



EID GREETINGS

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan wishes HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Cabinet members, heads of states around the world, Kuwaitis, expatriates and our valued readers Eid Mubarak. Kuwait Times will not be published from June 5 to 8. Our next issue will be published on Sunday, June 9. However, readers can stay updated on breaking news and events on our digital media channels including our website www.kuwaittimes.net and on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.



We wish our readers
EID
Mubarak

Some construction companies, workers ignore 11am-5pm ban

Kuwaitis, expatriates urged to monitor and report violators



KUWAIT: Workers seen at a construction site in Salmiya. Construction workers continue to work outside, in the direct sun, all over Kuwait despite a ban on working outside from 11am-5pm. — Photo by Ben Garcia (See Page 3)

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Construction workers continue to work outside, in the direct sun, all over Kuwait despite a ban on working outside from 11 am - 5 pm having come into effect June 1. Kuwait Times visited some construction sites all around the country from Saturday and found many instances of laborers working outside in the middle of the day.

In Hawally, work continued at a building under construction near Al-Bahar Complex. A crane on top of the building was operating, while two men were loading and unloading sand. On one side of the building, three workers were engaged in walling work, while two other laborers were carefully fixing concrete slabs on the exterior part of the building. When Kuwait Times asked a worker why they were still working under the heat of the sun despite the ban, he only smiled and shook his head.

In Salmiya, Kuwait Times visited several construction areas and witnessed violations regarding the mid-day working hour ban. At 12:15 pm, this reporter witnessed three laborers working in direct sunlight at a construction site in Salmiya. None of the three wore safety helmets or protective gear of any kind. Nearby, men were in

the middle of installing a new billboard. Elsewhere in Salmiya, men continued to work outside at 1 pm on the facade of a new building under construction.

In another construction site, near the Fourth Ring Road, at 1:35 pm, this reporter saw the full blown construction work of some men doing the usual welding and steel bending while the rest are doing construction work of various stages of the building. Meanwhile, at past 3 pm in Farwaniya area, workers continued at an almost completed building despite the heat of the day.

The Public Authority for Manpower in Kuwait issued a directive informing all businesses and establishments to suspend outdoor work (of any kind) from June 1 till the end of Aug 2019 from 11 am till 5 pm. Average summer temperatures in Kuwait can record as high as 55C in the shade and much higher in direct sunlight. While many companies do comply with the ban, there continues to be widespread abuse and violations.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Society for Human Rights has urged all Kuwaitis and expatriates to monitor laborers forced to work during the daytime in the open in the summer period. People can check and report the violation via social media with photos and videos on 55643333.

Ramadan Kareem

Farewell Ramadan

By Dr Teresa Leshner

Although the hardship of Ramadan is about to end and festivities of Eid are about to begin, there will be sadness in every devout Muslim's heart that Ramadan has passed. Barely having had their last breakfast at sunset, they will immediately start looking forward to the next Ramadan and counting the months and weeks until it comes again. They will begin to greet one another with the phrase "Aasakom min awadah" which means, "May you repeat it."

Some people may tilt their head in confusion and wonder why would anyone look forward to a month of daily 16-hour fasts in 45 degree temperatures? What is so special about Ramadan? First of all, Ramadan is an opportunity to express your devotion to Allah. Everything on the earth was created for us, according to many verses in the Quran (eg 2:29).

Many use their time and the earth's resources to satisfy themselves through acquiring things, entertaining themselves and seeking sensual pleasures. Doing so is not necessarily forbidden but it shouldn't be the goal of one's life. So why were we created? Allah gave us life and He hopes that we will voluntarily give it back to him through worship and submission to His will.

Almost everything we do in life has some sort of return for us, even if it is done purely for Allah's sake. For example, when we give charity, others benefit and we feel their happiness too. But fasting in Ramadan is a chance to show our devotion to our Lord, because nobody benefits from the fast. Nobody even knows if you are fasting, so this expression of faith is purely for Allah.

Another reason many people are sad to bid Ramadan farewell is because the atmosphere of intensified worship and charity will pass, as well as the extra rewards that we are promised. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that one who fasts Ramadan with faith and hope in Allah's reward will have his past sins forgiven, and. One who prays at night in Ramadan with faith and hope in Allah's reward will also have his past sins forgiven.

And only in Ramadan can we experience Lailatul-Qadr, whose merit is worth a thousand months, according to the Quran. These holy days and nights are treasures to devout Muslims. And soon this unique holy season will end and life will go on as usual. I will miss Ramadan and all the lessons it teaches me. I have learned so much about myself - about how my body can adjust to extreme circumstances, and about how dedicated I can be when I am striving to accomplish something important.

I learn about my weaknesses too, and without the usual distractions, I am able to pinpoint specific attitudes and habits that I need to change. I will miss Ramadan for the brotherhood and sisterhood that is so apparent as Muslims join together in one great project, which is fasting for a month while striving to accomplish the most good and

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Eid - Kuwait style

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: After a month of fasting and worship, Eid Al-Fitr is here for people to gather and celebrate. The first thing Muslims all over the world do is head for Eid prayers held outdoors early in the morning, usually in open yards. In Kuwait, the most common tradition that is considered a must is the family gathering on the first day of Eid for lunch at the grandfather's house. Three or four generations gather for 'Zwarat Aleid', wearing new outfits.

In the evening, young people meet with friends to go to entertainment places such as cinemas and cafes, for bowling, pool or skating or to restaurants for dinner. Younger children go with their parents to play areas for kids. Some people choose to travel, while others

book chalets to spend the Eid holiday, which is five days long this year. Visiting cemeteries is another tradition during Eid, especially those whose relatives passed away recently or in the past few years. They visit their graves and pray for them.

In olden times, before the oil era, Kuwaiti girls used to apply henna on their hands the night before Eid, while women dyed their hair with henna. This tradition has died out (among Kuwaitis) in the present time, and only a few girls use henna. Shopping malls get crowded from the evening of the first day of Eid. Most malls also hold special celebrations and competitions for visitors. Visiting Failaka Island is also a good option for those who would like to do something different if they can't travel, especially if they prefer to stay overnight.

Britain rolls out royal red carpet for Trump, wife

LONDON: Britain rolled out the royal red carpet for Donald Trump yesterday but the pomp, pageantry and banquet with Queen Elizabeth looked set to be overshadowed by the US President's views on Brexit, the UK's next leader and a row over China's Huawei.

Trump and his wife, Melania, were greeted by the 93-year-old monarch at Buckingham Palace at the start of a three-day state visit which sees him feted with the full force of royal ceremony: a formal dinner with the queen, tea with heir Prince Charles, and a tour of

Westminster Abbey, coronation church of English monarchs for 1,000 years.

"I look forward to being a great friend to the United Kingdom, and am looking very much forward to my visit," Trump wrote on Twitter as he landed at London's Stansted Airport. But beyond the theatre, the proudly unpredictable 45th US president is rocking the boat with the United States' closest ally, whose political establishment has been in chaos for months over Britain's departure from the European Union.

As he was flying into the British capital, he reignited a feud with London Mayor Sadiq Khan - who had written on Sunday that Britain should not be rolling out the red carpet for the US president - describing him as a "stone cold loser. The state visit, promised by Prime Minister Theresa May back in January 2017 when she became the first foreign

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KUWAIT: Kuwaiti children distribute sweets and chocolates ahead of Eid Al-Fitr. Muslims around the world are celebrating the Eid Al-Fitr holiday, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II shakes hands with US President Donald Trump during a welcome ceremony at Buckingham Palace in central London yesterday. — AFP

Scientists edit chicken genes

LONDON: Scientists in Britain have used gene-editing techniques to stop bird flu spreading in chicken cells grown in a lab - a key step towards making genetically-altered chickens that could halt a human flu pandemic. Bird flu viruses currently spread swiftly in wild birds and poultry, and can at times jump into humans.

Global health and infectious disease specialists cite as one of their greatest concerns the threat of a human flu pandemic caused by a bird flu strain that makes such a jump and mutates into a deadly and airborne form that can pass

easily between people. In the latest study, by editing out a section of chicken DNA inside the lab-grown cells, researchers from Imperial College London and the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute prevented the bird flu virus from taking hold in the cells and replicating.

The next step will be to try to produce chickens with the same genetic change, said Mike McGrew of the Roslin Institute, who co-led the research. The findings were due to be published in the scientific journal eLife on June 4. "This is an important advance that suggests we may be able to use gene-editing techniques to produce chickens that are resistant to bird flu," McGrew said in a statement.

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7th Ring: Speed limit reduced to 60 km/h

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: With reconstruction works ongoing on the Seventh Ring Road, the speed limit has been reduced to only 60 km/h instead of the previous 120 km/h. Most drivers are not aware of this change, especially since the signs placed on the road are not conspicuous, and not even in the regular colors of red and

white or blue and white. This has resulted in thousands of speed violations. The Interior Ministry announced registering 13,059 speed violations between May 24 and 30, 2019 on the Seventh Ring Road by traffic cameras.

Notably, the Interior Ministry's relations and security information department had released a statement on Saturday in which it denied rumors circulating on social media about changing the speed limit on Seventh Ring Road from 120 km/h. It said this measure is limited to areas where repairs are being carried out, and the speed is gradually reduced from 120 to 80 to 60 km/h. The speed limit then goes up to 120 km/h after passing the maintenance area.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Socotra cormorants are seen at a beach in Kuwait as they pass through the country during their migration season. — Photo by Ghazi Qafaf (KUNA)

Christians and Muslims: Promoting Universal Fraternity

Dear Muslim Brothers and Sisters,

The month of Ramadan with its dedication to fasting, prayer and almsgiving, is also a month for strengthening the spiritual bonds we share in Muslim-Christian friendship. I am pleased, therefore, to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and fruitful celebration of Ramadan.

Our religious invite us to "remain rooted in the values of peace, to defend the values of mutual understanding, human fraternity and harmonious coexistence; to re-establish wisdom, justice and love" (cf. Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, Abu Dhabi, 4 February 2019).

We Muslims and Christians are called to open ourselves to others, knowing and recognizing them as brothers and sisters. In this way, we can tear down walls raised out of fear and ignorance and seek together to build bridges of friendship that are fundamental for the good all humanity. We thus cultivate in our families and in our political, civil and religious institutions, a new way of life where violence is rejected, and the human person respected.

We are encouraged, therefore, to continue advancing the culture of dialogue as a means of cooperation and as a method of growing in knowledge of one another. In this context, I recall that Pope Francis, during his visit to Cairo, highlighted three fundamental guidelines for pursuing dialogue and knowledge among people of different religions: "the duty of identity, the courage of otherness and the sincerity of intentions" (Address to the participants in the International Conference for peace, Al-Azhar Conference Center, Cairo, 28 April 2017).

In order to respect diversity, dialogue must seek to promote every person's right to life, to physical integrity, and to fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of conscience, of thought, of expression and of religion. This includes the freedom to live according to one's beliefs in both the private and public spheres. In this way, Christians and Muslims – as brothers and sisters – can work together for the common good.

It is my wish that the gesture and message of fraternity will find an echo in the hearts of all those holding positions of authority in the areas of social and civil life of the whole human family, and may lead all of us to put into practice not merely an attitude of tolerance but true and peaceful living together.

With heartfelt fraternal greetings, renewed esteem for our friendship, and in the name of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, I convey sincere best wishes for a fruitful month of Ramadan and a joyous 'Id al-Fitr'.

From the Vatican
Bishop Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, M.C.C.J.,
Secretary



KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways announced launching the 'Ask Me' robot service for passengers' assistance at the Terminal 4 (T4) in collaboration with the National Bank of Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Farwaniya Municipality recently carried out a cleaning campaign around shops in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Hasawi, Farwaniya and Khaitan, during which tons of fruits, vegetables, foodstuff and used furniture were confiscated from unlicensed markets.

Armenian envoy sends Eid greetings

KUWAIT: Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Kuwait Sarmen Baghdasarian extended his heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti people and all expatriates residing in Kuwait on the advent of Eid Al-Fitr.



Sarmen Baghdasarian

Health Ministry ready for Eid Al-Fitr holiday

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health's (MoH) assistant undersecretary for medical support services Dr Fawwaz Al-Refae said the ministry's medical emergencies department is fully prepared for the Eid Al-Fitr holiday. Refae added that a special plan had been set, starting with setting up a clinic and first aid center for Eid prayers at the Grand Mosque, in addition to further first aid points at various Eid prayer sites.

In addition, Refae said that over 75 medical posts will be set up throughout Kuwait and on highways to serve visitors of chalets and ranches. He noted air ambulances are on alert to provide medical help when needed in remote areas and islands, in addition to a fleet of 206 ambulances and special emergency plans at various hospitals and medical centers.

Outdoor construction works continue despite ban



KUWAIT: Workers are seen at a Farwaniya construction site (Block 1, Near Omariya) at 3:00 pm.



Construction workers at a building in front of Al-Bahar Mall in Hawally at 11:16 am.— Photos by Ben Garcia



A worker is seen in Hawally at 11:20am (in front of Al-Bahar Mall).



Workers in Salmiya on 4th Ring Road near the fire station at 12:45pm.



Workers remove debris at the Hawally Court Complex near the Cathedral of Coptic Church at 12:00 pm.



Mariam Al-Aqeel

Non-Kuwaiti employees in govt dropped

KUWAIT: The number of non-Kuwaiti employees in the government has dropped, as the replacement policy is being implemented in government departments linked to integrated systems. Non-Kuwaiti employees in the public sector now number 81,817 after they reached 114,000 some years back, which is a 28 percent fall. State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel said non-Kuwaiti employees are of various nationalities, with 4,273 Gulf nationals, 46,968 Arabs, 183 Europeans, 27,708 Asians, 207 Africans, 196 Americans and nine Australians, in addition to 2,273 bedoons.

Based on the new numbers, there is a noticeable drop in the number of non-Kuwaiti employees working in state departments compared to previous years, as their current number is 81,817 after being 85,670 at the start of 2017, which means there is 4.5 percent drop. Compared to 2012, when their numbers were 114,890, non-Kuwaiti government employees have reduced by 28 percent in seven years. — Al-Rai

Kuwait following up on citizen's death in Germany

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait's Foreign Ministry is following up on the case of a Kuwaiti female citizen who was found dead in her apartment in one of the cities near Frankfurt, Germany, said a statement yesterday. In reaction to what has been circling on Social Media, the ministry's consulates department affirmed that it was looking into the matter in cooperation with the Kuwaiti consulate in Frankfurt and local Germany authorities to determine the cause of death. The statement added that a relative of the deceased was informed about the matter and visa procedures were facilitated for him to head to Germany. The ministry will continue to follow up on the investigations and measures are underway to bring back the remains of the departed to Kuwait, said the statement, indicating that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to extend its condolences to the family and relatives of the deceased. — KUNA

Ministry denies object found in Doha mosque

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry said claims on social media about a foreign object found inside the women's prayer area of Abu Talha Al-Ansari Mosque in Doha are untrue. The ministry said the Capital mosques' department coordinated with the interior ministry, the mosque was evacuated and nothing suspicious was found.

Two fires

Fire broke out in a Jahra mall, so firemen responded, led by Maj Ibrahim Al-Sabra and Maj Thamer Al-Mutairi. The fire was in the basement of the complex. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Meanwhile, a Salmiya building was on fire, so Bidaa and Salmiya fire stations responded, led by Lt Col Khalifa Al-Suwaidi and Maj Bader Al-Kandari. The eight-storey building was evacuated and the fire was put out.

Child found

A missing child was found inside a mosque in Fintas yesterday. Reports had circulated on social media about a boy who went missing after going out of his family's house alone. The boy's father eventually found him inside a mosque, according to police. In other news, the Interior Ministry announced that it launched an investigation into a citizen's claims that airport security officers failed to carry out their duties appropriately.

Kuwait calls for int'l efforts to face drug abuse

VIENNA: A Kuwaiti security official said yesterday that the issue of drug abuse and addiction requires international cooperation, pointing out that Kuwait is having success in tackling drug-related activities. Head of the support services department at Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MoI), Lieutenant Colonel Abdulaziz Bastaki said that the meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna discussed ways of fighting and preventing drug abuse.

Kuwait developed a comprehensive and integrated strategy, pointing out they discussed new strategies of fighting against psychotropic drugs and rehabilitating addicts, he underlined. This is a vital opportunity to exchange information and experiences with those from different countries of the world, addressing drug abuse in addition to the latest solutions, Bastaki said. The role of Kuwait's MoI is to rehabilitate users in civil institutions, he explained.

Kuwait and global efforts are setting out a strategy within the framework of the three international drug conventions, the UN Charter, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Bastaki pointed out. For the first time, Kuwait is participating in the meeting of the Vienna-based OSCE, invited by Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

The delegation of the Kuwaiti MoI participating in



KUWAIT: The scene inside a Jahra mall after a fire was tackled.



The scene inside a Salmiya building after a fire was extinguished.



VIENNA: Head of the support services department at Kuwait's Ministry of Interior Lieutenant Colonel Abdulaziz Bastaki takes part in the meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). — KUNA

the meeting presented by Bastaki, in addition to Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Al-Nisf from Kuwait's Drug Control General Department (DCGD). Several representatives from OIC Member States as well as representatives of international organizations, the private sector and media outlets are taking part in the session. — KUNA



Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled



Mike Pompeo

Kuwait FM receives phone call from US counterpart

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call Sunday from US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo. The two sides discussed developments in the region and international arena. — KUNA

Kuwait, Philippines discuss domestic helpers' issues

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: High ranking diplomatic sources said a meeting was held between Kuwait's Ambassador to the Philippines Musaed Al-Thuwaij and Philippines Labor Minister Silvestre Bello to discuss bilateral issues led by that of domestic helpers in Kuwait. The sources said both sides had remarks about the contract intended to be used to recruit labor from the Philippines and that a further meeting will be held between officials from both countries to discuss the matter. The sources stressed the body of a Filipina maid - suspected to have been murdered - was shipped to the Philippines a week ago and that the embassy is still waiting for the final forensics report about the cause of death.

Policewomen assaulted

A Jordanian woman was arrested for assaulting female police agents at the Grand Mosque, said security sources. The woman initially refused to be personally inspected by the policewomen, then quarreled with them and assaulted a female lieutenant colonel, a female lieutenant and a policewoman, the sources noted.

Excellent performance bonuses

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Saad Al-Kharraz said KD 200,000 had been cut from the excellent performance bonuses as the budget allocated for the bonuses was KD 1.7 million in 2015-2016 and dropped to KD 1.5 million in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry filed by MP Mohammed Al-Huwailah, Kharraz denied detecting any violations in paying the bonus, as the process is governed by preset regulations of the Civil Service Commission. Karraz said 377 non-Kuwaiti employees received the bonus in 2016, 253 in 2017 and 236 in 2018.

Healthcare centers

The Ministry of Health announced that 44 healthcare centers would be working during Eid Al-Fitr holiday across all areas. In a press statement yesterday, head of the ministry's primary healthcare department Humoud Al-Zaabi said that there would be nine centers working in Farwaniya district and seven in Hawally district. He added that there are also six centers in Al-Asimah district, 15 in Ahmadi and seven centers in Jahra.

Local

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
Ramadan, Kareem

History of Kuwait



KUWAIT: A scene from the vicinity of Mubarak's kiosk, located inside the Mubarakiya Market, as it appeared in the 1960s. Bicycles, old shops and people in their traditional clothes are seen in the picture. The kiosk was built in 1897. (Source: KOC's photo album from the 1970s. Researched by Mahmoud Zakaria, Researcher in Heritage, the Ministry of Information)



KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) personnel distributed Ramadan gifts and meals to worshippers after the Friday and qiyam prayers at mosques around Kuwait.



'Giving' makes you happier than you expect'

By Faten Omar

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.

Ali Al-Moqadem, a 22-year-old student of Arab Open University, spoke about the things that define Ramadan, which make it the best month of the year for him. "Everything is open until sunrise, Ramadan's special drinks, the amazing food when you break your fast with your family, the different kinds of sweets every day, and most restaurants and cafes trying to build up the best atmosphere in this month," he said.

He added that friends and family exchange visits to have a feast together, which is an opportunity to meet people you haven't seen for a long time. "Also, I love the scene of people distributing dates and water in the streets for fasters who are late for iftar. Although



sometimes these people are not Muslims, they dedicate themselves to help Muslim brothers who are fasting," Moqadem said.

"I started charity work four years ago. It is an amazing deed that makes you understand that giving will make you happier than you expect. Last year, I volunteered with LOYAC and they had a special program for Ramadan. It gave me the opportunity to visit orphans and play with them. We also visited an elderly care home and had a good time with some wise people, who gave lessons from their experiences in life. We also visited cancer patients at the hospital and tried to make them smile - to forget for a moment their pain. These are my favorite memories of Ramadan," Moqadem explained.

KFH contributes in organizing qiyam prayer in 5 mosques

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) received praise and recognition for its efforts in contributing in organizing the qiyam prayer and providing hospitality service to worshippers and the personnel in 5 mosques across Kuwait.

This comes as part its Ramadan program 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 5,' that reflects the commitment in the corporate social responsibility and efforts to strengthen ties with the all segments of the society, especially in the month of Ramadan.

KFH voluntary team worked in collaboration with the concerned parties to organize qiyam prayer at these Mosques. KFH continues this efforts until last day of Ramadan.

Moreover, it concluded 'Feed the Fasting' campaign in distributing daily 1000 iftar meals in different locations in Kuwait. KFH voluntary team prepared and distributed iftar meals daily at six locations, in addition to the participation with Ramadan Aman campaign for distributing iftar meals.

KFH's Ramadan program 'Increase Good

Deeds in Ramadan 5' includes various visits and voluntary work, social and humanitarian events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and humanitarian initiatives.

KFH's efforts in Ramadan underline the bank's pioneering role in the social responsibility, while contributing in strengthening the social ties. KFH voluntary team prepares and distributes iftar meals daily on different locations until end of Ramadan.



Kuwait Times Established 1961 Ramadan, Kareem



KUWAIT: Sidra Hospital invited staff and media representatives to an iftar at Dar Hamad Restaurant recently, on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: Dubai Tourism hosted a ghabqa for media representatives at Four Seasons Hotel on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.— Photos by Joseph Shagra

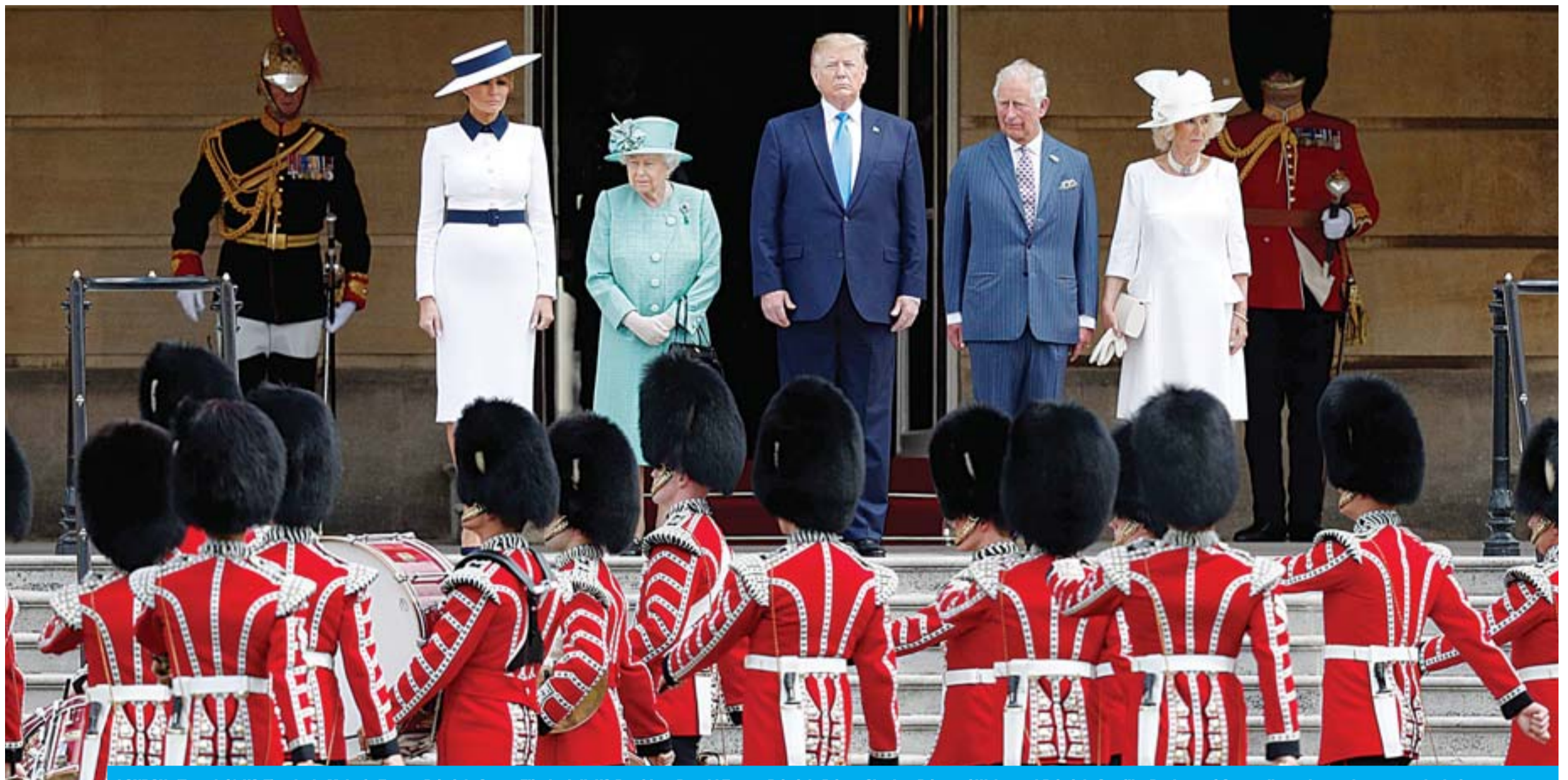


Drowning in waste, Russians fume over lack of recycling

New Delhi to offer free public transport for 850,000 women

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LONDON: (From left) US First Lady Melania Trump, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, US President Donald Trump, Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales and Britain's Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall watch guardsmen parade during a welcome ceremony at Buckingham Palace yesterday. —AFP

Trump meets queen after insulting mayor

US president, first lady get taste of pomp, royal pageantry

LONDON: US President Donald Trump met Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace yesterday after kicking off his UK state visit by branding the London mayor a "loser" and weighing in on the Brexit debate. With a 41-gun royal salute ringing out across the royal palace's lawn, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles shook hands with the US leader and First Lady Melania Trump before British soldiers played the national anthems of the two countries. The queen then led the couple inside for a private lunch, to be followed in the evening by a glittering banquet.

Trump's plane had not even touched down when he tweeted that London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who has been highly critical of the red-carpet welcome laid on for Trump, was doing a "terrible job". The president called the mayor a "stone cold loser", adding: "Khan reminds me very much of our very dumb and incompetent Mayor of NYC, (Bill) de Blasio, who has also done a terrible job - only half his height. In any event, I look forward to being a great friend to the United Kingdom," he added.

Backing for Boris

Trump's three-day visit comes with Britain in political turmoil. Prime Minister Theresa May is due to step down

within weeks over her handling of her country's exit from the European Union. Trump weighed in on the divisive issue, declaring before he arrived that Britain's former foreign minister Boris Johnson would make an "excellent" choice to succeed May. In a round of British newspaper interviews, he also recommended her successor walk away from talks with Brussels, refuse to pay Britain's agreed divorce bill and leave the EU with no deal.

The UK-US "special relationship" was already under strain over different approaches to Iran, the use of Chinese technology in 5G networks, climate change, and Trump's personal politics. Labour's Khan has led opposition to the three-day visit, writing a newspaper article on Sunday in which he compared the US leader to European dictators from the 1930s and 1940s. "Donald Trump is just one of the most egregious examples of a growing global threat," Khan wrote. His spokesman called Trump's tweets "childish" and "beneath the president of the United States".

Baby Trump blimp

Huge protests are being organized in London, with organizers crowdfunding a bright orange "baby Trump" blimp depicting the US leader in a diaper - aiming for an

even larger version than the one flown during his visit last year. The leaders of Britain's main opposition parties and the speaker of parliament are boycotting the state banquet yesterday night.

