gupthill early following their decision to bat first in overcast conditions. The usually attacking Nicholls curbed his natural instincts to bring up his first fifty of the tournament. After Nicholls' departure it was Latham who put up his hand in a gritty knock. The wicketkeeper-batsman knuckled down, nudging to point and cover as he put valuable runs on the board against the accurate English attack. — AFP

The World Cup team of the tournament

LONDON: England won the World Cup for the first time after beating New Zealand in Sunday's thrilling final at Lord's, bringing the curtain down on a dramatic event featuring some superb individual performances. AFP Sport names its team of the tournament:

Rohit Sharma (India)

The 32-year-old emerged as the tournament's star batsman, making history by becoming the first player to hit five hundreds in a single World Cup — a scintillating run that included three successive centuries against England, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Sharma, the tournament's leading scorer, totalled 648 runs, just short of Sachin Tendulkar's World Cup record of 673 scored during the 2003 edition.

Jason Roy (England)

England did not look the same without their go-for-broke opener when he was missing for three matches after suffering a torn hamstring. With Roy, who scored 443 runs at an average of 63.28, restored to the line-up, England's confidence was back and, with it, the aggressive style that has served them so well over the past four years.

David Warner (Australia)

Warner is one of only four Australians to pass the 500-run mark at a single World Cup, joining Matthew Hayden and Ricky Ponting, who both made their runs at the 2007 event, and his 2019 captain Aaron Finch. The 32-year-old finished with 647 runs and registered the highest individual score in this year's World Cup when he made 166 against Bangladesh — his prolific form at least partially healing his reputation after returning from suspension following last year's ball-tampering scandal.

Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh)

Showing why he is ranked as the world's top all-rounder in ODIs, Shakib made the most of his promotion to the number three position, accumulating 606 runs and also picking up 11 wickets.

'Did we lose?'

News website stuff.co.nz said New Zealand had been denied by the fine print. "England did not win the Cricket World Cup final and the Black Caps did not lose it," an editorial said. "But the tournament had to have a winner, somehow. And in the end, what was perhaps the most dramatic ODI ever played, was decided by a curious, contentious fine-print rule." It was a theme echoed by Sam Flynn Scott from pop culture website The Spinoff's cricket podcast.

"Did we lose the game? It seems like it was tied and then it was tied again, then there was just some stupid rule about who wins the World Cup," he said. "It should have been who took the most wickets (which would have given New Zealand victory)." Former New Zealand bowler Daniel Vettori said it "feels unfortunate" the final was decided on boundaries scored but the Black Caps had to accept the rules.

He said the match also turned on several key moments, including a freak fielding deflection off Stokes' bat that raced to the boundary and a missed opportunity for Trent Boult to catch the England batsman on the boundary. "It's going to be remembered for so many little moments and unfortunately all those little moments probably went against New Zealand," he told ESPN. — AFP

Kane Williamson (New Zealand)

The unflappable Black Caps batsman scored 578 runs in the tournament — the most by a captain in a World Cup, going past Mahela Jayawardene's mark of 548 in 2007. He was named man of the tournament, but that will not erase the heartache of his team's defeat in the final.

Ben Stokes (England)

Man of the match in the final with an unbeaten 84, Stokes was the ninth-highest run scorer in the tournament despite coming in at five in the batting order, with 465 runs. Stokes also proved handy with the ball, taking seven wickets, and produced one of the catches of the tournament in the opening game to dismiss South Africa's Andile Phehlukwayo.

Alex Carey (Australia)

Confident with the gloves and capable of explosive hitting, the 27-year-old Carey was the tournament's most eye-catching wicketkeeper-batsman and by the semi-final he had been promoted to number five in the batting order as a reward for his composed displays.

Mitchell Starc (Australia)

Mitchell Starc finished as the tournament's leading wicket taker with 27, in the process setting a new record for most wickets at a single World Cup. The lethal left-arm quick's haul broke the previous record of 26 held by retired Australia paceman Glenn McGrath.

Jofra Archer (England)

Barbados-born paceman Archer took 20 wickets to underline why England were so keen to rush him into the squad. His fiery spells were crucial to England's victory — no-one took more wickets for the champions — and fittingly he bowled the Super Over that sealed the trophy in a final to remember.

Lockie Ferguson (New Zealand)

Ferguson's 3-50 in the final made him the second-highest wicket taker in the tournament with 21 in just nine games at an impressive average of 19.47. It meant he outshone his more celebrated team-mate Trent Boult, who finished with 17 wickets.

