

2 Amir receives letters from Russia, China, Egypt leaders



6 Tunisia fishermen turn lifesavers in the Med



24 Massive blackout hobbles South America, power trickling back



28 India beat Pak to maintain perfect World Cup record



Riyadh blames Iran for tanker attacks; US vows free passage

Iran hints US could be behind attacks • Saudis intercept Houthi drone, US drone downed

Poll: Trump trailing Biden, 4 other Dems

WASHINGTON: A nationwide Fox News poll released yesterday shows President Donald Trump trailing former vice president Joe Biden and no fewer than four other Democratic contenders as early campaigning for the 2020 election begins to gain steam. A separate survey of battleground states, by CBS, shows Democrats strongly favor Biden as the candidate most likely to beat Trump in next year's elections. The Fox poll showed Biden leading Trump by 49 percent to 39 percent among all registered voters nationwide, while Senator Bernie Sanders held nearly the same advantage over the president, at

49 percent to 40 percent. Holding edges of 1 or 2 points over Trump - albeit within the poll's 3-point margin of error - were Senators Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris, as well as Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana. The polling comes more than 500 days before the Nov 3, 2020 election, an eternity in the political world. One widely viewed tweet this week shows five presidential candidates in recent decades who trailed at this point in their campaigns - including Trump - but who went on to win. The president does not officially launch his re-election campaign until Tuesday, at a rally-style event in a huge arena in Orlando, Florida.

Still, the Fox poll, conducted June 9 to June 12, is seen as heartening by Democrats eager to chip away at Trump's popularity, particularly in key battleground states like Pennsylvania

Continued on Page 24

DUBAI: Two damaged tankers arrived safely yesterday at locations off the Emirati coast after they were rocked by explosions in Gulf waters, in an incident Saudi Arabia blamed on its regional arch-rival Iran. The Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous was carrying highly flammable methanol through the Gulf of Oman on Thursday when it came under attack along with the Norwegian-operated Front Altair - the second assault in a month in the strategic shipping lane. US President Donald Trump has said the operation had Iran "written all over it" - rejecting Tehran's vehement denial - and Washington's key Gulf ally Saudi Arabia has also lashed out against Tehran.

In his first public comments since the attacks, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in remarks published yesterday that he would not hesitate to tackle any threats to the oil-rich kingdom. "We do not want a war in the region... But we won't hesitate to deal with any threat to our people, our sovereignty, our territorial integrity and our vital interests," he told pan-Arab daily Asharq

Al-Awsat. He said Iran had responded to a visit to Tehran by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "by attacking two tankers, one of which was Japanese". Abe had been on an unprecedented visit to the Iranian capital in a bid to defuse tensions between Washington and the Islamic republic when the attacks took place.

The US military on Friday released grainy footage it said showed an Iranian patrol boat removing an "unexploded limpet mine" from the Japanese vessel. Yesterday, it said Iran had unsuccessfully tried to shoot down a US drone on a surveillance mission following the attack on the Kokuka Courageous. The vessel's Singapore-based BSM Ship Management said in a statement yesterday that it had "arrived safely at the designated anchorage" and that its crew were "safe and well". The other ship, the Front Altair, was under safe tow by tug boats towards an area off the coast of the eastern Emirati port of Fujairah. "First inspections are under way and no hot spots have been identified following the fire," while all crew members

were in Dubai, the vessel's owners said in a statement yesterday.

The UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Saturday called on world powers "to secure international navigation and access to energy". Thursday's attacks took place southeast of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital corridor connecting the energy-rich states of the Middle East to the global market. Iran, which is struggling with crippling US sanctions, has repeatedly warned in the past that it could block the strait in a relatively low-tech, high-impact countermeasure to any attack by the United States.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday vowed the US would ensure the strait remains open, without detailing what options Washington is considering to protect shipping. "What you should assume is we are going to guarantee freedom of navigation throughout the strait," he said in a Fox News television interview. "This is an international challenge, important to the entire globe."

Continued on Page 24

News in brief

Clampdown on delivery services

KUWAIT: The interior ministry has asked the ministry of commerce and industry to stop issuing licenses for delivery services, because the interior ministry is the authority responsible for giving the final approval to issue such licenses. Sources said the interior ministry believes the delivery market has become chaotic and needs new regulations to organize it, as it is expanding rapidly, particularly the delivery of food and other consumer goods. The sources said the commerce ministry will not reject any application to establish a new delivery company in principle, but the completion of procedures needs approval by the interior ministry. — Al-Qabas

Two drown off Abu Halifa

KUWAIT: Two Africans drowned in the waters across a major mall in Abu Halifa. Fire operations responded to a call, along with rescue teams and divers from Shuaiba and Salmiya centers. The body of one victim was found in the water, while currents washed the second body ashore. The bodies were recovered by forensics. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

Israel to attend Bahrain conference

JERUSALEM: Israelis will attend a US-led conference in Bahrain next week on proposals for the Palestinian economy as part of a coming peace plan, Foreign Minister Israel Katz said yesterday. A source briefed on the event told Reuters Israel would send a business delegation but no government officials to the June 25-26 workshop. "Israel will be at the Bahrain conference and all the coordinations will be made," Katz said told Israeli Channel 13 News in New York. Palestinian leaders have spurned the conference, alleging pro-Israeli bias from Washington. On Twitter, Katz later added that Israel's representation had yet to be decided and that the country's high-tech and innovation capabilities could greatly benefit development in the region. — Reuters

Escape goes wrong for stuntman

KOLKATA: An Indian stuntman who entered the Ganges River yesterday tied up with steel chains and rope is missing, police said. Chanchal Lahiri, known by his stage name "Jadugar Mandrake" (Wizard Mandrake), was lowered into the river by crane as family members, media and police watched from the banks. But the 40-year-old failed to emerge from the water, triggering a frantic search by authorities. Lahiri earlier said he had successfully pulled off a similar stunt 21 years ago at the same venue. "If I can open it up then it will be magic, but if I can't it will be tragic," he said. When Lahiri tried the stunt at the river in 2013, he was assaulted by onlookers who saw through his escape from a locked cage via a door that was clearly visible. — AFP

Bashir charged with corruption

KHARTOUM: Fallen Sudanese leader Omar Al-Bashir was yesterday seen in public for the first time since being ousted, as he was driven in an armed convoy to the prosecutor's office. The former strongman, who ruled his northeast African nation with an iron fist for three decades, was toppled on April 11 after weeks of protests against his reign.

Dressed in a white traditional robe and turban, Bashir rode in a heavily-armed convoy from the notorious Kober prison in the Sudanese capital Khartoum to prosecutors' office to face charges of alleged corruption. Prosecutor Alaeddin Dafallah told reporters after Bashir left

the office that the ousted president had been informed that he was facing charges of "possessing foreign currency, corruption and receiving gifts illegally".

Meanwhile, a top general from the country's new ruling military council vowed that those who carried out a deadly crackdown on an iconic protest site that left dozens dead earlier this month would face the death penalty. "We are working hard to take those who did this to the gallows," Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, deputy chief of the ruling military council said in a speech broadcast live on state television. "Whoever committed any fault" will be held accountable, Dagalo added. Thousands of protesters who had camped outside Khartoum's military headquarters for weeks were violently dispersed by armed men in military

Continued on Page 24

Bibi unveils 'Trump Heights'; wife guilty of misusing funds

GOLAN HEIGHTS: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday inaugurated a new settlement in the occupied Golan Heights, in honor of his key ally US President Donald Trump. Netanyahu unveiled a "Trump Heights" sign to mark the site of the new settlement. The ceremony comes after the US president in late March recognized Israeli sovereignty over the part of the strategic plateau it seized from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day war. Israel later annexed the area in a move never recog-

nized by the international community.

"The Golan is Israeli and will remain so always", Netanyahu declared. Trump is "a very great friend of Israel who has taken a decision that has never before been taken", he added. Surrounding a large table, Israel's cabinet met under a tent in the north of the Golan to name the settlement. Its construction is planned in an area currently occupied by four settler families. Some 23,000 Druze - an Arab Muslim minority also present in Syria and Lebanon - live in the occupied and annexed portion of the Golan, while 25,000 Israeli settlers have arrived there since 1967.

Earlier yesterday, an Israeli court convicted Netanyahu's wife of fraudulently using state funds for meals, under a plea bargain which dropped more severe charges. While the ruling cut short a high-profile trial, the Netanyahu

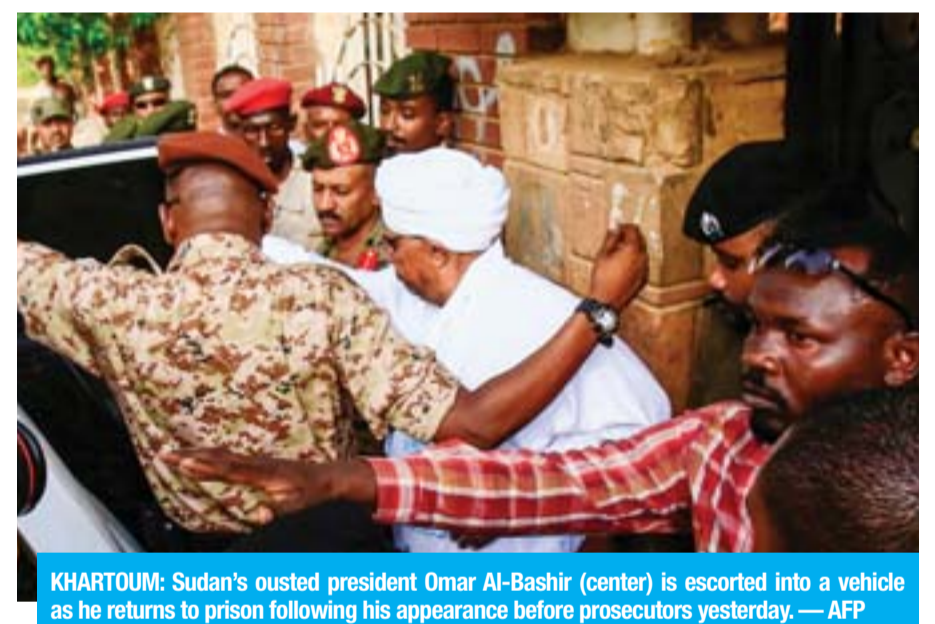
Continued on Page 24

Heat wave hits Iraq, and sparks begin to fly

NASIRIYAH, Iraq: Hospital ventilators shut down, football matches with obligatory water breaks and food spoiling in fridges without power: Iraq's notorious summer has arrived. As one of the hottest countries in the world with around half of its terrain covered in desert, Iraq is no stranger to stiflingly hot summers. But even by its own standards, this June has been a sizzler - averaging a daily 48 degrees Celsius, compared to around 40 in previous years.

Across the country, Iraqis have sprung into usual routines to cope: Wrapping outside door handles in tape to stop them getting too hot in the sun, keeping a change of clothes in the car, or stepping fully-clothed into curbside showers to cool off. Working hours have changed, with businesses opening and closing later to take advantage of the cooler evenings. Baghdad residents shutter themselves away during the searing afternoons, then re-emerge around midnight or later for a belated dinner in the manageable 35-degree heat. Inside, they crank up air conditioning units, putting extra strain on the country's dilapidated power grid and causing the much-despised outages that sparked massive protests last year.

Continued on Page 24



KHARTOUM: Sudan's ousted president Omar Al-Bashir (center) is escorted into a vehicle as he returns to prison following his appearance before prosecutors yesterday. — AFP



GOLAN HEIGHTS, Syria: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (second right) and US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman (left) applaud after unveiling the sign for the new settlement of "Trump Heights" during an official ceremony in this Israeli-annexed territory yesterday. — AFP



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi man uses a curbside shower to cool off during a heat wave in the capital on June 14, 2019. — AFP

Local

Putin praises Kuwait Amir's wisdom, experience in letter to Sheikh Sabah

Amir receives letters from Chinese, Egyptian Presidents



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



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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a written letter yesterday from Russian President Vladimir Putin. In his letter, President Putin commended the wisdom and experience of His Highness the Amir, and lauded His Highness Sheikh Sabah's commitment to pursuing more cooperation between the two countries on all different spheres. His Highness the Amir thanked the Russian leader for his sincere sentiments, praising the strong and historic relations with Russia. His Highness Sheikh Sabah expressed Kuwait's desire to further bolster ties, renewing his invitation to President Putin to visit Kuwait. Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Nikolay V Makarov handed in the letter to Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received a letter from President of China Xi Jinping, hailing the recent fruitful visit of His Highness Sheikh Sabah to China and its impact on boosting cooperation between the two countries on all levels. His Highness the Amir thanked Xi for his kind feelings, noting the strong Kuwaiti-



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



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

Chinese relations. His Highness Sheikh Sabah renewed his invitation for President Xi to visit Kuwait, also wishing him a long healthy life and more development for China.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir received a written letter from Egyptian President Abdu-Fattah Al-Sisi. In his letter, President Sisi commended the wisdom

and experience of His Highness the Amir, and wished His Highness Sheikh Sabah more success and prosperity. His Highness the Amir thanked the Egyptian leader for his sincere sentiments, praising the strong and historical relations with Egypt.

In other news, His Highness the Amir met yesterday at Bayan Palace with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir then received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, followed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. In the meantime, His Highness

the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. — KUNA



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



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



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



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



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



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

Defense Ministry holds 1st planning session for 'Eagles Resolve 2020' drill

KUWAIT: The Defense Ministry announced yesterday that the first planning session for the 'Eagles Resolve 2020' military drill was held with army chiefs in the GCC, Egypt, Jordan, and the United States. A press release by the ministry indicated that the session's goal was to prepare the country for the drill scheduled in March of 2020. The statement added that the drill, held first in Bahrain in 2000, was to develop involved parties' military cooperation and coordination. Kuwait hosted the strategically important drill on three occasions. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The participants in a group photo. — KUNA

Local

Kuwait looks to Jordan, Palestine for future labor recruitment plans

780 teachers needed for the 2019-2020 school year

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower plans to cover staff shortages in the public and private sectors through cooperation with the Jordanian and the Palestinian governments, well-informed sources said. The sources added Jordanian and Palestinian delegations are set to visit Kuwait within the next two months to attend meetings headed by Minister of State for Economic Development Mariam Al-Aqeel with representatives from the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Health (MoH) to discuss their needs. Notably, Aqeel had met with the labor ministers of both countries on the sidelines of a labor conference held recently in Geneva. Kuwait used to be home for a sizable Palestinian and Jordanian community before the 1990/91 Iraqi Invasion which had forced a majority of the country's expatriate population to leave. While details of future plans to fill vacancies in public or private posts remain unclear, the government is likely to limit hiring to a minimum and only seek to hire highly skilled workers as it continues to implement its 'Kuwaitization' policy in both the public and private sectors.

166,000 employees
Separately, MoE assistant undersecretary for administrative affairs Fahd Al-Ghaiss said that the ministry has over 166,000 employees in both teaching and administrative staff, and it is keen on implementing the policies set by the Civil Service Commission (CSC)



Kuwait to recruit Tunisian French, PE teachers

concerning employing citizens. Ghaiss added that Kuwaiti embassies abroad and the foreign ministry had been notified to advertise MoE's need for 780 teachers in various subjects for the 2019-2020 school year, adding that a dedicated website has been launched for

the human resources department through which applications can be made from abroad and from Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Tunisian technical cooperation agency announced Kuwait's MoE wishes to recruit Tunisian French and PE teachers for the coming school year. According to the ad, Kuwait needs male French teachers below 45, holding bachelor's or master's degrees and at least three years of experience, in addition to female PE teachers aged below 32. In the meantime, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Jenan Boushehri said the total number of employees in the Public Authority for Housing Welfare is 1,764, in addition to 11 advisors (nine appointed by previous minister Yasser Abul and two by her), adding that six of the advisors were laid off in 2018.



Minister of State for Economic Development Mariam Al-Aqeel

Social aid

Responding to an inquiry made by MP Khalil Abdullah, Minister of Social Affairs Saad Al-Kharraz said that it is conditioned that social aid to Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis be paid only upon medical reports proving the husband's incapability to provide for his family.

Smart WC

Kuwait Municipality's deputy director for engineering projects affairs Nadia Al-Shereeda said the smart automated water closets (WC) project has been included in the municipality budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020 to be placed in markets and public yards.



Kuwait Airways officials meet with the US Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration.



Kuwait flag carrier to launch direct flights to New York

KUWAIT: National carrier Kuwait Airways will begin flying directly to New York as soon as aviation safety measures are complete, the airline said yesterday.

Roundtrip flights to New York out of Kuwait International Airport's newly-built Terminal 4 (T4) is part of plans to propel the Kuwaiti flag carrier to prominence in the aviation industry, Kuwait Airways CEO Kamal Al-Awadhi said in a statement. He cited recent talks a Kuwaiti delegation held with the US Department of Transportation to ensure that safety precautions are in place, paving the way for the direct flights to New York. Kuwait International Airport has seen a spike of up to 10 percent in passenger traffic with the completion of the sprawling terminal. —KUNA

News in brief

Embassy follows injured citizens' conditions

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Embassy in Thailand said Saturday it dispatched two diplomats to Battaya to follow up conditions of two Kuwaiti citizens who were subjected to an accident to make sure they get proper medical attention. The Embassy, acting upon instructions of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, said in a statement that it was keen on following up police probe into the accident. The two citizens, whose names were not disclosed, were injured in an accident in Battaya, it noted, one of them was hospitalized but in stable condition and the other had a fractured leg. —KUNA

Minister wants more cooperation

LONDON: The Kuwaiti government is eager to work closely with parliament for the sake of public interest, Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf said yesterday. "It is imperative to closely examine all legislations to ensure proper and effective laws," the minister said upon his arrival in London to attend talks over the private sector's contributions towards the Kuwaiti economy. He cited recent discussions with Kuwaiti lawmakers over legislative suggestions, pending further talks. —KUNA

Kuwait reiterates condemnation

NEW YORK: Kuwait reiterated condemnation of 'criminal' attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, in remarks to KUNA late Saturday, said, "Kuwait had, on numerous occasions, strongly condemned those attacks." All UNSC members unanimously called the incident a criminal act and violation to international law, Otaibi told reporters following the Council's consultations session on latest agendas regarding the attack in the Gulf of Oman last Friday. "We would want to see thorough, impartial, and objective investigation to take place, and know who stands behind these actions," he pointed out. Last Thursday, explosions ripped through two oil tankers, Norwegian and Singaporean, in the Gulf of Oman. —KUNA

Catheterization operations underway at Jaber Hospital

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Jaber Hospital has launched its interventional cardiology department and started conducting cardiac catheterization operations, said Mubarak Al-Kabeer health zone manager and Jaber Hospital executive manager Dr Saud Al-Dara, noting that the first cardiac catheterization was conducted by Ministry of Health (MoH) undersecretary Dr Mustafa Redha, the head of Jaber Hospital's cardiology unit Dr Fauzia Al-Kandari and the hospital's medical team. Dara added that the first phase of Jaber Hospital was launched over two months ago, while the second phase was launched to expand the hospital's services and reach 55 percent of its bed capacity by the end of the year. He noted that the third phase will be launched by the beginning of next year, during which the bed capacity will be full and various staff will be provided.

In other news, the Jahra committee at the Municipal Council approved a request by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to license a temporary labor dormitory in Southern Mutlaa to be used by laborers working in the construction and maintenance of road, infrastructure, housing units and power units in areas N2 and N3 of Southern Mutlaa residential city project.

Today's session to schedule remaining agenda: Speaker

KUWAIT: Today's session of the National Assembly will schedule the rest of the 15th legislative term agendas, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday. Speaking to the press, Ghanem said that four sessions would be dedicated to discuss budgets, adding that two more sessions might be held to look into various legislations. Other sessions might not be held during the week due to the presence of various parliament groups abroad, indicated Ghanem who pointed out that parliamentary committees were still at work focusing on draft legislations. The National Assembly Speaker forecasted that the current legislative term might end by the second or third of July, however, the final date will be announced in a future session. —KUNA

Kuwait Times
ESTABLISHED 1961
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

STAY CONNECTED

• Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**

• Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**

• Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621
E: info@kuwaittimes.net



KUWAIT: A woman makes pottery at a handicrafts center in Kuwait City yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

CAPT sets criteria for contractors, consultancy services classifications

Divided into construction contractors, building works, mechanical works and electrical works

KUWAIT: Kuwait Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) issued two new resolutions on the classification rules of general contractors and consultancy services, CAPT Secretary-General Shoaab Akbar announced yesterday. Akbar said in an interview that the first resolution was devoted to the rules and procedures of classification criteria for consultancy services, while the other was allocated to the rules, procedures and criteria for the classification of public contractors. She added that Law No 49 of 2016 on public tenders was issued to classify companies whether public companies or consulting firms, stating that the new resolutions defined the criteria for this classification.

Contractors were categorized financially, while CAPT set the rules for technical criteria for contractors' classification, she said. She pointed out that the rules of the new criteria included the contractor's experience, years of work and all technical requirements. The contractors are divided into four segments according to the main special-

ties: construction contractors, building works, mechanical works and electrical works.

The first category includes major projects' contractors, and the second includes contractors of technical and financial capacity who may participate in tenders with a value not less than KD 5 million (about \$16.5 million) and not more than KD 100 million (about \$330 million dollar). The third category includes contractors who are allowed to participate in tenders with a value not less than KD 1 million (about \$3.3 million) and not more than KD 10 million (about \$33 million), she said, adding that the fourth category includes local contractors who are allowed to participate in tenders with a value not exceeding KD 2 million (about \$6.6 million).

Akbar said that these classifications are reviewed periodically, and the certificate of classification of contractors for general contracting is valid for a period not exceeding three years, adding that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are in the fourth category. In the new reso-



lution, the consultants were divided into four segments: architecture and engineering, project management, administrative and financial, and specialization, she said. As for foreign contractors, Akbar noted that Law No 49

specified mechanisms for entering the local market while being classified according to the standards set for local companies, adding that the same applies to consultancy services. — KUNA

Capital Municipality conducts various inspection tours

KUWAIT: The Capital Municipality Cleaning Manager Meshaal Al-Azmi said that capital municipality inspectors continue to conduct field inspection tours on various beaches, as well as the Mubarakiya Market, Salhiya and the beachfront to prevent littering, which is punishable by a fine of up to KD 200. He added that the tours also cover restaurants and cafes to prevent unlawful usage of open yards. Further, Azmi said that recent tours resulted in filing 10 citations for illegal use of land, four for cleaning violations along the beachfront in addition to 12 for cleaning violations in Shuwaikh Industrial. Meanwhile, a total of 230 cubic meters of wastes were removed.



Local

KFH presents innovative project at KFAS Innovation Challenge Program

Three employees introduce world-acclaimed smart application for youth

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) presented a distinctive innovative project at the end of the 'Innovation Challenge' season organized by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). This came during a meeting at which Haneen Al-Ansari, Nada Al-Khateeb and Muthawi Al-Zemami at KFAS presented a detailed and methodical exposition of their highly-acclaimed innovative project. Earlier, this project was received a great interest when submitting it before teachers and students of the UCLA Anderson School of Management. This emphasizes the pivotal role of the policy of creativity and innovation prioritized by KFAS as well as the distinguished potential of Kuwaiti youth which make many admirably positive contributions to work development and the raising of the level of performance and customer service.

In cooperation with distinguished international academic institutions, the annual KFAS 'Innovation Challenge' program aims to develop the innovative potentials, the culture of creativity and knowledge economy of private sector employees through acquainting them with the most advanced professional and academic expertise in the world.

In the presence of KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Shehab Eddin, Deputy Director General for scientific affairs Dr Salem Al-Hajraf, the Director of the Executive Development Program at KFAS Innovation and Enterprises Directorate Dr Bassam Al-Faili and a number of officers from KFAS and KFAS, the bank presented its smart application that offers comprehensive services in a modern style for the youth segment.

As a partner, the UCLA hosted the three KFAS employees within the third training model based on innovative and modern methods of executive teaching including interactive guidance, and remote simulation and teaching. In addition to the project's merits and practical and economic feasibility, KFAS pointed out the innovation and creativity model employed in KFAS, its role in the work system, the attention and support of the executive management and the several annual events especially the best inno-



KFH employees present their innovative idea in Kuwait and the US.

vative ideas in the group competition.

Approved by KFAS innovation council, the project has been recommended as it includes competitive elements and the possibility of its application, making it closer to KFAS's goals of increasing its market share and expanding the scope of service for its various customers in a modern manner. KFAS gives priority to innovation and creativity in its work ethos. While it appreciates highly its employees with innovative ideas, several of its successful services and products were the result of their creative ideas, positive proposals and views of its employees. KFAS is the first bank to have an innovation center and innovation council to monitor, follow up, encourage and spread the culture of innovation among the employees. The KFAS Group organizes an annual competition with valuable awards in line with its belief that innovation saves time and effort. Also, it increases profitability and opens up new horizons in new areas that befit the spirit of the age and customers' expectations and enhance competitiveness.

It is worth pointing out that the group's service excellence and innovation Department has lately

its kind in the Arab region to have been recognized globally for applying the standards for reference laboratories, blood transfusions, blood donations and genetic laboratories.

Meanwhile, the ministry's official tasked with blood transfusions Reem Al-Radwan said donation awareness should be encouraged on the individual as well as public levels. On the individual level, she urged the public to commit to the regular donation process set up by the ministry and encourage family and friends to step forward and follow suit. For its part, she said that the ministry should back the development of transfusion services and acknowledge the role of donors, by organizing activities that encourage the deed, through campaigns or the creation of services that cater to their needs. The World Blood Donor Day is celebrated annually on June 14 to "thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood," according to the official website of the World Health Organization. — KUNA

Kuwait blood bank received 79,000 bags in 2019

KUWAIT: Blood donations worth 79,000 bags and 8,000 platelets have been generously contributed to the Kuwait Central Blood Bank by Kuwaitis and the nationals of 75 countries, a Health Ministry official said yesterday. In an address a day after World Blood Donor Day, Assistant Undersecretary for Medical Support Services Fawaz Al-Rifai thanked donors for their efforts, which have helped in saving the lives of others. Speaking of Kuwait Central Blood Bank's recent accomplishments, he said it is the only body of



KUWAIT: People donate blood at the Kuwait Central Blood Bank in this file photo.