In an effort to brush past the controversy, May and Trump are expected to emphasize the wider benefits of their old alliance when they hold talks at Downing Street today. Tomorrow, they will join other world leaders in the English port of Portsmouth to commemorate 75 years since the D-Day landings, which changed the course of World War II. "Our relationship has underpinned our countries' security and prosperity for many years, and will continue to do so for generations to come," May said ahead of the visit.

No-deal Brexit

May announced her resignation last month after failing to get her Brexit deal through parliament and twice delaying Britain's EU departure. She will formally quit as her Conservative party's leader on Friday, but will stay on as caretaker prime minister while her successor is chosen. Three years after the referendum vote for Brexit, Britain remains divided. Trump recommended the new govern-

ment make a clean break with the EU if necessary, adding that there was "tremendous potential" for Britain to trade with his country after Brexit. Causing more potential embarrassment for May, Trump said he might also meet with Johnson and pro-Brexit leader Nigel Farage during his UK visit. "They want to meet. We'll see what happens," he told reporters before he left the United States.

Strained special relationship

May was the first foreign leader welcomed to the White House after Trump's election victory in Nov 2016, but their relationship has not always been rosy. They have clashed over Trump's migration policies, while Britain still backs the Iranian nuclear deal and the Paris climate accord, both of which Trump has abandoned. Washington has also been putting pressure on Britain to exclude Chinese tech giant Huawei from its 5G network over security concerns, suggesting it might harm intelligence-sharing. Trump's first official visit to Britain last year was overshadowed by criticism of May's approach to Brexit, as well as large demonstrations. He is not expected to meet Prince Harry and his American wife Meghan Markle, after saying her previous criticism of him was "nasty". —AFP

Damascus pounds Idlib, ignoring Trump warning

MAARET AL-NUMAN, Syria: Bombardments by the Syrian regime killed six civilians in northwest Syria yesterday, hours after US President Donald Trump urged Damascus and its allies to "stop bombing the hell" out of the jihadist-held region. Trump's call came after Washington's Israeli ally carried out a series of strikes against Syria over the weekend, leaving at least 15 dead among pro-government forces, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The bombardment by Damascus and regime ally Russia of Idlib province and neighboring areas has killed more than 300 people and displaced thousands since late April, according to the Britain-based war monitor. The violence, which comes despite a truce deal brokered by Moscow and Ankara in September, has raised fears of a humanitarian catastrophe on a scale yet unseen in Syria's eight-year conflict, which has already claimed more than 370,000 lives.

The Kremlin insisted yesterday that the Russian army was only targeting "terrorists" in Syria's Idlib region, which is controlled by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a group dominated by former members of Al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate. It accused them of firing at civilians and Moscow's troops. "Terrorist fire in Idlib is of course unacceptable," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "Measures are being taken to neutralise such firing positions."

The comments came in response to a Tweet by Trump on Sunday calling for an end to the bombing on the jihadist-dominated enclave, a large area which is home to almost three million people. "Hearing word that Russia, Syria and, to a lesser extent, Iran, are bombing the hell out of Idlib Province in Syria, and indiscriminately killing many innocent civilians. 'The World is watching this butchery. What is the purpose, what will it get you? STOP!' the US president said.

'Indiscriminate weapons'

But, the aerial bombardment yesterday did not relent. According to the Observatory, at least four civilians were killed in regime strikes on the town of Maarat al-Numan. Another civilian was killed in the nearby town of Heish, while



MAARET AL-NUMAN, Syria: Members of the Syrian Civil Defense (known as the White Helmets) evacuate a wounded man from under the rubble following an air strike on this town in Idlib province yesterday. —AFP

a sixth was killed by rocket fire on a village in the neighboring province of Hama, it said. Human Rights Watch on Monday accused the Syrian regime and its ally Russia of using "internationally banned and other indiscriminate weapons in unlawful attacks on civilians in northwest Syria in recent weeks."

It said they "used banned cluster munitions and incendiary weapons... along with large air-dropped explosive weapons with wide-area effects, including 'barrel bombs'." Analysts predict that President Bashar al-Assad and his allies will continue to chip away at the area, but not unleash a major assault that would create chaos on Turkey's doorstep. In recent weeks, jihadists and pro-government have engaged in fierce battles over positions on the fringes of the enclave. Yesterday, the regime tried advance jihadists in the north-east of Latakia province. According to the Observatory, the clashes killed 12 pro-regime fighters and seven jihadists.

Israeli strikes

The latest violence in Syria's jihadist-held northwest comes amid soaring tensions between Syria and neighboring Israel. Syria accused Israel of targeting an airbase in Homs province overnight, reportedly killing five people, just hours after carrying out raids on military and intelligence posts south of Damascus that killed 10. "Our air defenses thwarted an Israeli aggression and destroyed two of the rockets that targeted the T-4 airbase," a military source told state news agency SANA. —AFP

13 dead as Sudan military rulers break up sit-in

KHARTOUM: Sudan's military rulers forcefully broke up a weeks-long sit-in outside Khartoum's army headquarters yesterday, leaving at least 13 dead, a doctors' committee said as gunfire echoed from the site. Heavily armed security forces in pickup trucks mounted with machine guns were deployed in large numbers all around the capital, while gunshots were heard from the protest site by an AFP journalist. The United States and Britain called for an end to the crackdown on demonstrators, who want the generals behind the overthrow of veteran president Omar al-Bashir to hand over to civilian rule.

The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors, which is close to the protesters, updated the death toll "raising the number of martyrs to 13" in a Facebook statement. It also reported a "large number of critical casualties" and called for "urgent support" from the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations to help the wounded. The military council has denied multiple reports of their forces violently dispersing the sit-in in front of army headquarters, as protesters took to the streets in towns around the country.

But protest leaders said the site had been cleared of demonstrators. "The Rapid Support Forces and the army and police and militia battalions dispersed the peaceful sit-in," the Alliance for Freedom and Change, the protesters' umbrella group, said in a statement. Outside the army headquarters "there is no one, but the pure bodies of our martyrs that it has not been possible to evacuate from the site".

'Bloody massacre'

The Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which spearheaded nationwide protests that started in December, said it amounted to a "bloody massacre" and hundreds of people had been wounded.



KHARTOUM: A Sudanese protester walks past burning tyres as military forces tried to disperse the sit-in outside Khartoum's army headquarters yesterday. —AFP

It called on Sudanese to take part in "total civil disobedience" to topple the military council. The doctors' committee said forces were also opening fire inside the city's East Nile Hospital and "chasing peaceful protesters". It said another hospital near the site of the sit-in was surrounded and volunteers were prevented from reaching it.

Rallies against Bashir's authoritarian, three-decade rule led to his ouster in April, but protesters had remained outside the army headquarters calling on the generals to cede power to a transitional authority. Near the demonstration site, a witness living in the Burri neighborhood said he could "hear the sound of gunfire and I see a plume of smoke rising from the area of the sit-in." Another resident of the area, in east Khartoum, said he had seen forces in "police uniform" trying to expel the demonstrators.

The military council "did not disperse the sit-in by force," its spokesman said. "The tents are there, and the youth are moving freely," Shamseddine Kabbashi told Sky News Arabia. Protests erupted in towns across Sudan in response to the violence in Khartoum. "Now the streets are closed (with barricades made) from stone and the chant is going round 'Just fall, that's all, the whole Council,'" a witness in Port Sudan on the Red Sea said. A witness in Atbara, in northern Sudan, said the city's roads were closed and "even the streets that link it to other towns." —AFP

International

Kushner suggests Palestinians not ready to govern themselves

Pompeo airs frank Mideast peace plan views in leak

JERUSALEM: US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner has suggested in an interview that the Palestinians are not ready to govern themselves ahead of the expected release of his peace plan. Speaking to US news site Axios, Kushner also said he was not concerned over whether the Palestinians do not trust him since they will base their decisions on whether the plan will improve their lives. "The hope is, is that over time, they can become capable of governing," Kushner said when asked if he believes the Palestinians can govern themselves without Israeli interference.

According to excerpts from the interview published late Sunday on the Axios website, Kushner said the Palestinians "need to have a fair judicial system... freedom of press, freedom of expression, tolerance for all religions" before the Palestinian territories can become "investable". Kushner told Axios that the Palestinians "should have self-determination", without saying whether that would mean an independent state or some lesser form of autonomy. He has previously hinted that the plan will not endorse creating a Palestinian state.

In the Axios interview, Kushner said "I think that it's a high bar" when asked if the Palestinians could expect freedom from any Israeli governmental or military interference. "If you don't have a proper government structure and proper security when people are living in fear of terror,

that hurts Palestinians," he said. The Palestinian leadership has already dismissed the upcoming peace plan, saying Trump's actions so far have shown him to be blatantly biased in favor of Israel. Those actions include declaring the disputed city of Jerusalem Israel's capital, cutting hundreds of millions of dollars in Palestinian aid and closing the Palestinians' de facto embassy in Washington.

"I'm not here to be trusted," Kushner told Axios, adding he differentiates between the Palestinians and their leaders. He said he believes the Palestinian people will look at "the facts and then make a determination: Do they think this will allow them to have a pathway to a better life or not?" The interview was recorded before Kushner's visit to Jerusalem last week, a trip that also included stops in Morocco and Jordan.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is worried the Trump administration's soon-to-be-released Middle East peace plan will be considered "unworkable," and might not gain traction. US media reported on Sunday, Pompeo's remarks to a private meeting of Jewish leaders, first reported by The Washington Post, show that even the plan's own backers expect the latest United States blueprint for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to be met with deep skepticism. The economic components of the proposal are to be unveiled at a conference in



LONDON: Ivanka Trump and her husband special advisor to the US president Jared Kushner watch a welcome ceremony at Buckingham Palace yesterday. — AFP

Bahrain on June 25-26.

"It may be rejected. Could be in the end, folks will say. It's not particularly original, it doesn't particularly work for me," that is, "It's got two good things and nine bad things, I'm out," the Post reported, citing an audio recording of the meeting it had obtained. When asked about the recording in an interview in Switzerland yesterday with the Sinclair Broadcast Group, Pompeo did not deny its authenticity.

He acknowledged that, given the "important relationship" the US has with Israel, "I could see how someone might be concerned that a plan that this administration put forward might - without knowing the true facts of what is contained in the plan - they might perceive that it was going to be fundamentally one-sided." But, he stressed, "it is just simply not true. I think there will be things in this plan that lots of people like." — AFP

500 purged Turkish judges, prosecutors go to top rights court

STRASBOURG, France: Over 500 Turkish judges and prosecutors have applied to have cases heard at Europe's top rights court after they were caught up in the crackdown after the failed 2016 coup bid, the court said yesterday. The Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) said it had notified Turkey of applications from 546 judges and prosecutors protesting their provisional detention orders. Those who applied were suspended, detained and then arrested in pre-trial detention on charges of being members of the group of US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen.

Gulen is accused by Turkey of leading a terror group behind the failed July 15, 2016 coup that aimed to unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Gulen denies the charges. The legal professionals lodged unsuccessful appeals with the Turkish constitutional court and the criminal proceedings against them are still ongoing, the ECHR said. The plaintiffs have based their applications in particular on article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights concerning their right to liberty and security.

The hugely controversial crackdown that followed the coup bid has led to a vast backlog of Turkish cases at the ECHR as applicants run out of legal options in Turkey. Turkey is a member of the Council of Europe (CoE), the pan-European rights body of which the ECHR is part. The CoE has expressed concern in the past that the court is being swamped by Turkish cases. The ECHR said it had informed Turkey of the 546 applications on May 17 and Ankara can now give its observations in writing. The court will then decide if the cases are admissible and give rulings in the coming months. ECHR rulings have frequently angered Turkey, causing strains for its membership within the CoE, notably in November last year when it called on Ankara to release jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtas. — AFP

Rouhani rules out talks until US acts 'normal'

TEHRAN: Iran's president yesterday ruled out negotiations with Washington until it acts "normal", after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the US is ready to talk to Tehran without preconditions. "The party that has left the negotiating table, the party that has

trampled the pact must return to a normal" behavior, Hassan Rouhani said in a televised speech. "If the enemy truly realizes that the path it took was wrong, that will be the day to sit at the negotiation table and fix any issue," the president added.

Tensions have spiked in recent weeks between Tehran and Washington, which last year pulled out of a landmark Iran nuclear accord and imposed tough sanctions on the Islamic republic. But Washington's top diplomat appeared to soften the US stance on Sunday, saying "we are prepared to engage in a con-

versation with no preconditions". Washington is "certainly prepared to have (a) conversation when the Iranians will prove they are behaving as a normal nation," Pompeo said in Switzerland, which represents Washington's interests in Iran in the absence of bilateral relations.

Pompeo however gave no indication that lifting sanctions would be on the table. On Saturday, Rouhani insisted that Iran would not be "bullied" into talks with the United States, saying "total respect" was needed for negotiations to take place. — AFP

800 Syrians start leaving Hol camp

AL-HOL CAMP, Syria: Some 800 Syrian women and children yesterday started leaving a Kurdish-run camp in northeast Syria crammed with tens of thousands including relatives of jihadists, heading to their hometowns. At least 17 buses were seen leaving the area in the first such transfer from Al-Hol camp which is home to nearly 74,000 people, among them wives and children of suspected Islamic State group fighters. Some children were seen with identification tags hanging around their necks, while others had their name and a phone number scribbled on their hands, an AFP correspondent said.

"800 civilians have started leaving the Al-Hol camp aboard buses taking them to their hometowns in Raqa and Tabqa," a town 70 km west of Raqqa city, said an official with the Kurdish administration in northeast Syria. "In the coming days, there will be other batches of civilians who will (also) be taken to liberated and safe areas," Sheikhmous Ahmed told AFP, referring to towns and villages recaptured from IS.

Yesterday's transfer follows an agreement brokered by the Kurdish administration and Arab tribal leaders during a meeting in the town of Ain Issa last month. It is to be the first in a larger wave of releases that aim to empty Al-Hol of its Syrian residents, including relatives of alleged IS fighters. The next batch is expected to follow after the Eid al-Fitr holiday due to start sometime in the next few days marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Hoovered up during a final offensive against the jihadists by a US-backed Kurdish-led force, thousands of wives and children of IS fighters have been trucked



AL-HOL CAMP, Syria: A woman stands inside this camp for displaced people in Hasakeh governorate in north-eastern Syria on Sunday. — AFP

into Al-Hol from a string of Syrian villages south of the camp in recent months. Thousands more have flocked to the settlement from former jihadist strongholds, including the northern city of Raqqa, once IS's Syria capital. 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.

Among the hordes of Syrians and Iraqis, some 12,000 foreigners are held in a fenced-off section of the Al-Hol camp, under the watch of Kurdish forces. Ahmed said that the Kurdish administration had decided to release the Syrian inhabitants of Al-Hol because "the situation in the camp is very difficult". He accused the international community of "neglecting its responsibilities towards the displaced" in the camp. Speaking of yesterday's batch, Ahmed said that some of those leaving Al-Hol had been "influenced" by IS' radical ideology. "They will be monitored and reintegrated into their societies," Ahmed said. — AFP

Car bombing kills 19 in Syria's Azaz

AZAZ, Syria: At least 19 people were killed Sunday in a car bomb near a bustling market and mosque in a rebel-held city in northwestern Syria, a war monitor said. Four children were among those killed in the explosion in Azaz, in the heart of a Turkish zone of influence in Aleppo province, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The attack also wounded more than 20 people, according to the Britain-based monitor. "Many people were leaving evening prayers when the explosion happened," Observatory head Rami Abdul Rahman told AFP.

Shoppers buying clothes and gifts ahead of the upcoming Eid al-Fitr holiday were among those killed, said Jihad Berro, a coroner at a local hospital. He said the medical facility was crammed with victims and their relatives. "The emergency rooms were full, we placed corpses on the floor," he said. "It is a real catastrophe before the Eid al-Fitr holiday," which marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, said Berro.

An AFP photographer saw a large crowd gathering at the scene of the attack, charred vehicles dotting the side of the road. Rescue workers searched through mounds of rubble, looking for bodies, he said. Resident Abu Youssef said the explosion torched the neighborhood. "The damage is severe: At least six stores were burned, the storefronts of dozens of other stores were blown



AZAZ, Syria: Syrians inspect a car that exploded in a market in this northern city in Aleppo province near the border with Turkey on Sunday. — AFP

out," he told AFP.

It was not clear who was behind the attack, which came a day after a similar explosion killed 10 people and wounded 20 in the northeastern city of Raqqa. Turkey launched Operation Euphrates Shield in 2016 and seized more than 2,000 sq km of northern Syria including Azaz, clearing the area of Islamic State jihadists while preventing any Kurdish advance in the region. Ankara keeps Turkish troops and intelligence forces in the area, and still backs Syrian rebels serving as police officers. — AFP

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International

Drowning in waste, Russians fume over lack of recycling

Waste management has emerged as a subject of heated debate

MOSCOW: Roman Yudakov points in the distance to a stinking mountain of trash looming over the Russian capital and sighs: "Take a look at our pyramid!" The rubbish towers above the Timokhovo dump outside Moscow, one of the biggest in Europe. Authorities plan to build an incinerator to burn some of the trash, but Yudakov and other activists are fighting for it to be recycled instead. "The priority of the authorities is to burn, rather than sort (waste for recycling). Nobody is ready to do that," says the 36-year-old electrician as he flicks his cigarette butt in the direction of the 157-metre (515-feet) high dump east of Moscow.

Open since the late 1970s, Timokhovo receives dozens of lorries every day from the capital some 80 km away. Since 2013, residents have complained of foul sulphurous smells and worry that effluents are polluting ground water. The authorities acknowledged the smell comes from the dump, but say it is now safe because of a filtration system. Activists however dispute this claim. Just seven percent of rubbish is recycled in Russia, according to official data. This falls far below France's 43 percent or Germany's 68 percent achieved in 2017, according to Eurostat.

The majority of household waste in Russia ends up in locations like Timokhovo, whose trash pile can be seen from many kilometres

away. In recent years, waste management has emerged as a subject of heated debate as residents of towns surrounding Moscow have protested against dumps filled to over capacity or catching on fire. Authorities came up with the idea of unloading some of the local landfills and taking the waste from Moscow, which produces 15 percent of Russia's garbage, to the Arkhangelsk region in the north. The new landfill project launched in the region 1,000 km from the capital caused unprecedented demonstrations and led to clashes between local protesters and construction workers and security guards.

'Need change in mentality'

With the issue emerging as a major cause of public discontent, President Vladimir Putin in December announced that the recycling rate will increase to 60 percent by 2024 with the help of 200 new waste sorting centres. But campaigners for recycling have reacted with skepticism, saying all centralized attempts at recycling have failed in the past, and only private initiatives can be effective. "They pretend to talk about recycling. I've seen an ad on the subway and opinion polls on the subject, but for the moment the government is not rushing to support us," says Alyona Rudyuk, who runs a small recycling centre in Moscow.

The centre opened in November and is part of a network launched by an environmental association Sobirator. Every day, dozens of Muscovites come here to drop off their sorted packaging. Sobirator also has a truck that collects rubbish in various Moscow neighbourhoods, advertising pickup points via social media or even coming straight to a person's home for a fee. Natalia Umnova chose that option after collecting and sorting recyclables on the balcony of her flat for several months. "We checked the (recycling) centres nearby, but they were either closed or only accepted one type of waste," she says. To take recycling to a wider scale, there are a lot of challenges to overcome, mostly stemming from a lack of enthusiasm at the government level, says Sobirator founder Leonid Sinitsyn. "We can show people how to do (recycling) but we can't solve the problem, so we need a change in mentality and in the law," he says.

'Garbage reform'

So far government efforts appear to have had the opposite effect. A so-called "garbage reform" kicked into action in January was supposed to make waste management more transparent, but in effect hiked waste disposal fees for already struggling Russians, fuelling more public ire. "It's the price of (consumer) packaging that should increase, not the fees,"



MOSCOW: An aerial view taken on April 23, 2019 shows Moscow region's Timokhovo solid waste landfill. — AFP

says former MP Maxim Shingarkin, who was one of the reform's authors. "And as long as people are angry, they will not be motivated to recycle." Moscow regional government said in a comment to AFP that increased fees go toward new sorting bins and rising trans-

port costs following the closure of overflowed waste landfills. In addition, three recycling centres opened last year and nine more are under construction, and more than 700,000 school children have attended special classes on the benefits of recycling, it said. — AFP

China urges students to weigh 'risk' of studying in US

BEIJING: China yesterday warned students and academics on the "risk" of studying in the United States, citing an uptick in visa denials and delays amid a trade war and other tensions with Washington. The warning comes as negotiations to resolve the trade spat have stalled and Washington pushed back against what it says is Beijing's aggressive militarization of the disputed South China Sea. In recent months US officials and lawmakers have voiced concerns that Chinese students and academics could be used for espionage purposes by the Communist government.

The Chinese education ministry in a statement said students applying to US universities should brace themselves for visa troubles and "strengthen risk assessment... and make relevant preparations". Chinese students and academics have recently experienced visa restrictions, delays in obtaining them, and visas with shorter duration, according to the ministry. From January to March, over 1,350 Chinese students had applied for US student visas but 182 were "unable to make the trip as planned" due to visa issues, accounting for 13.5 percent of all applicants, Xu Yongji, deputy head of a department overlooking foreign academic exchanges at the ministry, told state broadcaster CCTV.

Xu said this was a marked increase from just over three percent of applicants who experienced visa issues in 2018, citing data from the China Scholarship Council. Visa denials have "damaged the dignity" of Chinese students and cast a "cold spell" over research collaborations and academic exchanges he said. China is the biggest source of international students on US campuses, with 360,000 of them attending last year - a third of the foreign student body - with many paying full tuition.

Chinese students contributed \$14 billion to the US economy in 2017, the official Xinhua news agency estimated last month, citing US official data. China's foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the US had been setting "unnecessary obstacles" to people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. "This has been widely opposed by the education circles in China and the United States, as well as by (Chinese) students studying abroad," he said.

'Stealing innovation'

US complaints about technology and intellectual property theft by China have been a major bone of contention in the trade war between the two countries. FBI director Christopher Wray said in April that Beijing had used Chinese graduate students and researchers, among others, in its economic espionage efforts in the United States. "China has pioneered a societal approach to stealing innovation in any way it can from a wide array of businesses, universities and organizations," Wray said.

"They're doing it through Chinese intelligence services, through state-owned enterprises, through ostensibly private companies, through graduate students and researchers, through a variety of actors all working on behalf of China." Last month, Republicans in the US Congress introduced legislation aimed at barring Chinese military scientists from obtaining visas to study or work in the United States.

The bills in the House and Senate would compel the White House to identify a list of research and scientific institutions that the president determines are affiliated with or funded by the People's Liberation Army. The PLA Visa Security Act would prevent people currently or formerly employed or sponsored by such entities from entering the United States on student or research visas. The New York Times reported in April that the United States has started to bar some Chinese academics from the country if they are suspected of having links to intelligence agencies, with 30 scholars having their visas cancelled or put under review in the past year.

China's state-run Global Times has published accounts from several Chinese academics saying their 10-year visas to the US were cancelled, with officials citing concerns about links to Chinese intelligence. US scholar Michael Pillsbury, who advises US President Donald Trump on China, said his visa to enter China for a forum earlier this year was blocked in apparent retaliation. — AFP

5 bodies spotted in search for missing climbers in India

PITHORAGARH, India: A helicopter searching for eight climbers missing on India's second-highest peak spotted five bodies yesterday, officials said. Nothing has been heard from the four Britons, two Americans, an Australian and an Indian on the 7,826-m Nanda Devi in the Himalayas since May 26. But yesterday two Indian Air Force helicopters scoured the area for a third day and took aerial pictures.

"During that search some photos were taken and in those photos four to five bodies can be seen. The resolution is quite bad that is why their faces or exact features are not clear," said local official V K Jogdande. "But what we can roughly say is that these are body parts of five persons which can be seen. We have ordered a technical evaluation... so that the bodies can be retrieved as quickly as possible," he said. The search operation involving the helicopters and dozens of mountain rescuers has been hampered by poor weather and the remoteness of the area. Authorities were able to reduce the search area to roughly 50 sq km yesterday following information from four British climbers rescued a day earlier from Nanda Devi base camp. They had been in contact with the larger group until May 26 when heavy snowfall and avalanches struck.

The missing climbers, led by Briton Martin Moran - who has two previous successful ascents of the mountain - had initially set out on May 13 for the eastern peak of Nanda Devi. But in a post on May 22 on the Facebook page of the mountaineering company he runs, Moran



PITHORAGARH, India: In this handout photo released yesterday, rescued mountaineers (from left) Zachary Qual, Ian Wade, Kate Armstrone and Mark Thomas speak with Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel upon arriving at the ITBP camp after being rescued following an avalanche while climbing Nanda Devi. — AFP

Mountain, said they were set to attempt "an unclimbed peak". They were expected to report back to base camp on May 26 but a porter stationed there reported to authorities that the group remained missing on May 31, prompting the search operation.

'No sign'

A statement by the Moran family on Sunday had said they have been informed by the Indian Mountaineering Federation that the air search has "revealed the scale of the avalanche, but no sign of the climbers, their equipment nor their tents". The Sydney Morning Herald named the Australian member as British-born Ruth McCance. It quoted her husband Trent Goldsack as saying that her last communication to him had been a text message around a

week ago saying: "OK at base camp". Another of the British climbers was reported to be Richard Payne, a lecturer at the University of York. "We remain extremely concerned for his safety and our thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time," a spokesman for the British university said. Hundreds of climbers from across the world visit India to scale mountains across the Himalayan chain, and the peaks of Nanda Devi are considered the toughest to scale. The first successful ascent of 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 climbing Mount Everest in the latest season that ended last week amid allegations of overcrowding on the world's highest peak. — AFP

Future of Merkel govt in hands of crisis-hit SPD

BERLIN: Germany's Social Democrats could end up deciding if the country faces snap elections, the leader of Angela Merkel's party said yesterday, after her junior coalition partner sank into chaos over the resignation of its leader. In a surprise announcement that rattled Berlin, Social Democratic Party (SPD) leader Andrea Nahles said Sunday she was quitting her party's top jobs following an European election drubbing late last month. Merkel and other heavyweights in her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) have sought to calm nerves, saying they stood by the coalition.

But CDU chief Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer conceded yesterday that whether Germany goes to the polls before the end of the electoral term in 2021 would depend on the SPD's next move. "We are ready to keep this coalition going. How the SPD behaves is its decision," she told journalists following crisis talks within her centre-right party. "There are good reasons to not end a government lightly, from the view of the situation in Germany but also the situation in Europe," she said. Given the international challenges, it would be "anything but productive if Germany were to go into a government crisis or a lengthy election campaign". The question of snap elections did not come up during yesterday's huddle in Berlin, she said, but added that "you can be certain that the CDU is prepared for whatever comes or does not come".

The leadership crisis at the SPD could not have come at a worse time for the CDU, which was itself struggling to halt a haemorrhage of voters as the younger generation shuns it in droves for the Greens. The SPD meanwhile has been

Johnson launches campaign to become next British PM

LONDON: Boris Johnson, the frontrunner to replace Theresa May as Britain's prime minister, launched his digital campaign to become the Conservative Party leader yesterday, coinciding with the visit of "friend" Donald Trump. The launch video follows Johnson on the campaign trail, promising voters that he will take Britain out of the European Union on October 31 "deal or no deal" if he becomes prime minister by being elected Tory leader.

The former foreign secretary is popular among the grassroots Tory members, but they will only get a vote once the party's MPs have whittled down the ever-growing candidates list to a final two. He is less popular among



BERLIN: Politicians of Germany's social democratic SPD party (from left) Thorsten Schaefer-Guempel, SPD leader in Hesse and one of the federal SPD's vice leaders, State Premier of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Manuela Schwesig and State Premier of Rhineland-Palatinate Malu Dreyer give a joint press conference yesterday. — AFP

scrambling to find a new leader to replace Nahles, 48. But voices are growing louder within both the SPD and the CDU for the parties to part ways. Harald Christ of the SPD's business leaders forum said "Nahles stands for the existence of the GroKo - whose stability is now in question."

"In my view what comes next is the end of the GroKo - everything else leads nowhere," he told Bild daily, using the German short form for grand coalition. The deputy leader of the CDU-CSU parliamentary group, Carsten Linnemann, also warned in an interview with RedaktionsNetzwerk Deutschland newspaper group that "if we are unable to progress with the SPD, then we should draw a line under this and ask ourselves if continuing with the GroKo still makes sense." — AFP

his own MPs, due to his key role in campaigning for Brexit and for his gaffe-prone style, and failed to make the last two when he last ran for the job in 2016. US President Trump, who kicked off a state visit to Britain on Monday, gave Johnson his backing on Saturday.