Jasprit Bumrah (India)

With his awkward bowling action, Bumrah will never earn many style points, but the paceman makes up for that with a potent combination of speed and accuracy that helped him top the India charts with 18 wickets. — AFP

England 'mistakenly' awarded extra run in World Cup final

SYDNEY: England were mistakenly awarded an extra run during their nail-biting World Cup win over New Zealand at Lord's, a member of the sport's chief rules committee told media yesterday. A freak fielding deflection off Ben Stokes' bat that raced to the boundary saw the team awarded six runs with three balls to go in the final over on Sunday.

Scores were tied at the end of regular play and the resulting Super Over shootout, with England then handed their first-ever World Cup victory for their superior boundary count. But former umpire Simon Taufel told Fox Sports Australia that umpires had made a "clear mistake", as the batsmen had not crossed for their second run.

"They should have been awarded five runs, not six," he said, adding that England's Adil Rashid should have faced the second-last ball instead of Stokes as a result. Taufel, a five-time winner of the International Cricket Council's Umpire of the Year award, now sits on the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) laws sub-committee, the worldwide custodian of cricket's sometimes obscure rules of play.

The Australian defended the match umpires, who he said had to make a complicated judgment, and said it would be "unfair" to say the decision altered the outcome of the tournament. "Unfortunately that sort of thing happens from time to time. It's a part of the game that we play," Taufel said. "I don't wish to nitpick, just hope it never happens in such moments ever again."

England, who have often cited a humiliating defeat by New Zealand at the 2015 World Cup as the catalyst for their climb to the top of the one-day international rankings, finally have a World Cup win to go with their three losing appearances in the 1979, 1987 and 1992 finals. By contrast, defeat is devastating for New Zealand, who were also looking to win the trophy for the first time after being well beaten by Australia in the 2015 showpiece. — AFP



LONDON: England's Ben Stokes holds his hands up in apology after the ball hit him and deflected to reach the boundary, as he dived to make his ground during the 2019 Cricket World Cup final between England and New Zealand at Lord's Cricket Ground. — AFP

Sports

Djokovic vows to win fans' love with Federer's record in sight

First man in 71 years to win the title from match points down

LONDON: Novak Djokovic has vowed to convince fans that he is not public enemy number one even if he surpasses people's champion Roger Federer as the greatest Grand Slam title winner of all time. The world number one saved two match points to clinch a fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major on Sunday, shattering Federer's bid to become the oldest Grand Slam champion in the longest final ever contested at the tournament.

Despite being outplayed by the 37-year-old Swiss for large parts of the knife-edge encounter, the top seed emerged victorious 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 13-12 (7/3). At four hours and 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final and the first to be settled by a final set tiebreak. Djokovic is the first man in 71 years to win the title from match points down, saving two in the 16th game of the deciding set.

His major title tally is now just two behind Rafael Nadal and four off the all-time men's Grand Slam record of 20 held by Federer. He has time on his side, being a year younger than Nadal and more than five years younger than the legendary Swiss. After Sunday's epic triumph, Djokovic revealed he was able to turn the overwhelmingly pro-Federer, 14,000-strong Centre Court crowd in his favour by training his mind.

'They chant Roger, I hear Novak'

"I like to transmute it in a way: When the crowd is chanting 'Roger' I hear 'Novak,'" said the 32-year-old Djokovic. "It sounds silly, but it is like that." Djokovic has spent the best part of his career in pursuit of Nadal and Federer and attempting to seduce fans skeptical of his character. For many he is viewed as too intense, too insincere, too calculating and prone to fads.

Federer and Nadal, in comparison, are treated almost reverentially. "It's hard to not be aware of the

crowd. You have that kind of electric atmosphere, that kind of noise," said Djokovic. "Of course, if you have the majority of the crowd on your side, it helps. When you don't, then you have to find it within, I guess." Djokovic insists he won't get distracted by the pursuit of Federer's record haul. "Whether I'm going to be able to do it or not, I don't know. "I'm not really looking at age as a restriction of any kind for me at least. What I said on the court, I really meant it: Roger really inspires me with his effort at his age. "It just depends how long I'm going to play, whether I'm going to have a chance to make historic No. 1 or Slams."

When asked if he sees himself still playing at 37, Djokovic said the motivation to be treated with the same respect is strong. Eventually, hearing screams of "Let's go, Novak, let's go" will be more than welcome. "Hopefully in five years' time I can be hearing the same chants."