Kuwait Consul applauds 'Heart of Culture' gala

VENICE, Italy: Kuwait's Consul General in Milan and Northern Italy Abdulnaser Bokhadhor said success of 'Heart of Culture' exhibition and art gallery, held in Venice by Kuwait's Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Center, would enhance cultural ties between both countries. "The two successful events drew high turnout, which heralds an impressive Venice Biennale this year," he said on Saturday after the inauguration of the events, which took place Friday night. "The historical city of Venice is vibrant, particularly in this

time of the year, with dozens of cultural activities and art galleries," Bokhadhor pointed out.

The Kuwaiti art gallery, themed "I have a dream that I'm in Kuwait," will span across the time of Venice Biennale until November to allow the largest possible number of visitors, including academics, critics, media people and intellectuals from different parts of the world, Bokhadhor went on. He took pride in the neat arrangement for the gala and the skills of the Kuwait youth who organized it. He noted that these successful events, being held in Venice by Kuwait for the first time, show the civilized nature of Kuwait and pave the way for more exchanges between Kuwait's talented youth and their global peers. Kuwait has always been a beacon of cultural enlightenment under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and with the support of the Amiri Diwan, he added. — KUNA

Minister attends Arab petroleum transport meetings



Kuwait's Oil Minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Khaled Al-Fadhel

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Oil Minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Khaled Al-Fadhel said he attended Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company general meetings in Cairo. The talks, held on Friday, discussed market developments, the operational state of the company's fleet and its ongoing commercial oil and liquefied gas transport joint ventures, the minister said in a statement. The Kuwait-based company, which is unevenly funded by nine Arab countries, including Kuwait, discussed plans to modernize and its 14-vessel fleet of varied sizes and functions, he added. The meeting also discussed internal matters pertaining to last year's budget and activities. Founded in 1972 as a company operating under the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), it is financed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, Libya, Iraq and Algeria. — KUNA

AUK[®]

OMAR KHALIL
Class of 2019 -
Computer Science
Leader of the 1st
place team in the
NASA Space Apps
Challenge (Kuwait)

*Learn
Think
Become*

The American University of Kuwait received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC), Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, N Hampshire - USA).

admissions@auk.edu.kw
Tel: 1802040 / (+965) 2224-8399,
Ext: 3148 | www.auk.edu.kw

@AUK_Kuwait @AUKnews
The American University of Kuwait AUKVidios



Hong Kong leader apologizes; protesters urge her to resign

Bangladesh prison breakfast menu gets makeover after 200 years

Page 9

Page 8



ZARZIS: A Tunisian fishing boat arrives at the port of Zarzis in the southern coast of Tunisia. Tunisian fishermen are finding themselves more and more involved in rescuing illegal boats leaving Libya for Italy, due to the difficulties of NGOs in the eastern Mediterranean and the disengagement of European military ships. — AFP

Tunisian fishermen turn life-savers

'We want to catch fish, not people'

ZARZIS: The Tunisian trawler radioed in for help as it passed the migrant boat in distress out at sea. But with the packed craft still adrift two days later, captain Chamseddine Bourassine took direct action. Fishermen from the North African country are spending more and more time pulling in stranded migrants after a sharp decline in humanitarian and European naval patrols along the stretch of water between war-ravaged Libya and Italy. Bourassine, his crew and three other fishing boats ferried the 69 migrants back to shore on May 11, five days after their boat pushed off from Zuwara on the western Libyan coast.

"The area where we fish is a crossing point" between Zuwara and the Italian island of Lampedusa, said Badreddine Mecherek, a Tunisian fisherman from Zarzis near the border with Libya. Fishermen from Zarzis have saved the lives of hundreds of migrants in recent years, and as the number of boats leaving western Libya for Europe spikes with the return of calmer summer seas, they will probably have to save even more. "First we warn the authorities, but in the end we end up saving them ourselves," Mecherek grumbled as he tinkered with his rusting sardine boat.

European countries in the northern Mediterranean are trying to stem the number of migrants landing on their shores, and the Tunisian navy with its limited resources only rescues boats inside the country's territorial waters. Since May 31, Tunisia itself has barred 75 migrants from coming ashore after they were saved in international waters by a Tunisian-Egyptian tug boat. Contacted multiple times by AFP, Tunisian authorities have refused to comment.

'Angel'

"Everyone has disengaged" from the issue, said Mecherek, adding it was hampering his work. Fishermen who run across migrants on their second day out at sea are at least able to have done a day's work, he added, "but if we find them on the first night, we have to go back." "It's very complicated to finish the job with people on board."



Hundreds of migrants saved in recent years

The complexity of the rescues grows when fishermen find migrants adrift closer to Italy. When Bourassine and his crew last year tugged a boat towards Lampedusa which was adrift without a motor, they were jailed in Sicily for four weeks for helping the migrants. It took months to recover their boat. Humanitarian boats and those of the European Union's "Operation Sophia" anti-piracy force had scooped up most stranded migrants in recent years, but rescue operations dropped in 2019.

"Now most often we are the first to arrive... if we aren't there, the migrants die," Mecherek said. On May 10, a Tunisian trawler just barely saved the lives of 16 migrants after they had spent eight hours in the water. Sixty others drowned before the ship arrived. Survivor Ahmed Sijur said the boat's appearance at dawn was like

that of "an angel". "I was loosing hope myself, but God sent us the fishermen to save us," the 30-year-old from Bangladesh said.

'Police of the sea'

Mecherek is more worried than proud. "We don't want to see all these corpses anymore. We want to catch fish, not people," he said, adding his crew was growing uneasy. "I have 20 seamen on board asking, 'Who will feed our families?'" he added. "But local fishermen will never let people die at sea." For Tunisian Red Crescent official Mongi Slim, the fishermen "are practically the police of the sea", adding that many migrants say large ships won't stop to help.

Under pressure to catch their quota during a short annual season, big tuna boats out of Zarzis often call the coast guard instead of stopping themselves to help. "We report the migrants, but we can't bring them back to shore... We only have a few weeks to fish," said one crew member. For Chamseddine, the summer months look difficult. "With fighting having resumed in Libya, traffickers are free to work again... There's a risk of many shipwrecks." — AFP

Piracy, collisions, missiles: Tankers in troubled waters

NEW YORK: Tankers like those apparently attacked in the Gulf of Oman operate through increasingly treacherous waters, facing mounting dangers from piracy and collision as well as geopolitical hazards. Around 60 million barrels of petroleum product move each day on the seas globally, according to the US Energy Information Administration. And around a third of this volume passes through the Straits of Hormuz, a critical shipping passage. This waterway is a principal route for crude exports from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq. It is also a key route for natural gas exports from Qatar.

Other highly strategic waterways include the Strait of Malacca between Singapore and Indonesia, the Suez Canal in Egypt and the Babel-Mandeb strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. "Blocking a chokepoint, even temporarily, can lead to substantial increases in total energy costs and world energy prices," said EIA in a 2017 report. "Chokepoints also leave oil tankers vulnerable to theft from pirates, terrorist attacks, political unrest in the form of wars or hostilities and shipping accidents that can lead to disastrous oil spills."

Alexander Booth, head of market analysis at Kpler, said tankers are accustomed to traveling with pirates in their midst, especially in areas like the Strait of Malacca and the Gulf of Aden near Somalia. "Historically, the biggest military or terrorist threat is piracy," Booth said. "Off the coasts of Somalia for instance, whilst they are going through certain areas, they would often broadcast the fact they have guards on board." Booth said attacks such as those suspected on Thursday are "very rare."



FUJAIRAH: A woman sits along a beach as tanker ships are seen in the waters of the Gulf of Oman off the coast of the eastern UAE emirate of Fujairah. — AFP

Collisions

Thursday's incidents come about a month after attacks on four ships, including three oil tankers, anchored off the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah. As with Thursday's incidents, the May attacks inflamed tensions between the United States and Iran. Anthony Cordesman, a national security analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Iran could do damage.

Iran "does not have to launch a major war," Cordesman wrote in an commentary on CSIS's website. "It can conduct sporadic, low-level attacks that do not necessarily provoke a major US or Arab reaction but create sudden risk premiums in petroleum prices and the equivalent of a war of attrition."

Still another risk has been Iran's move to shut off automatic identification systems to help tankers

evade US sanctions on Iranian crude, said Matt Smith of ClipperData. AIS is used by vessel traffic services and permits ships to know if other vessels are nearby. "One new danger is the increased risk of collisions due to vessels switching off their AIS," Smith said.

In January 2018, the Iranian-owned Sanchi tanker carrying 136,000 ton of light crude oil caught fire after colliding with a bulk freighter in a deadly crash. Shipping companies are aware of this and can change course as a result, according to Booth, who said routes can be shifted not just to shorten distances but also due to refinery activity, product specifications and economic factors. "A cargo of products could turn around in the middle of the Atlantic half a dozen times before it actually ends up into its final destination," he said. — AFP

Severe heat kills dozens in Bihar

PATNA: Severe heat has left dozens dead over a 24-hour period in India's Bihar state, as the country enters a third week of searing temperatures, officials said yesterday. The deaths occurred in three districts of the poor northern state, where temperatures have hovered around 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in recent days, senior health official Vijay Kumar told AFP. Forty-nine people died in three districts of the Magadh region that has been hit by drought, he said.

"It was a sudden development on Saturday afternoon. People affected by heatstroke were rushed to different hospitals," Kumar added. "Most of them died on Saturday night and some yesterday morning during treatment." Kumar said about 40 more people were being treated at a government-run hospital in Aurangabad. "Patients affected by heat stroke are still being brought, the death toll is likely to increase if the heatwave continues."

Most of the victims were aged above 50 and were rushed to hospitals in semi-conscious state with symptoms of high fever, diarrhoea and vomiting. Twenty-seven people died in Aurangabad district, 15 in Gaya and seven in Nawada district, officials said. State Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has announced a compensation of 400,000 rupees (\$5,700) for the family of each victim. Harsh Vardhan, India's health minister, said people should not leave their homes until temperatures fall. "Intense heat affects brain and leads to various health issues," he said.

Large parts of northern India have endured more than two weeks of sweltering heat. Temperatures have risen above 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in the desert state of Rajasthan. A heatwave in 2015 left more than 3,500 dead in India and Pakistan. In 2017, researchers said South Asia, which is home to one fifth of the world's population, could see heat levels rise to unsurvivable levels by the end of the century if no action is taken on global warming. — AFP

International

Iran attacks leave Trump, aides divided, with no clear strategy

Trump fears plunging US into another 'endless' war

WASHINGTON: To retaliate or show restraint? Tougher sanctions or negotiate? The US administration, divided between hard-line hawks and a Donald Trump who fears plunging the country into another "endless" war, is struggling to define its strategy against Iran - as demonstrated by its uncertain response to recent developments in the Gulf of Oman. Here is what we know about the US response and administration thinking.

How has US reacted to attacks?

It took only hours for Washington to directly accuse Tehran of being "responsible" for the attacks Thursday against two oil tankers. The incident had Iran "written all over it," Trump said Friday, rejecting Tehran's denial of any such role. The president pointed to a video that purports to show a patrol boat of Iran's Revolutionary Guards pulling alongside one of the tankers to remove an unexploded limpet mine from the ship's hull.

But the US condemnations were not followed by threats of any immediate retaliation. That represented a degree of restraint by an administration that has been steadily tightening economic and diplomatic sanctions against Iran, and which last month stepped up its "maximum pressure" campaign with new deployments of ships, bombers and troops to the region.

War of words, or just plain war?

"The situation between the US and Iran is becoming increasingly dangerous," tweeted Colin Kahl, a former Obama administration national security advisor now at Stanford University in California. Both sides could "easily... slide into a war they claim they want to avoid," he said. Between the continuing war of words and the recent escalation, numerous observers and US allies fear an incident could degenerate into open conflict.

But Aaron David Miller, a former negotiator in both Democratic and Republican administrations, does not see the recent attacks as "sufficient for a casus belli." "If, in the wake of this incident, the Trump administration chose to

strike Iranian vessels directly, or the Iranian mainland, or Iranian forces in Iraq and Syria, or in Yemen, you have zero support," said Miller, now a Middle East expert at the Wilson Center think tank.

A 'focus on diplomacy'

Trump, for his part, has made it abundantly clear: He does not want to embroil the country's military in another costly and "endless" war like those in Afghanistan and Iraq. If acting US defense secretary Patrick Shanahan has expressed a determination to "defend our forces and our interests around the world," he has also reiterated that Washington "does not seek conflict." Pentagon spokesmen have stressed that neither American interests nor personnel have yet been attacked - making it an issue affecting global maritime traffic that should be settled at the international level.

"We have an international situation there in the Middle East, it's not a US situation," Shanahan told reporters on Friday, saying the administration was united in seeking an "international consensus to this international problem." But it is no secret that the president's national security advisor, John Bolton, has taken far more aggressive positions. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is also considered a hawk on Iran, even if he has attempted to hew to Trump's more restrained line.

What does Trump want?

Beyond the question of how to respond to the recent attacks, a much larger question remains: What exactly is the concrete objective of the American pressure strategy against Iran? Last year Trump pulled the US out of the multinational 2015 accord that was designed to prevent Tehran from producing nuclear weapons.

He was harshly critical of the pact, negotiated during the Obama presidency, and said he wanted to compel the Islamic Republic to accept much more stringent restrictions on its nuclear program and to cease any "destabilizing" behavior in the Middle East. In recent weeks, even as



BANDAR ABBAS: In this file photo, Iranian soldiers take part in the 'National Persian Gulf day' in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has dismissed as 'baseless' US accusations that it carried out twin attacks that left two tankers ablaze in the Gulf of Oman, escalating tensions across the region and sending world oil prices soaring. — AFP

his teams were cranking up the economic, diplomatic and military pressure on Iran, the president has issued repeated calls for direct dialogue with Iranian leaders. But with supreme Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei flatly refusing to talk, Trump seems uncertain how to proceed.

"I personally feel that it is too soon to even think about making a deal," the president said Thursday on Twitter, before again on Friday repeating his invitation: "We want to get them back to the table if they want to go back," he said on the "Fox & Friends" program. "I'm ready when they are. Whenever they're ready, I'm OK." "The real problem

is that there is no endgame in the administration's strategy," said Miller. "Regime collapse or change is fantastical right now."

Miller sees a disturbing lack of clarity in the administration's approach. "What's the purpose of the sanctions?" the former diplomat asked. "Is it to destroy the Iranian economy? Or is it a serious effort to drag the Iranians into the negotiations and produce a better outcome than what Obama got?" "I don't believe that this administration is prepared to (make) the kind of concessions that the Iranians would demand in a serious negotiation." — AFP

'Khan's Londonistan': Trump in new Twitter attack on UK's mayor

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump launched a fresh attack on London Mayor Sadiq Khan, backing a right-wing British columnist who has been widely accused of Islamophobia and once called migrants "cockroaches." Trump attacked his latest denunciation of the mayor to a retweet by Katie Hopkins about crime in "Khan's Londonistan" - using a term widely perceived as a pejorative reference to the British capital's Muslim population and Khan's Pakistan ancestry. "LONDON needs a new mayor ASAP. Khan is a disaster - will only get worse!" Trump wrote in response to Hopkins' tweet, later adding the mayor was "a national disgrace who is destroying" the city.

Earlier this month the president's plane had not even touched down in London for the start of a state visit when he tweeted that Khan was a "stone cold loser." Khan had criticized the red carpet treatment being given Trump for the visit. Trump said the mayor should "focus on crime in London, not me," and made a derisive reference to Khan's height. Khan, London's first Muslim mayor, had led opposition to Trump's visit, writing a newspaper article in which



US President Donald Trump

he compared the US leader to European dictators from the 1930s and 1940s.

At that time, the mayor's spokesman called Trump's tweets "childish" and "beneath the president of the United States." On a trip to London in July last year, Trump accused Khan of doing "a very bad job on terrorism," linking immigration to a deadly wave of crime in London. The feud began when Khan, the son of a bus driver who emigrated from Pakistan in the 1960s, criticized Trump's travel ban on people from certain Muslim countries.



In this file photo, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan arrives for a service of remembrance for the Grenfell tower fire at St Helen's church in west London. — AFP

Hopkins, who wrote in support of Trump's election campaign during her time at the Daily Mail, has been dogged by numerous allegations of Islamophobia and hate speech during her career as a columnist. Her description of migrants as "cockroaches" in 2015 prompted a rebuke by former UN High Commissioner for Refugees Zeid Ra'ad Al Huseini, who said Hopkins had used language similar to that employed by some Rwandan media outlets in the run-up to the 1994 genocide, and by the Nazis in the 1930s. — AFP

Cubans feel the pinch as Trump cruise ban bites

HAVANA: The waxy sheen on his splendid 1934 Ford glimmers in the Caribbean sun, but nobody is hiring Estaban Estrada's red and white convertible these days - the dollars have dried up now that US cruise liners are no longer calling at Havana. Estrada's pride and joy is one of a line of classic American automobiles lined up outside Havana's baroque-style Cathedral, mostly idle since the Trump administration re-imposed travel restrictions this month.

"We are all stopped when normally we would all be working," says Estrada, as dozens of his colleagues shoot the breeze on nearby benches. "And this has been going on now for several days." He calls out to two passing women: "Taxi, princesses?" Business had been good. In 2014, then-president Barack Obama broke new diplomatic ground with the communist-run island and its leader Raul Castro.

US cruise liners began calling at Havana as decades of Cold War chill thawed. Estrada began taking American tourists around Havana's must-sees: the Malecon, Revolution Square and the Capitol. The San Cristobal restaurant on San Rafael street became a landmark on the tourist trail after Obama dined there during his breakthrough trip in 2016. Owner Carlos Cristobal Marques has seen a sharp downturn in business in recent weeks. "Today we are 20 percent full, yesterday we served only six tables all day."

'No plan B'

Nearly 900,000 tourists visited the island on cruise ships last year, according to official figures. Almost 40 percent were American tourists bringing much-needed dollars after nearly six decades of US embargo. Cuba seemed set to welcome record numbers of US cruise ship tourists this year, with 250,000 arriving in the first four months of 2019

alone, double the rate of the previous year. Then, on June 4, President Donald Trump made good on his threat to tighten the economic squeeze on Cuba, angered over Havana's support for Venezuela's socialist regime.

On June 5, the old American cars lined up on Havana's dockside as the last American ship sailed out, their drivers waving, bidding farewell to a regular source of dollars after Trump targeted the most common way US tourists visit the island. "European tourists usually come in the winter, so the ones that allowed us to keep working were American tourists from the cruise ships," Estrada says.

Their departure means the Cuban state is also denied revenue from docking fees and taxes paid by the cruise companies. "Yesterday, I did not work for the day," says Hector, who drives an old Chevrolet. "I'm giving myself a month, six weeks tops, and if it goes on like this, I'm turning in my licence." Costs must be paid regardless of business, he says - licence, parking, gas and insurance cost up to \$30 a day. Like his colleagues, he says the Cuban authorities, taken off guard by Trump's cruise ship ban, "have no Plan B".

Generous Americans

Instead, Trump's policies have driven Cuba "backwards". Yoel Montano, 44, had bet heavily on the surge of American tourists. A farmer, he left his tobacco fields to ply Havana's tourist trade with a horse and carriage. Now his mare "Mulata" stands idle in the shade of a tree in the old town. "When the cruise ships came, the whole country was alive, there were a lot of tourists. Today, the places are empty. It's too sad."

Trump "wants to finish us. He's crazy!" The US president had deprived him of "the best tourists, Americans. They are kind." At the "Al Pirata" restaurant in the cobbled streets of the tourist quarter, proprietor Eddy Basulto bemoans the departure of the Americans, who he says were "big tipplers." "Our business is down 60 percent," says Basulto. "This morning, I only sold two breakfasts. But whenever the cruise ship arrived, I had three sittings in a row." — AFP



HAVANA: A private taxi driver in an old American car (center) takes tourists through the streets of Havana as others wait for customers. — AFP

Gunmen on motorcycles kill 34 in Nigeria's north

KANO: Gunmen have killed 34 people in Nigeria's northern Zamfara state where criminal gangs have been terrorizing remote villages, police said yesterday. Armed bandits on motorcycles stormed into neighboring Tugar Kafau and Gidan Wawa villages in Shinkafi district late Friday and shot dead 34 people, state police spokesman Mohammed Shehu said in a statement. "Normalcy has been restored in Tugar Kafau and Gidan Wawa... following attack by armed bandits... where 34 people were killed,"

Shehu said. He said the victims of the attacks were buried on Saturday, adding police were on the trail of the killers. Local residents put the death toll higher, at 35. The bandits were said to have opened fire on farmers on their fields outside the villages and also pursued those who fled. "The bandits killed 35 people in the attacks," said Lawwali Madattai, a resident.

Rural communities in Zamfara state have for years been terrorized by criminal gangs who raid villages, stealing cattle, kidnapping for ransom and burning homes after looting food supplies. The bandits are known to hide in camps in Rugu forest which straddles Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger states from where they launch attacks on communities in the area. Last week, at least 40 people were killed and dozens injured in raids in eight remote villages in Niger state. — AFP

The 'richest black nation': PNG sets audacious goal

PORT MORESBY: Papua New Guinea's new prime minister has an ambitious - cynics would say far-fetched - objective of turning one of the world's poorest countries into the "richest black nation" on earth in just a decade. If national economies were like football teams, then Papua New Guinea would be near the bottom of the table struggling to avoid a relegation dogfight.

Violent crime and corruption are endemic, reliable electricity is rare, and population centers sit like isolated city-states, surrounded by trackless jungle and mountain ridges that soar into the equatorial sky. As rich as Papua New Guinea (PNG) is in culture, language and beauty, it is the 153rd most developed country in the world out of 189, according to the United Nations - doing slightly better than Syria, marginally worse than Myanmar.

New Prime Minister James Marape wants to change that. He has promised that within ten years his compatriots will live in "the richest black Christian nation" in the world. That is not going to be easy. The current titleholder is the highly industrialized economy of Trinidad and Tobago, where the average resident earns around 833% more than Papua New Guinea.

If the British territory of Bermuda were also included in the rankings, the task would be even more daunting. Papua New Guinea's economy would have to grow at a world-beating rate of around 30 percent per year, every year for the next ten years just to catch up. "PNG has never experienced 30 per cent growth in the past; nor has any other country for that matter, at least not for any sustained period of time," said Maholopa Laveil, a lecturer in economics at the University of Papua New Guinea.

To reach his lofty goal, Marape appears to be betting on a surge in gas revenues and more of that cash staying in the country. He has hinted that he may look to renegotiate a massive liquefied natural gas (LNG) contract with Total and ExxonMobil that would double national production to better benefit the local economy. He has also promised to stop the export of unprocessed hardwoods and tackle corruption. But the strategy comes with risks.

The World Bank has warned that even before a second LNG project comes online, the economy has "become increasingly concentrated in petroleum and gas-related activities". That, the bank warned, raises Papua New Guinea's vulnerability to the vagaries of international energy markets and natural disasters - like the 7.5 magnitude quake that froze production and stalled the economy in 2018. — AFP

Immediate Vacancy
in reputable contracting company

- Tendering Engineer
3 Years Experience
- Quantity Surveyor 'QS'
3 Years Experience
(Transferrable Residency)

Submit CV'S by Email to
wantedjobq8@gmail.com

International

Hong Kong leader apologizes; protesters urge her to resign

Beijing backs embattled Hong Kong leader

HONG KONG: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam apologized yesterday as hundreds of thousands of black-clad protesters maintained calls for her to resign over her handling of a bill that would have allowed people to be sent to mainland China for trial. The chief executive issued the rare apology one day after she indefinitely delayed the extradition bill, which sparked one of the most violent protests in the city in decades.

A government spokesman said that poor government work over the bill had led to "substantial controversies and disputes in society, causing disappointment and grief." Lam "apologized to the people of Hong Kong for this and pledged to adopt a most sincere and humble attitude to accept criticisms and make improvements in serving the public," the statement added.

Protesters formed a sea of black along roads, walkways and train stations across Hong Kong's financial centre to vent their frustration and anger at the bill and the government's handling of the resulting demonstrations. Saturday's dramatic suspension of the bill was one of the most significant political retreats by the Hong Kong government since Britain returned the territory to China in 1997, and it threw into question Lam's ability to continue to lead the city.

The protests are also the largest in Hong Kong since Chinese President Xi Jinping came to power in 2012 and pose a challenge to the leadership in Beijing just as they grapple with escalating trade tensions with Washington and slowing economic growth. Critics say the planned extradition law could threaten Hong Kong's rule of law and its international reputation as an Asian financial hub. Some Hong Kong tycoons have already started moving personal wealth offshore.

'Don't shoot, we're HongKongers'

Some of yesterday's marchers held signs saying, "Do not shoot, we are HongKongers" - an appeal to police who fired rubber bullets and tear gas at protesters on Wednesday, injuring more than 70 people. The protest followed one of the week before which organizers estimated drew 1 million people and marked the beginning of a week

of unrest ahead of the bill, which had been scheduled for debate last Wednesday. "It's much bigger today. Many more people," said one protester who gave her name as Ms Wong. "I came today because of what happened on Wednesday, with the police violence." Loud cheers rang out when activists called through loud hailer for Lam's resignation and the cry "step down" echoed through the streets.

"We want to pressure our government because (they) didn't respond to our first march," said Icy Tang, newly graduated from university in Hong Kong. "So we are coming for the second time - and hope she will listen." Activist investor David Webb, in a newsletter yesterday, said if Lam was a stock he would recommend shorting her with a target price of zero. "Call it the Carrie trade. She has irrevocably lost the public's trust," Webb said. "Her minders in Beijing, while expressing public support for now, have clearly lined her up for the chop by distancing themselves from the proposal in recent days."