"I actually have studied it very hard," Trump told the Sun newspaper, earlier calling Johnson a "friend". "I know the different players. But I think Boris would do a very good job. I think he would be excellent. I like him. I have always liked him." The comments drew criticism in Britain for interfering in the country's political process. Elsewhere in his campaign video, Johnson expressed support for increased education and police funding and said he would "unite" a country fractured by Brexit. "We have got to have the courage to tell the people of this country we can do it, if we want to," he told one voter on the doorstep. Johnson has long held ambitions to become prime minister, but pulled out of the race in 2016 after key ally and fellow Brexit campaigner Michael Gove withdrew his support, saying "Boris cannot provide the leadership or build the team for the task ahead." — AFP

Assange hearing in Sweden to decide extradition request

UPPSALA, Sweden: A Swedish court heard arguments yesterday before deciding if prosecutors can proceed to request Julian Assange's extradition from Britain, after a 2010 rape probe was re-opened in May. Both sides presented their arguments to the Uppsala district court which adjourned to deliberate. Swedish deputy director of public prosecutions Eva-Marie Persson said the WikiLeaks founder had not cooperated with the Swedish investigation previously, fleeing from an extradition order, and therefore needed to be detained and questioned in Sweden.

She asked the court to order Assange's detention in his absence, a standard part of Swedish legal procedure if a suspect is outside the country or cannot be located, and which would be the first step to having him extradited. "The purpose of this detention is to be able to complete the investigation and bring Julian Assange to justice," Persson said. Assange's Swedish lawyer, Per E Samuelson, meanwhile argued that a detention order was "meaningless" as Assange is currently imprisoned in Britain and should not be considered a flight risk. He said it was not proportionate to ask for someone's detention merely to conduct a questioning session.

The Australian whistleblower, who holed himself up in Ecuador's embassy in London for seven years to avoid a British extradition order to Sweden, was arrested by British police on April 11 after Quito gave him up. He was subsequently sentenced to 50 weeks in prison for breaching bail conditions when he took refuge in the embassy. Following his arrest Swedish authorities reopened their 2010 rape investigation, which had been closed in 2017 with the argument that it was not possible to proceed with the probe as Assange could not be reached.

If the Uppsala court grants the prosecutor's request, Eva-Marie Persson has made clear she intends to issue a European Arrest Warrant "concerning surrender to Sweden". Such a request would, however, have to compete with an extradition request from the United States, where Assange is facing a total of 18 charges, most of which relate to obtaining and disseminating classified information over the publishing of military documents and diplomatic cables through the website WikiLeaks. Assange could be sentenced to 175 years in prison if convicted on all 18 counts. — AFP

International

World's 15 hottest places are in India, Pakistan as pre-monsoon heat builds

Parched India awaits monsoon rains as reservoirs begin to run dry

NEW DELHI: India warned of severe heat in northern and central areas yesterday, following similar extreme weather on Sunday. Of the 15 hottest places in the world in the past 24 hours, eight were in India with the others in neighboring Pakistan, according to weather monitoring website El Dorado. Churu, a city in the west of the northern state of Rajasthan, recorded the country's highest temperature of 48.9 Celsius yesterday, according to the Meteorological Department.

Churu has issued a heat wave advisory and government hospitals have prepared emergency wards with extra air conditioners, coolers and medicines, said Ramratan Sonkariya, additional district magistrate for Churu. Water is also being poured on the roads of Churu, known as the gateway to the Thar desert, to keep the temperature down and prevent them from melting, Sonkariya added. A farmer from Sikar district in Rajasthan died on Sunday due to heatstroke, state government officials said.

Media reported on Friday that 17 had died over the past three weeks due to a heatwave in the southern state of Telangana. A state official said it would confirm the number of deaths only after the causes had been ascertained. The temperature in New Delhi touched 44.6C on Sunday. One food delivery app, Zomato, asked its customers to greet delivery staff with a glass of cold water.

Heat wave warnings were issued yesterday for some places in western Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh state. The monsoon, which

brings down the heat, is likely to begin on the southern coast on June 6, the weather office said last month. The three-month, pre-monsoon season, which ended on May 31, was the second driest in the last 65 years, India's only private forecaster, Skymet, said, with a national average of 99 mm of rain against the normal average of 131.5 mm for the season.

Meanwhile, millions of Indians are desperately awaiting overdue monsoon rains as they struggle to secure drinking water amid the heat wave that is rapidly drying up reservoirs and sending temperatures soaring across the country. India typically witnesses water scarcity during summer months, but the situation this year is particularly grim in western and southern states which received less than normal rainfall in the 2018 monsoon season.

"I wake early to get water from a well outside the village, as within three hours the water runs dry," says Ramchandra Pawar, a farmer from Latur district some 500 km southeast of Mumbai in the drought-hit western state of Maharashtra. The drought has ravaged crops, killed livestock, emptied reservoirs and hit city dwellers and supplies to some industries. Hardest hit are the western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, along with Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana down south and Madhya Pradesh in central India.

Depleting reservoirs have even forced some municipalities in places like Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad to cut supplies to

ensure water lasts until the arrival of the monsoons, which are running a few days late. In total, key reservoirs in western India were at 11 percent of their overall storage capacity on Thursday, compared to 15 percent a year ago and ten-year average of 19 percent. State governments have deployed tankers to ease water scarcity, but people complain there are not enough.

"Tankers supply water only once in a week. The rest of the week, we have to carry water from a borewell where hundreds of people queue from early morning," said Zeenat Shaikh from Latur, a city with population of around 500,000. Maharashtra is using 6,209 lorries to supply water to 15,426 villages and hamlets - four times the fleet it sent out in 2018, said a senior state government official. "Tanker requirements are going up every week as reservoirs are depleting," the official said.

As government supplies are not enough, people are buying water from private tanker suppliers, and the price is rising with demand. In the southern city of Chennai, where many well-known IT companies are based, the price of a water tanker has nearly doubled in two months to 4,000 rupees, media reported. Gautham Prithvirajan, 27, who lives in Chennai, said nobody in his street had been able to get clean drinking water despite drilling 350 feet into the ground, a situation he says he hasn't witnessed in years. The shortage had been exacerbated by private vendors digging deep into the water table, he said.



AJMER, India: A general view of a lake running dry on a hot summer day on Sunday. — AFP

"We are planning a protest later this week. Calls to rectify the situation have gone unanswered," he said.

Indians now hope the annual June-September monsoon rain will also bring down

temperatures that have shot up above 45 degrees Celsius in many parts of the country. But there are fears it could deliver lower rainfall than normal, according to a private forecaster Skymet. — Reuters

Protests over Muslim politicians grip Lanka city

COLOMBO: Demonstrations by several thousand people gripped Sri Lanka's pilgrim city of Kandy yesterday as Buddhist monks demanded the sacking of three top Muslim politicians over the Easter suicide bombings. Even as shops and offices were closed in the city 115 km east of Colombo, two of the Muslim leaders stepped down from their posts as provincial governors, President Maithripala Sirisena's office said.

The governors of the Eastern and Western provinces, both Sirisena appointees, tendered their resignations which were accepted, the president's office said in a brief statement. It gave no further details. Inside Kandy's famed Temple of the Tooth, where Buddhists believe a tooth of the Buddha is enshrined, prominent monk Athuraliye Ratana ended what he had called a "death fast" since the weekend after the two resignations.

The monk was taken away in an ambulance for medical treatment. Also present earlier in the day was Galagodaatte

Gnanasara, a firebrand monk released from jail on a presidential pardon late last month who has long been accused of instigating hate crimes against Muslims. Ratana, who is also a member of parliament, was demanding the sacking of the two provincial governors and Commerce Minister Rishad Bathiudeen. Political sources said all Muslim ministers were expected to step down from the government of the Buddhist-majority island en masse if Bathiudeen was forced out. "All Muslim ministers may step down in solidarity if Rishad is forced out," a Muslim minister told AFP, asking not to be named.

Cardinal criticized

Buddhist monks accuse the three Muslim leaders of supporting the extremists responsible for the April 21 attacks on three churches and three hotels that killed 258 people including 45 foreigners. The head of the Catholic Church in Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, also travelled to Kandy yesterday to express solidarity with Ratana. "We support the monk's campaign because so far justice has not been served," Ranjith told reporters in Kandy.

Government spokesman and Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera criticised Ranjith for supporting "communalism". "Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith fanning the flames of hatred and communalism by vis-



KANDY, Sri Lanka: People demonstrate outside the Buddhist shrine Temple of the Tooth in this central town yesterday. — AFP

iting fasting robed MP Rathana. Vatican TAKE NOTE!" Samaraweera said on Twitter. The government has said nearly 100 people linked to local jihadist group, the National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ), have been arrested since the attacks.

In the wake of the bombings, anti-Muslim riots spread in towns north of the capital killing one Muslim man and leaving

hundreds of homes, shops and mosques vandalized. "There is tension in the area because of the demonstrations, but police are maintaining a high alert," a police official in Colombo told AFP. Sri Lanka is under a state of emergency since the Easter attacks. Police and troops have been empowered to arrest and detain suspects for long periods. — AFP

With #KuToo, Japan women kick back at high-heels

TOKYO: A group of Japanese women yesterday submitted a petition to the government to protest what they say is a de-facto requirement for female staff to wear high heels at work.

The #KuToo campaign, a play on words from the Japanese word "kutsu" - meaning shoes - and "kut-stuu" - meaning "pain" - was launched by actress and freelance writer Yumi Ishikawa and quickly won support from nearly 19,000 people online. Campaigners say wearing high heels is seen as near-obligatory when job hunting or working at many Japanese companies. "Today we submitted a petition calling for the introduction of laws banning employers from forcing women to wear heels as sexual discrimination or harassment," Ishikawa told reporters after meeting labor ministry officials. A ministry official who met her "was a woman and sympathetic to our petition... and told us that this is the first time voices of this kind reached the ministry", Ishikawa said. "It's the first step forward" towards achieving their goals, added Ishikawa.

Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment on the petition. A tweet by Ishikawa earlier this year that complained about the requirement to wear heels for a hotel job went viral, prompting her to launch the campaign. "As I realized that so many people face the same problem, I decided to launch the campaign," hot on the heels of the global anti-sexual harassment #MeToo campaign, she said. Some campaigners online have said high heels are akin to modern foot-binding while others urged other dress codes, such as the near-total donning of business suits for men, to be loosened in the Japanese workplace. In 2015, the director of the prestigious Cannes Film Festival apologized after a controversy blew up over women being denied access to the red carpet for not wearing high heels. But Cannes kept the dress code, despite a protest by Hollywood superstar Julia Roberts, who went barefoot the next year. — AFP



Yumi Ishikawa

Chinese warships cause surprise in Sydney Harbour

SYDNEY: Australians enjoying a sunny winter morning were shocked by the sight of three Chinese warships steaming into Sydney Harbour yesterday, forcing the prime minister to reassure jittery residents. Amid heightened concern about Beijing's growing clout and military muscle-flexing, the appearance of a Chinese flagged task group and around 700 sailors came as a surprise. It also came as Prime Minister Scott Morrison was away on a visit to the Solomon Islands, a key player in the South Pacific that China is hoping to woo away from its recognition of Taiwan.

"It may have been a surprise to others, but it certainly wasn't a surprise to the government," Morrison told reporters in the Solomons capital Honiara when asked about the Chinese naval visit. "We have known about that for some time," Morrison described the port call as a "reciprocal visit, because Australian naval vessels have visited China". "They were returning after a counter drug trafficking operation in the Middle East."

The vessels appeared to be the Kunlun Shan, an amphibious landing ship; the Luoma Lake, a replenishment ship; and the Xuchang, a modern frigate that is believed to be fitted with surface-to-air and anti-submarine missile systems. They are scheduled to stay until Friday. The timing of their visit has been questioned, coinciding with Morrison's Solomons trip and on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the violent suppression of the Tiananmen demonstrations.

New Delhi to offer free public transport for 850,000 women

NEW DELHI: Almost a million women will enjoy free public transport as part of an attempt to make the Indian capital safer, New Delhi's government said yesterday. The city has been notorious for women's safety since the 2012 gang rape and murder of a female student on a Delhi bus that sparked major protests. The measure will be rolled out in the next two-to-three months for around 850,000 women. Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said it would cost about \$115 million a year, but would improve security and cut traffic pollution. The regional government is also look-



SYDNEY: Three Chinese warships are seen docked at Garden Island naval base yesterday. — AFP

On June 4, 1989 the regime gunned down hundreds of its own citizens and jailed thousands more, after protesters demanded political change and an end to state corruption. The arrival of the ships also comes just days after it was revealed that a Chinese warship had recently confronted an Australian vessel in the South China Sea, and Australian helicopter pilots had been targeted with lasers. "I think any reading into timing could be subject to a bit of over-analysis," said Morrison.

Since coming to power, President Xi Jinping has invested heavily in the People's Liberation Army and navy in a bid to project Chinese influence across the Pacific and beyond. "Chinese naval visits to Australia have more typically been a lone frigate, not a task group with an amphibious assault ship and 700 personnel," tweeted Rory Medcalf, head of the National Security College at Australian National University. "Sydney is hardly a convenient stopover on their way home from the Gulf of Aden. What's the story here? This looks like a serious show of presence in the South Pacific." — AFP

ing to install 150,000 CCTV cameras across the capital this year, Kejriwal added. Delhi, home to nearly 20 million people, is also one of the world's most polluted cities, according to UN studies. "Women will be allowed to travel free of cost so that they have safe travel experience," Kejriwal told a press conference. Delhi has a rickety public transport system, and the doubling of some metro fares in recent months has forced many people onto the streets. Some commentators accused Kejriwal, head of the small Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), of making the gesture to win votes in state elections expected in January.

Kejriwal's party won a landslide victory in 2015 state elections when it offered free drinking water, subsidised electricity and healthcare and better education for the poor. It also promised to improve women's security after the 2012 Delhi gang rape. But the AAP failed to make a breakthrough in a national election in April-May when conservative Prime Minister Narendra Modi won a second landslide, including in Delhi. — AFP

News in brief

Indian military plane missing

GUWAHATI, India: An Indian military aircraft with 13 people on board went missing yesterday in the north-east of the country, the defense ministry said. The Russian-built Antonov An-32 took off from Jorhat in Assam state at 12:25 pm (0655 GMT) headed for Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh, bordering China. "The aircraft last contacted ground agencies at 1300 hrs, thereafter there has been no contact," the defense ministry said in a statement. "A total of eight crew and five passengers were onboard the aircraft," it said. Spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel P Khongsai said every effort was being made to locate the missing plane. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, who assumed charge of the ministry last week, said he was in touch with senior air force officials. "I pray for the safety of all passengers on board," he said on Twitter. Crashes by India's sizeable fleet of ageing Russian military aircraft are relatively common. — Agencies

Tiananmen 'immunized' China

BEIJING: A Chinese state-run daily defended the government's handling of the Tiananmen protests yesterday, saying it "immunized" China against turmoil in a rare editorial about the crackdown on the eve of its 30th anniversary. The Global Times' English-language edition hailed the Chinese government's handling of what it called the "incident" in an editorial titled: "June 4 immunized China against turmoil". "As a vaccination for the Chinese society, the Tiananmen incident will greatly increase China's immunity against any major political turmoil in the future," wrote the nationalist tabloid. The party's "control of the incident" in 1989 had been a "watershed" that marked the difference between China's rapid economic progress and the fate of other communist countries such as the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia that disintegrated, the Global Times said. The editorial also rebuked dissidents, Western politicians and media, saying their criticism of the event would have "no real impact" on Chinese society. — AFP

Four killed in Kabul bus blast

KABUL: At least four people were killed yesterday when a bomb tore through a bus in Kabul, an official said, marking the second day straight that attackers have targeted a bus. The vehicle was taking workers home from a government watchdog agency ahead of the Eid holidays marking the end of Ramadan when the bomb exploded. Farid Ahmad, a spokesman for the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCS), told AFP the bomb had been concealed on a bicycle along the side of the road. "Unfortunately, we have lost four colleagues, nine have been wounded", Ahmad said. Interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi put the toll at five dead and 10 wounded - all of them civilians. He said the explosion had been caused by a sticky bomb, a common threat in Kabul where criminals and insurgents slip explosives under vehicles. — AFP

Whistleblower seeks Swedish asylum

ALMATY, Kazakhstan: A woman who testified in court to the existence of camps for Muslim minorities in China's troubled Xinjiang region has left Kazakhstan after being refused asylum there, her lawyer said yesterday. Sayragul Saulybay, a Chinese citizen of Kazakh descent, and her family travelled to Sweden which had granted her an alien's passport for the journey, her lawyer said. Saulybay made world headlines last year when she testified in a Kazakh court that she had been forced by Chinese authorities to work at a re-education camp where 2,500 Kazakhs were interned. Saulybay was arrested by authorities in Kazakhstan after she used forged documents to cross from China into the Central Asian country where her husband and children were living and had received citizenship. Although the Kazakh court freed her amid a public outcry in August, migration authorities subsequently refused her asylum status in a move that appeared motivated by the need not to offend Beijing. — AFP

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
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CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL : 24835618P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.netRunning Dry:
Competing
for water on a
thirsty planet

LONDON: In India's 'Silicon Valley' tech hub of Bangalore, where gleaming office complexes and apartment blocks have sprouted faster than the plumbing to serve them, only 60% of the water the city needs each day arrives through its water pipes. Much of the rest is pumped from groundwater wells and delivered to homes and offices by a fleet of private and government tanker trucks that growl through the streets of the city of 12 million.

But Bangalore's groundwater is running dry. A government think tank last year predicted the city - like others in India, including New Delhi - could run out of usable groundwater as early as 2020 as aquifers deplete. By 2030, half of India's population - now about 1.4 billion people - may lack enough drinking water, the report predicted. Around the world, fresh water is fast becoming a dangerously scarce resource, driving a surge in fights to secure supplies and fears over rising numbers of deaths in water conflicts.

Water conflict

Growing populations, more farming and economic growth, climate change and a rush of people to cities all are increasing pressure on the world's limited water supplies, researchers say. UN data shows 2 billion people - a quarter of the world's population - now are using water much faster than natural sources, such as groundwater, can be replenished.

In 2015, the United Nations' 193 members agreed a new set of global development goals, including one to give everyone access to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030. But in places from Africa to the Middle East, "big rivers are drying out, the population is increasing, demand is piling up and we can't supply (people) with water and food", warned General Tom Middendorp, a former Dutch defence chief.

Globally, the number of conflicts related to water scarcity has risen from roughly 16 in the 1990s to about 73 in the past five years, according to a chronology maintained by the Pacific Institute, which tracks freshwater security issues. In the 1990s, conflicts driven by water scarcity led to about 350 deaths, in places from Yemen to Nigeria, according to the chronology based on news reports and other sources.

But in the last five years, at least 3,000 people - and perhaps more than 10 times that many, if estimates of refugee deaths by Medecins Sans Frontieres are included - have died in clashes related to water in a huge range of countries, it noted. "We see conflicts over water, unfortunately, almost everywhere around the world now as competition grows over the scarce resource," said Peter Gleick, co-founder of the California-based Pacific Institute. "If you look at the number of conflicts over water in the past few decades, it's going up exponentially."

Water shortages are likely to lead to a growing death toll in coming decades, as farmers struggle to access enough water to grow crops and families turn to riskier water sources to slake their thirst, researchers say. So far, "with very rare exceptions, no one dies of literal thirst", Gleick said. "But more and more people die from contaminated water or conflicts over access to water."

Rethinking water

Besides fuelling conflict, increased water scarcity is also beginning to spark widespread reassessment of how water is captured, managed, shared and used around the world. In the American West, legal challenges - including by Native American tribes - may reshape old water rights systems that give farmers or cities with "senior" rights as much water as they like, leaving others and natural ecosystems increasingly dry. The West needs rules "reflective of modern needs and desires, rather than the rules we've had for 150 years and have had to stick by", said Bob Anderson, director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Washington.

Thirsty cities from Singapore to Los Angeles, worried their supplies of water may fall short, are trying innovative ideas to cut water demand and find new sources of the precious liquid. Singapore, for instance, has thrown a wall across a seafront bay, gradually turning what once was saltwater into a huge new freshwater reservoir for the city-state, which today relies on neighboring Malaysia for much of its water.

"It is crucial to be water-independent," said Adam Reuters-Tan, a Singapore resident whose family has slashed its water use, through measures from serving one-pot meals to save on dish-washing to taking five-minute showers. Los Angeles, which built its growth on water sucked from the distant Owens and Colorado rivers, is looking to capture stormwater and more rain to recharge its own aquifers as climate change and competition threaten its old supplies. — Reuters

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



Supporters of US President Donald Trump and US First Lady Melania Trump pose outside Buckingham Palace in central London yesterday, on the first day of their three-day State Visit to the UK. — AFP

Blood, treasure or fantasy: What
is the UK-US 'special relationship'?

Britain's so-called special relationship with the United States was one of the most enduring alliances of the 20th century, though Brexit and the presidency of Donald Trump have raised questions about its future. Trump began a three-day visit to Britain yesterday almost a year after he created controversy during his last trip by praising Prime Minister Theresa May's rivals and criticizing the way she was handling the Brexit negotiations. During Trump's presidency, the alliance with Britain - famously nurtured by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s - is increasingly fraying. What is the special relationship, and how do the United States and Britain compare on key measures?

Economy

The United States is the world's biggest economy, worth about \$21.3 trillion or 24 percent of global GDP, while Britain is the fifth largest, worth about \$2.8 trillion or 3 percent of global GDP. While the European Union accounts for about half of Britain's external trade, the United States is by far its biggest single trading partner, followed by Germany, the Netherlands, France and China. Britain, for its part, is the United States' seventh largest trade partner, after

China, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Germany and South Korea. The United States and Britain both report a surplus in goods trade with the other, indicating they are not competing like with like. For decades, Washington and London shared a desire to open up world markets to free trade.

Military

The United States, which spends more on its military than the next seven highest-spending countries combined, is proposing to spend \$686 billion on defense this year. It has the second largest number of nuclear weapons after Russia. The US Navy operates a fleet of 14 Ohio-class nuclear submarines, each of which can carry 20 Trident II D5 missiles with multiple, independently-targeted warheads.

Britain, which has the biggest defense budget in the EU, spends about 40 billion pounds (\$53 billion) a year. France and Russia are the only other nuclear powers in Europe. Britain has a fleet of four Vanguard-class submarines, which can each carry 16 Trident II D5 missiles. These are leased from a pool of such missiles that it shares with the US Navy.

The two militaries have fought side-by-side in Europe, Korea, Kuwait, Iraq, the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Libya and

Syria. Britain views the US-led NATO alliance as the foundation of its defense. Trump has demanded that Western allies pay more into NATO. U.S. forces operate out of several military bases in Britain including the Lakenheath, Croughton and Menwith Hill air bases.

Intelligence

Intelligence cooperation between the United States and Britain is extremely close and one of the main areas where the alliance works in practice. During World War Two, the two countries forged a close intelligence sharing deal that was later extended to include Canada, Australia and New Zealand and became known as the "Five Eyes". It brings the United States' modern, computer-powered technological spying together with Britain's more traditional human intelligence operations, which are strong in the former Soviet Union, Europe and the Middle East.

Cooperation between the main domestic and foreign spy agencies is close. Because their geographical strengths are complementary, data collected by Britain's GCHQ eavesdropping agency is of particular use to the US National Security Agency (NSA). The US intelligence budget excluding military intelligence is \$60 bil-

lion while the UK intelligence budget is 2.3 billion pounds (\$2.89 billion).

Finance

London and New York are the world's two biggest financial centers. While London is by far the biggest centre for foreign exchange trading and international lending, New York is king for bonds and stocks. New York overtook London as the globe's most attractive financial centre last year, according to the Z/Yen global financial centers index, which ranks 100 centers on factors such as infrastructure and access to quality staff. London dominates the \$5.1 trillion-a-day global foreign currency markets: Far more currency is exchanged in London than the United States and the rest of the EU put together. Wall Street's S&P 500, an index grouping the stocks of 500 of the largest US corporations, is worth about \$25.7 trillion, according to Refinitiv data. By comparison, the FTSE all-share index, which groups more than 600 shares traded on the London Stock Exchange, is worth about 2.5 trillion pounds. The US bond market, including government and corporate debt, is worth over \$40.7 trillion, according to the Bank for International Settlements, while Britain's bond market is worth \$5.8 trillion. — Reuters

What would it take
for US Congress to
impeach Trump?

US President Donald Trump, under growing pressure from numerous investigations of him and his administration, last week scorned talk of being removed from office via the impeachment process as "dirty, filthy, disgusting." The US Constitution empowers Congress to impeach the president, although no president has ever been removed from office as a direct result of this arduous procedure. Some lawmakers in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives favor starting the process. But the Senate, where it would have to end, is controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans. They are unlikely to remove him from office, unless public sentiment shifts strongly in favor of it. The following is how the impeachment process works.

Why impeachment?

The founders of the United States created the office of the presidency and feared that its powers could be abused. So they included impeachment as a central part of the Constitution. They gave the House "the sole power of impeachment;" the Senate, "the sole power to try all impeachments;" and the chief justice of the Supreme Court the duty of presiding over impeachment trials in the Senate. The president, under the Constitution, can be removed from office for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." What exactly that means is unclear. Historically, it can encompass corruption and other abuses, including trying to obstruct judicial proceedings. Before he became president in 1974, Republican Vice President Gerald Ford said: "An impeachable offense is whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considers it to be at a given moment in history." Ford replaced President Richard Nixon, who resigned before Congress could impeach him.

How does it work?

Impeachment begins in the House, which debates and votes on whether to bring charges against the president via approval of an impeachment resolution, or "articles of impeachment," by a simple majority of the House's 435 members. If the House approves such a resolution, a trial is then held in the Senate. House members act as the prosecutors; the senators as jurors; the chief justice presides. A two-thirds majority vote is required in the 100-member Senate to convict and remove a president. This has never happened. Presidents Andrew Johnson in



US President Donald Trump waves as he and US First Lady Melania Trump disembark Air Force One at Stansted Airport, north of London yesterday, as they begin a three-day State visit to the UK. — AFP

1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998 were impeached by the House, but both of them stayed in office after being acquitted by the Senate.

Can Supreme Court overturn?

No Trump has said on Twitter that he would ask the Supreme Court to intervene if Democrats tried to impeach him. But the founders explicitly rejected making a Senate conviction appealable to the federal judiciary.

Proof of wrongdoing?

In a typical criminal court case, jurors are told to convict only if there is "proof beyond a reasonable doubt," a fairly stringent standard. Impeachment proceedings are different. The House and Senate can set their own standards for proof.

Party breakdown in congress?

The House has 235 Democrats, 197 Republicans and three vacant seats. As a result, the Democrats could impeach Trump with no Republican support. In 1998, when Republicans had a House majority, the chamber voted largely along party lines to impeach Clinton, a Democrat. The Senate now has 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats and two independents who usually vote with the Democrats. Conviction and removal of a president would require 67 votes. So, for Trump to be impeached, at least 20 Republicans and all the Democrats and independents would have to vote against him.

Who becomes president?

In the unlikely event the Senate convicted Trump, Vice President Mike Pence would become president for the remainder of Trump's term, which ends on Jan 20, 2021. — Reuters

Burning tyres: The
murky oil business
polluting Asia

When local investigators scoured a riverbed in southern Malaysia for clues in a chemical dumping case that hospitalized over one thousand people earlier this year, they found a cocktail of toxins, including a colorless liquid commonly secreted when tyres are recycled. That led environment officials and police to a small firm called P Tech Resources involved in pyrolysis - a business of burning old tyres to make low-grade oil that industry sources say is also common elsewhere in Southeast Asia, China and India.

Police have charged a lorry driver and all three of P Tech's directors for violating a law prohibiting the illegal dumping of waste. The firm's directors and the firm also each face 15 charges for offences related to waste controls and air pollution brought by the environment department. They have all denied wrongdoing. Lawyers representing them and local police declined comment citing ongoing court proceedings.

Reuters was not able to reach the three directors of P Tech or the company secretary, the only four company officials listed in documents filed with Malaysia's companies regulator. Its premises were closed and calls to its registered office went unanswered. The documents show P Tech, registered in 2017, manufactures and trades tyre oils.