Most consistent of 'Big Three'

Djokovic is by far the most consistent of the 'Big Three' at the Slams. Since the start of 2015, he has won nine of the 19 majors played with Nadal winning four and Federer three. The other three have been split between Stan Wawrinka (two) and Andy Murray (one). On Sunday, Djokovic saved match points in the 16th game of the deciding set, which ran for over two hours and was settled by a 12-12 tiebreak for the first time in a singles match at the tournament.

It was another display of stunning mental fortitude. He has been in similar predicaments in the past against Federer — saving two match points in both of his semi-final victories over the Swiss at the 2010 and 2011 US Opens. "I just try to never lose self-belief, just stay calm, just focus on trying to get the ball back, return, which wasn't serving me very well today. "But in the most important moments, all three tiebreaks I



LONDON: A handout composite picture released by the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club yesterday, shows 2019 Wimbledon Men's singles champion Serbia's Novak Djokovic posing for a photograph with his trophy at the Champions Dinner. —AFP

guess, I found my best game."

He was off the pace for large parts of the final, only carving out his first break points in the eighth game of the fourth set. Federer won more points in the match with 218 to 204, broke serve seven times compared to

three, hit 25 aces to 10 and 94 winners to Djokovic's 54. "I thought I could have played better. But the one thing that probably allowed me to come back and save match points and win this match was the mental stability," admitted the champion. —AFP

Ramsey hopes to emulate Juve Welsh hero

ROME: Aaron Ramsey says that he wants to follow in the footsteps of compatriot and Juventus hero John Charles after the Welshman was unveiled at the Serie A club yesterday. Ramsey will have a tough task emulating Charles, who died in 2004 at the age of 72, as the former Leeds United and Wales player is a bona fide legend in Turin thanks to a hugely successful five-year spell in the late 1950s and early 60s.

Nicknamed 'The Gentle Giant', Charles scored over 100 goals for Juve as they bagged three league titles and two Coppa Italias, and became part of the 'Magic Trio' alongside Omar Sivori and Giampiero Boniperti. "He is an absolute legend over here and for Welsh football as well," Ramsey told reporters. "He is definitely someone I can look up to and hopefully to follow in his footsteps. He definitely took everything in and left his mark here. "I know how much he means to this club and the history that he contributed to here."

Ramsey, 28, made his first appearance as a Juve player in Turin yesterday after signing in February a four-year deal worth a reported seven million euros (\$7.9 million) net a season. Ramsey, who won three FA Cups in his 11 years at Arsenal and played a key role in Wales reaching the semi-finals of Euro 2016, said that the move to the Italian champions, who have won the last eight Serie A titles, was one he couldn't turn down.

"When I knew that Juventus was interested, I couldn't refuse. It's a great club, one of the biggest in the world, and to have the opportunity to come here and play for them is a dream," he said. Ramsey's unveiling comes amid a busy summer for Juventus, who have brought in Maurizio Sarri as coach after removing Massimiliano Allegri at the end of last season. —AFP

Casillas to join Porto staff during recovery

LISBON: Iker Casillas will join the Porto staff while he recovers from the heart attack he suffered two months ago, the Spanish goalkeeper and Portuguese club announced yesterday. In a statement, Porto said Casillas will be the "liaison between the players, coach and management", a role that could be extended to other functions within the club.

"I'm going to do something different from what I used to do, which was to be on the field. I will try to do my best to help my teammates," the 38-year-old told the club website. The former Real Madrid and Spain captain underwent emergency surgery on May 1 after suffering a heart attack during training. He left the hospital five days later, admitting that his professional future was uncertain.

His agent Carlo Cutropia told sports daily O Jogo that he cannot yet resume training and will have to wait for doctors to say whether he can return within "one, two or three months". Casillas joined Porto in 2015 and extended his contract by one year in March. Club president Jorge Pinto da Costa has said he wants Casillas to be playing for Porto at 40. He has 167 Spain caps, winning the 2010 World Cup and two European Championships, and also played more than 700 games for Real Madrid, where he won five La Liga titles, three Champions League and a handful of other major trophies. Since moving to Porto he also added the 2018 Portuguese league title to his heaving trophy cabinet. —AFP

Griezmann says Atletico outcry to move 'is a pity'

BARCELONA: French forward Antoine Griezmann said on Sunday that Atletico Madrid's angry response to his transfer to La Liga rivals Barcelona is "a pity". Barcelona revealed on Friday they had paid the 28-year-old's 120-million-euro (\$135 million) release clause to sign the World Cup winner on a five-year deal, prompting a furious response from Atletico who said the amount was "insufficient".