Political crisis

The protests have plunged Hong Kong into political crisis, just as months of pro-democracy "Occupy" demonstrations did in 2014, heaping pressure on Lam's administration and her official backers in Beijing. Chinese censors have been working hard to erase or block news of the protests, wary that any large public rallies could inspire demonstrations on the mainland. In a weekly blog post published on Sunday, Hong Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan sounded a reassuring note about the city's financial position.

"Even if the external environment continues to be unclear and the social atmosphere is tense recently, overall Hong Kong's economic and financial markets are still operating in a stable and orderly manner," he wrote. In the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which China claims as its own, about 5,000 people rallied outside the parliament building in Taipei with banners saying, "No China extradition law" and "Taiwan supports Hong Kong." Some of the protesters in Hong Kong also waved Taiwan flags.



HONG KONG: An ambulance is pictured surrounded by thousands of protesters dressed in black during a new rally against a controversial extradition law proposal in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

'Extensive meddling'

The city's independent legal system was guaranteed under laws governing Hong Kong's return from British to Chinese rule 22 years ago, and is seen by business and diplomatic communities as its strongest asset. Hong Kong has been governed under a "one country, two systems" formula since then, allowing freedoms not enjoyed in mainland China but not a fully democratic vote. Many accuse Beijing of extensive meddling, including obstruction of democratic reforms, interference with elections and of being behind the disappearance of five Hong Kong-based booksellers, start-

ing in 2015, who specialized in works critical of Chinese leaders. Pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo said protests would continue if Lam did not scrap the bill. "If she refuses to scrap this controversial bill altogether, it would mean we wouldn't retreat. She stays on, we stay on," Mo said. Asked repeatedly on Saturday if she would step down, Lam avoided answering directly and appealed to the public to "give us another chance." Lam's reversal was hailed by business groups including the American Chamber of Commerce, which had spoken out strongly against the bill, and overseas governments. — Reuters

Sea of purple: Swiss women strike for equal pay

GENEVA: Several hundred thousand purple-clad protesters blowing whistles, banging pots and pans and brandishing feminist slogans filled the streets of Swiss towns and cities on Friday, as women across the country went on strike for equal pay. "I love badass women" and "Eliminate the patriarchy" figured among the messages on posters and banners, as women vented their frustration with persistent gender discrimination and wage gaps in the wealthy Alpine nation.

"June 14, 2019, enters the recent history of Switzerland as the biggest political event. Considering the whole day, several hundred thousand women took part in actions, strikes and walkouts," said a statement by USS, an umbrella organization grouping 16 Swiss unions.

The action comes nearly three decades after women held the country's first nationwide strike for equal pay. Pram marches, whistle concerts and giant picnics were planned around the country, with the day's events culminating in giant demonstrations including the capital Bern (40,000 people), Zurich (70,000), Basel (40,000) and Geneva (20,000), organizers said. In Lausanne (60,000), the cathedral was lit up in the color purple. In Bern women filled the square in front of the government and parliament buildings.

Manu Bondi, 68, joined the protest alongside her daughter and granddaughter, and two friends who demonstrated with her in 1991. She said she was protesting "in solidarity with all women of all ages." "There are more of us this time than in 1991 and our demands are different," she said. "Back then it was about abortion. Now it is above all about equal pay. It is really important that women be paid according to the work they do. It is great to see people so committed."

Burning bras

The events kicked off overnight in Lausanne, with women ringing the bells of the cathedral, and lighting a "bonfire of joy", with some women tossing in their bras. By morning, some 500 people gathered for a massive breakfast celebration, blocking traffic on one of the town's main bridges.

In Basel they projected the clenched-fist feminist symbol onto the skyscraper headquarters of pharmaceutical giant Roche. In Geneva, protesters replaced street signs bearing men's names with women's ones. While 548 streets in Geneva Canton are named after men, only 41 have female names, according to the ATS news agency. At the march, a 22-year-old topless protester, Oceane Schaub, told AFP: "I think the fact that I am bare-chested can shock and change things."

The organizers of Friday's action say things have hardly improved since the major 1991 strike, insisting women need to demand "more time, more money, more respect". Women in Switzerland on average still earn 20 percent less than men. — AFP



GENEVA: A woman carries a placard as she takes part in a nation-wide women's strike for wage parity in Geneva. — AFP

Leaderless and livid: The youngsters on Hong Kong front lines

HONG KONG: Young Hong Kongers who marshaled the fight against a police force that was armed with tear gas and rubber bullets have spoken of how they were pushed into embracing more confrontational tactics by the failure of years of peaceful protests. In a series of interviews with AFP, the young men and women—most of them university students on leafy campuses—said they had become disillusioned with marches and civil disobedience failing to sway the city's largely unelected pro-Beijing leadership.

And with key leaders of earlier pro-democracy movements now languishing in jail, they have switched to small, leaderless cells in a bid to evade capture. Hong Kong witnessed unprecedented scenes on Wednesday as youngsters clashed with riot police outside parliament to stop lawmakers debating a hugely unpopular bill that would allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

One of those on the front lines, 18-year-old student Sharon, said the moment she felt peaceful rallies no longer worked came three days earlier. That day a record crowd-organizers say more than a million-marched peacefully through the streets of the international finance hub calling for the bill to be scrapped.

But shortly before midnight, Sharon's phone lit up with a statement from the government saying the bill would go ahead. "I suddenly had this realization that even though one million people marched, there wouldn't be an impact," she said, asking-like the other students—not to be identified. "This time people realized peaceful protests don't really work," she added. For people like Sharon, it was time to switch tactics in a city where democracy activists have

held huge annual marches since 2003 but made limited progress.

Goggles and sanitary pads

Andrew, 22, said he and a group of seven friends had gone to Wednesday's protests prepared for police tear gas and pepper spray. They brought equipment like goggles, gloves and cling film to protect their arms from tear gas burns—and sanitary pads to staunch any bleeding.

But he described their actions as organic and spontaneous, with small groups of trusted friends acting together within a larger mass, without taking directions from any centralized leadership. "No one is going to announce that I must use force or stand on the front line," he said. He said the decision to charge police and try to reach parliament happened without anyone making any order. "It might not be up to you to choose," he explained as he described the crowd dynamic that day.

"It could be because of the passion of the crowds or what police officers have done (to make you very angry)." Those tactics contrast with 2014 when similar crowds of young people took over key intersections in Hong Kong for more than two months calling for the right to elect the city's leader. Apart from occasional clashes with police, the so-called "Umbrella Movement" protests were peaceful and orderly and had key leaders.

But it failed to win any concessions and many of the movement's figures—like student leader Joshua Wong and academic Benny Tai—are currently in jail. "We choose this option because what we've done so far isn't enough to make the government feel the people's anger and discontent towards this bill. That's why we are choosing to charge," Andrew said, admitting it would be easier to coordinate if they had leaders but that few would want to take that risk.

Police have since labeled the protest a riot with a senior superintendent usually involved in organized crime investigations calling those involved "organized, premeditated, prepared, radical and violent people". The city's police



PARIS: The Archbishop of Paris Michel Aupetit (center) poses with other members of the clergy following the first mass in a side chapel, two months after a devastating fire engulfed the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral. — AFP

Notre-Dame holds the first mass since devastating blaze

PARIS: The Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris hosted its first mass on Saturday exactly two months after a devastating blaze that shocked the world, with priests and worshippers wearing hard hats to protect themselves against possible falling debris. Dressed in a white robe and helmet, Archbishop of Paris Michel Aupetit led the service, which was attended by just some 30 people - half of them clergy.

The mass started at 6:00 pm in the Chapel of the Virgin on the east side of the cathedral, confirmed to be safe. It was broadcast live on Catholic TV channel KTO. Aupetit was joined by the rector of Notre-Dame, Patrick Chauvet, other clergy, volunteers, people working on the restoration as well as a handful of lay worshippers. The date was chosen as it is the anniversary of the consecration of the cathedral's altar, which is celebrated every year on June 16. The date is "highly significant, spiritually," Chauvet told AFP, adding he was happy to be able to show that "Notre-Dame is truly alive".

'Inventive' reconstruction

President Emmanuel Macron has set an ambitious tar-

get of five years for restoring Notre-Dame, which was gutted by a fire on April 15 that felled its steeple and consumed the lattice of beams supporting the roof. The diocese is awaiting a response from the French authorities over whether it can re-open the esplanade in front of the cathedral to the public. If the authorities approve the plan, the idea is to celebrate evening prayers there, the diocese said.

The church has also floated the idea of erecting a temporary structure in front of the cathedral to welcome worshippers while the building is being repaired. Up to 150 workers have been working at the cathedral daily since the fire, continuing to remove debris and stabilize the structure. Two large white canopies have been placed above the nave and the choir to ensure the edifice is protected, including from the rain. Macron's call for an "inventive" rather than identical reconstruction of the steeple has left some architects up in arms.

Meanwhile, legislation over the reconstruction has been blocked in parliament over disagreements between the upper and lower houses and is now only expected to be adopted at the end of July. Pledges of some 850 million euros (\$960 million) had been made from prominent French businessmen and ordinary citizens but only around 10 percent of that has been donated so far. France Info public radio said just 80 million euros had been handed over, with businessmen giving the money in tranches and some private individuals renouncing their pledges due to the apparent success of the campaign. — AFP



HONG KONG: Protesters hold up placards as they take part in a new rally against a controversial extradition law proposal in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

chief has defended his officers, saying potentially deadly projectiles like bricks and metal poles were being thrown. He has received the backing of the city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam, who also called demonstrators rioters and refused to apologize for the clearances, even as she suspended the bill on Saturday saying she had misjudged the public mood.

In recent days police and Lam have faced a growing backlash over accusations officers used excessive force against the crowds. Rights activists and influential legal groups have called the response disproportionate, videos of the most violent police beatings have gone viral and parents have rallied holding signs reading: "Don't shoot our kids." Chris, a protester who went into battle on Wednesday with the phone number of a lawyer written on his stomach in case of arrest, said he believes there has been a sea-change among Hong Kong's often conservative public. — AFP

Britain bans 'harmful gender stereotypes' from adverts

LONDON: Ads featuring "harmful gender stereotypes" which are likely to cause offence will be banned in Britain from Friday under new rules that could have a major impact on the industry. The ban by the Advertising Standards Authority would cover, for example, a woman failing to park a car, a man struggling to change a nappy or girls being less academic than boys. The ban will not include some stereotypical scenarios that are judged not to cause as much offence in ads, such as a woman cleaning or a man doing DIY tasks.

"Harmful gender stereotypes in ads can contribute to inequality in society, with costs for all of us," ASA chief executive Guy Parker said in a statement. "Put simply, we found that some portrayals in ads can, over time, play a part in limiting people's potential," he said. "It's in the interests of women and men, our economy and society that advertisers steer clear of these outdated portrayals, and we're pleased with how the industry has already begun to respond," he added.

One of the ads identified as problematic by the ASA was a 2017 television advert for Aptamil baby milk formula, which showed a baby girl growing up to be a ballerina and baby boys becoming engineers and mountain climbers. The ASA found that some parents "queried why these stereotypes were needed, feeling that they lacked diversity of gender roles and did not represent real life." Another showed a man with his feet up while a woman took sole responsibility for cleaning up her family's mess. — AFP

International

From apples to almonds, India increases tariffs on US goods

India is number 2 market of California almonds and Washington apples

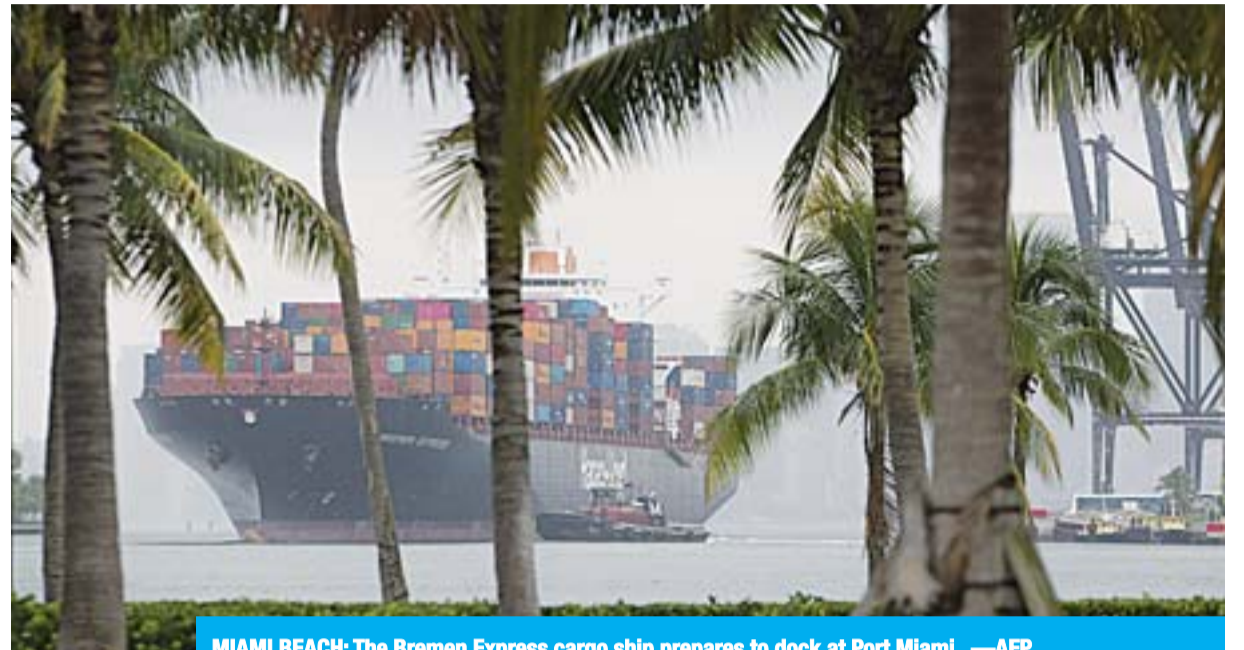
NEW DELHI: India yesterday imposed higher tariffs on 28 items imported from the US, in retaliation to Washington's recent withdrawal of trade privileges for New Delhi. The increased duties apply to products including almonds, apples and walnuts, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said. India would "implement the imposition of retaliatory duties on 28 specified goods originating in or exported from (the) USA", it said in a notification. The list initially included 29 goods but artemia, a kind of shrimp, has been removed from the list. India is the number two market of California almonds and Washington apples.

The trade tensions come despite efforts from Washington to boost ties with India as a counterweight to China, and assertions made by both US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi about their good relationship. The stage for the row was set last year after Washington refused to exempt India from higher steel and aluminum tariffs, in keeping with Trump's decision to act against countries with

which it has a large trade deficit.

India responded by saying it would raise import taxes on a slew of US goods. But it delayed raising tariffs several times, hoping for negotiation to tackle the sticky trade issue. However Trump's decision this month to strip New Delhi of its preferential trade status appears to have prompted the latest Indian move. According to the new tariffs, import duty on walnut has been hiked to 120 percent from 30 percent and on chickpeas and lentils it has been raised to 70 percent from 30 percent currently.

The trade row is likely to be taken up when Trump and Modi meet at the G20 summit on June 28-29 in Osaka. It is also likely to figure during talks with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who is set to visit India later this month. US goods and services trade with India stood at an estimated \$142.1 billion in 2018. The US trade deficit with India was \$24.2 billion, according to official data. Washington is already engaged in a full-blown trade war with India's regional rival China. —AFP



MIAMI BEACH: The Bremen Express cargo ship prepares to dock at Port Miami. —AFP

Tajikistan hosts world leaders

KUWAIT: On the 15th of June, the Fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was held in Dushanbe under the chairmanship of the Republic of Tajikistan. Participants include: the heads of states, governments and high-ranking representatives of the participating countries: Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Egypt, Israel, India, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Cambodia, China, Republic of Korea, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, UAE, Pakistan, Palestine, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.

Others include the leaders and representatives of the observer states - Indonesia, Philippines, Belarus, Ukraine, US, Japan, leaders of the international organizations and associations of observers and partners, the United Nations (UN), the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkish-speaking countries, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Summit's guest - the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon as the representative of the host country, warmly and sincerely welcomed the heads of states and governments: the Executive Chairman of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Dr Abdullah Abdullah, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Novruz Ismail Oglu Mamedov, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Hun Sen, the Vice President of the Republic of Vietnam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mohammed Abdul Hamid, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena, Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rouhani, the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, the Chairman of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping and leaders of authoritative organizations and associations of the world.

After that the ceremony, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon took group photo with the heads of states and delegations in the 'Didor' and 'Arzhang' halls. The main venue for the Fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was the 'Zarandud' Hall - colorfully decorated with patterns and carvings.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon opened the Fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, which this time is chaired by the Republic of Tajikistan. It should be noted that for holding a high-level event, the capital of Tajikistan - Dushanbe is festively landscaped. There were posters and banners with the text of sincere greetings and event symbols.

The summit is covered by 650 foreign and domestic media, newspapers and magazines, radio, television and



information agencies from Tajikistan, China, Canada, Bahrain, the UAE, Afghanistan, Iran, Cambodia, Turkey, India, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Iraq, and the news agencies Associated Press, Al-Jazeera, BBC, Reuters (UK), MGTK 'MIR' (CIS), 'Interfax', Russia Today (Russia), INFO (SCO) and others.

The Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia is an interstate and regional association, which was established in 1992 with

the support of the UN. The main objectives are to discuss issues of security and cooperation in the Asian continent and to contribute to the global fight against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and transnational crime.

The highest decision making body is the Summit of Heads of State, which is held every four years. The last meeting was held on May 21, 2014 in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China. The leadership of the Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia in the fall of 2018 passed from China to Tajikistan.

Cracked tower sparks fears about Australia building rules

SYDNEY: Australia's building and construction codes came under scrutiny yesterday after hundreds of residents were evacuated from a high-rise Sydney apartment block where cracks were discovered in the second such scare in six months. Some residents said they were left homeless and in tears after they were ordered to leave the 10-storey, 122-apartment Mascot Towers in a southern Sydney suburb late Friday after cracks were found in the structure's beams.

"At this stage, the engineers need to look at the cracks in those beams while the residents aren't there," Fire and Rescue New South Wales state Assistant Commissioner Roger Mentha told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "Then they can do an

analysis on whether there have been any movements."

The incident at the 10-year-old building followed the Christmas Eve evacuation of residents in the recently completed 38-storey Opal Tower in the Sydney Olympic Park after "cracking noises" were heard. Investigators found there were a number of "design and construction issues" that could have led to the damage that saw the structure move "one to two millimeters". NSW, Australia's most populous state, said after a public outcry over the scare that it would embark on the "biggest overhaul of building laws" in its history.

The changes included appointing a building commissioner to audit work done throughout the design and construction process. Peak body Engineers Australia said Saturday the state "has been slow to move, but it is not too late if we start now". "The Mascot Towers situation is further evidence that we need changes in the building and construction sector," Engineers Australia's Jonathan Russell said in a statement. "It shouldn't take a crisis for government to act in the interests of community safety and consumer protection." —AFP

Bangladesh prison breakfast menu gets makeover after 200 years

DHAKA: Bangladesh authorities have upgraded a 200-year-old colonial-era breakfast menu in all its prisons, an official said yesterday, as part of a reform of the country's penal system. Bazlur Rashid, deputy head of the Prison Directorate, said the nation's more than 81,000 convicts would from today receive an improved breakfast, replacing the bread and molasses that has been on the menu since being introduced by British colonial rulers in the 18th century. The new diet will contain bread, vegetables, sweets and khichdi—a spiced rice cooked with lentils—Rashid told AFP.

Previously prisoners were given

just 116 grams (four ounces) of bread and 14.5 grams (half an ounce) of molasses, he said. Bangladesh's 60 prisons, built to house 35,000 inmates, are notoriously overcrowded and frequently draw criticism from rights organizations. Inmates also often complain about the quality and quantity of food served in the jails. Rashid said the diet change is part of a series of reforms to "help prisoners get motivated and rehabilitated".

"We are gradually trying to adapt... so the convicts can reform themselves during their stay in the facilities," he said. Several thousand prisoners cheered the new breakfast menu in Dhaka's Keraniganj central prison Sunday, he said, adding: "Good food makes everyone happy." The official said the government has also introduced cheap telephone calls for inmates in the prisons. "They would be able to talk to their family via screened phone calls whenever they want," he said. —AFP

Maldives seeking help to deal with IS fighters

COLOMBO: The Maldives has called for international help to rehabilitate up to 160 of its nationals languishing in Syrian detention camps after the defeat of the Islamic State group. Speaker Mohamed Nasheed said the Maldives kept a close tab on citizens who had joined the militant group, but that the island nation was not ready to accept them back without an internationally supervised reintegration program.

Visiting neighboring Sri Lanka where 258 people were killed in jihadi attacks recently, Nasheed said the question of foreign IS fighters in Syria should be addressed as a global issue. As many as 160 Maldivians are thought to be held in detention camps after the fall of IS in March.

"We do not know the situation they have gone through. We don't have the capacity to rehabilitate these people to the extent that they will not have a further impact on society," Nasheed said. "I think the international community should join together and decide what we should do to the returnees. Hopefully, there is an international arrangement where they are first received, not necessarily to their countries of origin or nationality."

He said the Maldives was concerned about the 30 to 40 children said to be of Maldivian parents now living in detention camps in Syria, but insisted that there should be international involvement to screen the parents.

"I don't think we should say they can come back in the first flight they can catch," he added. Nasheed said the nation of 340,000 Sunni Muslims was keeping a close watch on any attempt to radicalize its population, which is known to practise a liberal form of Islam—and relies heavily on luxury tourism.

More than two thirds of the Maldivian parliament was spending a three-day holiday in Sri Lanka, to demonstrate it was safe for foreigners to visit the island after the deadly Easter Sunday attacks, Nasheed said. In a chilling warning of the impact of terrorism on tourism, Sri Lanka's thriving tourism sector is projected to lose at least \$1.5 billion revenue this year with a 30 percent slump in the number of holidaymakers visiting the island.

Nasheed and his legislators were staying at the luxury Cinnamon Grand—one of the three hotels hit by a local jihadi group which pledged allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi—to show Sri Lanka was still a safe tourist destination. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew to Sri Lanka last week, the first world leader to visit the island after the Easter attacks. Sri Lankan authorities say they have arrested all those who were involved in the April 21 attacks that also hit three Christian churches. —AFP

CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

RECALL INFORMATION

FUSO

FUSO
Model: FA & FI Trucks
Model year: 2015 - 2018
Total VINs involved: 156

RECALL REASON

Valve/Valve guide failure leading to Engine failure

REMEDY

Replace camshaft, rocker arm, cylinder head applicable as per vin

CONTACT

Please contact FUSO service on 24714553
For appointment call: 22055956
Al Rai Area, Block-4, Street - 11

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43,44,45,46 and 47) of no.27/2017 issuing the executive by laws of law no.39/2014 on Consumer Protection.

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Brusque to bruised: Lam caves to pressure on extradition bill

With an escalating US trade war, a faltering economy and tensions in the South China Sea vexing her bosses in Beijing, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam appeared in no mood to compromise on a planned extradition law at recent meetings, according to foreign envoys and business people who met with her. Some of the people at those meetings in recent weeks pointed to media reports that even Hong Kong's usually reticent judges were worried about the proposed law which threatened to send people for trial in mainland China for the first time.

But Lam bluntly dismissed concerns about a Chinese justice system that is widely criticized, saying judges were not supposed to speak. Worries over the bill's impact on Hong Kong's international standing as a financial hub with a respected legal system were building in Washington, London and other European capitals, but Lam stressed the need for the extradition law to help solve the murder of a Hong Kong woman in Taiwan. "She needed a dinghy and she deployed the Titanic," one diplomat who met Lam this month told Reuters, declining to be identified due to the sensitivity of the issue.

In numerous public appearances after that, Lam was unyielding on the need for the bill, despite huge and sometimes violent street protests including one last Sunday that organizers said drew more than a million people. Then on Saturday, Lam suddenly announced the bill had been postponed indefinitely. She told a news conference she felt "deep sorrow and regret that the deficiencies in our work and various other factors have stirred up substantial controversies and disputes in society".

Hong Kong's self-styled Iron Lady had cracked, having apparently created an entirely fresh crisis for President Xi Jinping - and the city's biggest since Britain handed it over to Chinese rule in 1997 with the guarantee its freedoms and autonomy would be preserved. Clues to the catalyst for the about-face may lie in a reported meeting between Lam and China's Vice-Premier Han Zheng. According to Hong Kong's Sing Tao newspaper, Lam had a clandestine emergency meeting with Han, a member of the Politburo's seven-person Standing Committee, China's top decision-making body, across the border in Shenzhen on Thursday. The content of the meeting is unknown. Lam on Saturday refused to confirm or deny that it had taken place, despite repeated questions.

Beijing backdown

Beijing's grip over Hong Kong has intensified markedly since Chinese President Xi Jinping took power in 2012, and after the city's protracted 2014 pro-democracy street protests. He warned in 2017 that any attempts to undermine Chinese sovereignty were a "red line" that Beijing would not allow to be crossed - warnings that reinforced his strongman image amongst Hong Kongers. Many politicians, diplomats and analysts had not expected Beijing to allow any backdown on the bill, unlike in 2003 when contentious national security laws were scrapped after half a million people took to the streets.

But a source in Beijing with ties to China's leadership who meets regularly with senior officials, said the Hong Kong government had handled the extradition saga badly. And while a backdown from Beijing on the bill seemed near inconceivable just a week ago, the violence and escalating unrest forced their hand. "The outcome doesn't bear thinking about if this situation was named given the sensitivity of the matter."

The source added that Beijing now had severe doubts about Lam's capabilities. China's State Council and the central government's liaison office in Hong Kong did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment. Steve Tsang, a London-based political scientist, said Lam had caused Xi "major embarrassment" at a time that is not helpful for him given trade tensions with the United States, and ahead of a possible meeting with US president Donald Trump at the month's end at the G20 summit in Japan. "Xi is not a leader who tolerates failures of officials," Tsang said.