Done properly, in a controlled environment, tyre pyrolysis has been lauded by the recycling industry as a green way of turning a complex waste into a useful energy source. In this process, tyres are heated in the absence of oxygen and the gases released are condensed into a low-quality oil that can be used in asphalt or fuel oil, depending on its purity.

Some firms in Europe and the United States have developed technology to limit emissions and waste from pyrolysis, but with low margins this green approach has not had widespread commercial success, industry experts said. Reuters visited the premises of P Tech. Piles of tyres bound in bales, a tall chimney and a filthy pond could be seen behind closed gates. Neighboring workers told Reuters the firm operated at night and its work produced a stench that would linger until the morning. No one from P Tech was available for comment.

"Tyre pyrolysis is not a problem. The problem is with the mismanagement of it," Yeo Bee Yin, Malaysia's environment minister told Reuters when asked about the pyrolysis industry in her country. She noted P Tech was licensed for pyrolysis but did not speak specifically about the dumping case. Yeo said Malaysia used to have "very lax environmental laws" and "very low punishments" for breaches but has stepped up enforcement recently and closed down some illegal pyrolysis operators in order to better regulate the sector. — Reuters

Business

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12 China's Huawei to sell majority stake in undersea-cable unit

13 British Airways resumes Pakistan flights after a 10-year absence

14 Germany's Infineon to buy Cypress in 9-bn-euro deal



HANOI: A garment factory making men's suits in a factory in Hanoi. The odds of a US recession by next year have increased sharply, with mounting protectionism continuing to pose the greatest economic threat, according to a business economic survey yesterday. —AFP

US recession odds jump amid trade war jitters

Global recession fears grow as factory activity shrinks

WASHINGTON: The odds of a US recession by next year have increased sharply, with mounting protectionism continuing to pose the greatest economic threat, according to a business economic survey yesterday.

Nearly all the respondents to the quarterly survey from the National Association for Business Economics predicted growth would slow in 2019 but were moderately less gloomy about the risks to their outlook. However, the poll of 53 economic forecasters from major US corporations and universities was conducted in the first half of May, just as US trade relations with China took a sudden turn for the worse but before US President Donald Trump's latest threat to impose new tariffs on Mexico in a dispute over migration starting at five percent and quickly increasing to 25 percent.

"Increased trade protectionism is considered the primary downside risk to growth by a majority of respondents, followed by financial market strains and a global growth slowdown," Gregory Daco of Oxford Economics, who chaired the survey, said in the report.

"Recession risks are perceived to be low in the near term but to rise rapidly in 2020."

The panelists put the odds at 60 percent for a US recession before the end of 2020 — nearly double the 35 percent forecast in the survey three months ago. Nearly

90 percent of respondents said they had cut their growth forecasts in recent months due to US trade policy, which has involved battles with all major US trading partners, but even so the overall consensus for this year and next are a bit higher than the last survey.

Panelists now expect GDP growth to fall to 2.6 percent this year and 2.1 percent by next year, from 2.9 percent at the end of 2018. Most, or 60 percent, said the balance of risks was weighted to the downside but this was down from 74 percent in the previous survey.

Global tensions

Meanwhile, factory activity contracted across Asia and Europe last month as an escalating trade war between Washington and Beijing raised fears of a global economic downturn and heaped pressure on policymakers to roll out more stimulus. Such growth indicators are likely to deteriorate further in coming months as higher trade tariffs take their toll on global commerce and further dent business and consumer sentiment, leading to job losses and delays in investment decisions.

Some economists predict a world recession and a renewed race to the bottom on interest rates if trade tensions fail to ease at a Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan at the end of June, when presidents Donald Trump and Xi

Jinping could meet. The US-China trade war, slumping automotive demand, Brexit and wider geopolitical uncertainty took their toll on manufacturing activity in the euro zone last month. It contracted for a fourth month in May — and at a faster pace.

"The additional shock from the escalated trade tensions is not going to be good for global trade. In terms of the monetary policy response, almost everywhere the race is going to be to the downside," said Aidan Yao, senior emerging markets economist at AXA Investment Managers.

IHS Markit's May final manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index for the euro zone was 47.7, below April's level and only just above a six-year low in March.

In Britain, the Brexit stockpiling boom of early 2019 gave way last month to the steepest downturn in British manufacturing in almost three years as new orders dried up, boding ill for economic growth in the second quarter. After an official gauge on Friday showed contraction in China, Asia's economic heartbeat, the Caixin/IHS Markit Manufacturing PMI showed modest expansion, offering investors some near-term relief.

The outlook, however, remained grim as output growth slipped, factory prices stalled and businesses were the least optimistic on production since the survey series

began in April 2012.

Central banks in Australia and India are expected to cut rates this week, with others around the world are seen following suit in coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, yesterday's survey adds to evidence that the euro zone economy is under pressure and will likely be of concern to policymakers at the European Central Bank, who have already raised the prospect of further support. There is little likelihood of them hiking interest rates before 2021, according to economists in a Reuters poll last week. They said the bank's next policy move would be to tweak its forward guidance towards more accommodation.

Recession fears

The trade conflict between China and the United States escalated last month when Trump raised tariffs on some Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent and threatened levies on all Chinese goods.

If that were to happen, and China were to retaliate, "we could end up in a (global) recession in three quarters", said Chetan Ahya, global head of economics at Morgan Stanley. Washington's new tariff threats against Mexico last week also contributed to global recession fears, with stock markets tumbling around the world. —Agencies

Stock markets extend drop, oil recovers

LONDON: Stock markets fell further yesterday but oil recovered, with investors opting for haven assets such as the yen amid intensifying trade tensions. The British pound rose despite data showing that UK manufacturing contracted for the first time in three years as Brexit stockpiling dried up.

"Global (stock) markets are kicking off a new week in a similar vein as the week just gone, with another bout of selling taking hold amid a ramp-up in trade war fears," noted Joshua Mahony, senior market analyst at IG trading group. US President Donald Trump's abrupt threat last week to hit Mexico with tariffs over immigration concerns has done little to reassure investors already anxious about the increasingly fractious US-China trade war.

Trump, beginning a state visit to Britain

yesterday, has followed up the threats against Mexico with an announcement that Washington would no longer offer preferential trade treatment to India, starting Wednesday, in a bid to pressure New Delhi to increase market access for US goods.

Beijing's imposition of duties on \$60 billion worth of US goods meanwhile came into effect Saturday. The move, which came in retaliation for Washington raising its tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods, is the latest round in a bruising battle between the two superpowers.

Referring to "the never-ending game of tariff tag", OANDA senior market analyst Edward Moya said there were fears "we could see a global recession by the middle of next year if the US imposes additional tariffs on China and Mexico". As US-China talks have stalled, the dispute has spread beyond trade, with the US targeting Chinese tech giant Huawei over national security concerns, and Beijing threatening to also identify "unreliable" foreign companies.

In a sign of its unwillingness to cede too much ground, Chinese defense minister General Wei Fenghe on Sunday said that "if

the US wants to talk, we will keep the door open. If they want to fight, we are ready". There are hopes that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet during the G20 summit this month to jumpstart negotiations.

Trump's trade wars have also sent oil markets plunging, but crude futures did rebound slightly yesterday. "The month of May was a disaster for crude prices—the worst May performance in seven years—as the escalation of the global trade war saw the global growth outlook crumble," said analyst Moya.

Elsewhere yesterday, the IHS Markit/CIPS UK manufacturing purchasing managers' index showed a reading of 49.4 last month, down from 53.1 in April. The figure slid below 50 — therefore indicating contraction—for the first time since July 2016. "The upshot is that as most of impact of the no-deal Brexit preparations in March appear to have now unwound, we don't expect May's large fall to be repeated in June," said Thomas Pugh, UK economist at Capital Economics.

"However... a sharp rebound also seems unlikely. As a result, the manufacturing sector is likely to be a drag on (British) GDP growth for some time yet." —AFP



TOKYO: Pedestrians are reflected on an electronics stock indicator at the window of a securities company in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

Business

China's Huawei to sell majority stake in undersea-cable unit

SHANGHAI: Huawei will sell its majority share in a submarine cable unit, the stake's buyer announced yesterday, amid a US-led drive to isolate the Chinese telecom giant from global information networks over spying fears.

US President Donald Trump has attacked Huawei in recent months, urging allies to boycott its products and blacklisting the Chinese firm from buying some US software.

Undersea cables are vital to global internet traffic. The 51 percent stake in Huawei Marine Networks will be bought by Hengtong Optic-Electric, an optical-cable manufacturer based in eastern China's Jiangsu province, according to a filing with the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Huawei Marine Networks is a joint venture between Huawei and UK-based undersea cable firm Global Marine Systems.

Huawei Marine claims on its website to be involved in around 90 projects, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, totalling more than 50,000 kilometers (30,000 miles) of undersea cables.

Washington suspects that Huawei, which was founded by former People's Liberation Army (PLA) engineer Ren Zhengfei, has ties to China's military and thus poses

a security threat. The Trump administration warns that Huawei networks carrying data around the globe could be accessed and manipulated by Beijing using security backdoors built into the company's equipment.

Huawei has repeatedly denied any connection to China's government or that it poses any security threat. Reached by AFP, a Huawei spokesperson said the company had no immediate comment on the status of Huawei Marine.

Hengtong Optic-Electric's stock exchange filing said the company was purchasing the stake from Huawei Technologies Co, Huawei's corporate parent. Founded by Ren in 1987, Huawei has risen to become the world leader in telecom networking equipment and one of the top smartphone manufacturers alongside Samsung and Apple. But the US Commerce Department last month placed Huawei and dozens of affiliates on an "entity list" on grounds of national security, a move that curbs its access to US-made components it needs, though a 90-day reprieve was later issued.

A number of countries have also blocked Huawei from working on their mobile networks and companies have stepped away from the firm following the US ban, citing legal requirements. —AFP



SHENZHEN: People walk past Huawei advertising at Shenzhen-Bao'an International airport in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong province. —AFP

China to create company blacklist as trade war with US escalates

BEIJING: China said it would release a blacklist of "unreliable" foreign companies and individuals, hitting back after the United States targeted telecom giant Huawei in their escalating trade war.

The announcement was made a day before Beijing is due to increase tariffs on \$60 billion in US goods, capping a week marked by rising Chinese threats of retaliation after President Donald Trump blacklisted Huawei. The US Commerce Department placed Huawei on an "entity list" on grounds of national security on May 16, a move that curbs its access to US-made components it needs for its equipment. A 90-day reprieve was later issued.

China's commerce ministry announced on Friday that it will release its own list of "unreliable entities".

Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said the list will include "foreign enterprises, organizations or individuals that do not comply with market rules, deviate from a contract's spirit or impose blockades or stop supplies to Chinese enterprises for non-commercial purposes, and seriously damage the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises". The detailed measures against firms on the list will be released shortly, Gao said.

The Chinese move appears aimed at pressuring foreign companies to maintain commercial relations with Huawei-Washington is reportedly also considering adding Chinese surveillance firms to its list for alleged human rights violations.

Google, whose Android operating system is vital to Huawei phones, is among the companies that have announced that they will abide by the US order. Another critical partner, ARM Holdings—a British designer of semiconductors owned by Japanese group Softbank—said it was complying with the US restrictions.

"Some foreign entities have violated normal market rules and the spirit of their contracts" to cut off supplies and "take other discriminatory actions against Chinese companies damaging their legitimate rights and interests, and endangering China's national security and national interests," Gao said, according to state-owned Global Times.

Rajiv Biswas, APAC chief economist at IHS Markit, said China's decision to create a blacklist was "a tit-for-tat countermeasure to signal that China can target US firms".

He said the sanctions could be similar to the

US entity list, which restricts the sale of technology by US firms to companies on the list. Huawei has been thrust to the centre of the trade spat, with Trump suggesting last week that the company could be included in a deal.

The United States claims the company has deep links to China's Communist-led government and warns that its equipment could serve as a Trojan horse for Chinese intelligence services.

Huawei—the world's second smartphone maker and a leader in developing next-generation 5G networks—vehemently denies the charges.

Trump 'lies'
China's entity list will help safeguard a rule-based global supply chain, said Zhang Yansheng, chief researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges think tank.

"In the past, commercial deals were based on contracts, but now those can be changed over so-called security issues," he said. Firms that substantially harm a company or supply chain may face punishments or sanctions, Zhang said.

China's announcement follows a growing war of words. Washington and Beijing resumed their tariffs battle earlier this month after trade talks in Washington ended without a deal, with the US side accusing Chinese negotiators of reneging on previous commitments.

The countries have exchanged tariffs on \$360 billion in two-way trade so far.

Trump said the US tariffs have had a "devastating effect" on the Chinese economy. "The US side has said such lies not just once or twice. Every time China exposes them in time, but the US seems to be very persistent, even obsessed, and keeps repeating these lies," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

Tariffs on condoms

Trump more than doubled punitive tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods to 25 percent this month, and launched the process to hit nearly all remaining imports from the Asian country. China responded by announcing that it would increase tariffs on \$60 billion in American products on June 1.

The US tariffs appear to have already had an impact on Chinese manufacturing activity, which contracted more than expected this month. Experts note that US consumers and importers bear the brunt of tariffs on products coming into the United States. Now China is hitting back Saturday with tariffs ranging from five percent to 25 percent on 5,410 products.

Those facing the 25 percent hike include beauty products, sports equipment, musical instruments, wine, condoms, diamonds, wood, fabric and toys. Chinese state media suggested this week that Beijing could also hit back by stopping exports of rare earths to the United States, cutting off key materials used to make everything from smartphones to televisions and military equipment. —AFP

What is the Italian clash with EU over fiscal policy about?

BRUSSELS: The European Commission is likely to begin disciplinary procedures against Italy tomorrow over the country's failure to reduce public debt as required by EU law.

WHY IS THE COMMISSION TURNING ON ITALY?

DEBT

European Union rules say that governments must reduce public debt every year, calculated on average over three years, by 1/20 of the difference between its current level and the EU ceiling of 60 percent of gross domestic product. Italy's debt has been rising: it went up to 132.2 percent of GDP in 2018 from 131.4 percent in 2017 and will rise to 133.7 percent this year and to 135.2 percent in 2020, according to Commission forecasts.

STRUCTURAL DEFICIT

EU rules also say that governments must cut the structur-

al deficit, a measure excluding one-off revenue and spending and the effects of the business cycle, every year until it is near balance or surplus. The structural deficit is an artificial indicator, calculated on the basis of a complex formula and notorious for being revised. But it is key for EU disciplinary action. EU finance ministers have asked Italy to cut its structural deficit by 0.6 percent of GDP a year until it's in balance or surplus. Instead, the gap has been rising every year since 2015 and is forecast to go up to 2.4 percent of GDP this year and 3.6 percent in 2020 unless policies change.

WHY NOW?

After an unprecedented clash with Rome over the 2019 budget, the Commission decided not to start disciplinary steps against Italy last December, on the condition that Italian debt would ease this year and the structural deficit would stay unchanged at 2018 levels. But data showed that debt and the structural deficit rose again in 2018. Commission forecasts show both will rise again this year and next. And senior Italian government officials have said taxes would be cut next year.

WHY BOTHER?

Italy is the euro zone's third-biggest economy and has the second-highest debt as share of GDP in Europe after Greece. Rome's plans for more borrowing and spending that failed to translate into faster economic growth worry investors, and costs for borrowing for Italy have risen.—Reuters

Striking French workers block world's biggest Nutella plant

ROUEN: A plant in northern France that makes a quarter of the world's Nutella has been blockaded for a week by workers striking for more pay, unions said yesterday, in troubling news for consumers of the cocoa and hazelnut spread.

The stoppage has hit the Villers-Ecalles factory of privately-owned Italian confectionery giant Ferrero, which normally churns out 600,000 jars per day, making it the biggest Nutella producer in the world.

Some 160 employees have been on strike since Monday last week, said Fabrice Canchel of the Force Ouvriere (FO) union. "No lorry has gone in or out of the site since then," he said.

Kinder Bueno production had also ceased for almost a week, Canchel said, while of the four Nutella production lines, just one was working and that only at 20 percent capacity.

"The raw materials are starting to run short," he said. Workers want a 4.5 percent pay rise as well as a 900 euro (\$1,000) bonus. Management has offered only a 0.4 percent rise. Ferrero, a family firm known for secrecy and which also produces Ferrero Rocher and Kinder Surprise, declined to comment.



RENNES: A file photo in Saint-Gregoire, near Rennes, northwest France, shows pots of the chocolate spread Nutella. A plant in northern France that makes a quarter of the world's Nutella has been blockaded for a week by workers striking for more pay, unions said yesterday.—AFP

But in an internal message seen by AFP, management said the "blocking of access to the site is totally illegal" and threatened to implement a judicial order to ensure access.

"This is an unacceptable violation of the right to strike," said Canchel.

Nutella production has faced challenges in recent years, partly due to poor hazelnut crops in Turkey, the world's biggest exporter of the nut. The Villers-Ecalles site closed for five days in February due to a quality defect, while a French minister in 2015 told people not to eat the spread as it contributed to deforestation and climate change.—AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.		Yemen Riyal/for 1000		Turkish Lira		Hong Kong Dollar	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		1.225	50.585	Singapore dollars		0.036777	0.039527
US Dollar Transfer	304.750	105.160	220.210	Indian Rupee		0.003724	0.004496
Euro	343.830	430.780	Indonesian Rupiah		0.000017	0.000023	
Sterling Pound	388.660	0.203	Japanese Yen		0.002725	0.002905	
Canadian dollar	227.830	0.000247	Korean Won		0.000241	0.000262	
Turkish Lira	53.500	0.069241	Malaysian Ringgit		0.002680	0.002521	
Swiss Franc	307.720	0.001456	Nepalese Rupee		0.005712	0.006012	
US Dollar Buying	296.550	0.005712	Pakistan Rupee		0.216611	0.226611	
ASIAN COUNTRIES		0.001376	Philippine Peso		0.001376	0.001956	
Japanese Yen	2.812	0.009557	Singapore Dollar		0.009557	0.009737	
Indian Rupees	4.378	0.009311	Sri Lankan Rupee		0.009311	0.009861	
Pakistani Rupees	2.099	0.00013	Taiwan		0.00013	0.00013	
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.725	0.035932	Vietnamese Dong		0.035932		
Nepali Rupees	2.729	0.004636			0.004636		
Singapore Dollar	223.490	0.071496			0.071496		
Hongkong Dollar	38.852	0.004636			0.004636		
Bangladesh Taka	3.595	0.009111			0.009111		
Philippine Peso	5.852	0.028036			0.028036		
Thai Baht	9.660	0.298376			0.298376		
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						
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd							
Rate for Transfer		Selling Rate		BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
US Dollar	304.290	304.290		CURRENCY			
Canadian Dollar	227.140	227.140		BUY		SELL	
Sterling Pound	388.330	388.330		Europe			
Euro	342.520	342.520		British Pound		0.377571	
UAE Dirhams	83.250	83.250		Czech Korune		0.005133	
Qatari Riyals	84.490	84.490		Danish Krone		0.041464	
Saudi Riyals	82.040	82.040		Euro		0.332543	
Jordanian Dinar	430.470	430.470		Georgian Lari		0.108709	
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.724	1.724		Hungarian 0.000954		0.001144	
Indian Rupees	4.383	4.383		Norwegian Krone		0.030732	
Pakistani Rupees	2.016	2.016		Romanian Leu		0.054646	
Bangladesh Taka	3.604	3.604		Russian ruble		0.004636	
Philippines Peso	5.807	5.807		Slovakia		0.009111	
Cyprus pound	18.105	18.105		Swedish Krona		0.028036	
Japanese Yen	3.780	3.780		Swiss Franc		0.298376	
Syrian Pound	1.590	1.590		Australasia			
Nepalese Rupees	2.741	2.741		Australian Dollar		0.203124	
Malaysian Ringgit	73.530	73.530		New Zealand Dollar		0.192890	
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.545	44.545		America			
Thai Baht	10.545	10.545		Canadian Dollar		0.220081	
				US Dollars		0.300550	
				US Dollars Mint		0.301050	
				Asia			
				Bangladesh Taka		0.003010	
				Chinese Yuan		0.042615	

Business

British Airways resumes Pakistan flights after a 10-year absence

Major vote of confidence from a Western airline



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Airport Security Force (ASF) personnel escort British Airways officials upon their arrival at the Islamabad International Airport on the outskirts of Islamabad yesterday. British Airways landed back in Pakistan yesterday, in a major vote of confidence from a Western airline after suspending operations due to security fears over a decade ago.



ISLAMABAD: A British Airways plane taxis on a runway upon their arrival at the Islamabad International Airport on the outskirts of Islamabad yesterday. —AFP Photos

ISLAMABAD: British Airways landed back in Pakistan yesterday, in a major vote of confidence from a Western airline after suspending operations due to security fears over a decade ago. The British carrier—which halted services in 2008 following the deadly Marriott Hotel bombing in Islamabad—is running three weekly flights from London's Heathrow airport to Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

Britain is home to more than a million people of Pakistani origin, making it the largest Pakistani diaspora community in Europe. "Britain's flag carrier is back. The two countries, so close in so many ways, take a step closer," British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Thomas

Drew, said in a statement.

"It is of course tribute to the great improvements in the security situation in Pakistan in recent years."

BA had six weekly flights to Islamabad before the Marriott attack, which killed more than 50 people and triggered a major drawdown by embassies and international agencies over safety concerns.

Struggling Pakistan International Airlines had until yesterday been the only carrier with direct flights between the two countries. Since the Marriott attack, the country has been largely dependent on Middle Eastern airlines such as Emirates and Etihad, with most international flights routed through the Gulf. "Usually I

take the connecting flights so this was a very refreshing experience and looking forward to going back as well," Sana Khan, a doctor based in Britain, told AFP after touching down in Islamabad.

Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific was one of the last major international carriers to cease operations in Pakistan after dozens were killed during a 2014 siege at Karachi airport by Taliban militants.

Pakistan has battled homegrown militancy for nearly 15 years, with tens of thousands of people killed.

But the country has seen a dramatic turnaround recently, with security largely stabilized following several military offensives along the Afghan border and

crackdowns on insurgents in urban centers.

Many Western countries continue to have travel advisories in place to warn their citizens of the potential for kidnapping and bomb attacks, especially in areas near the Afghan border.

British Airways's return also comes as Pakistan continues to restrict large swathes of its eastern airspace following a confrontation with India in February, effectively closing off major international flight routes in and out of Islamabad and Lahore headed east while also disrupting Indian flights.

A Pakistani security official said the restrictions would continue until at least June 15. —AFP

Keep it easy! Emerging central banks keep cutting rates in May

LONDON: Interest rate cuts by emerging market central banks outstripped rate hikes for a fourth straight month in May, taking their cue from the dovish turn of major central banks as fears over the health of the global economy and trade tensions take their toll.

Interest rate moves by central banks across a group of 37 developing economies showed two net rate cuts last month after recording three net rate cuts in the three months prior.

The fourth month of net rate cuts follows a tightening cycle that ended in early 2019 during which interest rate hikes by emerging market central banks outstripped or matched cuts for nine straight months to battle the fallout from a strong dollar, rising inflation and softer currencies.

Below is a list of recent emerging market central bank monetary policy changes:

SRI LANKA - The central bank cut its key interest rates by 50 basis points on May 31, as widely expected, to support its faltering economy as overall business and consumer confidence slumped following last month's deadly

bomb attacks.

TAJIKISTAN - The central bank reduced the refinancing rate to 13.25% from 14.75% on May 31.

KYRGYZSTAN - Policy makers in the Central Asian nation cut the benchmark rate to 4.25 percent from 4.50 percent on May 28, citing slowing inflation.

ANGOLA - Angola's central bank cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 15.5 percent on May 24.

COSTA RICA - The central bank cut the key policy rate to 4.75 percent from 5 percent on May 23.

ZAMBIA - The central bank in Lusaka raised the benchmark lending rate to 10.25 percent from 9.75 percent on May 22 to counter inflationary pressure and support macroeconomic stability.

PAKISTAN - Soaring inflation prompted Pakistan's central bank to raise its key interest rate to 12.25 percent on May 20 with policy makers flagging further rises on the back of higher oil prices and reforms required for a bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

JAMAICA - Jamaica's central bank cut its interest rate by 50 basis points to 0.75 percent on May 19 - the third cut since the start of the year.

THE PHILIPPINES - The central bank cut its benchmark interest rate on May 9 by 25 basis points to 4.50 percent, on expectations inflation will ease after the economy grew at its slowest pace in four years in the first quarter.

MALAYSIA - The central bank on

May 7 became the first in Southeast Asia to cut its key interest rate this year, by 25 basis points to 3.0 percent, moving to support its economy at a time of concern about global growth.

RWANDA - Rwanda's central bank cut its key repo rate by 50 basis points on May 6 to 5.0 percent.

MALAWI - Malawi's central bank cut its benchmark lending rate by 100 basis points on May 3 to 3.5 percent.

CZECH REPUBLIC - The Czech National Bank raised interest rates on May 2, using a window of opportunity created by easing economic risks abroad to stem rising domestic inflation by fine-tuning a tightening cycle it had paused at the end of 2018.

AZERBAIJAN - The central bank cut its refinancing rate by 25 basis points to 8.75 percent on April 26, citing an improved macroeconomic situation and higher global oil prices.

UKRAINE - Ukraine's central bank trimmed its main interest rate to 17.5 percent on April 25, the first decrease in the past two years.

KAZAKHSTAN - Policymakers cut the policy rate by 25 basis points to 9.00 percent on April 15 in an expected move taken after President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev ordered them to make credit more affordable.

INDIA - The central bank cut the interest rate as expected by 25 basis points on April 4, a move to lift the economy a week before voting began in a

marathon election that will decide whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi gets a second term. Inflation remains subdued, though falling farm incomes and record high unemployment have seen economic growth slide to 6.6 percent in December - its slowest in five quarters.

NIGERIA - In a surprise move, the central bank cut its benchmark interest rate to 13.5 percent from 14 percent on March 26 as part of an attempt to stimulate growth in Africa's biggest economy and signal a "new direction".

PARAGUAY - Paraguay's central bank cut its policy rate by 25 basis points to 4.75 percent on March 22.

GEORGIA - The central bank cut its refinancing rate to 6.5 percent from 6.75 percent on March 13, citing forecasts suggesting that annual inflation would stay close to its 3 percent target this year.

TUNISIA - Policymakers in Tunisia raised the key interest rate to 7.75 percent from 6.75 percent on Feb. 19 to combat high inflation - the third such hike in the past 12 months.

EGYPT - Egypt's central bank made a surprise cut to its overnight deposit rate on Feb. 14, citing a strong drop in inflation and an improvement in other macroeconomic indicators. The bank lowered its deposit rate to 15.75 percent from 16.75 percent and its lending rate to 16.75 percent from 17.75 percent, its first rate cuts since March 2018. —Reuters

New York takes aim at skyscrapers' sky-high energy usage

NEW YORK: It's a tall order indeed: How do you make aging, energy-hungry skyscrapers more efficient and less polluting? The city of New York, the historic capital of the skyscraper, is determined to do so by requiring the enormous buildings to drastically curtail their energy consumption.

Traditional skyscrapers are an energy-saver's nightmare, with their vast glass facades, electric lighting everywhere, overly generous use of air conditioning and heating, and elevators by the dozen: they almost seem designed to consume a maximum of energy while emitting copious quantities of greenhouse gases.

If a growing number of newer skyscrapers around the world are designed, from the start, to be energy-efficient—the Shard in London and Shanghai Tower in China are two examples—the costs and effort involved in transforming an older building, built decades before the world became conscious of global warming, can be daunting.

And yet those are precisely the buildings targeted by the Climate Mobilization Act, passed in late April by the City Council of the largest US metropolis as part of its commit-

ment to reduce emissions by 80 percent from now through 2050.

The law requires buildings of more than 25,000 square feet (2,300 square meters) to reduce emissions by 40 percent by 2030 from their 2005 levels. It will affect the approximately 50,000 buildings that emit one-third of the city's greenhouse gases.

In targeting the dense building stock, which in total accounts for 70 percent of all New York emissions, the city has adopted a landmark law, said Nilda Mesa, director of the urban sustainability program at Columbia University.

"The Climate Act is really pathbreaking," she told AFP. "It will have a number of positive effects... It will basically create a market and create demand for energy-efficient technologies" which can then be used by other cities, in the US or elsewhere.