"Regarding Atletico, it's a pity. I went to see them on purpose so they would not be caught off guard and could prepare for the future," the player told a news conference as he was presented at the Camp Nou. "We reached an agreement but finally it changed, it's like that, you have to accept it," he added when asked about Atletico's response. Shortly after the Catalans had announced the signing, Atletico complained Barcelona and Griezmann had negotiated the deal before the buy-out price dropped from

200 million euros at the start of July.

"Atletico Madrid believe that the termination of the contract took place before the end of last season," the club said, adding Griezmann had made it clear in his actions and words. Atletico had already "begun appropriate procedures" to defend their "rights and legitimate interests", the statement added. Spanish sports newspaper AS said on Saturday the capital city club will go to FIFA, the governing body of world football, to argue that Barcelona owe them more than the 120 million euros release clause deposited by a lawyer for Griezmann on Friday.

The daily added Atletico want to have both Barcelona and Griezmann punished. Contacted by AFP on Saturday, the club refused to comment. Griezmann almost signed with Barcelona a year ago but instead opted in June 2018 to sign a new five-year deal at the Wanda Metropolitan, revealing the reasons why in an almost one-hour long documentary called "The Decision" made by a production company owned by Barcelona defender Gerard Pique.

But in May 2019 he announced he would be leaving Atletico at the end of the season. Griezmann's five-year contract with Barcelona includes a buyout

Rohr insists future remains bright for youthful Nigeria

CAIRO: Gernot Rohr believes Nigeria will be stronger for their experience at this year's Africa Cup of Nations after his side suffered a painful, last-gasp defeat to Algeria in the semi-finals. Nigeria looked to be heading into extra time against a team that required penalties to overcome Ivory Coast just three days earlier, but Riyad Mahrez won the game for Algeria in the 95th minute with a magnificent free-kick.

Coach Rohr said the loss was "tough to digest" for his players but stressed the current crop of Super Eagles had the potential to become "very good" given time. "Our team is progressing well after the World Cup which wasn't bad, we've started work with a rejuvenated team. This team has a future. I'm still under contract for another year and we'll see what happens after that," said the German, whose side was the youngest in Russia last summer.

Nigeria will meet Tunisia on Wednesday in the third-place play-off at

Al Salam Stadium, which could see the likes of youngsters Henry Onyekuru, Samuel Kalu and Victor Osimhen given a chance after limited minutes in Egypt. "We will draw lessons after the third place match. We have a very young team, we're making progress and perhaps we lacked a bit of clear-sightedness (against Algeria) but we're moving forward," continued Rohr.

"We have to work much more. Our midfield is the youngest one. (Wilfred Ndidi, Alex Iwobi and (Peter) Etebo have to learn tactically and they have to make better communication, but I think with time they'll be very good." Rohr praised the resilience shown by his side throughout the tournament, as they responded to a shock loss to Madagascar by toppling defending champions Cameroon and beating South Africa before coming from behind against Algeria.

"I congratulate my players for a big fight against this very good team," said Rohr. "It was a big fight until the last minute." "It was a wonderful match, but we lost it so we are not happy. We scored an own goal which was unlucky but we came back like throughout the tournament when there was something difficult against us. A wonderful free-kick made the difference." He added:

Mercedes van at the club's training ground in the suburbs of the French capital.

PSG officially began pre-season training last Monday but Neymar, linked with a move back to Barcelona, was not there, with the player's camp maintaining he had a prior agreement to stay away. The French champions responded last week by threatening to take "appropriate action" against the world's most expensive player, who said he had stayed in Brazil to attend a charity five-a-side football tournament run by his foundation, the Neymar Institute.

On Saturday, Neymar, who joined PSG for 222 million euros (\$264 million at the time) from Barcelona in 2017, made a series of remarks that strained his relationship further with the club and sparked outrage on social media.



SANT JOAN DESPI: Barcelona's French forward Antoine Griezmann laughs as he runs during the football club's first pre-season training session at the Joan Gamper training ground. —AFP

clause of 800 million euros. "It's always hard to leave a home, a place where you felt comfortable, which is your family," he said. "I only have admiration and respect for the club. I have given everything on the pitch from the beginning to the end of the season and I feel no shame," added Griezmann, who will wear the number 17

jersey for his new side. Griezmann scored 133 goals in 257 appearances for Atletico since he joined them in 2014 from Basque club Real Sociedad, who scouted the attacker when he was just 14. He helped Atletico lift the Europa League in 2018 and won the World Cup with France last year. —AFP



CAIRO: Nigeria's coach Gernot Rohr (L) and his bench stand for the national anthem during the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) quarter final football match between Nigeria and South Africa. —AFP

"The other day we won in the last minute against South Africa, this time we lost. That's football."