Retired senior Hong Kong government official Joseph Wong said he was shocked by Beijing's U-turn, but the situation had become so untenable that he believed it had led to a recalibration by Han after meeting Lam in Shenzhen. "I suspect ... he (Han) would have had to consider, are we prepared to continue to fire rubber bullets or even real bullets in order to get this through, and what would be the implications for the central government internationally, vis-a-vis the US. So that protest was the turning point." Lam has refused calls from the opposition and protestors to step down but her ability to govern has been questioned on numerous fronts, including her failure to gauge the pulse in Hong Kong, the broader US-China relationship, and Taiwan's refusal to accept any extradition bill, undermining her core argument the bill would resolve the Taiwan murder case. — Reuters

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



US President Donald Trump waves after speaking during an event about expanding health coverage options for small businesses and workers in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington on June 14, 2019. — AFP

Salesman Trump pitches for a second term

Donald Trump considers himself a legendary salesman, but can he really sell America on giving him four more drama-filled years at the White House? Tomorrow, he'll make his big pitch. The 2020 reelection kickoff rally is being held in Orlando, Florida and campaign operations chief Michael Glassner says the "historic" event "has already generated tens of thousands of ticketing requests".

There's little mystery about how the night will go down. Expect Trump, the self-promoting hero of his ghost-written book "The Art of the Deal," to claim the US economy is richer, the military stronger, and the country more respected than ever in history. Expect ultra-loyal, core Republican supporters in red "Make America Great Again" baseball caps to chant "USA!" When the president points to journalists covering the event, expect the crowd to boo.

In 2016, Trump was a novelty, a candidate so different and to many outrageous that few seriously thought he could beat his seemingly bulletproof Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton. But this time around, everyone knows what to expect. "The way he looks at it, it worked beautifully in 2016 when everyone else was wrong, so he'll follow the same instincts and (believe he'll) win again in 2020," veteran University of Virginia political analyst Larry Sabato said. "It may not be the right strategy, but it is Trump, and he's incapable of reorienting himself."

The sale never stops

While Tuesday is framed as a launch, the former reality TV actor and property dealer has never actually stopped campaigning since his 2016 bid opened with a choreo-

graphed ride down the Trump Tower golden escalator in New York. Seeing himself as an outsider who prefers connecting directly with voters, rather than Congress or - even worse - the "enemy" media, Trump holds far more rallies than recent presidents.

As if following the script in a long-running play, each event barely differs. First, Trump warms up the crowd with classic rock, then he comes out to tout his achievements in office, and to brag about his 2016 win, often harking wistfully back to the "day I came down with your First Lady on the escalator." The escalator has become such a mythical element in Trump's narrative that son-in-law Jared Kushner - part of the extended Trump family presence in the White House - even considered recreating the scene for the 2020 bid. The New York Times reported.

Insomniac vs 'Sleepy Joe'

Instead, Trump will rock the 20,000-seat Amway Center in Orlando, deep in a state whose 29 Electoral College votes could help decide whether he gets to keep his job. It's the kind of scene that the president relishes and a perfect stage for his showmanship skills. Just as he used to revel in over-the-top swaggering - often exaggerated - about his real estate triumphs, Trump hardly holds back on the campaign trail.

He does, in fact, have positives to trumpet. The economy, traditionally the number one selling point for voters, is booming, with rock bottom unemployment and strong growth. But to the despair of many Republican leaders, the 45th US president can't help dropping from the news agenda's sunny uplands into dark, seething valleys of

grudges and conflicts - whether with personal Washington enemies or entire foreign countries.

The trade war with China that Trump once claimed would be "easy" is threatening to settle into a perilous new normal of permanent tariffs and tension. The Mexican border wall, which he told his supporters would be paid for by Mexico, remains largely unbuilt, underfunded, and the source of often ugly debate across the country. And while the two-year investigation into Trump's Russia links may be over, the president appears incapable of letting go, most recently getting in hot water for saying he might not tell the FBI if a foreign government came to him with dirt on political opponents.

The constant controversy and scandal have left US voters angrier and more polarized than they have been for decades. That makes the election unpredictable. Democrats are not even close to picking their presidential candidate from a long list of more than 20. And whichever figure gets the nomination, he or she faces a savaging from Trump. Frontrunner Joe Biden, who was vice president under Barack Obama, has already been indelibly branded "Sleepy Joe".

Still, polls show Biden ahead of Trump and several Democrats believe they can make him a one-term president. Trump may even end up regretting his "Sleepy Joe" jibe if Biden does get the nomination, says New York Times columnist Gail Collins. "Americans may start asking themselves whether they'd rather have a president who sleeps through the night or one who's up at 5 am sending out tweets with a lot of misspelled words," Collins wrote. — AFP

I, Chatbot: Getting your news from a talkative automaton

"Do you ever lie to your friends?" Jam asks, popping up in a private message box at the bottom of your screen. If it seems like a personal question, don't worry - Jam isn't a person, but a chatbot, eager for a bubbly conversation about the news, environment, pop culture and more. This particular cryptic query leads to Jam telling the story of Romain Gary, a French author who deceived the literary world by writing under a pseudonym. Jam is one of a new generation of sophisticated chatbots that mimic how real people write in messages and on social media to inform their readers, rather than the traditional dry question-and-answer format.

The French "chatbot media" startup launched three years ago and now has exchanges with 150,000 people every day, most of them young. Jam communicates via Facebook Messenger and adopts a talkative, casual tone, like a friend telling an anecdote, peppering its banter with plenty of smiley-face emojis, pop-culture gifs and links to viral content. It chats about the news - particularly click-friendly, shareable stories - or asks about broad subjects, such as your favorite band.

Once you settle on a subject, it offers up information - for example if you're discussing a movie it will link to the trailer. You can type in responses, but it works best if you simply click on one of several possible automatic answers, which of course include your own appropriately cool emojis. "Given the possibilities of this technology, the 'bot' must lead the conversation, not the other way around, otherwise it gets limited very quickly," says Jam co-founder Marjolaine Grondin.

Old-school media gets chatty

She is hoping to find a successful business model in news as traditional media outlets struggle with the transition to online, with internet giants siphoning off advertising revenue. Chatbots have come a long way since embarrassing blunders committed by Tay, a Microsoft chatbot launched in 2016 and quickly grounded after being gamed by some internet users to post racist and misogynous tweets and to praise Adolf Hitler. Jam has been turning a profit since September, carrying out surveys for brands keen to access the anonymous data of its young database.

Old-school news organizations, meanwhile, are also experimenting with chatbots as a different way to connect with and inform their audiences. Grant Heinrich, the bot develop-



This photo taken on Feb 28, 2019 shows the "Jam" chatbot displayed on a smartphone and a binary code displayed by a tablet in Paris. — AFP

ment producer for BBC News Labs, said they recently used a chatbot to give a five-day crash course covering Brexit. "We had a high completion rate with a very small amount to do each day, it didn't waste your time, didn't try to be super cute," he said. "We've seen markedly better results for bots that ask the audience their opinion rather than getting the audience to ask questions," he said, giving the example of a question that asked whether the reader thought 15, 20 or 30 percent of people are alcoholic. He added that readers who accessed the BBC's daily newsletter via the chatbot clicked on links about 12 times more than those who received it by email.

Emily Withrow, the director of the bot studio at the business news website Quartz, says that the main mistake many media organizations make is thinking of chatbots as a way to attract a new audience to their existing website, rather than as "its own medium". "It requires its own style of writing, so we have a dedicated team of writers and editors who produce this content just for our bot and app every day, we're not taking news articles and putting it in the bot, (or vice versa)," she says. "What we would like to do is use machine learning to get smarter about patterns and content that we don't even necessarily know about and to better deliver content to users without them having to put in a lot of effort." Withrow says Quartz has stopped experimenting with Amazon's digital assistant Alexa because people didn't want to listen to robotic voices - it seems, for the moment at least, that it's easier to communicate in a believably human manner via text. — AFP

Mindfulness profits as meditation apps mature

From the Zen capital of LA to the Champs Elysees comes the calming voice of a British Buddhist monk-turned entrepreneur, introducing American-style online mindfulness to the stressed-out French. "Relax your muscles, breathe," Andy Puddicombe, the bronzed co-founder of the app Headspace, intones by videoconference to a roomful of participants gathered on Paris's ultra-chic shopping artery. The Englishman and his French team are hoping to replicate the US success of Headspace with a French-language version, in a market where New Age philosophies from the "Anglo-Saxon" world are often viewed askance.

Its path has been helped by the success of French mindfulness app PetitBambou, which launched in 2015 - five years after Headspace - and claims more than three million users in France for its free and paid platforms. Both apps use guided meditations for an array of situations - from coping with bereavement to just getting through a difficult day at work - with support from online counsellors, funky animations and videos.

In France as in the United States, Britain and elsewhere, companies have been signing up to subscriptions for their employees. PetitBambou says it has secured "hundreds of licenses" from companies such as Deloitte and railways group SNCF and that it has nothing to fear from Headspace, which along with rival Calm has come to dominate the US market. In a Paris studio, working on voice recordings for the app, PetitBambou co-founder Benjamin Blasco said his company was in any case aiming for the long haul.

'Mental health unicorn'

"We broke even three years ago. We will not sacrifice anything on the altar of marketing," Blasco told AFP. "We do not try at all costs to keep people in the app," he said, but to solicit a two-way exchange and tailor

therapy to the user's needs. "Meditation is not a miracle tool, rather a mental hygiene: What's essential is regular practice," Blasco added. Investors are certainly buying in to the concept. Calm - which like Headspace was co-founded by a British emigre to California, Michael Acton Smith - raised \$88 million from a fundraising round in February.

That gave it a valuation of \$1bn, which Smith noted made Calm the first "mental health unicorn". "Unicorns" are start-up companies with a billion-plus valuation. But like Headspace, Calm has its sights set further afield. In Britain it has enlisted actor and TV presenter Stephen Fry to record bedtime stories for use on a popular feature that helps users get to sleep. "America is only 4.5 percent of the total global population, so there are a lot of other people that can enjoy the product and help the company grow," Smith told CNBC after the investment round.

According to figures from Marketdata, the US mindfulness market as a whole including the dozens of apps on offer topped \$1 billion in 2017, and should double that by 2022. Helped by the growth in apps, a survey by the National Center for Health Statistics found 14 percent of Americans had meditated in 2017, a threefold increase in five years.

Headspace alone says it has 50 million users worldwide, and has raised \$75 million from investors in total, despite marketing a product that preaches "digital detox". The paradox is not lost on Richard Pierson, the company's other British co-founder. "Although there is the irony that the phone is probably causing us a lot of our stress, our hope is that by using Headspace, you'll be able to teach yourself the techniques that you need to learn in order to be able to use your phone in a more mindful way," he said at the Paris launch.

Many of the techniques in mindfulness apps have long been familiar to practitioners in Asia. But what, if any, science underpins the apps? Boosters got new backing with a US scientific study released in late April that looked at the effects of an experimental mindfulness app aimed at smokers. The app helped many participants cut their smoking or give up altogether, by helping to rewire impulses in the brain linked to addiction. — AFP

Business

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

12 VIVA kicks off 5G service commercially during an event held at Avenues Mall**14** Flydubai's inaugural flight lands in Naples**14** Gulf Air launches Salalah service

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Khalid Al-Falih speaks to reporters. —Reuters

Saudi Arabia committed to Aramco IPO: CP

Kingdom to finalize \$533 million privatization deals this year

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia remains committed to selling shares in national oil conglomerate Aramco through an initial public offering but only at the right time, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said.

"We are committed to the IPO of Saudi Aramco based on appropriate conditions and at the right time," Prince Mohammed told the pan-Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat in an interview published yesterday. He reiterated his earlier expectations that the IPO of Saudi Aramco "will take place in (late) 2020 or the start of 2021," almost two years later than expected.

Saudi Arabia plans to sell up to five percent of the world's largest energy firm and hopes to raise up to \$100 billion. Prince Mohammed said it was still premature to announce where the IPO will be held, adding that many requirements for the sale to go through had been suc-

cessfully completed. Riyadh has taken a number of key procedures in preparation for the IPO including issuing a law for hydrocarbons tax, appointing a new board for Aramco and allowing an independent auditing of the kingdom's oil reserves, the crown prince said. Aramco has also opened its accounts books for the first time to international ratings agencies, declared the size of its profits and transformed into a public shareholding company, he said. The IPO-expected to be the world's largest stock sale-forms the cornerstone of a reform program envisaged by Prince Mohammed to wean the Saudi economy off its reliance on oil.

Privatization deals

The crown prince said that the government will finalize privatization deals worth 2 billion riyals (\$533 million)

before the end of this year, according to an interview with the Saudi-owned Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper.

The privatization drive is part of Vision 2030, a package of reforms led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that is intended to wean the economy off oil and create jobs for young Saudis. The expected deals will be in sectors that include rain silos, medical and shipping services. The government will next year offer privatization projects in the education sector with investments worth around 1 billion riyals, according to the interview. The government's aim to attract investment into everything from education to sports, a cornerstone of its effort to trim dependence on oil revenues, has been mired by some holdups and fallout from the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Riyadh had previously set a goal of aiming to generate

35 billion to 40 billion riyals (\$9.3 billion to \$10.0 billion) of non-oil state revenues from its privatization program by 2020. Some of that money would come from asset sales, while the rest would come from public-private partnerships. But that drive has had some false-starts. The most high-profile was the shelving of proposals to float shares in oil giant Aramco. The crown prince, known as MbS, said the government remains committed to Aramco IPO, expecting it to take place between 2020 and early 2021.

He added that recent Aramco acquisition of a majority stake in petrochemical giant SABIC would help its growth potentials and profitability amid usual oil market volatility. He said the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund (PIF) is playing a major role in the economic diversification process and that its assets has doubled in two years to 1 trillion riyals. — Agencies

American paradox: Deficit widens even as economy grows

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump likes to take credit for the US economy, with historic low unemployment and few signs of rising prices, but his promises that surging growth would pay for massive tax cuts are falling flat.

After an initial bounce in 2018 and in the first three months of 2019, the economy is expected to slow this year. And the US budget deficit is steadily widening, the yawning gap edging closer to \$1 trillion after trending downward from its peak in 2009 during the worst of the global financial crisis.

Trump promised to supercharge growth to three percent or higher, and claimed the tax cuts would pay for themselves by spurring investment and employment, which in turn would generate higher tax revenue. In fact, July will mark the longest economic expansion in US history, with continual growth since mid-2009. With a healthy economy, it is the ideal time for governments to shore up their finances and reduce debt, saving up for the next rainy day.

But forecasts call for slower growth into next year—with some economists even fearing a recession—and last month the federal deficit hit a new record for May of \$208 billion, a 42



WASHINGTON: Trump promised to supercharge growth and claimed the tax cuts would pay for themselves. —AFP

percent increase from a year earlier. Just eight months into the fiscal year which ends in September, the deficit is nearly as big as all of 2018, swelling to \$739 billion, \$206 billion higher than the same period of last year.

Even the billions in tariffs taken in during Trump's multi-country trade wars have not helped, since most of the funds taken in have gone back out to aid farmers hurt by retaliation from China and others. At the same time government debt is expanding, and now is larger than the country's annual economic output at more than \$22 trillion.

Normally this should leave Trump open to

attacks from political opponents, but the Democratic party is on the horns of a dilemma: the progressive wing of the party, including many of the two dozen presidential candidates, favor massive spending programs. With interest rates still very low, the adherents to "modern monetary theory" believe the government can continue to borrow to finance programs without negative consequences.

Critics dismiss the theory, known as MMT, saying it is akin to supply side economics espoused by Republicans in the 1980s, which argued that tax cuts would pay for themselves through higher economic output. — AFP

US Fed leans toward a cut

WASHINGTON: As President Donald Trump's trade wars drag on, and the global economy weakens, the US Federal Reserve is inching closer to its first interest rate cut in more than a decade. But investors hoping to see the benchmark lending rate begin to drop this week are almost certain to be disappointed.

After preaching patience and leaving rates untouched since December, financial markets will be watching closely for a change of tone from the central bank and its chairman, Jerome Powell, and a sign the Fed is ready to step in to boost the economy. Policymakers will hold two days of deliberations starting Tuesday, and for now are expected to keep the key interest rate in a range of 2.25-2.5 percent.

The Fed raised rates nine times in the last three years as the economy recovered and put millions of Americans back to work, and officials repeatedly said they expected the growth to continue. But Trump's aggressive tariff policies have shaken confidence, and some central bankers have begun to acknowledge a chill in the air.

The consensus is that the Fed is poised to switch directions and begin cutting rates. The only question is when. James Bullard, president of the Fed's St Louis regional branch, was the first to make the move, saying early this month that a rate

cut could be needed "soon."

Just days later, Powell himself opened the door to a possible move, saying the Fed would do whatever necessary "to sustain the expansion"—a noticeable shift in posture. Then Fed Vice Chair Richard Clarida added to the mix the possibility of "insurance cuts"—preemptively lowering rates just in case the economic outlook starts to deteriorate. Wall Street welcomed this dovish talk, which drove a recovery in stocks after the rout in May. Futures markets as of Friday were forecasting as many as three cuts for this year, in July, September and December.

"In the old days, we'd have used the language the Fed has an easing bias," John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics, said. "They are predisposed to cut."

It's complicated

Since the Fed's last announcement at the end of May, the world's largest economy has continued to send mixed signals. But beyond the strictly economic factors are the political ones as Trump continues to flout tradition, repeatedly hammering Powell and the Fed on Twitter and in public comments for undermining his bid to supercharge the US economy. In an interview with ABC, Trump acknowledged that his vocal criticism puts Powell in a box but said he would persist because he disagrees "entirely" with the Fed's policy. "I'm gonna do it anyway because I've waited long enough," Trump said in the interview. Powell steadfastly repeated that central bankers pay no attention to political pressure. — AFP

Business

VIVA kicks off 5G service commercially during an event held at Avenues Mall

Our 5G networks cover 1,000 sites



KUWAIT: VIVA launches the 5G service during an event held at the Avenues Mall in the presence of VIVA's CEO Eng Maziad Nasser Al-Harbi.



KUWAIT: VIVA management team during the event at the Avenues Mall



KUWAIT: VIVA launched commercially the 5G service during an event held at the Avenues Mall in the presence of VIVA's CEO Eng Maziad Nasser Al-Harbi. Al-Harbi pressed the button to officially announce the 5G era's kick-off and presented a trophy to the first 5G router subscriber with VIVA's postpaid plan. The event featured competitions and interactions with the audience, and gifts were presented to the winners.

Al-Harbi commented: "As a leading local and regional telecommunications company, we look forward to being the first to foster our customers' services to meet all their needs. VIVA has invested in building the most advanced network, and now we have an extensive list of sites covered in Kuwait with the 5G. And we are the only company that has more than 1000 sites covered by the 5G service in the Middle East," he added.

He explained: "The launch of this service commercially with special packages, will help VIVA to release its full potential in the digital arena, enhance ICT cooperation and expand the scope of enterprise sector and B2B, B2C and B2G, and launch devices that support 5G, in addition to after-sales technical team to serve our customers and meet their needs."

VIVA launches 5G with special packages on VIVA Postpaid plans. Al-Harbi: our services are launched on the largest 5G network in the Middle East with over 1,000 locations in Kuwait. VIVA announced the launch of 5G service with special packages on VIVA's postpaid plans starting KD 45 promising a new wave of capabilities for internet and smartphone users.

Customers will gear up for speeds faster than the blink of an eye and to meet the next generation of mobile internet connectivity with cutting-edge technology, and average download speeds touching an unbelievable IGBps. VIVA is keen to offer the latest in the telecommunications sector to its customers, and will strive to provide mobile devices that support 5G and will be able to pre-order soon through VIVA's official website.

5G is the next generation wireless network, featuring ultra-fast mobile broadband speeds with multiple Gbps, massive connectivity, critical communication and very low latency. VIVA aims to resolve the various issues that have developed due to the wide popularity of 4G LTE, including the need for higher speeds and lower latency.

5G will provide fiber like service experience to VIVA users, while enabling new digital services to emerge such as AR/VR immersive experience, cloud gaming, autonomous drone, driverless cars, and a wide range of IoT uses.

5G will provide fiber like service experience to VIVA users, while enabling new digital services to emerge such as AR/VR immersive experience, cloud gaming, autonomous drone, driverless cars, and a wide range of IoT uses.



NBK Money Markets Report

Markets edgy as US, China silent on Trump-Xi meeting

KUWAIT: In the US, President Donald Trump said while speaking at a White House press conference that he expects to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping at this month's G20 summit in Osaka Japan. During the conference, Trump accused China of renegeing on a trade deal that according to him, the two largest economies had agreed on last month. He did however assure that he still hoped to sign an agreement with China.

"We're going to be meeting, President Xi and myself. And you know we have a very good relationship," said Trump at a briefing with Polish President Andrzej Duda. He later on added, "We will end up making a deal with China. We have a very good relationship, although it's a little bit testy right now...I think they really have to make a deal."

With the comments being a strong signal that the two leaders would have a bilateral meeting at the G20, no confirmations were actually available from either of the governments. The White House refused to clarify whether a meeting had been agreed or whether Trump was actually referring to the pair meeting as part of the larger group of leaders. The Chinese embassy also declined to comment on the subject.

With that said, Donald Trump repeated his vow to slap 25 percent tariffs on the \$300 billion in imports from China not yet subject to US levies. If the Chinese failed to agree to a deal that would end the trade war between the two countries, Trump seems to be adamant on imposing those tariffs. In a previous comment from Trump he said "We are expected to meet. If we do, that's fine, and if we don't, that's fine. Look, from our standpoint, the best deal we can have is 25 percent on \$600 billion, OK?" Trump however refused to say when he would decide on imposing tariffs if China did not strike a deal.

In response to the tension between the two economies, hundreds of US companies and trade associations have written to the US President requesting that he does not impose new tariffs on Chinese goods. The letter that included signatories such as Walmart, Target, Ikea, and J Crew urged Trump not to go ahead with the new tariffs. Titled "tariffs hurt the heartland", the letter cited figures from Trade Partnership Worldwide that claim the new tariffs could result in the loss of two million jobs, add more than \$2,000 in costs for the average American family of four, and reduce the value of US gross domestic product by 1 percent.

Moving forward, Fed policymakers will reconvene this week in a meeting to deliberate monetary policy. With no assurance that China and the US will come to a conclusion on the trade dispute at the G20 summit later this month, trade continues to be the core of market uncertainty. According to a Reuters poll of economists, the chances of a Federal Reserve interest rate cut this year have dramatically increased in the past month. After the Fed changed its policy bias away from steady tightening in January, a second sudden shift was delivered by its Chair Jerome Powell last week. The Fed Chair said that the regulator would act "as appropriate" to address risks from the US-China trade war, leaving the door open for a possible rate cut.

Both the US Dollar and the Swiss Franc benefitted from their safe haven status as trade tensions escalated. The Greenback closed the week 0.94 percent higher at 97.548, while the Swissy closed 0.99 percent higher at 0.9988.

Weaker inflation

US consumer price inflation weakened in May as the figure fell to 1.8 percent y/y last month, compared to the 2 percent recorded in April and just below expectations of a 1.9 percent increase. On a monthly basis the index rose 0.1 percent, a slowdown from the 0.3 percent rise seen in April. Excluding volatile food and fuel prices, the core CPI also slowed to a 2 percent y/y rise compared to the 2.1 percent forecasted. The readings follow the release of the producer price index, which recorded its slowest annual pace in more than two years for the month of May. As officials become increasingly weary over the outlook for both the domestic and global economy, the tame readings are likely to support the view in

the markets that the Fed may have room to cut rates to counter the slowing growth. Continued trade tensions coupled with the sharp slowdown in May hiring has increased such rhetoric.

In response to the inflation report, stock prices slumped while treasuries climbed and oil prices fell. Technology shares led the drop, with the tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 declining the most in a week. The S&P 500 fell around 1 percent to 2,879.84 after recovering from its 2,728 level seen early June while the Dow Jones Industrial Average followed a similar trajectory. But on Thursday, global stocks saw an advance that was led by gains in oil and gas companies, the gain came as an aftermath to the incident involving oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The incident resulted in an oil rally as it took center stage with both Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate jumping as much as 4.5 percent. Both however trimmed back their gains and settled 2.2 percent higher. Wall Street's S&P 500 ended the week at 2,886.98.

Britain's path to choose its PM

In the race for Britain's next Prime Minister, Boris Johnson has emerged as the favorite where he topped the first round of voting in the Conservative leadership contest with the support of 114 Tory MPs. Swiping the field by polling more votes than the next three contenders combined, the Eurosceptic former Foreign Secretary said "I am delighted to win the first ballot, but we have a long way to go." It is worth mentioning that Boris Johnson is keeping open the possibility that Britain will leave the EU on October 31 in a no-deal Brexit. The next round of voting among MPs will take place on Tuesday the 18th of June where candidates will require 32 supporters to stay in the race. Further rounds will then have to take place until only two contenders remain.

In terms of economic indicators, wage growth data came in higher than anticipated for April as regular pay (excluding bonuses) rose by 3.4 percent and 0.2 percent higher than the market's consensus. The unemployment was stagnant at 3.8 percent and in-line with the market. The labor market data is providing some relief to the GBP after a poor GDP figure from Monday where the GDP fell by 0.4 percent. The Sterling had rebounded from a one week low of 1.2653 reached on



Monday to a high of 1.2744 following the release of the labor market and despite the weaker GDP. The Sterling however took a stumble on Wednesday after Theresa May's Government defeated a Labor Party bid to prevent the UK from leaving the EU, the Cable closed Friday's session at 1.2590.