3 million light bulbs

Although the law provides long-term borrowing facilities to help property owners, it was vigorously opposed by the powerful real-estate sector, worried by some estimates that the costs of renovation could run more than \$4 billion. But some older buildings, like the Empire State Building, have already begun to address the problem, "showing other people how it can be done," Nilda Mesa said.

That legendary skyscraper, an Art Deco jewel dating from 1931, launched a vast renovation program in 2009 at a cost of \$550 million, allowing it to cut its energy consumption by more than 40 percent.

More than 6,500 windows, three million light bulbs and 67 elevators were replaced or renovated to improve the building's insulation and cut its energy consumption, even as it



NEW YORK: The city of New York lit up at night is the historic capital of the skyscraper but it wants buildings to reduce emissions by 80 percent from now through 2050.

was becoming much more densely occupied.

Engineers also installed an ultra-modern energy management system, constantly optimizing consumption according to the needs of the moment. With those changes already made—and paid for in only four years—Anthony Malkin, chairman and CEO of the Empire State Realty Trust which owns the building, is feeling sanguine about the impact of the new law.

"But we will have to improve for 2030," he says. Experts point out, however, that reducing emissions is easier for an older tower like the Empire State Building than it will be for the glass-clad skyscrapers that seemed to

sprout everywhere starting in the 1970s.

A prime example is Trump Tower, the 58-story skyscraper built by Donald Trump on Fifth Avenue in 1984. It is now one of the most energy-greedy buildings in the city, according to the New York environmental group Align. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, who is seeking the Democratic nomination to oppose Trump in the 2020 presidential election, has said Trump Tower could face fines of more than \$500,000 a year under the new law.

The Trump Organization has not responded to queries from AFP as to whether it has begun planning for renovation. —AFP

Mexico president announces start of work on \$8bn refinery

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has officially launched the \$8 billion construction of a controversial oil refinery that experts say is likely to blowout in cost. The huge project, inaugurated Sunday, aims to boost Mexico's struggling state oil company Pemex and provide economic stimulus to the country's impoverished south.

"We will build it in three years at a cost of 150 billion pesos (\$8 billion). No doubt about it!" the left-wing president said. Experts however say the project will nearly double in cost and take some eight years to complete. A group of foreign firms selected by the government were first granted the tender to build the Dos Bocas oil refinery in southeastern Tabasco state where Lopez Obrador was born.

The tender was cancelled when the firms put forward completion dates and budget estimates greater than those demanded by the president.

The government then gave the project to the deeply indebted oil company Pemex. Once completed, it would allow Pemex to process some 340,000 barrels of crude per day and deliver 170,000 barrels of petrol as well as 120,000 barrels of diesel. Experts however doubt Pemex has the necessary experience to see the project through. They also say it is a mistake to funnel resources into the new refinery instead of pushing the company to boost its dwindling production of gasoline, which has fallen 50 percent from its peak of 3.4 million barrels per day 15 years ago. —AFP

As meetings begin and US tariffs loom, Mexico hopes for migration deal

WASHINGTON: Mexico can reach an agreement with the United States to resolve a dispute over migration that prompted US President Donald Trump to threaten punitive tariffs, Mexican officials said yesterday as high-level talks were set to begin in Washington.

Trump has proposed the tariffs on Mexican imports to pressure Mexico into action against migrants passing through on the way to the United States, as well as drug cartels. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, speaking at his regular morning news conference in Mexico City, also reiterated that he believed a deal could be reached to avert the tariffs. The Mexican officials, speaking to reporters in Washington, warned that Trump's tariffs could backfire.

Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said such tariffs would be devastating and would not stop waves of Central American migrants from crossing the southern US border. "Tariffs, along with the decision to cancel aid programs to the northern Central American countries, could have a counterproductive effect and would not reduce migration flows," Mexico's ambassador to the United States, Martha Barcena, also said at the news conference. —Reuters

Business

Germany's Infineon to buy Cypress in 9-bn-euro deal

German chipmaker aims to grab no. 8 spot in industry

BERLIN: With an offer to take over US competitor Cypress for around nine billion euros (\$10.1 billion), German chipmaker Infineon aimed yesterday to grab the number-eight spot in the industry and expand into the "Internet of Things". Infineon, a wallflower in a bout of consolidation in the semiconductor industry in recent years, said in a statement it agreed to pay \$23.85 per share in cash for Cypress. "With this transaction, we will be able to offer our customers the most comprehensive portfolio for linking the real with the digital world," Infineon chief executive Reinhard Ploss said.

"This will open up additional growth potential in the automotive, industrial and Internet of Things sectors," he added. The companies currently have complementary focuses. Infineon, which spun off from the Siemens conglomerate in 1999, focuses on power semiconductors, sensors and security solutions.

California-based Cypress, which bought the Internet of Things division of Qualcomm in 2016, focuses on micro-controllers as well as software and connectivity components and flash memory.

"Combining these technology assets will enable comprehensive advanced solutions for high-growth applications such as electric drives, battery-powered devices and power supplies," they said in the joint statement. Infineon said the deal is expected to have a positive effect on earnings from the first year, with revenue growth of at least 9

percent, a double-digit increase in margins and a drop in the investment-to-sales ratio. It targets 180 million euros in annual savings by 2022, and put the long-term potential of synergies at more than 1.5 billion euros per year. The German firm said that while a consortium of banks will underwrite the funding of the acquisition of Cypress, it intends to ultimately finance around 30 percent of the transaction with a capital increase, use some cash reserves and finance the rest with debt.

Prospects of an investor dilution prompted stock in the Munich-based group to fall 6.5 percent in morning trading to 15.04 euros, making it the worst performer on the DAX index of German blue-chip shares. The \$23.85 offer price is nearly a 50-percent premium to the 30-day volume-weighted average price during the period from 15 April to 28 May, before market rumors of a deal began.

Infineon said the acquisition, which it expects could close by the end of this year following regulatory approvals as well as by Cypress shareholders, will make it the world's number eight chip manufacturer. The company, which makes about a quarter of its sales in China, has twice revised its forecasts down in the last year due to the global slowdown, and lags behind main US rivals Intel, Micron, Qualcomm, Broadcom and Samsung. Its Californian target, which has been based in San Jose since 1982, acquired in 2016 the 'Internet of Things' division of Qualcomm, which has huge potential for manufacturers. — AFP



A 32bit-processor made by German microchip manufacturer Infineon. — AFP

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 2nd June 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 26th May until 30th May 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

Khaled Abdulaziz Abdullah Alfouzan
Halima Abduljaleel Qasem Boland
Fatimah Mohamad Rabeca Hussain Rabeca
Hamdh Jasem Ahmad Alsaad
Fatimah Shekhan Hasan Ali

Gulf Bank's second Al-Danah quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on 26 June 2019, and the third quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 25 September 2019. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1,000,000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event.

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

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2019 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw. Furthermore, loyal Al-Danah customers are rewarded with loyalty chances. Loyalty chances are the total chances accumulated from the previous year which are added to the customer's chances the following year. Terms and conditions apply.



Australia readies for landmark interest rate cut

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank is expected to slash interest rates to historic lows today, the first cut in three years amid global trade concerns and an underperforming domestic economy. Australia's resource-rich economy dodged the worst of the global financial crisis, but rising unemployment, low wages and below-target inflation are stoking fears about the health of the economy Down Under. Analysts and investors are almost unanimous in their view that the Reserve Bank of Australia will cut rates by 25 basis points to 1.25 percent when it holds its monthly policy meeting.

"Neither we nor the market think the Bank will stop there," ANZ analysts told clients yesterday. "Market pricing has the cash rate falling below 1 percent before the end of this year." In the 10 years since the global meltdown, the Reserve Bank of Australia has apart from a brief burst of optimism in 2010 — steadily cut rates from a peak of 7.25 percent. Any hope of returning rates to more "normal" pre-crisis levels have been quashed by the slow global recovery and domestic headwinds. — AFP

South African Airways CEO quits over lack of state support

JOHANNESBURG: South African Airways' CEO Vuyani Jarana has resigned after less than two years in the job, saying his turnaround strategy for the loss-making airline was being undermined by a lack of state funding and too much bureaucracy. The airline said in a statement late on Sunday that its board had accepted Jarana's resignation.

In a resignation letter dated May 29, seen by Reuters, Jarana told the chairman of the airline's board that there was a lack of progress on implementing the group's strategy.

"The strategy is being systematically undermined, and as the Group Chief Executive Officer, I can no longer be able to assure the board and the public that the LTTS (long-term turnaround strategy) is achievable," Jarana said in his resignation letter. His departure highlights the challenges facing South African President Cyril Ramaphosa as he seeks to speed up reforms at South African Airways (SAA) and other state-owned entities. They are dependent on government bailouts and are regularly cited by ratings agencies as one of the main threats to the country's economic growth. Jarana, a former executive at telecoms company Vodacom, was appointed in late 2017 to implement a strategy to return the airline to profit and wean it off government bailouts.

Australia promises \$250 million to Solomons in face of China growth

HONIARA, Solomon Islands: Australia is to fund a \$250 million (US\$173 million) grants program for the Solomon Islands, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced yesterday, as Canberra confronts growing Chinese influence in the region. Morrison, in his first overseas trip since re-election two weeks ago, unveiled the package amid talks with Solomons Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.

It came in a three-pronged Canberra initiative with Defence Minister Linda Reynolds and Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne highlighting Australia's push for economic security in the region.

The grants program, to cover a range of projects over 10 years, is designed to allow the Solomons to finance urgently-required infrastructure. Further funds will be used to help Solomon Islanders access work opportunities in Australia and an initiative to assist with rugby union development in the country.

"Australia and Solomon Islands will continue to work closely together to boost our engagement by strengthening community bonds and tackling common challenges," Morrison and Sogavare said in a



joint statement. They added they were committed to "deeper cooperation" on defense and security "to make the Pacific region secure, prosperous, and stable." Morrison announced last year a multibillion-dollar package for much-needed infrastructure in the Pacific and Australia recently funded a new underwater internet cable for the Solomon Islands to lock out Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.

The Solomons is one of a handful of nations that still recognize Taipei rather than Beijing. But with an economy hampered by declining resources, the impoverished South Pacific archipelago is being pressured to sever ties with Taiwan and join up with China's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative.

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen recently urged Australia, the United States and Japan to join with Taipei in a "values-based partnership" to push back against China's growth in the Pacific. Morrison diplomatically phrased Canberra's intentions as seeking "the peaceful independence and sovereignty of all Pacific Island nations... and to address the many challenges that are present in our region."

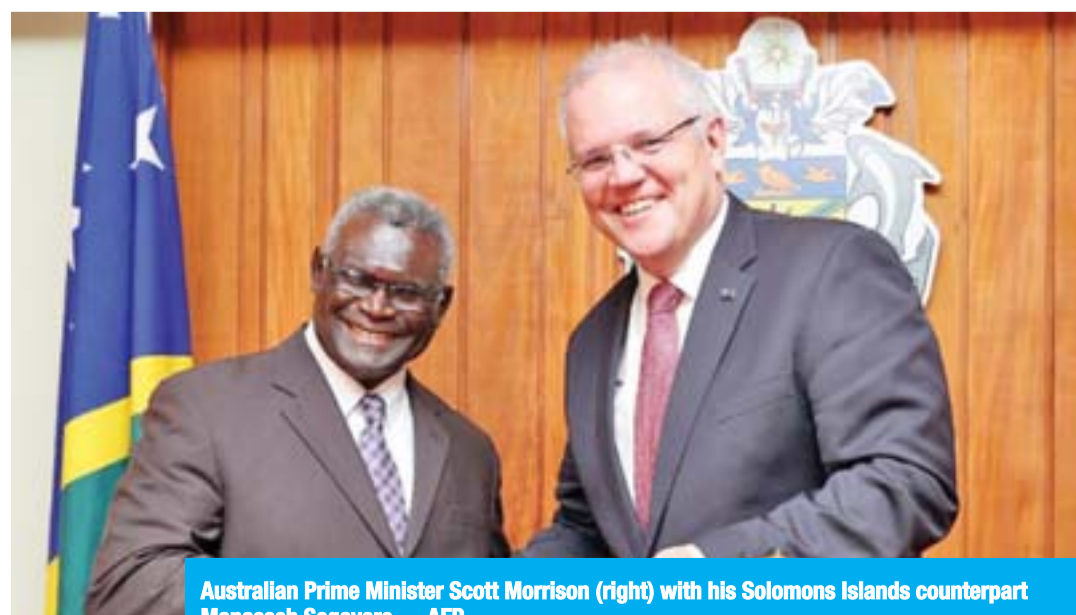
Meanwhile, Reynolds told the Shangri-La Dialogue security conference in Singapore over the weekend that Canberra "wants to do our bit to ensure the Pacific region is resilient and it is stable. We have a package of initiatives that are far-reaching in scope and also in ambition—security, economic, diplomatic, development and people-to-people initiatives that build on long and historic relationships and friendships," she said. Payne headed to Fiji yesterday to discuss "deepening our security, economic and people-to-people links". — AFP

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Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison (right) with his Solomon Islands counterpart Manasseh Sogavare. — AFP

behalf of the board, I would like to thank Mr Jarana for his service and commitment to the airline. He contributed to returning confidence and credibility to the airline," Chairman Johannes Bhukumuzi Magwaza said in the statement.

Magwaza said the airline will continue to take measures to reduce its cost structure and make the airline more competitive domestically and globally. The airline, which also has a low-cost carrier, Mango, will immediately start the process of searching for a new group CEO to take the strategy forward, Magwaza added.

Jarana will step down at the end of August. Ramaphosa has been at pains to stabilize ailing firms like SAA, which weigh on confidence in Africa's most industrialized economy, but the extent of their financial difficulties has meant slow progress. Jarana's resignation comes more than a week after struggling state-owned power utility Eskom said its CEO, Phakamani Hadebe, was stepping down for health reasons after leading efforts to stabilize the highly indebted state firm. Eskom has not yet stabilised.

SAA is not helped by a slowdown in the airline industry generally, which the International Air Transport Association (IATA) highlighted in comments on Sunday. Jarana said in April that SAA had reached an agreement in principle with lenders to roll over 9.2 billion rand of debt due at the end of March this year. In his letter, Jarana said a 3.5 billion rand facility secured from local banks will be depleted in June. — Reuters

Zimbabwe's mineral-backed loans may complicate talks with creditors: IMF

HARARE: Foreign loans that use minerals as collateral may complicate Zimbabwe's future negotiations with foreign creditors to restructure its \$8.8 billion debt, an International Monetary Fund official said yesterday.

Unable to get funding from lenders like the IMF since defaulting on its debt in 1999, Zimbabwe has over the last five years relied on the African Export and Import Bank (Afreximbank) for mineral-backed loans. But the country still faces a dollar crunch that has led to shortages of fuel and medicines.

Zimbabwe remains in debt distress, said Gene Leon, the IMF mission chief to Zimbabwe. Its \$2.6 billion arrears to the World Bank, African Development Bank and European Investment Bank prevent access to new funds from multilateral lenders. "In this context, the government has contracted external loans on commercial terms that are collateralized by mineral exports," Leon said in emailed responses to Reuters.

"While these loans can help the authorities in responding to the economic and humanitarian crisis that is unfolding, they may also complicate future negotiations with external creditors to restore debt sustainability," Leon said Zimbabwe's projections of economic growth would probably be revised in the short term because of drought and a cyclone that battered the eastern regions. The IMF forecasts the economy will shrink by 2.1 percent this year.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who came to power after a coup toppled Robert Mugabe in November 2017, has made clearing foreign arrears a top priority. His government has agreed an IMF staff program it hopes will help pay off multilateral lenders and Paris Club creditors next year. The central bank, which has previously said it borrowed \$985 million from African lenders last year, said on May 19 it had secured \$500 million from unnamed international banks. Treasury officials said the money was from Afrximbank. That loan included \$100 million bridging finance in February, two treasury sources said, adding that some of the money was used to buy fuel and make "token" payments to South Africa and Mozambique for past electricity imports.

Gene told Reuters that implementing fiscal and monetary policy reforms, including the removal of exchange restrictions to stabilize the exchange rate and inflation, would be hard without external funding and after a severe drought. At 75.86 percent in April, Zimbabwe's inflation is still nowhere near the 500 billion percent reached during the hyperinflation era of 2008. But the consumer price index is at its highest in a decade and eroding incomes and savings.

Zimbabwe increased the price of fuel by nearly half last month, the second increase since January, angering citizens battling with soaring prices of basic goods. As inflation soars, the new RTGS dollar that was introduced in February continues to weaken. The currency was trading at 8 to the dollar on the black market compared with 5.52 on the official interbank market. The local currency has now depreciated by 91 percent on the black market and 121 percent on the official market since its introduction. — Reuters

What's On



Ooredoo concludes month of volunteer activities

Alayoub: Proud of our leading role in supporting volunteerism and charitable acts

Ooredoo concluded its Ramadan program of activities, which included internal initiatives targeting staff members as well as external initiatives targeting different society segments. These initiatives come in line with the company's social responsibility strategy during the Holy Month. Commenting on this in a statement, Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub said: "We're proud of all the participants and their willingness to give selflessly, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. We're also very proud of our leading role in supporting volunteerism and charitable acts in this holy month."

OOREDOO VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Ooredoo re-launched its Volunteer Program, following the great success it achieved upon the official launch of the program last five years. This program was launched in cooperation with Spread the Passion, a local non-profit organization which aims at encouraging youth to be more engaged in voluntarily programs. The program volunteers had visited hospitals of Al Razi Ibn Sina, and Al Farwaniya to share the festivities of Girgian by distributing boxes of sweets as well as distributing the Girgian boxes to the children who attended the Ramadan Souq Murouj. The boxes were previously prepared by the volunteers in an event that fosters the values of caring and connecting, two of the core values of Ooredoo Kuwait.

In addition, Ooredoo helped to distribute Iftar meals during the Holy Month of Ramadan through a distribution centre outside its head office and in its Iftar tent. The meal distribution drive is fully operated by Ooredoo's volunteer program members, after the great success of the program in the last five years.

INVESTING INTERNALLY

Welcoming the Holy Month of Ramadan, Ooredoo organized a special 'Graish' meal for its staff at Ooredoo's headquarters in Al Soor Street. The 'Graish' meal was a way to welcome the Holy Month with its employees and to revive the old Kuwaiti customs and heritage. All employees gather on this occasion to have one last meal before Ramadan together, greet each other and exchange best wishes. What made this year's Graish special were the surprise guests of Arab sports legends and celebrities participated in the judging panel, including soccer legends Jassim Yaqoub, Saad Al Houti and captain Wael Gomaa, star commentator Khaled Al Harban, star sport presenters Hafid Derradji and Mohammed Saadon Al Kuwari.

Connecting with its staff, Ooredoo held its Ramadan Ghabqa for its employees and subsidiary companies. The theme for this year was "Ramadan Brings Us Closer, Our Ghabqa Gathers Us". The Ghabqa was held at the Four Seasons Hotel and was attended by Ooredoo Group board chairman, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al Thani, Ooredoo Kuwait's board chairman, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Thani and Ooredoo board member and former minis-



ter of state for housing affairs, Bader Al Humaidi. The Ghabqa also included many recreational activities and competitions.

DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to the Iftar meals distribution, Ooredoo hosted many different events during the holy month of Ramadan, including visits to the Autism Centre, hospitals and special needs centers to celebrate Girgian, as well as the participation in Al Najat Charity Society's fundraising campaign, which successfully raised more than KD 500,000 to help in supporting hundreds of needy families in Kuwait. Ooredoo participated with a social media awareness campaign prior to the fundraising campaign, to invite the public to this event. The event was attended by several social media influencers, charity patrons and donors. The charity campaign highlighted the suffering that needy families face due to issues with limited income, healthcare expenses, tuition fees and debts. Ooredoo also joined the Kuwaiti Society for Cultural Dialogue in a campaign that helped in collecting excess sweets from the



Girgian in 360 Mall, for it to be sent to the children of Syrian refugees in the camps.

Ooredoo sponsored the latest edition of The Women's Football Tournament 2019 that took place in Jaber Al Ahmad Stadium. The tournament gave female football players in Kuwait and the GCC the opportunity to participate in a unique sporting experience that

elevates human conditions and empower a new generation of female athletes. The main goal of sponsoring the Women's Football Tournament is to support women with athletic skills and to encourage them to participate in events that contribute to creating a healthy lifestyle.

Ooredoo has also supported women by sponsoring the Hana Eleven Expo, an exhibition which presented a selected range of products and services local, regional and international companies, as well as creative, individuals, all within a unique showcasing experience targeting fashionable and empowered women. The exhibition was held at Al Raya Ballroom to support Kuwaiti women participating in the exhibition to showcase their product lines and promoting their small businesses among targeted audience.

The VIP and Direct Sales Department at Ooredoo Kuwait celebrated Ramadan in an exclusive Ghabqa with its VIP customers at the Four Seasons Hotel - Ramadan tent in the heart of Kuwait City. The Ghabqa was exclusively attended by a group of VIP's and public figures who enjoyed the luxurious atmosphere of the Ramadan Tent, in where a traditional band had livened up the place with some traditional instrumental music.



Health

Study: New drug therapy slows the spread of pancreatic cancer

CHICAGO: For people diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer, the outlook is about as grim as it gets: the average patient won't live longer than a year. But a new study involving a targeted drug therapy has demonstrated it may be possible to significantly slow its spread, with a third of patients receiving the medication still alive two years into a clinical trial, a researcher reported on Sunday.

The trial specifically looked at patients with BRCA gene mutations which are inherited and are known to increase the chances of getting pancreatic, ovarian, prostate and breast cancer — the reason why actress Angelina Jolie had a preventative double mastectomy. The mutation affects the body's ability to repair damaged DNA, which can result from a number of factors ranging from excess sunlight to exposure to asbestos.

"Normal cells may be able to repair it, but cells that have the mutation cannot repair this damage, and they then start to grow abnormally because they have damage in their DNA," lead author Hedy Kindler, an oncologist at the University of Chicago Medical Center, told AFP. Enter

so-called "PARP inhibitors" which act somewhat counter-intuitively by blocking a protein, PARP, that helps damaged cells repair themselves.

Since cancer cells with BRCA gene defects already have a poor repair system, targeting them using a PARP inhibitor worsens the damage and ultimately kills them. The trial screened more than 3,300 people with pancreatic cancer, identifying around 250 with the faulty gene. They then randomly assigned the drug, known as olaparib, to a portion of them and a placebo to another group. Olaparib, which is sold by Merck as "Lynparza," was found to reduce the risk of disease progression by 47 percent compared to the control group. Those patients who received olaparib had their disease under control for almost twice as long (7.4 months to 3.8 months) as those patients who received the placebo — a measure known as "median progression-free survival."

Tumor shrinkage

"Those patients whose tumor shrank with the olaparib, which was about a quarter of them, their tumor shrinkage was

maintained for more than two years," added Kindler, who presented the findings at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. "The whole idea is... you can transform an otherwise deadly prognosis into a potentially chronic disease, at least for a while, and to keep it under control."

Suzanne Cole, an oncologist at Southwestern Medical Center who was not involved with the study said it represented a "huge step forward for patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer." She added that now the effectiveness of the medication had been identified, it was important for clinicians to screen patients for the mutation to identify those who could benefit from the therapy.

Kindler cited the case of a patient who watched his brother die from the disease before learning he himself had the cancer. He was found to have the BRCA mutation and placed on the trial. "Every single time we do a CT scan, his tumor is smaller and smaller," said Kindler. "He takes a pill twice a day, and two and a half years later, he's still around. He's leading a normal life." — AFP

Obamacare led to better cancer outcomes: Studies

CHICAGO: A pair of studies has found that Obamacare led to an increase in early-stage ovarian cancer detections and helped nearly erase racial differences in the timely treatment of a range of cancers. The findings were presented Sunday and come as the administration of President Donald Trump is renewing its efforts to strike down the Affordable Care Act signed into law by his predecessor Barack Obama.

Both papers were presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago. The study on ovarian cancer screening was led by Anna Jo Smith at the Johns Hopkins Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Baltimore. "Having health insurance plays a major role in whether or not a woman has access to care providers who can monitor symptoms and act on those symptoms if necessary,"

she said in a statement. The five-year survival rate for women diagnosed with early-stage ovarian cancer is 75 percent, but the figure drops dramatically to 30 percent for those diagnosed at a later stage. The ACA was signed into law on March 2010, and by 2016-17, some 12.7 million people were covered under the law. The percentage of Americans who were uninsured dropped from 16 percent in 2010 to less than 12 percent by 2016. The researchers used data from the National Cancer Database to look at the years before (2004-2009) and after (2011-2014) the passing of the ACA.

They looked at the stage of the diagnosis and the time to treatment for the 21 to 64 age group, and compared it to those 65 and older, which was used as a control group because they had access to publicly funded Medicare before and after. They found that there was a relative gain of 1.7 percent in early-stage diagnosis and a 1.6 percent improvement in receiving treatment within 30 days. While the difference may not sound very large, "For the 22,000 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the United States annually, it means that close to 400 more women could be diagnosed at an early, treatable stage," the team said. — AFP

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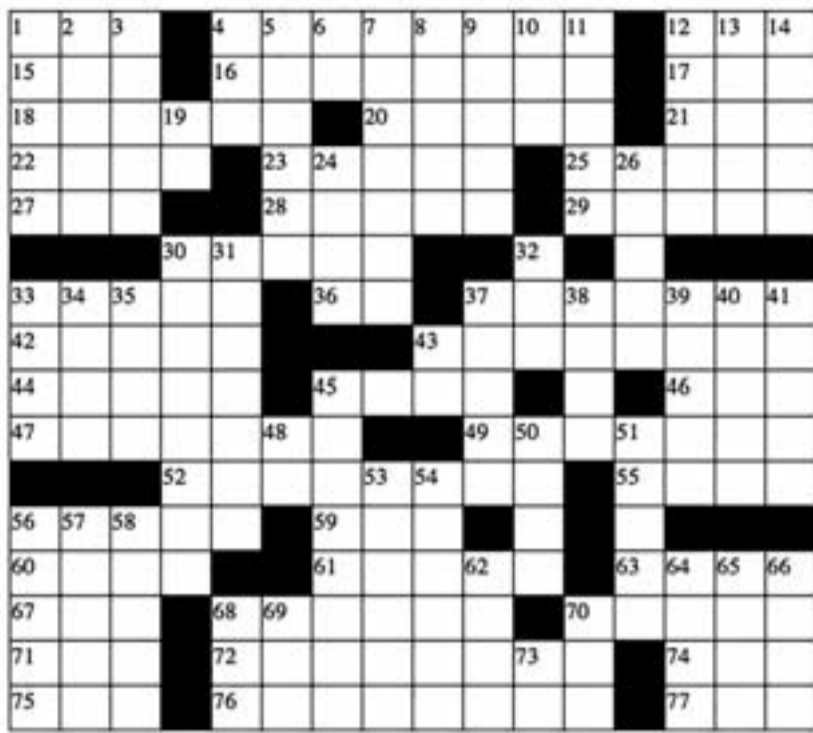
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Stars

CROSSWORD 2225



ACROSS

1. 35th President of the United States.
4. Characterized by feeling or showing fond affection for.
12. A poliovirus vaccine consisting of inactivated polio virus that is injected subcutaneously to provide immunity to poliomyelitis.
15. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
16. Flagellates free-living or parasitic in intestines of birds.
17. Being two more than fifty.
18. Some point in the air.
20. The capital of Lombardy in northern Italy.
21. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
22. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
23. Become ground down or deteriorate.
25. Someone whose business is advertising.
27. Narrow wood or metal or plastic runners used for gliding over snow.
28. Open to or abounding in fresh air.
29. A grant made by a law court.
33. The capital of Switzerland.
36. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
42. Come into existence.
44. Bordered by a line of things.
46. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
47. Large Old World bat of warm and tropical regions that feeds on fruit.
49. The trait of lacking restraint or control.
52. Former name for the order Crocodylia.
55. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
56. A numerical scale used to compare variables with one another or with some reference number.
59. Strike suddenly and with force.
60. Set down according to a plan.
61. Any plant of the genus *Inula*.
63. Situated in or facing or moving toward the east.
67. The longest division of geological time.
71. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
72. Animals having a bony or cartilaginous skeleton with a segmented spinal column and a large brain enclosed in a skull or cranium.
74. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
75. Term of address for a man.
76. A quality of refined gracefulness and good taste.
77. Animal reproductive body consisting of an ovum or embryo together with nutritive and protective envelopes.