The former Gabon, Niger and Burkina Faso boss also praised the work done by Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi, who took over last year after the Desert Foxes finished bottom of their 2018 World Cup

qualifying group. "The result reflects what we saw on the pitch. The best team won," said Rohr. "The match confirms what I said about them making progress. They have made strides both tactically and technically and it's going to be very tight with Senegal but Algeria have all the weapons to win." —AFP

Neymar returns to PSG training with future still unsure

PARIS: Neymar showed up for training at Paris Saint-Germain yesterday, according to French media reports, a week late and days after controversially claiming his best football memory was beating PSG when he played for Barcelona. A video posted on the website of leading sports daily L'Equipe showed the 27-year-old Brazilian — his hair dyed peroxide blonde — getting out of a black

Asked by online sports channel Oh My Goal about his best memory in football, the troubled superstar cited Barcelona's incredible 2017 Champions League victory over PSG when he was part of the team that overturned a 4-0 first-leg deficit by winning 6-1 in the second leg of their last-16 tie.

Earlier in the day, Neymar posted a 10-second video of himself in a Barcelona shirt and a quote from the Bible: "No weapon turned against you will prosper." Neymar's father, who is also the player's representative, later defended his son in an Instagram post, saying: "At no point did my son show a lack of respect to PSG or the players who played in that game in 2017." "My son plays for PSG, but he can't simply ignore his past. A past that led to him arriving at the French club," Neymar Senior added. —AFP

25 Caster Semenya vs the IAAF: A ground-breaking gender case



26 Morgan hopes World Cup win will spark a new English cricket revival



27 Djokovic vows to win fans' love with Federer's record in sight



CAIRO: Algeria's forward Riyad Mahrez (R) scores from a free-kick during the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) Semi-final football match between Algeria and Nigeria at the Cairo International stadium. —AFP

Mahrez stunner sends Algeria into final

'It's my most important goal for the national dream'

CAIRO: Riyad Mahrez rifled in a stoppage-time free-kick to earn Algeria a dramatic 2-1 victory over three-time champions Nigeria on Sunday and set up a rematch with Senegal in the Africa Cup of Nations final. Algeria led through a first-half own goal by William Troost-Ekong before Nigeria equalized with an Odion Ighalo penalty on 72 minutes awarded after a VAR review.

However, as extra time looked necessary, Mahrez blasted in from 20 yards with the last kick of the match to send the Desert Foxes through to their first final since lifting the trophy for the only time in 1990. Algeria will take on Sadio Mane's Senegal for the title on July 19, in a repeat of a group stage clash they won 1-0. "We are very happy to be in the final of the Africa Cup of Nations because it is something very special," said Mahrez. "It was our goal to do it for the people and for our families. We know they are behind us all the way. It's

my most important goal for the national dream. Yes, it's my dream to win it and hopefully we will be able to."

Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr conceded Algeria were worthy winners after denying the Super Eagles the chance to compete in an eighth final. "I have to congratulate the players for a big fight against this very good team. They won it in the last minute and they deserved it," said Rohr. "A wonderful free-kick made the difference."

An injury to Youcef Atal, who fractured his collarbone during the quarter-final win over Ivory Coast on penalties, forced Djamel Belmadi to start Mehdi Zeffane at right-back, while Nigeria fielded the same team that overcame South Africa here. Algeria supporters filled most of the lower tier at one end of the ground, dwarfing a small section of Nigeria fans, but there were large swathes of empty seats at the 75,000-capacity Cairo International Stadium.

Mahrez leads by example

Leading scorers in the tournament and considered the most impressive side, Algeria quickly asserted themselves as Ramy Bensebaini headed narrowly over before a wicked Youcef Belaïli cross nearly lead to a goal for Baghdad Bounedjah. Hesitant defending from Kenneth Omeruo just outside his own area then allowed Bounedjah to nip in, but the Al-Sadd striker could only shoot tamely at Daniel Akpeyi.

Seemingly having moved on from the penalty miss that reduced him to tears in the last round, Bounedjah was consistently proving a nuisance to a nervy Nigeria backline with Jamilu Collins relieved to see a toed clearance land on the roof of the net. Nigeria countered intermittently as Ighalo dragged wide after Mahrez was caught in possession, but the Manchester City winger promptly atoned as Algeria made the breakthrough on 40 minutes.