In Europe, President Mario Draghi of the European Central Bank spoke at a press conference following the latest monetary policy. The bank claimed interest rates would remain unchanged at their record lows in an effort to boost inflation and stimulate growth. The ECB said in a statement that the governing council "now expects the key ECB interest rates to remain at their present levels at least through the first half of 2020." The ECB, along with the US Federal Reserve, have shifted to a more dovish stance as concerns over a cooling global economy persist.

Chinese consumer prices rise

Consumer prices in China rose 2.7 percent from a year earlier last month in line with expectations but the fastest rise since February 2018. However, a large part was driven by elevated food prices due to a decline in supplies after the outbreak of African swine fever across the country. Also, producer prices declined from 0.9 percent to 0.6 percent in line with downbeat factory activity seen in May. Producer inflation in China is closely tracked by analysts and investors and is seen as an indicator of industrial demand in the economy.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30375
The USD/KWD opened at 0.30375 yesterday morning.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.		Yemen Riyal/for 1000		Turkish Lira		Hong Kong Dollar	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		Tunisian Dinar	105.760	Singapore dollars	221.489	Indian Rupee	0.037062
US Dollar Transfer	304.600	Jordanian Dinar	430.380			Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017
Euro	345.720	Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203			Japanese Yen	0.002729
Sterling Pound	388.060	Syrian Lira	0.000			Korean Won	0.000247
Canadian dollar	229.800	Morocco Dirham	32.233			Malaysian Ringgit	0.069584
Turkish lira	52.970					Nepalese Rupee	0.002680
Swiss Franc	309.080					Pakistan Rupee	0.001455
US Dollar Buying	297.600					Philippine Peso	0.005756
ASIAN COUNTRIES						Singapore Dollar	0.217523
Japanese Yen	2.806					Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001353
Indian Rupees	4.378					Taiwan	0.009996
Pakistani Rupees	2.061					Thai Baht	0.009431
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.719					Vietnamese Dong	0.00013
Nepali Rupees	2.729					Arab	
Singapore Dollar	224.380					Bahraini Dinar	0.793387
Hongkong Dollar	38.909					Egyptian Pound	0.018239
Bangladesh Taka	3.593					Iranian Riyal	0.000084
Philippine Peso	5.868					Iraqi Dinar	0.000210
Thai Baht	9.789					Jordanian Dinar	0.424715
Malaysian ringgit	77.903					Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
GCC COUNTRIES						Lebanese Pound	0.000157
Saudi Riyal	81.281					Moroccan Dirhams	0.020503
Qatari Riyal	83.716					Omani Riyal	0.784851
Omani Riyal	791.683					Qatar Riyal	0.079399
Bahraini Dinar	809.350					Saudi Riyal	0.080140
UAE Dirham	82.986					Syrian Pound	0.001291
ARAB COUNTRIES						Tunisian Dinar	0.098543
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.500					Turkish Lira	0.045397
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.190					UAE Dirhams	0.081507
						Yemeni Riyal	0.000990

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd			
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate		
US Dollar	303.840		
Canadian Dollar	229.310		
Sterling Pound	387.995		
Euro	345.885		
Swiss Frank	304.285		
Bahrain Dinar	808.025		
UAE Dirhams	83.125		
Qatari Riyals	84.365		
Saudi Riyals	81.921		
Jordanian Dinar	429.830		
Egyptian Pound	18.157		
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.721		
Indian Rupees	4.379		
Pakistani Rupees	2.012		
Bangladesh Taka	3.599		
Philippines Peso	5.840		
Cyprus pound	18.080		
Japanese Yen	3.800		
Syrian Pound	1.590		
Nepalese Rupees	2.742		
Malaysian Ringgit	73.945		
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.350		
Thai Bhat	10.715		

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
Europe			
British Pound	0.377782	0.391682	
Czech Korune	0.005433	0.014733	
Danish Krone	0.041946	0.046946	
Euro	0.334888	0.348588	
Georgian Lari	0.132130	0.132130	
Hungarian 0.001148	0.001338		
Norwegian Krone	0.031089	0.036289	
Romanian Leu	0.004712	0.004712	
Russian ruble	0.065285	0.082135	
Slovakia	0.009109	0.019109	
Swedish Krona	0.028259	0.033259	
Swiss Franc	0.299120	0.310120	
Australasia			
Australian Dollar	0.201843	0.213743	
New Zealand Dollar	0.192295	0.201795	
Asia			
Canadian Dollar	0.222045	0.231045	
US Dollars	0.300500	0.305800	
US Dollars Mint	0.301000	0.305800	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003010	0.003811	
Chinese Yuan	0.042543	0.046043	

Ford Alghanim

Organizes First-Ever Parade on Sheikh Jaber Causeway



Winners of the competition – Best Performing & Looking Pick up Trucks



Shot from the Ford Trucks Parade on the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Causeway



Photo of the Parade on the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Causeway



More than 250 Trucks participated in the Ford Trucks Parade



Participants enjoying the Iftar at SIRBB Circuit



Adnan Eidan, Marketing Manager at Ford Alghanim giving a speech

Ford Alghanim, an Alghanim Industries company, celebrated the launch of Sheikh Jaber Causeway, the fourth longest bridge in the world, with the first ever parade on the causeway promoting safe driving. Dubbed Truck Life, the event saw the attendance of more than 250 Ford Truck owners. The event was held in collaboration with Kuwait F-Series Club, ORP, Professional Off-Roader Fahad Ben Hussain, and Solid Projects.

Participating trucks included Ford F-150, F-150 Raptor, F-Super Duty, and Ranger. Following the parade, participants gathered in SIRBB Circuit, where they enjoyed several entertainment activities and competitions for best-looking and performing pick-ups with valuable prizes for the top three winners.

Commenting on holding this event, Adnan Eidan, Marketing Manager at Ford Alghanim, said: "We are honored to organize the first-ever car parade on this new landmark of modern Kuwait. It was an excellent opportunity for us to engage with our loyal customers and all Ford Pickup owners in Kuwait in an interactive public and engaging event, and it comes as part of our efforts to share the passions and interests with Ford Truck enthusiasts, and with the community as a whole."



Photo of the Judging Panel, from left to right, Issam Salame Sales Director at Ford Alghanim, Yasser Ali Alzarif, Customer Care Manager at Ford Alghanim, Yousef AL Neamah from ORP, Fahad Ben Hussain Professional Off-Roader, Abdullah Al-Deyeen from Solid.



Khalaf Al-Haidar receiving official certification on behalf of the Kuwait F-Series Club



Group Photo of the Ford Trucks Parade Participants

Shawki Abboud, Regional Sales Manager at Ford Middle East, said:

"I'm delighted to witness such passion and admiration in Kuwait for the F-150, Ford's exceptional truck. Tough, smart, and capable, the F-150 sales have

increased by 225% in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period last year. It has become the vehicle of choice for many truck enthusiasts in Kuwait. F-Series are America's best selling truck for 42 straight years and it's great to see this success replicate in our region."

An independent panel of judges from ORP, Solid Projects, Ford Alghanim, and Ford Middle East alongside Professional Off-Roader Fahad Ben Hussain rated the cars based on a set of criteria focusing on paint finish, exterior modifications, suspension condition, wheels and rims, interior modifications, and innovation in design.

During the event, Alghanim Industries also presented an official certification to the Kuwait F-Series Club as the only official Ford Trucks Club in Kuwait, Recognizing the club and its members as true Truck Life enthusiasts and Ford owners.

Ford Alghanim extended its sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Interior for their efforts in making this event a success, in addition to the co-organizers and judging panel for their participation and support. Ford Alghanim would also like to thank all the participants and Ford Trucks Owners that made this event a great success!



Shawki Abboud, Regional Sales Manager at Ford Middle East giving a speech



Judges Evaluating the contestant's Trucks



Photo of the Parade on the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Causeway

Business

Flydubai's inaugural flight lands in Naples

First UAE national carrier to offer direct flights from Dubai

KUWAIT: Dubai-based airline flydubai celebrated its inaugural service to Naples (NAP) yesterday becoming the first national carrier for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to offer direct flights from Dubai. With up to five flights a week, Naples becomes flydubai's second destination in Italy after it launched flights to Sicily's Catania last year.

Onboard the flight was a senior delegation led by Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai and Thierry Aucoc, Emirates Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations, Europe, Russian Federation and Latin America, together with representatives from the regional media. On arrival in Naples, the delegation was met by Roberto Barbieri, CEO of Naples Airport and Margherita Chiamonte, Business Aviation Development Director, Naples Airport.

Commenting on the occasion, Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai said: "We are delighted to be flying to Naples, the second destination we have launched in Italy in a year. It is another example of flydubai's decade long commitment towards opening up underserved markets and giving those in Italy more opportunities to benefit from direct flights to Dubai and beyond on our network. We look forward to the increased opportunities for trade and tourism that this new route will bring."

Flydubai Business Class passengers can enjoy a comfortable spacious seat, a choice of meals from an internationally-inspired menu, a generous checked baggage allowance and fast track through immigration and security. They also are offered complimentary access to In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) system, with over 1,000 hours of entertainment on HD touchscreens. Passengers in Economy are offered comfortable RECARO seats and can purchase an extra-legroom seat and light snacks or preorder hot meals prior to their flight and access

to In-Flight Entertainment.

Emirates will codeshare on this route and for bookings under the codeshare, Emirates passengers will receive complimentary meals and the Emirates checked baggage allowance on flights operated by flydubai in Business and Economy class.

"Through our codeshare partnership, Emirates' customers from across our global network, particularly from key inbound markets such as Australia, Japan and China, will now also be able to easily access Naples, while local travellers in the Naples region can connect seamlessly from their flydubai flight to Emirates flights at our Dubai hub to popular destinations such as Thailand, Australia, Egypt and China," said Thierry Aucoc, Emirates Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations, Europe, Russian Federation and Latin America.

Emirates and flydubai entered a comprehensive codeshare partnership in October 2017, offering passengers a number of benefits, including codeshare routes to 84 destinations. Both airlines will continue to offer travel experiences reflecting their individual brands, while passengers enjoy increased flight frequencies, flexibility with flight options and access to an expanded global network. The codeshare also provides passengers with the convenience of travelling on a single ticket with seamless point to point baggage handling, the alignment of the Skywards frequent flyer programme and a smooth transfer during transit in Dubai.

Italy is an important center for commerce, trade and industry and has become increasingly popular among travellers from across the region and the wider flydubai network. As one of the largest cities in Italy, Naples is home to a wealth of cultural attractions, great food and the beautiful Amalfi coastline. According to the Italian Government Tourist Board, UAE visitors to Italy were the highest spenders from the Middle East in 2017 with visi-



tor numbers increasing by 21.97 percent.

Roberto Barbieri, the CEO of Naples Airport said: "With flydubai flights to Dubai we are providing a door to the UAE and to the East, along with opportunities to travel to destinations such as Australia and Thailand, which were previously not reachable until last week and are now just a one stop away. All flydubai flights are codeshared with Emirates and from Dubai's aviation hub it will be possible to continue onwards to numerous destinations around the world. Along with the recent open-

ing of connections with North America the Campania region is connected to the East, facilitating both trade and travel to exotic places. Incoming tourist flows from Asia and Australia will be easier and we expect the local tourism economy to benefit and grow."

Flydubai's route network in Europe currently includes 27 points in Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Macedonia (FYROM), Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma weekly account

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

The results of the draw were as follows:

1- Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 and was for the share of Abdulaziz Yousef Al-Woqayan.

2- The "Salary & Cash on Top campaign" prize of KD 1,000 and was for the share of Abdulrahman Ajel Moseh Jraibea Zayed.

The Bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000, monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the largest prize - linked bank account payout of KD 1,500,000. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

As regarding "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees as well as the retirees and which is valid until 31 December 2019 and the mechanism of joining this campaign for availing its benefits, the Bank explained that Kuwaiti employees with a salary of KD 500 & above whether newly recruited or in service can transfer their salary to the Bank and avail the benefits of this campaign by getting instant cash gift of KD 250 or an interest free loan five times the salary up to KD 10,000, add to this they will automatically enter the weekly draw on KD 1,000. As for the expatriate customers categorized under Premier Banking Account with a salary KD of 1,700 and above, they will get instant cash gift. The retirees with pension KD 1,000 and above will also get an instant cash gift of KD 150 when transferring their pension to the Bank and automatically enter the weekly draw on a prize of KD 1,000 and avail the benefits of this campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees working in private and public sector as well as the retirees. Further, the campaign provides customers with the opportunity to get additional benefits and take advantage of the advanced and unrivalled services and products the Bank provides to its customers to meet their needs and expectations.

Win 6 million Emirates Skywards miles with ABK

KUWAIT: In partnership with Emirates Skywards, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), yesterday announced the launch of its summer campaign, "6 Million Skywards Miles, 60 Winners." This year's promotion offers 60 lucky ABK customers the chance to win 100,000 Skywards Miles each. 6 million Skywards Miles in total will be given away through three monthly draws extending from 1st June to 31st August 2019.

Eligibility for the monthly draw will be based on a minimum KD 500 per month total transaction spend completed with the following bank cards:

- ABK Emirates Credit cards used in International transactions through POS and cash
- ABK Emirates Prepaid Cards used in International transactions through POS only

Customers with ABK Emirates credit and prepaid cards issued prior to the start of the draw will also be eligible to participate in this promotion. The more you spend the more chances you have of winning. Simultaneously, every KD 10 spent abroad or in a foreign currency will award clients 3 draw entries. In addition, online transactions concluded on Emirates.com will award clients 6 draw entries.

ABK and Emirates Skywards have been in partnership for over 17 years. Every year, ABK holds various cam-



paigns to reward its existing clients with extra Skywards Miles, and has allowed many to travel by simply using their cards in purchases.

Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty program of Emirates and flydubai, offers four tiers of membership - Blue, Silver, Gold and Platinum - with each membership tier providing exclusive privileges. Emirates Skywards members earn

Skywards Miles when they fly on Emirates, flydubai or partner airlines, or when they use the program's designated hotels, car rentals, financial, leisure and lifestyle partners. Skywards Miles can be redeemed for an extensive range of rewards, including tickets on Emirates or flydubai plus Emirates Skywards partner airlines, hotel accommodation, excursions and exclusive shopping.

Gulf Air launches Salalah service

MANAMA: Gulf Air - the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain - celebrated its inaugural summer service to and from Salalah yesterday as the airline resumed this popular route. Gulf Air's flight GF548 was welcomed into Salalah International Airport with a celebratory event that saw the attendance of various airport officials.

Gulf Air's Chief Commercial Officer Vincent Coste said: "We are happy to resume our flights to Salalah as we cater to the summer demand for this sought after destination. Many of our regional passengers prefer to spend this season in Salalah as it enjoys significantly lower temperature than the rest of the GCC. From now until mid-September, we will be flying 3 weekly flights and I invite our passengers to experience this summer desti-

nation and enjoy its nature and pleasant weather". Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, commenced operations in 1950, becoming one of the first commercial airlines established in the Middle East. Today, Gulf Air is a major international carrier serving 49 cities in 26 countries.

The airline operates double daily flights or more to 10 regional cities, in addition to select destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Europe, from its hub at Bahrain International Airport. Gulf Air currently serves all its destinations with a combination of wide and narrow body fleet of 36 aircraft. The modern fleet will herald a new era for Gulf Air as it continues to enhance its product and service offering. Renowned for its traditional Arabian hospitality, evidenced by the airline's signature family and business friendly products, Gulf Air is committed to being an industry leader and developing products and services that reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of its passengers.

Gulf Air connects Bahrain to the world and,



as such, is a key national infrastructure asset, serving as a powerful driver for the economy and supporting the Kingdom's on-going eco-

omic growth. With its mobile app and Bahrain stopover program, the airline promotes Bahrain as a tourist destination to the world.

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

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

The lucky winners are:

1. Maryam Reja Huwail Al-Sahali
2. Faten Mohammad Ahmad Saleem
3. Saber Faraj Fraij Farajallah
4. Adel Badawi Ahmed Al-Fahad
5. Dahodwala Anis Zaimuddin

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

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to kick-start summer season with special deals

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan in the State of Kuwait, is pleased to announce its latest campaign that is applicable on the Nissan KICKS, Pathfinder, Altima and X-Trail models. Bringing its customers, the best of this season's offers with added benefits, the new summer package includes free service packages, gift vouchers, free 3rd party insurance in addition to free traffic registration fees on all the models.

Starting from only KD 4,750 accompanied by a free 3rd party insurance in addition to free traffic registration, the Nissan KICKS has class-leading fuel efficiency thanks to its advanced 1.6-liter engine and lightweight

platform. Power is rated at 88kW (118HP) and torque of 149Nm while at KD 6,250 with 4 years of free service respectively, the Nissan X-TRAIL, a customer favorite gives young families and adventure-seekers more premium style options such as the choice between the five or seven-seat version as well as five new vibrant exterior vehicle shades, unrivalled space and comfort.

Starting at KD 5,999 only, the Nissan Altima comes with 2 years of free service. The sixth generation of Nissan's best-selling sedan features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two new powertrains, and advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility features.

The car also features Apple CarPlay and Android Auto(tm) and an 8-inch multi-touch color display for complete in-car entertainment and ease of driver control. Cutting-edge Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies have been integrated into the 2019 Altima as standard. The Altima also provides front, side and rear safety monitoring and intervention technologies - including Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Lane Departure Warning (LDW), radar-based Blind Spot Warning (BSW), Rear Cross Traffic Alert



(RCTA) and High Beam Assist (HBA).

Now at only KD 9,999, the 4X4 seven-seat family vehicle, Nissan Pathfinder full option comes with a 3.5-liter V6 engine adds direct injection system, horsepower increases to 271, with towing capacity of 1,500 KG and is offered with enhanced user friendliness

features ranging from Motion-Activated lift gate to a new touch screen monitor; and 20 inches alloy wheels.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites everyone to visit its showrooms in Al-Rai and Ahmadi to explore this year's season gifts that each of the high performance vehicles have to offer.

What's On



A summer to remember with Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel

Create unforgettable memories this summer with kids and family offers at Kuwait's Idyllic Resort. With its kid's club, destination spa, swimming pools, water sports and a diversity of award-winning restaurants, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa is waiting to welcome you with an exciting escape from the sizzling summer heat.

Summer Stay Package

Dive into the summer with our luxurious room offers at very special rates and enjoy local and international flavors with complimentary breakfast at all-day dining Garden Cafe Restaurant.

Kids Summer Camp

Unbox a summer full of surprises for your little ones! Your little ones will discover a mountain of fun and wonders through adult-supervised activities like sport activities, nature studies, scavenger hunts, art and community projects with our professional staff. The Kids' Summer Camp program is available in 5 days and 10 days packages.

Talise Spa

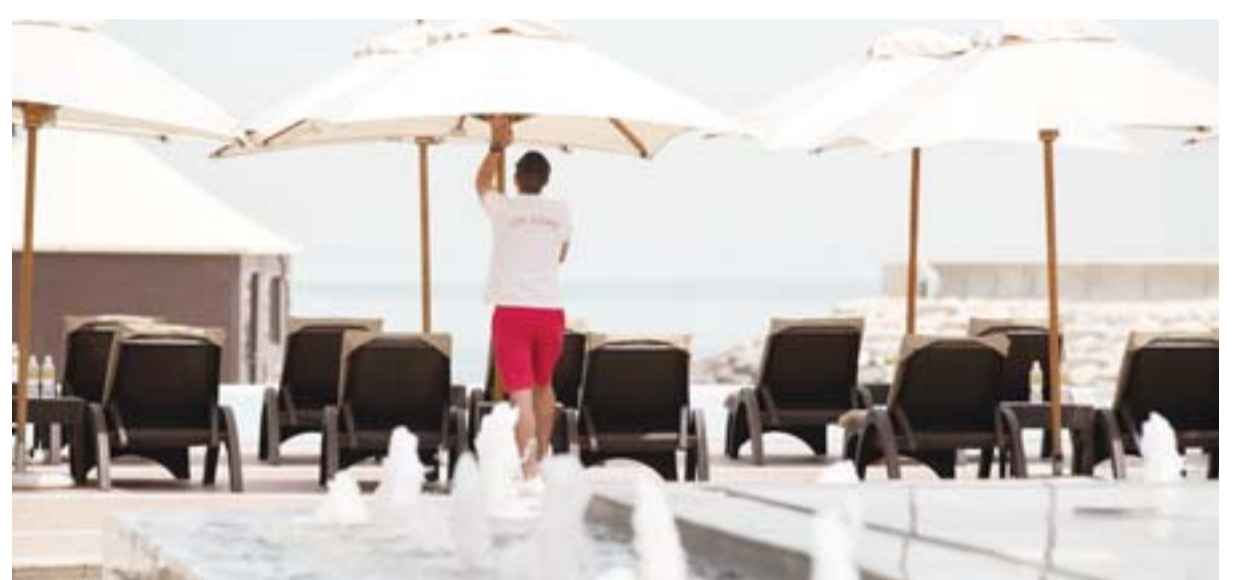
Suffused with peaceful beauty and focused on sensory experiences to offer the perfect escape, Talise Spa is nestled within an exclusive natural environment. Open

from 10am to 10pm, experience the Summer Soother treatment that promises to make you radiant, hydrated and luminous. The luxurious 90-minute ritual includes diamond magnetic exfoliation followed by a relaxing rose body massage and finished with a revitalizing foot treatment and rejuvenating, personalized facial mask.

This summer, the spa is introducing an exclusive new 120-minute treatment, Amra 24kt Gold Plated Hot Stones. The ultimate in opulence and splendor, this ritual engulfs the senses and engages the mind to the most enigmatic experience. The Golden Opulence Journey starts with a 24kt Gold foot ritual to ease the pressures of the day, then relax and unwind with the aroma of sumptuous elegance of rich amber top notes of effervescent citrus on a sumptuous heart of aromatic herbs, perfectly nestling on a base of rich woods and musk's. After a complimentary body cleanse, the body is drizzled with pure 24kt Gold Body Oil and then massaged with AMRA 24kt Gold Plated Hot stones. The journey concludes with the body being encapsulated in the Golden Splendor of AMRA's infamous precious drops of gold, leaving the skin captivating and you radiant.

Restaurants

There are a plethora of award-winning restaurants for you to explore and refresh yourself in: Salt, a seafood and international restaurant designed in underwater



and extravagance: Pepper Restaurant, a steakhouse perfect for the steak lovers; Garden Cafe, an all-day dining restaurant offering a buffet to fit all tastes; Olio, an Italian Restaurant bringing true little Italy to you; Arabesque, a restaurant specializing in Arabian cuisine and shisha, Tea Lounge where you can enjoy a luxurious

cup of tea in serene ambiance and poolside restaurant, Mint. Indulge in the unparalleled diversity of facilities at Talise Fitness Centre, along with Tennis court, two swimming pools, a pristine beach and a host of water sports and activities such as kayaking, banana rides and inflatable rides to beat the summer heat.



The ambassador of Guyana Dr Shamir Ally inaugurates the Pakistani mango festival at Shuwaikh over the weekend.



Aqua Park board member and managing manager, Mohammed Abdul Redha Khorsheed said Tuesdays have been allocated for women only under female management, operation and rescue staff adding that the park would be open from 2:30 -10:00 PM on Women days. Khorsheed added that water safety is a top priority for Aqua Park and that a specialized team is being hired to make sure of that under periodic Ministry of Health inspection.

Make some plain biscuits and then feel free to dress them up

These plain biscuits can be dressed up with any flavorful, relatively dry ingredient, such as herbs, scallions, cheese, dried fruit, or spices. For variations on the recipe, see below. Follow this recipe with your kids.

BUTTERMILK DROP BISCUITS

Ingredients
Servings: 10-12
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 30 minutes, plus cooling time
Prepare Ingredients:
2 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon sugar
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup buttermilk
8 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted (see page 12 for how to melt butter)
Vegetable oil spray
Gather Cooking Equipment:
Rimmed baking sheet
Parchment paper
Large bowl
Whisk
Liquid measuring cup
1/4-cup dry measuring cup
Butter knife
Oven mitts
Cooling rack

Preparation
Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 450 F. Line rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. In large bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar, and salt until combined. In liquid measuring cup, use fork to stir buttermilk and melted butter until butter

forms small clumps. Add buttermilk mixture to bowl with flour mixture. Use rubber spatula to stir until just combined.
Spray inside of 1/4-cup dry measuring cup with vegetable oil spray. Use greased measuring cup to scoop batter and use butter knife to scrape off extra batter. Drop scoops onto baking sheet to make 10 to 12 biscuits (leave space between biscuits and respray measuring cup as needed). Place baking sheet in oven and bake biscuits until tops are golden brown 12 to 14 minutes. Use oven mitts to remove baking sheet from oven (ask an adult for help). Place baking sheet on cooling rack. Let biscuits cool on baking sheet for 10 minutes. Serve warm.
• Cheesy Drop Biscuits: When mixing in bowl, stir 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese or mild cheddar cheese and 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese into flour mixture.
• Herby Drop Biscuits: When mixing in bowl, stir 1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme or 3/4 teaspoon dried thyme into flour mixture.



BUTTERMILK DROP BISCUITS

A pasta dish that'll have your family asking for seconds

There is something magical about this recipe, which coaxes the ultimate flavor out of just a few humble supermarket ingredients, turning them into a rich-tasting and well-balanced pasta dish that will have your family reaching for seconds.
After browning the sausage, we sautéed a hefty amount of sliced onions, along with sliced fennel, which added texture and flavor to the dish. And while it may seem like a mistake to add an entire can of tomato paste and no other tomato product to make the sauce, the concentrated, bold flavor of the tomato paste intensified during cooking and added rich notes to the dish.
To pull everything together, we added 2 cups of boiling water, simmering the mixture until thick. Sharp Pecorino cheese, added to the sausage-onion mixture, enriched the sauce by giving it a salty bite. Chopped fennel fronds added pleasant anise notes upon serving.