DOWN

1. United States outlaw who fought as a Confederate soldier and later led a band of outlaws that robbed trains and banks in the West until he was murdered by a member of his own gang (1847-1882).
2. The act of searching someone for concealed weapons or illegal drugs.
3. A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
4. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
5. Read anew.
6. (combining form) Former.
7. A secret society in Naples notorious for violence and blackmail.
8. Any of a class of organic compounds that contain the divalent radical -CONHCO-.
9. Treated with oil.
10. A reptile genus of Iguanidae.
11. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
12. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
13. Of or relating to a hair.
14. A choice or delicious dish.
19. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
24. The basic unit of money in Cambodia.
26. Think moodily or anxiously about something.
30. Not established or confirmed.
31. A strongly made box for holding money or valuables.
32. An udder or breast or teat.
34. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
35. A characteristic sound.
37. 100 bututs equal 1 dalasi.
38. A Russian river.
39. English monk and scholar (672-735).
40. A theatrical performer.
41. A feudal lord or baron in Scotland.
43. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
45. Cicada killers.
48. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
50. A small cake leavened with yeast.
51. Greek mythology.
53. Work made of interlaced slender branches (especially willow branches).
54. A region in southeastern Italy on the Adriatic.
57. The mother-in-law of Ruth whose story is told in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.
58. The basic unit of money in Yemen.
62. Lacking excess flesh.
64. A French abbot.
65. A brace that extends from the rear of the keel to support the rudderpost.
66. The taste experience when a savoury condiment is taken into the mouth.
68. (informal) Of the highest quality.
69. The address of a web page on the world wide web.
70. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
73. A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

The changing of your mind over and over could give you a clue as to what's going to happen today. Irritation with others at work gives you the next hint. Quick thinking and wanting to act adds to the sense of urgency you feel that others may not feel now. This isn't a great time for you and it's the end of the month. That's the best part. Maybe next month will be more successful than today. You can talk others into anything now but you don't want to even attempt it. Try to go home early today and get some time alone, if possible. That'll help.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Dark, secret thoughts pop up into your mind where you can't seem to let them go. Be careful here at work today. You may have the desire to tell your boss, in a not so nice way, where to go now. Be quiet. You'll be glad you did later on. If you can take the day off, then do so. If not, try to go home early. Don't allow coworkers to talk you into saying anything regarding your boss today. Neither of you may be in the mood to shake this one off. Be calm and try to relax as much as possible if you have to work all day. Later, surround yourself with real friends.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Be safe with your words today. You don't want to damage relationships at work or at home. Emotional flare ups could occur easily now. Sex, or lack of it, might play a role in your irritation today. Fighting with your lover won't help. Besides this is a special day you want to remember with fondness not anger. As the song says, "Let it go." A love of what you consider law and order brings you to look at others more harshly now. We can't all be alike. Otherwise the world would be very boring. Sing the song and enjoy celebrating with friends later.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You tend to overlook your own needs now because you feel they're not necessary in the scheme of things. Energy dominates your world. You come across as very assertive. Communication with others comes easily. Work is all it's about for you at this time. You do have to remember your needs too though. You could burn out if you don't. It's easy to see what you value now. Appreciation is in high focus and you thank the powers that be for giving you what you want. That's a good thing to do since you've gotten what you desired. It will bring you more of the same. What you think you are, you are. Keep on keeping on.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You've been feeling an outpouring of independence for a while lately but with this culminating today, you're in more of a mood having to do with your freedom. Liberty to act as you'd like, to do your work on your own terms and to enjoy your homelife too in a manner fitting your needs has been and is your goal today. You've turned over the apple cart, so to speak, for almost the whole month. Now you can reap what you've sown although you've seen a difference there too. Now is the time to get more serious about what you need in your life and to go after it. It'll only make you more prosperous in every manner of your life.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You need roots. The longing you feel and remembering other times and places make you want more in the family area. If you don't already have a spouse, you may soon. You can't seem to help yourself right now. Though you still have peace in your heart, you're looking at expanding your love life to include a permanent partner who'll be there when others aren't. You don't even care about your work life today. As a matter of fact, you'd rather stay home with those you love. That may not be done easily though. If you have to work, make sure you get through the day without squabbles to ruin your sense of peace.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Everybody wants to be around you now. Be grateful for that. You get compliments from those with whom you spend time. This isn't necessarily just at work. Being the end of the month may be the best time to sort of party at work and that's what you feel is happening today because of all the kudos. You're quieter than usual but that's not bad either. It has you looking humble and those singing your praises appreciate you even more. Make this an easy work day. Go home and be with those you love. You should receive more attention and love there.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Sympathy and understanding are more important to you now. Perhaps it's because you need them from others at this point in time. Getting out and walking may help your state of mind and give you some much needed exercise too. Going against convention and tradition can bring on problems you hadn't realized you'd elicit by saying or doing what you did to garner it. This could cause problems you can't repair anytime soon. A little romance is something you think may do you some good. If you haven't gotten rid of your lover completely since yesterday, perhaps a little make-up sex will suffice.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 18)

Be thoughtful before talking. You could have a run in with someone older who is an authority figure. That's never good. Try to work without being noticed today. Later go home to family, pets and your lover, if you have one now, to enjoy people you know who feel you can do no wrong. Maybe a dinner on the patio is a good place to wind down from today's long work day. Make the conversation around the table more interesting by conveying some travel stories or listening to something that you haven't heard before. Be sure to invite a friend you know brings you good comedic information.



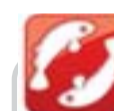
Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your sense of value may be stressed today. Things are not as they appear. Stay away from buying that new car. You're on the brink of imagination and practicality. Switching back and forth from those two items leave you appearing almost drunk. You'll find yourself thinking of lost love at some time today, even wishing for that person to surface so that you can relive a little part of your past. Romanticizing what was leaves you with an image of something that perhaps didn't really have all the good things you think. A ghost is most always a perfect person after having died.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Start your day off with sweet loving from your wonderful lover. That will set the tone for your day if you'll allow it. Power and control are on your mind now. Coworkers may find that a little hard to take but you can put them at ease easily. Investing may be the very thing you take on next because it allows you to gamble against those who supposedly know best. If you do your homework and find that you're good with research at knowing which stock to pick, you may find yourself in stocks as well. Healing arts are something that interests you now too.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your love or a great friend whom you think should know your ways and what you consider good in life, seems to turn against you or so you think. You may take what they say in the wrong way now. Their emotions seem to oppose what you believe to be right. Your feelings have been part of a quick temper lately and this is no different than what you've already experienced this week. The only difference is that it is with someone for which you care and you can't seem to let it go. Feeling unappreciated and unwanted can cause a rift in your friendship or love.

Wordsearch Puzzle

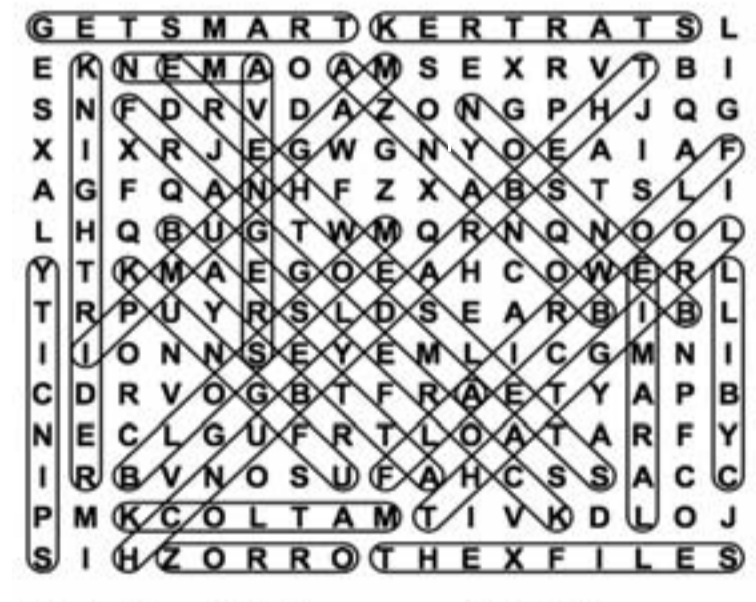
Old TV Shows 5 - Word Search



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|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| COSBY | FISH | NEWHART |
| DALLAS | GROWING PAINS | QUANTUM LEAP |
| DUE SOUTH | HART TO HART | ROC |
| EMPTY NEST | I LOVE LUCY | SOAP |
| F TROOP | KOJAK | TAXI |
| FALCON CREST | MAGYVER | WINGS |
| FAMILY TIES | MAUDE | WONDER WOMAN |
| FELICITY | MR BELVEDERE | |

Yesterday's Solution

Old TV Shows 4 - Solution

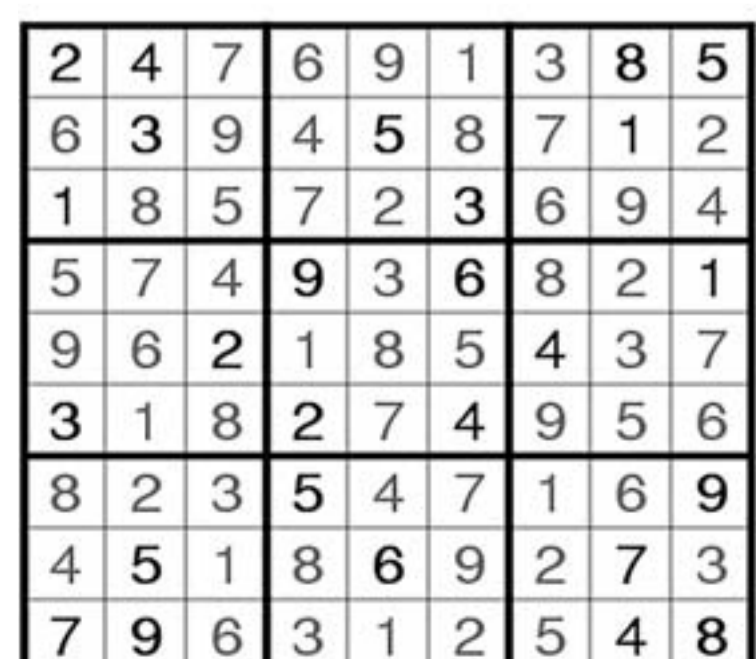


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| AIRWOLF | CYBILL | SPIN CITY |
| ALF | FRAGGLE ROCK | ST ELSEWHERE |
| AMEN | GET SMART | STAR TREK |
| AVENGERS | KNIGHT RIDER | THE BRAD |
| BARETTA | KUNG FU | THE GIRLY BUNCH |
| BENSON | LARAMIE | THE X FILES |
| BLOSSOM | MAGNUM P.I. | ZORRO |
| BONANZA | MATLOCK | |

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019



People participate in the tenth annual tomato fight festival, known as 'Tomatina', in Sutamarchan, Boyaca department, Colombia. — AFP photos

Bizarre news

Shakira tax fraud court appearance brought forward to Thursday



Colombian superstar Shakira will be questioned in court in Spain over alleged tax evasion on Thursday, six days earlier than initially scheduled, a court said. The hearing, which had been set for June 12, will now get underway on Thursday at 10am (0800 GMT) at a court in Esplugues de Llobregat near Barcelona where the singer lives with her partner, FC Barcelona footballer Gerard Pique, the high court of Catalonia said in a statement yesterday. The 42-year-old is suspected of not paying taxes in Spain despite being a resident between 2011 and 2014, according to prosecutors.

The case only covers the period from 2012 to 2014, however, as the timeframe to prosecute alleged tax offences in 2011 has expired. In a relationship since 2011 with Pique, with whom she has two sons, Shakira trans-

ferred her official residency to Spain in 2015. Until then, it was in the Bahamas. But a spokesman for prosecutors in Barcelona told AFP last year that this didn't "match reality" with her children and partner were in Barcelona.

Shakira's representatives insist that until 2014 she earned most of her money in international tours and didn't live more than six months a year in Spain—a prerequisite to be an official tax-paying resident in the country. With her mix of Latin and Arabic rhythms and rock influences, Shakira is one of the biggest stars from Latin America, scoring major global hits with songs such as "Hips Don't Lie" and "Whenever, Wherever." — AFP



A man was bitten by a snake that was hiding in his toilet

A man was bitten by a snake that was hiding in his toilet. The unidentified man, from Coral Springs, Florida was attacked by the reptile when he quickly emerged after he opened the toilet seat. The ball python - which is three to four foot long - sank its teeth into the resident's arm and the man struggled to wrangle it away. The Coral Springs Humane Unit attended the property at around 4 a.m. and treated the man for a minor infection. Luckily the snake was not venomous. Police spokesman Chris Swinson said: "It's everybody's worst nightmare, but it's in an apartment plumbing system, so there are many possibilities."

A company offering bonuses to women who wear short skirts to work

A company has been criticized for offering bonuses to women who wear short skirts to work. Aluminium manufacturer Tatprof have come under fire after offering cash rewards to female staff members who wear revealing clothing around the office. One person wrote: "Wow... So Tatprof is running a femininity contest for its employees in Russia, basically it seems so the bosses can gawk over the pictures. Disgusting abuse of power and exploiting women." Another user posted: "This is too shocking in 2019." A third added: "A 100-rouble bonus for women who will come in

short skirts to... brighten up the day of a male-dominated team. Indeed why do we need feminism when we can just please men for money?" But Govorit Moskva who represents the company said "Our team is 70 percent male. These kinds of campaigns help us switch off, rest. This is a great way to unite the team. "Many women automatically wear trousers to work, which is why we hope that our campaign will raise our ladies' awareness, allowing them to feel their femininity and charm when they make the choice of wearing a skirt or dress.



A woman was furious when her boyfriend proposed to her with a £350 wedding ring

A woman was furious when her boyfriend proposed to her with a £350 wedding ring. The unnamed woman told her partner she would only marry him if he swapped the ring he had bought her with a much more expensive piece. She said: "He actually looked really proud and said he got it for a huge steal: the jeweler said it was worth \$1000 but he got it for \$350. "I told him I appreciated the proposal and I do want to marry him, but I don't really like the ring he picked out, it looks really cheap, it is cheap, and it seems like he didn't really put effort into it. "He told me I was being materialistic and that he'd be more comfortable saving that money towards a honeymoon or a house. "He said he will get another ring if I really hate my ring, but spending more than \$500 was straight up not happening." — BangShowbiz



A Thai Muslim youth practicing archery near Haroon mosque in Bangkok. — AFP photos



Thai Muslim youths breaking their fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in the compound of Haroon mosque in Bangkok.



Rampai Sripetch, a 65-year-old Thai Muslim woman, weaving silk fabric on a loom at a workshop near Darul Falah mosque in Bangkok.



Muslim devotees reflecting on a framed Arabic calligraphy during Friday noon prayers in Haroon mosque in Bangkok.



Natcha Swanaphoom adjusting her hijab in front of a mirror in her family's silk fabric shop near Darul Falah mosque in Bangkok.

By a thread: Thai Muslim family keeps silk weaving heritage alive

Over the click-clack of the teak loom, Niphon's family laments the lack of apprentice weavers at his Bangkok silk shop, as modernity lures young Muslims away from a trade their community has dominated for generations. They say they are the last of the Muslim weavers of Baan Krua, a storied neighborhood of dilapidated wooden houses and a mosque in downtown Bangkok, nearly engulfed by the city creep of condos and skyscrapers. "This is Muslim heritage... Baan Krua silk is very famous," Niphon Manutha, 71, told AFP.

A typed letter from Robert Kennedy on the wall of his canal-side shophouse attests to that lineage—a gift to Niphon's parents after the then-US attorney general visited in 1962. The craft was passed down through generations of ethnic Cham Muslim women who migrated from Cambodia centuries ago and perfected the art of turning the cocoons made by Thai silkworms into meters of soft cloth with a unique sheen coveted across the world. Silk weaving boomed after World War II thanks to American "Silk King" Jim Thompson, who is credited with taking Thai silk global.

Thompson's house is one of the most visited tourist sites in Bangkok today, but it was across the canal in Baan Krua where he first found his suppliers among the Muslim weavers. "He came here every morning," Niphon said, showing a photo of Thompson standing next to his mother at a loom. At its peak Niphon's family employed 50 people, producing thousands of meters of silk a month. But Thompson's mysterious disappearance in 1976 in Malaysia led partnerships to shrivel, while production gradually moved to the north of the country from Bangkok.

Niphon survived by switching to a custom-order model, relying on his daughter to run a website advertising bright-coloured scarves, bags and elegant napkins.

But with just a handful of older working weavers left in Baan Krua the expertise from his corner of Bangkok is fading. "It's a shame the young generation is not interested," said Niphon's sister Natcha Swanaphoom, fixing her hijab in the mirror before going outside.

Traders and courtiers

Though Thailand is overwhelmingly Buddhist, about seven million Muslims make up the country's largest religious minority, and like the faithful everywhere they are observing Ramadan this month. Muslims from Iran, Indonesia and other parts of Asia have long settled in Bangkok and around central Thailand, communities of traders and businessmen drawn to the city's location at the heart of Southeast Asia. The largest number are descendants of ethnic Malay peoples from the southern Thai provinces bordering Malaysia who were brought to Bangkok as slave labor, according to Raymond Scupin, a cultural anthropologist.

Many were put to work building the canals crisscrossing Bangkok that connect to the capital's Chao Phraya river, giving the city the name "Venice of the East". Muslims also served in royal courts and the Baan Krua residents settled on land set aside by King Rama I, who founded the current Chakri dynasty in 1782. In the modern era the royal family has cultivated deep ties with Thailand's diverse Muslim communities. King Maha Vajiralongkorn made one of his first trips to the violence-plagued Deep South after ascending the throne in 2016.

But in Bangkok, rapid urbanization and modernity have pressed hard on tradition. "The sense of community has changed," said Abdul Ahad, the tall white-robed imam at the Haroon mosque, one of the city's oldest in Bang Rak district. He cited the ease of purchasing alcohol, a drift from religious observance and the megamalls



Muslim devotees attending Friday noon prayers in Haroon mosque in Bangkok.

sprouting up around them. "Today the kids are using their motorbikes and then going to forbidden places," he said. That generational gap has also been sharply felt in Baan Krua. Niphon's shop has no traditional silk weavers under 60.

"Our staff are getting older and older," said Niphon's daughter Pattramas, 40, bemoaning the "disappearance"

of hand-driven crafts to easier salaried jobs. Thailand still exports around \$15 million-worth of silk, but Vietnam and China now provide fierce competition to the lucrative US market. "The next five to 10 years, I don't know (if anyone will be left to do it here)," she added. — AFP



Thai Muslim devotees offering special Taraweeh prayers during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in Darul Falah mosque in Bangkok.



Thai Muslim youth crossing a street near Haroon mosque in Bangkok.

Lifestyle | Feature



A Thai Muslim man arriving at Darul Falah mosque in Bangkok during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.



A Thai Muslim youth (center) reading a copy of the holy Quran before Friday noon prayers in Haroon mosque in Bangkok.



A Thai Muslim woman pushing a baby in a stroller along an alley by a canal near Darul Falah mosque in Bangkok.



Natcha Swanaphoon arranging handwoven silk fabrics in her shop near Darul Falah mosque in Bangkok.



Thai Muslim youths gathering outside the Haroon mosque in Bangkok.



Thai Muslim volunteers serving soup to devotees for breaking fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in Haroon mosque in Bangkok.



Thai Muslim youths walking to a mosque to break their fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in Bangkok.



Thai Muslims leaving Darul Falah mosque after breaking fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in Bangkok.



A boy paying his respects to an elderly Thai Muslim woman in their neighborhood in Bangkok.



A Thai Muslim woman in a wheelchair paying her respects to an older woman near Haroon mosque in Bangkok.



A Thai Muslim man walking in the compound of Haroon mosque next to a Buddhist monastery (back) in Bangkok.



The community around Darul Falah mosque surrounded by traditional houses, a museum, shops and high-rise buildings traversed by a canal in Bangkok.



A Thai Muslim woman browsing hijabs at a stall on the sidewalk near Haroon mosque in Bangkok.



Muslim devotees arriving for the Friday noon prayers in Haroon mosque in Bangkok.

Lifestyle | Gossip



Governors Ball final day cancelled due to thunderstorms

The Strokes and Charli XCX's Governors Ball sets were cancelled due to thunderstorms. The severe weather forecast meant the final day of the festival in New York was postponed until 6.30pm local time on Sunday, and although music did eventually get under way, the storms hit the site and the event was cancelled at around 9.30pm with punters told to leave immediately by the nearest exits. It meant the 'Late Nite' hitmakers weren't able to perform, while fellow headliner SZA also couldn't play her set at the top of the bill. Charli was impacted earlier in the day, when the delayed star meant the 'Break The Rules' hitmaker - along

with the likes of SOB X RBE and Soccer Mommy - wasn't able to play. However, the 26-year-old star treated her fans to a last minute performance at Le Poisson Rouge, and the intimate club show immediately sold out after the announcement on Twitter. Charli wrote: "My Gov Ball performance got cancelled due to potential storms so I'm putting on a last minute show tonight in Manhattan." When a fan suggested the event - which cost \$15 a ticket - should have been free to Governor Ball punters, the musician agreed but said it couldn't be done. She replied: "I tried to make it that way but got told it wasn't possible." Organizers have confirmed refunds within 21 days for all

fans affected by the cancellation, which means customers with Sunday day tickets will get all their money back, while those with a three-day weekend pass will likely get a third back. In a statement, the festival reps said: "After close consultation with NYC officials and law enforcement, it was deemed necessary to evacuate the site and cancel the Sunday evening of Gov Ball 2019 for the safety of our festival goers, artists, and crew. The safety of everyone always comes first."

Bring Me The Horizon want festivals to be more diverse

Bring Me The Horizon hope their All Points East headline show will make music festivals more diverse. The 'Drown' rockers curated the lineup for their performance at the top of the bill on Friday night at London's Victoria Park, and they deliberately included a host of female artists like Girli, Tillie and Alice Glass in a bid to break down barriers in the industry. Frontman Oli Sykes told the Daily Star newspaper: "For me it's about bringing people together, and not conforming to a scene, we just want to be for people that like live music. "There's not many female acts in that 'rock band' world, they don't allow that, so we want to do something important, something that will mean more than being just another sick line-up." The group also made a point of representing a range of genres on the lineup, and they are hoping it will convince other promoters and festivals to explore new sounds. Oli said: "Getting groups like Run The Jewels is cool as we want people to say: 'That is such a sick lineup' instead of getting bands we think sound like us." The Sheffield rockers - who also featured the likes of Yonaka, Nothing But Thieves, While She Sleeps and Architects on the bill - took fans on an emotional ride through their 15-year career with a 20-song set. It was an emotional night for Oli, who opened up to the audience about how hearing how they have been helped by their music is "the most addictive feeling in the world". He shared: "I was going



through the hardest s*** in my life and I had all these people coming up to me going, 'I know exactly how you feel, I feel exactly the same way. And what you are saying on those songs, it helps me.' "And that is the most addictive feeling in the world, I'll tell you that."

REEVES THRILLED TO PLAY ABSURD VERSION OF HIMSELF IN ALWAYS BE MY MAYBE

Keanu Reeves jumped at the chance to play a heightened version of himself in 'Always Be My Maybe'. The 54-year-old actor was enthusiastic about "sending up that actor-star culture" in the new Netflix romantic comedy and director Nahnatchka Khan was impressed that Keanu was secure enough to make fun of himself with the role. The movie tells the story of childhood best friends Sasha (Ali Wong) and Marcus (Randall Park) who reunite after 16 years apart. Just as Marcus is ready to admit he has feelings for Sasha, she starts dating Keanu. Khan told the Los Angeles Times: "Keanu completely got it. First of all, he read the whole script. A lot of the time somebody of his stature will just read their section. He read the whole script and saw how his character fit in. You're tracking Marcus during that section because he's trying to tell her how he feels and she throws this grenade, and it feels like his worst nightmare: It's literally Keanu Reeves that she's dating. "He trusted myself, Ali and Randall to make the joke into what we'd talked about; he is not the butt of the joke - he is in on the joke with us. It's like James van Der Beek in 'Don't Trust the B-'. They all think it's funny as well, and it's their version of sending up that actor-star culture." Keanu was also praised for his improv skills, with Khan explaining that he was keen to contribute to the script. She said: "When we were shooting on the day there were a lot of funny jokes he was pitching because he thought it would be funny if he knew a lot of Chinese dignitaries and started listing them. Of course Keanu would know that. He knows everything." — Bang Showbiz



Lindsay Lohan hard at work on new music

Lindsay Lohan is "hard at work" on new music. The 'Mean Girls' actress hasn't released a song since her 2008 single 'Bossy' but she's now told fans she's preparing to return to her singing career and has been busy in the recording studio. On Friday the 32-year-old star shared a photo of herself in a dimly lit studio booth and simply captioned the Instagram post with a headphones emoji. The following day, she shared another post, seemingly from the same studio, in which she was singing into a mic. This one was again captioned with emojis but this time of music notes and a microphone. Lindsay then confirmed she was busy recording new songs by sharing a news report featuring the studio speculation on her Twitter account and commenting: "Hard At Work (sic)". A few months ago, the 'Freaky Friday' star - who previously released two albums, 'Speak' and 'A Little More Personal (Raw)', in 2004 and 2005 respectively - admitted she was hoping to work with her younger sister Aliana Lohan on new music, if her MTV show 'Lindsay's Lohan Beach Club', which saw her revive 'Bossy', gets a second season. She: "My sister is coming out with her record and I want to support her in that. "We've talked about writing together and maybe doing something together if we have season two (of 'Lindsay Lohan's Beach Club'), or just in general." Lindsay previously said she would consider moving back to New York if she ever took up music again. Asked if she'd move back to the Big Apple, she said: "For music, maybe."

Bon Iver unveils two new songs at All Points East

Bon Iver debuted two massive new songs on the final night of All Points East. The 'Blood Bank' band's frontman Justin Vernon performed a headline set on Sunday night at London's Victoria Park, and he treated fans to an eclectic journey through his back catalogue from experimental electronic sounds to soothing folk. After a set featuring old favourites like 'Woods', 'Skinny Love' and final song 'Holocene', the 38-year-old musician also premiered two brand new music videos featuring a pair of tracks - 'Hey Ma' and 'U' - from Bon Iver's upcoming fourth album. The LP will be the group's first since 2016's '22, A Million', which debuted at number two in the charts in both the UK and US. The previously unseen visuals were illustrated by long-time collaborator Eric Carson and featured vocals by Moses Sumney. During the set, Vernon urged the crowd to "make sure you spread love everywhere you can". Elsewhere on the final day, John Grand took to the East Stage just before the final act, as he performed a career-spanning theatrical set which concluded with the title track from his debut album 'Queen of Denmark'. Earlier in the day, singer songwriter Charlie Cunningham kicked off proceedings as he played some tunes from his upcoming record 'Permanent Way'. He told the audience: "Thanks! It's definitely intimidating knowing the artists that are going to be on this stage after us." Over the two weekends of the festival, the likes of The Chemical Brothers, Bring Me The Horizon, Mumford & Sons, The Strokes and Christine & The Queens also played headline sets in the event's successful second year.



Richie releasing Hello From Las Vegas this summer

Lionel Richie will release 'Hello From Las Vegas' on August 23. The iconic singer is set to take fans on a journey through his stunning five decades as a musician with the new live album recorded in Sin City at the Zappos Theatre at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino, and it is available now to pre-order. The diverse and exciting set list will span the 69-year-old star's career to date, including his solo hits - 'All Night Long', 'Hello' and 'Dancing On The Ceiling' - alongside tunes like 'Three Times A Lady' and 'Easy' from his time with The Commodores. Also featured on the live LP is a soulful rendition of his 1985 charity single 'We Are the World', which he co-wrote with Michael Jackson for USA For Africa. As well as his upcoming North American tour - which kicked off on May 28 at Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land, Texas - Lionel will also be heading to the UK this summer. He will join 'Isn't She Lovely' legend Stevie Wonder as his very special guest at British Summer Time in London's Hyde Park on July 6. Meanwhile, Lionel recently revealed his glittering career could have taken a very different turn as he considered becoming an Episcopal priest before he found fame with The Commodores. He previously said: "I left my mom and dad's house to go to university, and I met my Commodore friends there. At the time I was seriously considering being an Episcopal priest." However, his plan to become a man of the cloth soon became a distant dream when he heard the girls screaming for him in his first show with the group. He added: "[But] the first time I played with the Commodores, a group of girls screamed. Up until that moment no one, no girl, had ever screamed at me. I didn't play basketball, football, baseball. I played on the tennis team, and no girl ever screamed at the tennis court. It was right after those girls screamed, I remembered saying to myself, 'I don't think I'm gonna be priest material.'"