After gathering the ball on the right Mahrez danced past Collins before sending over a cross that flicked off the left-back and struck a helpless Troost-Ekong in the midriff before tricking over the line. Rohr has regularly praised his side's resilience, particularly the way they bounced back from a shock loss to Madagascar to eliminate defending champions Cameroon, and Nigeria again hit back with the aid of VAR.

Gambian referee Bakary Gassama initially dismissed Nigerian penalty appeals when a Peter Elebo shot struck the arm of Aissa Mandi but reversed that decision, with Ighalo sending Rais Mbohli the wrong way from the spot for his competition-best fourth goal. Sofiane Feghouli blazed over late on and extra time beckoned after Ismael Bennacer rattled the bar in stoppage time, but Mahrez incredibly won it in the 95th minute with a thunderous strike into the top corner. —AFP

Senegal reach Cup of Nations final as own goal sinks Tunisia

CAIRO: Senegal reached the Africa Cup of Nations final for the second time with a Dylan Bronn own goal giving them a 1-0 win over Tunisia on Sunday in a tense last-four clash in Cairo. With 11 minutes gone in extra time, goalkeeper Mouez Hassen pushed a free-kick against the head of Bronn and the ball went backwards into the net. Tunisia thought they would have a chance to equalize when Idrissa Gueye handled in the box, but the Ethiopian referee reversed his original decision to award a penalty after watching replays at the VAR monitor.

Both teams missed penalties in regular time with Ferjani Sassi the Tunisian culprit before Henri Saivet failed for the Senegalese. Liverpool star Sadio Mane began the tournament as the first-choice Senegal penalty taker but, after missing two, opted out before the quarter-finals. Senegal will miss star defender Kalidou Koulibaly for the final against

Algeria or Nigeria, who meet in Cairo later Sunday, after he was yellow-carded.

It was the second caution of the knockout phase for the Napoli centre-back and triggered an automatic one-match suspension. Senegal last reached the title decider 17 years ago, when current coach Aliou Cisse captained a team beaten on penalties by Cameroon in Mali. "I congratulate (Tunisia and former Senegal coach) Alain Giresse because he left me a good group. He did a good job in Senegal," said Cisse. "The match was incredible because of the uncertainty — it will remain in the annals of African football." French football legend Giresse said: "We were equal to Senegal and had opportunities, but did not know how to transform them. "I am the number one supporter of Aliou Cisse. He will become a coach who will surpass what he achieved as a player. He will win the Cup of Nations."

Clearcut chance

Cisse made one change to the team that defeated Benin in the quarter-finals with 20-year-old forward Krepin Diatta replacing Keita Balde. Giresse changed two of the side that eliminated Madagascar, promoting Mohamed Drager and Ayman Ben Mohamed and benching Wajdi Kechrida and Ghaylen Chaaleli. The countries were meeting for the sixth time in the Cup of Nations with each winning one match and the other three drawn.

Tunisia had the first clearcut chance at the 30 June Stadium in the Egyptian capital, but unmarked captain Youssef Msakni headed a corner well over. Senegal then took control and had three opportunities before half-time to end the deadlock and edge closer to the July 19 final. Youssouf Sabaly unleashed a curling shot from the edge of the box that beat Mouez only to cannon back into play off the woodwork.

Then, in a 60-second purple patch, Mbaye Niang and Mane were unable to convert chances before a small crowd. Niang swivelled inside the box before firing well wide and Mane rounded the goalkeeper but his shot from an acute angle finished off target. Giresse took off Msakni at half-time and introduced Naim Sliiti, scorer of the stoppage-time goal that sealed a convincing last-eight win over giantkillers Madagascar.

Senegal goalkeeper Alfred Gomis, a virtual spectator in the opening half, reacted quickly early in the second half to push away a Sassi snap shot. Attackers Niang and Diatta were having little success and came off with Mbaye Diagne and Ismaila Sarr replacing them as an intriguing semi-final entered the final quarter. The Sassi penalty was weak, allowing Gomis to save comfortably, while Hassen made a brilliant one-hand block to foil a powerfully struck spot-kick by Saivet. —AFP



CAIRO: Senegal's goalkeeper Alfred Gomis and Senegal's forward Keita Balde celebrate after winning the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) Semi-final football match between Senegal and Tunisia. —AFP