ZITI WITH FENNEL AND ITALIAN SAUSAGE

ZITI WITH FENNEL AND ITALIAN SAUSAGE

Ingredients
Servings: 4-6
Start to finish: 30 minutes
1 pound sweet or hot Italian sausage, casings removed
2 onions, halved and sliced thin
1 fennel bulb, fronds chopped, stalks discarded, bulb halved, cored, and sliced into 1/2-inch pieces
1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste

1 pound ziti
Salt and pepper
1 ounce Pecorino Romano cheese, grated (1/2 cup), plus extra for serving

Preparation

Bring 4 quarts water to boil in large pot for pasta. Cook sausage in Dutch oven over medium-high heat, breaking up meat with wooden spoon, until no longer pink, about 4 minutes. Stir in onions and fennel, cover, and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Uncover, reduce heat to medium, and continue to cook until vegetables are golden, 10 to 12 minutes. Add tomato paste and cook

until darkened, about 3 minutes. Stir in 2 cups boiling pasta water and simmer until thickened, about 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, add pasta and 1 tablespoon salt to boiling water and cook, stirring often, until al dente. Reserve 1 1/2 cups cooking water, then drain pasta and return it to pot. Add sausage mixture, Pecorino, and 1 cup reserved cooking water and toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste and add remaining cooking water as needed to adjust consistency. Sprinkle individual portions with fennel fronds and extra Pecorino before serving.

Health & Technology

Dogs trained to offer support to troubled American veterans

NESCONSET: Michael Kidd, now 84 years old, fought in the Korean War. His young German shepherd Millie helps calm him down when things start to swirl, usually at night. Harry Stolberg — a 42-year-old former Marine who served in Bosnia, Liberia and Nigeria — has a chocolate Labrador named Rocky who wakes him up from his troubled dreams.

And 31-year-old Phil Davanzo — who carried the bodies of fallen comrades during a hostage rescue operation that went wrong off Somalia in 2011 — hopes his Rottweiler puppy will soon be trained to support him during his panic attacks. The three US veterans, who all live on New York's Long Island, suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and have sought solace through pet therapy — namely, a loyal dog to keep them company.

The shelter animals are either trained or being trained to help them through difficult times by Paws of War, an association funded entirely by private donations that then provides the service dogs free of charge. The group will also train a veteran's dog if he or she already has one. "The biggest thing is he wakes me up from nightmares," Stolberg says of three-year-old Rocky. "He can open the door, come in my room, turn on the lights, take my blinders off me... and lick my hands so I wake up."

Rocky, whose 18 months of training were completed six months ago, also helps Stolberg navigate large crowds, which can be triggering. "If I can't move, he will get me out of that crowd — he will pick up on that. He will walk around me and look at it and if I don't respond, he will walk

away from the crowd with me hooked up to him," he says. Paws of War — their acronym is a play on POW, used to signify prisoners of war — has been active since 2014. More than 100 dogs have been trained so far, and the therapeutic results for their masters have been significant.

Off the meds

Kidd, who suffers from severe PTSD, has been able to reduce his intake of medication thanks to Millie. At night when things are tough, "she will come over to me, she will put her paw on my shoulder, on my chest, and just give me a big slobber," says Kidd, whose father was in Normandy on D-Day. "That's just saying, 'I am here for you.'"

Stolberg used to need sleeping pills to get through the night, but not anymore, thanks to Rocky. "Sleeping was my biggest problem. (...) Now I only have a nightmare once or twice a month, instead of every day," he explains. "A lot of that is also because I know that when I go to sleep, he is in the room — he is going to wake me up no matter what."

'Quite a process'

It takes 18 to 24 months to teach dogs what to do when a troubled veteran sends distress signals, according to Rebecca Stromski, a senior trainer for Paws of War whose husband served in Afghanistan and Kuwait. "It's quite a process actually, creating a mutual respect and a connection between the service dude and the service dog," she says. "Once the foundations are in place and the dog starts

feeling if things are going well or not for the veterans, they start to do certain motions when the guys are fidgeting," Stromski explains. "I can start and cue that behavior and use that as an alert."

In the face of seemingly interminable wars for US military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq, deployments which began in 2001, veterans are experiencing PTSD symptoms on a regular basis. Paws of War has more requests for service animals than it can fulfill, with 50 veterans on the waiting list, according to the group's co-founder Dori Scofield. After running an animal shelter for 30 years, Scofield launched Paws of War after being contacted by veterans returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Those soldiers had become attached to dogs they had found in those countries, but were unable to bring them back home. Through word of mouth recommendations, the association quickly became a top meeting place for the 75,000-strong veteran community on Long Island, one of the biggest in the United States. "We get applications every day — we can't keep up," Scofield says. "I can't train enough dogs fast enough." She has opened satellite offices in Florida and in northern New York state. She has also launched a free mobile veterinary clinic where veterans can bring their companion animals. Dogs who might have ended up put to sleep in shelters now have homes, and veterans are rediscovering "a reason to get up every day, get moving, get out," Scofield says. "It has been just so awesome, helping both ends of the leash." — AFP



NEW YORK: A veteran of 9/11 and his service dog play with a ball during a training session at the Paws of War office in Nesconset. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE





248 33 199





Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid
Consultant



Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally
Senior Registrar



Dr. Abeer Khattab
Specialist



Cataract Surgery



Glaucoma



Retina



General Ophthalmology



Follow-Up All Treatments

OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES

Follow us on social media @hadrickw

Tel: 1825282
Whatsapp Us
+965-6000 2184

Dr Sahar Ghannam

Dermatology consultant, skin treatment and laser

Timing: Saturdays to Wednesdays from 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 am pm to 5 pm
Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm

Friday is a holiday.

Address: Fourth Ring Road - Abdallah Fadallah Street, Meidan Hawally, opposite fire station - block 35, building 31.

Clinic Phones: 25610407/ 409/ 314 Fax: 25610465
Mobaile: 90974754/ 99166746







Call: 24833199 ext:101,102 or

Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617

or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

WELCOME

Dr Tammam Abou Ali
Consultant ENT, Head & Neck, Facial Plastic Surgeon.

- Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Septoplasty and turbinate reduction surgery by laser or RF
- Snoring and OSAP Surgery
- Rhinoplasty with open and closed techniques
- Microscopic Middle Ear Surgery and Tympanoplasty
- Salivary gland and parotid surgery
- Thyroid and parathyroid surgery
- Micro laryngeal surgery



1 888 883

www.qmc-kuwait.com

 qmckuwait



Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!



Dr. Kiran Turaka
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Zareena Zahir
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Hasan Khan
Senior Otorhinologist



Dr. P. Seshendra Nath
Orthopedic Consultant (AGSTRIA)
Specialized in Neck, Shoulder, Hip and Knee



50721507
24551555
www.exircenterku.com

EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER

Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCES

Tel : 24568857 / 24568859 info@exircenterku.com www.exircenterku.com

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- Diagnosis/ Treatment of General Ear, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- Minimally invasive Microscopic Endoscopic Ear surgery
- Diagnosis & treatment of Otolaryngology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders.
- Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

- Dermatology board certified.
- Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

SPECIALIZED IN:

- Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- Laser Treatments.
- Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- Body & Face Contouring.
- Injectable Fillers & Botox.

SHARQ, Ahmad Alsheher st., Building 6B, Floor 13.
Tel: (+965) 22060777
@DrFahadmed, @Renovab, @derdonabb
Email: drfahadmed@beautybeyond.com.kw

To advertise on this Page

Call: 24833199 ext:101,102
or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine
Head of Cardiology departmenta at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

DR KHALED ALMERRI
Consultant interventional Cardiology
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

Specialized in:

- 1-Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

Know your Doctor
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)
Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj
ENT Specialist

- Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the British Laryngological Association
- Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the European Laryngological Society

Specialized in:

- Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- Vocal cord augmentation.
- Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- Thyroid surgery.
- Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- Treatment of snoring.
- Treatment of vertigo.

IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC
American Board Certified in General Surgery
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)
Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation
Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- Day case surgeries
- Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- Breast surgeries
- Hernia repair
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

- General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- Single Port Surgery
- Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, including Colorectal Cancer
- Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abdomen
- Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- WART Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistaloscope)
- Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve-Gastroctomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernia Surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

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

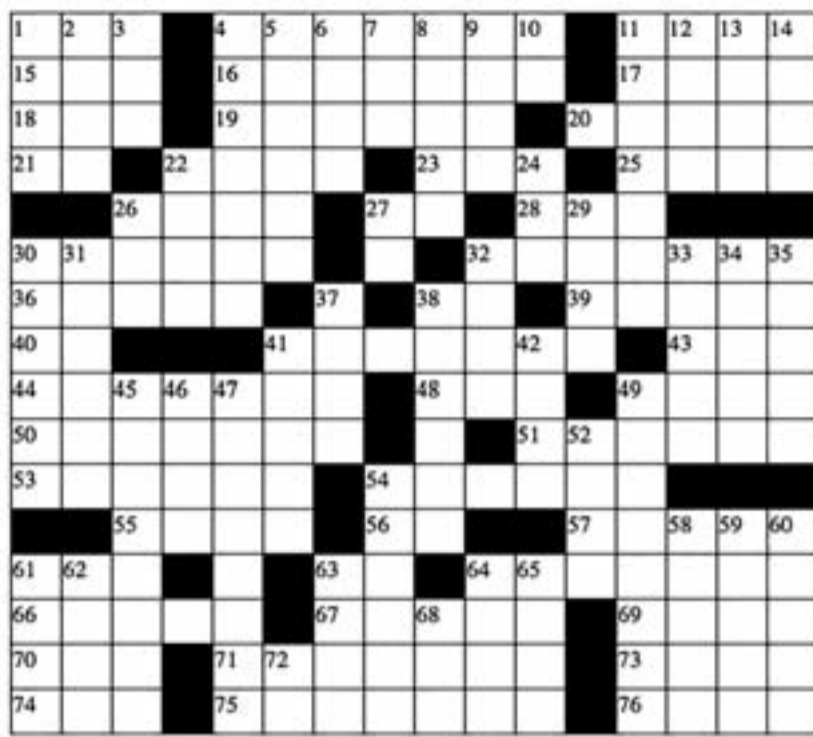
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com
Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228
Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Closer Center Mazaya Building

Stars

CROSSWORD 2233



ACROSS

1. Wet spongy ground of decomposing vegetation.
4. Provide commentary for a film, for example.
11. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
15. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
16. Of or relating to Iran or its people or language or culture.
17. By bad luck.
18. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
19. A syllabic script used in writing Sanskrit and Hindi.
20. Grind together, of teeth.
21. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
23. Late time of life.
25. A low heavy horsecart without sides.
28. Horny projecting mouth of a bird.
30. A Swiss house.
36. Attractiveness to the opposite sex.
39. A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
40. An ancient city of Sumer located on a former channel of the Euphrates River.
43. A vacuum tube in which a hot cathode emits a beam of electrons that pass through a high voltage anode and are focused or deflected before hitting a phosphorescent screen.
44. (Arthurian legend) The most virtuous knight of the Round Table.
48. A crystalline rock that can be cut and polished for jewelry.
50. Tropical American shrub bearing edible acid red fruit resembling cherries.
51. An inflow.
53. Turn away from sin or do penitence.
55. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
56. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
57. A restraint used to slow or stop a vehicle.
61. An honorary degree in science.
66. Wearing footgear.
67. Swedish oceanographer who recognized the role of the Coriolis effect on ocean currents (1874-1954).
69. Any loose flowing garment.
70. Any of various long-tailed rodents similar to but larger than a mouse.
71. Of or relating to the enteron.
73. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
74. A strong emotion.
75. Influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering.
76. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
2. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
3. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
4. An ancient Assyrian city on the River Tigris across from the modern city of Mosul in the northern part of what is now known as Iraq.
5. The mountain peak that Noah's ark landed on as the waters of the great flood receded.
6. A feeling of intense anger.
7. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
8. Open to or abounding in fresh air.
9. (aeronautical) Pertaining to the tail section of a plane.
10. Half the width of an em.
11. A bar of sand.
12. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
13. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
14. Pale gray.
22. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
24. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
26. Preserve of crushed fruit.
27. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
29. (informal) Very bad.
31. Roman lyric poet said to have influenced English poetry (65-8 BC).
32. (trademark) A liquid that temporarily disables a person.
33. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
34. Found along western Atlantic coast.
35. The table in Christian churches where communion is given.
37. An informal term for a father.
38. The quantity that a bag will hold.
41. A republic on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean.
42. Type genus of the Amniidae.
45. (biology) Rough to the touch.
46. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
47. The fruit of a variety of winter melon vine.
49. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
52. The compass point that is one point west of northwest.
54. Used by southerners for an inhabitant of a northern state in the United States (especially a Union soldier).
58. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
59. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
60. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
62. A human female who does housework.
63. A network of intersecting blood vessels or intersecting nerves or intersecting lymph vessels.
64. The lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
65. Belonging to some prior time.
68. A machine-readable version of a standard dictionary.
72. A state in New England.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Just because something seems easy doesn't mean it is right. Taking the easy way out can lead to trouble. Not feeling right about the path before you, you may choose the long way around to accomplish your goals. This is a great time in your life to work with others. You may find you are chosen as just the right person to lead a new project at work. Not only are you highly organized, your directional abilities are great. You may be offered a new position or asked to lead a project. Your confidence levels are high now and for good reason.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

What a great day to spend some time with those you love. Enjoy some time sitting around with friends and family. You may find taking a walk down memory lane will bring much laughter into your life today. You live and learn. You have had your share of both. Good times are yours for the taking. You may find yourself extremely sensitive to the needs of others. You find yourself very understanding. Others seem drawn to you today. You are the friend others want to have.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

With your mind set on a hair trigger, you could find yourself making some hasty decisions. Careful not to find yourself in conflict. Tense energy and unusual thoughts may come your way today. You may find that you are indecisive. This is a day best finding ways to relax and slow your roll a bit. Hit the gym. Nervous energy can work to your advantage with pumping iron or doing cardio. Always look for a positive outlet. This is not the day to make any purchases. Leave this for later as you may find that you change your mind over and over today. You may not be sure what you want today, so choose relaxation.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are making a difference in the lives of more people than you realize. You could qualify as a CREEP. That's a good thing, a compliment. It is an acronym for Constantly Ready to Encourage Every Person. You tend to focus on the other person, not on yourself. You send the message "You are enough." Don't change the way you relate to people. Keep doing what you are doing. You don't have to work at it. It comes naturally for you.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Don't be surprised if you cross paths today with someone who just doesn't sit right with you. You have a feeling that something about them just isn't right. You may feel as if you want to get away from this person as soon as possible. Your virtues are simple. You prefer this way of life. Today may be a day you are having difficulty with focus and performing your daily tasks. You seem in a dreamy mood and unable to snap back. Deep in thought you seem to have too much on your mind. This may be a good time to sit back and reorganize and restructure your surroundings and goals. You are in a way shutting down due to an emotional overload.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may not get much praise for the work you are doing. The reasons are more about other people than about you. Don't be discouraged. The important thing is that you will do the work and learn from it. It will not be wasted. The things you learn will serve you in good stead in the future. Be sure your hard work and dedication will pay off.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

When you hear the phone ring today, answer it. You have a friend in need and you are just the person to help them out. You are understanding. There is no issue too personal that your friend feels they can not discuss with you. Your guidance and knowledge are priceless to this person. The first person they feel they need to run to when things go wrong. Be careful not to take on emotional baggage when offering your advice. This is not your circus and these are not your monkeys. You have to remember there is a difference between sympathy and empathy. Use caution, Libra. The weight of the world does not belong on your shoulders.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be feeling a strong desire for change, a need for something new and different. It may be time to throw out the old and start fresh. Let your creative side be your guide. Step above and beyond the boundaries you have allowed yourself to become so comfortable with and let your hair down. You may find those close to you are drawn to the new and different version of you and find great ease when communicating with them. This could be a great time to study and take some time to broaden your intellectual horizons. Reach out to a love one whether by a phone call or possibly a letter. You may find they are very open to what you have to say and old barriers between you have since dissolved.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Don't be surprised if you cross paths today with someone who just doesn't sit right with you. You have a feeling that something about them just isn't right. You may feel as if you want to get away from this person as soon as possible. Your virtues are simple. You prefer this way of life. Today may be a day you are having difficulty with focus and performing your daily tasks. You seem in a dreamy mood and unable to snap back. Deep in thought you seem to have too much on your mind. This may be a good time to sit back and reorganize and restructure your surroundings and goals. You are in a way shutting down due to an emotional overload.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today is a great day to spend with someone you love. You may find yourself very emotional and deep in thought. You are focused on the meaning of life and what your true purpose in this life is. You will find great satisfaction and peace with where you are in life and comfort in the arms of your love one. This should prove to be a very satisfying day for you and one that is overall productive. Barriers may be crossed in your relationship and you may feel you have reached a new level with this person. Your ability to speak and truly be heard will play a major role in this connection being made today.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

As clearly as you can see what direction you want to be headed, you are also able to see the past today. Memories of days gone by seem to flood in. You have come to appreciate the obstacles life has put in your path. You know that the struggles you have faced have only made you stronger. You may develop a strong bond with someone younger today. Your wisdom and life experience will be very beneficial when helping them with a situation they are dealing with.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This could be an open mouth, insert foot kind of day for you. Be sure and think before you speak. This will help you enjoy a more peaceful day. You may find getting your point across to be a little difficult today. This is not a problem you can't overcome. Take the time to truly listen when others speak to you. Choose your words carefully. This could be a simple case of your mind running faster than your mouth can speak. Slow down and think before you speak.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Sci-Fi Movies 3 - Word Search



- | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| AEON FLUX | GAMER | SCANNERS |
| ALIEN NATION | IRON MAN | SPECIES |
| ARMAGEDDON | JUMPER | THE FLY |
| DARK STAR | KING KONG | TIMECRIMES |
| DEATH RACE | MIMIC | TOTAL RECALL |
| DEJA VU | OUTLAND | WATCHMEN |
| FLASH GORDON | PANDORUM | ZARDOZ |
| FREQUENCY | ROLLERBALL | |

Yesterday's Solution

Sci-Fi Movies 2 - Solution



- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| ALIENS | JURASSIC PARK | SLEEPER |
| CLOVERFIELD | KNOWING | SLITHER |
| DEEP IMPACT | MAD MAX | SPHERE |
| EQUILIBRIUM | MEN IN BLACK | STAR TREK |
| FLATLINERS | OUTBREAK | SUNSHINE |
| FREEJACK | PUSH | THE ABYSS |
| GODZILLA | RED PLANET | TIMECOP |
| HULK | SIGNS | |

Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019



Prince Albert of Monaco, Prince Jacques and Princess Gabriella of Monaco pose for photographs during the 20th anniversary of "Bob l'eponge" as part of the 59th Monte-Carlo Television Festival on June 16, 2019 in Monaco. — AFP

CZECH BANJOS, MANDOLINS WIN OVER US BLUEGRASS STARS



Czech craftsman and banjos and mandolins maker, Rosta Capek poses at his workshop in his house in the Czech village of Chouzava, 40km far from Prague. — AFP photos



Rosta Capek works on a mandolin at his workshop in his house in the Czech village of Chouzava.



Rosta Capek works on a mandolin at his workshop in his house in the Czech village of Chouzava.

Star banjo player Ned Luberecki sits back in an armchair at a Prague music hall, contemplates the instrument he's holding, then gently begins strumming. "I'm still waiting on a name for it. I've just decided she's a 'she'. But it should be a Czech name," the American musician says of his six-month-old handmade banjo, crafted in a tiny village tucked away on a Czech mountain range. Luberecki, who was named the 2018 Banjo Player of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA), is one of several renowned artists of the country and western style music to play banjos and mandolins made by Rosta Capek.

The Czech craftsman supplies instruments to the likes of 15-time Grammy winner Ricky Skaggs and Grammy nominee Doyle Lawson, both American bluegrass stalwarts. Chasing away Flatt and Scruggs, his dog and cat named after the famous bluegrass duo formed in its early days in the 1940s, the 51-year-old Capek says he is living his dream. "When Ricky Skaggs, a star of stars and an absolutely fabulous musician for many people, buys an instrument from you, it's fantastic," Capek told AFP, at his workshop in Chouzava, a village about 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of Prague.

American and illicit

Bluegrass was everywhere as Capek was growing up in a small flat in Prague—he would listen on tape to the sounds and songs of Bill Monroe, the originator of the musical style. His father founded and managed ex-Czechoslovakia's first and only women's bluegrass group, in which Capek's mother played banjo. "I was sure I wouldn't be a professional musician. I saw my parents rarely, they had 260 concerts a year. "But my love for musical instruments led me to study at a violin making school," he said.

Capek made his first banjo in 1985 when the country was still under communist rule. He copied his mother's Gibson, one of only two five-string banjos in the country, where all things American were strictly banned. "Mum got the Gibson from a factory where she played a show with her band," Capek said. "Someone brought it there as a sample from the States but they thought it was lousy and that they could make a better one themselves," Capek added with a chuckle.

Czech, please!

Communist rule played a major role in the development of the local bluegrass scene and the music's popularity. Over time, Czechoslovak bluegrass evolved from the country's "tramp" movement that saw hundreds pack up and leave cities to roam the countryside at weekends between the two world wars. Live music became the obvious pastime for long evenings by the campfire.

The slightly more liberal 1960s gave rise to full-blown bluegrass bands with names such as the Greenhorns or Rangers. "The communists wouldn't allow them to sing in English so they wrote Czech lyrics for bluegrass and country standards," said Petr Brandejs, head of the Czech Bluegrass Association. Sung in Czech, songs like "Jesse James", "Orange Blossom Special" or "Folsom Prison Blues" soon found their way into the improvised and spontaneous jam sessions still beloved of many Czechs.

After the 1968 crackdown on the Prague Spring move-

ment by Soviet-led armies, authorities forced bands with English names to change them to Czech ones if they wanted to perform. They did and the music lived on. "People went to the woods to be free even during communism. And when they played this American music there, they were even more free and they also showed opposition to the regime," Brandejs told AFP.



Rosta Capek poses at his workshop in his house in the Czech village of Chouzava.

Bluegrass wedding

Capek sold his first mandolin in the United States in 1995. "The first one paid my air ticket so I was happy, but I still had a long way to go," said the man, who now makes about a dozen mandolins and up to 50 banjos a year. He cites patience, accuracy and a willingness to study other makers' instruments as key to his craft. "When we go to America now, we're confident. We know we have top-quality instruments that the stars like to play," he said.

Last year was special for Capek: he married his long-time assistant at a "bluegrass wedding," his best man being the dobro player Rob Ickes, a 15-time IBMA Award winner. Then in September, Luberecki—who has two custom-made Capek banjos—won his award. "He won it with my banjo. It's the biggest reward I ever got," said Capek, who also organizes bluegrass concerts in Prague. — AFP

Sudanese wrestlers embrace afresh after protest crackdown

Dramatic cheers and boos echoed through a spartan arena in Sudan's capital where hulking wrestlers went head-to-head once more, after a brief hiatus. Captivating a sea of spectators, two of the wrestlers bowed forward before pouncing into one another, trading blows and tumbling to the sandy floor at the Haj Youssef stadium on the edge of Khartoum. Originating in the Nuba mountains, the sport has become wildly popular country-wide in recent years. "People have put football aside and come here to watch Sudanese wrestling because it is about peace, love and fraternity," said Noor Mohammed, who heads the Sudanese wrestling club.

"All the people present here come from all the [different] tribes of Sudan and they love wrestling," he added. The sport was briefly put on hold after the violent dispersal of a sit-in outside army headquarters on June 3 by men in military fatigues, according to protesters. But "over the past few days spectators started flowing back to the arena to watch wrestling matches again," said Altaib Deifallah, a wrestler who has in the game since 1993. Protesters have been demanding Sudan's ruling generals hand over power to civilians after deposing autocrat Omar al-Bashir in early April.



In this file photo from 2013, Japanese diplomat Yasuhiro Murotatsu, aka "Muro" (right) competes against Saleh Omar Bol Tia Kafi aka "Al-Mudiriya" in a Nuba wrestling match in Khartoum. — AFP

Wrestling attracts hundreds of spectators to stadium-some sat in chairs, others on the ground. It is believed to be the most watched sport, after soccer. In 2010, the Sudanese government brought the sport to the capital by building Haj Youssef stadium, which has hosted several matches starring international wrestlers. Professionals from Japan faced off with their Sudanese counterparts in Khartoum in 2014. A year earlier, a Japanese diplomat also joined a thrilling contest before losing the final bout. "We have also participated in international tournaments including in South Korea, Japan, Niger, Egypt and Turkey," said Harba, a wrestler since 1997. "Wrestling has long kept Sudanese people united—it brings thousands to watch weekly and I am sure it will continue to bring more than any other sport," he said. — AFP

'Run OJ Run': 25 years since the world's most famous police chase

It was the car chase that brought a nation screaming to a halt. On June 17, 1994, a white Ford Bronco containing a fugitive OJ Simpson led a convoy of police cars down southern California's freeways—and 95 million Americans couldn't take their eyes off it. Coverage of massive sporting events like the NBA finals and US Open was interrupted with footage of the chase, while Domino's Pizza reported record delivery orders from viewers unwilling to miss a single moment. Twenty-five years later that moment captured by hovering TV helicopters and breathless newsmen, and broadcast around the world, remains an obsession.

But for one viewer, it held a particular fascination. "We were all huddled around and watching, no one was breathing—we just stood there in complete awe and fascination," recalls Kim Goldman, in a new podcast. "It was weird because there (were) people hoping that he would kill himself ... And my dad and I just didn't—we wanted him to be brought in and held accountable." Five days earlier, Goldman's brother Ron had been stabbed to death alongside Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson.

In her 10-part podcast "Confronting OJ Simpson," launched on the anniversary of the killings, Goldman sets

out why she feels justice has not been served. Simpson was famously acquitted in 1995 by a Los Angeles jury in a case decried by many as a media circus which became known as the "Trial of the Century."

The former football star and Hollywood actor's acquittal was greeted with disbelief by many Americans, with opinion on the black athlete's guilt divided sharply along racial lines. Simpson was later found liable for the deaths in a 1997 civil suit and ordered to pay damages to Goldman's family totaling \$33.5 million. The majority remains unpaid.

