



6 India accuses Pakistan of harassing guests at party



7 Pontiff apologizes to Roma for Church 'discrimination'



27 Liverpool fans line streets to honor European Champions



Ramadan KAREEM

IMSAK	03:05
Fajr	03:15
Dhur	11:46
Asr	15:20
Magrib	18:43
Isha	20:14

Muslims outraged as clashes erupt at flashpoint holy site

Ultra-nationalist Jews' visit stokes Palestinian anger

Amir sends Eid greetings

KUWAIT: The Amiri Diwan conveyed in a statement yesterday Eid Al-Fitr greetings from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the citizens and expatriates in Kuwait. The Amiri Diwan also conveyed greetings to 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 on the advent of the joyous occasion. The Amiri Diwan sent similar greetings to the Arab and Muslim nations, hoping for the spread of love and prosperity to all people around the world during the occasion of Eid.



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Continued on Page 24

JERUSALEM: Tens of thousands of flag-waving Israelis marched through Jerusalem yesterday to mark their country's capture of the city's east in a 1967 war with tensions heightened due to the holiday coinciding with the final days of Ramadan. The march, with a large contingent of Jewish religious nationalists, included passing under heavy security through the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's Old City in what Palestinian see as a provocation.

Some 3,000 police were deployed, said police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld. "We came to celebrate the day," said Rina Ben Shimol, who came with her husband and their three young children from their home in Kfar Tavor in northern Israel. "It is Zionism and it's to strengthen the link with our origins and with the country." Earlier in the day, Palestinian worshippers clashed with Israeli police at a highly sensitive Jerusalem holy site, also located in the Old City in mainly Palestinian east Jerusalem.

Muslim worshippers at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound were angered over Jewish visits to the site holy to both religions in the final days of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. According to police, protesters barricaded themselves in the mosque, from where they threw chairs and stones at forces who "dispersed" them. The Muslim Waqf organization which oversees the site said police used rubber bullets and pepper spray, adding that seven people were arrested and 45 were wounded.

Continued on Page 24



JERUSALEM: A member of the Israeli security forces gestures at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City of Jerusalem yesterday, as clashes broke out while Israelis marked Jerusalem Day, which commemorates the country's capture of the city's mainly Palestinian eastern sector in the 1967 Six-Day War. — AFP

Acts that make fasting void

Ramadan Kareem

By The Holy Quran and Correct Sunnah Group

Fasting in Islam is when a person stops himself for actions that are forbidden in general, and those are specifically forbidden only during the daylight hours during Ramadan. As Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said what can be translated as: "Almighty Allah is not in any need for any person to fast if the person doesn't stop saying and doing shameful acts." By knowing this we have to understand that there are some acts that make fasting incomplete and not fully rewarded, those acts are in three sections:

(1) One of the biggest sins and forbidden acts during fasting is having sexual relations during the days of fasting. Whoever commits this has to ask Almighty Allah for forgiveness immediately, with the intention and the promise not to do it again, and has to fast consecutively for two full months.

(2) Eating or drinking or using any kind of nourishing injections during the days of fasting.

(3) Vomiting intentionally: However, if someone vomits unintentionally, his fast will be acceptable. About this, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever accidentally vomits during the days of fasting, does not have to pay any expiation." However, if a person intended and did something to make himself vomit, he has to ask Almighty Allah for forgiveness and fast another day to make up for the nullified fast.

Fasting is an obligation on all adult Muslims capable of fasting, but not during their travel. Fasting is an obligation on all adult women, not during their monthly periods, and that differs from a woman to another and not during the late days of pregnancy when they become weak and afraid that fasting will do harm to themselves or to their fetuses. It also differs from a woman to another. Fasting requirements have extenuating circumstances which can be divided into three sections:

(A) Those who are not obliged to fast, like the mentally ill or crazy or full time unconscious, as well as the non-believers. Fasting will not be accepted from any such person, even if they do carry it out as others do.

(B) Those who are obliged to fast in general, but are exempt during some situations, like the women during their monthly periods, or during the late days of pregnancy, or after delivery. The number of days for all those differs from a woman to another, all those have to fast the same number of days after the month of Ramadan.

(C) Those who are not obliged to fast and fasting is not a must on them, but if they do fast, it will be accepted from them.

Continued on Page 24

Israel hits Syria after rare rocket attack; 10 killed

BEIRUT: Israel carried out air strikes in Syria yesterday in response to rare rocket fire from the neighboring country, its military said, with a war monitor reporting 10 killed including Syrian soldiers and foreign fighters. Israel's army said two rockets were fired from Syria at Mount Hermon in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights late Saturday and one had been "located within Israeli territory."

In response, the army attacked "two Syrian artillery batteries, a number of observation and intelligence posts on the Golan Heights, and an SA-2 aerial defense battery," its statement said. The Israeli

attack left three Syrian soldiers and seven foreign fighters dead, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. According to the Britain-based war monitor, which did not specify the nationality of the foreign fighters, they died in missile strikes close to the capital Damascus where Syrian troops, Iranian forces and Hezbollah fighters are stationed.

Syrian anti-aircraft defenses fired against "enemy missiles" from Israel targeting positions in southwest Damascus, the official SANA news agency quoted a military source as saying. The Israeli army said its own aerial defense systems were activated due to the Syrian anti-aircraft fire, but none of the Syrian fire hit Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered the strike. "We won't tolerate fire at our territory and will respond forcefully to any aggression against us," he said.

Continued on Page 24



GOLAN HEIGHTS: Israeli soldiers maneuver Merkava tanks in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights yesterday. — AFP

US 'prepared to talk to Iran'

BELLINZONA: The United States is prepared to engage with Iran without pre-conditions about its nuclear program but needs to see the country behaving like "a normal nation", US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani suggested on Saturday that Iran may be willing to hold talks if Washington showed it respect, but said Tehran would not be pressured into talks.

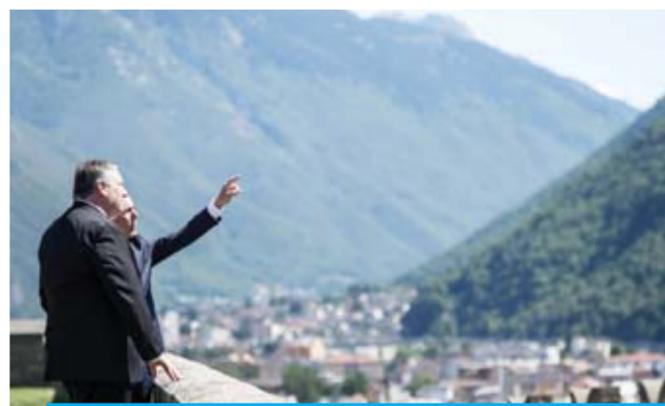
Pompeo, in an apparent softening of his previous stance, said when asked about Rouhani's remarks: "We are prepared to engage in a conversation with no pre-conditions, we are ready to sit down." However, he said Washington would continue to work to "reverse the

malign activity" of Iran in the Middle East, citing Tehran's support to Hezbollah and to the Syrian government. Pompeo said US President Donald Trump had been saying for a long time that he was willing to talk to Iran.

"We are certainly prepared to have that conversation when the Iranians can prove that they want to behave like a normal nation," Pompeo told a joint news conference with his Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis in the southern Swiss city of Bellinzona. Trump said last Monday he was hopeful Iran would come to the negotiating table. But Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday Tehran would not negotiate with Washington, even after Rouhani had previously signaled talks might be possible if sanctions were lifted.

Cassis voiced concern at Iranian people suffering from the impact of

Continued on Page 24



BELLINZONA: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (left) and Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis admire the view from the Castelgrande during a bilateral meeting yesterday. — AFP

Damascus slams Makkah summit 'endorsement'

DAMASCUS: Syria denounced yesterday the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's 'endorsement' of a longstanding UN-backed proposal for a transitional governing body integrating opposition elements in the conflict hit country, state media said. The 57-member OIC met in the holy Saudi city of Makkah this week and in its closing statement on Saturday threw its support behind a 2012 Geneva communique calling for the estab-

lishment of a transitional governing body in Syria with full executive powers.

"The closing communique of the summit only expresses the obvious and continuous dependence of these countries on their masters in the West," a source at the Syrian foreign ministry told state news agency SANA. Harking back to the Geneva proposals "and the idea of a government transitional body (...)" confirms the chronic blindness of participating states to developments" in Syria in recent years, the source added. UN-sponsored negotiations have been gradually eclipsed by parallel Moscow-backed negotiations known as the Astana process.

The Astana process was launched in January 2017 by Russia and Iran - allies of the Damascus regime - and by Turkey, which backs rebels in Syria's eight year civil war. The OIC on Saturday also denounced Washington's deci-

sion on March 25 to recognise Israel's claim of sovereignty over the part of the Golan Heights it seized from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War. But Syria's government said "it was not waiting for support or a statement from this summit or others like it to assert its right over the Golan," SANA said.

Regionally, the United Arab Emirates has begun a rapprochement with Damascus, by opening an embassy after years of closure, while relations have also improved with Bahrain and Jordan. But regional power - and former Syrian opposition backer - Saudi Arabia remains hostile to President Bashar Al-Assad, who has made a military comeback with Russian military support since 2015, clawing back almost two-thirds of the country's territory. Syria's multi-fronted war has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions since it began with the repression of anti-government protests in 2011. — AFP

Amir, Crown Prince receive top state officials at Bayan Palace



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



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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzuq Al-Ghanem,

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, President of the Constitutional Court, and head of the Court of Cassation Judge Yousef Al-Mutawa. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah also received First

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, Deputy Prime Minister and

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



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, President of the Constitutional Court, and head of the Court of Cassation Judge Yousef Al-Mutawa.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah

Amir aware of GCC citizens' concerns: Deputy FM

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said the speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the emergency summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Makkah expressed the common concerns of the GCC citizens. "His Highness the Amir underscored the fact that the countries in the region are unlikely to address the challenging situations as long as their differences persist," Jarallah said in statements on Saturday. "The GCC countries are required to honor their commitments and shoulder their historic responsibilities by setting their differences aside and realizing the aspirations of their peoples," he pointed out. The speech of His Highness the Amir expressed the concerns of the GCC citizens who aspire for unity and solidarity among their countries in order to serve their common interests, Jarallah added.

Wise and comprehensive

Jarallah further described the speeches delivered by His Highness the Amir in the Gulf, Arab and Islamic summits were wise and comprehensive. He noted that His Highness the Amir speeches carried out directives and visions to deal with the serious repercussions of the escalation in the region. Kuwait's participation in these summits at the highest level represented the keenness of His Highness the Amir to share with all leaders in addressing all the challenges facing the region, he added. He pointed out that his Highness's participation in the three summits was effective in dealing with conditions in the region.

Jarallah expressed Kuwait's appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, headed by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud for his invitation to hold the three summits in Makkah in these blessed days. He said that these summits issued resolutions and statements in their contents to condemn the attacks on Saudi Arabia as well as the attacks on the four ships off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. He noted that the statements expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia and the UAE in face of these attacks and in their quest to maintain security and stability in the region, ensure the freedom of maritime navigation, and ensure the flow of energy supplies to the world. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A group photo taken on the sidelines of the signing.

Kuwait Gastro Association, Johnson & Johnson sign deal on IBD

KUWAIT: In the international month of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), Kuwait Gastro Association (KGA) and Johnson & Johnson Middle East signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) around the collaboration in increasing awareness and education about IBD.

IBD is a growing burden in Kuwait that required joining forces to increase public awareness and education around IBD. Patients with IBD suffer from late diagnosis due to similarity of symptoms between IBD and other bowel disorders. The MoU was signed by Dr Ahmad

Al-Fadhli, the president of the KGA, and Vishnu Kalra, the managing director of Johnson & Johnson GCC. The agreement inaugurates a new era of collaboration between the two entities for the long-term interest of Kuwaiti patients.



Dr Ahmad Al-Fadhli, the president of the KGA, and Vishnu Kalra, the managing director of Johnson & Johnson GCC, sign the deal.



Dr Ahmad Al-Fadhli, the president of the KGA, and Vishnu Kalra, the managing director of Johnson & Johnson GCC, shake hands after signing the deal.

Local

Kuwaitization policy could leave negative impact on retail sales

Expatriates hold 96 percent of jobs in the retail and wholesale sector

KUWAIT: Buoyed by steady economic expansion, Kuwait's retail sector is expected to see solid growth in the second half of 2019 and beyond, though fluctuating consumer sentiment and policy changes could weigh on turnover. Kuwait's retail industry is forecast to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 4.2 percent over the coming four years, up from 0.6 percent in 2012-16. This will make it the second-fastest-growing retail market in the GCC, according to a report issued in late April by Alpen Capital, a Dubai-based investment bank.

Growth will mainly be fuelled by increases in tourism activity, GDP per capita and the number of organized retail stores, building on the estimated \$16.7 billion in retail sales posted in 2018 and a non-oil GDP contribution of 6.7 percent in current prices in 2017.

Consumers sending mixed messages

While sector growth looks solid in the near term, Kuwaiti consumer confidence has fluctuated in recent months, possibly reflecting shifts in economic expecta-

ment opportunities recorded an improvement between February and March, rising from 146 to 148 points. Future employment growth and higher earnings potential would bode well for the retail industry, as increased labor participation rates could lead to greater spending power.

Expat exodus to impact sales

Given their significant disposable income and the fact that they account for roughly 70 percent of the population in Kuwait, expatriates make a considerable contribution to the local retail market in terms of sales and employment.

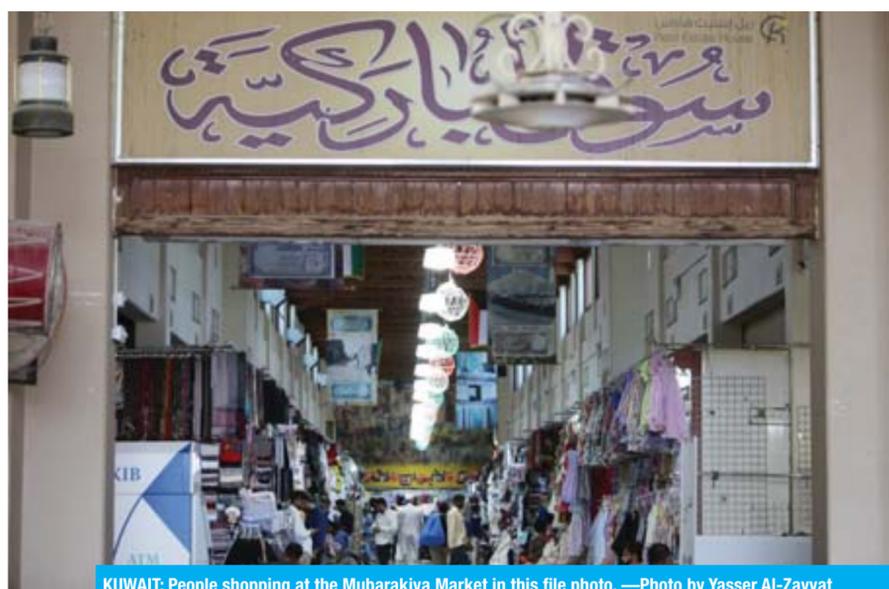
The retail and wholesale sector accounts for more than 500,000 jobs, second only to the public sector. Of this total, some 480,000 positions were held by foreigners (96 percent). The policy of Kuwaitization - which is aimed at reducing the number of expatriates in the workforce, particularly in the public sector - could therefore have a negative impact on retail sales.

Expatriates employed by the state are increasingly being winnowed down. More than 2,500 foreign employees were removed from the public payroll in the first five months of 2019, in addition to the 3,100 made redundant last year, according to government officials quoted in local media.

While there has been an increase in overall expatriate numbers, this growth has been linked to the rollout of new infrastructure and development projects, with the recruitment of foreign blue-collar workers bolstering employment numbers.

Such workers, who have low levels of pay and remit much of their salaries to their home countries, have less impact on retail sales than expatriate white-collar workers, whose numbers are being reduced by government policies and replaced by Kuwaiti nationals.

The expatriate community has also been impacted by the government's efforts to expand its revenue base and recoup some of the costs of services. This included



KUWAIT: People shopping at the Mubarakiya Market in this file photo. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

increasing fees for employment permits and health services for overseas workers. Additionally, there have been calls to increase the tax burden on expatriates, which would further lower their disposable incomes and spending power.

In mid-May the Parliament discussed a proposal to impose a levy of up to five percent on overseas remittances made by foreign workers, with estimates that the new policy could generate tax revenue of KD200 mil-

lion (\$660 million) per year. However, analysts have warned that the levy could accelerate the exodus of skilled professionals from the country.

Though the government's policy would open up more jobs for the local community, the advantages could be offset by nationals seeking higher wages than those paid to the foreign staff they replaced, pushing up operating costs, which could subsequently be passed onto the consumer. — Oxford Business Group



Uncertainty over public spending and revenue, policy proposals affecting expatriates and regional tensions have all weighed on sentiment.

The general consumer confidence index produced by regional research consultancy ARA showed that sentiment rose from 103 points in January to 108 points in February before falling back to 103 the following month. Among the six subindices, only employ-

Pay 1,500 workers' delayed salaries: Lawmaker

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Adel Al-Damkhi urged Minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs Fahd Al-Sholah to pay the delayed salaries of 1,500 laborers. "I fully believe that Ramadan will not come to an end until you order the payment so as not to share part of the blame with their unfair company," he said, noting that these laborers have every right to feel the joy of Eid like others.

Oil sector engineers

Official statements by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries showed that 1,224 Kuwaiti engineers have been appointed since Jan 2016 compared to only 362 expats, mainly Indians, in the same period. The majority of those engineers were appointed in Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC). According to statistics in KPC's manpower monthly reports, the majority of the engineers specialize in petroleum, electric, electronic, environmental, civil, industrial, communication and marine engineering.

Special mechanism

The Public Authority for Manpower set a special mechanism to inspect the appointment of citizens in the private sector, said informed

sources. Meanwhile, the manpower authority's information systems center manager Rabab Al-Ossaimi said the authority had completed the experimental operation of the e-connection with the engineers' society which started in February to accredit engineering professions. Ossaimi added transactions will not be accepted unless registered with both bodies through the e-connection system and stressed that degree accreditation will be only required once without the need to go through the whole process annually.

SME projects

In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs' cooperation development department, the National Fund for SME Development instructed various co-op societies to pay financial dues to owners of SME projects within 30 days after a sale, said informed sources, noting that the process used to take 3-6 months. The sources added that entrepreneurs and owners of projects funded by the fund should file complaints with Ministry of Social Affairs in case the concerned co-ops do not cooperate in this regard. The sources noted the co-ops will receive warning notices. Notably, cooperative societies are the most powerful retail outlets in Kuwait with 75 main co-ops, dozens of branches and over 5,600 stores with various activities.

Amiri Airport

The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) announced that by the beginning of July, it will offer a tender to operate and maintain the Amiri Airport buildings for bidding amongst five qualified bidders. The



MP Adel Al-Damkhi

Amiri Diwan also gave disqualified companies the right to file complaints with CAPT within 30 days effective on offering the tender for bidding.

Bonus payment

Official sources at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) said the 2018-2019 excellent performance bonuses have already been deposited to the bank accounts of 1,600 of its employees. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Service has finished preparing lists of its employees who deserve the excellence performance bonuses and submitted them to minister Khaled Al-Roudhan for approval.



KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah honors Kuwaiti citizen Khalid Al-Rashidi for his efforts that helped arrest three expats who stole manhole covers.

Russian suspect in ports case released on bail

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The appeals court released the Russian suspect in the ports embezzlements case Marsha Lazareva on KD 1 million bail, while suspect 'S.D.' was also released on KD 10 million bail. The court decided to hear from the public prosecution during the session on June 9.

Citizen honored

Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah received Kuwaiti citizen Khalid Al-Rashidi in the presence of Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Naham to honor him for his efforts that helped arrest three expats who stole manhole covers.

Work ban

Kuwait Society for Human urged all Kuwaitis and expats in Kuwait to monitor laborers forced to work during the daytime in the open in the summer peri-

od. People can check and report the violation via social media with pictures and videos on 55643333. By law, work is banned in open areas from June 1 until Aug 31 between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Municipality campaign

Hawally municipality emergency team removed 205 encroachments on state property. Head of the team Ahmad Ramadan said inspectors carried out field campaigns in various areas to make sure shop owners are not using areas in front of their shops. He said 164 signs in streets and yards were removed and four warnings were issued.

Fake news

The information and security information department at the interior ministry said an audio recording of a senior security official on social media is from many years ago, and was linked to facilitating the escape of a wanted person at the time, and legal action was taken.

Kuwait grants \$2 million for Syrian cancer patients

AMMAN: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) yesterday signed an agreement with Jordan to provide a grant worth \$2 million to King Hussein Cancer Center with the aim of treating Syrian refugees in Jordan. Representing Kuwait, KFAED's Director-General Abdulwahab Al-Bader signed the deal with the Chairperson of King Hussein Cancer Foundation Princess Ghida Talal that represents Jordan. Attending the deal signing was Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani and several senior officials from the foundation.

Bader said that this deal makes the amount of grants given to this foundation reach the total of \$5 million. Bader noted that KFAED have been granting the foundation since 2016 and have signed three deals with the aim of providing aid for Syrian refugees. Those deals have helped in covering the expenses of treating 117 Syrian refugees with cancer. On the other hand, Princess Ghida Talal said in a statement that the continuous support of KFAED was priceless and praised its belief in the message of the foundation. She also said that the foundation treats patients from all over the world with intensive care and was able to affect change in the world of medicine by providing the medical staff and technology according to international standards. — KUNA



AMMAN: Officials sign the agreement. — KUNA



Officials visit children at the King Hussein Cancer Center.

Minister announces high school final exams' results

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamid Al-Azmi announced Saturday the final results of high school exams, 12th grade, for the academic year 2018-2019. "The average success rates across the educational directorates amount to 70.38 percent for the scientific section, 63.47 percent for the literary section, and 69.02 percent for the religious institute," the minister said at a press conference this evening.

The success rates for the scientific section average in government-run schools hit 76.79 percent, in private schools 69.3 percent, in the educational centers 28.71 percent, and in home study 3.36 percent. The success rates for the literary section in government-run schools hit 73.54 percent, in private schools 50.33 percent, in the educational centers 44.02 percent, and in home study 8.21 percent, Dr Azmi revealed. "The averages for the religious institute topped 81.82 percent at government

schools, 71 percent at centers, and 30.19 percent at home study," he added. The minister thanked the staffs of his ministry and the ministries of interior and health for contributing to the success of the educational process and ensuring the safety of students throughout the academic year.

Meanwhile, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem congratulated the graduates of the high schools, particularly the distinguished students. He paid homage, in a tweet late Saturday, to the successful students and their parents who made "tremendous efforts" throughout the academic year. Ghanem also thanked the teachers and staffs of the Ministry of Education for their efforts to ensure the success and the orderliness of the educational process. He wished the students, males and females, more success in the coming academic study in order to be better able to serve their homeland. — KUNA

Kuwait Times

Ramadan, Kareem

Ford and Alghanim Auto host second Ramadan ghabqa

In honor of wholesale customers of Ford commercial, light and heavy vehicles



Ford Commercial Vehicles Display at Marina Hotel.



Some of the guests participating in the ghabqa.



Nihad Al-Kilani, GM of Ford Trucks at Alghanim Auto welcoming guests.



Mustafa Caner Sinanoglu, Ford Trucks Managing Director, Middle East while delivering his speech.



Issam Salameh, Sales Director at Ford Alghanim Auto speaking to the guests.



Wesam Darwasha, National Fleet Sales Manager at Ford Middle East speaking about the success attained in the Kuwaiti market.

KUWAIT: As part of their efforts to constantly engage their valued customers, Ford and Alghanim Auto, the authorized distributor of Ford vehicles and Ford Trucks in Kuwait, held their second ghabqa recently at Marina Hotel Kuwait, in an exceptional Ramadan ambience.

The event was attended by more than 200 business partners, including trucks, fleet and commercial vehicles owners, and was hosted by senior management from Ford Motor Company as well as Alghanim Auto.

Nihad Al-Kilani, General Manager of Heavy Trucks at Alghanim Auto, said: "We are grateful to all of our loyal partners for their continuous support and for enabling us in taking our businesses to the next level. Since the dawn of our partnership, we have achieved many consecutive successes, which in turn would play a pivotal role in shaping the New Kuwait. We are proud to celebrate once again our partnership with Ford Trucks, one of the world's largest global manufacturers of heavy trucks... This is truly another success and remarkable achievement characterizing our journey."

Praising their partnership with Alghanim Auto, Mustafa Caner Sinanoglu, Ford Trucks Managing Director, Middle East, said: "This partnership helps us in two major goals: High quality customer service via a widespread dealer network and an equally extensive network for Spare Parts distribution for higher availability."

"In 2018, we delivered hundreds of trucks to some of the largest fleets in Kuwait and became the 2nd best-selling European brand during our first year of operation in this market," Sinanoglu added. "Our target is to sustain this achievement and go even further. One of the most important milestones of our presence in Kuwait is the first dedicated Ford Trucks facility which will be inaugurated later this year. Our presence in this Ramadan ghabqa emphasizes our partnership with Alghanim Auto which started in 2017 and included numerous successful initiatives that benefited Ford Trucks customers in Kuwait."

Speaking about the success attained in Kuwait in collaboration with Alghanim Auto, Wesam Darwasha, National Fleet Sales Manager at Ford Middle East, said:

"This event marks an important milestone in our founded relationship with Alghanim Auto and all of the attendees, and we are truly excited about the ongoing dialogue and collaboration we have as we engage with our customers and get insights on their wants and needs. We are committed to support our partners and customers to ensure we provide the best levels of customer satisfaction."

"On a different note," Darwasha added, "We are thrilled to announce that Ford will launch new products that will join the Ford showrooms in Kuwait and we can't wait to launch, such as the all-new Escort, Explorer, as well as the new Taurus and Edge."

Issam Salameh, Sales Director at Ford Alghanim Auto, stated: "The light commercial vehicles, as well as Ford fleet continue to achieve record sales that we are truly proud of. However, our customers' appreciation and trust hold us accountable for constantly providing exceptional services, along with new and advanced products that meet their lifestyle and enable us from establishing long-term business relationships. We are eager to be welcoming brand new additions to the Ford range, further to the existing business solutions that fit the various needs of our customers."

During the event, Ford showcased its impressive range of trucks renowned for their powerful performance, advanced technology and efficiency that ensure driving with comfort and exceptional capabilities in carrying out required tasks thanks to their revolutionary Ecotorq engines. The Ford Trucks collection includes the Construction Trucks providing incomparable towing and loading capacities, besides stability and control whatever the work conditions are, the Tractor Series delivering high performance and helping reduce fuel consumption, further to the Road Trucks with their many innovative features designed to assist you in achieving more profits and reducing operational costs.

Attendees also explored the different categories of Ford's newest range of world's best-selling and best-in-class F-Series trucks, including the full-size F-Series Super Duty, and the F-150, as well as the Ford Ranger



Ford commercial, light and heavy vehicles light up the Marina Hotel.

designed to meet specific customers' needs, in addition to the award-winning Ford Transit lineup that customers can rely on to perform all tasks and work, encompassing three different categories: Transit Custom, Transit Van and the Transit Chassis Cab. Alghanim Auto also displayed the Expedition full-size SUV, the mid-size Explorer, the Ford Edge, in addition to Escape and the compact Ecosport.

Alghanim Auto keeps on prioritizing its long-term partnerships with customers through the building and strengthening of these relationships, considered as key to its success and excellence. Sustaining its mission, the company keeps on delivering quality, efficiency and reliability, as well as the best possible experience customers can have, whether individuals or companies.

Seeking to provide comprehensive and integrated after sales services, Alghanim Auto announced during the event the opening of its first dedicated and exclusive facility for commercial trucks in Ahmadi. The company's upcoming

inauguration plan will enable it from achieving its goal of becoming closer than ever to its customers. Alghanim Auto's current state-of-the-art service center is fitted with advanced equipment to ensure the completion of all maintenance services in an efficient manner from the first time, expertly performed by Ford-trained technicians using genuine Ford and Motorcraft spare parts to ensure the best operation of vehicles. Motorcraft offers more than 300,000 items that include oils and chemicals, coolants, filters, wiper blades, and batteries that are designed for all vehicles makes and models. Moreover, the company is laying the ground for the opening of its newest service center in Fahaeel area, designed to meet customers' needs and outpace their expectations. The company strives as well to provide the best financing and business solutions to its customers, including precautionary services contracts and comprehensive customer-tailored services.



Another side of the guests and customers in the Ford ghabqa.



Ford commercial, light and heavy vehicles light up the Marina Hotel.

Local



Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti government house in the 1970s. Children and a classic car are seen at the front door. (Source: The KOC archive. Researched by Mahmoud Zakaria, Researcher in Heritage, the Ministry of Information). — KUNA

KIB distributes refreshments to worshippers during last ten days of Ramadan



KUWAIT: As part of this year's social responsibility program during Ramadan, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) organized its annual initiative to distribute cold refreshments amongst those who have finished tarawih and volunteerism, as well as a sense of social responsibility towards the community; particularly during the last ten days of the holy month.

This initiative was organized in collaboration with KIB's employee volunteer group, 'KIB Heroes.' The volunteer group aims at spreading values of teamwork and volunteerism, as well as a sense of social responsibility towards the community; particularly during the last ten days of Ramadan.

On this occasion, Senior Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "We are committed to organizing this annual initiative, which falls in line with this year's Ramadan campaign entitled 'Hope for Life'. By distributing water amongst those praying, we recognize and appreciate their efforts and spiritual devotion during the last ten days of Ramadan; thereby spreading hope across the community and promoting values of goodness and giving in the hearts of everyone."

Najia also noted that this initiative came as part of a series of initiatives within KIB's comprehensive Ramadan program, which aims at serving all segments of the local



community. He also noted that these various social initiatives aim at fostering community values and strengthening ties between everyone. Najia also lauded the efforts made by the KIB employees who distributed the cold refreshments amongst those praying after leaving mosques - with high spirits, positivity and a strong sense

of social responsibility. It is worth noting that, throughout Ramadan, KIB has organized a number of humanitarian and charity initiatives and activities, as part of its leading social responsibility program. The bank always strives to positively impact various segments of the community.

Burgan Bank concludes annual Ramadan program



KUWAIT: Burgan Bank recently concluded its annual Ramadan program, which embodied the true spirit of giving during the holy month of Ramadan. The program, which involved various visits to organizations, charities and public associations, aimed to share with moments of joy and togetherness during Ramadan.

As part of this annual tradition, Hessa Al-Najadah Assistant Manager - Public relations at Burgan Bank organized several visits in collaboration with Burgan Bank volunteer group to distribute girgian gift bags to children, elderly and people with disabilities through fun-filled activities. The visits included Kuwait Centre for Mental Health, Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH), Abeer 2 Voluntary Team for Mentally Disabled, Kuwaiti Disabled Sport Club and The Palliative Care for Cancer Patients. Through this honorable yearly tradition, Burgan Bank seeks to continue showcasing the essence of the rich Kuwaiti heritage during the holy month of Ramadan.

Burgan Bank's initiative falls under its full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - 'Together to be the change.' This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare



through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a

Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.