Jonas Brothers will adapt to survive

The Jonas Brothers want to survive in the modern music industry. The group - made up of siblings Joe, 29, Kevin, 31, and 26-year-old Nick - reunited this year after going on hiatus in 2013, and they have stressed the importance of updating their process and sound, rather than shying away from the way the business has changed since releasing their last album 'Lines, Vines and Trying Times' in 2009. Nick told The Guardian: "[We needed to reflect] the ever-changing landscape of the way music is released and how people consume it. "We were conscious that there would always be a new wave of entertainers you can feel you're in competition with but rather than be frustrated with how quickly things change, we've chosen to lean into it." The 'Sucker' band are set to release their fifth record 'Happiness Begins' next week, and

the trio were delighted to get to work with the likes of producer Greg Kurstin (Adele, Sir Paul McCartney) and songwriter Max Martin (Backstreet Boys, Katy Perry) after worrying that such big, credible names wouldn't want to collaborate. Joe said: "Before, when it was slowing down, we were nervous to reach out to big producers and writers, thinking they would say no to working with us." Meanwhile, the star also admitted he wanted to prove he could succeed without his brothers when he released his debut solo album 'Fastlife' in 2011. He explained: "I wanted to at least get that personal win of being able to do something on my own, which I carried for many years, just thinking: 'I can't do anything without these guys.'"



Classifieds

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

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

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 03/06/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	34 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	27 °C			
ABDALY	46 °C	29 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	47 °C	31 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	45 °C	29 °C			
SALMIYAH	41 °C	35 °C			
AHMADI	43 °C	34 °C			
NUWAISIB	44 °C	30 °C			
WAFRA	46 °C	28 °C			
SALMY	45 °C	28 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	06/04	Hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	46 °C	27 °C	NW-SE	12 - 40 km/h
Wednesday	06/05	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	47 °C	29 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 35 km/h
Thursday	06/06	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	47 °C	29 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Friday	06/07	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	47 °C	30 °C	VRB-SE	12 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:15
Sunrise	04:49
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:44
Isha	20:15

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	46 °C
MIN. Temp.	31 °C
MAX. RH	21 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	N 64 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	
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Adeniyi Toluwalope Fatoba - holder of Nigeria Passport Number A10488415 and Kuwait Civil ID Number 275051205279, would like to change my name to Adeniyi Toluwalope Obafemi. From henceforth, all my official documents shall bear the name Adeniyi Toluwalope Obafemi.

Passport No- BR4429022, would like to correct my name on civil ID# 2902070901151, from Sharon Saith Saith Khushnood to Sharon Cedric. (C5545)

I, Shalom David s/o Saith Khushnood holder of Pakistani Passport No- AF7674522, would like to correct my name on civil ID# 296072900556, from Shallum Saith Khushnood to Shalom David. (C 5545) 4-6-2019

I, Sharon Cedric s/o Saith Khushnood holder of Pakistani

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	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 4/6/2019				Departure Flights on Tuesday 4/6/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	241	Alexandria	00:05	TBZ	6606	Mashhad	12:30
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	MAR	301	Mykonos/ATH	12:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	JZR	141	Al Najaf	12:45
KAC	122	AGP	00:20	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	541	Cairo	13:30
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
KAC	182	Paris/NCE	01:10	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
RBG	1557	Alexandria	01:35	FBS	119	Sarajevo	14:45
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	703	Asyut	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	UAE	879	Dubai	15:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25	SAV	501	Jeddah	15:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	FEG	442	Asyut	16:55
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	FDB	052	Riyadh	17:10
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
KAC	382	Delhi	04:55	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:50
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
KAC	384	Mumbai	05:20	JZR	511	Riyadh	18:10
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	SVR	721	Alexandria	18:15
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	501	Lahore	18:35
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	261	Beirut	19:10
KAC	106	London	06:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
IRA	675	Lar	08:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
IAW	157	Baghdad	08:30	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JZR	708	Luxor	08:45	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	20:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	RBG	214	Sohag	21:10
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
KAC	384	Delhi	09:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
OMS	223	Muscat	10:20	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
KAC	624	Doha	10:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
MAR	103	ATH	11:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
TBZ	6605	Mashhad	11:30	ICV	6752	Hong Kong	22:55
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:30	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	KAC	795	Madinah	22:55
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
JZR	746	Sharm el-Sheikh	12:25	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
JZR	716	Sohag	12:25	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20



LHOKNGA, Indonesia: A woman uses a telescope to look for a sighting of the new moon, which marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan and the beginning of Eid-Al Fitr, on Lhoknga beach in Aceh province yesterday. — AFP

'Grudges' remain as Qatar marks second year of embargo

DOHA: In a region of tight media control and official statements, the body language of Saudi Arabia's king and Qatar's prime minister spoke volumes about one of the Gulf's deepest fault lines. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Thani did not bow or kiss the cheek of King Salman, whose country has led a two-year economic boycott of Qatar, when they met in Makkah on Thursday.

Their closely watched meeting was the highest level encounter between the neighbors since the crisis began on June 5, 2017. Diplomats said the embargo enforced by Riyadh and its allies over Doha's alleged support for Islamist movements and Iran-charges Qatar denies-was unlikely to ease following the frosty encounter. "At least they're meeting at the highest level in two years, but so many grudges (remain)," said a Western ambassador in Doha.

The weekend talks in Makkah were aimed at addressing soaring regional tensions between Iran on one side and the United States and its allies, including Riyadh, on the other. "Will Qatar go along with a purely anti-Iranian narrative? Interesting times in any case," added the ambassador. King Salman used the meeting of Gulf and other Arab powers to call on attendees to confront Iran's "criminal" actions after attacks on oil assets heightened fears of a regional flare-up.

But Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin

Abdulrahman Al-Thani questioned on Sunday how the "Gulf summit statement talked about a unified Gulf". "Where is it amid the continuation of Qatar's blockade?" he added, rejecting the gathering's position on Iran. Riyadh's minister of state for foreign affairs Adel Al-Jubeir fired back yesterday, criticizing Doha for backtracking "after the end of the meetings" and accusing Qatar of "distortion of the facts".

'Stability of the Gulf'

"I don't think it will prove to be a rapprochement. Qatar couldn't refuse the invitation sent to the emir, they had to send someone on such an important issue-the stability of the Gulf nations," a European diplomatic source said. "But sending the prime minister instead of the foreign minister is a novelty."

Andreas Krieg, an assistant professor at King's College London, said it was a positive sign that the king's invitation to the talks did not have "strings attached". "They might overcome their smaller differences for the time being in addressing the issue of Iran," he said. The Makkah meetings kicked off a day after hawkish US National Security Advisor John Bolton said Iran was almost certainly behind this month's sabotage of four ships, including two Saudi oil tankers, off the coast of the United Arab Emirates-

charges Tehran rejected.

But Doha has looked to Tehran over the past two years to ease its economic isolation, sourcing key imports from Iran and re-routing many flights by its flag carrier Qatar Airways over the Islamic republic. Saudi and its allies the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt have barred Qatari flights from their airports and airspace, banned most Qatari visitors, cut trade and shipping links, and closed the border.

The Saudi-led bloc initially set out a 13-point list of demands, including the closure of Qatar's flagship Al Jazeera broadcaster, curbing its relations with Iran and closing a Turkish military base in the emirate. Doha dismissed the demands as "unrealistic and (not actionable)", pressing on despite the sizable diplomatic and economic impact of the embargo-which Qatar refers to as a "blockade". But as the crisis continues, it is ordinary people who have borne the brunt of the restrictions.

'Missed out on our dreams'

"I'm Qatari so it's impossible for me to cross to Bahrain," Wafa Al-Yazeedi, a Qatari medic who was married to a Bahraini man said. Her three children-aged 24, 22 and 19 - hold both Qatari and Bahraini citizenship but have not visited their father or grandmother in

the nearby Gulf kingdom since the start of the crisis, she said. Though they have not formally been told by Bahrain that they are barred from the country, "we know because it's in the newspapers". "The children showed allegiance to Qatar at the beginning but there has to be relations between families, whatever the political situation," said Yazeedi.

"It's having a psychological burden on those affected." Qatari Salah Al-Yafie, 42, was studying for a post-graduate degree provided by the University of Northampton in the UAE when the embargo came into force. "We were 18 male and female students. We tried everything after the blockade saying 'we are students and have no fault in this crisis'," he said. "Unfortunately, the university told us that we are prohibited from attending."

Stories like his are common, as are accounts of business ventures disrupted by the restrictions. "The crisis cost me a lot financially and psychologically. We lost lots of money, lost our diplomas and missed out on our dreams," he added. Ahead of the talks in Makkah, a senior Qatari official said "there are some small signs" the boycott could begin to ease, but he did not provide any details. "They are our family," he said. "Thank God we are not a poor country so we can deal with any crisis." — AFP

Scientists edit chicken genes...

Continued from Page 1

"We haven't produced any birds yet and we need to check if the DNA change has any other effects on the bird cells before we can take this next step."

In the further work, the team hopes to use the gene editing technology, known as CRISPR, to remove a section of the birds' DNA responsible for producing a protein called ANP32, on which all flu viruses depend to

infect a host. Lab tests of cells engineered to lack the gene showed they resist the flu virus - blocking its entry and halting its replication and spread. The death toll in the last flu pandemic in 2009/10 - caused by the H1N1 strain and considered to be relatively mild - was around half a million people worldwide.

The historic 1918 Spanish flu killed around 50 million people. Wendy Barclay, professor and chair in influenza virology at Imperial who worked with McGrew, says the idea behind developing gene-edited flu-resistant chickens is to be able "to stop the next flu pandemic at its source". And she said work so far was showing promise: "We have identified the smallest possible genetic change we can make to chickens that can help to stop the virus taking hold." — Reuters

the night to pray.

The moments of Ramadan are slipping quickly away, and the opportunity to demonstrate such devotion in solidarity with all Muslims worldwide is passing. Farewell, Ramadan, we will miss you. As we start counting the days until your return, stay in our memories and inspire us to carry on with our worship through fasting, reading Quran and praying late at night. Be with us, Ramadan, throughout the coming year.

Courtesy of the TIES Center: The TIES Center aims to 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.

Britain rolls out royal red carpet...

Continued from Page 1

leader to meet him after he took office, is cast as a chance to celebrate Britain's "special relationship" with the United States, boost trade links and reaffirm security cooperation.

At Buckingham Palace, Melania, stood beside Elizabeth and Charles's wife Camilla, while Charles and Trump inspected the guard. Trump will have lunch with the queen before the monarch's second son Prince Andrew accompanies him to Westminster Abbey where the president will lay a wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. The day culminates with a lavish state banquet at Buckingham Palace - where men wear white tie coats with tails and women evening gowns.

But away from the pageantry, Trump is set to make his trip the most unconventional state visit in recent British history. He has already waded far into Britain's turbulent domestic politics, where more than a dozen candidates are vying to replace May, who announced last month she was quitting after failing to get her EU divorce deal through parliament.

The president, who has regularly criticized May's Brexit tactics, said Britain must leave the bloc on the due date of Oct 31 with or without a deal and praised a more radical Brexit-supporting potential successor as British leader. He also called for arch-Brexit Nigel Farage, a scourge of May's ruling Conservative Party, to conduct talks with the EU. 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 also warn Britain that

security cooperation, a cornerstone of the western intelligence network, 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.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Britain last month it needed to change its attitude towards China and Huawei, casting the world's second largest economy as a threat to the West similar to that once posed by the Soviet Union. Britain's 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.

Hundreds of thousands protested against him during a trip last year and a blimp depicting Trump as a snarling, nappy-clad baby will fly outside Britain's parliament during the visit. Other protesters plan a "carnival of resistance" in central London. Jeremy Corbyn, the socialist leader of Britain's opposition Labor Party, who has declined an invitation to attend the state banquet, scolded Trump for getting involved in British politics.

Another senior Labor lawmaker, Yvette Cooper, said it was wrong to gift Trump the opportunity of photographs with the royal to boost his re-election campaign next year. "So appalled Theresa May has given this man a red carpeted platform to do this," she wrote on Twitter.

"Doesn't help Britain to be lavishing pomp on a president so determined to be divisive, childish & destructive." While yesterday was dominated by pageantry, the second day of Trump's trip will focus on politics, including a breakfast with business leaders, talks with May in 10 Downing Street, a news conference and a dinner at the US ambassador's residence. — Reuters

Farewell Ramadan...

Continued from Page 1

expressing our gratitude and reliance through frequent prayer and supplication. Everyone will miss this immense opportunity to draw closer to Allah.

Once Ramadan has passed, the focus on worship and charity will pass and mundane duties and distractions will creep back into our lives. I will miss the feeling of lightness when my stomach is empty and my head is clear - when I am naturally drawn to thoughts of God and His abundant blessings. I will miss the joy of breaking fast, and the camaraderie of fellow fasters who gathered for the meal. I will miss the attention to the Quran, and routinely waking up in the last part of

Sports

Scherzer strikes out 15 as Nationals beat Cincinnati Reds

Dodgers erupt late to finish sweep of Phillies

CINCINNATI: Nationals ace Max Scherzer allowed just one run and three hits with a season-high 15 strikeouts over eight masterful innings as Washington defeated the host Cincinnati Reds 4-1 on Sunday in the rubber match of their three-game series. Anthony Rendon had three hits and an RBI, Brian Dozier had two hits and drove in two, and Kurt Suzuki had two hits and an RBI as the Nationals, who had nine hits overall, won for the seventh time in their last nine games. The Nationals also won four out of five on their road trip, which began with two victories in Atlanta. Scherzer (3-5) amassed his strikeouts in bunches, getting five in a row early in the game and three in a row on two other occasions. He walked only one batter.

ASTROS 6, ATHLETICS 4 (12 INNINGS)

Michael Brantley and Yuli Gurriel stroked RBI singles in the 12th inning, allowing Houston to complete a three-game sweep of host Oakland. The win was the Astros' seventh in eight meetings with the A's this season. Houston had a three-game home sweep earlier this season. Myles Straw led off the 12th with a single off Lou Trivino (2-3), Oakland's fifth pitcher, and stole second. With one out, Alex Bregman walked and Brantley gave the Astros the lead with his run-scoring single.

DODGERS 8, PHILLIES 0

David Freese hit a home run in the seventh inning and added an RBI single in a seven-run eighth as Los Angeles broke loose late after an early pitchers' duel to earn a shutout victory and a three-game sweep over visiting Philadelphia. Dodgers starter Rich Hill (2-1) gave up three hits over seven scoreless innings with nine strikeouts and three walks. Phillies starter Nick Pivetta also gave up three hits with nine strikeouts and no walks, doing it over six scoreless innings.

ROCKIES 5, BLUE JAYS 1

Nolan Arenado and Chris Iannetta homered, Antonio Senzatele tossed six strong innings, and Colorado beat Toronto in Denver. Arenado added a single to extend his hitting streak to 13 games and help Colorado win its eighth in a row. The Rockies finished their homestand 9-1, tying a team record for the best 10-game homestand. Eric Sogard had two hits and scored the only run for Toronto. The Blue Jays have lost six straight.

WHITE SOX 2, INDIANS 0

Lucas Giolito struck out nine over 7 1/3 innings to win his sixth straight start and Tim Anderson drove in both runs as host Chicago posted a shutout victory over Cleveland. Anderson homered to lead off the fourth inning and ripped a two-out RBI double in the eighth for the White Sox, who won three of four in the series to complete a 6-1 homestand. Zach Plesac (0-1) tossed seven strong innings and Francisco Lindor collected three of the six hits for the Indians, who have lost 10 of 14 to fall to one game under .500. Giolito (8-1)

scattered five hits and did not walk a batter during his 103-pitch performance.

GIANTS 8, ORIOLES 1

Brandon Crawford homered twice, and Evan Longoria homered and drove in three runs as visiting San Francisco defeated Baltimore. Crawford hit a pair of solo home runs to help the Giants win for the second time in the three-game series. He went 2-for-4 on the day. Longoria hit a game-tying solo homer and later added a two-run double that gave the Giants a three-run lead and broke the game open. He finished 3-for-5.

BRAVES 7, TIGERS 4

After Atlanta blew a three-run lead in the top of the inning, Freddie Freeman doubled in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the eighth to lead the Braves to a win over visiting Detroit. Dansby Swanson, who made the error that opened the door for the Tigers to score three unearned runs and tie the game, started the rally with a one-out walk off reliever Joe Jimenez (2-3). Freeman then laced his 14th double into right field and Swanson raced all the way from first to score.

CARDINALS 2, CUBS 1

Adam Wainwright threw eight shutout innings and St. Louis completed a three-game sweep of visiting Chicago. Wainwright (5-5) allowed two hits—none through the first 5 1/3 innings—struck out eight and walked a career-high seven. The 37-year-old right-hander threw 126 pitches, his most since throwing 128 against the Atlanta Braves on Aug. 23, 2013. St. Louis second baseman Kolten Wong had two hits and an RBI, scored a run and made a spectacular catch to end the eighth inning with a runner in scoring position.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, METS 1

Ketel Marte tied for the longest home run in the majors this season, Merrill Kelly pitched well into the eighth inning and Arizona beat New York in Phoenix. Marte launched a 482-foot home run on the third pitch of the game from left-hander Steven Matz. That matched the length of a blast earlier this season by the Texas Rangers' Nomar Mazara. Marte's homer ranked as the longest by a Diamondbacks player since Statcast started tracking distances in 2015. It was his 14th of the season, tying the career high he set last season in 153 games.

ANGELS 13, MARINERS 3

Albert Pujols had a double, home run and five RBIs as Los Angeles defeated host Seattle. Pujols' three-run homer capped a seven-run second inning. His ground-rule double with the bases loaded brought in the final two runs in a five-run fifth. Luis Rengifo added his first major league homer for the Angels, who took three of four games in the series and have won seven of their past nine games overall. Kyle Seager hit his first home



CINCINNATI: Derek Dietrich #22 of the Cincinnati Reds turns a double play ahead of the slide at second base by Kurt Suzuki #28 of the Washington Nationals in the second inning at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Nationals won 4-1. — AFP

run of the season for the Mariners, who have lost 11 of their past 13 games. It was Seattle's fifth loss by 10 or more runs this season.

RANGERS 5, ROYALS 1

Adrian Sampson posted career highs of seven innings pitched and 11 strikeouts as Texas defeated Kansas City at Arlington, Texas. The Rangers took three out of four in the series, and the Royals finished their road trip with a 1-6 record. Sampson (4-3) scattered eight hits and did not walk a batter. He lost his first three decisions this season but has won his last four. Brad Keller (3-7) took the loss for Kansas City. He allowed just three runs on nine hits in seven innings. He struck out six and didn't walk a batter.

BREWERS 4, PIRATES 2

Eric Thames doubled, homered and drove in three runs to lead visiting Milwaukee to a victory over Pittsburgh. The Brewers took three of four games in the series between the National League Central rivals. The Pirates' Josh Bell belted his 21st double, most in the major leagues, and picked up his 53rd RBI, also tops in the big leagues, on a groundout.

RED SOX 8, YANKEES 5

David Price pitched 6 1/3 effective innings while J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts hit early home runs as Boston averted a three-game sweep with a victory over New York at Yankee Stadium. The Red Sox snapped a four-game losing streak and avoided falling under .500 by beating the Yankees for the first time in five meet-

ings. Price (3-2) allowed two runs on six hits and improved to 1-6 in New York since joining Boston in 2016. He struck out six, walked one, threw 99 pitches and produced his longest outing in New York since Aug. 8, 2015 as a member of the Toronto Blue Jays.

MARLINS 9, PADRES 3

Right-hander Trevor Richards allowed one hit over five shutout innings and catcher Jorge Alfaro drove in four runs with a homer and a double as visiting Miami handed San Diego a second straight 9-3 defeat to take the rubber match of a three-game series. In addition to outscoring the Padres 18-6 in the final two games of the series, the Marlins, who have the worst record in the National League, outthit the Padres 24-8. The game was delayed 28 minutes during the third inning by a swarm of bees and saw third baseman Ty France pitch a scoreless ninth for the Padres.

TWINS 9, RAYS 7

Jake Odorizzi allowed three hits over six shutout innings, Jonathan Schoop hit a two-run homer and C.J. Cron had a three-run double to lead Minnesota to its third straight victory over Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla. It was the sixth time in his last seven starts that Odorizzi (8-2) didn't allow a run. Odorizzi, who extended his scoreless innings streak to 16 1/3, struck out nine and walked one while lowering his American League-leading ERA to 1.96. During his last seven starts, Odorizzi has allowed three earned runs and 23 hits over 41 2/3 innings (0.65 ERA), walking 11 and striking out 47. —Reuters

ABK sponsors Kuwait's youth basketball tourney

KUWAIT: As part of its activities for the Holy month of Ramadan, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) was the platinum sponsor of the 2019 Kuwait Youth Basketball Tournament, which was organized specifically to increase sport activity during the Holy month of Ramadan. The tournament was held from 19-30 June 2019 at Gulf University for Science & Technology (GUST).

The tournament was organized in response to the poor activity levels of youth and the unhealthy lifestyle followed by many during the Holy month. It was also based on recent alarming studies that indicate that 42.8% of Kuwait's population are obese.

The tournament was open to male and female participants from ages 15 - 21 years, and was addressed to all private schools and universities in Kuwait. A total of 16 teams competed for the winning trophies.

The winning male team was Mayar who took 73 points in the final. Al Fataf ladies team won by 43 points. ABK's sponsorship is one of a series of activities the Bank took on during the Holy month.



Sami Asaad (Area Manager at ABK) with the winning teams.

NZ's Dixon celebrates royal honor with IndyCar win

LOS ANGELES: New Zealand's Scott Dixon, newly honored by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, celebrated with a victory in the second race of IndyCar's Detroit Grand Prix double-header on Sunday. Dixon, who crashed in Saturday's first Detroit race, crossed the finish line 1.9419 seconds ahead of IndyCar rookie Marcus Ericsson of Sweden who posted his first podium finish in his seventh race.

For Dixon, it marked career win No. 45, which ranks third in Indy car history and moved the five-time series champion within seven victories of tying Mario Andretti for second place all time. The win came after Dixon learned he had been appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition of his services to motorsports.

"Huge day," Dixon said, adding that the honor from the queen "means a lot more". "When you race for wins and championships, that is in your wheelhouse," an appreciative Dixon said. "This is something outside of your sport." Dixon had qualified sixth for Sunday's race and led 44 of the 70 laps on the 14-turn, 2.35-mile (3.78 Km) temporary street course on Belle Isle Park in the Detroit River. Although the sunny skies marked a change from Saturday's weather-delayed and shortened race, some aggressive battling on the tight circuit saw five full-course cautions.

Dixon dodged the chaos and led the final 21 laps, including waiting out a six-minute red-flag stoppage when Chip Ganassi teammate Felix Rosenqvist crashed in turn one with five laps remaining. Dixon easily held off Ericsson on the lap 67 restart and pulled away for his first win since Toronto last season. Australia's Will Power recovered from early mechanical issues to finish third for Team Penske. But Penske teammates Simon Pagenaud and Josef Newgarden were both caught up in crashes. France's Pagenaud, winner of the Indianapolis 500 last week, was in the middle of a five-car incident on the first lap and after repairs finished 12 laps off the pace.

Newgarden, who won on the same course on Saturday, collided with James Hinchcliffe and Alexander Rossi as the three fought for position on lap 33. He too returned to the race after repairs, finishing 21 laps behind the leaders. — AFP

Ducati's Petrucci takes first MotoGP win at Mugello

MUGELLO: Danilo Petrucci, an Italian riding for local team Ducati, held off defending world champion Marc Marquez to gain a first ever MotoGP victory on Sunday in the Italian Grand Prix. The second place allowed Spaniard Marquez to increase his lead in the world championship ahead of another Italian on a Ducati, Andrea Dovizioso, who finished third on Sunday after a prolonged three-way battle.

Five-time MotoGP champion Marquez, on a Honda, briefly took the lead in the last lap but Petrucci recaptured first place and won. "It's amazing, I'm thrilled," said 28-year-old Petrucci, who finished eighth in the 2017 and 2018 world championships. "In front of my home crowd and in my town, it's incredible. I can't describe how I feel.

"I've achieved my aim for this year which was to win a race, now we have to win the championship with Ducati." Marquez-winner of three out of six races this season-started on pole but had to battle with the Ducati riders and Suzuki's Alex Rins, who challenged hard despite starting back on the grid.

The four riders overtook each other several times but Petrucci found the power to pull clear in the closing stages of the final lap of the fast Mugello circuit. The Italian finished 0.043sec ahead of Marquez with Dovizioso at 0.338.

Dovizioso had on Saturday established a new outright speed record in MotoGP, clocking 356.7km/h in the third practice, to overtake the mark of 356.5 km/h also achieved at Mugello last year. Marquez, who has won the MotoGP category race just once on the circuit north of Florence, leads Dovizioso by 12 points after six rounds this season.

"When I saw at the start that I couldn't pull clear I said to myself 'today isn't the day'," said Marquez. "I decided to ride defensively and I'm happy with the 20 points." Dovizioso added: "It was really hot and I wanted to be ahead in the final lap but Dani overtook us.

"The grip was not enough to try something desperate and Rins almost passed me. "In the championship we lose some points but I'm really happy for Petrucci because Mugello is the best race for us to win."

Italian star Valentino Rossi crashed out of his home race where the Yamaha rider has not won since 2008 after an impressive series of seven consecutive victories. The seven-time MotoGP champion had a forgettable weekend as he qualified down in 18th position.

Rossi made contact with Suzuki's Joan Mir on lap five, running through the gravel at Turn 4, and dropping to the back of the field, before crashing out three laps later, for his first retirement of the season. — AFP

Sports

Lee6 Jeong-eun wins first major title at 2019 US Women's Open

'I worked so hard and I feel proud of myself'

LOS ANGELES: Lee6 Jeong-eun captured her first major championship and a record \$1 million prize on Sunday by outduelling Celine Boutier for a two-shot victory at the 2019 US Women's Open. South Korea's Lee—who had never won on the LPGA Tour—stumbled to the finish with two bogeys in her final three holes but managed to shoot a one-under 70 to finish at 278 at the Country Club of Charleston in South Carolina.

"Throughout the year I couldn't imagine coming this far, winning the first LPGA tournament, also a major championship," she said. "I worked so hard and I feel proud of myself." It was six-under winning total for the player who became known as Lee6 Jeong-eun when she became the sixth player of that name on the Korean LPGA tour.

She has embraced the designation as her lucky charm, even writing the number in bold red ink on her golf ball. She also collected the biggest single-tournament payout in women's golf history after organizers decided to increase the first place prize money this year to \$1 million.

The 23-year-old Lee started her round two shots behind co-leaders Boutier and Liu Yu of China. She made bogey on her first hole but then came right back with a birdie on the par-four second. She got hot on the back nine, making birdies on three of five holes starting at the par-three 11th.

"I felt pretty nervous starting on the holes 16, 17, and 18, but I tried the best that I can. I know I made two bogeys, but I just didn't want to think about it too much," said Lee, who is also the 12th different winner in

13 tournaments in 2019.

Boutier looked like she might make a run at Lee and possibly force a playoff but her bid ended in flames with a missed short putt on 16 for birdie, followed by a bogey-double bogey to close her round.

Boutier shot a 75 and finished in a tie for fifth with four others—including 54-hole co-leader Liu. South Korea's Ryu So-yeon and American's Lexi Thompson and Angel Yin shared second on 280. Lee made two previous appearances in the US Women's Open, finishing tied for fifth in 2017 and tied for 17th last year.

The par-three 11th proved pivotal for Lee as she was one of just three players to make birdie on the hole on Sunday. Lee reached eight under with a birdie on the 15th but instead of cruising from there, her two late bogeys made for a closer finish than she would have liked. Boutier had a two foot putt on 16 for birdie and a chance to cut into Lee's lead but her ball lipped out.

Boutier said the wind caused her to miss-hit the putt on 16. "When I was at address, the wind kind of blew in the opposite direction so I kind of pushed it as a reaction," she said. She came to the 18th tee needing a birdie to force a playoff but her approach shot landed in the bunker on the right. Her next shot made it onto the green but rolled off and down a steep slope.