'Waiting for the collision'

Simpson maintains his innocence and has always denied he was trying to flee during the famous Bronco chase, even though he ignored a police deadline to turn himself in. He told a LAPD detective over the phone during the slow-speed pursuit to "let them all know I wasn't running," but rather visiting Nicole's grave. A duffel bag containing Simpson's passport and cash—as well as a gun—found by police in the car led many to question this, but was never submitted as evidence by the prosecution.



O.J. Simpson

fascination with that kind of event in the States than anywhere else," he added. "It goes back to the days of horseback riding when someone would rob a bank and the sheriff would jump on his horse and chase him."

The car itself, owned by Simpson's friend Al Cowlings who was driving during the pursuit, is on display in a Tennessee crime museum. A Los Angeles tour company reportedly explored the idea of offering rides in the vehicle up and down the same freeways. To the disappointment of fans who gathered on overpasses along the chase route that day with signs saying "Run OJ Run" and "Go OJ," Simpson eventually surrendered. But for Goldman, that has not led to any closure. Simpson, now 71, was released from jail in 2017 after serving nine years behind bars for an unrelated armed robbery. He lives in Las Vegas, where he is regularly spotted playing golf. "People routinely every time I get interviewed say, 'Are you OK now?'" Goldman said. "And I look at them and say 'I know you want me to say yes, and I'm never going to say yes.' Because it's never going to be true."—AFP

For Geoffrey Alpert, a professor at University of South Carolina who studies police chases, Simpson's celebrity heightened a deep-rooted fascination with the idea of a dangerous pursuit. "We're waiting for the collision. No one wants anyone to die but we certainly like to see some mayhem," he told AFP, comparing televised chases to wildly popular Nascar races. "The media has a broader



Visitors walk in the ghost city of Pripjat during a tour in the Chernobyl exclusion zone.



The medical facility in the ghost city of Pripjat where the first victims of Chernobyl disaster were treated after the accident in April 1986.



Visitors buy snacks and souvenirs at a souvenir shop next to the Dytyatky checkpoint after a tour in the Chernobyl exclusion zone.

'I'm no hero', says Chernobyl diver portrayed in hit TV series

In the acclaimed US mini-series "Chernobyl", Oleksiy Ananenko is hailed as one of three men who helped avert an even greater disaster after the worst nuclear accident in history. Now living in a modest one-bedroom apartment on the outskirts of Kiev, Ananenko insisted that what he did was not heroic. "I never felt like a hero. I was doing my job," said the 59-year-old former engineer who in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster took part in a risky operation to drain water from under the power station to prevent a further explosion. In one of the most dramatic episodes of the HBO mini-series, actors playing Ananenko and two other engineers, Valeriy Beshpalov and Boris Baranov, wade through flooded corridors to empty a water tank located three meters (10 feet) below the burning reactor.

On screen, officials inform workers of the imminent danger and the three men volunteer for the mission to prevent "millions" of deaths. Nuclear experts fear a second explosion from super-hot radioactive fuel burning through a concrete floor and reacting with the large amount of water in the tank. In reality, while there were fears of a second explosion, the scale of the potential disaster was unclear at the time. And the three men depicted in the series as volunteering for a suicide mission simply obeyed orders, without being clearly informed about the risks they incurred, he recalled. "I was ordered to go there, so I went," said Ananenko, who with his brown hair and brown eyes does not resemble the blond Icelandic actor Baltasar Breki Samper playing him in the mini-series. "I wasn't afraid," he said.

'We went faster than that'

Protected only by diving equipment and simple respirators, the three men negotiated the partially flooded corridors under the reactor. Using flashlights, they managed to find the locks for the water tank in the dark and quickly opened them. "Immediately I heard a noise that meant the water was draining. That was amazing," Ananenko said. Watching the same scene on screen, he pointed out inaccuracies. "We didn't have them," he said, pointing to the divers' oxygen cylinders.

"And we walked quicker than that. Why quicker? Because if you went slowly, the dose (of absorbed radiation) would be higher." Despite carrying two dosimeters with him, Ananenko said he does not recall the exact figure for the amount of radiation his body absorbed. "That means it wasn't very high," he said. One of the other men on the mission, Baranov, died in 2005 but the third, Beshpalov, is still alive and lives in the same district as Ananenko.

Ananenko did not suffer any serious health problems straight after the mission and he was able to continue to work in the nuclear sector until 2017. But then the

Chernobyl veteran was forced to retire because he was involved in a serious car accident that plunged him into a coma for a month and affected his memory. Decorated with Soviet and Ukrainian medals and full of life and robust despite it all, Ananenko now receives a monthly state pension of around \$417 (369 euros).



The wreckage of a car in the ghost city of Pripjat in the Chernobyl exclusion zone.

Very determined

Meanwhile another former Chernobyl worker, Oleksiy Breus, who was a technician at the fatal fourth reactor, told AFP his impression of the mini-series was "positive on the whole" although he had some specific criticisms. "The nuclear scientists are shown as people who are afraid of everything and afraid of their bosses, but in reality they were very resolute," he insisted. None of the operators fled after the explosion. On the contrary, "new people came to help," he said in Pripjat, the nuclear workers' town near the power station that was evacuated after the incident.

In the disaster's aftermath, "we had to run through a building that was unlit and half-destroyed to save injured colleagues and bring them up to doctors" as well as battle the fire, he recalled. Sergiy Parashyn, a former director of the Chernobyl power station who headed its Soviet Communist Party cell when the disaster occurred, also commented on the show. He spoke to journalists inside the renovated underground bunker that is shown in the series as hosting meetings between power station senior staff and officials, scenes he insisted were unrealistic. "In fact, the specialists were trying to work out what to do, but in the series they are just (shown as) rejecting information," he said.—AFP



A wreckage of a bus in the ghost city of Pripjat during a tour in the Chernobyl exclusion zone.



Visitors walk in the ghost city of Pripjat during a tour in the Chernobyl exclusion zone.



A person visit the underground shelter of Chernobyl nuclear power plant, during a tour in the Chernobyl exclusion zone.—AFP photos



This handout from the Crime Suppression Division of the Royal Thai Police taken on June 15, 2019 and released shows Italian national Francesco Galdelli (center) after he was arrested on the outskirts of Pattaya.—AFP

Italian 'Bonnie and Clyde' arrested in Thailand for Clooney fraud

An Italian who allegedly posed as Hollywood superstar George Clooney to sell clothes online has been arrested with his wife in Thailand after years on the run, police said yesterday. Francesco Galdelli, 58, and Vanja Goffi, 45, were arrested Saturday at a house on the outskirts Pattaya after an operation between Thai and Italian authorities, officials said. "During interrogation, Francesco confessed to claiming to be George Clooney and opening a clothes business to trick people into sending money," a statement from Thailand's Crime Suppression Division said. The couple is also wanted in Italy for multiple

scams including selling fake Rolex watches online, the statement said. They sometimes mocked their victims by sending packets of salt instead of the timepieces.

Their crimes led them to be dubbed the Italian 'Bonnie and Clyde' after the notorious American bank robbers of the Great Depression era. Footage from a police drone showed the pair-wanted on an Interpol red notice since 2013 — carrying a bag as they were taken into custody. They were nabbed after police surrounded their luxury compound in a stakeout using electronic surveillance and a drone, Italian police said in a statement. The

case against the pair stretches back several years after Clooney told a Milan court that the pair—and another accomplice—had fraudulently used his name to promote a fashion range. Pattaya, the Thai town they were found holed up, is infamous as a hideout for gangsters and criminals from across the world. "They stayed in Thailand since 2014 and never left," police said, adding a court will charge them under local immigration laws before extradition proceedings begin.—AFP

Lifestyle | Features

Art expert stakes reputation on 'lost' \$170 million Caravaggio

Art expert Eric Turquin is not only convinced that a canvas found in the attic of an old house in southwest France is a Caravaggio—he believes it is a revolutionary masterpiece. France's leading authority on Old Masters paintings has staked his reputation on the assertion that the work—left forgotten under an old mattress for 100 years—is the fiery Italian artist's lost "Judith and Holofernes". The painting depicting a grisly biblical scene of the beautiful Jewish widow Judith beheading a sleeping Assyrian general will be displayed in Paris on Friday before it goes under the hammer on June 27 in Toulouse, the city where it was discovered five years ago.

Turquin said it should sell for between 100 and 150 million euros (up to \$170 million). "Not only is it a Caravaggio, but of all the Caravaggios that are known today, this is one of the great pictures," he insisted. "The painting is in an extraordinarily good state, much better than the Caravaggios I have seen in Naples," he told AFP. But although everyone agrees on the quality of the work, a minority of experts—particularly in Italy—have their doubts. They believe it is a copy made by the Flemish artist Louis Finson, who worked alongside Caravaggio as he painted. But Turquin is adamant it is the original from 1606 whose existence was first noted in letters between Italian dukes and art dealers four centuries ago.

'Turning point'

He is more convinced than ever since the canvas was cleaned in January, a process that took three weeks. On top of X-rays, the cleaning "has shown that the painting was changed a lot as it was painted, with lots of retouching. That proves it is an original," Turquin said. "Copyists don't make changes like that, they copy," he added. A less virtuosic version of the scene by Finson hangs at the Palazzo Zevallos in Naples. Standing in front of what has been called the "Toulouse Caravaggio" in a strongroom above his Paris office, Turquin showed the telltale trace of how the artist had changed his mind about which way Judith should be looking.

"After five years of reflection, no one has put up a counter-argument," said the expert, accusing the Italian doubters of "pronouncing against the painting without seeing it. They say it's impossible because Caravaggio



Workers carry a painting believed by some experts to be Caravaggio's "Judith Beheading Holofernes" for its public presentation at the Drouot auction house in Paris on June 14, 2019 before it goes under the hammer on June 27 in Toulouse, the city where it was discovered five years ago. — AFP photos



A woman looks at a detail of a painting believed to be the "Judith Beheading Holofernes" by Italian artist Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio presented along with a copy of the painting by Flemish artist Louis Finson (not seen).

Painted (no more than) 65 canvases... For them the history of art is set." Turquin said the painting marked a turning point in Caravaggio's development as an artist. The fiercely original painter had created his first canvas on the theme, the far more formal "Judith Beheading Holofernes" in 1598, which hangs at the Palazzo Barberini in Rome.

Condemned to death

But by 1606 Caravaggio's life had changed dramatically, and he was on the run for murder. He fled to Naples after being condemned to death for stabbing a man in a street brawl in Rome. "He was painting faster, more spontaneously and more strikingly," said Turquin, adding that the painting reflects his now darker view of life. "In one place,

he made a brushstroke nearly a metre long. He did Judith's sleeve and the lace on it in one go. He was a virtuoso with the paintbrush.

"He changed his style, painting 'risparmio' (sparingly), using the black background and painting accentuating strokes onto it. This is particularly visible on the sheet." Other experts have speculated that Finson could have added his own touches to the canvas after Caravaggio left suddenly for Malta in 1607, where he hoped he might be safer from his enemies. Turquin said that he kept the "Toulouse Caravaggio" in his bedroom for 16 months "while art historians, insurers and restorers came to view it.

"We wanted to wait until we were sure before coming

forward" and announcing the discovery to the world in April 2016 after the Italian Caravaggio expert Nicola Spinosa also gave it his imprimatur. The painting will be sold in Toulouse by Marc Labarbe, the provincial auctioneer who discovered it after a local family asked him to value some "old things in the attic" of a house they were clearing. The family—who have not been named—believe it may have been brought to France by one of their ancestors, an officer in Napoleon's army. The Corsican invaded the then Kingdom of Naples in 1806 and put his brother Joseph on the throne. — AFP



A visitor seats facing an artwork by Andrea Bowers entitled "Open Secret" during a preview day of Art Basel, the world's premier modern and contemporary art fair, in Basel. — AFP photos

Women artists bring #MeToo reckoning to Basel fair

Mannequins display inflatable, white airbag dresses created to protect women from workplace harassment, while nearby details of the alleged sexual misdeeds of 170 public figures cover four long walls, splashed in red. The #MeToo movement that exploded on the global stage in late 2017 has inspired several works exhibited at this year's Art Basel, the world's biggest contemporary art fair, which opens to the public on Thursday. Women artists have taken centre stage at the show's 50th edition, with in-your-face installations expressing disgust and exasperation at persisting gender inequalities and culturally condoned abuse and harassment of women.



The installation by artist Alicia Framis.

Spanish artist Alicia Framis has filled a room with delicate, white mannequins wearing different styles of dresses made from airbag material, which inflate to protect different parts of the female body. The piece called "Life Dress" consists of dresses "to protect women in all work situations where there is some kind of abuse," Framis told AFP. The 52-year-old artist said she had spoken with victims of harassment and abuse and allowed their stories to inspire the dress designs, using "fashion to demonstrate against violence."

Where Framis uses humor to spotlight abuse, Los Angeles-based artist Andrea Bowers's massive archival project "Open Secrets" radiates rage. It consists of reams of photographic prints on red backgrounds, each listing the name and occupation of a public figure accused of sexual harassment or abuse, their public response to the accusations and details of the case.

'Rape culture'

Disgraced film mogul Harvey Weinstein, whose misconduct first sparked the #MeToo movement, has two full panels dedicated to his long list of alleged misdeeds. US President Donald Trump also figures in the piece, as do his predecessors Bill Clinton and George Bush Senior, two Supreme Court justices, as well as actors, journalists, musi-

cians and other public figures. "I just felt like the #MeToo movement is perhaps one of the most important feminist movements of my lifetime," Bowers told AFP, explaining her inspiration for the piece.

The 54-year-old self-described feminist activist artist said she had been shocked to realize "what it was like for me growing up, that it was rape culture, where ... young men were given permission to sexually violate me and my friends." With the #MeToo movement, such behavior is finally "being acknowledged," she said. "I hope that it's a historic shift." During a preview earlier this week, men in particular lingered in front of the piece which covers two long walls, back and front, in the middle of the fair's Unlimited exhibition space.

"You can see a lot of men standing here and being a bit unsure how to react," said Vanja Oberhoff, a young German art investor standing among some dozen men gazing at the articles. "It's a very strong piece," he told AFP. Not all reactions have been positive. Helen Donahue, who in 2017 tweeted out photographs of herself bearing the marks of alleged abuse by freelance columnist Michael Hafford, voiced outrage that Bowers had used one of the pictures.

"Cool that my f***ing photos and trauma are heading art basel thx for exploiting us for 'art' ANDREA BOWERS," she tweeted on Tuesday. Bowers, who insists on the importance of trusting survivors, quickly issued an apology for not seeking Donahue's consent before using the picture and removed the panel from the exhibit.

'Equalization'?

The artist also told AFP that showing her piece at Art Basel had been more challenging than she had expected. The VIP opening of the show drew "some of the richest people in the world, and they actually know many of the people on the walls, because these are also some of the most powerful people in the world," Bowers said. "This is an emotional piece for a lot of people here because it is very personal." The piece shows "we have to change our thinking, and not everybody is ready to do that... There is still a lot more work to be done."

This year's Art Basel is also abuzz with discussion about disparities between the prices raked in for pieces made by male and female artists, as well as access to gallery representation. Clare McAndrew, a cultural economist who writes the annual Art Market Report released each year ahead of Art Basel, told AFP that women still face "stark under-representation" in the art world. "Only five percent of the work sold last year at auction were by female artists, and the higher up the price point you go, the worse that gets," she said, adding that even at galleries only showing contemporary art, women account for about a third of the represented artists.

Marc Glimcher, who heads Pace Gallery, a global leader in contemporary art, acknowledged that the most talented women artists have long made only about a 10th of the amount made by contemporary male artists, if they were lucky. But he told AFP that "an equalization is taking place". "The market recognizes that there was an arbitrary depression of value, and a possible opportunity," — AFP

Old Masters rare at auction

The sale at auction of old masterpieces is extremely rare, with most such works already held by museums or public collections. Of 311 pieces ever to have surpassed the \$30 million (26.6 million euro) mark at auction, only 13 were by Old Masters, the leading painters in Europe before 1800, according to an AFP database. These include paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Rembrandt and Vermeer. A painting believed by some experts to be Caravaggio's "Judith Beheading Holofernes" is being presented in Paris on Friday ahead of its auction in the southern city of Toulouse.

It was discovered in a Toulouse attic in 2014 and is could join this elite club. In comparison, 142 of those that fetched more than \$30 million are by Impressionist or modern artists and 132 are contemporary. They include 32 paintings by Pablo Picasso, 27 by Andy Warhol, 23 by Francis Bacon and 21 by Mark Rothko.

Already in museums

Old masterpieces are rare at auction today because many entered museums or public collections in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, French art market expert Patrick Michel told AFP. Bought by museums or acquired through donations, such pieces generally do not return to the market. Another factor is that many Old Masters, such as Leonardo and Vermeer, did not produce a body of work as large as that of some contemporary artists. An

example is American painter Jean-Michel Basquiat, who died aged 27 in 1988 but has had hundreds of works sold at auction for more than a million dollars in recent years.

Doubts

Authenticating the artist behind older works sometimes poses problems, Michel said. "Many old paintings are not attributed with certainty to one single painter, which often gives rise to disputes between experts," he said. This is the case with "Judith and Holofernes". Some believe it is a long-lost masterpiece by the Renaissance painter (1571-1610) but others think it may be a fake, perhaps a copy by one of his Franco-Flemish disciples. Some art experts have also expressed doubt about the authenticity of a painting attributed to Leonardo, "Salvator Mundi", which sold for a world record \$450 million at auction in November 2017.

Michel said the market for old art was "filled with works of average or poor quality for which there are no longer any buyers". By contrast, the "very rare" masterpieces that come along attract enormous interest. "As soon as a painting that seems important arrives on the market, all the major institutions of the world—museums in the United States, Britain and now the Emirates—sharpen their knives, financially speaking," he said. — AFP

Emporio Armani's men's spring/summer 2020 fashion collection



Models present creations for fashion house Emporio Armani during the presentation of its men's spring/summer 2020 fashion collection in Milan on June 15, 2019. — AFP photos



A worker sorting newspapers and magazines for recycling at a waste center in the town of Kamikatsu, Tokushima prefecture. — AFP photos



Separated metal items at a waste center in the town of Kamikatsu, Tokushima prefecture.



A worker stacking sheets of compacted aluminum cans at a waste center in the town of Kamikatsu, Tokushima prefecture.



Bottles separated into drums at a waste centre in the town of Kamikatsu, Tokushima prefecture.



Kazuyuki Kiyohara, manager of a waste center, placing plastic waste into a compacting machine in the town of Kamikatsu, Tokushima prefecture.



Workers sorting trash at a waste centre in the town of Kamikatsu, Tokushima prefecture.

Getting to zero: The Japan town trying to recycle all its waste

Plastic, paper, metal? In Japan's Kamikatsu, sorting rubbish isn't that simple. Residents face a mind-boggling 45 separate categories for their garbage as the town aims to be "zero-waste" by 2020. And that's not all: there isn't even trash collection. The 1,500 residents of the town in western Japan have to transport their waste themselves to a local facility. "Yes, it's complicated," said Naoko Yokoyama, a 39-year-old resident who had brought her trash to the town's waste center. "But I have become more environmentally conscious since I moved here a year ago," she told AFP.

The categories cover everything from pillows to toothbrushes as the town aims to recycle all its waste, sending nothing to incinerators, by next year. The process can be onerous—not only are there dozens of separate categories, but items like plastic bags and bottles must be washed and dried to facilitate recycling. At the town's waste facility, there are dozens of different boxes for each category. If the parts of an item fall into different categories for recycling, residents are expected to take them apart and send each bit to the right container.

One man who had brought in a shelf had to use a hammer to prise the wood from the metal, while elsewhere workers chopped up a thick, long rubber tube so it would fit into a sorting box. Many parts of Japan already require separation of rubbish, but most areas have just a few categories, with the bulk of household waste going to incinerators.

'Let's recycle'

Kamikatsu was not much different until an ultimatum: in 2000, the town was ordered to shut down one of its incinerators because it no longer met stricter emissions standards. That left the town with just one incinerator that couldn't handle all of Kamikatsu's waste, and there wasn't enough money for a new one or to pay a neighboring town for use of theirs. "We thought, 'If we can't burn waste in the town,

then let's recycle.' It's cheaper to recycle waste than burn it," said town official Midori Suga. Kamikatsu is already close to achieving its goal, recycling about 80 percent of the 286 tons of waste it produced in 2017, far more than the national average of 20 percent.

The remainder, like most waste in Japan, is incinerated, as the country's mountainous terrain considered unsuitable for landfills.

The nation produces less general waste per person than most developed countries, but it generates more plastic waste per capita than anywhere except the United States. In the past, some plastic was exported for recycling, particularly to China, but a ban by Beijing on imports has left plastic recyclables piling up in parts of Japan.

Still, not all residents think the initiative could work elsewhere. "It works because we're only 1,500 people here," said Yokoyama, who moved from Kyoto. "It would be difficult in a big town with a larger population," she added, because authorities would struggle to enforce it.

Reduce consumption

But other residents say the policy is just common sense. "I understand it's convenient to just burn waste," said 71-year-old local Saeko Takahashi, as she washed milk cartons and tied newspapers together. "It's better to recycle, it's such a waste otherwise," she explained. She uses a compost bin for food waste such as fish and meat and throws vegetable waste directly into her garden. "Food lasts longer when it's shipped in plastic packaging. So it's not all bad, but multiple layers of plastic aren't necessary," added Takahashi.

Kazuyuki Kiyohara, manager of the waste center, said plastic makes up the majority of the residents' waste—and despite the scheme there has been little reduction in consumption. "Our lifestyle depends mainly on plastic," the 38-year-old said, adding: "Consumers can reduce plastic waste to a certain extent, but we'll still have waste if producers keep making

plastic products." In 2018, Japan's government unveiled a proposal to tackle plastic waste, with the goal of reducing the 9.4 million tonnes produced by the country each year by a quarter by 2030. The plan proposes that retailers should charge for plastic bags—a measure already widely adopted around the world—but that isn't expected to come into effect before 2020 and other types of plastic packaging won't be covered.



A stack of compacted aluminum cans at a waste center in the town of Kamikatsu, Tokushima prefecture.

Town official Suga said even Kamikatsu will struggle to achieve zero-waste without stronger efforts to reduce consumption. She said: "We have made efforts to achieve zero incineration and zero landfill disposal goals, but it's not enough." She explained: "We shouldn't focus just on how to dispose of trash. We need to come up with policies that prevent the production of waste." — AFP

Japan's anime industry in crisis even as its popularity soars

Japan's booming animation industry is in crisis—with low pay, long hours and a huge shortage of artists—just as its global popularity has never been higher. Three of the 10 feature films in the running for top prize at the world's most important animation festival in Annecy in France—which ends Saturday—are from Japan. The country is the only real challenger to Hollywood's dominance of the labor-intensive genre. But just as Japanese anime seemed to be threatening to loosen Pixar and Disney's grip on the popular imagination with the likes of the teen mega hit "Your Name" and a Nintendo Super Mario movie in the pipeline, long-running structural problems are in danger of sapping its rise.

holds. Miyazaki blazed an arthouse trail with such animated classics as the Oscar-winning "Spirited Away", "Howl's Moving Castle" and the fabulous "My Neighbour Totoro".

Creative burn-out

But Yoshiaki Nishimura, a former Miyazaki stalwart who produced the Oscar-nominated "The Tale of The Princess Kaguya", told AFP that the industry was struggling to "face up to a lack of animators, bad working conditions and perhaps a lack of creativity". His peers also complain of low pay, a paucity of emerging young talent and burn-out in overworked animation teams who often put in 12- to 18-hour days. Rising star Keiichi Hara, who showed his new film "The Wonderland" at Annecy after winning the jury prize there four years ago with "Miss Hokusai", feared for the future.

"Perhaps the biggest problem in the Japanese animation industry is that there are no more young animators," he warned. Ayumu Watanabe—whose beautiful "The Children of the Sea" was shown out of competition at the festival—worried about visual "standardisation" and lack of originality, not helped by the fact that "fewer and fewer animators can draw well by hand."

Even industry heavyweights like Mamoru Hosoda, the genius behind "Wolf Children", "The Boy and the Beast" and "The Girl who Leapt Through Time", have to put in punishingly long hours with relatively tiny teams. He told AFP last year that his latest hit "Mirai" was inspired by his wife complaining that she was a widow to his work, calling him to account for leaving her "to bring up my son on her own".

'Your Name' follow-up

Watanabe said that the industry has split into two extremes: "Big productions who can call on an incredible number of animators and at the other end of the scale, and more artistic projects that have a lot less money." All eyes

later this year will be on the release of "Weathering with You", Makoto Shinkai's fantasy follow-up to the record-breaking "Your Name", now the highest-grossing Japanese film of all time.

Its production team unveiled a sneak preview of the supernatural story at Annecy, with a high-school runaway meeting a girl who can change the weather. With a live-action version of "Your Name" in the works and US television about to remake the cult Japanese series "Train Man" about an anime-obsessed youth, the genre has never been closer to the international mainstream. Nishimura said that he has tried to keep the "Ghibli style and spirit going... with a mix of hand-drawn and computer animation" at Studio Ponoc, which he set up after Miyazaki—a heavy smoker who was having health problems—first hung up his pencil in 2013.

New surfer story a hit

It scored its first hit in 2017 with "Mary and the Witch's Flower" and Nishimura premiered a series of new shorts at Annecy. For him, the industry's woes are "the result of an accumulation of problems over the last five to 10 years", but he insisted his studio was trying to "create a new environment". And as the wowed audiences at Annecy for Masaaki Yuasa's touching "Ride Your Wave" proved, despite its problems Japanese anime can still get things very right.

The story of love, surfing and grief struck a huge cord with critics at the French festival. Amel Lacombe, whose company Eurozoom is a key French animation distributor, said the industry's travails are due to its rapid growth, and now "we are in a period of adjustment". She believes that the Japanese authorities are waking up to anime's importance and global reach "as an export force". — AFP



People queue in the hall of Bonlieu during the International Animated Film Festival in Annecy, French Alps.