Ramadan's special atmosphere makes it the best month

By Nawara Fattahova

Ramadan is a joyful time of year in the Muslim world as fasters gather at sundown to break their fast with family and friends. In Kuwait, there are many traditions and activities that take place every year. To commemorate Ramadan and the experiences of our readers, this year the Kuwait Times is asking readers what they love about Ramadan. What is your favorite food, activity, memory, event, or thing that you absolutely adore and look forward to each year? We want to know. Email local@kuwaittimes with your answer and it might end up in the newspaper.



and garden of my house. I also like the varieties of sweets in Ramadan, as some sweets are only available during this holy month," she added.

"The holy month is special for all Muslims as we believe that good deeds during this month are doubled. It is a spiritual month and people not only fast from food, but also from bad words and deeds and sins. I feel I get closer to my family as we meet daily for iftar, and we even gather with relatives two or three times a week," concluded Rabia.

The special atmosphere of the holy month of Ramadan makes it the best month in the year for 40-year-old Rabia, a Kuwaiti writer. "I love the rituals that only take place in Ramadan, such as the taraweeh and qiyam prayers, which I'm keen to practice during the entire month," she told Kuwait Times. Ramadan decorations are another favorite for Rabia. "I enjoy buying Ramadan decorations such as the lights and lanterns that I place on the windows



US' Grand Canyon offers awe-inspiring beauty, deadly risk

China says war with US would be a disaster as tensions mount



VENICE: Rescuing boats of the Carabinieri Police (front) and the port's fire rescue service (second left) assist the damaged River Countess tourist boat (rear left) after it was hit early yesterday by the MSC Opera cruise ship (right) that lost control as it was coming in to dock. —AFP

Cruise ship slams into Venice wharf

Tourists run for their lives • Calls to ban mammoth vessels from city

VENICE: Tourists ran for their lives in Venice yesterday as a massive cruise ship lost control, crashing into the wharf and hitting a luxury sightseeing boat after suffering an engine failure. People on the harbor could be seen fleeing as the 13-deck MSC Opera scraped along the dockside, its engine blaring, before knocking into the tourist boat, amateur video footage posted on Twitter showed. "When we saw the ship bearing down on us, everyone began shouting and running," a sailor who was on the River Countess tourist boat was quoted as saying by Italian media. "I didn't know what to do. I got away quickly, jumping to get on shore," said the man, who was not named.

Four tourists were slightly injured in the accident at San Basilio-Zattere in Venice's Giudecca Canal, port authorities said. The foreigners, aged between 67 and 72 years old, were from Australia, New Zealand and the United States, according to media reports. The incident came just days after a river cruise ship collided with a

sightseeing vessel in Budapest, killing seven people and leaving 21 missing. The Opera, which suffered mechanical trouble before in 2011 during a Baltic cruise, can carry more than 2,500 passengers and boasts a theatre, ballroom and water park for children.

Ship unable to stop

"The MSC ship had an engine failure, which was immediately reported by the captain," Davide Calderan, head of a tugboat company involved in accompanying the ship into its berth, told Italian media. "The engine was blocked, but with its thrust on, because the speed was increasing," he said. The two tug boats that had been guiding the ship into the Giudecca tried to slow it, but one of the chains linking them to the giant snapped under the pressure, he added. "I could see the prow coming closer, and I thought it would hit my house. The noise was deafening," one Venetian resident was quoted as saying by Italian media.

The accident reignited a heated row in Venice over the damage caused to the city and its fragile ecosystem by cruise ships that sail exceptionally close to the shore. While gondoliers in striped T-shirts and woven straw hats row tourists around the narrow canals, the smoking chimneys of mammoth ships loom into sight behind the city's picturesque bell towers and bridges. Critics say the waves the ships create are eroding the foundations of the lagoon city, which regularly floods, leaving iconic sites such as Saint Mark's Square underwater.

'Risk of carnage'

"What happened in the port of Venice is confirmation of what we have been saying for some time," Italy's environment minister Sergio Costa wrote on Twitter. "Cruise ships must not sail down the Giudecca. We have been working on moving them for months now... and are nearing a solution," he said.

WWF Italy described the incident as "an important alarm bell to which it would be madness not to listen". Nicola Fratoianni, an MP with the Italian Left party, noted Italy's welcoming attitude to cruise ships contrasted sharply with its hostile approach to charity rescue vessels that help migrants who run into difficulty in the Mediterranean. "It is truly curious that a country that tries to stop ships that have saved people at sea from entering its ports allows giant steel monsters to risk carnage in Venice," he said.

MSC Cruises, founded in Italy in 1960, is a global line registered in Switzerland and based in Geneva. One of its cruise ships, the MSC Preziosa, collided with a passenger embarkation ramp as it entered port in Venice in 2014, according to the local La Nuova daily. The Opera, built 15 years ago, suffered a power failure in 2011 in the Baltic, forcing some 2,000 people to be disembarked in Stockholm rather than continuing their Southampton to Saint Petersburg voyage. —AFP

Algerian council scraps July 4 presidential election

ALGIERS: Algeria's constitutional council scrapped a presidential election planned for July 4 citing a lack of candidates, prolonging a period of political transition and risking more anger from protesters. The move will likely extend the rule of interim President Abdelkader Bensalah, who was due to stay on only until the vote to elect a new president. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika ended his 20-year rule two months ago under pressure from protests.

Demonstrations have since continued, with protesters demanding Bensalah's resignation and an end to the dominance of the elite who have ruled Algeria since it won independence from France in 1962. "Bensalah will go beyond the 90 days as long as there has been no election, but this will anger the protesters," said political analyst Farid Ferrahi.

In a statement on state television, the constitutional council overseeing the country's transition said two candidates had come forward but were deemed invalid. The two candidates - who are not public figures - had not met the quorum of 60,000 signatures in support, a political source told Reuters. It did not set a new date for the presidential election, asking Bensalah to organize a vote at a later date. Bensalah had been appointed as interim leader until July 9.

On Friday, hundreds of thousands again took to the streets of Algiers and other cities to call for his removal and that of Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui, who was appointed by Bouteflika days before he stepped down. Lieutenant-General Ahmed Gaed Salah, who has been managing the transition, has called on political parties and protesters to meet amongst themselves to discuss a way out of the crisis. —Reuters

India accuses Pak of harassing guests at Islamabad party

ISLAMABAD: Indian diplomats in Islamabad complained yesterday that Pakistan security officials had hassled guests invited to a Ramadan fast-breaking meal at a top hotel, going so far as to confiscate mobile phones and remove the vehicles of those attending. "Guests faced unprecedented harassment and intimidation at the hands of security agencies," the Indian High Commission said in a statement. It said security officials had carried out a "concerted campaign" in the days leading up to the event to try to dissuade invited guests from attending an iftar, or fast-breaking meal, at the Serena hotel.

"Those guests who did reach the function venue, in

some cases from places as far as Lahore and Karachi, were intimidated and physically stopped from attending," the high commission said. "In some cases, cars used by invitees were lifted and removed using forklifts." The high commission said more than 300 guests were turned away, including parliamentarians, diplomats, business people and members of the media. "Some officials were jostled, pushed, abused and aggressively threatened with bodily harm. In some cases mobile phones belonging to officials were snatched away," it said. "We have requested the government of Pakistan to urgently investigate these ugly events and share the results of the exercise with the High Commission of India."

The Pakistani foreign office did not immediately respond when contacted by AFP. Pakistan and India often accuse each other of harassing their diplomatic missions. The archrivals barely escaped a war just months ago when they launched cross-border air strikes at each other, but Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and his Indian rival Narendra Modi exchanged

warm messages after Modi's hawkish party won a new term in May. Last month, Khan congratulated Modi on the win by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has long taken a strong anti-Pakistan stance. "Congratulate Prime Minister Modi on the electoral victory of BJP and allies. Look forward to working with him for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia," Khan tweeted. "Thank you PM @ImranKhanPTI. I warmly express my gratitude for your good wishes. I have always given primacy to peace and development in our region," Modi responded, also on Twitter.

In February, India launched an airstrike inside Pakistan accusing its neighbor of harboring a group that staged a suicide bomb attack on Indian troops in Kashmir. Pakistan launched its own raid the next day amid fears of war, but tensions have since eased. Pakistan has restricted large swathes of airspace near its eastern border with India since the February clashes, effectively closing off major international flight routes in and out of Islamabad and Lahore, while also disrupting Indian flights headed west. —AFP

Bukele sworn in as president of El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR: Conservative businessman Nayib Bukele took office Saturday as president of El Salvador, tasked with turning around grinding poverty and rampant gang violence that are sending thousands fleeing to the United States. Bukele was sworn in by the speaker of the National Assembly in a square in downtown San Salvador, as a large, boisterous crowd applauded and shouted "We did it!" The telegenic Bukele, 37, was elected in February to succeed Salvador Sanchez Ceren, a leftist former guerrilla who maintained close relations with his Nicaraguan and Venezuelan counterparts.

Bukele has said he will seek closer ties with the United States, home to 2.5 million Salvadorans. With only 6.6 million people living in the small Central American country, its fortunes are closely linked to the United States which nearly a third of its citizens call home. "I will be the president of all

Salvadorans," Bukele pledged. "Our country is like a sick child, we all have to take care of it."

US President Donald Trump, who has railed against the waves of migrants flooding into his country from El Salvador as well as Honduras and Guatemala, wished Bukele well on Twitter. "Congratulations President Bukele on your inauguration! The United States stands ready to work with @NayibBukele to advance prosperity in El Salvador and the hemisphere," Trump said. Official estimates indicate an average of 200 Salvadorans leave the country per day to enter the United States without documents. Some analysts have called Bukele a millennial president: above all because he is at ease on social media, but also because he often adopts a casual appearance, ditching a tie and wearing his hair in a ponytail. Critics say Bukele, former mayor of the capital San Salvador, is light on policy and substance. He has said a priority of his five-year term is cracking down on gangs that recruit young people into their ranks, while profiting off drug trafficking and extortion.

El Salvador last year tallied 3,340 homicides. That was 15 percent less than in 2017, but still amounted to a rate of 51 killings per 100,000 inhabitants, making it one of the world's most violent countries not at war. The fearsome gangs, with an estimated 70,000 members, are blamed for much of the



SAN SALVADOR: Salvador's new President Nayib Bukele waves during his inauguration ceremony on Sunday. —AFP

violence. The son of a Muslim imam and a Christian, Bukele describes himself as believing in God rather than an adherent to a religion, an apparent effort to steer clear of any anti-Muslim sentiment. Delegations from 83 countries attended Bukele's swearing-in. The United States was represented by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. —AFP

International

SPD leader quits in blow to Merkel's loveless coalition

Fears Germany's embattled government could collapse

BERLIN: The leader of Chancellor Angela Merkel's junior coalition partner, the SPD, resigned yesterday from her party's top jobs, raising the possibility that Germany's embattled government could collapse. Andrea Nahles, who heads the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD), has come under intense pressure after voters handed the party its worst European election results a week ago. With an eye on three key state elections in eastern Germany in September, the SPD had initially planned to re-examine its partnership with Merkel's centre-right CDU-CSU alliance in the autumn.

But ahead of a planned leadership vote tomorrow, Nahles said she would give up her jobs as both party chief and head of its parliamentary group. "The discussions in the parliamentary group and the broad feedback from the party showed me that the support necessary for the exercise of my offices is no longer there," said Nahles in a statement. The 48-year-old said she hoped her resignation "would open the possibility that the succession can take place in an orderly manner".

Harald Christ, deputy chief of the SPD's economy forum, told the Bild daily however that Nahles' decision had put the future of the coalition in serious doubt. "To all those who are happy today: it is a great loss for German politics. Nahles stands for the existence of the GroKo - whose stability is now in question," he said, using the German short-form for grand coalition.

'Walking undead'

Anxiously watching as the SPD tumbled into disarray, CDU heavyweights urged their centre-left partner not to endanger the coalition. "The voter mandate is valid for four years and political parties must ensure stability in difficult times," the CDU's Bundestag deputy president Hans-Peter Friedrich told Bild daily. "An early end of the GroKo would only benefit the political fringes." Merkel's CDU itself was scrambling to retain voters, after it too scored a record low in the

European elections.

Her favored successor Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer was also struggling to put down a raging online youth revolt against the party, raising questions as to whether she is the best person for Germany's top job when Merkel leaves the political stage in 2021. Following Nahles' bombshell, the CDU said both Kramp-Karrenbauer and Merkel would address the press later. But the far-right AfD said the government was already disintegrating.

"Not only is the SPD dissolving, the GroKo too is walking the political stage only as one of the undead," wrote the co-leader of the AfD's group in parliament, Alice Weidel, on Twitter. Some newspapers reached similar conclusions. Bild daily noted that "the SPD is bleeding to death. The GroKo too". And the Sueddeutsche daily predicted that "the coalition has come to an end. The Social Democrats have just defeated the woman who with great effort brought the alliance together. What's the point now then of continuing to torment themselves with this?"

Uneasy partners

The alliance between Merkel's Christian Democrats and the SPD was fragile from the start. Stung by a election beating in 2017, the SPD had initially sought to go into opposition. But it was reluctantly coaxed into renewing a partnership with Merkel, even as many within the party remained wary of continuing to govern in her shadow. After former EU parliament chief Martin Schulz's failed attempt at reversing the fortunes of the party, the SPD in April 2018 turned to Nahles, picking her as its first female leader.

With her lectern-thumping speeches, Nahles, the daughter of a bricklayer, had sought to woo back voters who had deserted the party complaining that it was moving too far away from the left. But the free-fall in the SPD's ratings could not be halted. After last Sunday's election drubbing, the party has been staring at the prospect of another rout in three upcoming state



BERLIN: In this file photo taken on March 29, 2017, German Chancellor Angela Merkel (left) speaks with Andrea Nahles, then German Labor and Social Minister, at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting at the Chancellery. — AFP

polls in Saxony, Brandenburg and Thuringia, where the far-right AfD is poised to make significant gains.

With its anti-immigration campaign, the AfD in 2017 drew voters angry with Merkel's decision to let in more than a million asylum seekers into Germany. But it is now the Greens which may have become the biggest headache for the SPD. While sharing the centre-left

position on the political spectrum, the Greens are proving more attractive to young voters because of their environmental platform. In a national survey released Saturday, the Greens came in top for the first time - enjoying more support than Merkel's CDU-CSU alliance. They had a lead over the SPD of around 15 percentage points. — AFP

Every night, jail becomes home for leading dissident

CAIRO: The days and nights of Alaa Abdel Fattah, Egypt's leading dissident, follow a disorienting rhythm where he is freed every morning from a filthy police cell and then jailed again at sunset. It is a harrowing routine that forces Abdel Fattah, 37, to measure out his life in one-hour increments for the next five years as he copes with a draconian probation period after being released from full-time prison in March. "There isn't a moment throughout the day when probation does not consume me or I think of it," he told AFP in his first interview with international media since his release.

After serving his five-year term for demonstrating against a restrictive 2013 protest law, he now has to turn himself in to a police station near his home at 6 pm every evening and stay overnight in a cell there until 6 am. In the mornings, Abdel Fattah spends time with his son Khaled and drops him off for swimming lessons or kindergarten. The computer programmer and blogger then tries to carve out a chunk of time to work on his coding projects.

In between his errands and work commitments, he meets his lawyers and friends, files complaints about his treatment and then around 4 pm he starts planning how to head back home as traffic chokes the city. "I try to have little tasks for myself every day so I can have a sense of achievement," Abdel Fattah said. "Even basic biological functions, I have to think of because there isn't a clean toilet when I'm there overnight." His split reality, a free man by day and a prisoner in solitary confinement by night, has already taken its toll. "There's a deep level of insult that I'm cooperating with the state in the destruction of my life everyday... which puts such immense psychological pressure on someone."

Abdel Fattah's disjointed life has also affected his fam-

ily who worry for his safety in the police station with no communication once he is inside. He is not allowed any mobile phones or laptops overnight. Abdel Fattah's sister Mona Seif, also a human rights advocate, said she still cannot process how her brother is imprisoned daily. She said she is determined to keep advocating against the unfair probation conditions for him and others.

"It's such a disconcerting feeling to see your brother locked up every day... He is only 10 minutes away from home," she told AFP. "I truly believe that it's their wish that Alaa remain completely closed off from the world, along with his family and lawyers and his life, until the morning."

His mother Laila Soueif, herself a prominent rights activist on Egypt's political scene for decades, has criticized the application of an arcane law dating back to 1945 stipulating probation conditions. She recounts the struggle it took just to get permission for her son to share the iftar meal with his family that break the daytime fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ends next week. The cherished daily ritual fell after his evening deadline and at first he was forced to be in his cell. In protest Soueif with family and friends in early May began holding the meal every sunset outside the police station. One evening an officer tried to snatch away a dessert plate she had brought to Abdel Fattah - but Soueif was unmoved. "The policeman thought if he took it away from us that we would leave Alaa... It's quite farcical," she said.

Authorities eventually allowed him to spend iftar with his family after many people voiced their feelings on social media that he was being deliberately targeted unlike others under probation. "I am worried about him that it is causing so much anxiety for him. But even this extra hour and a half has made such a difference because he is spending some time with us and his son Khaled," Soueif said.

'Rendered invisible'

Dubbed "the icon of the revolution" that unseated longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011, Abdel Fattah still speaks out on his social media accounts about political repression in Egypt. He argues for others also forced



CAIRO: Egyptian activist and blogger Alaa Abdel Fattah smiles next to his mother Laila Soueif and sister Mona Seif during an interview with AFP at their home on May 17, 2019. — AFP

to spend their nights in jail, such as award-winning photojournalist Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, known as Shawkan. Abdel Fattah said national security officers had threatened him twice to stop talking about his probation publicly or else he would be sent back to jail indefinitely. AFP contacted the ministry of interior's spokesperson several times for confirmation but received no comment.

Rights groups have roundly criticized Egypt's enforcement of the probation law saying it is used in order to punish and silence dissidents. "They (the authorities) are not dealing with us as humans, they are treating us solely as political animals who give them a lot of headaches," Abdel Fattah explained. In the last decade, he has garnered the dubious honor of being jailed under Mubarak, his Islamist successor Mohamed Morsi and current President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. But, politics is far from his mind as he tries to rebuild a semblance of normal life despite the hectic pace of the capital Cairo. "I now have no role to play politically in public life... that for them is not enough," said Abdel Fattah. "They want me to be so oppressed that I am rendered invisible... I really don't see an end to this ordeal." — AFP

Kurds to release 800 Syrians from Al-Hol camp

AIN ISSA, Syria: Kurdish authorities in northeast Syria said yesterday they plan to hand 800 women and children, including relatives of militants, to their families in the first such transfer from an overcrowded camp. The women and children - all Syrians - are living among the dregs of the Islamic State group in the Kurdish-run Al-Hol camp, home to nearly 74,000 people including more than 30,000 Syrians. They will be released today and "taken to their families" at the request of local Arab tribes, according to Abd Al-Mehbachi, co-chair of the Kurdish administration's executive council. It is to be the first in a larger wave of releases that aim to empty Al-Hol of its Syrian residents, he said.

The next batch is expected to follow the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Hoovered up during a final offensive against the militants by a US-backed Kurdish-led force, thousands of wives and children of IS fighters have been trucked into Al-Hol from a string of Syrian villages south of the camp in recent months. Their numbers have created a major headache for the semi-autonomous Kurdish administration and have sparked concerns that the camp is emerging as a fresh jihadist powder keg.

But "not all of those being released are relatives of IS fighters," Mehbachi said of the group set to leave today. Some sought shelter at the camp to escape tough humanitarian conditions in areas levelled by months of fighting, he said. Today's group consists of residents from the northeastern city of Raqqa - once IS' de facto capital in Syria - as well as the town of Tabqa, 70 km west, according to Mehbachi. — AFP

Pope asks Roma to forgive Church's 'discrimination'

BLAJ, Romania: Pope Francis apologized to the Roma people yesterday for the Roman Catholic Church's "discrimination" against them as he wrapped up a visit to Romania. Making up around 10 percent of Romania's 20 million people, many Roma are marginalized and live in poverty and have suffered centuries of discrimination and insults. "I ask forgiveness - in the name of the Church and of the Lord - and I ask forgiveness of you. For all those times in history when we have discriminated, mistreated or looked askance at you," the pope said in a speech to the Roma community in the central town of Blaj. "My heart, however, is heavy. It is weighed down by the many experiences of discrimination, segregation and mistreatment experienced by your communities. History tells us that Christians too, including Catholics, are not strangers to such evil," he said. "Indifference breeds prejudices and fosters anger and resentment. How many times do we judge rashly, with words that sting, with attitudes that sow hatred and division!"

Earlier, the pontiff beatified seven Greco-Catholic bishops jailed and tortured during the Communist era. "The new blessed ones suffered and sacrificed their lives, opposing a system of totalitarian and coercive ideology," he told some 60,000 worshippers attending mass on a "Field of Liberty" in Blaj. "These shepherds, martyrs of faith, garnered for and left the Romanian people a precious heritage which we can sum up in two words: freedom and mercy," added Francis, while



BLAJ, Romania: Pope Francis meets with members of the Roma community in the Barbu Lautaru district yesterday. — AFP

praising the "diversity of religious expression" in mainly Orthodox Romania. Regime officials detained the beatified bishops overnight on Oct 28, 1948, accusing them of "high treason" after they refused to convert to Orthodoxy. The Greek-Catholic Church was outlawed under 1948-89 Communist rule.

The bishops died of maltreatment, some still in jail, others in confinement in an Orthodox monastery. They were then buried in secret - to this day the whereabouts of four of their graves is unknown. The bars of the cells where they were held were symbolically incorporated into the throne built specially for the papal visit. The bishops followed the Eastern Rite Catholic Church which emerged from an Orthodox schism at the end of the 17th century when the central region of Transylvania was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. — AFP

Nine French militants now on death row in Iraq

BAGHDAD: Nine French militants are now on death row in Iraq after a court sentenced two more to death yesterday for joining the Islamic State group, rejecting a claim of torture. Fodil Tahar Aouidate and Vianney Ouraghi were among 11 French citizens and one Tunisian handed over to Iraqi authorities in January by a US-backed force fighting the jihadist group in Syria. Described as violent and ready to die for the extremist IS ideology, Aouidate first appeared in court on May 27 but a judge delayed his trial and ordered a medical examination after the 32-year-old claimed he was tortured into confessing.

"The medical report shows that there are no signs of torture on his body," the judge told the court before handing down his sentence. His trial was quickly followed by that of 28-year-old Ouraghi, who acknowledged in court that he "worked with" IS but said he did not participate in any fighting. Baghdad has handed capital punishments to seven of the other French jihadists and the Tunisian over the past week.

Hearings for the last two suspected French IS members to be tried in Baghdad are set for today. Iraq has sentenced more than 500 suspected foreign members of IS since the start of 2018. Its courts have condemned many to life in prison and others to death, although no foreign IS members have yet been executed. Those con-

victed have 30 days to appeal. Ouraghi, who has Algerian roots, left France for Syria in 2013 and joined the Al-Qaeda affiliate there before jumping to IS when the latter declared its "caliphate" in 2014. "Yes, I worked with IS, but I did not participate in any combat in Syria or Iraq," Ouraghi said in classical Arabic, which he picked up in Egypt. Sporting thick glasses and a light brown goatee, he pleaded that he was only an "IS administrative officer" in charge of "widows and families" of the jihadist group.

Aouidate showed no reaction when the judge handed down his death sentence, according to an AFP journalist at the trial. He first went to Syria in 2013 and returned in 2014 with 22 members of his family to join IS, according to the French judiciary. Authorities also linked him to Belgium's Salafist movement including Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the presumed mastermind of the 2015 Paris attacks.

Interrogated for four months, he alleged during his first hearing that he was beaten to "confess" to the charges levelled against him. Human Rights Watch on Friday accused Iraqi interrogators of "using a range of torture techniques... which would not leave lasting marks on the person's body". It also condemned France's "outsourcing" of trials of IS suspects to "abusive justice systems" and criticized Iraq's "routine failure... to credibly investigate torture allegations". — AFP



Fodil Tahar Aouidate

International

Trump wades into Britain's Brexit crisis, straining diplomatic norms

US leader heaps praise on potential successor to May

WASHINGTON/LONDON: US President Donald Trump arrives in Britain today on a state visit laden with diplomatic peril, having already humiliated outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May over Brexit and challenged her to be tougher in dealing with China's Huawei. Trump and his wife, Melania, will be treated to a display of British royal pageantry during the June 3-5 visit: lunch with Queen Elizabeth, tea with her Prince Charles, a banquet at Buckingham Palace and a tour of Westminster Abbey, coronation church of English monarchs for 1,000 years.

Beyond the pomp, though, the proudly unpredictable 45th US president also brings demands: He has praised a more radical Brexit-supporting potential successor to May and his envoys have urged a tougher British stance towards telecoms giant Huawei. In an interview with the Sunday Times newspaper, Trump said the next British leader should send arch-Brexitite Nigel Farage to conduct talks with the EU. Britain must leave the EU this year, Trump said.

"They've got to get it done," he said. "They have got to get the deal closed. If they don't get what they want, I would walk away. If you don't get a fair deal, you walk away." Trump repeated his backing for those candidates to succeed May who have said Britain must leave on the due date of Oct 31 with or without a

deal. Those candidates include former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, whom Trump praised in an interview with the Sun newspaper on Friday, along with former Brexit minister Dominic Raab and interior minister Sajid Javid. Trump said it was a mistake for the Conservatives not to involve Farage, the Brexit Party leader, in talks with Brussels after his success in European Parliament elections last month. "I like Nigel a lot. He has a lot to offer - he is a very smart person," Trump said. "They won't bring him in but think how well they would do if they did. They just haven't figured that out yet." On the Brexit divorce bill, Trump said: "If I were them, I wouldn't pay 50 billion dollars. That is a tremendous number."

A meeting with either Johnson, favorite to succeed May, or Farage, a bombastic anti-establishment campaigner, would be seen as a snub for May who is bowing out after failing to negotiate a Brexit deal that parliament could ratify. British officials are privately concerned that Trump could heap further ignominy on May, who battled in vain to unify her ruling Conservatives behind a deal and cried while announcing the end of her premiership in Downing Street last month.

Brexit

On his last visit to the United Kingdom, in

July last year, Trump shocked Britain's political establishment by hammering May's Brexit negotiation for being too weak with the EU and by praising rival Johnson as a "great" potential prime minister. Trump's national security adviser John Bolton said on Thursday the United States did not want to "get in the middle" of Brexit or a discussion of the next government's policies. Bolton dismissed concerns about Brexit: "You know, America declared its independence once - we made out okay," he quipped.

Brexit is the most significant geopolitical move for the United Kingdom since World War Two and if it ever happens then London will be more reliant on the United States as ties loosen with the other 27 members of the EU. At a meeting with May, Trump will warn Britain that security cooperation could be hurt if London allows China's Huawei a role in building parts of the 5G network, the next generation of cellular technology.

The Trump administration has told allies not to use its 5G technology and equipment because of fears it would allow China to spy on sensitive communications and data. Huawei denies it is, or could be, a vehicle for Chinese intelligence. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Britain last month it needed to change its attitude towards China and Huawei, casting



LONDON: Police officers patrol along the US and Union flag-lined Mall leading to Buckingham Palace yesterday ahead of a visit to the UK by US President Donald Trump. — AFP

the world's second largest economy as a threat to the West similar to that once posed by the Soviet Union. Britain's so-called special relationship with the United States is an enduring alliance, but some British voters see Trump as crude, volatile and opposed to their

values on issues ranging from global warming to his treatment of women. A blimp depicting Trump as a snarling, nappy-clad baby will fly outside Britain's parliament during the visit while protesters plan a "carnival of resistance" in central London. — Reuters

Conservatives riding high into Greek local polls

ATHENS: Greeks voted in municipal elections yesterday, with the conservative opposition set to make more gains against Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' ruling left just a month before they face off in general elections. The New Democracy party will be hoping to repeat its performance in last month's European election when it took 33 percent of the vote - nine points more than the ruling Syriza party. That unexpectedly poor result prompted Tsipras, a socialist who has overseen austerity measures since the Greek debt crisis, to call parliamentary elections for July 7, three months earlier than scheduled.

Yesterday saw the second round run-off of voting for city mayors and regional governors. In the first round of local and regional elections in May, New Democracy won five of Greece's 13 regions, while the left took just one. Analysts say the leftists appear set to lose control of the capital, Athens, and the second city of Thessaloniki in the north. Another key region at risk is Attica province.

"Hope has returned, it is revenge... against the populism of Tsipras," the opposition-leaning daily To Vima wrote in one of its front page headlines. Tsipras urged voters to choose the "mayors of progress", calling yesterday's vote a "crucial" choice in a statement to reporters after voting in Kypseli, a working-class neighborhood in Athens. Costas Bakoyannis, a former provincial governor, is expected to win the Athens mayor's office, held by a leftist mayor. — AFP

Normandy D-Day tourism boom brings crowds, controversy

CAEN, France: The number of people visiting the World War II cemeteries, museums and battle sites along the Normandy coast of France has soared in recent years, creating a tourist windfall but generating criticism that a harrowing chapter of history is being sullied by crass commercialism. The tourist surge began in 1994 with the 50th anniversary commemorations of the D-Day landings, in which hundreds of veterans took pride of place for the first time. The following year some 2.9 million people visited the region specifically to explore the war's legacy, a figure that has grown steadily to nearly five million annual visitors each year.

"The first museums were created four or five years after the war, first by local collectors who gathered up what the soldiers left behind, then by local museums," said Dominique Saussey, a D-Day specialist at the Normandy tourist board. The jump in war history tourism later got a major boost with the opening of the official Caen Memorial Museum in 1988, which now attracts around 370,000 people a year. But it's the military cemeteries that have long attracted the biggest numbers, in particular the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, where 1.4 million people came last year to honour the 9,300 graves marked by crosses or the Star of David.

The 22,000 British dead are spread across 18 cemeteries, and in recent years the German cemetery at La Cambe, with 21,000 graves, has started attracting around 450,000 people each year. "For a long time we only talked about an Allied public, but now we're focusing on a



ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS, France: Visitors walk on May 30, 2019 around the remains of "Mulberry harbor", a temporary harbor built off the coast of Normandy by the British during World War II in 1944, in the days following the Normandy landings. — AFP

German public as well." Saussey said. In 2017, 20 percent of Normandy war visitors were British, 15 percent Dutch, 14 percent American, 11 percent German, and 10 Belgian, her office said.

New generation

Alongside the dozens of memorials and sites, however, a range of new tourist operations have emerged, offering souvenirs, Jeep and tank rides, and even a D-Day "escape game". "We want to try to make what the American paratroopers did on the night of June 5-6 come alive, so that younger generations will then look at our displays," said Emmanuel Allain at the "D-Day Experience" museum at Carentan-les-Marais. For A13 (\$14.50), visitors can have a seven-minute ride in a flight simulator for a C-47 cargo

plane, which dropped 13,000 US soldiers at Sainte-Mere-Eglise for the Normandy landings.

Since opening the simulator in 2015, the museum now has 130,000 visitors a year, up from just 20,000 previously. Its gift store sells a D-Day Monopoly board game, a A7,500 helmet or a 14,500-euro jacket. A few kilometres away, "Le Blockhaus" will soon open its escape game to recreate the June 1944 beach storming, while the Normandy Victory Museum offers 10-minute tank rides for A39. And near Sainte-Mere-Eglise, groups can sign up for a A400 theatrical nighttime re-enactment of the parachute landing, complete with Jeep tour. "At a time when veterans are disappearing, we also have to reach youths, with visits oriented toward a generation that doesn't have any family or emotional ties to the landings," Saussey said. — AFP



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK: Hikers are seen on the edge of the cliffs of the Grand Canyon on May 15, 2019. — AFP

US' Grand Canyon offers awe-inspiring beauty, deadly risk

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK: Attention, Grand Canyon visitors - watch your step before attempting a selfie from the edge of the vertiginously deep and perilously steep US landmark. The national park surrounding the enormous canyon - the second-most visited US national park, after the Great Smoky Mountains in the country's southeast - has experienced a distressing surge in fatal accidents, with at least four visitors dying in as many weeks in March and April.