"I knew it was a tough hole," she said. "I just wanted to be on regulation in two, and then if I made the putt, but I missed the green so" Asked to rate her performance on the day, she said, "Well, on a scale of one to ten, probably a one. I feel pretty bad right now. So, hopefully, I'll learn from this." — AFP



CHARLESTON: Lee6 Jeong-eun of South Korea celebrates with the trophy after winning the US Women's Open Championship at the Country Club of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. — AFP

Cantlay canters to Memorial Tournament title

WASHINGTON: Patrick Cantlay powered to an eight-under par 64 on Sunday to claim his second US PGA Tour title at the Memorial by two strokes from Australian Adam Scott. Cantlay, 27, went into the final round four strokes behind overnight leader Martin Kaymer whose bid to end a near five-year victory drought faded with a final round 72 that left him in third place.

Cantlay's bogey-free effort was the best final round by a winner in the history of the Jack Nicklaus-hosted tournament at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio. The former US collegiate star, whose career was nearly derailed by a back injury, was coming off a tie for third at the PGA Championship, one of seven top-10 finishes this season.

He indicated on Saturday that 18-time major champion Nicklaus had given him some advice on how to close out tournaments. "He said just to relax and have fun, and look around and see all the people having fun and try and smile and just have a good time with it," Cantlay said. "That's why you're there and I definitely felt like that today. I felt at ease."

Cantlay's previous tour title came in Las Vegas in November of 2017, when he won the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open that was part of the 2017-18 season. He sealed his second win with an up-and-down par from a greenside bunker on 18.

"It just definitely validates my confidence that I can play with the best players in the world and beating a field like this on a big golf course like this, this is very similar to a major championship setup with the rough and the big sloped fast greens, it does a lot for my confidence," he said.

"Especially holing a putt like that on the last hole, knowing that I needed it. That's good to put in the memory bank." Scott, like Kaymer a former world number one seeking to end an extended



DUBLIN: Patrick Cantlay hits his tee shot on the 18th hole during the final round of The Memorial Tournament Presented by Nationwide at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. — AFP

winnish run, continued his recent resurgence with a final round 68 that left him on 17-under 271.

It was his second runner-up finish of the year after his second place at Torrey Pines, to go with top-10 finishes at Riviera and the PGA Championship. Scott, who hasn't won since the 2016 WGC Mexico Championship, had six birdies, including three in a row from the 14th through the 16th.

He said he was "kind of" satisfied with his play, but admitted he was disappointed not to return to the winner's circle. "I'm not winning. I'm playing good a lot, and that's the positive thing, but I want to win," he said.

Kaymer, who started the day with a two-stroke lead in search of his first win since his 2014 US Open victory, finished a further two strokes back on 15-under 273. With four birdies and a bogey through 11 holes the German was still holding on to a share of the lead before bogeys at 12 and 13.

"There was no room for mistakes, and I made a couple mistakes," Kaymer said, adding that "overall" he was happy with his game with the US Open coming up in two weeks. Tiger Woods, who admitted Saturday that he was too far back for a serious run at a sixth Memorial title, was looking for a springboard into the US Open at Pebble Beach, and he got it with a sparkling five-under par 67.

Woods was charging with seven birdies in his first 12 holes, backing up just a bit with bogeys at 14 and 18. "I played really well today," he said with a grin. "It was fun. I hit the ball so crisp and so solid and made some nice putts on the front nine and had things rolling for a little bit."

"I wanted to have something positive going into the Open, and kind of snuck up there into a nice little top 10 possibly here, so it was good," added Woods, who finished tied for ninth, 10 shots behind Cantlay. — AFP

Kumar eyes Lord's return for WCup final

SOUTHAMPTON: India paceman Bhuvneshwar Kumar has fond memories of Lord's and he hopes to make more history at the iconic venue by playing there in a World Cup final. The 29-year-old made his mark at the 'home of cricket' by leading the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led India to a famous Test win there in 2014, his first tour with the national team.

Kumar returned figures of six for 82 and struck 52 with the bat but now he wants to be a one-day international star at Lord's by playing there in the World Cup final on July 14. "I've been here two or three times but I always like coming back to play in England. It would mean a lot to get to go back to Lord's for the final of the World Cup," said Kumar.

"Lord's is always a special place, not just for me but for any cricketer. I have very good memories there, so if we reach the final it will be a very big moment for not just me but for the whole team." India, now captained by Virat Kohli, have been tagged as one of the favourites to lift the World Cup along with England and Australia.

They begin their campaign against South Africa, who've already lost their first two matches, tomorrow. But a dominating warm-up win over Bangladesh earlier this week already gives Kumar confidence of a good showing in the 50-over



LONDON: India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni takes part in a training session at the Rose Bowl in Southampton, southern England, yesterday ahead of their 2019 Cricket World Cup match against South Africa. — AFP

showpiece event.

"We got everything we wanted out of the match; when it comes to batting, bowling and fielding," he said. Centuries from Dhoni and Lokesh Rahul helped India to 359 for seven, a total their bowlers defended by bundling out Bangladesh for 264.

Kumar sent down five disciplined overs, conceding just 19 runs to put pressure on the opposition batsmen who lost their wickets to the spinners. "Chasing 350 down is a very big task," Kumar said. "There's always extra belief when you go to bowl. You have the liberty to try a few things." — AFP

Waugh warns Australia to beware 'behemoth' West Indies line-up

LONDON: Steve Waugh has warned Australia that the West Indies' array of strokemakers and aggressive bowlers will pose the first serious threat to the World Cup holders. Former Australia captain Waugh was impressed with the no-nonsense way his country defeated minnows Afghanistan by seven wickets in their opening match on Saturday.

But the 54-year-old believes the West Indies will provide a much sterner test when they meet at Trent Bridge on Thursday. Led by flamboyant opener Chris Gayle, who thumped 50 runs off 34 balls, the West Indies wasted little time polishing off Pakistan by seven wickets after bowling them out for 105 in their first match.

It was an impressive show of strength from the two-time champions and Waugh is intrigued to see how Australia fare against one of the tournament's most talented but unpredictable teams.

"The West Indies will provide a more realistic gauge on how the team are tracking, for they possess a squad full of match-winners that can dominate if they gain any sense of ascendancy in a match," Waugh wrote in a column on the International Cricket Council's media page.

"They are the most watchable team in the tournament with a batting line-up that can kidnap any bowling attack with brute force. "No ground is big enough when this behemoth of a batting order clicks into overdrive but they also have a vulnerability against high-quality bowling as they tend to play one dimensional at times."

As well as their powerful batsmen, two-time World Cup winner Waugh was also impressed by the West Indies' pace attack, which bludgeoned Pakistan into submission with a bouncer barrage. Andre Russell, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas and Jason Holder proved too hot for Pakistan to handle and Waugh said: "For the first time in a long while they have fast-bowling depth."

"Every side in this tournament will be wary of playing the Windies and I wouldn't want to face them in a knockout match. "They are the sort of team that, if they get on a roll and build some momentum, then they could win it all." — AFP

South Africa can survive woeful World Cup start, vows Phehlukwayo

LONDON: Andile Phehlukwayo said South Africa's dismal start to the World Cup does not have to be fatal to their hopes of winning the tournament for the first time. Faf du Plessis's side crashed to their second successive defeat on Sunday as Bangladesh won by 21 runs at the Oval.

That setback came hot on the heels of their 104-run thrashing by England, leaving South Africa with no margin for error in the 10-team competition. Facing title contenders India at Southampton tomorrow is hardly what South Africa would have preferred as they fight to stay in contention for a semi-final berth.

But all-rounder Phehlukwayo is adamant the Proteas can get back on track as long as they do not dwell on their misfortune. "There have been some bad days in my career. I've learned, and the team has learned, that it is not the end of the world," Phehlukwayo told reporters. "We can always bounce back. We are a team that bounces back from situations and we will definitely do it again. "We haven't had a good start but this is a big tournament and anyone can beat anyone on any given day."

The injury-hit South Africans have had to do without veteran pace bowler Dale Steyn in both matches due to a shoulder problem, while star batsman Hashim Amla missed the Bangladesh match following a head injury. Adding to their problems, Lungi Ngidi was ruled out for up to 10 days with a hamstring strain sustained against Bangladesh. Amla could return against India, but Phehlukwayo says it is South Africa's failure to execute their game-plan that has been the biggest problem. — AFP

Sports

'Crazy money' - Bayern boss Hoeness plays down Sane rumours

I want to see Klopp at Bayern: Beckenbauer

BERLIN: Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness has played down his club's chances of signing Manchester City winger Leroy Sane, saying that the cost of bringing the 23-year-old to Munich would be "crazy".

Sane is yet to extend his contract at City amid rumours of an impending move to recently crowned Bundesliga champions Bayern. Yet Hoeness told Kicker magazine yesterday that he thought it was "unlikely" that Bayern would secure Sane's signature.

"I would be a bit sceptical. It is unlikely that it will work out. We are talking about crazy sums of money," he said. Last week, the Guardian reported that City had turned down an offer of more than 80 million euros (\$89.5m) from Bayern.

80 million euros was what Bayern paid for French defender Lucas Hernandez earlier this year, a club record which Hoeness has said will not be broken in the near future.

Sane's current deal runs until 2021, and City coach Pep Guardiola has said that the club want to extend the contract of the Germany international. In recent weeks, several prominent figures in German football have urged Bayern to sign Sane.

Bayern legend Lothar Matthaeus claimed he was sure the transfer would go through and German national team coach Joachim Loew said that the move would be "good for him, and good for us."

Meanwhile, German football legend Franz Beckenbauer said yesterday that he wants to see Liverpool coach Juergen Klopp in the Bayern Munich

dugout. As Germany celebrated Klopp's success in last Saturday's Champions League final, Beckenbauer told Bild newspaper that he was desperate to see the former Dortmund coach join Bundesliga champions Bayern.

"I want nothing more than to see Klopp come to Bayern one day, it would be a good fit," said the 73-year-old, who won five German titles with Bayern as a player and a coach. Klopp's first Champions League title was met with widespread celebration in the German sports media.

On Monday, Kicker magazine carried the headline "King Klopp" on its front page, and described the Liverpool manager as "the face of German football". Beckenbauer echoed those sentiments in an interview with Bild, calling Klopp "one of the best coaches in the world".

"Juergen brought a new type of football to Germany... what he began in Dortmund, he has refined in Liverpool." Liverpool are reportedly looking to extend Klopp's contract, which currently runs until 2022. Yet Beckenbauer questioned whether 51-year-old would stay on Merseyside in the long term.

"I think that a job in England robs you of energy. As a manager in the Premier League, you have more responsibility than as a coach in the Bundesliga," he told Bild.

"With the two cup competitions and the slightly larger league, the amount of games is considerably higher than it is in Germany." — AFP



VENLO: Germany's Nico Schulz (L) and Leroy Sane warm up during a training session at the De Koel stadium yesterday in Venlo, before the team's UEFA Euro 2020 football qualifier match vs Belarus. — AFP

African 'twin sisters' tackle Chinese football together

NANJING: Tabitha Chawinga and Elizabeth Addo call one another "twin sister" and together they are making waves in Chinese women's football while also helping each other acclimatise off the pitch.

The African duo are instrumental to the ambitions of Chinese Women's Super League team Jiangsu Suning, with Chawinga banging in the goals up front and Addo pulling the strings in midfield.

The 23-year-old Chawinga is already captain of Malawi and Jocelyn Precheur, Jiangsu's French coach, is convinced that she is destined for the very top. But it hasn't been an easy path. Chawinga grew up playing football with boys in her village and was often verbally abused by onlookers who called her a prostitute, saying she was just doing it to sleep with them.

The 25-year-old Addo is Ghana's skipper and a quiet but steely presence who was raised in an area on the outskirts of the capital Accra known as "Survival City" because it is so tough. Compared with that, being professional footballers in China's league and living in Nanjing, a major city near Shanghai, is a breeze.

But as the only foreign players at Nanjing-based Jiangsu, and with just a few words of Mandarin between them, Addo and Chawinga lean heavily on one another. Neither will be involved at the Women's World Cup in France when it starts next week because Ghana and Malawi did not qualify, but they will be watching from afar. "We spend a lot of time together, walking in the streets, eat sometimes in a restaurant together if we don't want to cook," Chawinga, the chattier of the duo, told AFP. "We joke together. She's a nice girl to me, she's like my sister."



Elizabeth Addo

"It's the truth—we are just only the two foreigners, and from Africa, so we take care of each other like sisters. We are twins."

Neither had been to China before joining Jiangsu, who have lifted one domestic cup this season and are in the semi-finals of the other. Chawinga arrived from Swedish football in early 2018 and has been prolific, hitting 51 goals in 34 games to embellish her reputation as one of the best strikers in women's football.

She was joined in eastern China by attacking midfielder Addo in March this year, the two reuniting after playing together in Sweden for 18 months. Chawinga laughs at the reaction they get on the streets of Nanjing, where there are few black faces.

She said: "Many people look at us and think that maybe we are from the same parents, same house. People look at us a lot, like, 'Hey, you look similar.'" Their footballing paths also have similarities because they competed against boys when they were younger and were taunted for their love of the game.

Chawinga was a goalkeeper but aged 10 got smashed in the mouth by a boy's knee—"breaking my teeth" — and decided to play as a

striker instead. But as good as she was, Chawinga was regularly targeted for insults.

"People talk a lot. Hey, she just plays football, look at her, she goes to sleep with the boys." "But I didn't care. I knew the truth myself," she said. There were also objections from her mother. "My mum also used to fight me and say 'Don't play football, girls can't play football with the boys, stop playing football.'" "Now she's very happy for me to play football."

Addo arrived in China after stints in several countries including Sweden, the United States and Australia. She and Chawinga have lined up together half-a-dozen times so far for Jiangsu, with Addo setting up three of her friend's goals and scoring three times herself.

"When I have the ball, she knows what I'll do next," said Addo. "I know her movement when she's 'flying' and when she'll stay." Addo paused when asked about the prospect of playing against Chawinga in an international.

Then she said, smiling broadly: "That would be great, I can't wait for that day. But maybe I would mark someone else and I would tell my players, 'Hey, be careful with my twin sister.'" — AFP

growing incomes of the top English clubs. For Tottenham, who reached the Champions League final after miraculous escapes in the group stage, quarter-finals and semi-finals, the question is whether their achievement shows mounting momentum or is merely a lucky high water-mark.

The London club opened a glittering, £1 billion (\$1.26 billion) 62,000-capacity stadium to rave reviews in April. It holds 26,000 more than the old White Hart Lane and the club has landed a 10-year deal to host NFL games.

How much of that increase in revenue will be available to strengthen the squad is not clear. The club reportedly took out more than £600 million in loans to pay for the stadium. Tottenham's dynamic Argentinian coach Mauricio Pochettino has been linked with jobs at Bayern Munich and Juventus. An emotional man, he sent conflicting messages in the run-up to the Champions League final.

While Spurs face immediate challenges to make the leap to Premier League contenders, Liverpool and their coach Jurgen Klopp appear to stand a good chance of dethroning City and winning their first Premier League title for 29 years next season. Liverpool lost out to City by a single point in a thrilling race this season.

The Daily Mail's football editor Ian Ladyman said he expects Liverpool "will only get stronger from here", tweeting that the "only feasible threat is the big Spanish clubs coming for the front three, which will happen at some stage I am sure".

He was referring to envious glances aimed

at Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah, Senegalese striker Sadio Mane and Brazilian Roberto Firmino. Thirteen-time European champions Real, and Barcelona, who have won the Champions League five times, have had poor seasons by their high standards, and the response has been swift. The Madrid club are widely expected to announce the signing of Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard from Chelsea within weeks. A host of star names are expected to follow.

Barcelona have raided Ajax's precocious lineup, snapping up 22-year-old midfielder Frenkie de Jong. His Ajax teammate Matthijs de Ligt could join him in Catalonia, although Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United are also reportedly interested.

France's World Cup-winning striker Antoine Griezmann is expected to move from Atletico Madrid to Barcelona too, to bolster the ageing attack of Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez. United's wealth has rarely been matched in recent years by the same success on the pitch as they enjoyed under former manager Alex Ferguson. The Old Trafford club are expected to spend big to attempt to regain the Champions League qualification they missed out on in a calamitous season. Perennial German champions Bayern Munich have also splashed the cash to begin rebuilding their squad, investing in French defender Benjamin Pavard and Lucas Hernandez from Atletico Madrid. The problem for the Premier League's rivals is that success is attracting ever more foreign investment. — AFP

Inaugural Nations League finals a wide open contest

PORTO: Still something of a novelty, UEFA's inaugural Nations League tournament reaches its final stage with a four-team mini-competition in Portugal this week, which will be short and sharp and looks to be a wide-open contest.

It will offer Cristiano Ronaldo a chance to win a title for Portugal on home territory, 15 years after his side lost to Greece in the final of Euro 2004, which the country also hosted. England will have the chance to win their first major title since the World Cup in 1966 while the Netherlands could win their first since Euro 1988.

Switzerland could win their first ever. It may not carry the same weight as winning a World Cup or European championship but the eventual champions are unlikely to be complaining.

"The Nations League is not the most important prize that there is, but it is a trophy nevertheless that we'd like to win," said Dutch coach Ronald Koeman.

Portugal's Fernando Santos took a similar line. "The players have great passion to play for their country and this is no different," he said. "There is a title at stake and of course we want to win."

Designed to replace lukewarm friendly internationals, the competition, played between September and November last year, featured all 55 of Europe's national teams divided into four divisions—Leagues A to D—which were themselves split into four groups.

There is promotion and relegation between each league while the winners of the four League A groups earned their places in Portugal this week. It also

provides a back door for four teams to reach Euro 2020.

Despite initial scepticism over the format, it was given a generally warm reception as it matched teams of a similar standard. The finals format is quick and simple—two semi-finals, with Portugal and Switzerland meeting in Porto on Wednesday followed by England and the Netherlands in Guimaraes on Thursday, and the final in Porto on June 9.

'LACKLUSTRE' RONALDO?

Hosts Portugal start as slight favourites with Ronaldo, their all time leading scorer and most-capped player, eager to make up for what by his extraordinary standards could almost be described as a lacklustre first season at Juventus.

The 34-year-old scored "only" 28 goals and had to be content with adding just a Serie A title to his medals' collection. Portugal's 'old guard' is still in place, with Pepe holding the defence together at 36, but there has also been the welcome emergence of some promising newcomers such as 19-year-old Benfica forward Joao Felix.

England have managed to keep their momentum going after reaching the semi-finals at the World Cup last year, finishing ahead of Spain and Croatia in their group and making an emphatic start to their Euro 2020 qualifying campaign with five goals in each of their first two games.

The Dutch finished ahead of Germany and France to qualify and appear to be on the way back after missing the last European championship and World Cup. Switzerland surprisingly pipped Belgium for their place, with a stunning 5-2 win over the World Cup semi-finalists, and are looking to make the transformation from a team that is always difficult to beat to one considered title contenders. "Our goal should be to win the tournament," said coach Vladimir Petkovic. — Reuters

Premier League has Europe in its grip

PARIS: Liverpool's victory in the Champions League could usher in a new era of English dominance of European competition—but titans Real Madrid will not take the challenge lying down. The 2-0 win for Jurgen Klopp's side over Tottenham Hotspur in Madrid on Saturday was the culmination of a week of all-English European finals, after Chelsea had thrashed Arsenal 4-1 in Baku to lift the Europa League trophy. The Premier League's European rivals have taken note of the English dominance this season, with many seeing it as evidence of the Premier League's overwhelming financial power created by TV contract receipts that put other leagues in the shade.

A report from accountants KPMG last month underlined that financial muscle, with six English teams ranked among the top 10 European clubs that generate the greatest revenue. Manchester United were runners-up to top-placed Real Madrid. Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City, the newly crowned Premier League champions, were in fifth place, ahead of Russian-owned Chelsea, US-backed Liverpool, and Arsenal, with Tottenham in ninth spot.

The looming prospect of Brexit does not yet seem to have had a detrimental effect on the

Reyes laid to rest in Spain after car crash

UTRERA: Hundreds of mourners attended the funeral in Spain yesterday of former Real Madrid and Arsenal forward Jose Antonio Reyes, who was killed in a weekend car crash. Reyes' coffin, draped in the flag of his boyhood club Sevilla, was carried through the streets of his hometown of Utrera before the funeral service at a local church.

The 35-year-old former Spanish international died Saturday in an accident on the main road from Sevilla to Utrera. The crash and resultant fireball also claimed the life of one of his cousins while another passenger was still in hospital Monday, according to police.

Images from the scene of the crash show the burnt-out car flipped on its roof. Daily newspaper Diario de Sevilla reported Reyes was driving over 200 kilometres (125 miles) per hour at the time of the accident while sports daily Mundo Deportivo, citing a police

report, said he was going at 237 kilometres per hour.

Contacted by AFP, a spokesman for Spain's Guardia Civil police force which is investigating the accident declined to comment on the reports. On the day of the crash former Spanish international Santiago Canizares criticised Reyes, who reportedly owned a fleet of high-powered cars, for driving at high speed. "Speeding is a reprehensible attitude. There were victims in the accident aside from the driver. Reyes does not deserve a tribute like a hero. Nevertheless I regret what happened and that I pray for their souls," tweeted Canizares, who was part of Spain's national team at the same time as Reyes.

A minute's silence was held for Reyes before Saturday's Champions League final in Madrid between Liverpool and Tottenham. Reyes shot to fame at Sevilla and was snapped up by Arsenal, where he was part of the unbeaten 'Invincibles' who won the 2003-2004 Premier League title. Reyes later had spells at Real and Atletico Madrid.

He won the Europa League five times, twice with Atletico Madrid and three times in his second spell at Sevilla. Reyes played 21 times for Spain between 2003 and 2006, scoring four goals. He also won domestic league titles with Real Madrid and Benfica. — AFP

25 Scherzer strikes out 15 as Nationals beat Cincinnati Reds



26 Lee Jeong-eun wins first major title at 2019 US Women's Open



27 African 'twin sisters' tackle Chinese football together



PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic eyes the ball as he returns it to Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff during their men's singles fourth round match on day nine of The Roland Garros 2019 French Open tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP

Record-setting Djokovic into last-eight

Nishikori battles past Paire to set-up Nadal clash in Paris

PARIS: Novak Djokovic yesterday became the first man to reach the French Open quarter-finals for 10 successive seasons while Kei Nishikori set-up the toughest challenge on a clay court-facing Rafael Nadal. Top seed and world number one Djokovic continued his bid to hold all four Grand Slam titles simultaneously for the second time by thrashing Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

The 32-year-old will now face either ninth-seeded Italian Fabio Fognini or fifth seed Alexander Zverev in what will be his 13th appearance overall in the quarter-finals in Paris. "It was tricky with the rain, but that's Paris," said the 2016 champion after playing in drizzly conditions.

"I'm really confident with my serve. I hope it contin-

ues like that." Only Australian great Rod Laver has held all four majors at the same time twice before, after his calendar Grand Slams in 1962 and 1969.

Japanese seventh seed Nishikori came back from 1-4 and 3-5 down in the final set to beat Benoit Paire of France and set-up a Roland Garros quarter-final clash against Nadal. Nishikori won 6-2, 6-7 (8/10), 6-2, 6-7 (8/10), 7-5 in a shade under four hours to reach his third last-eight match at the French Open.

"He almost had it today," said Nishikori who had led two sets to one when the last-16 tie was suspended on Sunday. "He served for the match at 5-3 but I just tried to fight and play one point at a time."

The 29-year-old Japanese could have wrapped it up in the fourth set when he had two match points but

squandered both, the second on a double fault. Paire, the world number 38 who was trying to make the quarter-final of a Slam for the first time, was eventually undone by 15 double faults and 79 unforced errors.

Nishikori has only defeated 11-time French Open champion Nadal twice in 12 meetings with both of those wins coming on hard court. The Spaniard, celebrating his 33rd birthday yesterday, has won all four of their meetings on clay. "It's going to be a tough match, he's the greatest ever clay court player," said Nishikori.

In the women's event, the players who stunned top seed Naomi Osaka and 23-time major winner Serena Williams got a taste of their own medicine. American 14th seed Madison Keys reached the quarter-finals for the second successive year with a 6-2, 6-4 win over

Katerina Siniakova, the conqueror of US and Australian Open winner Osaka.

Keys, who went on to reach the semi-finals in 2018, next faces Australian eighth seed Ashleigh Barty. "I was really happy to close it out as playing three sets in these heavy conditions does not sound like much fun," said the 24-year-old Keys.

"I love clay courts and Paris and I am happy to play another match." Barty beat Sofia Kenin, who stunned Williams in the third round, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, on Court Philippe Chatrier. "It's my first time this week playing on this beautiful court and I just wanted to come out here and enjoy it," said the 23-year-old former cricketer. "It (playing cricket) was incredible, it made me more hungry to come back and have success in tennis." — AFP

Iguodala lifts Warriors over Raptors to level NBA Finals

TORONTO: Defending champion Golden State needed Andre Iguodala's clutch 3-pointer with seven seconds remaining Sunday to hold off Toronto 109-104 and lift the Warriors level in the NBA Finals.

Seeking a third consecutive title and fourth in five seasons, the Warriors knotted the best-of-seven series at 1-1 ahead of games three and four on Wednesday and Friday in California. With former US President Barack Obama in the crowd, Golden State trailed by 12 points in the second quarter, made the first 18 points of the third and led by as much as 72-59.

Toronto rallied, holding the Warriors scoreless for

more than 5:30 only to fall short on the last of 2015 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Iguodala's eight points. "His play in the second half was really inspiring at both ends. He did a fantastic job," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "He has hit a lot of big shots in the finals before, so he was unfazed."

"I think he sensed that we needed his production in that second half and he came alive." Klay Thompson led the Warriors with 25 points while Stephen Curry added 23 and Draymond Green contributed 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

Kawhi Leonard scored a game-high 34 points for Toronto and added 14 rebounds while Raptors reserve Fred VanVleet netted 17 points. Golden State suffered injuries to Thompson and Kevon Looney. Curry battled dehydration and Iguodala's heroics came despite a leg injury.

"We've been through a lot. We've battled through injuries," Iguodala said. "It's a mindset. You go play. Not saying it's smart, but you only have about a week left to gut it out and see if you can help the team." It left reserves to play key roles in the triumph.

"It was a great win," Kerr said. "We got to go home and protect our home floor and we'll see about all the

injuries. But I'm very proud of our team. It was a hell of an effort from the bench."

The Warriors were again without top scorer Kevin Durant, but the forward is expected back soon after missing seven games with a right calf strain. Victory was vital for Golden State. Of 34 teams that fell behind 0-2 in the NBA Finals, only four rallied to win the crown. The Warriors have now won at least once on the road in 23 consecutive playoff series.

Kyle Lowry and Danny Green made 3-pointers to pull the Raptors, in the first finals of their 24-season history, from a 13-point deficit to within 92-88 early in the fourth quarter. Reserve Quinn Cook answered with back-to-back 3-pointers to ignite a 14-6 Golden State run that stretched the Warriors' lead to 106-94 with 5:39 to play.

Three Leonard free throws pulled the Raptors within 106-101 with 68 seconds remaining and Danny Green sank a 3-pointer to lift the Raptors within two with 26 seconds remaining. "I'm really proud of our guys for fighting and battling," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "They were obviously a little more aggressive. We were just a little bit impatient and didn't hold enough composure."

"They did a really good job of getting out of there

with speed and a lot of those were just probably mistakes by us or just a half step too slow."

Toronto seized a 47-35 lead but Curry, who missed his first six shots, scored 15 of the Warriors' last 17 second-quarter points and Golden State trimmed the half-time deficit to 59-54.

"Just staying in the game at the end of the second quarter was very important," Kerr said. "The place was going nuts, we couldn't score, and Steph and Klay both got loose. We could kind of breathe at halftime."

"Our guys felt renewed life at that point and came out and just had a great run to take control of the game and we were able to finish it out from there." Golden State opened the second half on an 18-0 run to seize a 72-59 lead, aided by the Raptors missing their first nine shots of the third quarter and committing seven turnovers in the pivotal span.

"We held them to 37 percent and forced 15 turnovers," Kerr said. "It was championship defense and that's what it's going to take." Thompson scored seven consecutive points and Iguodala added five in the crucial run. "We got stops," Draymond Green said. "That's our best offense when we're getting stops and we're pushing the ball in transition. It was big." — AFP