The views that draw millions to the park in the high Arizona desert are stunning, to be sure, both in their rich earth hues and in the sheer immensity of the gap cleaved over eons by the unceasing Colorado River as it winds sinuously through the canyon bottom. But the views can also distract or disorient visitors - some of whom take risks despite park rangers' constant warnings - and the result can be fatal. The body of a Japanese tourist was the first one found this spring, located in a wooded area some distance from the rocky cliffs.

Then came three fatal falls, including that of a fifty-something tourist from Hong Kong who toppled over the edge while snapping photos. The park has placed protec-

tive barriers at some popular vista points, but "we don't want to put barriers everywhere," park spokeswoman Kris Fister told AFP. "The specialness about parks is not being enclosed."

"You don't have a barrier between you and this amazing place," she added, "but you have to pay attention. We tell people to stay on the designated trails and walkways and to keep a safe distance from the rim" - and of course, to pay attention when taking pictures, said Fister, dressed in the gray military-style shirt and khaki pants of a park ranger. "That's pretty common sense." But at the park's Mather Point, which offers especially scenic views not far from the visitor center on the canyon's South Rim, the message does not always get through. This natural vista point, the most heavily visited in the park, may be the spot in the US most often captured in visitors' selfies. From here to the canyon's North Rim is a distance of 16 km.

There are protective barriers. But not far away, a young woman ventures to the very edge of the cliff. "We can see well enough from here," British tourist Kathryn Kelly sniffs dismissively, looking at the risk-taking woman. "I don't see the point stepping closer to the edge." "I heard of a man who died trying to take a selfie, and I'm struggling to feel sorry for him," Kelly said. "It's a kind of natural selection." Of the dozen people who, on average, die each year in the canyon, relatively few fall to their deaths, according to park service statistics. Most deaths are linked to the dramatic change in altitude and to dehydration in the crushing summer heat faced by hikers - despite the frequent warning signs that say things like "Don't become a statistic" and "Down is optional, up is mandatory." — AFP

Bolivia restores myth-generating funerary towers

CONDOR AMAYA, Bolivia: Unique quadrangular pre-Inca towers made of earth and straw, standing up to eight meters tall, dot the landscape at Condor Amaya on the Bolivian altiplano - giving rise to myths and legends. These eight "chullpas" standing almost side by side are funerary towers that have been built with a technique unique to this site in the Bolivian Andes. Severina Flores, a skilled wool weaver and sheep breeder, remembers that she was scared of the towers when she was young.

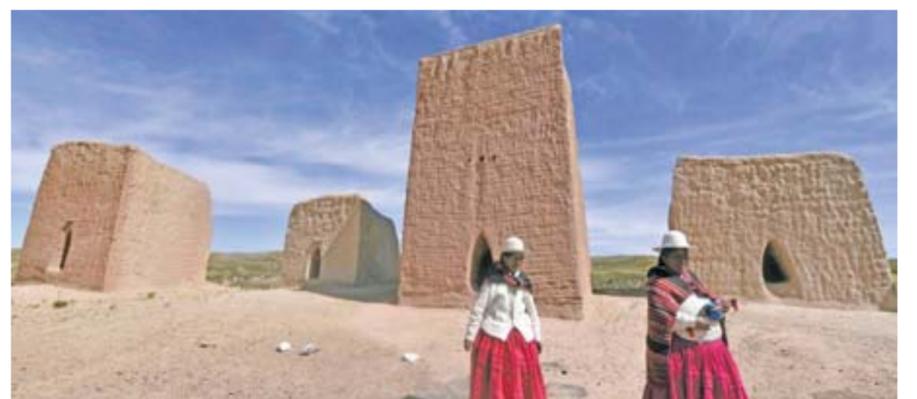
"Before, when I was 'wawa' (a child) we would never approach them because when we did we would fall ill," the 29-year-old mother of four told AFP. The chullpas measure between two and eight meters high and two to four meters wide. They all have a small entrance door facing the rising sun in the east. That gave rise to myths and legends relating to the sun. A story told by a Don Estanislao Colque claims that the pre-Inca towers "lived with the moon" and "walked on the earth" many generations ago.

But the earth changed position and the sun stopped rising in the west to be born again sometime later in the east, "burning" all those chullpas facing the other way. "It's a myth, but valuable, because mythology is also part of her-

itage," said Greek archeologist Irene Delaveris. Other, more rational, explanations for the doors' orientation: Wind and rain arriving from the west.

The towers were built during two cultural periods: the pre-Inca Aymara kingdoms and the Inca-Pacajes period, conservation expert Guido Mamani told AFP. The oldest of these towers were built in the 15th century, according to Delaveris. Chullpas were first built in the 10th and 11th centuries by the Aymara kingdoms following the end of the Tiwanaku culture. The practice continued through the Inca period until the arrival of Spanish conquistadors. They were used for the burials of royalty, military officials or wealthy people. Condor Amaya - known as Kuntur Amaya in the Aymara language - is a small village of 40 families around 130 km to the southwest of La Paz. It has 11 funerary towers restored by the culture ministry in collaboration with the government of Switzerland. There are 39 chullpas in the area, some in ruins, ravaged by time and the unforgiving climate. In the La Paz department there are around 300 overall, according to the culture ministry.

There are also similar funerary structures in neighboring Peru, but those are circular. "For me it's an expression of engineering that is unique in the world, because these constructions were not built in any other part of the world with this technique," said Delaveris. The walls appear to be made from "a mix of whole straw with mud" which "generates a material like fabric," she added. However, there is a secret organic ingredient as well, yet to be identified, that "could be the collagen in llama bones or a local plant that gave it that hardness that has allowed it to be preserved over centuries". — AFP



CONDOR AMAYA, Bolivia: Bolivian Aymara natives attend a handing over ceremony of 11 'chullpas' (funerary towers) restored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation at the Condor Amaya archaeological site in Umala on May 29, 2019. — AFP

International

China says war with US would be a disaster as tensions mount

Defense minister says stopping 'turbulence' was 'correct' policy

SINGAPORE: China's Defense Minister Wei Fenghe said yesterday that a war with the United States would be a disaster for the world while issuing a warning to Washington not to meddle in security disputes over Taiwan and the South China Sea. China has been incensed by recent moves by US President Donald Trump's administration to increase support for self-ruled and democratic Taiwan, including US Navy sailings through the Taiwan Strait that separates the island from mainland China.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Asia's premier defense summit, Wei said China would "fight to the end" if anyone tried to interfere in its relationship with Taiwan, which Beijing considers a sacred territory to be taken by force if necessary. Wei, the first Chinese defense minister to speak at the Shangri-La Dialogue since 2011, said Beijing's military operations in Asia were purely aimed at self-defense, but it would not hesitate to counter an attack on its interests.

"China will not attack unless we are attacked," Wei said, cautioning that there would be dire consequences to any clash between China and the United States. "The two sides realize that conflict, or a war between them, would bring disaster to both countries and the world." The United States, like most countries, has no formal ties with Taiwan, but is its strongest backer and main source of weapons.

On Saturday, acting US Defense Secretary

Patrick Shanahan told the Shangri-La meeting that the United States would no longer "tip-toe" around Chinese behavior in Asia. While Shanahan's speech was critical of China, his tone was often conciliatory. Wei took a more combative approach. "No attempts to split China will succeed. Any interference in the Taiwan question is doomed to failure," said Wei, dressed in his uniform of a general in the People's Liberation Army.

"If anyone dares to split Taiwan from China, the Chinese military has no choice but to fight at all costs ... The US is indivisible, and so is China. China must be, and will be, reunified." China-US ties have become increasingly strained due to a bitter trade war. US support for Taiwan and China's muscular military posture in the South China Sea, where the United States also conducts freedom-of-navigation patrols.

In May, Taiwan's national security chief David Lee met White House national security adviser John Bolton, marking the first meeting in more than four decades between senior US and Taiwanese security officials. Taiwan is gearing up for presidential elections in January, and Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has repeatedly accused Beijing of seeking to undermine Taiwan's democracy and has vowed to defend the island and its freedoms. Wei, in a clear reference to the United States, also said: "Some countries from outside the region come to the South China Sea to flex muscles in the name of freedom of navigation."

This week will mark 30 years since a Chinese military crackdown on protesters around Beijing's Tiananmen Square, refocusing scrutiny on China's approach to security threats. Taking questions from the floor, Wei defended the government's handling of the Tiananmen "incident", a rare official acknowledgement of the events of June 4, 1989; references to it are heavily censored in China. "The government was decisive in stopping the turbulence," Wei said of the Tiananmen Square crackdown. "Due to this, China has enjoyed stability, and if you visit China you can understand that part of history."

Wei also responded to a question on China's restive Xinjiang region, where Beijing has come under increasing global scrutiny over its treatment of ethnic Uighurs and other Turkic-speaking minorities. He said China's policies in Xinjiang improved people's lives and prevented terror attacks from happening for more than two years.

On the ongoing trade war, which has shaken financial markets around the world, Wei said China would "fight to the end" if the United States wanted a fight. But if Washington wanted to talk, "we will keep the door open". Trade tensions escalated sharply last month after Trump's administration accused China of having "renege" on its previous promises to make structural changes to its economic practices. Washington later slapped additional tariffs of up to 25 percent on \$200 billion of Chinese goods, prompting



SINGAPORE: China's Defense Minister Wei Fenghe addresses the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue summit yesterday. — AFP

Beijing to retaliate. Speaking at a hastily arranged news conference in Beijing, Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen said it was irresponsible of the United States to accuse China of backtracking. "If the US side

wants to use extreme pressure, to escalate the trade friction, to force China to submit and make concessions, this is absolutely impossible," said Wang, who has been part of China's trade negotiating team. — Agencies

Four rescued, 8 still missing on avalanche-hit peak

NEW DELHI: Four British climbers have been rescued from an avalanche-hit Himalayan mountain range, Indian authorities said yesterday, as a frantic search continued for eight other mountaineers still missing on its treacherous heights. Helicopters airlifted the rescued group to safety after they were spotted early yesterday at a base camp near India's second highest mountain, the 7,826-m Nanda Devi.

Scores of emergency workers were combing the peaks on foot and using two choppers as rescue operations entered a second day, having been hampered by rough weather on Saturday. The eight missing climbers - four Britons, two Americans, an Australian woman and an Indian - were last week set to scale an unclimbed summit in the mountain range, which includes the world's 23rd highest peak.

Authorities said the four rescued were not part of the larger group but were in touch with them until May 26, a day before the avalanche struck the mountain. "They were climbing separately but were in touch with the larger group. Heavy snowfall and bad weather had left them stuck at the base camp," R C Rajguru, police chief of Pithoragarh district - where the peak is located - told AFP. Rajguru said there was no certain information on the location or safety of the mountaineers, who started their ascent on May 13.

The group, led by British climber Martin Moran - who has successfully climbed the mountain twice in the past - had initially set out for the Nanda Devi peak but a later post on his Facebook page hinted that they were attempting to scale a virgin peak in the region. The group was expected to report back to the Munsiyari base camp on May 26 but a porter stationed at the camp reported to authorities that the group remained missing on May 31, prompting a search operation. The British High Commission in New Delhi said they were in touch with the local authorities "following reports that a number of British nationals are missing in the Indian Himalayas".

Indonesian cities empty out as scores leave to mark Eid

JAKARTA: Millions of Indonesians were on the move at the weekend as they returned home to villages and towns across the world's biggest Muslim nation to mark the end of Ramadan. Some 15 million people were expected to clear out of Jakarta alone - about half the megacity's population - in an annual exodus known as "mudik" that leaves the capital's usually traffic-clogged streets nearly empty. The migration takes a toll on Indonesia's roads, and travellers who pack their families and luggage into cars or motorbikes to face gruelling trips that can last up to 24 hours.

In past years scores of people have been killed in road accidents during the exodus. Highways on Java island, which is home to more than half of Indonesia's 260 million people, were packed with travellers eager to celebrate the end of Ramadan with loved ones. Holidaymakers also crowded into airports, train stations and ports to reach destinations across the 17,000 island archipelago. Some even made their getaways on a bajaj, a three-wheeled taxi usually confined to city streets. "The travel time will be between 14 to 20 hours. If the traffic is okay, it's 14 hours but if things are congested it will take 20 hours or even more," said Jakarta-based bajaj driver Sugeng Puji who was headed to Kebumen in Central Java.

But unlike previous years when travellers were stuck in hours-long traffic jams, this year's congestion was relatively light. Dwi Soejatmoko, who was making the 550 km journey from Jakarta to Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta, said the trip had so far been headache-free.

"There aren't a lot of traffic jams this year," he



KAUSANI, India: This file photo taken on Nov 13, 2015, shows a general view of the Himalayas from this hill-station in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand. — AFP

'Hopeful'

Pithoragarh district magistrate Vijay Kumar Jogdande told AFP yesterday's search operation continued for seven hours in which the four climbers, including a woman, were rescued from the base camp. The mission will continue today, with two choppers scanning the area. "We are hopeful to get some clues but it's not an easy task," said Jogdande, adding the climbers were likely trekking heights above 6,000 m when the avalanche struck amid ongoing heavy snowfall.

Hundreds of climbers from across the world visit India to scale mountains located across the Himalayan

belt, but the twin peaks of Nanda Devi are the toughest to scale. The first successful ascent to the Nanda Devi summit was in 1936. India has 10 peaks above 7,000 m, including Kangchenjunga - the world's third highest - sandwiched between India and Nepal.

Four Indians were among 11 climbers that died this week amid allegations of overcrowding on the world's highest peak. The deaths caused massive outrage, with mountaineering experts criticizing the government of Nepal for giving permits to anyone ready to pay \$11,000, letting rookie climbers risk their lives and those of others on the slopes. — AFP



JEMBRANA, Indonesia: People queue up to board a ferry headed for their hometowns on Java Island from the port of Gilimanuk in Jembrana ahead of Eid al-Fitr to mark the end of the Ramadan on the majority Hindu island of Bali Sunday. — AFP

told AFP. "Our car was crawling, but it wasn't at a standstill." Like China's Lunar New Year holiday or Christmas, the mass movement kicks off an

extended holiday when many Indonesians celebrate Eid, the end of the holy fasting month, with family. — AFP

News in brief

14 injured as train goes wrong way

TOKYO: Fourteen passengers were injured after a driverless five-car train in suburban Tokyo went in the wrong direction and crashed into a buffer stop, Japanese police said yesterday. Local media reported that some injuries - the first resulting from an accident involving an automated train in 30 years - appeared to be serious but non-life-threatening. The train hit the buffer stop at Shin-Sugita station after travelling the wrong way for about 20 m, Akihiko Mikami, president of the train operator, said in a midnight press conference. The station is a terminal of the self-driving Kanazawa Seaside Line in the port city of Yokohama. Mikami added that the operator has shut down the line and it was uncertain when services would be resumed. — AFP

Police seize 436 kg of cocaine

PAPEETE, France: Police have seized 436 kg of cocaine hidden on a yacht in French Polynesian waters and arrested four men, the Papeete public prosecutor said Saturday. Officers moved in on the boat at the Apataki atoll, in the Tuamotu archipelago to the east of Tahiti, after spotting the suspect vessel which had sailed from Panama with four men of Italian and Peruvian nationalities onboard. An initial inspection of the boat Wednesday found a compartment in the infrastructure containing 341 bricks and packages of cocaine weighing about 341 kilos, prosecutor Herve Leroy said. The 15-m yacht was brought back to the French Polynesian capital Papeete and a further inspection found more drugs, for a total haul of 436 kilos. The four arrested men are being held in police custody. They face up to 30 years in prison and €7.5 million (\$8.4 million) in fines if convicted. — AFP

Police chief blames president for failing to prevent Lanka attacks

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's suspended police chief has petitioned the Supreme Court, accusing President Maithripala Sirisena of failing to prevent the Easter bombings that killed 258 people. In a 20-page complaint, Inspector-General Pujith Jayasundara disclosed serious communication gaps between intelligence agencies and security arms of the government, all which fall under Sirisena. In the petition submitted to court last week and seen by AFP Sunday, Jayasundara said the country's premier spy agency, the State Intelligence Service (SIS), ordered him last year to stop ongoing police investigations into Islamic militants.

The SIS, which reports directly to Sirisena, wanted the police Terrorist Investigation Department to stop all inquiries into extremist Muslim factions, including the National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ), which was blamed for the Easter Sunday bombings. Jayasundara said the head of the SIS, Nilantha Jayawardena, did not take seriously the intelligence shared by neighbouring India which warned of an impending attack by the NTJ. Jayasundara said despite the SIS not sharing information warnings with the police department, he had initiated action to alert his senior men, but he had no input from the main spy agency.

Sirisena suspended Jayasundara after he refused to accept responsibility for the deadly attacks. The Attorney General has asked for a full bench of the apex court to decide the case. Jayasundara said he was offered a diplomatic post if he took the fall and stepped down, but he refused as he said he was not responsible for the catastrophic intelligence failure. He said he had been sidelined by the president since a political rift between the President and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe emerged in October.

Jayasundara's petition came days after Sirisena publicly rebuked another intelligence official, Sisira Mendis, after he told a parliamentary panel that the Easter suicide bombings could have been avoided. Mendis' testimony appeared to put Sirisena in a poor light by implying he had not held National Security Council meetings to review threats such as the attacks carried out by Islamic State. In a statement, Sirisena denied claims by Mendis that the country's highest security body had not met as often as it should have around the time of the attacks, which were blamed on Islamic State-backed militants. — AFP

Analysis

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Trump's Mexican tariffs test limits of emergency powers

US President Donald Trump's proposal to impose a tariff on all Mexican goods to push Mexico to halt a surge in illegal immigrants is likely to be challenged in court and will test the scope of the president's emergency powers. Trump dramatically intensified his quest to limit a wave of asylum seekers arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border, including families fleeing violence in Central America, by threatening to impose the tariffs starting on June 10.

Financial markets reeled and business leaders on both sides of the border were taken by surprise, prompting discussions of legal action to curtail Republican Trump's use of a law never previously applied to impose tariffs. Jennifer Hillman, a Georgetown Law school trade law professor, questioned Trump's citation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) in his announcement on Thursday night. "If you read the text of IEEPA, it's about the president being able to declare a national emergency to be able to stop financial transactions," said Hillman, a former World Trade Organization judge.

The law has been used by presidents to impose sanctions on countries such as Iran and Sudan but Trump's proposed novel application of it has never been addressed by the courts, according to legal experts. "It's clearly beyond the spirit of the law," said Jessica Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School. "But is it within the letter of the law? Possibly." Some legal experts said that unlike many of Trump's immigration policies that have been blocked by courts, the tariff threat may survive a challenge because it was wrapped up as a national security measure.

Challengers would have to show the president was acting outside the letter of the law and national security interest, a difficult standard to meet because of the wide authority given to the executive branch under the act. Lawyers who advise large corporations said clients were interested in pursuing legal action to block the tariffs, but declined to identify the corporations. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a major business lobby group, said it might sue.

The IEEPA gives the president power in times of "unusual and extraordinary threat" to regulate a wide range of economic activity. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, used the law to block all the assets in the United States belonging to Iran after Americans in Tehran were taken hostage. The US Supreme Court upheld the move, saying the IEEPA "was sweeping and unqualified."

Using the law as a tool to cut the flow of immigrants arguably falls outside the intent of Congress, which adopted the IEEPA to respond to violent threats, said Raj Bhala, a professor at the University of Kansas School of Law who specializes in international trade. White House spokesman Judd Deere said on Friday that Trump is acting within his authority to protect national security. "Industry should be in communication with their counterparts in Mexico to encourage the Mexican government to work with the Administration and stave off the dangerous crisis at our southern border as quickly as possible," Deere said.

Overwhelmed

White House officials say the immigration system is overwhelmed by thousands of migrants, many of whom turn themselves over to U.S. border officials to claim asylum. In April, Trump took a step back from an earlier threat to close the southern U.S. border to stanch the flow of people, under pressure from companies worried that a shutdown would cause chaos for businesses. Trump has been unable to get sufficient funding from Congress to fulfill his 2016 campaign promise to build a wall along the border.

The Mexican tariffs were going to be administered by the Department of Homeland Security, according to a spokesman for the US Trade Representative's office. Hillman, the former WTO judge, said that was unusual. Courts tend to defer to the president on national security, as the US Court of International Trade did in March in ruling against a challenge to US steel tariffs imposed by Trump under a different law.

There are other avenues to challenge the tariffs outside US courts. Bhala said the tariffs would almost certainly run afoul of both the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, or GATT. It is not yet clear how Trump's tariff threat will affect the trade negotiations with Mexico to replace NAFTA. Both agreements allow members countries to initiate disputes against one another, and NAFTA also allows investors to take action against governments.

However, Bhala said, the NAFTA and WTO dispute resolution processes are slow, taking years to reach a final judgment, and can be difficult to enforce. Yet another avenue is to go to the US Congress, said Steven Schwinn, a professor at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. — Reuters

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Palestinians shop at a market ahead of Eid Al-Fitr holiday, celebrating the end of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, in Gaza City yesterday. — AFP

US 'deal of the century' will finish off Palestinian state

The US blueprint to end the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, still in draft form after almost two years, is seen by Palestinians, and by some Arab officials and politicians, as a plan to finish off the Palestinian cause. The initiative, driven by Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's son-in-law and White House adviser, was billed by the US president as the "deal of the century".

While its precise outlines have yet to be revealed, Palestinian and Arab sources who have been briefed on the draft plan say Kushner has jettisoned the two-state solution - the long-standing US and international formula that envisages an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza.

After several postponements, Washington plans a first formal outing of the economic components of the plan at a "Peace for Prosperity" workshop in June in Bahrain. The plan faces possible delays due to political upheaval in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must fight another election after failing to form a government. Kushner and Trump, with backgrounds in real estate rather than diplomacy, seem to be approaching this hitherto insoluble conflict as a transaction, three Arab officials briefed on the plan said.

If the politics keep failing, the reasoning seems to be, then try dangling tens of billions of dollars before the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbors - and do a deal that could unlock prosperity for the Palestinians and security for Israel, these officials said. Politically, the deal envisages an expansion of Gaza into part of northern Egypt, under Egyptian control, Palestinian officials briefed on the plan told Reuters. Palestinians would be left with a smaller share of the West Bank and some areas on the outskirts of Jerusalem and no control over their borders. Western and Arab sources confirmed the outline of the plan.

Jason Greenblatt, Trump's Middle East envoy, said "rumors" about an expansion into Egypt's Sinai desert were false. He declined to give details of the political plan

before it is released. On the decision not to use the term "two-state solution", Greenblatt said: "We believe that using certain phrases and labels is not helpful because they lack detail and nuance - they mean different things to different people. The detailed plan, once released, will show what we think may be best solution for the two parties."

Not buying it

The Palestinians are not buying it. "What we're seeing from the plan is that it will blow up the Palestinians," one Arab official told Reuters. "The plan doesn't give justice to the Palestinians." "The Palestinian cause is being liquidated - no Jerusalem (as capital), no right of return for refugees, no sovereign state. That is why this American project is dangerous," one senior Palestinian leader told Reuters. The deal as outlined so far has been dismissed by President Mahmoud Abbas' western-backed Palestinian Authority in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Abbas has boycotted political dealings with the Trump administration for 18 months. This followed Trump's decisions in 2017 to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move the US embassy there from Tel Aviv. Since then, the Trump administration has curtailed aid to the Palestinian Authority, shuttered the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) delegation in Washington and cut off finance to UNRWA, the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees. Washington meanwhile endorsed Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

"In practice they have already started implementing 'the deal of the century'," the senior Palestinian leader said, "on the ground, step by step". "Today, the two-state solution has been scuttled". Abbas is not alone in his view of the US deal. It was rejected by the Islamist Hamas movement, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist and has only given conditional consent to a state in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The PLO has dismissed the Kushner effort as an attempt to bribe Palestinians into accepting Israeli occupation of the West Bank, a prelude to Israel annexing about half their territory and leaving them with scattered cantons. Hanan Ashrawi, a moderate Palestinian leader, tweeted that the Kushner plan and the Bahrain conference were just "a handout to make our captivity palatable". Palestinian businessmen have opposed the Bahrain gathering despite a plea by Washington to attend, saying their political demands must be addressed in any peace plan.

Qatar said economic prosperity cannot be achieved without political solutions acceptable to Palestinians. Oman said anything that precludes the establishment of a Palestinian state will not be acceptable. "We are not proposing an economic peace," Greenblatt said. "We know that is not acceptable to the Palestinians. We've been very clear that the full plan includes a political component as well. But the economic plan is an essential component to the full plan."

Moving on?

Robert Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, an influential think-tank and supporter of Israel, wrote after interviewing Kushner this month that the deal is a political disaster that should be abandoned. He said positive economic proposals could be lost by the attempt to skirt around Palestinian rights. "The only way to protect the long-term viability of the plan's best aspects is to kill it," he said.

Satloff wrote that "unlike a real estate transaction in which one party gets the property and the other party gets the cash, a Middle East peace deal starts and ends with the two parties as neighbors, stuck with each other sharing a duplex for eternity". Kushner meanwhile visited the Middle East this week seeking support for the June 25-26 Bahrain conference. The meeting is to talk about the cash. The US plan expects almost all of this - \$50 billion

to \$70 billion - to be put up by Gulf Arab allies, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Palestinian sources said. Yet even that is now moot.

Saudi Arabia, under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and the UAE, under Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, want to move on from a Palestinian conflict they believe has held back the Arab world. That means uniting with Israel against Iran and concentrating on domestic challenges such as economic reforms and confronting Islamist radicals. The Saudi crown prince maintains close ties with Kushner. But his father, King Salman, has twice said there will be no deal unless Israel meets Palestinian rights to a state.

"Kushner has been taken by surprise in his meetings in Riyadh recently, where there has definitely been a change in tone - in private and in public - by the Saudis," said a senior western diplomat. Asked for comment, the White House referred to its earlier official statement on Kushner's February meeting with the crown prince and the king which said they discussed "increasing cooperation" and efforts to facilitate peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Palestinian official said it is clear that Israel "is creating a new reality on the ground" with the Trump administration's help - not least by paving the way for the annexation of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The Palestinian and Arab officials briefed on the Kushner-Trump plan said its political contours, as explained to them, look like non-starters unless there is a peace deal. The essential part is Gaza: where 2 million Palestinians are shut into a strip between Israel and Egypt. The idea is to expand it into the north of Egypt's Sinai peninsula, creating an area where Palestinians can live and work under Egyptian control. "The plan envisions Gaza stretching from Rafah (its southern border) to El Arish and some parts of Sinai. This area will be a Palestinian expansion in which Palestinians can reside," the Palestinian leader said. — Reuters

Key dates since Iran Islamic revolution

Here are key events that have marked Iran since the 1979 revolution that overthrew the US-backed monarchy and brought Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini home from exile to found the Islamic republic.

Islamic republic proclaimed

On January 16, 1979, the US-backed shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, leaves for exile after months of protests. On February 1, revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini makes a triumphant return from exile. The shah falls 10 days later, with public radio declaring "the end of 2,500 years of despotism". An Islamic republic is proclaimed on April 1.

1979: US hostage crisis

On November 4, 1979, pro-Khomeini students take 52 Americans hostage at the US embassy in Tehran to protest the ex-shah's admission to hospital in the United States. Washington severs diplomatic relations in 1980. The hostages are freed on January 21, 1981, after 444 days in captivity.

1980: Iran-Iraq war

On September 22, 1980 Iraq invades Iran after its president, Saddam Hussein, tears up a 1975 treaty on the strategic Shatt al-Arab waterway. It triggers an eight-year war that is widely estimated to have cost the lives of up to

700,000 people. It ends on August 20, 1988 with a UN-brokered ceasefire.

1989: Khomeini takes over

Khomeini dies on June 3, 1989 and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, president since October 1981, becomes supreme leader. Moderate conservative Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is elected president. Re-elected in 1993, he orchestrates a relative opening up of the government and post-war reconstruction.

1997: Reformist government

Rafsanjani's reformist successor, Mohammad Khatami, runs up against conservative opposition during his two terms from 1997 to 2005. In July 1999, the government faces the biggest protests since 1979, with students who back Khatami clashing with police.

2002: 'Axis of Evil'

On January 29, 2002, US president George W. Bush names Iran as part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and North Korea, accusing it of backing terrorism.

2005: Ahmadinejad era

On June 25, 2005, ultra-conservative Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is elected president. During his tenure, Iran resumes uranium enrichment, alarming the West which suspects Tehran of wanting to produce a nuclear weapon. A crackdown on nationwide protests against his re-election in 2009 decimates the reformist movement.

2015: Nuclear deal

The election of moderate cleric Hassan Rouhani on June 15,

2013 marks a warming of relations with Washington. An accord with world powers, including the United States, on Iran's nuclear program is reached on July 14, 2015, after 21 months of negotiations. It gives Tehran relief from crippling economic sanctions in exchange for limits on its nuclear program.

2016: Break with Saudi

In January 2016, Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia and its allies cut or scale back relations, following a crisis prompted by the kingdom's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric.

2017: Austerity protests

On May 19, 2017, Rouhani is re-elected with the support of reformists and a majority of the youth vote. However, criticism mounts that he has abandoned the poor with his austerity policies. Days of protests erupt in late December, leaving at least 25 people dead.

2018: US quits nuclear deal

On May 8, 2018, US President Donald Trump abandons the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposes unilateral sanctions in phases in August and November.

May 2019: Standoff with US

From May 2, Washington ends sanctions waivers it had granted to the biggest customers for Iranian oil to continue purchases. On May 6, National Security Advisor John Bolton announces Washington is sending an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East in a "clear and unmistakable" message to Iran. On May 8, Iran announces it will stop respecting some of its commitments under the nuclear deal until the other parties honor theirs to sanctions relief. — AFP

Business

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SEOUL: International Air Transport Association (IATA) chief executive Alexandre de Juniac (right) poses with Qatar Airways chief executive Akbar Al Baker (center) and Korean Air chief executive Walter Cho (left) during a press conference after the opening session of the annual general meeting of IATA in Seoul yesterday. —AFP

IATA warns of US-China trade war spillover

Airlines body sees falling profits from rising fuel prices

SEOUL: The intensifying US-China trade war and rising fuel prices will continue to bog down airline profits this year, the International Air Transport Association said yesterday.

The warning came at the annual meeting of global airlines in Seoul, where it was revealed that 2019's collective net profit was forecast to be \$28 billion, down from an outlook of \$35.5 billion released in December. The grim outlook was driven by rising costs across the board, including labor, fuel and infrastructure, the IATA said, adding the worsening trade war between the two world powers was not helping.

"Weakening of global trade is likely to continue as the US-China trade war intensifies," said IATA chief executive Alexandre de Juniac. "This primarily impacts the cargo business, but passenger traffic could also be impacted as tensions rise," he added. The world's top two economies have been locked in a trade war since last year, swapping tit-for-tat duties on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of goods and sending markets

into a tailspin. The fallout has reached far beyond their shores, with manufacturing in many export-dependent Asian economies taking a hit. Brian Pearce, chief economist at the IATA, forecast "zero growth at best" for air cargo traffic this year, noting the impact of the trade tariffs imposed in the first half of 2018.

'Reputation in the spotlight'

The Asia-Pacific region, which accounts for around 40 percent of global air cargo traffic, was "clearly under pressure", he added. "Cargo is such an important feature that the weakness in trade and the risk surrounding trade will mean profitability will be weaker in this region," Pearce said. He painted a "mixed picture" for the region, noting that Asian countries—notably India and China—will lead a "reasonable" five-percent global growth in the passenger business. Pearce did not rule out a possible industry recession but pointed to the rise in air travel demand and said: "At the moment it doesn't look like we are going to have one in 2019."

This year's meeting of the IATA, which represents some 290 airlines comprising 82 percent of global air traffic, comes after two crashes in October and March that left hundreds of people dead. Both accidents involved Boeing's 737 MAX 8 jetliners, turning the world's largest aircraft maker into a liability that put the industry's "reputation in the spotlight", de Juniac said. The 737 MAX 8 was grounded by US authorities in March, following in the footsteps of several other countries. Multiple airlines have indicated they will seek compensation for the fact they could not use the 737 MAX 8 planes in their fleets. Pearce, the IATA chief economist, played down the economic impact of the US jetliner's grounding on the industry, noting the 737 MAX 8 accounted for "less than two percent" of the global fleet.

"So it's actually fairly minor," he said. "It'd be more important to some airlines... but it hasn't been a driving factor." The IATA chief said last week the troubled jetliner will remain grounded for at least 10 to 12 more

weeks, saying the decision was in the hands of the regulators. Prior to the two crashes which killed 346 people, airline regulators worldwide generally recognized certifications issued by their peer in the country where the aircraft was built, which in this case was the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Following the crashes however, the Seattle Times reported that the FAA had delegated part of the certification process for the plane to Boeing engineers. "Trust in the certification system has been damaged—among regulators, between regulators and the industry and with the flying public," de Juniac said yesterday.

"While Boeing and the US Federal Aviation Administration are at center-stage, the close collaboration of counterpart manufacturers and civil aviation authorities around the world are essential," he added. Acting FAA Administrator Daniel Elwell said after a meeting on May 23 that his administration was more focused on making sure the 737 MAX 8 was safe than in drawing up a timetable for its return to service. —AFP

China says trade war 'has not made America great again'

BEIJING: Washington's escalating trade war with Beijing has not "made America great again" and has instead damaged the American economy, China said yesterday, warning that while it wants resolution through talks there will be no compromise on core principles. Beijing's broadside is the latest act in a bruising conflict between the world's top two economies that has spooked markets and sparked fears about the global economy.

With trade talks stalled, the dispute has intensified in recent weeks with US President Donald Trump imposing fresh tariffs on imports from China and moving to blacklist Chinese tech titan Huawei over national security concerns. "The (US) tariff measures have not boosted American economic growth. Instead, they have done serious harm to the US economy," the Chinese government said in a white paper, pointing to what it described as increased production costs and consumer prices in the United States and threats to economic growth.

"The trade war has not 'made America great again'," it said, referring to Trump's political

slogan made famous during his 2016 presidential campaign.

The white paper's release came a day after China hit \$60 billion worth of US goods with new punitive tariffs ranging from five to 25 percent, in retaliation for Washington raising duty on \$200 billion in Chinese goods to 25 percent. Trump launched the trade war last year in a bid to reduce the US trade deficit with China and force Beijing to undertake economic reforms, accusing it of seeking to dominate global industries with unfair state subsidies and of acquiring American technology through theft or forced transfers. Since Trump fired the first shot, the two countries have exchanged tit-for-tat tariffs on two-way trade worth hundreds of billions of dollars. The resulting conflict has gutted US farm exports to China, and weighed on the manufacturing sectors in both countries.

While both sides have sought to find a resolution through several rounds of negotiations, they appear to have stalled after the latest meetings ended without a deal.

Beyond tariffs

American negotiators have alleged their Chinese counterparts reneged on previous commitments, but China said Sunday the US should bear "sole and entire responsibility" for the setback in negotiations, accusing Washington of repeatedly changing its demands.

Despite the tensions, China has reiterated that it wants to resolve trade issues through talks. "On the trade friction started by the US: if the US wants to talk, we will keep the door

open. If they want to fight, we are ready," Chinese defense minister General Wei Fenghe told an international security dialogue in Singapore yesterday. And the white paper said: "China does not want a trade war, but it is not afraid of one and will fight one if necessary."

With trade talks stalled, the dispute appears to be spreading beyond tariffs.

Beijing has said it will unveil its own list of "unreliable entities", apparently in response to the US blacklisting of Huawei over national security concerns, specifically over possible links to China's military. The company has dismissed such fears, and Wei echoed that yesterday. "Do not think that because the head of Huawei used to serve in the military, then the company that he built is part of the military," he said. China's deputy commerce minister Wang Shouwen said yesterday that Beijing's list will target companies that "violate market principles", cut supplies to or block Chinese enterprises, and "whose actions affect China's national security". He did not say when the list will be published or what kind of penalties will be imposed on such firms. Chinese state media have also dangled the threat of cutting exports of rare earths to the United States—a key resource used in the production of everything from smartphones to military hardware.

There are hopes that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet at the G20 summit this month to ease tensions and jumpstart trade negotiations. But Wang said he had no information when asked about the meeting at a press conference yesterday —AFP

Saudi CB warns global slowdown may hit growth

ABU DHABI: Saudi Arabia's economy is expected to pick up in 2019 but a global economic slowdown and its potential impact on the global oil market could impact growth, the Kingdom's central bank said.

Saudi Arabia's economy grew by 2.2 percent in 2018, driven by the oil sector, compared to a decline of 0.7 percent in 2017, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) said in a report.

The main risk for the Saudi economy comes from its exposure to the global oil market. The oil sector accounts for some 45 percent of Saudi GDP and more than 63 percent of government revenue. "There have been recent signs of slowing global growth, which could indirectly impact the Saudi economy," the report warned. "Continued structural reforms will likely place some pressure on economic growth in the short-term," it added, without giving a forecast for 2019.

In April the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that Saudi economic growth in 2019 may be slightly higher than its earlier 1.8 percent forecast due to the faster expansion of the non-oil sector compared to the wider economy.

The Saudi central bank governor told Reuters in April that Saudi economic growth in 2019 would be "no less than 2 percent". For the non-oil sector, growth is expected to be stimulated by expansionary fiscal policy as the budget for 2019 shows a significant increase in capital expenditure by 245 billion Saudi riyals (\$65.3 billion), the report said.

Saudi Arabia's non-oil sector saw modest growth of 1.7 percent in 2018 versus 1 percent in the previous year, SAMA said. The country's estimated budget deficit was 136 billion Saudi riyals or 4.6 percent of GDP in 2018 compared to the 9.3 percent deficit in the previous year. Government revenues grew to 895 billion riyals in 2018, up 30 percent over the previous year, it added. Non-oil revenues totalled 287 billion riyals, a rise of 90 percent on the previous year, with more than half coming from tax revenues, while government expenditure rose by 11 percent to 1 trillion riyals in 2018. —Reuters

Trade war rattles global markets

KUWAIT: Financial markets were rattled last week as trade tensions across the globe continued to deteriorate. On a state visit to Japan, US President Trump claimed the US is not ready to make a trade deal with China ensuring the latest implementation of tariffs on June 1. Chinese vice Foreign Minister Zhang Hanhui called the US actions "economic terrorism and bullying" and that they are not afraid of a trade war. Beijing has said multiple times that they have many tools in their arsenal for retaliation. The latest being, considering restricting exports of rare earth minerals used in US industries and establishing a list of foreign entities that damage the interests of domestic companies. The blacklisted companies could potentially see the same ban placed on Huawei by Trump.

Although negotiations have seemingly failed with China, it did not stop Trump from shifting his campaign elsewhere. Mexico became the newest casualty of Trump's trade war after he unexpectedly announced tariffs on all Mexican goods. This time, the tariffs were not about unfair trade practices or trade deficits, but to coerce Mexico into curbing the surge of illegal immigrants crossing the southern border. The tariffs will start at 5 percent on June 10 and increase monthly until reaching 25 percent on October 1, unless Mexico takes immediate action, Trump said. At the time of announcement, Mexican foreign minister Jesus Seade was delivering the US led, revamped North American trade agreement to replace NAFTA, for official ratification. "We're in a good moment building a good relationship and this comes like a cold shower," he commented.

Global stocks declined last week as the latest exchanges between Washington and its trade rivals signaled a heightened risk of a prolonged trade war, fueling investor concerns about the impact on global economic growth. The Dow Jones and S&P both fell -1.8 percent, while the Eurostoxx 50 and Japanese Nikkei 225 were lower by around 3 percent. Expectedly, there was a

flight towards safe haven government bonds. European bond yields fell to record lows including the German 10 year treasury which actually dipped into negative territory earlier in the month. The US dollar also gained strength as bond investors looked for higher returns in the US. The US 10 year treasury yield fell to a two year low of 2.15 percent with the fresh influx of buyers. The yield curve is now inverted with the shorter date bonds of 1 to 12 months now yielding higher than the 10 year.

The overwhelming concern in the markets suggests that market participants believe that current Fed policy is too tight in light of the deteriorating growth outlook, and inflation undershoot. Indeed, Fed Vice Chair Clarida provided the strongest signal yet that the Fed is open to rate cuts if the outlook dims. He stated "let me be very clear that we are attuned to potential risks to the outlook and if we saw a downside risk to the outlook then that would be a factor that could call for a more accommodative policy." The latest GDP figure, while high, was revised lower to 3.1 percent from 3.2 percent and with further confrontations with the US's largest trading partners, the loss of growth could become more apparent. Reuter's polls now expect a 70 percent chance of an interest rate cut by September and a 90 percent chance by December.

EU elections

The outcome from the EU elections added little support for the euro despite increase in support for populist and anti-EU parties was less than feared, and partly offset by a rise in support for the liberals and greens. A pro-EU majority will help to limit populist influence and ability disrupt in the new EU parliament. However, concerns arose after Italy's right-wing party The Northern League saw an increase in wins. The party could potentially lead the Italian government to another budget face-off with the EU which could prove destabilizing for Italy's economy and financial markets. The

European Commission is already considering disciplinary steps against Italy on June 5 over the country's rising debt and deficit levels, which break EU rules.

Under the rules called the "Stability and Growth Pact" Italy must reduce its structural deficit by 0.6 percent of output until it reaches balance or surplus. The compromise struck late last year, which the Commission called "borderline" and "not ideal," allowed Italy to keep its structural deficit and debt unchanged.

The elections also weighed down the euro with the performance of the ruling Conservative party in the UK which won only 9 percent of the vote compared to 23 percent in the previous EU election from 2014. The loss highlights an increased risk of a more disruptive "No Deal" Brexit outcome. It will increase pressure on the new Conservative leader to pursue a tougher negotiating stance with the EU. The increased likelihood of a "No Deal" Brexit poses the main downside risk for the pound, but could also result in a weaker euro as well.

China manufacturing

China's factory activity shrank more than expected in May adding pressure on Beijing to roll out more stimuli to support an economy in the middle of a bruising trade war with the United States. China's exports unexpectedly fell in April on a sharp drop in shipments to the United States, while industrial output and retail sales also showed surprisingly weak growth last month. Furthermore, earnings at China's key manufacturing sector have been declining since November last year, with the exception of March, as both domestic and global demand slackened. The official Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 49.4 in May from 50.1 in April. Readings below the 50-point mark indicate contraction on a monthly basis.

Oil prices fall

The trade worries also weighed on oil as expectations of lower demand from less global trade dropped



prices seven percent over the week. The trade concerns were so profound that prices dropped despite lower supplies in the market due to Iranian sanctions. OPEC and its allies are still planned to raise production to compensate Iran's exit. Brent crude opened the week at \$68.40 and closed at \$64.49.

Safe haven demand

In the currency markets, safe havens were the clear gainers. The Japanese yen was in clear demand throughout the week though the major gains came Thursday after Trump's tariff announcement. The JPY/USD appreciated 1 percent to 108.26. The Swiss franc was a bit more volatile due to its heavy exposure to Europe and initially lost value. Again, the story was the same with a rebound after Trump's comments. The USD/CHF closed near its open at 1.0008. Finally the USD, this year's safe haven of choice, also gained momentum beating out the euro and British pound almost hitting this year's high before rebounding lower on trade concerns. The US dollar index was 0.21 percent stronger at 97.758.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30380
The USD/KWD opened at 0.30380 yesterday morning.

Wall Street Week Ahead

Struggles of transport stocks transmit caution to market

NEW YORK: Add this to worries about Wall Street: The index of planes, trains and trucking companies, considered an important stock barometer of the US economy's health, is struggling.

The Dow Jones Transportation Average swooned 10.2 percent in May, a far steeper decline than that of the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the S&P 500. For analysts who closely watch the transports, this could be a sign of deeper market stress. The transports were dealt another blow late on Thursday when US President Donald Trump vowed to impose a tariff on all goods coming from Mexico until the flow of illegal immigrants across the southern border ceases.

In response, the Dow transport index dropped 1.9 percent on Friday, with the S&P 500 falling 1.3 percent. Rail operator Kansas City Southern, which derives a big portion of its revenue from Mexico, saw its shares tumble 4.5 percent. The Dow transports started 2019 strong along with equities in general. But while the S&P 500 minted a new all-time high in April, the Dow transports have so far failed to reclaim their record peak set last September.

Now, with stocks also hit by concerns about a growing US-China trade dispute, the Dow transport average is about 16 percent below its Sept. 14 all-time closing high.

"I see the performance of the transports really making it difficult for the broad market to sustain a big upward move," said Chuck Carlson, chief executive at Horizon Investment Services in Hammond, Indiana. The transport stock weakness compounds other investor concerns, including that the US trade war with China and other countries will harm the global economy and whether an expected pick-up in US corporate profits will materialize later in the year. The 20 stocks in the Dow transport index, including airlines such as Delta Air Lines, rail operators like Union Pacific Corp and package delivery companies FedEx Corp and United Parcel Service Inc, are "leading indicators of the economy," said Miller Tabak equity strategist Matt Maley. —Reuters

KAMCO GCC Markets Monthly Report

GCC markets drop on global trade and regional concerns

KUWAIT: Aggregate GCC markets, tracked by the S&P GCC TRI, dropped 5.4 percent during May-19, its biggest monthly decline since Jan-16. The decline came primarily due to regional geopolitical issues, coupled with lower trading activity in most GCC markets, except Saudi Arabia & Qatar, due to Ramadan. Barring Kuwait, all GCC market declined during May-19 with Saudi Arabia seeing the steepest fall of 8.5 percent, that more than halved the TASI's YTD-19 performance to 8.8 percent. On the other hand, the 1.8 percent returns recorded by the Kuwait All Share Index pushed the benchmark's YTD-19 returns to the highest in the GCC at 12.8 percent.

Sectoral trends for May-19 showed almost all the sectors closing in the red during the month. The Banking sector declined more than 6 percent during May-19 after months of positive performance, while Food & Beverage and Transportation aggregates showed double digit declines during the month. Telecom sector also declined by more than 7 percent, while the Real Estate and Diversified Financials sectors saw slightly lower decline of around 4 percent during the month.

The stock market rout was global as well, as the MSCI World index declined 6.1 percent m-o-m, and all major global indices declined during May-19. The ongoing trade war between the US and China was a key concern, that dragged the S&P 500 Index to multi-month lows. In addition, underwhelming economic data also pushed indices and sentiment lower. The extended trade war between the world's largest trading partners spooked investors as there was no certain near term resolution in sight. The overall risk was also reflected in US treasury yields that dropped to the lowest level since September-17. Data for both emerging markets and developed markets were disappointing, as seen from the slowdown in US manufacturing and an expected slowdown in China. The unemployment rate in Germany showed an increase for the first time since 2013 while consumer confidence dipped to a two year low level.

Kuwait

Kuwait was the only positive performing market during May-19 with the All Share Index gaining 1.8 percent during the month. However, gains came mainly on the back of large-cap stocks as seen from the 3.2 percent gain for the Premier Market index while the Main Share Index dropped 1.9 percent during the month. Gains during the month pushed the YTD-19 returns for the Kuwaiti benchmarks to the highest in the GCC at 12.8 percent for the All Share Index and 18.5 percent for the Premier Market Index. Gains in the Premier Market index also reflected investor expectations regarding the upcoming decision by MSCI in June-19 on Kuwait's upgrade to the Emerging Market index.

In terms of sector performance, the Telecom index topped the

monthly chart with a return of 9.3 percent primarily on the back of 13.4 percent gain in shares of Zain and 1 percent gain in shares of Viva that more than offset decline in other two stocks in the sector. Shares of Zain got a boost after the telecom's Bahraini unit grew its profits by 55 percent to \$4.6 billion. The Technology sector was next on the chart with gain of 7.1 percent followed by Real Estate and Consumer Goods sectors with monthly gains of 6.8 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively. The Real Estate Sector witnessed gains for the third consecutive month after large-cap stocks in the sector witnessed healthy gains during the month. Shares of Tamdeen Real Estate gained 33.3 percent after the Company reported almost three times increase in revenues and a 20 percent increase in net profits. Shares of Mabaneer gained 13.0 percent during the month after the Company along with five other real estate developers were shortlisted for a project in Kuwait.

Shares of Commercial Real Estate Co. also gained 10.8 percent during the month. On the decliners side, the Oil & Gas index and the Industrials sector reported the steepest decline during May-19 at 3.4 percent each followed by Healthcare and Financial Services indices with declines of 2.1 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively.

Trading activity declined during the month due to the month of Ramadan. Monthly volume of shares traded declined by more than a third to reach 2.3 billion shares while monthly value traded witnessed a much smaller drop of 12.2 percent to reach KD 617 million as compared to KD 703 million during April-19. Gulf Bank topped the monthly volume chart with 230 million traded shares during the month followed by AUB Bahrain and KFH with 187 million and 184.5 million traded shares, respectively. KFH topped the monthly value traded chart with KD 122.5 million worth of shares changing hand during the month followed by NBK and Gulf Bank with KD 79.4 million and KD 70.2 million in value traded, respectively. Prominent gainers during the month included Tamdeen Real Estate (33.3 percent), Al-Argan International Real Estate (+32.3 percent) and Zain (+13.4 percent). On the decliners chart, KMEFIC topped with a decline of 30.2 percent after the company's acquisition by Warba Bank was disapproved by the Central Bank of Kuwait. Other decliners during the month included Kuwait Syrian Holding and Senegry Holding with declines of 27.3 percent and 25.4 percent, respectively.

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

After reporting the best monthly performance in April-19, Saudi Arabia recorded the steepest decline in the GCC during May-19. The benchmark TASI dropped 8.5 percent during the month to close below the 9,000 mark at 8,516.5 points bringing the YTD-19 gains to 8.8 percent by the end of May-19. The decline came primarily on the back of regional geopolitical issues in addition to investors booking profits on high valuations. A decline in global financial markets was also one of the key factors for the broad-based sell-off in Saudi Arabia and the region. The Saudi Arabian market remained volatile during the month as pressure from the geopolitical front pushed market down while the flows coming from the first phase of MSCI's upgrade that started towards the end of the month pushed the market up by 2 percent.

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

After gaining by 3.6 percent m-o-m in April-19, the ADX index fell by 4.8 percent in May-19 and reached 5003.58 points. However, the fall was reduced by a 2.82 percent increase in the last trading day of the month. Sectoral performance was mostly negative as most large cap sectors declined. Investment & Financial Services was the worst performing sectoral index and declined by 12.3 percent m-o-m, driven down by Waha Capital as its share price plunged by 12 percent m-o-m.

Dubai Financial Market

DFM underperformed its UAE counterpart ADX in May-19, and declined by 5.3 percent m-o-m, after being amongst the best performing markets in the GCC in April-19. The frontline index ended the month at 2620.33 points, as all sectoral indices barring Industrials (+1.7 percent) was down m-o-m. Consumer Staples and Discretionary index was the worst affected index, as it plunged by over 12.4 percent m-o-m, as DKB Entertainment fell by 14.5 percent m-o-m, after posting a Q1-19 net loss that was 3 percent higher than Q1-18 at AED 216 million, as number of visits dropped by 11 percent y-o-y.

Qatar Exchange

Qatar exchange declined by 1 percent in May-19, after gaining in the prior month, as the QE 20 index closed at 10,273.01 points. The Qatar All Share index which maps the broader market, underperformed and declined by 3.9 percent for the month. Market breadth favored decliners as 30 stocks receded while 16 stocks gained during May-19. The Real Estate index was the worst performing index, as the sector plunged by over 17.1 percent, driven by a 30.4 percent drop in the share price of Ezzan Holding, following stock specific news about delisting of the company which was waived by the shareholders later.

Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain All share index was range-bound in May-19, closing at 1433.52 points. Services companies was the best performing index as it gained by 2.1 percent m-o-m, ascribed to a 6.2 percent jump in the share price of Batelco. The Investment index also gained, marginally at 0.7 percent m-o-m, driven by a 10 percent rise in the share price of Invest Corp. The Industrials sector was the worst performing index, declining by 5.3 percent m-o-m, dragged down singlehandedly by Aluminum Bahrain, as its share price dropped by 5.4 percent m-o-m.

Muscat Securities Market

The MSM 30 index once again declined during May-19, albeit marginally, to reach a new record low by the end of the month. The index declined 0.3 percent during the month to reach pushing the YTD-19 decline to the lowest in the GCC at 9.0 percent. The index traded below the 4,000 points mark for most part of the month only to show marginal gains by towards the end of the month and closed at 3,934.2 points.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.750
Euro	343.830
Sterling Pound	388.660
Canadian dollar	227.830
Turkish lira	53.500
Swiss Franc	307.720
US Dollar Buying	296.550
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.812
Indian Rupees	4.378
Pakistani Rupees	2.099
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.725
Nepali Rupees	2.729
Singapore Dollar	223.490
Hongkong Dollar	38.852
Bangladesh Taka	3.595
Philippine Peso	5.852
Thai Baht	9.660
Malaysian ringgit	77.941
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.374
Qatari Riyal	83.812
Omani Riyal	792.593
Bahraini Dinar	810.280
UAE Dirham	83.081
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.276

Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.225
Tunisian Dinar	105.160
Jordanian Dinar	430.780
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.202

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.290
Canadian Dollar	227.140
Sterling Pound	388.330
Euro	342.520
Swiss Frank	306.445
Bahrain Dinar	809.220
UAE Dirhams	83.250
Qatari Riyals	84.490
Saudi Riyals	82.040
Jordanian Dinar	430.470
Egyptian Pound	18.055
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.724
Indian Rupees	4.383
Pakistani Rupees	2.016
Bangladesh Taka	3.604
Philippines Peso	5.807
Cyprus pound	18.105
Japanese Yen	3.780
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.741
Malaysian Ringgit	73.530
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.545
Thai Bhat	10.545

Turkish Lira	50.585
Singapore dollars	220.210

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.378817	0.392717
Czech Korune	0.005166	0.014466
Danish Krone	0.041506	0.046506
Euro	0.333485	0.347185
Georgian Lari	0.132152	0.132152
Hungarian 0.001148	0.001338	
Norwegian Krone	0.030802	0.036002
Romanian Leu	0.065299	0.082149
Russian ruble	0.004676	0.004676
Slovakia	0.009111	0.019111
Slovenia	0.028068	0.033068
Swedish Krona	0.298254	0.309254
Swiss Franc		
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.203701	0.215701
New Zealand Dollar	0.193391	0.202891
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.220315	0.229315
US Dollars	0.300550	0.305850
US Dollars Mint	0.301050	0.305850
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003010	0.003811
Chinese Yuan	0.042615	0.046115

Hong Kong Dollar	0.037068	0.039818
Indian Rupee	0.003724	0.004496
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002732	0.002912
Korean Won	0.000246	0.000261
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069153	0.075153
Nepalese Rupee	0.002680	0.003020
Pakistan Rupee	0.001456	0.002226
Philippine Peso	0.005712	0.006012
Singapore Dollar	0.216360	0.226360
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001376	0.001956
Taiwan	0.010169	0.010349
Thai Baht	0.009311	0.009861
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.793520	0.810020
Egyptian Pound	0.017589	0.020189
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000210	0.000270
Jordanian Dinar	0.424785	0.433785
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020508	0.044508
Omani Riyal	0.784981	0.790661
Qatar Riyal	0.079413	0.084353
Saudi Riyal	0.080153	0.081453
Syrian Pound	0.001292	0.001512
Tunisian Dinar	0.097599	0.105599
Turkish Lira	0.045678	0.055523
UAE Dirhams	0.081520	0.083220
Yemeni Riyal	0.000990	0.001070

Business

Only days to go until key business conference on Kuwait in London

KUWAIT: As part of its economic and business coverage of Kuwait, The Business Year (TBY) is organizing a business conference, in partnership with Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), to highlight the major events shaping Kuwait's economy. The one-day event will be held on Monday, June 17 in London at the Four Seasons Hotel at Park Lane and shed light on the importance of the private sector in the future of the Kuwaiti economy. The event will also see the launch of The Business Year: Kuwait 2019, TBY's latest publication on the Gulf economy.

With main players from across various sectors lined up to attend the event, TBY's conference will be one of the major business events focusing on Kuwait in 2019. Ioana Popa, Country Director for TBY, explained that, "A lot of effort has been put into this event. KDIPA was extremely helpful and we also counted on the support of the British Embassy in Kuwait." She added, "We will present a very well-rounded event where we will also officially launch our new publication on Kuwait in partnership with KDIPA and the German Business Council."

In partnership with Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, in just 15 days The Business Year will bring together key players to review the Kuwaiti economy and discuss opportunities in different sectors.

Kevin Delaplace Haro, Country Editor for TBY, highlighted that, "this event will translate the main trends of the economy and will try to address the principle challenges the country is currently facing." He underlined that, "The objective is to discuss how the increased participation of the private sector can help Kuwait achieve sustainable growth and how the diversification of Kuwait's economy will require the support of financial institutions and the blooming of SMEs."

TBY's decision to organize the event in London is highly strategic. The Kuwaiti government has established strong bilateral ties with foreign countries and

there is a clear objective to boost FDI levels. Introducing Kuwait's business world in one of the main financial capitals of the world will certainly boost investors' awareness about investment opportunities in Kuwait and will also present a chance for the attendees to exchange ideas.

The conference will feature distinguished guests and speakers such as Dr Nayef F Al-Hajraf, Kuwait Minister of Finance, Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Director General of KDIPA, Dr Khaled A. Mahdi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi,



Vice Chairman & Group CEO of Zain Group, Baroness Morris of Bolton, UK Trade Envoy to Kuwait, Peter Estlin, Lord Mayor of the City of London, Mazin Saad Al Nahedh, Group CEO of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), and Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Commercial Bank of Kuwait. With only a few seats remaining, visit events.thebusinessyear.com for more information and to register now.

The Business Year: Kuwait 2019 will feature views and insights from more than 100 senior executives and government officials across all sectors, obtained through face-to-face interviews in the country. The publication will also feature sector articles, analysis, and contributions from foreign guest speakers. It will be widely distributed locally and internationally at major economic and investment forums and conferences.

App Store in crosshairs as Apple courts developers

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple is set to court software savants at its annual developers conference beginning Monday while contending with criticism that the iPhone maker has made its App Store a walled garden. The App Store is the lone shop for content for Apple devices, with the technology giant deciding which software creations to accept and taking a 30 percent cut of financial transactions.

But last month the US Supreme Court ruled that a 2011 consumer lawsuit accusing Apple of illegally monopolizing the store and driving up prices may proceed. "We only collect a commission from developers when a digital good or service is delivered through an app," Apple said in a page recently established in defense of the App Store.

Launched 11 years ago, Apple says the App Store has helped create millions of jobs and generated more than \$120 billion for developers. Apple chief executive

Tim Cook will likely update that stunning figure during his keynote presentation kicking off the company's annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in the Silicon Valley city of San Jose.

Pushing privacy

As in years past, Apple will also use the gathering to showcase improvements to the operating systems powering its Mac computers and mobile devices as well as to the software it designs. But the App Store dispute will be closely watched at the WWDC, which is already expected to be of heightened importance as the company emphasizes digital content and services to offset a pullback in the once-sizzling smartphone market. Apple has maintained that its tight control of the store allows it to protect user privacy and guard against malicious software by vetting what goes on its virtual shelves. Apple also gets to make sure apps work smoothly with its operating software.

In contrast, applications tailored for mobile devices powered by iOS rival Android can be obtained at online venues aside from Google's Play Store, where the Internet firm can screen offerings.

Cook has repeatedly portrayed Apple as a champion of user privacy, saying data gathered by its devices or software is zealously guarded. Critics, however, contend that Apple is not as conscientious when it comes to data such as location, browsing history and more collected by apps made by outside developers.

Among announcements rumored to be in store at the gathering is that it will tighten limits on sharing data gathered by children's apps.

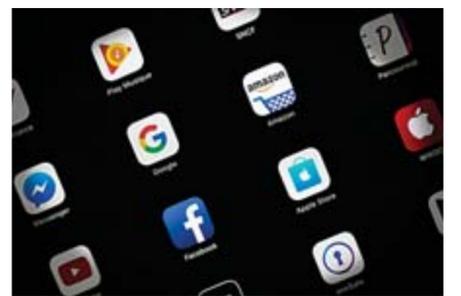
Monopoly?

In May's 5-4 Supreme Court ruling, the justices rejected Apple's argument that consumers lacked standing to proceed with their lawsuit because the tech giant was merely an intermediary with app developers. The opinion written by the court's newest member, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, said consumers had a right to pursue their case because they have a direct relationship with Apple.

The case must now go back to a lower court for trial. "We're confident we will prevail when the facts are presented and that the App Store is not a monopoly by any metric," Apple said in an emailed statement. "We're proud to have created the safest, most secure and trusted platform for customers and a great business opportunity for all developers around the world."

The ruling came amid a growing backlash against major tech companies that dominate key segments of the online economy. Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren has argued that big firms such as Facebook, Google and Apple should be broken up through antitrust enforcement.

And Apple faces charges in Europe of abusing its platform by discriminating against rival apps, including one complaint from streaming music service Spotify.



Spotify filed a formal complaint with the EU Commission taking issue with restrictions that Apple places on apps that don't use the App Store payment system.

Apple dismissed Spotify's accusations of anti-competitive behavior, saying the Swedish music streaming giant was trying to enjoy the benefits of its online market without paying the cost of its upkeep.

"Spotify wouldn't be the business they are today without the App Store ecosystem, but now they're leveraging their scale to avoid contributing to maintaining that ecosystem for the next generation of app entrepreneurs," Apple said in an online post. "We think that's wrong." —AFP

Mexican president hints at migration concessions to defuse US trade spat

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's president on Saturday hinted his country could tighten migration controls to defuse US President Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs on Mexican goods, and said he expected "good results" from talks planned in Washington next week.

Trump says he will apply the tariffs on June 10 if Mexico does not halt the flow of illegal immigration, largely from Central America, across the US-Mexican border. His ultimatum hit Mexican financial assets and global stocks, but met resistance from US business leaders and lawmakers worried about the impact of targeting Mexico, one of the United States' top trade partners. In a news conference in the Gulf of Mexico port of Veracruz, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Mexico could be ready to step up measures to contain a recent surge in migration in order to reach a deal with the United States.

A major Mexican delegation led by Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard will discuss the dispute with US officials in Washington on Wednesday, and Lopez Obrador said he expected "good results" from the talks, and for a deal to emerge.

"The main thing is to inform about what we're already doing on the migration issue, and if it's necessary to reinforce these measures without violating human rights, we could be prepared to reach that deal," Lopez Obrador said. His comments follow those of Jesus Seade, deputy foreign minister for North America, who told Reuters on Friday that Mexico want-

ed to sharpen existing measures to curb the flow of Central Americans trying to reach US soil.

Trump's threat to inflict pain on Mexico's economy is the biggest foreign policy test to date for Lopez Obrador and a tall order for Mexican authorities struggling not only to contain migration but also to fight record gang violence. Mexico's economy relies heavily on exports to the United States and shrank in the first quarter. Under Trump's plan, US tariffs that could rise as high as 25 percent this year.

'No trade war'

Lopez Obrador said Mexico would not pursue trade wars with the United States, but noted that his government had a "plan" in case Trump did apply the tariffs to ensure the country was not impoverished. He did not provide details of the plan. "We're doing all we can to reach a deal through dialogue," the veteran leftist said. "We're not going to get into a trade war, a war of tariffs and of taxes." He nevertheless noted that Mexico reserved the right to seek international legal arbitration to resolve the dispute. Meanwhile, some Mexican business groups have urged the government to strike back against any Trump tariffs.

On Friday, Mexico's top farm lobby said Lopez Obrador should target agricultural goods from states that support Trump's Republican Party if the American leader carries out his threat to punish Mexico for the migrants heading north. Apprehensions at the US border with Mexico have surged in recent months, though Mexican data also show more deportations and detentions at Mexico's southern border with Guatemala, mostly of Central Americans trying to reach the United States illegally.

Those statistics are likely to figure in the Mexican government's argument that it is addressing the problem. The bulk of migrants are fleeing widespread violence and poverty in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Many seek asylum in the United States when they cross the border.—Reuters

in low light conditions.

And if you want to capture two videos of the same scene happening in front of your eyes, you've got the dual-view video mode. It lets you capture a full-view scene and a close-up one, and you can view them side by side on your phone screen. But nobody wants to run out of power during Eid celebrations, as we want to capture these precious gatherings with friends and family. Well, the Huawei P30 Pro comes with a 4,200mAh battery that lives longer to provide you with juice the full day and maybe even beyond.



The perfect Eid gift: Huawei P30 Pro, new amber sunrise color - limited edition

KUWAIT: We are nearing the Eid time, which means the festivities are going to be everywhere. It is the time when everyone would go around visiting each other and spreading happiness. If you haven't already decided on what to gift your friends and loved ones this Eid, we have got some exciting news for you. The limited edition Amber Sunrise color variant of the Huawei P30 Pro is going to be available May 30th at Huawei Experience Store (HES) in the Avenues Mall. The stunning Amber Sunrise color variant combines red and orange hues in a gradient never seen before to make you get that striking appearance.

Besides the elegant looks, the phone offers 8GB RAM and 512GB storage. So you have got enough storage to save all the pictures and videos you would take during the Eid with this flagship champion. Because, for sure, you will take a whole lot of them when you have a smartphone with Leica Quad camera, world's first, that can cover all your photography and videography needs, even

And since Eid is around the corner, Huawei (CBG) Kuwait has created a special bundle offer for those who buy the limited edition Amber Sunrise color, Huawei P30, or Huawei P30 Pro between 30th May until 8th June 2019, to include: Huawei Freebuds Lite + Super Car Charger + transparent Back Cover and VIP Service and 6 month screen protection insurance).

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JUNE 17, 2019**

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Kuwait Direct Investment
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Kuwait Minister of Finance

Sponsors

Business

Flydubai celebrates 10 years of bringing people together

Dubai-based carrier celebrates carrying more than 70 million passengers



Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and Ghaith Al-Ghaith



Group photo with the executive president

KUWAIT: 10 years ago flydubai's first flight took off from Dubai International bound for Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport, on 01 June 2009, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the history of aviation in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In celebration of its 10th Anniversary, a special flight took off from Dubai International on 01 June 2019 at 12:20 local time and was met with a celebratory water cannon salute upon arrival in Beirut. On board were passengers who had flown on flydubai's first flight who reminisced about the inaugural flight and which paved the way for a new way of travel from Dubai to the region.

Commenting on the 10th year anniversary of the start of flydubai's operations, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, Chairman of flydubai, said: "For many years the Government of Dubai recognised the need for another carrier to serve our country. In 2009, we were able to achieve this thanks to the vision of Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai."

"Flydubai was launched with a mandate to open new markets and make travel more accessible to more people. I am happy to see flydubai deliver on that commitment which has seen the airline connect 71 previously underserved cities to Dubai allowing a population of 1.5 billion easier access to one of the world's leading aviation hubs."

Celebrating flydubai's 10th anniversary, I am pleased to see the airline become another Dubai success story and look forward to their continued success in the years to

come. I would like to thank all those who have worked tremendously hard to enable the airline to deliver this wonderful team effort," added Sheikh Ahmed.

Sultan bin Saeed Al-Mansouri, UAE Minister of Economy, said: "The UAE is leading on the global air transport front and the aviation sector has been a major contributor to the overall national economy. The sector has successfully enabled the creation of an attractive environment for trade, investment and tourism to flourish."

"The success of the national carriers has contributed significantly to further cementing the UAE's prominent position on the global aviation scene. flydubai, which celebrates its tenth anniversary, is one of the important components in the aviation sector and was able to break through the competition as an affordable travel provider. Flydubai continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening the UAE's ties with several important markets, thus enhancing the trade and tourism potential in the region and supporting the growth of the economy," added Al-Mansouri.

Reflecting on the last 10 years and looking to the years ahead, Ghaith Al-Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, said: Flydubai's commitment to making travel more convenient and more affordable has only grown stronger over the past 10 years. We realized early on that travel is about bridging the distance between people and we will continue to change the way people travel around the region. We are pleased to see that more than 70 million passengers chose to flydubai since the start of our opera-

tions. "It is the vision of our leadership and the continued investment in the country's infrastructure that has enabled the airline to grow the demand for travel. We have remained agile, committed to efficiency and delivered reliable services keeping our customers at the heart of our operations. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of all our employees. I thank them and our passengers for being part of our journey and look forward to many more years to come as we mark our 10th anniversary celebrating bringing people together," added Al-Ghaith.

Saif Mohammed Al-Suwaidi, Director General of the General Civil Aviation Authority, also marked a decade of flydubai and said: "We are proud to celebrate 10 years since the launch of flydubai's first voyage, which has witnessed the beginning of a journey with unprecedented achievements that have contributed to the expansion of the air traffic network over the last decade. It specialized in exploring underserved markets, connecting between the Emirate of Dubai and 71 new destinations that did not previously have direct flights. Its fleet is constantly growing and reflects a bright and extraordinary future."

Flydubai has grown its operations from six aircraft operating out of Terminal 2 at Dubai International (DXB) in 2009, to operating more than 1,700 weekly flights from its home base in Terminal 2 with flights to select destinations operating out of Terminal 3 (DXB) and Dubai World Central (DWC).

Paul Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Airports,

said: "This is a great occasion that marks a special milestone not just for flydubai, but for the entire aviation community in Dubai. Throughout its first decade of operations, flydubai has demonstrated resilience, customer-focus, innovation and a commitment to quality, all of which have contributed to the airline's impressive growth. That in turn has helped fuel the exceptional growth of DXB with more than half a billion passengers passing through our facilities during the same timeframe. On behalf of the airport community, I thank the flydubai family for all their hard work and considerable contributions and look forward to another decade of mutual growth and progress."

Since commencing operations, flydubai has created a network of more than 90 destinations in 47 countries across Africa (12 points), Central Asia and the Caucasus (10 points), Europe (28 points), the GCC and the Middle East (26 points) and the Indian Subcontinent (18 points).

More than 70 million passengers have chosen to flydubai since it launched and there have been a number of milestones since its inception in 2009: from introducing Inflight Entertainment in 2010 to Business Class in 2013, placing three aircraft orders and most recently announcing an extensive codeshare partnership with Emirates.

The number of Boeing 737 aircraft in flydubai's fleet and number of destinations on the flydubai network at year end (2019)

The total number of passengers carried since inception and the overall market growth of the first 3 destinations on the flydubai network.



Mabrook Hotel Supplies and RAK Porcelain partnership in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Mabrook Hotel Supplies announces its partnership with RAK Porcelain L.L.C in an attempt to further develop the porcelain tableware business in Kuwait catering to the international HORECA segment.

Established since 1958, Mabrook continuously strives to collaborate and import products from the world's leading brands in Tableware and Commercial Kitchen equipment; thereby seeking to provide the food service industry with superior quality products, latest concepts and designs.

In-line with this objective the new partnership with HORECA Industry favorite RAK Porcelain, is a perfect association in their pursuit to offer novel solutions and products.

Situated in the quaint emirate of Ras Al-Khaimah in UAE, RAK Porcelain is a leading porcelain tableware manufactur-



er, designer and supplier endorsed by 40,000+ starred hotels present in over 165 countries. The company has added premium quality cutlery ranges to their portfolio to enhance peoples dining experiences and cater to the various trends in table decor.

Mabrook and RAK Porcelain's new partnership is meant to assist professionals of the hospitality industry to find and apply the perfect tableware solutions in their daily pursuit for innovation and perfection.



To find out more about the latest products and services, customers can access the Bank's online portal (www.e-gulf-bank.com), or download the Mobile Banking App (App store/Android) to monitor accounts and conduct self-service banking transactions. Customers can also connect with Gulf Bank on its social media channels.

Gulf Bank extends its warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; 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 and to the people of Kuwait on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr.

Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma weekly account

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

The results of the draw were as follows:

1 Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 and was for the share of Ashraf Faheem Faltous Ghattas.

2 Al-Najma monthly account - the prize of KD 20,000 and was for the share of Ahmad Mostafa Marafi.

3 The "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign prize of KD 1,000 and was for the share of Khaled Talea Al-Mutairi.

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

As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers

additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

As regarding "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees as well as the retirees and which is valid until 31 December 2019 and the mechanism of joining this campaign for availing its benefits, the Bank explained that Kuwaiti employees with a salary of KD 500 and above whether newly recruited or in service can transfer their salary to the Bank and avail the benefits of this campaign by getting instant cash gift of KD 250 or an interest free loan 5 times the salary up to KD 10,000, add to this they will automatically enter the weekly draw on KD 1,000. As for the expatriate customers categorized under Premier Banking Account with a salary KD of 1,700 and above, they will get instant cash gift.

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

AUB extends best wishes to its customers on Eid Al-Fitr

KUWAIT: On the occasion of the Blessed Eid Al-Fitr, Ahli United Bank (AUB) congratulates and extends its warm wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the government, the citizens of Kuwait and all residents across the country. May Allah Almighty and Exalted return this Holy occasion on the Islamic



nation with prosperity and abounding blessings. On this occasion, the Bank announced in a press release: "The Bank will close its branches on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 04th to 06th June 2019, and will resume work on Sunday 09 June 2019. In a related context, AUB reaffirmed that customers will be able to conduct their banking services through the Bank's electronic channels, including mobile Banking and the Bank's website, www.ahliunited.com.kw on the internet and its 24/7 telebanking 'Hayakom' service.



ABK wishes everyone in Kuwait a happy Eid Al-Fitr

KUWAIT: On behalf of the Board Members, Management and Staff, ABK would like to extend its warmest wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, III the Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to Kuwait's government and all residents in the State of Kuwait on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr.

The Bank will be closed Tuesday 4th June 2019 to 6th June 2019. The Bank will resume its regular working hours on the first business day following Eid Al-Fitr holiday, Sunday 9th June 2019. ABK's online services and Call Center will be available 24 hours a day during the holiday and can be reached by contacting an ABK service agent via 'Ahlani Ahli'.

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Jadaan Jarad Awwad Alshammari
2. Mohammad Abdullah Ali
3. Fatemah Abdulaziz Abdullah Alwazzan
4. Sabecha Mohd Ali Rostom
5. Mohammad Khaled Khalil

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

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

What's On

Columbia Alumni Association of Kuwait hosts first Ghabga

The Columbia Alumni Association of Kuwait celebrated the festive spirit of Ramadan in a Ghabga hosted by His Excellency the Ambassador of the US to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman, at his residence last Thursday. The event was attended by many generations of Columbia University alumni, who gathered to share knowledge and expertise, and to network with one another.

In a comment on hosting this event, His Excellency US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R. Silverman said: "It was a pleasure to host the inaugural meeting of the Kuwait Columbia University Alumni Association. I enjoyed hearing the alumni talk about how their US educational experiences have helped them succeed in many different professions here in Kuwait. Alumni groups enable graduates to forge lifelong connections with their fellow alumni and others they met in the US."

Sayed Abbas Almohri, (MBA Class of 2018) noted that this event signals a start of a new series of activities for the Columbia Alumni Association of Kuwait.

"We are excited about this opportunity to bring so many of Kuwait's Columbia University alumni together. It's great to be surrounded by motivated like-minded individuals who are excited to spread change and progress, whether in their respective professional fields or in our local society and community as a whole," he commented.

He extended the Association's gratitude towards the US Ambassador to Kuwait for his commitment to enriching educational and cultural relations between the two friendly nations. He added: "Columbia is one of the leading universities in the United States, and it's wonderful to be part of this growing community of alumni in Kuwait." There are currently more than 50 members in the Columbia Alumni Association of Kuwait, working in various industries that include finance, technology, education, entrepreneurship, architecture, and engineering.



59th showroom of Grand Hyper opens



Grand Hyper counted among the leading hypermarket chains in GCC opened their 59th outlet on 30th May, 2019 at Tunis street, Hawally, Kuwait. Grand Hypermarket Hawally spanning across an area 23000 sq. feet has been inaugurated jointly by Regency Group MD Dr Anwar Ameen and Ex-Director General of Public Manpower Authority Jamal Al Dossary in the presence of Ayuob Kaccheri (Regional Director), Mohammed Suneer PC (CEO), Rahil Bassim (COO), Tahsir Ali (General Manager) and other management representatives.

As part of the inaugural offer, the new hypermarket has announced special prices for various products and Lucky draw contest to win up to \$150000 offer that have been planned at all the other outlets during Ramadan is present in this new hypermarket too. The inaugural event saw a huge turnout of guests, who attended the event despite the bad weather.

Grand Hyper is already present in Hawally Governorate in Ibn Khaldoun street which has enjoyed huge success over the years and the group saw an opportunity to cater to the large customer base present in Hawally hence the 2nd store spanning 23000sq feet was planned in Tunis street, Hawally. Grand Hypermarket has a strong reputation and trust



in Kuwait market as a brand for providing a wide range of products including food, non food, world-class electronic appliances, home appliances, Garments, footwear, health and beauty items at affordable prices.

Grand Hyper in Kuwait started 10 years back in Fahaheel which was received with great success. Now with 14 stores covering all major locations in Kuwait, Grand Hyper is a household name in Kuwait serving 72000

customers daily in Kuwait. The equal acceptance by both Kuwaiti nationals and expats has inspired Group to further expand its reach in Kuwait. The success of Grand Hypermarket is testified by the continuous expansion of the retail chain in various parts of the GCC countries on a daily basis. The benefit of price efficiency that the retailer gains through large-scale procurement of products is transferred onto the end-consumer.

Lulu Hypermarket launches Shopping Gift Card scheme

Lulu Hypermarket, the retailer of choice for discerning shoppers, launched a new Shopping Gift Card scheme titled 'One Gift Unlimited Choices'. The scheme was launched on 1 June at the retailer's Al-Rai branch by the top management of Lulu Kuwait, in the presence of a large gathering of shoppers, well-wishers and media personnel.

Also attending the launch event were representatives from Alwazah Tea (swan brand) who made an initial purchase of cards worth KD10,000 to present to the charity organization, Revival of Islamic Heritage, Kuwait. The multi-value shopping gift cards are ideal for presenting to someone on special occasion, such as on birthdays, graduation or anniversaries, or to celebrate religious events. The



cards are available in three value formats of KD50, KD25 and KD10, and can be utilized to its full value without any extra charges.

In addition, the card, which is valid for a period of 12 months from the date of purchase, can be used to make multiple purchases, with the balance carried forward each time until the total value of the card has been utilized. The new gift card is a great value present for friends, family or loved ones, since

it gives recipients the convenience of buying products they want from the extensive range of items and choices available on the shelves of Lulu Hypermarkets in the country. LuLu Hypermarket is a must-visit destination for those seeking extra value in their shopping experience, as the hypermarket takes great pride in offering customers fun and fulfilling ways to shop and satisfy their need for quality products at competitive prices.

UPAC partners with Kuwait Food Bank during Ramadan

United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a leading commercial real estate and facilities management company, joined forces with Agility to run a charitable meal program. In coordination with the Kuwait Food Bank, nearly 30 volunteers from the company donated their time to help feed more than 10,000 individuals through a daily Iftar meal program and a Machla donation box distribution.

The campaign began on 5 May, one day before the first day of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Volunteers helped with the packaging and distribution of the Machla boxes,



which were then donated to 330 families in need. The boxes contained basic food supplies, provided as a gift to cover an entire month's worth of necessary food items to families in need.

In addition, throughout Ramadan, volunteers from UPAC will help distribute 300 Iftar meals to individuals and workers near the Omar Bin Khattab mosque in Kuwait city.

These meals are distributed throughout Ramadan to those fasting and in need. Nadia Akil, UPAC Chief Executive Officer, said: "UPAC works towards impacting the lives of others positively. We are strongly committed to giving back to Kuwait, because we believe in the importance of social responsibility and understand the role our company has in supporting its local communities."

Registration for NBK Summer Internship Program ends today

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) ends the registration for the 2019 Summer Internship Program today through nbk.com. The program will start on Sunday 16th of June, 2019. The two-week courses in this program are specially designed for high school and college students, between 14 and 21 years old.

The Summer Internship Program is made up of four different sessions, five-hour daily over two weeks each. The first session starts on the 16th of June, while the following sessions start on 14th and 28th of July and 25th of August respectively. Each session will include 30 students divided into two groups: A group for the ages 14 to 17 and a group for the ages 18 to 21.

All trainees will receive a condensed training program about NBK products and services during the first week at the Training Center, and they will be

exposed to different areas in the second week at selected departments. The trainees will have professional exams from HR department about the knowledge of NBK. This annual program demonstrates NBK's long-standing social involvement as well as its national commitment towards providing young generations with the appropriate opportunities to experience how the actual professional banking issues and transactions are handled and processed.

NBK views the Summer Internship Program as an extension to its educative initiatives and as part of its corporate social responsibility. In addition to the Summer Training program for high school students, NBK regularly organizes the Summer Internship Program for university students. NBK offers as well a range of educational and professional developing programs targeted at developing Kuwaiti youth entering the work force.



Fancy costumes come alive at ICSK Amman

The Kindergarten department of ICSK Amman conducted a fancy dress competition on May 15th and 16th with great zeal and enthusiasm. The LKG students displayed their talents on the theme - any flower and for UKG the theme was to come dressed as their favorite cartoon character. The purpose of conducting the competition was not

only to blend learning with fun but also to develop confidence in the little ones. The competition proved to be a great learning experience for the students and gave them a platform to explore their hidden talents.

Principal, Rajesh Nair visited the classes and encouraged all the tiny tots. It was heart-warming to see the children dressed up as different flowers like Lotus, Sunflower, Rose as well as cartoon characters like Superman, Batman, Chotta Bheem, Cinderella etc. All our little ones looked adorable and the creativity and hard work involved was commendable. The tiny tots did surely win our hearts with their exuberance and enthusiasm!



Health

New breast cancer drug found to boost survival rates by 30%

CHICAGO: A new form of drug drastically improves survival rates of younger women with the most common type of breast cancer, researchers said on Saturday, citing the results of an international clinical trial. The findings, presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago, showed that the addition of cell-cycle inhibitor ribociclib increased survival rates to 70 percent after three and a half years.

The mortality rate was 29 percent less than when patients, all under 59 and pre-menopausal, were randomly assigned a placebo. Lead author Sara Hurvitz told AFP the study focused on a form of breast cancer which is fueled by the hormone estrogen and which accounts for two-thirds of all cases among younger women. It is generally treated by therapies that block the hormone's production. "You actually can get synergy, or a better response, better cancer kill, by adding one of these cell-cycle inhibitors" on top of the hormone blocking therapy, said Hurvitz.

The drug works by inhibiting the activity of cancer-cell promoting enzymes. The treatment is less toxic than traditional chemotherapy because it more selectively targets cancerous cells, blocking their ability to multiply. An estimated 268,000 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the US in 2019, while the

advanced form of the disease is the leading cause of cancer deaths among women aged 20 to 59.

Growing menace

Though advanced breast cancer is less common among younger women, its incidence grew two percent per year in the US between 1978 and 2008 for women aged 20 to 39, according to a previous study. The new trial, which looked at more than 670 cases, included only women who had advanced cancer — stage four — for which they had not received prior hormone-blocking therapy. "These are patients who tend to be diagnosed later, at a later stage in their disease, because we don't have great screening modalities for young women," said Hurvitz.

In addition, patients who develop breast cancer early tend to have more complex cases. "That's what makes us so excited, because it's a therapy that's affecting so many patients with advanced disease," added Hurvitz. A pill is administered daily for 21 days followed by seven days off to allow the body time to recover, since two-thirds of patients have a moderate to severe drop in white cell count.

Jamie Bennett, a spokeswoman for Novartis, which markets the drug under the brand name Kisqali and funded the research, said it cost \$12,553 for a 28-day dose. But, she added, "the

majority of patients in the US with commercial insurance will pay \$0 per month for their Kisqali prescription." There is no cure for metastatic breast cancer and the majority of the women on the drug will require some form of therapy for the rest of their lives.

'Significant survival benefit'

Oncologist Harold Burstein, who was not involved in the research, said it was "an important study," having established that the use of the drug "translates into a significant survival benefit for women." Burstein is with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. "Hopefully, these data will enable access for this product for more women around the world, particularly in healthcare systems which assess value rigorously as part of their decisions for national access to drugs," Burstein added.

Moving forward, Hurvitz said she was interested in investigating whether ribociclib could help nip cancer in the bud at an earlier stage. "We want to go and look at those women diagnosed with early stage disease, small tumors, tumors that haven't gone to the lymph nodes or haven't gone to other parts of the body and see if we can stop it from returning later from metastasizing," she said. The enrollment phase of new global clinical trial is now underway. — AFP

Immunotherapy boosts outlook for lung cancer

CHICAGO: An immunotherapy treatment helped significantly boost survival rates among patients suffering from advanced lung cancer, according to the results of a clinical trial cited by researchers on Saturday. Almost 25 percent of patients who received the drug pembrolizumab and had not previously received chemotherapy were alive after five years, said the study which was presented at annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

The figure dropped to just over 15 percent for patients who had previously received chemotherapy. "The uniformly negative outlook that has been associated with a diagnosis of advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is certainly no longer appropriate," said lead author Edward Garon, an associate professor at

UCLA. The five-year survival rate was 5.5 percent in the pre-immunotherapy era. Unlike chemotherapy, immunotherapy works by leveraging the body's own immune system to fight disease.

In this case, the drug acts by turning off a brake in the immune system, a protein called PD-1, which then allows cancer-fighting T-cells to attack faster and more effectively. "I describe it as sort of changing the thermostat, in terms of how willing the immune system is to tolerate something versus reject it," Garon said.

David Graham, an oncologist at the Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina who was not involved with the study, said: "It's truly remarkable that for more patients than ever before, we no longer have to count survival in months." — AFP

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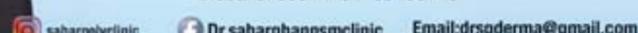
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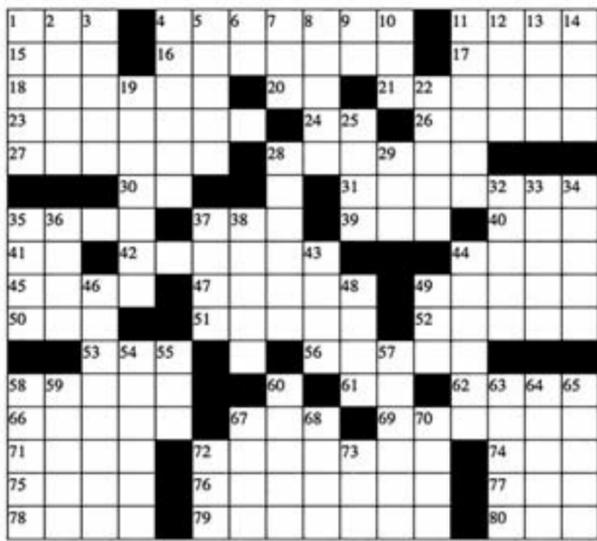
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Stars

CROSSWORD 2224



- ACROSS**
1. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
 4. A golf shot that curves to the right for a right-handed golfer.
 11. Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
 15. Characteristic of a mob.
 16. Large cylindrical or flattened mostly tropical insects with long strong legs that feed on plants.
 17. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
 18. Inability to name objects or to recognize written or spoken names of objects.
 20. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
 21. Treat with excessive indulgence.
 23. Get off (a horse).
 24. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
 26. (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) Optical device that produces an intense monochromatic beam of coherent light.
 27. American and Asiatic trees having edible one-seeded fruit.
 30. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
 31. The state of being behind in payments.
 35. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
 39. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
 40. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.
 41. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
 42. An internal representation of the world.
 45. A small cake leavened with yeast.
 47. Lower in esteem.
 50. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
 51. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
 52. The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
 53. An honorary degree in science.
 56. Norse chieftain who became the first duke of Normandy (860-931).
 58. Relating to or having the characteristics of bees.
 61. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
 62. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
 66. Indigo bush.
 69. Abnormal dryness of the conjunctiva and cornea of the eyes.
 71. Type genus of the Apidae.
 74. Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
 75. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
 76. A native or inhabitant of Rio de Janeiro.
 77. A type of submachine gun that is designed and manufactured in Israel.
 78. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
 79. An alloy of mercury with another metal (usually silver) used by dentists to fill cavities in teeth.
 80. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- DOWN**
1. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
 2. An Italian woman of rank.
 3. A unit of resistance equal to a billionth of an ohm.
 4. A Japanese shrub that resembles members of the genus Spiraea.
 5. The sacred city of Lamaism.
 6. A state in midwestern United States.
 7. Standard time in the 6th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 90th meridian.
 8. Any of a class of organic compounds that contain the divalent radical -CONHCO-.
 9. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
 10. Measure of the US economy adopted in 1991.
 11. The occurrence of a change for the worse.
 12. A large mountain system in south-central Europe.
 13. To run away.
 14. A unit of pressure equal to 0.001316 atmosphere.
 19. A port city in southern Kenya on a coral island in a bay of the Indian Ocean.
 22. Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
 25. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
 28. A shrub or tree of the genus Rhus (usually limited to the non-poisonous members of the genus).
 29. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
 32. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
 33. Showing or feeling mirth or pleasure or happiness.
 34. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
 36. Using speech rather than writing.
 37. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
 38. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
 43. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
 44. An ancient musical horn made from the horn of a ram.
 46. An early Christian church designed like a Roman basilica.
 48. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
 49. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
 54. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
 55. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
 57. A city of southeastern Mexico.
 59. Proceeding from or ordered by or subject to a pope or the papacy regarded as the successor of the Apostles.
 60. A crown-like jewelled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
 63. A deceitful and unreliable scoundrel.
 64. Affect with wonder.
 65. Of or relating to or containing barium.
 67. Crowd or pack to capacity.
 68. A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically.
 70. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
 72. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
 73. A member of the genus Canis (probably descended from the common wolf) that has been domesticated by man since prehistoric times.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could find that others seek you out for advice. You are looked upon as a role model in the eyes of many. You are strong, and your determination and dedication are easily noticed by others in your life. You are very understanding and will be able to help someone with a very personal issue they choose to share with you. You will easily be able to cut through the red tape and get to the root of the issue with ease. Being able to offer a quick solution may leave you with a sense of pride knowing you are able to help others and be the friend you wish others would be to you. You are a rock to many. Aries. Never stop being you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today finds you more materialistic than usual. "Things" never have much importance to you. You know in the end it is not going to be what you have, but who you are that matters. Today finds you having unfamiliar desires. You actually may be feeling a need to reward yourself for all of the hard work you do. You make sacrifices daily to take care of and provide for others. Do not feel bad about doing things for yourself. Spoil yourself. Taurus. That new pair of shoes may be calling your name.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

An easy and calm day can be expected. It seems as if everything is running smooth. You may find yourself in a position to have an interaction with authority figures or older people you admire. It seems as if you are working with the flow. You may have a desire to be the center of attention. As this feeling comes over you, it could find you putting extra effort forth in the workplace. You may be challenging yourself to accomplish massive amounts of work. Take your time and hold back a bit to prevent finding yourself burned out. This is a very productive time for you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find your need to be needed wasn't such a good wish after all. Today may bring out all the needy friends in your life. It seems as if everyone needs something from you and they need it now. Your first reaction may be frustration. Just remember at one time this was a desire of your heart. Never did you expect that everyone would come at once. Prioritize your day and remember it is ok to say no. There is only one of you. Take time to catch a short break this afternoon to avoid burning out. From now on, Cancer, be careful what you wish for.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Making memories has always been a focus for you. You want to be able to look back and reflect on times passed and experiences you have had. You are one of the last true romantics. You are talented and giving and have a great desire to be appreciated for these gifts. You may find expressing yourself in an artistic manner will bring the attention and appreciation you desire. You may find what seems as a small gesture to you is a huge reward to someone you care about. This is one of the times you will be able to look back at with fond memories.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find that you are entering a phase where your needs and focus seem to change. You find yourself in a very loving mood. This may be nothing more than a newfound love for life. You may also find yourself taking a close relationship to a new level. You have a deep desire to express yourself to others. You desire to let those near to you know who you are and how you feel about them. You find yourself very creative. This creativity may involve new ways to express yourself or you may find that you find great peace when sitting down and writing or picking up a paint brush. Enjoy this phase, Virgo, and use your talents to the fullest.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

A little escape may be coming your way. You may find yourself in a dreamy mood with a desire to let reality escape you. You don't often have this feeling, and this is a great time to just roll with it. You may find a movie, a road trip, or something as simple as lighting the candles and soaking in the tub, may bring you a needed rest. We all need to take time to ourselves and you are no exception. Rest your mind, body, and soul. Libra. You may find you are highly productive after taking a day for yourself.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Scorpio, your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have a lot of energy today. You may be tempted to turn it on yourself with negative conversations about you. That's counter-productive. Focus your energy on someone else you have positive feelings about, and both of you will benefit. Every encounter is an opportunity to affirm and encourage. The results may surprise you. Sagittarius, you have a lot of energy today. You may be tempted to turn it on yourself with negative conversations about you. That's counter-productive. Focus your energy on someone else you have positive feelings about, and both of you will benefit. Every encounter is an opportunity to affirm and encourage. The results may surprise you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today you may find you are being looked to for advice and counsel. Someone come to you with a very private and emotional problem. You should be able to quickly cut through the red tape and get to the root of things. You are a great friend and you will be able to truly help this person. You may feel a desire to care for others and in return have others care for you. This need seems to be strong today. You tend to be there for everyone and this is a time things are weighing you down and you feel the need to have someone to turn to for support. Do not let this make you feel as if you are weak. Everyone needs someone now and then. This is your time. You feel as though you have been carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. Open up and share your feelings with someone close to you. You may be surprised how eager they are to help.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find this to be a frustrating day. Emotionally you may feel blocked by someone or by your own living situation. You may feel as if you no longer have the support of some that have been a part of your life for ages. Arguments could be easy to find. You may crave to be the center of attention. You are a giving person and you crave attention and gratification for all you give of yourself. You may find that you are able to express yourself in a creative way. Creations and artistic expression that you make today may bring great reward in the future.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Let your light shine. This is a day you feel as if you need all eyes on you. Being the center of attention is what you crave. A very romantic, creative, and expansive time could be beginning in your life. You may find yourself getting in touch with a more mystical and spiritual side of yourself. The feelings you feel are deeper. The beauty you see is more beautiful. Life truly takes on a greater meaning now.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Old TV Shows 4 - Word Search

GETSMARTKERTRATSLEKNEMAOAMSEXRVTBISNFDREVDAZONGPHJQGXIXRJEJEGWGNYOEAIAFAGFQANHFZXABSTSLILHQBUGTWMQRNQNOLYTKMAEGOEAHOWERLTRPUYRSLDSEARBIBLIIONNSEYEMLICGMNICDRVOGBTFRAEITYAPBNECLGUFRTLOATARFYIRBVNOSUFACSSACCPMKCOLTAMTIVKDLOJSIHZORROTHEXFILES

- AIRWOLF**
ALF
AMEN
AVENGERS
BARETTA
BENSON
BLOSSOM
BONANZA
- CYBILL**
FRAGGLE ROCK
GET SMART
KNIGHT RIDER
KUNG FU
LARAMIE
MAGNUM P I
MATLOCK
- SPIN CITY**
ST ELSEWHERE
STAR TREK
THAT GIRL
THE BRADY BUNCH
THE X FILES
ZORRO

Yesterday's Solution

Old TV Shows 3 - Solution

NITRAMSNOSTEJEHTAMTNIIGHTGALLERYTLESUMAETAETHAPNJULEEERBRFPPOOLWEEOCGRNNJPUEBTLTLCYYVRFEOFHOHMTYHDITBELLTJDSUYMSOAUOEQKISYWRLLACBYBOPNELEPIBISOABMTRBEAPAECPMACAEGSYAOCWLYWAEENBAGANDRRWAARDNRHRLYNEAEERWNCUOAAIAVYYMVSTPETEXLBYPBDRKILDAREP WMOJHS

- ALLY MCBEAL**
BANACEK
BARNABY JONES
CHIPS
COLUMBO
DR KILDARE
DRAGNET
DYNASTY
- FLIPPER**
GREEN ACRES
HAPPY DAYS
L A LAW
MAD ABOUT YOU
MARTIN
MISTER ED
MURPHY BROWN
- NIGHT GALLERY**
PERRY MASON
PEYTON PLACE
THE A TEAM
THE JETSONS
VEGAS
WEBSTER

Yesterday's Solution

MVPGLIBNESSBPIIIIAIGRETTETASLACEENDOCARPBOAMICMACNMAATAKAMIAEAHCOIFMASANEPANEVAAPASTIMIDEAHURAEEMIRNADAAAI GADKEBABZMAGNOLIABYEPONAMILDNALFONANOMIAABABAHEBEISPECULLROPEECPRIAMEMBEDSETAOBELIONESEETEALMIDLANDETA

Daily Sudoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Lifestyle

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019



Muslim worshippers pray early on June 1, 2019 at Kuwait City's Grand Mosque on the occasion of Lailat Al-Qadr, which marks the night in the fasting month of Ramadan during which the Holy Quran was first revealed to Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) in the seventh century. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Malaysia fights to save centuries-old creole



This combo of a picture shows from (top left to right) Gabriella Amber De Silva, 12, Montana meaning 'mountain', James De Silva, 13, Kari Pimenta meaning 'pepper curry fish', Jazmynn Trisha Thomes, 9, Cachoru meaning 'dog', (centre left to right) Kyle Julian Marsh, 12, Susi meaning 'sister', Leona Cheryl Danker, 11, Familia meaning 'family', Nowell David De Costa, 11, Sabrozu meaning 'delicious or tasty', (bottom left to right) Cherylyn Anne Da Costa, 12, Yo Kere Cumi meaning 'I want to eat', Elijah, 11, Testa meaning 'forehead' and Shayna Marianne Pereira, 12, Bentu Di Natal meaning 'winds of Christmas' at the Portuguese Settlement in Ujong Pasir, Malacca; as they each pose for a picture with words they are learning in the Kristang language. Children in colorful outfits sing in a creole of Portuguese and Malay during a class in the historic Malaysian city of Malacca, part of efforts to stem the decline of the centuries-old language. — AFP



Students dressed in traditional Portuguese outfits dancing before learning the Kristang language at the Portuguese Settlement in Ujong Pasir, Malacca.



Sara Santa Maria (center), 50, listening to Jazmynn Trisha Thomes, 9, read a book in the Kristang language at the Portuguese Settlement in Ujong Pasir, Malacca.



Sara Santa Maria (center), 50, singing a Kristang song with her students at the Portuguese Settlement in Ujong Pasir, Malacca.



Students dressed in traditional Portuguese outfits dancing before learning the Kristang language at the Portuguese Settlement in Ujong Pasir, Malacca.

Children in colorful outfits sing in a creole of Portuguese and Malay during a class in the historic Malaysian city of Malacca, part of efforts to stem the decline of the centuries-old language. The youngsters chant "bong atardi mestri" (good evening teacher) and work their way through songs including "Bunitu siara siorus" (Beautiful ladies and gentlemen) and "Gato do matu" (The jungle cat). Sara Santa Maria runs the weekly classes at her home to ensure the younger generation learn "Papia Kristang", one of several steps aimed at preserving an endangered language spoken by people of mixed Portuguese and Malaysian ancestry.

"I definitely fear Kristang could disappear," the 50-year-old teacher told AFP, as the youngsters dressed in Portuguese-style traditional costumes laughed and danced. "Many Eurasians have moved out of the settlement and the children only speak Malay and English," she added, referring to an area of Malacca that has traditionally been home to speakers of the language. Kristang developed after the Portuguese took over the strategic port city on the Straits of Malacca, one of the world's most important shipping routes, about 500 years ago and colonizers married local women.

It was an era when tiny Portugal had a global empire and Malacca, a center of the lucrative spice trade, was a key prize for rival powers. After Portuguese rule, the Dutch colonized it and later the British took it over until Malaysian independence. The city on Malaysia's west coast still has vestiges of colonial rule which have made it popular with tourists, including red-walled Dutch buildings and a gate house which is all that remains of a once-mighty Portuguese fortress. Kristang has a largely Portuguese vocabulary but its grammatical structure is similar to Malay—the most commonly spoken language in Malaysia—and it is also influenced by Chinese and Indian languages.

As well as in Malaysia, it is spoken by tiny communities in Singapore and Australia due to migration. But it has been in decline for years. The language is not part of the school curriculum and the Eurasian community has been steadily assimilated into the broader Malay-speaking community.

'Part of my identity'

UNESCO, which lists languages in peril, classifies Kristang as "severely endangered" and says only about 2,000 people speak it. It is just one of many tongues in danger, with the UN agency predicting that half the world's 6,000 languages will disappear by the end of this century.

Despite the dire outlook, Kristang's melodic tones can still be heard frequently in the small Malacca settlement of Ujong Pasir where the Portuguese Eurasian community has traditionally lived.

Groups of elderly men sit chatting in the language on the waterfront, and are enthusiastic about passing it on to the next generation. "I and my wife speak the language with our five children, 11 grandchildren and our two-year-old great grandchild to keep it alive," former fisherman Stanley Goonting, 72, told AFP. But he is all too aware of Kristang's vulnerability: "There is a danger that Papia Kristang will be spoken less and die out."



As well as Santa Maria's lessons, other moves are being made to save the language—a Kristang textbook has been produced, as well as a mobile app and a CD of Catholic prayers and hymns. In neighboring Singapore, Kevin Martens Wong, a Eurasian-Chinese teacher, is spearheading efforts to revive Kristang, and has taught the language to hundreds of students since 2016. His grandparents spoke Kristang but he only learnt it in recent years before deciding to teach others.

"I had never learnt it growing up, so there's a strong passion and investment in learning the language and passing it on to others," he said. There is also great enthusiasm for the language among Santa Maria's students, which offers some hope for the future. "Kristang is part of my identity and culture, I want to preserve it," said Gabriella Amber, a 12-year-old who has been learning the language for five years. "If we stop talking, I fear it will become extinct." — AFP

Sara Santa Maria, 50, teaching students the Kristang language at the Portuguese Settlement in Ujong Pasir, Malacca.

Indie rockers Pavement to play 2020 reunion shows

The influential 90s-era indie rock group Pavement will reunite for two European performances in 2020 after disbanding two decades ago. "Pavement: only two worldwide shows in 2020," announced the Primavera Sound festival on Saturday, saying the American band would play the Barcelona fest and its sister event in Porto. Pavement performed a reunion tour in 2010, having released its last studio

album, "Terror Twilight," in 1999. The band's ringleader and indie rock's patron saint Stephen Malkmus recently hinted that a reunion was "realistic," telling a Rolling Stone podcast that "anything's possible."

"If there's interest, then that's always a factor," Malkmus said. "If people are really psyched about it, I'd be psyched about it too." After forming in California in 1989, Pavement achieved both critical

success and an ardent cult following for its lo-fi sound and laconic vocals. "Confirmed: Pusha T watched the Pavement Prima Vera 2020 announcement on site," tweeted Malkmus, referring to the rapper who played this year's edition of the Barcelona fest. "#so I'm glad it's happening." — AFP



Jennifer Lopez regrets taking herself so seriously

Jennifer Lopez regrets taking herself so seriously during her younger years. The 49-year-old star - who released her debut album, 'On the 6', in 1999 - has revealed that if she had the chance to advise her younger self, she'd urge her to adopt a more relaxed approach to her career. Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', Jennifer shared: "When you're young, you're just so, like, you think you know everything. "When my first album came out ... I just thought that I had it all figured out." But the chart-topping star - who has balanced her music career with acting - says she's become wiser as time has passed by. Jennifer reflected: "You don't realize until you're in your 30s that you

know nothing. "Then in your 40s, you start kind of figuring it all out. And then when you're 50, you're just like, 'I'm just me and it's good.' It's great." The singer is set to embark on her It's My Party tour later this month and she's teased what fans can expect from the upcoming shows. She said: "I want to create a different atmosphere than normal. "I want it to be interactive, I want to share this moment [with fans]. We've been talking a lot about what this tour should be - what it means and how special it is, and how special this time in my life is."

Sophie Turner relished her X-Men experience



Sophie Turner felt like a competition winner on the set of 'X-Men: Dark Phoenix'. The 23-year-old actress plays the role of Phoenix Force in the money-spinning franchise, and Sophie has admitted to relishing the experience. She said: "I felt like I'd won a contest. Every time I was on set, I thought: I shouldn't be here. "It was mad to have one-on-one scenes with Jess [Chastain] or Jen [Lawrence] or Michael [Fassbender]." Despite starring in the 'X-Men' franchise, Sophie is, perhaps, still best-known for her appearances in 'Game of Thrones'. And the actress has admitted she'd be open to reprising her role on the hit TV show in the distant future. She told PorterEdit magazine: "Maybe we should do a season nine? "In 20 years, when I'm old and haggard and out of work, I'll definitely be up for a season nine." By contrast, Sophie previously said that reprising the role of Sansa Stark would result in "more trauma". The actress was satisfied with way her character's story finished in the finale of the HBO fantasy series, and she insisted it was "time to let her go" after a decade on the show. She said: "I think it's time to say goodbye to Sansa. I'm ready ... ish, to say goodbye to her. I think my watch has ended. "It's been 10 years of my life and the best 10 years of my life by far. I finished in a very happy place with Sansa and it's time to let her go. I feel like if I played her again it would be just be more trauma."

Vaughn advises Marvel on Fantastic Four

Matthew Vaughn thinks Marvel should incorporate 'Fantastic Four' into its Cinematic Universe as soon as possible. The 48-year-old filmmaker - who previously produced 2015's 'Fantastic Four' - has insisted that following Disney's purchase of 21st Century Fox, Marvel should quickly bring the franchise into the Marvel Cinematic Universe. He reflected: "As the man that produced the last terrible 'Fantastic Four' - and I will say that because I said it from day one, but no one listened to me - I think 'Fan Four' is, for me, it's the live action version of 'The Incredibles'. "It's probably the most, I think, commercially viable Marvel Comic. Kevin Feige will get ahold of that and probably make a masterpiece." By contrast, Matthew - who is married to model Claudia Schiffer - believes Marvel should adopt a more cautious approach to another of its new assets, 'X-Men'. The director - who also helmed 2011's 'X-Men: First Class' - told Cinema Blend: "I imagine that might get put on ice for a little bit. I think it needs a little bit of breathing room. "They made a hell of a lot since 'First Class', if you think about it. 'Fan Four' would be the thing I'd like to see them do next. Disney and 'Fan Four' and Marvel is a really potent combination."



Marr isn't worried about Morrissey harming The Smiths' legacy

Johnny Marr is "not worried" about the backlash against his former bandmate Morrissey's political beliefs affecting the legacy of The Smiths. Morrissey's albums have been withdrawn from sale at Cardiff's Spillers Records, the world's oldest record shop, due to his support for the far-right political party For Britain and posters advertising his new solo LP 'California Son' were stopped from being displayed by British commuter train service Merseyrail. The 60-year-old singer even performed on US TV on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon' whilst wearing a badge with party's trident logo sparking a huge wave of criticism of him. Johnny, 55, has been watching the controversy unfold but he insists Morrissey's actions will not stop people from listening to the incredible music they made together in The Smiths in the 1980s. In an interview with NME, the guitarist said: "I don't think you can change history. I've said that before, I'm not worried. It's got nothing to do with my world or my life. The songs are out there for people to judge, relate to and hear. I think that's all going to be forgotten in a few weeks, as these things inevitably are - for better or worse. It's always been that way. I understand the issue, but I'm used to stuff coming and going. I don't worry about people missing out on the culture. That would be like saying to a teenage me, 'Are you worried about you and your mates missing out on The Velvet Underground?'"

That was never going to happen. I know the way things go. Things come and go." Johnny isn't focusing his past glories and has revealed that he will start work on his fourth studio album - the follow-up to 2018's 'Call the Comet' - at the end of the year. The 'How Soon Is Now?' hitmaker said: "I've got another single coming in about six weeks or so that I've finished. That's a bit more psychedelic guitar. Then I'm going to finish off the touring and get into some new stuff at the end of the year which is pretty exciting. I've got a new solo album coming, and I'm also hoping to get in the studio with Maxine Peake again." Morrissey compared Merseyrail's decision to remove posters promoting his new album following a customer complaint to akin to the "Third Reich", the totalitarian state that Germany became under the control of the Nazis. He said: "It's very Third Reich, isn't it? And it proves how only the feelings of the most narrow-minded can be considered within the British Arts. We are not free to debate, and this in itself is the ultimate rejection of diversity ... I am afraid we are living through The Age of Stupid, and we must pray that it passes soon. I'm only surprised that Mary Whitehouse isn't on the ten pound note. But, no, I'm not about to go into combat with Mersey Rail ... could life get any more mediocre?"

Toy Story 4 set to break box-office records

Toy Story 4' is poised to break box-office records. The much-anticipated movie - which will see Tom Hanks reprise the role of Sheriff Woody - is on course to achieve the biggest animated box-office opening ever. The Disney-Pixar sequel is tracking to surpass the record of \$182 million, which was set by 'Incredibles 2' in 2018. In fact, the movie is projected to generate a domestic three-day opening weekend of \$200 million in the US, according to Dark Horizons. 'Toy Story 4' is set for release later this month and will feature a host of big-name stars, including the likes of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Joan Cusack, Michael Keaton and Keanu Reeves. Disney previously revealed that the upcoming movie will focus on Woody's relationship with Bo Peep. A synopsis read: "Woody has always been confident about his place in the world, and that his priority is taking care of his kid, whether that's Andy or Bonnie. "So when Bonnie's beloved new craft-project-turned-toy, Forky (Tony Hale), declares himself as 'trash' and not a toy, Woody takes it upon himself to show Forky why he should embrace being a toy. "But when Bonnie takes the whole gang on her family's road trip excursion, Woody ends up on an unexpected detour that includes a reunion with his long-lost friend Bo Peep."

May defends artistic license in Bohemian Rhapsody



Brian May has defended the artistic license used in 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. The Queen guitarist insisted that the Freddie Mercury biopic was not a documentary but an attempt to tell the story of the late frontman "as a human being", and the 71-year-old musician argued that obsessing over incorrect facts in the movie is a "waste of breath". In an interview with MOJO magazine, he said: "It's an attempt to portray Freddie Mercury as a human being. So an argument about whether he should have a moustache at a particular time is a waste of breath. "The moustache is in the wrong place in documentary terms, but for telling the story we want to tell it's in the right place." The legendary singer died of AIDS-related bronchial pneumonia in 1991 at the age of 45 and one controversial scene showed Freddie informing his fellow band members, Brian, Rodger Taylor and John Deacon of his illness before their famous Live Aid concert, when in reality he didn't reveal the news until much later. However May has argued that he and Fox bosses "took liberties" in order to best tell the singer's story without adding "another hour of screen time". He said: "Yes but to tell it that way would have required another hour of screen time. So we took liberties. Or rather the film-makers did. "I learned this about film-making: you carry a story with you and you treasure it, but when you agree to sell it, it's not yours anymore. "Fox own this film, lock, stock and barrel, but they always treated us with great respect. Sometimes we'd say 'You can't do that' and they'd say 'Okay we won't' and other times 'Yes we can because this is the story we all agreed to tell'."

Drax Project are still influenced by busking

Drax Project say their music still takes "influence from busking". The popular four-piece started their musical career covering songs together as students on the streets of New Zealand and have since opened for the likes Camila Cabello, Ed Sheeran and Lorde as well as breaking the record for the fastest selling club show in Auckland history. Now, the 'Woke Up Late' hitmakers have revealed that despite their recent success, they still involve aspects of busking

in their music as they feel performing in that environment was an "important" part of their "whole journey". In an exclusive interview with BANG Showbiz, drummer Matt Beachen said: "We haven't had time to stop and think. "We never thought it would happen when we were busking, we weren't even a serious band we were like let's get together and make music let's do this. "It was like let's go have some fun partying on the street playing anything that would get people's attention and get a bit of cash." Matt added: "We still take influence from busking, from generally live performing I think that was really important for us and the whole journey." Guitarist Ben O'Leary agreed that when they the band would never have believed they would have enjoyed so much success half a decade later. He said: "If you'd told us we'd be in this position like five years later now there's no way [we would have thought it]." Singer and bassist Sam Thomson suggested while they still feel like "the same" band, they have grown even closer over the years. He explained: "I'd say the same in like a very different way if that makes sense. We're still doing the same stuff we're still playing music in the same way, we still hang out but I think we know each other a little bit better than we did when we first started." Singer Shaan Singh added: "I don't wanna ever be at the point where or music if we're playing it on the street doesn't make people stop. "That's why we wanted to do it when we were busking - that's what with other people's songs we had to pull out stuff people were gonna stop and pull out cash for." The band's hit single 'Woke Up Late' featuring Hailee Steinfeld is available on all major streaming services and the accompanying music video starring Liza Koshy is out now.



Lifestyle | Feature



A Moroccan man walks in the tannery in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient city of Fez. — AFP photos



A Moroccan woman walks in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient city of Fez.



A woman stands in the balcony of a traditional building in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient Moroccan city of Fez.

Facelift helps Morocco's Old City of Fez lure tourists

In recent times the imperial city of Fez has been overlooked by tourists in favor of Marrakesh, but now Morocco's "spiritual" capital is bustling with visitors due to major renovations and low-cost flights. "It is an open air museum, with the largest pedestrian zone in the world and its 10,000 alleyways," said Yassir Jawra, vice president of the Fez tourism commission. Fez "is the spiritual capital of Morocco, famed for its culture and its (age-old) handicraft work," he added. Since 2013, more than one billion dirhams (92 million euros, \$103 million) of investment have been poured into Fez to restore the 9th-century walled medina and develop tourism.

The medina, home to the world's oldest working library, was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981 for its "outstanding universal value". Guardian of priceless treatises in Islamic studies, astronomy and medicine, the library is nestled in the maze of narrow and dark alleyways which tourists and donkey-drawn carts can struggle to navigate. Like many monuments it has been renovated after the authorities in the late 1980s sounded the alarm in a report saying that more than half of the buildings in the medina were crumbling and 10 percent were threatened with ruin following years of neglect and a lack of public funds.

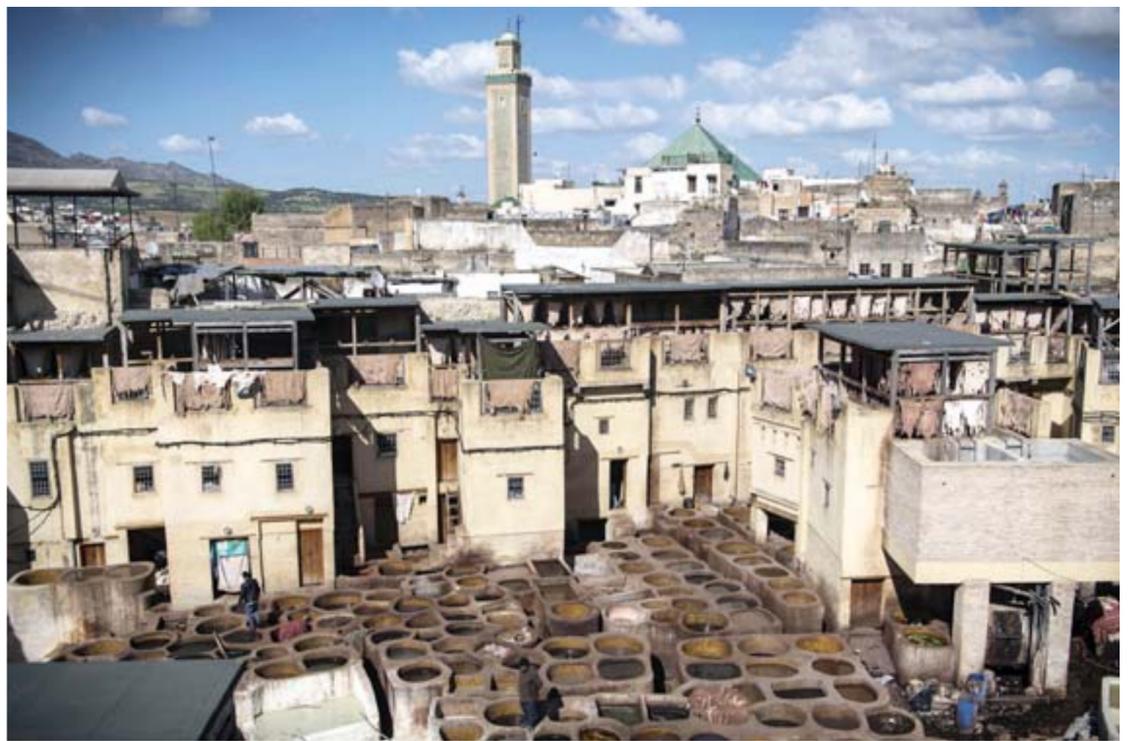


People walk in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient Moroccan city of Fez.

Behind the high crenellated walls that surround the medina lie 9,000 historical houses, 11 madrasahs, 83 mausoleums, 176 mosques and 1,200 handicraft workshops. Patrician palaces with their secret gardens and terraces, elegant fountains and ancient caravansary, or inns, are among the jewels lying there to be discovered.

Respect 'authenticity'

According to Fouad Serrhini, head of the Agency of Development and Restoration tasked with rehabilitating the medina, "thousands" of buildings and monuments have been saved from ruin since 2013. "They were chosen according to their state of degradation and how urgently the work was needed," he said. In all, 4,000 buildings were saved between 2013 and 2018, while 27 monuments were restored. In mid-April, King Mohammed VI visited Fez to inaugurate some buildings that had been renovated and launch the second phase of the rehabilitation program.



Following his visit, authorities issued a report insisting that the rehabilitation work respect the medina's "authenticity" and "original architecture". "The ancient medina is a live treasure, hidden and secret, which cannot be taken lightly," said Salim Belghazi, a 33-year-old who has transformed his 14th-century riad, or traditional family home, into a private museum. Belghazi, who hails from a wealthy background, said he hopes that despite the transformation, Fez will maintain its soul.

Ancient tanneries

Meanwhile, tourists are flocking to Fez, where the regional Fes-Saïss airport has undergone an expansion to accommodate the growing number of visitors and low-cost flights mainly from across Europe. The number of passengers has jumped from 108,000 in 2004 to more than a million in 2018, according to official figures. But Marrakesh remains the country's top tourist destination, with more than two million arrivals in 2017.

Tourism is a major source of revenue for Morocco, which received more than 12 million visitors in 2018, according to official figures. Abderahim Belkhatat, head of a regional body of artisans, said the influx of visitors to Fez "benefits" craftsmen, noting that three quarters of the medina's residents earn a living directly or indirectly from the sector.

Local authorities have mapped out a "vision" to revamp the sector by giving it a "new look" in order to produce

"high quality" crafts, he said. A 2005 official report indicated that in the long term, authorities hope to transform the medina into a "showcase" of handicrafts while the workshops themselves would be relocated outside the walls.

So far, 6,000 potters and brass and copper workers have been moved into zones with modern infrastructure and tanners are expected to follow suit in a separate location. The idea is to rid the medina of the cacophony of noise emanating from brassware and potter workshops as well as the pungent odors that rise from the ancient tanneries—the latter a "must" stop on the tourist circuit.

Tourists, their noses covered with mint leaves to ward off the stench, congregate on terraces overlooking the tanneries to snap pictures of the men working below, using the same methods as their ancestors did. The tanners stand almost knee-deep in large vats containing quicklime, cow urine, salt and water to clean the hides, which they will later soak in pigeon poop and water before the dyeing process can begin. The smell is always nauseating. But the sight seems to delight the visitors and the end result, such as leather belts and bags sold in the boutiques, proves popular with buyers. — AFP

A view of the tannery in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient Moroccan city of Fez.



A man works in the tannery in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient Moroccan city of Fez.



A woman sits in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient Moroccan city of Fez.



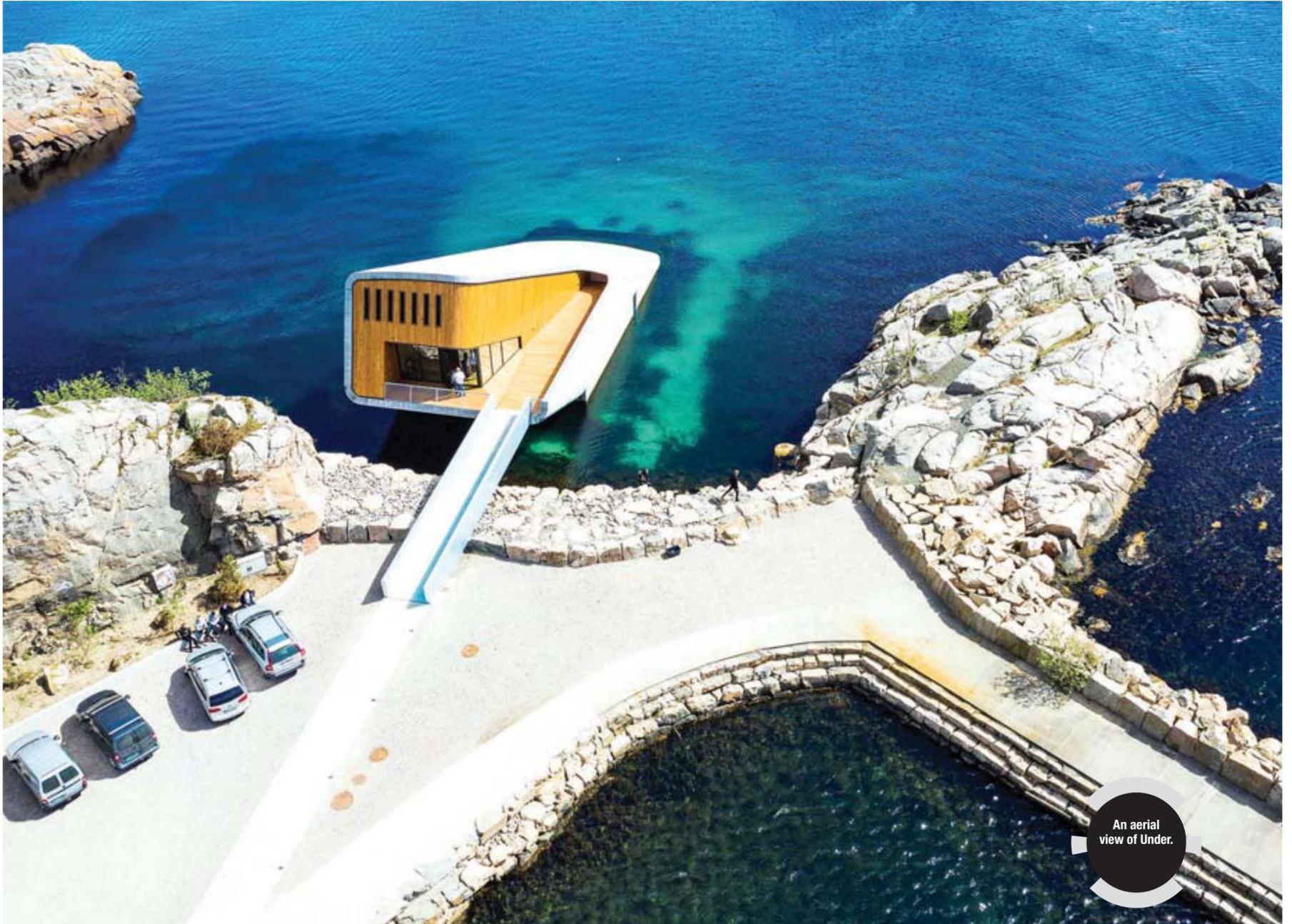
Men gather at the Moulay Idriss II mausoleum in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient Moroccan city of Fez.



A man walks in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient Moroccan city of Fez.



A man sits in the 9th century walled medina in the ancient Moroccan city of Fez.



An aerial view of Under.

DESCEND, EAT, MARVEL: EUROPE'S FIRST UNDERWATER RESTAURANT



Chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard forages before cooking at Under.



A view of Under.



Kitchen workers prepare food at Under.

For the chef and diners alike, each meal beneath the waves at Europe's first underwater restaurant is a thing of wonder. "We have this small window next to the kitchen and every time some special kind of fish comes by, I always start thinking about how it would taste," says chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard. The aptly named new restaurant Under opened a few weeks ago in Lindesnes on Norway's southern tip. It serves up Poseidon's delicacies in an architectural showpiece that stretches down five meters (15 feet) underwater, offering a unique closeup of ocean life. From the outside, the giant concrete monolith juts out from the craggy shoreline, while its other end tips down into the North Sea.

Customers enter the restaurant onshore through a wood-paneled passage and descend down a long, oak staircase into a dimly lit dining room. Here, a gigantic plexiglass underwater window takes center stage. The 36-square-metre (398-square-foot) window—"like a sunken periscope" in the words of its designers—offers a panoramic view of the ever changing live aquatic show. In Norwegian "Under" means it's under, like submerged, underwater, and it also means a sense of wonder," says Stig Ubostad, who co-owns the eatery with his brother, Gaute. "It is without doubt the largest one in the world and the only one in Europe."

'Nature's never disappointing'

There are no clown fish or sharks, like at other underwater restaurants in more tropical locations such as the Maldives or Dubai. Rather, it is in this simple, but no less spectacular forest of kelp that cod, pollock and wrasse swim past depending on the season, with occasional visits from their predators, seals and the large sea ducks, eider. "It's an area on the southern tip where the brackish water from the east meets the salty water from the Atlantic, so the richness of the species is very high," says Trond Rafoss, a marine biologist involved in the project.

In addition to its distinctive architecture and fine dining, Under wants to shine a spotlight on environmental issues. The international waiting staff are trained to provide guests with information about the aquatic show they are watching. "The guests are on an adventure. They are exploring the nature themselves, because this is not an aquarium. "The fish might look at us as an aquarium because what's happening outside here is under natural control," Rafoss says. "You will never be disappointed, nature is never disappointing."

Algae dessert

The restaurant is a 34-metre monolith designed by Norwegian firm Snohetta, known for its celebrated buildings such as the Oslo Opera and the 9/11 Memorial Pavilion in New York. It can serve up to 40 diners during its one sitting a day, five nights a week. In the kitchen, Danish chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard and his staff let their imaginations run wild when creating seasonal menus based primarily on what the sea has to offer, including a dessert composed of five different types of algae collected from a nearby shore.

"We try to use things that are in the area, and also use things that nobody else is really using," Ellitsgaard says. The restaurant however is probably not for everyone's budget. The tasting menu, consisting of 16 to 18 dishes, costs 2,250 kroner (230 euros, \$258) per person—and double that when wine is included.

'Magnificent light'

Under is nonetheless fully booked for the next six months. "The wonder is when you come here from the surface and you get into this magnificent light," says Dag Jacobsen, a 59-year-old professor, who dined there with his wife and another couple. "You see this kind of underwater light... The greenish, bluish water and all the interior here is also quite tuned to the sea as well, so

you get a feeling of just diving into the sea." "It is impossible to differentiate between the senses, your taste, sight, sound—everything is connected so it influences the way we experience the food," he adds, admitting he was "a bit skeptical" at first but was ultimately sold on the concept.



Co-owner Stig Ubostad poses in front of Under, a restaurant that is semi-submerged beneath the waters of the North Sea in Lindesnes near Kristiansand, some 400 km south west of Oslo. — AFP photos

For those who might worry about a catastrophe befalling the underwater structure, the owner says they can rest assured. The 26-centimetre (10-inch) thick plexiglass window is designed to withstand storms, and the entire structure, with its thick concrete walls, is built to resist pressure and shocks from the rugged sea conditions. "We've been through so many consultants I think it's safer than anything else," says Ubostad. — AFP



A diver cleaning the outside of a viewing window of Under.



A woman walks in front of a viewing window of Under.

Classifieds

Monday, June 3, 2019

Kuwait Times
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STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h causing rising dust over open areas.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 02/06/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	33 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	31 °C			
ABDALY	44 °C	28 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	45 °C	32 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	29 °C			
SALMIYAH	40 °C	32 °C			
AHMADI	43 °C	34 °C			
NUWAISIB	44 °C	30 °C			
WAFRA	45 °C	29 °C			
SALMY	44 °C	28 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	06/03	Hot	45 °C	28 °C	NW-VRB	12 - 35 km/h
Tuesday	06/04	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	45 °C	27 °C	NW-SE	10 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	06/05	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	46 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Thursday	06/06	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	47 °C	29 °C	NW-SE	08 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:15
Sunrise	04:49
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:43
Isha	20:14

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	24 °C
MAX. RH	38 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	N 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

NOTICE
 May 22, 2019

Mr. Sebastian Dominic son of late Mr. Dominic, resident of Chennathara House 2 1136, Cherthala South, Arthunkal PO, Alleppey Kerala 688 530 and Ms. Sherin James daughter of Mr. James Peter, resident of Kunnapurampil, Thekkethil, Ennackal PO, Alappuzha - 689624, Kerala, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (welfare2@indembkt.gov.in) 1 letters 1 telephonic calls (00965 - 225333 15, 00965 - 22533125).

(Ranveer Bhanu) Second Secretary (Cons) and Marriage Officer. Embassy of India, Kuwait. Email: welfare2@indembkt.gov.in

Airlines

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

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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Monday 3/6/2019					Departure Flights on Monday 3/6/2019						
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time			
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	UAE	871	Dubai	2:45	FEG	1642	Sharm el-Sheikh	12:00
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	KAC	742	Dammam	12:55	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	IRA	667	Esfahan	13:10	THY	1283	Trabzon	12:00
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	RJA	644	Amman	13:20	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	774	Riyadh	13:35	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	212	Jeddah	13:45	FEG	1246	Alexandria	12:30
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	AXB	790	CNN	13:10
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	UAE	877	Dubai	14:00	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	JZR	152	Mashhad	14:05	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	MSR	610	Cairo	14:10	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	QTR	1078	Doha	14:25	IRA	600	Tehran	14:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	364	Colombo	14:35	UAE	600	Dubai	14:15
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	194	Trabzon	14:40	KAC	872	Taif	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:45	RJA	645	Amman	14:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	KNE	382	Bahrain	15:00
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	JZR	222	Riyadh	14:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	618	Doha	14:50	KAC	673	Cairo	15:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KAC	562	Amman	14:50	MSR	611	Dubai	15:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:55	UAE	878	Dubai	15:30
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	118	New York	15:00	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
RBG	1551	Alexandria	03:15	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:10	KAC	105	London	15:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	ABY	127	Muscat	15:20	JZR	405	Kochi	16:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
PGT	7466	Istanbul	04:00	FEG	341	Sohag	16:00	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
MEA	400	Beirut	04:00	KAC	546	Cairo	16:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	JZR	732	Cairo	16:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
JZR	502	Lahore	04:05	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	SAW	705	Damascus	17:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	116	Doha	17:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	JZR	116	Doha	17:05	KAC	547	Alexandria	16:45
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:10	FEG	242	Alexandria	16:55
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	OMS	225	Muscat	17:20	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	MEA	406	Beirut	17:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	367	Colombo	17:35
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:35	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:35
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	124	Dubai	17:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	KAC	158	Istanbul	17:40	KAC	621	Doha	17:50
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR	302	Istanbul	18:20	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
BAW	157	London	06:10	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	OMS	226	Muscat	18:00
KAC	284	Dubai	06:15	SAW	703	Damascus	18:55	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	FDB	063	Dubai	19:05	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	RJA	640	Amman	19:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	MEA	407	Beirut	18:30
IGO	1755	CNN	07:10	KAC	744	Dammam	19:25	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
RBG	211	Luxor	07:25	KAC	506	Beirut/LCA	19:25	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	JZR	261	Beirut	19:10
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45	JZR	1081	Doha	19:20
MSC	401	Alexandria	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	1796	Madinah	08:10	KAC	174	Munich	19:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
JZR	702D	Asyut	08:10	KNE	381	Taif	20:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
IRA	601	Tehran	08:10	MSR	647	Muscat	20:05	SAW	704	Damascus	19:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	331	Sharjah	20:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	620	Doha	20:30	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	334	Trivandrum	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	JAV	621	Amman	20:45	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	RBG	219	dam	21:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50</



GHAZNI: Afghan children hold plates out as they wait to receive food donated by a private charity during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in Ghazni Province. Like millions of Muslims around the world, Afghan Muslims mark the month of Ramadan by abstaining from eating, drinking and smoking as well as sexual activities from dawn to dusk. — AFP

US 'prepared to talk to Iran'...

Continued from Page 1

sanctions and said that neutral Switzerland wanted to provide humanitarian aid, "especially pharmaceutical products and foodstuffs." He said Iran needed to make payments for this, and that was possible only if the United States allowed banks to transfer payments. Cassis said he was confident the United States would come up with the "best possible solution" to that problem in a short time.

Iran has stayed within the main restrictions of its 2015 nuclear deal, a quarterly report by the UN atomic watchdog indicated on Friday, at a time when Tehran is threatening to break the rules in future in response to new US sanctions. Pompeo declined yesterday to comment on the latest report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He said Washington was tracking IAEA findings closely but added: "We also have our own independent understanding of what is taking place there."

"And the world should be mindful that we are watching closely how Iran is complying with the requirements that were set out in the JCPOA, not only the heavy water issue, but the amount of high-enriched uranium which they are accumulating," he said, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action which the Trump administration has quit. "We are watching closely as they put centrifuges into work and whether they are actually beginning to spin those centrifuges and load those centrifuges," Pompeo said.

Acts that make fasting void...

Continued from Page 1

For example, the fasts of young children are accepted and rewarded, as will their parents who are teaching and encouraging them to fast. Also those who are traveling during their flights (in a non-forbidden travel, or non-forbidden purposes or places) may break their fast during their travels, but if they do fast their fasting will be accepted from them.

This is similar to what happened during the days of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) when some of his companions were fasting and some were not fasting during their travels, and no one minded the other. In this case, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Fasting during traveling is not a good behavior. But if a Muslim fasts while traveling from one place to another the fasting is accepted, but he will be more rewarded if he does not fast, because not fasting is a permission from Almighty Allah and eases more the worship of the Muslims."

Adult Muslims who are not in normal situations

Amir sends Eid greetings...

Continued from Page 1

In another development, His Highness the Amir sent cables yesterday to excelling high school Kuwaiti and expatriate students who recently graduated with out-

Last year, Pompeo outlined 12 ways Iran must change - including stopping its support for proxy groups and halting its missile program - before the United States lifts sanctions. He also called on Iran to stop uranium enrichment, never to pursue plutonium reprocessing and to close its heavy water reactor. He said it also had to declare all previous military dimensions of its nuclear program and to permanently and verifiably abandon such work.

Switzerland has served as an intermediary between Iran and the United States since shortly after the Islamic revolution in November 1979. Switzerland provides protective and consular services for some 100 U.S. citizens and 12,000 people with both US and Iranian citizenship. At least five American citizens, including four dual nationals of the United States and Iran, are detained in Iran as well as at least two permanent US residents. Another American, former FBI agent Robert Levinson, has been missing in Iran since 2007.

Iranian officials have repeatedly denied knowledge of his disappearance or whereabouts. Pompeo declined to offer details about efforts to secure the release of the detainees and whether this would boost confidence with Tehran, but said their families should know it was an issue worked on "every single day."

Iran and the United States have been drawn into starker confrontation in the past month, a year after Washington pulled out of a deal between Iran and global powers to curb Tehran's nuclear program in return for lifting international sanctions. Washington re-imposed sanctions last year and ratcheted them up in May, ordering all countries to halt imports of Iranian oil. In recent weeks it has also hinted at military confrontation, saying it was sending extra forces to the Middle East to respond to an Iranian threat. — Reuters

and are under medical treatment can break their fast if their situation becomes worse because of fasting. Should such persons fast, their fast will be accepted. If they have a chronic medical condition and will never be healthy enough to fast again, they are obliged to provide a full meal to an adult poor person, equivalent to one of their own average meals, every day they do not fast.

However, those who are under medical treatment and expect to return to their normal condition, they have to fast the same number of days they missed. But in either situation, the one suffering from a chronic disease, if he fasts, it will be accepted. Regarding the elderly who find it extremely hard to fast, they can break the fast, and rather provide a full meal according to the standard of living of the town or village, to an adult needy person.

Courtesy of the TIES Center: the TIES Center aims at empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and inter-faith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, you can contact TIES at Tel: 25231015/6; Hotline: 94079777; e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

standing grades. In the cables, His Highness the Amir congratulated the students on their efforts to gain knowledge, stressing that it was important for the students to continue the same hunger for education. He also commended the families of the students for their care and support, which enabled their sons and daughters to excel in their education. 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 also congratulated the students. — Agencies

Work not handouts: Entrepreneurs reboot the image of refugees

LONDON: Stuck in a former Dutch prison housing asylum seekers, Syrian software trainer Tey el-Rjula conjured up an idea to ensure that people who lose their identity documents while fleeing war or persecution do not become "invisible". Using blockchain technology, he devised a platform for people to store vital information about themselves, such as nationality and qualifications, so they can prove their identities to authorities in new countries where they settle.

"Today identities need to be not only be portable, but private and secure - that is what we do," said el-Rjula who in 2016 founded Tykn, which creates secure, digital identities to help refugees, asylum seekers and migrants on the move. Without the right paperwork, it is hard to travel via legal channels, prove family ties or entitlement to refugee status and increases the risk of exploitation, trafficking, statelessness, detention and denial of access to public services.

Tykn is one of a wave of social entrepreneurs - who aim to do good, as well as make profit - seeking to help 68.5 million people who the United Nations says are forcibly displaced worldwide by persecution, conflict and violence. Businesses range from a Malaysian caterer, PichaEats, that employs refugee chefs, and SEP Jordan, which hires refugees to make embroidery to a scheme to connect migrants and refugees in Europe with local communities, called Speak.

Israel hits Syria after rare rocket

Continued from Page 1

Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes in Syria, most of them against what it says are Iranian and Hezbollah targets. Israel says it is determined to prevent its arch foe Iran from entrenching itself militarily in Syria, where Tehran backs President Bashar Al-Assad in the country's eight-year war which has killed more than 370,000 people.

The Jewish state insists that it has the right to continue to target positions in Syria held by Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah out of self-defense. On May 27 Syria said Israel carried out a missile attack in Quneitra,

Muslims outraged as clashes erupt...

Continued from Page 1

It said police shut the mosque's doors and chained them. After the clashes, police spokesman Rosenfeld said calm had returned and visits continued. Al-Aqsa mosque director Omar Al-Kiswani accused Israel of violating an agreement not to allow such visits during the last days of Ramadan. He said around 1,200 Jews visited the site yesterday, while a Jewish organization that arranges visits there reported a similar number.

The clashes took place as Israelis marked Jerusalem

Some of the migrants that el-Rjula met in the Dutch centers - where he lived from 2014 to 2016 while his own asylum claim was processed - fled home so quickly they did not have time to pack identity documents or lost them on the way. "I know one guy who just grabbed his (framed) university degree from the wall and left," he said. "Many of the refugees who came lost their documents at sea. Many of them, the documents were confiscated by the smugglers."

This made it more difficult for Dutch authorities to process migrants' claims for asylum and support, leaving them stuck in the centres, which el-Rjula described as "more than gloomy". The World Bank estimates 1 billion people around the world struggle to prove who they are, making it hard to access essential services like opening a bank account or even getting a mobile phone, which can trap them in poverty.

Tykn's decentralized database and app acts as a digital wallet so refugees have verified identities when applying for housing or work or starting businesses in their new homelands. El-Rjula is pitching Tykn to international charities and governments across Europe and the Middle East so that they can process refugees more easily when they arrive in camps.

Raising capital - always a challenge for entrepreneurs - is even harder for migrants, particularly if their asylum claim is pending, their passport has expired - as el-Rjula's had - or their nationality bars them from entering certain countries. But he made a breakthrough in May when he won \$50,000 from Chivas Venture, a social enterprise competition, followed by an injection of 1.2 million euros (\$1.34 million) from a Dutch tech entrepreneur, which will be used to grow his team of five. — Reuters

in what the Israeli army said was retaliation for anti-aircraft fire targeting one of its fighter jets. Syrian air defense batteries also intercepted projectiles from Israel and downed a number of them on May 17, according to SANA. The Syrian province of Quneitra includes the Golan Heights, most of which is occupied and annexed by Israel.

In January, Israel hit Iranian positions in Syria, saying it was in response to Iranian missile fire from the war-torn country. According to the Observatory, 21 people, mainly Iranians, were killed in those raids. The latest reported strike comes amid soaring tensions between Iran and the United States. The stand-off had been simmering since the United States last year withdrew from the 2015 nuclear treaty which Iran reached with major world powers. In recent weeks the United States has accused Iran of alleged threats and deployed an aircraft carrier group and B-52 bombers to the Gulf. — AFP

Day, which commemorates the country's capture of the city's eastern sector in the 1967 Six-Day War. Unusually, this year's holiday coincided with the final days of Ramadan. The status of the Al-Aqsa compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, is one of the most sensitive issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is the holiest site in Judaism and the third-holiest for Muslims after Makkah and Medina.

Yesterday's visit was the first time since Tuesday that Jews were allowed into the holy site, according to activists. Jews are allowed to visit the site during set hours but not pray there to avoid provoking tensions. Jewish visits to the site, particularly by religious nationalists, usually increase for Jerusalem Day. Israeli Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan said his policy was to do everything possible to keep the site open to visits, especially for Jerusalem Day. — AFP

Sports

Kershaw exits before Dodgers win on walk-off home run

Arcia's two-run homer power Brewers over Pirates in 13

LOS ANGELES: Rookie Will Smith hit a walk-off home run in his fourth career game as the Los Angeles Dodgers remained undefeated in Clayton Kershaw starts with a 4-3 victory Saturday over the visiting Philadelphia Phillies. Smith, who was called up this week when Austin Barnes went on the injured list, lifted a full-count split-finger pitch from Hector Neris (1-2) in the ninth inning into the left-field corner for his first career home run. The Dodgers won for the eighth time in their last nine games. The Phillies had just gotten back into the game in the eighth, one inning after Kershaw departed. Reliever Julio Urias hit Jean Segura with a pitch, and Bryce Harper followed with a two-run home run into the seats in left field, his 11th of the season, to tie the score 3-3. Kershaw gave up one run on six hits over seven innings with no walks and six strikeouts. The Dodgers are now a perfect 9-0 in Kershaw starts this season and have won each of his last 17 starts going back to August of last season.

BREWERS 12, PIRATES 10 (13)

Orlando Arcia hit his second two-run homer of the game in the 13th inning to give visiting Milwaukee a win over Pittsburgh. After Hernan Perez's two-out double, Arcia homered to center against Alex McRae (0-1). Adrian Houser (1-1) pitched the final two innings for his first major league win. Starling Marte hit a three-run homer in the eighth to give Pittsburgh a 10-8 lead, but Keston Hiura answered with a two-run homer in the ninth for a 10-10 tie. Christian Yelich hit his 22nd homer and had an RBI triple, and Mike Moustakas hit a solo homer for the Brewers.

INDIANS 5, WHITE SOX 2

Cleveland's Leonys Martin and Carlos Santana belted home runs to lead Cleveland to a win over host Chicago. Santana hit a solo shot in the sixth, and Martin popped a two-run homer in the seventh to break open a game that was 1-1 through five innings. The long balls helped the Indians end Chicago's AL-best five-game winning streak and earned Cleveland its first victory in the four-game series after dropping the first two. Chicago's Eloy Jimenez was 2-for-4 with a double, and Tim Anderson had a hit, a stolen base and a run scored. Leury Garcia and Yonder Alonso each had sacrifice flies.

TWINS 6, RAYS 2

Marwin Gonzalez and Byron Buxton each homered and drove in two runs and Kyle Gibson allowed only an unearned run over five innings to pick up his fourth win in five starts to lead Minnesota to a victory over Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla. It marked the 25th consecutive game that Minnesota scored three or more runs in a game, breaking the single-season franchise record set in 2006. The Twins, who set a franchise record with 56 homers in May, clubbed two to increase their major league leading total to 108 and

nearly had a third when Miguel Sano doubled off the top of the right-field fence in the seventh. Christian Arroyo homered and Willy Adames and Austin Meadows each had two hits for Tampa Bay. Yonny Chirinos (6-2), who pitched five no-hit innings in his previous start against Toronto on Monday, gave up four runs on nine hits and a walk over 5 1/3 innings while striking out seven to pick up the loss.

GIANTS 8, ORIOLES 2

Brandon Belt drove in four runs and Buster Posey homered as visiting San Francisco defeated Baltimore. The Giants evened the score in the series after wasting a five-run first-inning lead on Friday and losing 9-6. San Francisco took the lead in the first on Saturday and never trailed. Belt had a pair of two-run hits (a single and a double), while Posey hit a solo homer, walked twice and scored three runs. San Francisco starter Shaun Anderson (1-1) earned his first major league victory. He went seven innings and gave up two runs on five hits. He walked one and struck out four. Orioles starter David Hess (1-7) lost his seventh straight game. The right-hander went four-plus innings and gave up seven runs on six hits, including one home run.

BRAVES 10, TIGERS 5

Mike Soroka's historic start to his rookie season ended, but outfielder Austin Riley's record start continued as Atlanta ended its three-game losing streak with a victory over visiting Detroit. Soroka (6-1) had not allowed more than one earned run in any of his first eight starts. He pitched 6 2/3 innings and allowed four runs (three earned) on seven hits, with no walks and five strikeouts. Soroka, who won his sixth consecutive decision, was trying to become the first pitcher in the live-ball era to open a season by allowing one or fewer earned runs over nine starts. Detroit starter Daniel Norris (2-4) took the loss. He allowed six runs (five earned) on six hits and one walk in 5 1/3 innings.

RANGERS 6, ROYALS 2

Texas outfielder Joey Gallo hit a two-run home run but came out of the game in the fifth inning with tightness in his left oblique in a win over visiting Kansas City in Arlington, Texas. The Rangers have won 21 of the past 26 games against the Royals, dating to July 2016. Gallo left during the middle of an at-bat, with a 3-2 count, after reaching for his side after checking his swing. The team said Gallo underwent an MRI exam after the game and was able to pass some strength tests. He hit his 17th home run of the season in the bottom of the fourth. Lance Lynn (7-4) gave up two runs on six hits in 6 1/3 innings to beat the Royals for the second time in as many chances this season. He struck out seven and didn't walk a batter. Homer Bailey (4-6) lasted just 3 2/3 innings for Kansas City, running into trouble in the fourth, when the Rangers broke a scoreless tie with four runs.



LOS ANGELES: Jean Segura #2 of the Philadelphia Phillies holds up his glove to the second base umpire after tagging Cody Bellinger #35 of the Los Angeles Dodgers at second base in the eighth inning of the MLB game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California. The Dodgers defeated the Phillies 4-3. — AFP

NATIONALS 5, REDS 2

Gerardo Parra belted a three-run homer among his three hits as visiting Washington posted a victory over Cincinnati. Matt Adams homered in the fourth inning and Brian Dozier also went deep to lead off the ninth as the Nationals recorded their sixth win in eight outings. Former Reds pitcher Tanner Rainey (1-1) did not allow a hit and struck out three batters in 1 1/3 scoreless innings. Former Nationals pitcher Tanner Roark (4-4), who was acquired in a trade for Rainey on Dec. 13, 2018, launched his first career homer and also drove in a run with a squeeze bunt for Cincinnati. He was victimized by the pair of homers he allowed after surrendering just two in his previous 11 starts this season.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, METS 5 (11)

Tim Lincecum drove in the winning run with a single to deep center field and Arizona overcame a four-run deficit for a 6-5, 11-inning victory over visiting New York, breaking a five-game losing streak. Pinch hitter Kevin Cron doubled to open the 11th inning off Tyler Bashlor (0-3) and took third on Nick Ahmed's sacrifice bunt before Alex Avila was intentionally walked. The Mets played a five-man infield for Lincecum, whose long fly ball drove in the winner. Adam Jones had two hits, including his 12th homer, a two-run shot that capped a four-run eighth inning and tied the score at 5. Jarrod Dyson and Ildemaro Vargas also had two hits for Arizona. Todd Frazier and Dominic Smith homered for

the Mets, who lost for the fourth time in six games.

CARDINALS 7, CUBS 4

Matt Wieters hit a tiebreaking double in the sixth inning, and St. Louis held on to beat visiting Chicago. Dexter Fowler and Kolten Wong also drove in one run apiece during the go-ahead sixth, which followed a lengthy rain delay of 3 hours and 37 minutes. The teams resumed play on a soggy field with a smattering of fans remaining for the finish. Paul Goldschmidt, Harrison Bader and Fowler homered for St. Louis. Anthony Rizzo and Jason Heyward each hit solo homers to lead the Cubs, who have lost two in a row, five of six and seven of nine.

YANKEES 5, RED SOX 3

Gary Sanchez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer with two outs in the fifth inning and New York continued its surge with a victory over Boston at Yankee Stadium. The Yankees improved to 4-0 this season against the Red Sox and moved 9 1/2 games in front of third-place Boston in the American League East. New York also won its third straight, won for the 15th time in the last 18 games, improved to 32-10 in its last 42 games and claimed its ninth straight series. Sandy Leon had three hits, including two RBI singles, for the Red Sox, who lost their fourth straight and dropped back to .500 at 29-29. Xander Bogaerts also homered, his 11th of the season, among his three hits for Boston, which lost for the sixth time in eight games. — Reuters

Kaymer builds two-shot lead at Memorial

WASHINGTON: Former world number one Martin Kaymer closed in on his first title in almost five years Saturday, firing a six-under par 66 to take a two-shot lead over Adam Scott in the US PGA Tour's Memorial Tournament.

Germany's Kaymer hasn't won since his 2014 US Open triumph at Pinehurst, battling shoulder and wrist injuries along with a loss of focus and confidence as he slipped to his current 186th in the world. But Kaymer didn't put a foot wrong on the Muirfield Village course in Dublin, Ohio, nabbing six birdies without a bogey for a 15-under par total of 201.

Australia's Scott, another former major champion who hasn't won in more than three years, had seven birdies in his 66, using a spectacular approach at the tough 18th hole to set up a three-foot finishing birdie.

Scott's 54-hole total of 203 put him two shots in front of a trio of players headed by three-time major winner Jordan Spieth and including Japan's Hideki Matsuyama and American Patrick Cantlay.

Matsuyama produced the best score of the day, capping his 64 with a chip-in for birdie from dense rough at 18. Cantlay carded a 68 and Spieth a 69.

Kaymer, who shared the overnight lead with South Korean rookie Lee Kyoung-hoon and American Troy Merritt, pulled away methodically as Lee's hot start gave way to a tough back nine and Merritt failed to fire.

Lee pulled away with four birdies in the first five



DUBLIN: Martin Kaymer of Germany watches his tee shot on the 17th hole during the third round of the Memorial Tournament Presented by Nationwide at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. — AFP

holes. But he bogeyed four of five from the seventh through the 11th to fade to six off the lead.

Kaymer, meanwhile, drained a 14-foot birdie putt at the third, and stuck it close for birdies at the ninth and 11th before rolling in a long birdie bomb at the 13th. Birdies at 15 and 16 stretched his lead, and he said he'd try to take the same approach today.

"I said to my caddie today on the range a very true thing, you know it doesn't really matter if you are 60th and play 18 holes or you lead the tournament and play 18 holes, the 18 holes don't change," Kaymer said.

"That will be my same attitude tomorrow: stay in control of the golf ball, hit fairways, hit greens, use the chances that will appear and see what hap-

pens." Scott's lone bogey was a three-putt at the ninth hole, and the Australian was confident he has the game to win again.

"I'm just going to play as good as I can tomorrow," Scott said. "I feel like my game is at a level that if I put it all together properly and control myself out there, I can win." Matsuyama won his first US PGA Tour title at the Jack Nicklaus-hosted Memorial in 2014 and would like nothing better than to accept the trophy from the Golden Bear again. Tiger Woods was resigned to the fact that he won't be claiming a sixth Memorial title, lamenting half a dozen lip-outs and a double-bogey at the 10th hole that halted his momentum. He carded a two-under 70 that left him 11 adrift. — AFP

Newgarden wins rain-disrupted Detroit Grand Prix

LOS ANGELES: American Josef Newgarden reclaimed the IndyCar series lead with a victory in the rain-shortened first race in the Detroit Grand Prix double-header on Saturday. The Team Penske driver led the final 25 laps of the event on the 2.35 mile (3.78 Km), 14-turn temporary street course on Belle Isle Park.

Newgarden held off pole sitter Alexander Rossi by 0.8237 of a second for the victory. The start was delayed for more than an hour as thunderstorms moved through the area. Instead of covering 70 laps, the race was run as a 75-minute timed race with 43 laps completed when the chequered flag waved to signal Newgarden's victory.

Rossi led the first 18 laps on the drying track. Newgarden was running fourth when he became one of the first drivers to pit for dry-condition slick tires and benefited when a full-course caution was called as he entered pit lane after Ed Jones slid into a barrier.

Newgarden inherited the lead when Rossi and the other frontrunners made their stops for new tires two laps later and never gave it up. He claimed the 12th win of his IndyCar career and second this year to go with a victory in the season opener at St. Petersburg, Florida, in March.

Newgarden also vaulted past Penske teammate Simon Pagenaud-winner of the Indianapolis Grand Prix and the Indianapolis 500 in May-into the championship lead after seven of 17 races. Coming off his victory in America's most fabled race, Pagenaud finished sixth on Saturday. The second race of the Detroit double-header is today. — AFP

Reds coach endorses Jaguares in Super Rugby

BRISBANE: Queensland Reds coach Brad Thorn says Super Rugby teams should embrace the challenge of playing the Jaguares, who have faced flak for fielding what is essentially the Argentinian national team. The franchise headed into their clash with the

Reds on Saturday defending themselves from calls to be booted out of the competition for having an unfair advantage with so many Pumas in their ranks.

But All Blacks great Thorn said less experienced players could only benefit from facing quality opposition. "There's a lot of Test players, but good, bring it on, let's have a Test match," he told reporters after the Jaguares proved too good in a 34-23 win.

The Argentinians made a host of changes for the match, but were able to call on an experienced selection of reserve forwards to ensure victory after a tight first half. "It's good competition, they can bring some Test players off the bench and we embrace that," said Thorn.

"Yeah, it had an impact on the game but I like my guys mixing with that. Taste it, embrace it, learn from it and get better from it. We want to play them. We weren't quite ready for them but where we're going, I don't want any of those good teams going away."

The Jaguares, the only team from Argentina in the southern hemisphere tournament, have emerged as a force this year. They have won seven out of their last eight to top the South African conference by six points with two games to play, keeping them on track for a first-ever home quarter-final in Buenos Aires.

On Friday, coach Gonzalo Quesada described calls for them to be kicked out of Super Rugby as "disappointing" and denied they had an unfair advantage. It

followed Wallabies great Phil Kearns claiming the team was a de facto national side and had "hood-winked" governing body SANZAAR, giving Argentina an edge by regularly playing together heading into this year's World Cup.

"We don't have enough players to have more than one franchise," said Quesada. "We don't have the infrastructure or players. We struggle to have a competitive team and that's the reality." Reds captain Samu Kerevi also threw his support behind keeping the Jaguares in Super Rugby.

"You don't want those type of teams going away, you want to mix it with them. It's an awesome challenge out there," he said. — AFP

Sports

Ruiz shocks Joshua for three heavyweight world titles

Ruiz knocks Joshua down twice in third round and twice more in seventh

NEW YORK: Anthony Joshua's bid to make a splash in his US debut ended in misery for the three belt heavyweight world champion with a stunning loss to underdog Andy Ruiz at Madison Square Garden on Saturday.

Ruiz recorded a monster upset, by knocking down Britain's Joshua four times to take the World Boxing Association, International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organization titles. The 29-year-old Ruiz came into the fight as a massive 32-1 underdog. But he won it by TKO in the middle of the seventh when the referee stopped it at 1:26 of the round after the fourth knockdown.

Ruiz, sent to the canvas once himself, knocked Joshua down twice in the third round and twice more in the seventh. "I still can't believe it. I am still pinching myself to see if this is real," Ruiz said. Joshua (22-1, 21 KOs) had a massive height and reach advantage as he weighed in at a chiselled 247 pounds (112.4 kilos) alongside the portly Ruiz, who beefed up to 268 pounds compared to 250 for his most recent fight.

Ruiz, who has won four fights in a row, looked fearless and poised while Joshua—who delivered 21 knockouts in his 22 victories—never seemed to recover from the first knockdown early in the third.

"Ruiz won fair and square but I know Anthony Joshua's work ethic. Great fighters come back and improve," said Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn. Ruiz (33-1, 22 KOs) has been underestimated because of his physique, but he knew what was at stake and how fortunate he was to get a second chance at a world title.

He was a late replacement for Jarrell Miller, who withdrew from the bout with Joshua after failing three drug tests in April. "Everything is possible man. Look at me, I just made history," Ruiz said.

Joshua was knocked down for the first time in the third when Ruiz hit him with a left hook to the temple. Realizing he had the champ in trouble, Ruiz then charged forward and got the second knockdown by connecting on a straight right.

Joshua got up at the count of eight but it was late in the round and he was saved by the bell. "The speed got him," said Ruiz. Ruiz was the first to go to the mat when he got hit by a left hook from Joshua earlier in the third.

Joshua got up after the third knockdown and fourth knockdowns in the seventh but he spat out his mouth-guard and the referee waived it off while he leaned on the ropes. Joshua needed medical attention after the bout and did not attend the post fight news conference.

Joshua, who won a gold medal at the 2012 Olympics, was coming off a nine-month layoff since knocking out Alexander Povetkin in September.

Ruiz's ambush win is being hailed by some as one of the major upsets in heavyweight history, ranking with 42-1 underdog Buster Douglas knocking out Mike Tyson in 1990 and Leon Spinks' 15-round split decision over Muhammad Ali in 1978.

"We did an upset, just exactly what I have been saying from all the people that doubted me, I just proved them wrong," Ruiz said. Ruiz, who was born in San Diego and carries a US passport, considers himself Mexican and is now the first heavyweight champion of Mexican descent.

"I think Mexico has a champ in every weight and now we have a heavyweight champion. I am so happy," said Ruiz. The loss will be devastating for the career of Joshua who was looking past Ruiz for a superfight unification showdown with WBC champion Deontay Wilder.



NEW YORK: Andy Ruiz Jr. knocks down Anthony Joshua in the seventh round during their IBF/WBA/WBO heavyweight title fight at Madison Square Garden in New York City. — AFP

Together with Briton Tyson Fury they are trying to revive the sport's prestige division but the inability to get them together in the ring had left a sour taste in the mouth of boxing fans. One of the first to pile on Joshua was Wilder who tweeted, "He wasn't a true champion. His whole career was consistent of lies,

contradiction and gifts now we know who was running from who!!!!"

Fury was less critical, tweeting "We have our back and Forth's but @anthonyfjoshua changed his stars through life, heavyweight boxing. These things happen, rest up, recover, regroup and come again." — AFP

Bruins ride power play to Game 3 win over Blues

ST LOUIS: It's hard to do any better than the Boston Bruins did with the man advantage in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup Final on Saturday night. Defenseman Torey Krug's goal and three assists led a dominant effort as Boston took a 2-1 series lead with a 7-2 rout of the St. Louis Blues at Enterprise Center.

Patrice Bergeron added a goal and two assists for the Bruins, who also got a goal and an assist each from Charlie Coyle and Marcus Johansson. Joakim Nordstrom chipped in with a pair of assists. Boston was so efficient on the power play that it needed just 2:06 to convert all of its opportunities.

"I can tell you as a penalty-killer in practice, it's hard to compete against those guys," left wing Jake DeBrusk said. "I can tell you they're a lot of fun to watch. I have a lot of respect for the way they move the puck. They're really good and talented players, and they find options all over the ice."

Game 4 is today night in St. Louis, and the Blues have to equalize in order to avoid an elimination scenario in Game 5 on Thursday night in Boston. The Blues will get center Oskar Sundqvist back after he was suspended from Saturday night's game for boarding Matt Grzelcyk in Game 2 on Wednesday.

They'll also need a bounce-back game from rookie goalie Jordan Binnington, who was pulled after Krug's man-advantage marker at 12:12 of the second period made it 5-1 Bruins. Binnington stopped just 14 of 19 shots, getting little help from a defense that made a spate of errors in its zone.

"Five goals ... I'd seen enough," said St. Louis interim coach Craig Berube. "But my confidence level in him is really high." Hosting its first finals game since 1970, St. Louis brought out the big guns. Olympic legend Jackie Joyner-Kersey, current NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes, former Rams superstar Isaac Bruce and actor Jon Hamm were among the celebrities waving rally towels in an electric building.

The Blues fired the first five shots at net, not allow-



ST LOUIS: Jake Allen #34 of the St. Louis Blues tends net against the Boston Bruins during the third period in Game Three of the 2019 NHL Stanley Cup Final at Enterprise Center in St. Louis, Missouri. — AFP

ing Boston to get a shot on goal for more than six minutes. But the game's shape changed shortly after David Perron went off for interference against Jake DeBrusk at 10:26.

Twenty-one seconds later, Bergeron deflected Krug's point shot past Binnington. Then the real trouble started for St. Louis in a 3:01 span bridging the first and second periods. Coyle wired a wrist to Binnington's glove at 17:40 for a 2-0 lead. Fourth-line center Sean Kuraly beat Binnington from the top of the right circle at 19:50. Berube challenged the goal for coming on an offside play, but he lost the challenge, which gave the Bruins a power play on a minor penalty for delay of game.

David Pastrnak cashed in 41 seconds into the second period with a backhand at the left post to make it 4-

0. The raucous arena was suddenly as quiet as a school library on a Friday afternoon.

"We try to exploit certain areas," Boston coach Bruce Cassidy said of his team's power play. Ivan Barbashev offered the Blues a lifeline with his third playoff goal at 11:05 of the second, but Krug took it away just 31 seconds into the Bruins' third man advantage. Jake Allen relieved Binnington and faced only four shots, saving three.

Colton Parayko's power play blast from the point at 5:24 of the third period pulled St. Louis within 5-2. But Noel Acciari scored into an empty net at 18:12, and Johansson added a man-advantage tally 23 seconds later to cap the scoring. Boston goalie Tuukka Rask made 27 saves. — Reuters

Australia to give Windies taste of own medicine: Nathan

LONDON: West Indies used plenty of short-pitched deliveries to dismantle Pakistan in their Cricket World Cup opener but the Caribbean batsmen will get a taste of their own medicine when they face champions Australia, fast bowler Nathan Coulter-Nile has said. A blistering Oshane Thomas-led pace attack swept Pakistan away for a dismal 105 in under 22 overs on Friday as West Indies wrapped up an easy seven-wicket victory at Trent Bridge.

Aaron Finch-led Australia also notched up a convincing seven-wicket victory over Afghanistan in Bristol on Saturday and will next face the exciting West Indies. "You've got to give it (bouncers) to the Windies, otherwise they just get on the front foot and pogo you everywhere," the 31-year-old told reporters.

"We'll definitely give it to them, we give it to every team. You've got to use your two (permitted bouncers per over). "The grounds are so small and the wickets are generally pretty flat, so you've got to use bouncers when you can."

Early matches have shown that short-pitched bowling could be a recurring theme in England and West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell said his team would take a similar approach against Australia. The defending champions will also have to contend with an explosive West Indies batting line-up led by opener Chris Gayle. The former captain recently returned to the ODI fold and proved he has lost none of his touch, despite approaching his 40th birthday, with a 34-ball 50 against Pakistan. — Reuters

'Special feeling' for Tahir in 100th ODI for S Africa

LONDON: Imran Tahir admitted it was hard to keep his emotions in check as the leg-spinner made his 100th one-day international appearance in World Cup clash against Bangladesh.

Tahir is only the second specialist spinner after Nicky Boje to reach a century of ODI caps for the Proteas. The 40-year-old is the oldest player in this edition of the World Cup and reaching the landmark of 100 matches was an emotional moment for him.

Tahir was born in Lahore but moved permanently from his native Pakistan, via a spell in Britain, after meeting his wife Sumayya during the 1998 Under-19 World Cup in South Africa. "It feels really special. If I look back I played my first game at the 2011 World Cup, it has been an amazing journey," Tahir said ahead of the match.

"I always dreamt about it but I never thought I would be here one day playing in my 100th game for South Africa. "It is an absolute honour to have been given the opportunity by Cricket South Africa and the lovely people from South Africa. I am grateful to everybody."

Tahir has been a spearhead of the Proteas'

attack since making his debut at the 2011 Cricket World Cup, with a career tally of 164 wickets at a strike-rate of 31. At 40 years and 64 days, he became the oldest South African to play in a World Cup match during their opening match defeat against England on Thursday.

"This means a lot to me, I could never express this in words. I am a guy who has come through a lot of hardships, I lost my parents without them seeing me play international cricket," he said. "This is special to me, especially for my family. I haven't seen my brother and sister for the last two years but they understand that this game I am playing is important to me."

"If I look back I am proud. I dreamt of this but never thought I would play with the legends and youngsters in this team." Tahir has re-written the records books on a number of occasions throughout his career.

He holds the record for the best ODI bowling figures for South Africa (seven for 45), is the fastest South African bowler to 100 wickets. And this week Tahir became the first spinner to bowl the first over of a World Cup match, striking second ball to dismiss England's Jonny Bairstow—a wicket that prompted his familiar semi-circle run in celebration.

"I am the kind of guy who likes challenges. I like to think that my captain can give me the ball in any situation and I will be the first guy to say yes," he added. "I am fully prepared and will be ready to bowl in any situation." — AFP

England play down 500 talk as their quicks eye Pakistan

LONDON: England may change a winning World Cup side by recalling fast bowler Mark Wood when they face Pakistan at Trent Bridge today. The ground is renowned as a batsman's paradise, with England having twice set the world record for the highest score in a one-day international — 444 for three against Pakistan in 2016 and last year's 481 for six-on the very pitch that will be used for Monday's match at Trent Bridge.

But Pakistan's batsmen had anything but an easy ride in Nottingham as they succumbed to a bouncer barrage from the West Indies that saw them slump to 105 all out and a comprehensive defeat in their opening match of the World Cup on Friday.

England, who launched their quest to win the World Cup for the first time with a 104-run rout of South Africa at the Oval in which fast bowler Jofra Archer starred may now, in the light of Pakistan's problems against short-pitched bowling, unleash Wood in partnership with the Sussex speedster.

"We're aware of what went on yesterday," England assistant coach Graham Thorpe said Saturday. "It was interesting viewing. "The West Indies bowled very well, they looked like they roughed Pakistan up," the former England batsman added.

"I think it (drafting Wood) will be discussed, to be honest. Wood has bowled a mere 13.1 overs since the start of the season amid fears his long-standing left ankle injury could flare up again.

But his ability, in common with Archer, to top speeds of 90 mph meant England thought he was worth the risk at the World Cup. England have risen to the top of the ODI rankings since their woeful first-round exit at the 2015 edition mainly as a result of piling on the runs.

But they showed they were more than 'flat-track bullies' with a score of 311 for eight on an awkward surface at the Oval before an attack led by Archer overwhelmed the Proteas. Scoring 500 in an ODI was once viewed as impossible but, given their recent record-breaking exploits, England could go close if they bat first at Trent Bridge today.

"It has generally always been a good pitch so we are looking forward to it," said Thorpe. "We didn't quite unlock the door in terms of our batting at the Oval, being able to let go because we kept losing wickets at crucial times so we had to keep trying to put on those mini-partnerships again and that was really good."

"It's the same thing coming here against Pakistan: if we get into a good position, we'll try to score as many as we can. But at the same time if it doesn't happen, you've got to put a competitive score on the board to put the opposition under pressure."

Pakistan, who've lost their last 11 ODIs—including a recent 4-0 series defeat by England—are braced for short-pitched stuff with Wahab Riaz defiantly insisting: "If people want to bowl us bouncers, then we will have no problems with that."

Today's match will also be an important test for what World Cup organisers insist will be improved procedures after thousands of frustrated fans were left queuing for hours on Friday, in some cases missing the entire Pakistan innings, as they waited to collect their match tickets. — AFP

Sports

Liverpool's Champions League party moves to England

Liverpool European champions for a sixth time

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's celebrations moved to their home city yesterday as tens of thousands of beary-eyed fans prepared to greet the team who beat Tottenham to win the Champions League final in Madrid the night before.

Mohamed Salah's second-minute penalty and Divock Origi's late strike secured a 2-0 win in the sweltering Metropolitan Stadium in Madrid to make Liverpool European champions for a sixth time.

It was a first trophy in seven years for the club and banished the memories of last year's bitter defeat to Real Madrid in the final in Kiev.

The win also represented a personal triumph for coach Jurgen Klopp, who finally snapped his run of six straight losses in cup finals. "We were all pretty much crying on the pitch, because it was so emotional, it was so big, it means so much to us," Klopp said.

Celebrations ran late into Saturday night in the Spanish capital and in Liverpool city centre, as ecstatic supporters danced drunkenly in the streets singing a repertoire of the club's fan anthems.

By lunchtime fans began streaming back onto the streets ahead of the team's trophy parade, which is set to begin in the suburbs at around 4:00 pm (1500 GMT) and work its way towards the city centre.

First victory since 2005

Supporters were staking out their spots Sunday lunchtime under leaden skies, already waving flags and blowing horns. "We left home at quarter to six and we're not moving now," said Mark Jeffrey, 47, in a prime position with his 12-year-old son, who live around 115 miles away in central England.

"It's another five hours but no way are we moving. I missed it in 2005 because they did the parade on a Monday so I wasn't going to miss this year," he added of Liverpool's last European cup triumph 14 years ago.

The Hodgetts family—dad Mark, 47, son Shane and

daughter Keira, 16 — from central England were also in place with special edition flags at the ready.

"We wanted to get tickets for Madrid, but obviously this is the next best thing," said Mark Hodgetts.

"We just wanted to feel the atmosphere, we've been waiting so long - my daughter was only two when we last won it," he added.

The team returned to tabloid headlines declaring the "Joy of Six", in the Mail and Sunday, and "Six Machines", in the Sunday Mirror.

Liverpool's sixth success in Europe's top club trophy came after wins in 1977, 1978, 1981, 1984 and the memorable come-from-behind victory against AC Milan in Istanbul in 2005. The Sunday Times hailed Klopp for introducing steely discipline into Liverpool's play this year, turning an all-out attacking team that often leaked goals into European champions.

"Game management is the biggest item Jurgen Klopp added to the armoury since desolation in last year's final in Kiev," Northcroft said.

Salah's redemption

Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah, who scored a penalty awarded in the first minute for a disputed handball from Moussa Sissiko, said he had drawn motivation from the disappointment of last year's final match in which he trudged off in tears with a shoulder injury. "Before the game, I looked at a picture of last year and we were so disappointed to lose the final," Salah said.

"I was very disappointed after that injury, I went off after 30 minutes and we lost the game. It motivated me to win today. When you know how it feels to lose, you say to yourself 'Let's go and win that.'"

Liverpool's success also underlined the financial muscle of the Premier League, made rich by TV contracts that dwarf other European leagues.

Dutch central defender Virgil van Dijk, signed for



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's English midfielder Jordan Henderson (C) holds the European Champion Clubs' Cup trophy during an open-top bus parade around Liverpool, north-west England yesterday, after winning the UEFA Champions League final football match between Liverpool and Tottenham. — AFP

£75 million (\$95 million, 84.5 million euros), and Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker, a £65 million recruit from Roma, both played crucial roles in Liverpool's success.

Klopp revealed he had received a congratulatory call from Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola.

Three weeks ago, Liverpool were denied a first league title in 30 years by Abu Dhabi-backed City, despite losing just once all season.

"We promised each other already that we will kick our butts next year again," Klopp said of his conversation with Guardiola. "We will go for everything and we'll see if we get something."

Tottenham coach Mauricio Pochettino said he was proud of his team, who defied the odds to reach the final: "When you live this experience you want to do it again. I hope we can do it again in the future." — AFP

Neymar denies he raped woman after allegations

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil and Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar yesterday denied raping a woman who accused him of sexually assaulting her at a Paris hotel, with his father claiming he is the victim of blackmail.

According to a complaint filed with Sao Paulo police and reported by the UOL and GloboEsporte websites, the world's most expensive footballer is accused of "using violence to have sex with the victim without her consent."

"I am accused of rape, it's a big word, it's very strong, but that is what has happened," Neymar said in a seven-minute video posted on Instagram. "It surprised me, it's a really ugly thing and a sad thing because anyone who knows me knows what kind of person I am and knows I would never do such a thing."

Neymar, 27, then showed what he said was a long series of WhatsApp messages with the woman, including topless photographs of her in bed. He added: "These are intimate moments but it is necessary to make them public to prove that nothing really happened."

The unidentified woman, who lives in Brazil, allegedly met Neymar through Instagram, and after exchanging messages, the footballer invited her to visit him in Paris in mid-May. According to the complaint, Neymar arrived at the hotel "apparently intoxicated," and the two chatted and exchanged "caresses."

But then "he became aggressive and used violence to have sex with the victim without her consent," the document said. Neymar's father, who is also his agent, categorically



Neymar

denied the accusations in an interview with Brazilian broadcaster Bandeirantes.

"This is not true, he has never committed any crime," said Neymar Santos, arguing that his son was a victim of blackmail. "We have all the evidence and we already gave everything to the lawyers."

According to Neymar Santos, his son and the woman went on a date, but Neymar did not want to see her again. Since then, the woman has tried to extort money from the player and his family, he said.

"My son can be accused of many things, but I know what kind of man he is ... it's clear that this was a trap," he said, adding that the WhatsApp messages released by the player would exonerate him.

According to the media reports, the accuser was in Paris from May 15 to 17, but

waited until last Friday to file the complaint in Brazil because she was "emotionally shaken." Neymar, who was transferred to PSG from Barcelona for a world-record 222 million euros (\$248.5 million) in 2017, is currently in Brazil preparing for the Copa America, which takes place in the country from June 14 to July 7.

His 2018-2019 season with his club has been blighted by injury. Sao Paulo's security secretariat would not provide a copy of the woman's complaint to AFP, confirming only that one had been filed but saying its contents were classified.

Another star of world football, Cristiano Ronaldo, is facing allegations he raped a US woman in Las Vegas in 2009. The Portugal and Juventus player strongly denies the accusations. — AFP

The cart, which only operates between 11 pm and 3 am, is emblazoned with Sayed's red and green design - after the Liverpool football club logo. Liverpool's legendary anthem has been amended on the cart to read: "You'll never eat alone."

"There's no one who doesn't love Salah. We're avid football fans so the idea clicked one day while we were sitting around, and the response has been huge from the locals," he told AFP.

"As Egyptians we like to get together, especially during Ramadan, and have a communal meal. So the tagline came naturally and Sayed designed it perfectly."

Ahmed Adel, a 25-year-old engineer, spotted photos of the cart on Facebook in early May and has been a regular customer. He is circled every time by dozens of hungry patrons in a carnival-like atmosphere of loud music and football commentary on flat screen televisions.

Named after Liverpool's Swiss star, Shaqiri-sterma, a mix of eggs and pastrami, is his favourite. A dish named "Mo Salah" is also on the menu. "The food is great and the atmosphere is friendly," he said.

Ahmed, the food cart operator, said he was happy that his business had become a gathering point for the club's fans in the capital Cairo. "I'm a winner either way, it's not just about money for me," he said. — AFP

Klopp predicts more good times ahead for Liverpool

MADRID: A first trophy in seven years for Liverpool, and a first win in seven finals for Jurgen Klopp. The European Cup is heading back to Anfield for the sixth time and their manager is confident there is much more to come.

A beaming Klopp revealed after Saturday's 2-0 final victory over Tottenham Hotspur in Madrid that he had received a congratulatory phonecall from Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola.

Three weeks ago, the Reds were denied a first league title in 30 years by City, despite losing just once and racking up 97 points, but winning the Champions League makes up for that disappointment.

"We promised each other already that we will kick our butts next year again," Klopp said of his brief exchange with Guardiola in between speaking to the world's media at the Metropolitan Stadium. "We will go for everything and we'll see if we get something."

It was a sentiment shared by centre-back Virgil van Dijk as he spoke after being named man of the match in the final. "In July when we start again, everyone starts on nil and everyone's working towards their goals," he declared.

"Obviously we want to challenge for every trophy if possible. We have the squad for it, but you've also seen it this year, you still have to do it, and hopefully we can challenge Manchester City again next season for the title, because I don't think they will go anywhere, so we won't go anywhere either."

USA name 28-man squad ahead of Jamaica friendly

LOS ANGELES: US coach Gregg Berhalter has named a 28-man roster ahead of a friendly against Jamaica, part of the build-up to the CONCACAF Gold Cup. "The game against Jamaica will represent an opportunity for us to evaluate new prospects as well continue to develop the group for the Gold Cup," said Berhalter, who must submit the final 23-man squad for the regional championship on June 6.

The United States are the defending champions in the Gold Cup, which will kick off with a double-header at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, on June 15,

Liverpool had won nothing at all since defeating Cardiff City on penalties in the League Cup final in 2012. A trophy, but not on the same level as this. After losing the Europa League final in 2016 and last year's Champions League final against Real Madrid, Liverpool seized their chance this time thanks to Mohamed Salah's early penalty and Divock Origi's late strike.

This was already a club reborn under the German's management, but such a tangible reward was needed, three and a half years on from his arrival on Merseyside. "I'm interested really in development, but I get it, we have to win things, and so it's really important that people don't ask now all the time about not winning things," he said.

"Now we won something, and we will carry on, we want to win things, 100 percent. "This is only the start for this group, it's a wonderful age group, they still have the best times in their career still ahead of them, so that's big."

The former Borussia Dortmund coach has continually improved Liverpool in his time at the club, and nowhere was that more evident on Saturday than in goal. Twelve months after two hideous errors by Loris Karius cost them dear against Real, his replacement Alisson showed just why Liverpool were prepared to pay £66.8 million (75 million euros, \$84 million) to sign him from Roma as he made several key saves late in the game.

"He of course played a sensational game, he looked completely unbeatable pretty much," said Klopp. Van Dijk was again outstanding too, so good that it was put to him that he could be a contender to win this year's Ballon d'Or. It was not a great game and it was not a vintage Liverpool performance, but Klopp emphasised the importance of getting over the line. Now he will hope to strengthen again for next season, although they don't have long, with the new campaign starting on August 10. — AFP

when Canada play Martinique and seven-time champions Mexico face Cuba.

The United States are drawn in Group D with Panama, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago which will give them a chance to avenge the shock 2-1 defeat against Trinidad that in 2018 World Cup qualifying that saw the US miss the finals.

Veterans Jozy Altidore and Michael Bradley headline the list of 28 players, which also includes Manchester City-bound goalkeeper Zack Steffen. Two notable names not on the roster for the Jamaica friendly - Christian Pulisic and Tyler Adams - are expected to be named to the Gold Cup roster and will arrive later in camp having recently wrapped up their Bundesliga seasons.

Following the friendly against Jamaica and the final Gold Cup squad announcement, the United States will play one more friendly against Venezuela on June 9 in Cincinnati. They launch their Gold Cup campaign against Guyana in St. Paul, Minnesota on June 18. — AFP

Egyptian fans jubilant with Liverpool win, Salah's goal

CAIRO: Egyptian football fans were overjoyed on Saturday as Liverpool were crowned European champions after winning 2-0 against their English counterparts Tottenham Hotspur. Coming in as favourites, the Reds sealed the win and their sixth European Cup in a grinding game after Divock Origi fired home the team's second goal in the 87th minute.

Those gathered erupted with joy in unison after Mohamed Salah converted a penalty to open the scoring as early as the second minute. "I'm happy that Salah won because he's our son" said Seif Hegi, 21, a university student from Cairo.

"The match was like a typical Premier League game, that was highly defensive...but it's a huge feat because no other Egyptian footballer has achieved this before," he told AFP surrounded by throngs of boisterous

fans in a bustling cafe.

"This is a positive development for Egyptian soccer," he added. In a busy laneway in an upmarket suburb packed with cafes and cacophonous cries from ardent Liverpool fans, some 400 Egyptians cheered loudly with every touch of the ball for national icon Salah.

He is due to represent the North African heavyweights in the Africa Cup of Nations later this month. The slow moving match with a few chances picked up momentum in the last 20 minutes with more attempts at goal for both teams.

One of the few Spurs supporters in the Reds-dominated crowd Antoine Philip, 25, who works in an insurance company, was critical of the referee's performance. "That penalty was not right in the first minute. He should have gone to the VAR. Liverpool were undeserving but it's good progress for Tottenham to get this far," he said.

In anticipation of the final, other Egyptians paid tribute to the Reds feasting at the "Liverfuul" cart which serves up hot dishes of "fuul" (fava beans) in Ain Shams, a working-class suburb of Cairo.

Mohamed Ahmed, 31, a DJ turned street food entrepreneur, came up with the idea with friend Mohamed al-Sayed before the start of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of daytime fasting due to end next week.

25 Kaymer builds two-shot lead at Memorial Tournament



26 Ruiz shocks Joshua for three heavyweight world titles



27 Liverpool's Champions League party moves to England



PARIS: Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova returns the ball to Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova during their women's singles fourth round match on day eight of The Roland Garros 2019 French Open tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP

Federer marches on at French Open

Vondrousova also into quarters, sets up Martić clash

PARIS: Roger Federer made short work of Argentinian Leonardo Mayer to become the oldest man in 28 years to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final at the French Open yesterday. The 37-year-old, playing at Roland Garros for the first time since 2015, claimed a 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 win over world number 68 Mayer in a sweltering 32 degrees and will face either Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas or close friend and fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka in the last eight.

Federer, the 2009 champion in Paris, is the oldest man to make the quarter-finals of a Slam since Jimmy Connors at the 1991 US Open. "It's fabulous that I can spend this time in Paris," said Federer who last played the tournament in 2015 when he lost in the quarter-finals to Wawrinka.

Tsitsipas, meanwhile, defeated Federer in the last 16 of the Australian Open in January. "I was prepared for the worst scenario, losing in the first round in three sets. But I am super happy with my performance.

"I will need to play like this again against either Stan or Tsitsipas," Federer will be playing in his 54th quarter-final at a Slam, cementing his place on top of the all-time men's list. Despite leading Wawrinka 23-3 in career head-to-head meetings, Federer said he still remembers his quarter-final loss to his friend in Paris four years ago.

"I have a bad memory of it. Stan beat me in three sets with his terrible shorts! "But he played really great that year and won the title."

Federer didn't face a break point in the fourth round match against an outclassed world number 68 Mayer on Court Philippe Chatrier. Later yesterday, Rafael Nadal continues his bid for a record-extending 12th title against Argentinian Grand Slam debutant Juan Ignacio Londero.

In a wide-open women's draw after the shock exits of top seed Naomi Osaka and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams on Saturday, 19-year-old

Marketa Vondrousova reached her maiden major quarter-final by thrashing Anastasija Sevastova.

The unseeded Czech, ranked 38th, overcame a tame effort from Latvian 12th seed Sevastova, winning 6-2, 6-0 in only 59 minutes. "You can't expect you're going to play quarter-finals in a Grand Slam, but I played some tough matches," said Vondrousova. "I'm just happy with my game."

She will face 31st seed Petra Martić for a semi-final spot, after the Croatian followed up her third-round upset of second seed Karolina Pliskova by coming from a set down to beat Estonia's Kaia Kanepi.

The 28-year-old booked her place in the last eight of a Grand Slam for the first time with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 victory, recovering breaks of serve in both the second and third sets. British number one Johanna Konta continued her comfortable progress through the draw by seeing off Croatia's Donna Vekic in straight sets to reach her first Grand Slam quarter-final since

Wimbledon in 2017.

The 26th seed overpowered Vekic 6-2, 6-4 to set up a last-eight tie with either last year's runner-up Sloane Stephens or 2016 champion Garbine Muguruza. "I feel fortunate to have played in the why I did against a player like Donna," she said.

The 28-year-old had lost in the first round on all of her four previous appearances in the main draw in Paris, but has broken that hoodoo in style, becoming the first British woman to reach the second week since Anne Hobbs and Jo Durie in 1983.

On Saturday, Japanese star Osaka's bid for a third successive Grand Slam title found an underwhelming conclusion with an erratic display in defeat by Katerina Siniakova, before Williams crashed out in similarly poor fashion to fellow American Sofia Kenin.

At least five women will reach their first Roland Garros quarter-final this year, the first time that has happened since 2001. — AFP

Gasol adjusts quickly to make big impact for NBA Raptors

TORONTO: Marc Gasol dislikes speaking about himself, but the Spaniard is the talk of the NBA Finals for how well he's playing only four months after joining the Toronto Raptors.

The 34-year-old center, whose older brother Pau won two NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers, scored 20 points and grabbed seven rebounds in Toronto's 118-109 victory over Golden State in the best-of-seven opener.

"There's always a sort of kind of comfort when he's on the floor," Raptors forward Pascal Siakam said. "He's so smart and reads the defense and he's able to protect

the rim for us. It's definitely great to have him, a vet that's been through it."

Gasol went 6-of-10 from the floor, 2-of-4 from 3-point range when the Warriors "gave him a couple of dare shots and he knocked them down" in Golden State coach Steve Kerr's words.

"He turned himself into a very good 3-point shooter," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "Great passer. Very good defender at the rim. That pickup turned out to be huge for them."

The Raptors swung a February trade deadline deal to obtain Gasol, a two-time Olympic silver medalist and 2013 NBA Defensive Player of the Year, after he spent a decade in Memphis. Ask about the excitement of his first NBA Finals and he's as low-key as his chilled-out teammates.

"I don't get caught up in those things," he said. "I'm not doing that, I'm sorry." And the tension of the NBA's ultimate stage? "My brain doesn't function that way," he said. "You're playing basketball like you did your whole life and it's the most fun. You got to stay poised

during the whole game so your brain can't go anywhere else but every possession."

So Raptors coach Nick Nurse spoke of how Gasol handled tough times, praising his "strong ability" to bounce back. "He got into maybe one of the lowest points of his career in these playoffs," Nurse said. "He had a 1-for-9 game. People were basically writing him off."

"I did talk to him about it. He just didn't waver at all. 'Tomorrow, it's going to be great,' was his answer. I told him several times: 'You're a great player because you've lifted the level of who our team thinks they can be and you lift the level of other players' play.' That's, to me, what great players do."

Fast tempo is Toronto's strength but Gasol's defensive work gives others freedom to attack. "He has been great," Raptors star Kawhi Leonard said. "He's a good rim protector. He has been guarding everybody. Another smart player on the floor that has been through the ups and downs of the NBA. Veteran guy who is just ready for the moment."

And his mellow attitude fits well on a selfless squad. "He's a true professional," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "Goes about his business. He blends in well. He's just an easygoing guy." Instead of slowing the Raptors, Gasol is a 7-footer who can launch fast breaks with his defensive work.

"You run at them and be aggressive," Gasol said. "To be able to run, you have to get stops. And to get stops, you have to communicate, be physical, do all the little things. Being physical starts with pressuring the ball. You have to do it all the time. You can't relax."

It's that relentless attitude Gasol sees as vital to a championship run. "It's about the mindset and trusting the guy next to you," Gasol said. "You cannot overreact. You have to cover a lot of ground, do a lot of talking, lot of running."

"It's how you stay in the moment and continue to play the next possession. Get one more stop. Get one more good shot. Eventually, you put enough of those together, you're going to have a pretty good chance of winning." — AFP