With talk of a talent shortage, its greatest star, the legendary Studio Ghibli founder Hayao Miyazaki, has come out of retirement at 78 to make "How Do You Live?"—which may be released next year—with speculation that he could take on another feature if his health



A person watches a Virtual Reality movie in Annecy during the Annecy International Animation Film Festival.



In this file photo US animator and director of "Playmobil le film" Lino Di Salvo, poses in Annecy at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival. — AFP photos

Classifieds

Monday, June 17, 2019

Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 16/06/2019 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	47 °C	35 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	28 °C		
ABDALY	48 °C	30 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	49 °C	32 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	47 °C	30 °C		
SALMIYAH	43 °C	33 °C		
AHMADI	42 °C	36 °C		
NUWAISIB	45 °C	32 °C		
WAFRA	48 °C	29 °C		
SALMY	48 °C	31 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	MAX. Temp.	MIN. Temp.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Monday	06/17	Very hot	48 °C	29 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Tuesday	06/18	Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	48 °C	30 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Wednesday	06/19	Very hot with a chance for rising dust	47 °C	32 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Thursday	06/20	Very hot with a chance for rising dust	47 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:13
Sunrise	04:49
Zuhr	11:49
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:49
Isha	20:22

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	28 °C
MAX. RH	21 %
MIN. RH	07 %
MAX. Wind	SE 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

WANTED
FRESH ENGINEER
 Required fresh engineer For Low Voltage Electrical System, such as ITV & IPTV, MATV, PA, BGM, A/V, CCTV system etc.
 Fluency in English is a must
 E-mail: saleskuwait019@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME
 Melissa Jessica. (C 5550)
 14-6-2019
MATRIMONIAL
 Marriage proposal for a Christian/Born Again girl settled in USA. Proposal invited for an Orthodox/Born Again Keralite girl, born and raised in Kuwait, 35 years of age, 164cm height, medical graduate and currently in family business. We invite alliance from professionally qualified, God-fearing Christian bachelors willing to relocate to USA. If interested kindly contact email: joberna33@yahoo.com. (C 5552) 17-6-2019

I, Melissa Jessica, Mangaf, Block 4, Street 25, Flat 13, Floor 5, Kuwait, holder of Indian Passport No. J5549911, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare, the name change as Surname Rodrigues and given name

Airlines	
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Watanija 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

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

Arrival Flights on Monday 17/6/2019				Departure Flights on Monday 17/6/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	AXB	790	CNN	13:10
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
KAC	102	London	00:50	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	IRA	600	Tehran	14:10
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	RJA	645	Amman	14:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	FDB	673	Dubai	14:50
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	UAE	878	Doha	15:30
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KAC	105	London	15:55
JZR	502	Lahore	02:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	JZR	405	Kochi	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
RBG	1551	Alexandria	03:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	KAC	547	Alexandria	16:45
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	FEG	242	Istanbul	16:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	KAC	621	Doha	17:50
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
KAC	873	Dubai	05:40	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	261	Beirut	19:10
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
IGO	1755	CNN	07:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	714	Sohag	07:20	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
RBG	211	Luxor	07:25	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
MSC	401	Alexandria	08:00	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
IRA	601	Tehran	08:10	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JZR	710	Luxor	08:45	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	334	Trivandrum	09:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
QTR	1079	Doha	09:20	RBG	210	Sohag	21:35
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	JAV	621	Amman	21:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	10:40	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FEG	1641	Sharm el-Sheikh	11:00	THY	1413	Trabzon	22:25
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
THY	1282	Trabzon	11:05	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	JZR	407	Ahmedabad	22:40
AXB	789	CNN/Bahrain	12:10	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	SVA	515	Riyadh	23:25
				JZR	503	Jeddah	23:45
					701	Asyut	23:45

Massive blackout hobbles South America, power trickling back

BUENOS AIRES: Power began to trickle back into the grid by midday after a massive blackout hit Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay early yesterday, leaving tens of millions without power, authorities said. Argentina's grid "collapsed" around 7 am local time (1100 GMT), leaving the entire country without power, Argentina's Energy Secretariat said in a statement. The outage also cut electricity to swaths of neighboring Uruguay and Paraguay.

Energy distributors in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, whose populations total nearly 55 million, said power was being restored to major cities, including Montevideo and Buenos Aires. Argentina's energy agency said in a statement it had begun investigating the causes of the outage, but had not provided further details by midday. Energy company Edesur Argentina said it had returned service to 450,000 of its clients in the greater Buenos Aires area by noon local time (1600 GMT), but called the outage "exceptional" and said it would likely take the rest of the day before power was completely restored.

Uruguay power company UTE said on social media that power had returned to parts of Montevideo and the southern coast of Uruguay. In Paraguay, the capital of Asuncion was unaffected by the outage but local providers said they were restoring power to smaller cities and rural areas. The massive blackout on Father's Day left Buenos Aires dark early this morning, hobbling public transportation, cutting off water supply and crippling phone and internet communications across the city.

Images from social media showed long lines of cars at the few service stations still in operation in Argentina's capital city and traffic lights dark, creating chaos in places even on a normally quiet Sunday. "The city is a

disaster. There are no traffic lights. Stores aren't open. It spoiled Father's Day," said 75-year-old retiree Liliana Comis, of Buenos Aires.

It is Father's Day in Argentina and some restaurants were expecting many customers. The Tobago bar in the Boedo neighborhood of Buenos Aires had been fully booked for lunch. "It had to happen today," said 60-year-old waiter Pedro Salinas. "They've cut off our legs," he added, using a famous phrase uttered by football great Diego Maradona when he was kicked out of the 1994 World Cup after testing positive for drugs.

The outage also spilled over into local and national politics. Alberto Fernandez, a Peronist presidential candidate looking to unseat incumbent Mauricio Macri in this year's hotly contested election, tweeted that "the President should...give an explanation for what Argentines are suffering". Macri had yet to make a statement on social media as of late morning in Argentina. Argentina's Energy Secretariat said in a statement mid-morning yesterday that it expected power to be restored in several hours.

Elsewhere in Argentina, several provinces were forced to temporarily delay local elections slated for yesterday. Argentine state oil company YPF did not immediately respond to requests for comments on how the outage had impacted its operations. Argentina is home to the Vaca Muerta shale formation, one of the world's biggest reserves of shale gas and oil. A spokesman for Brazil's power system operator (ONS) said the outage had not impacted the regional neighbor to the north. Argentina and Uruguay have a common power grid centered on the bi-national Salto Grande dam, 450 km north of Buenos Aires. — Agencies



BUENOS AIRES: Downtown Buenos Aires is seen during a power cut yesterday. — AFP

Bibi unveils 'Trump Heights'...

Continued from Page 1

family's legal woes are far from over - the veteran premier himself faces possible indictment for bribery, fraud and breach of trust in the coming months. In a deal approved by judge Avital Chen at Jerusalem magistrates' court, Sara Netanyahu was found guilty of using the errors of government accounting staff to bypass spending restrictions. She was fined 10,000 shekels (\$2,800) and ordered to reimburse the state a further 45,000 shekels.

Although her husband is a millionaire she asked for payment to be deferred and the judge allowed her to pay in monthly installments beginning in September. "The deal reached between the sides is worthy and appropriately reflects the deeds and their severity on the criminal level," Chen said in his ruling. The 60-year-old, a high-profile presence at her husband's side throughout his long tenure in office, was initially charged in June 2018 with fraud and breach of trust for paying \$100,000 for meals from well-known Jerusalem businesses. She had done so while falsely declaring there was no cook available at the PM's official residence.

The amended indictment, approved yesterday, dropped the graft charges, replacing them with "obtaining a benefit by deliberately exploiting the mistake of another person". "Despite the fact that cooks were employed at the residence the accused instructed staff at the residence, as a matter of normal practice, to order prepared meals from restaurants for herself, her family and visitors." The tiny courtroom at the Jerusalem magistrates' court was packed with journalists. "As in every plea bargain, each side makes concessions, sometimes hard concessions," prosecutor Erez Padan said. "It is right and proper for the public interest

to bring this case to an end."

Netanyahu's attorney Yossi Cohen told the court his client had already been heavily punished by the media. "Four years of ugly leaks and denigrations" constituted "inhuman punishment", he said. "No other person could have withstood this, this lady is made of steel," Cohen added. Sara Netanyahu has a reputation for finding legal loopholes to receive state funding for her household's relatively high expenses. "On a number of occasions she instructed that restaurant chefs be brought in to cook for guests at the residence, all in deliberate exploitation of the bookkeepers' mistakes," the amended charge sheet said. The caterers included an Italian restaurant, a Middle Eastern grill joint and a sushi house.

The prosecution attorneys put a positive face on what was generally considered a good outcome for Sara Netanyahu yesterday. "The significance of this ruling is that a person with access to public funds, as senior as they may be, cannot use them as their own," Padan's co-counsel Jenny Avni told reporters outside the courtroom. "Taking significant amounts of public funds over several years, in violation of the rules and procedures, is a criminal offence carrying with it a conviction and a real financial penalty."

Sara Netanyahu is also being sued by a former cleaner who claims the premier's wife mistreated her. In 2016 a court awarded some \$47,000 in damages to a former housekeeper who accused her of repeated workplace abuse in a similar case. Separately, Benjamin Netanyahu is facing possible indictment for bribery, fraud and breach of trust in the months ahead. Two people wearing t-shirts with the message "crime minister" were barred from entering the court for his wife's hearing yesterday.

He is reportedly seeking legislation that would result in him being granted immunity. However, he was unable to form a coalition following an April general election, and Israel is now gearing up for September polls. In a Facebook post late Saturday, he declared his wife a "real heroine" who was "a punching bag for the media". — AFP

Riyadh blames Iran for tanker attacks...

Continued from Page 1

The United States is going to make sure that we take all the actions necessary, diplomatic and otherwise, that achieve that outcome," Pompeo said. "We don't want a war. We've done what we can to deter this," Pompeo said. "The Iranians should understand very clearly that we will continue to take actions that deter Iran from engaging in this ... kind of behavior."

The secretary would not lay out US evidence for Iran's involvement in the Gulf of Oman explosions, but insisted: "It's unmistakable what happened here. These were attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran on commercial shipping, on the freedom of navigation, with the clear intent to deny transit through the strait." Some allies, skeptical of US intentions, have said they wanted to see more evidence before reaching a conclusion. "I will concede that there are countries that wish this would just go away," Pompeo said. He expressed confidence that "as we continue to develop the fact pattern, countries around the world will not only accept the basic facts, which I think are indisputable, but will come to understand that this is an important mission for the world."

Earlier yesterday, Iran's parliament speaker said that Washington could have been behind the "suspicious" tanker attacks, the official news agency IRNA reported. "The suspicious actions against the tankers... seem to complement the economic sanctions against Iran considering that (the US) has not achieved any results from them," Ali Larijani told MPs. He backed his claim by saying there had been a precedent "during World War II, when Americans targeted their own ships near Japan to create an excuse for hostility". A non-belligerent state at the beginning of World War II, the US went to war after Japan's surprise attack on the American Pearl Harbor base in Hawaii on the morning of Dec 7, 1941.

Adam Schiff, head of the House Intelligence Committee and a leading Democratic critic of the administration, said the evidence of Iranian involvement "is very strong and compelling". "And in fact, I think this was a Class-A screw-up by Iran to insert a mine on the ship," he said on CBS's "Face the Nation". "It didn't detonate, they had to go back and retrieve it. I can imagine there are some Iranian heads rolling from that botched operation," he said. The administration's struggle to persuade its allies, however, "shows just how isolated the United States has become," he added.

The Saudi crown prince also accused "Iran and its proxies" over May 12 attacks on four tankers anchored in the Gulf of Oman off the UAE port of Fujairah. Attacks on Saudi Arabia by Iran-aligned Yemeni rebels have further fuelled tensions in the region. On Friday, the kingdom intercepted five drones launched by the Houthi rebels, a Riyadh-led coalition said, in a second assault on an airport in the country's southwest in two days. The drones targeted Abha airport, where a rebel missile on Wednesday left 26 civilians wounded, and the nearby city of Khamis Mushait, which houses a major airbase, the coalition said.

A Yemeni rebel drone targeting Abha was also intercepted Saturday, but it caused no casualties or damage. The Houthi rebels declared drone attacks on the airports of Abha and southern Jizan city, with a spokesman on rebel-run Al-Masirah TV promising "painful days" for the Saudi regime in response to its bombing campaign in Yemen. The rebels claimed their drones targeted a fuel station at Abha airport and control rooms for unmanned aerial vehicles at Jizan airport.

The US military said in its statement yesterday that one of its drones was shot down over Yemen by Houthi rebels on June 6. The rebels, who have faced persistent coalition bombing since March 2015 that has exacted a heavy civilian death toll, have stepped up attacks across the border in recent weeks. Prince Mohammed said Saudi Arabia would "not accept the presence of militias on its borders". Riyadh has repeatedly accused Tehran of arming the rebels with sophisticated weapons, a charge the Islamic republic denies. — Agencies

Heat wave hits Iraq, and sparks...

Continued from Page 1

In Dhi Qar, a province south of Baghdad, the cuts have hit public hospitals, said provincial health chief Abdel Hassan Al-Jaberi. "People are hesitating to come to the hospital because the electricity is cutting 17 times per day," he told AFP. Private clinics purchase their own generators to keep machines running during the outages, but these remain unaffordable for many of Iraq's 40 million citizens. Some people are buying fewer groceries, fearing they'll spoil if it's too hot and the power goes out.

"Everyone is buying less," said Abu Haydar, a shopkeeper in Nasiriyah, Dhi Qar's largest city. Like most residents, he gets up to 12 hours of state-provided electricity per day and supplements them by paying for a generator so his wares don't go bad. Further south in the oil-rich province of Basra, the heat has reached life-threatening levels. Oil companies have hoisted purple flags above their facilities to signal the highest possible danger levels for those working on the fields given the heat wave.

Even Iraq's football league has been forced to make adjustments for its national championship, which falls dur-

ing the summer months. There are dozens of outdoor arenas, but only five of them have the floodlights necessary for nighttime games and athletes are forced to play during the day. That puts them at risk of dehydration, heatstroke and other conditions, says sports nutritionist and football coach Lotfi Moussawi.

"The players suffer from hypoglycemia, breathing problems, and extreme fatigue that could even reach the point of fainting," Moussawi told AFP. To mitigate the risks, referees pause matches every 15 minutes to allow players a sip of water and a few moments in the shade. "Players then undergo medical and physical examinations" to make sure the heat has not left any adverse after-effects, says Khayam Al-Khazari. Khazari is the communications head for Al-Kahraba, one of Iraq's several dozen football clubs, many of which are linked to government bodies.

"Al-Kahraba," ironically, means "electricity" - a club named after its patron, Iraq's strapped power ministry. The ministry is in the public's crosshairs every summer due to outages, which occur year-round but are more common and damaging during the hot months. The United States has granted Iraq another 90-day waiver to continue with vital energy imports from neighboring Iran despite re-imposed sanctions, a government source said Saturday. The extension came after "long discussions" with Washington ahead of a looming deadline on a previous extension granted in December, the official, close to the negotiations, told AFP. — AFP

Bashir charged with corruption...

Continued from Page 1

fatigues on June 3, according to witnesses. More than 100 people were killed that day in Khartoum, according to doctors linked to the protest movement, while the health ministry put the nationwide death toll at 61. Protesters and witnesses accuse the feared paramilitary group led by Dagalo, the Rapid Support Forces, of carrying out the assault on demonstrators. Demonstrators and US officials have called for an independent probe into the crackdown.

On Thursday, military council spokesman General Shamseddine Kabbashi expressed "regret" over the crackdown. But the council insists it did not order the dispersal, saying it had actually planned to purge an area near the protest camp where people are said to sell drugs. "The planning of the operation of Colombia (area) was done by military and security authorities," the council said in a statement late Saturday. "We assure you that

the council is keen to investigate minute by minute facts through its investigation committee."

Brigadier Abderrahim Badreddine, spokesman for the investigative committee, told state television Saturday initial findings indicate that "officers and soldiers of different ranks and regular forces" had entered the sit-in without any orders from their superiors. As calls for an independent probe grew, Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit visited Khartoum yesterday, where the military council said he met its chief General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

Bashir had swept to power in an Islamist-backed coup in 1989. Sudan suffered high rates of corruption during his rule, ranking 172 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index. When he imposed a state of emergency on February 22 in a bid to quell protests that erupted in December over the spiralling costs, Bashir issued a decree making it illegal to possess more than \$5,000 in foreign currency. But in April, military council chief Burhan said more than \$113 million worth of cash in three currencies had been seized from Bashir's residence after he was toppled. A team of police, army and security agents found seven million euros (\$7.8 million), \$350,000 and five billion Sudanese pounds (\$105 million). — AFP

Poll: Trump trailing Biden...

Continued from Page 1

and Wisconsin. Trump's campaign recently dismissed leaked data from its own pollsters showing Biden with double-digit leads in battleground states. The campaign at first denied the data, but then acknowledged it, branding it as "ancient" because it dated from March.

But the new CBS poll confirms a clear Biden lead in battleground states among Democratic voters, as the crowded race for that party's nomination begins to take shape. A belief among Democratic voters that Biden is best positioned to defeat Trump in 2020 was cited by three-quarters of Democrats as a decisive factor in their support.

The CBS News/YouGov Battleground Tracker survey, conducted May 31 to June 12, said Biden had the backing of 31 percent of Democratic primary voters in 18 key early-voting states. Biden was trailed by senators Elizabeth Warren (17 percent), Sanders (16 percent) and Kamala Harris (10 percent). The poll, with a 1.5 percent margin of error, looked at states including Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina - which hold primary elections in February, at the top

of the electoral calendar - as well as states in the upper Midwest, where Trump eked out narrow but decisive victories in 2016.

Elizabeth Warren has been steadily rising in the polls, only recently reaching statistical equivalency with Sanders, whose support has been slipping. Sanders acknowledged on Sunday that "polls go up and polls go down" but insisted that the survey showed he was the strongest candidate to defeat Trump. "I think we can win in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan and some of the other battleground states," the self-styled democratic socialist said on "Fox News Sunday".

Democrats begin more earnestly winnowing down their field of nearly two dozen candidates when they hold successive nights of televised debates on June 26 and 27. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the 29-year-old New Yorker who has emerged as a heroine to young progressives, suggested Sunday that Democrats could be in trouble in 2020 if they fail to nominate an energizing candidate with working-class appeal.

She said she would support the 76-year-old Biden if he wins the nomination but added on ABC that "we have to really factor in the enthusiasm of voters ... an issue that we had in 2016". "We need to pick a candidate that's going to be exciting to vote for - all people, women, people of all genders, races, income levels." But the Fox poll found that Democratic voters, by roughly three-to-one, wanted a nominee who would provide "steady, reliable leadership" rather than a "bold new agenda". — AFP

Sports

World rowing chief gives thumbs-up to 2020 Tokyo Olympic venue

‘Everything has been on track, on time and I am very pleased’

TOKYO: The head of the International Rowing Federation has backed the newly opened 2020 Tokyo Olympic venue to provide a world-class test for athletes at next year's Summer Games.

The Sea Forest Waterway, which will also host sprint canoeing and be used for the Paralympics, opened yesterday with a demonstration event completed in blustery conditions.

“Of course the wind, if it's too strong, might be an issue,” admitted world rowing chief Jean-Christophe Rolland, who won a gold medal for France at the 2000 Olympics. “But it's the fourth time I came here in Tokyo and this is the first time I've seen it so strong.”

“On an eight-day programme, I hope that we will find easily a time when the wind is not too strong and that we can have a good competition.” Rolland praised Tokyo organisers for completing the venue on schedule. “Everything has been on track, on time and I am very pleased more than one year before the Olympic Games to be in such a position without any major issues,” he told reporters.

“There are still some little things to improve but we can be relieved we will have a good course for the Olympic Games.” The Sea Forest Waterway is one of just eight permanent new venues being constructed for Tokyo 2020, in addition to 25 existing and 10 temporary venues out of a total of 43.

The 2,300-metre (2,500-yard) course was built on canals in Tokyo Bay next to an old landfill site that has

been transformed into a forest for the Olympics.

Its grandstand seats around 2,000 while an additional 16,000 spectators will be able to follow the action from temporary seating and standing areas, officials said. Despite rowers and canoeists taking a buffet in the winds, Rolland declared himself happy.

“We have to cope with the local situation,” he added. “Our intention is not to make a venue perfect (but) to make a venue fair for the athletes, the best at an acceptable cost.” The new archery venue was completed in April as Tokyo organisers continue to deliver after a series of early setbacks. They opened their first permanent venue—the Musashino Forest Sport Plaza, which will host badminton and modern pentathlon fencing—in 2017, which followed a disastrous rollout of plans for the Olympic stadium.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tore up the blueprints for the new national stadium in 2015 faced with public anger over its \$2 billion price tag. Designs for the official Games logo were subsequently scrapped following accusations of plagiarism, before Olympic organisers admitted that prolonged summer rain had brought high levels of bacteria to a venue earmarked for triathlon and open water swimming.

Tokyo officials have since been looking for ways to reduce their 1.35 trillion yen (\$12 billion) budget, despite concerns from some sports bodies warning that cost-cutting could adversely affect the running of the Games. — AFP



TOKYO: Tokyo metropolitan governor Yuriko Koike (2nd L), Jean-Christophe Rolland, president of the World Rowing Federation (2nd R) and other officials hold a tape cutting ceremony attends the Sea Forest Waterway opening ceremony in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

Huget double leads Toulouse to 20th French title

PARIS: France winger Yoann Huget scored two tries as Toulouse won the French title for a 20th time beating Clermont 24-18 on Saturday. Huget dotted down either side of the break as the side who finished in pole position in the Top 14 table at the end of the regular season lifted the title in their first final appearance since 2012.

Clermont, who scored a record amount of tries for a side during the 26-game campaign, failed in their attempt to win a European and league double after lifting the Challenge Cup in May despite a flawless kicking performance from Scotland's Greig Laidlaw.

“It's crazy. It's magnificent. We had an incredible season,” Toulouse centre Sofiane Guitoune told France 2 TV. “We played our game, we scored two tries and we could have scored more, we never gave in, everyone together. It was hard until the end, it's marvellous.”

The Stade de France pitch had been damaged by concert from K-Pop boy band BTS a week earlier but it failed to hamper both teams' intent to play. Laidlaw opened the scoring within the first two minutes with a penalty after early fisticuffs, crossing the 200-point mark in the league for the season.

Toulouse captain Jerome Kaino chose for a shot at goal three minutes later and France's Thomas Ramos brought the teams all square 3-3 after nine minutes. Laidlaw and Ramos then slotted a further penalty each for a 6-6 score with a quarter of the game gone.

Toulouse went into the lead on 28 minutes as South Africa's Cheslin Kolbe took a wide arching run targeting a vulnerable Alivereti Raka and fed Huget in the corner. Ramos missed the touchline conversion for a 11-6 score. Kolbe was then shown a yellow card after 33 minutes. Clermont's Fritz Lee broke free with Peceli



PARIS: Toulouse's players celebrate with the Bouclier de Brennus trophy after the French Top 14 final rugby union match between Stade Toulousain and ASM Clermont Auvergne at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris. Toulouse won the French title for a 20th time beating Clermont 24-18. — AFP

Yato alongside in support but Kolbe tackled the Fiji back-row early and he spent the rest of the half in the sin-bin. Laidlaw slotted his third three-pointer of the game to close Toulouse's advantage as the first half ended 11-9. Ramos re-established his side's five-point lead with a penalty on 48 minutes following heavy pressure from Champions Cup losing semi-finalists then Laidlaw converted another three-pointer to close the gap to 14-12 with less than half an hour to play.

On 54 minutes, Huget, again making the most of Raka's poor positioning, scored his second try at the

end of the stadium filled by fans in red and black. The ball was worked wide by the likes of Ramos and Maxime Medard, the sole survivor of their last appearance at a Top 14 final in 2012 and Huget dived over unopposed for his 10th try in all competitions for the campaign and Toulouse led by nine points.

Laidlaw kept his perfect record for the match with his fifth effort as Clermont trailed by 21-15 with less than 20 minutes to play. Ramos added another penalty goal and France fly-half Camille Lopez did so too for a 24-18 score. — AFP

Marquez storms to Catalan MotoGP victory

MONTMELLO: Spain's Marc Marquez, on a Honda, stretched his lead atop the standings after streaking to victory in yesterday's Catalan MotoGP. It was five-time world champion Marquez's first victory on his home region Montmelo track since 2014 and came hot on the heels of that of his younger brother Alex in the Moto2 class earlier in the day.

“All the team did a very good job and I congratulate them for that,” said Marc Marquez. “It was a great race.” French Yamaha rider Fabio Quartararo, just 11

days after undergoing surgery on his arm, started from pole in the seventh MotoGP of the season and eventually came in second, 2.66sec off Marquez.

Marquez, on 140 points, benefitted from a fall by Italian rival Andrea Dovizioso to consolidate his lead in the world championship rankings and is now 37pts clear. Dovizioso was brought down along with Yamaha pair Valentino Rossi and Maverick Vinales by Honda rider Jorge Lorenzo.

“You don't have any options if you brake a little bit too late, like happened with me. It was my fault, my mistake and I apologise. It was really unfortunate to take out Dovi, Maverick and Valentino - it wasn't their fault, it was mine,” Lorenzo tweeted.

His victory came on the 70th anniversary of MotoGP. The competition's first race, the Tourist Trophy of the Isle of Man, was held in 1949 and won by Britain's Freddie Frith. Alex Marquez, on a Kalex, saw his Moto2 win propel him atop the category's stand-

ings. Marquez clocked 38min 25.678sec to finish ahead of Switzerland's Thomas Luthi, with another Spaniard, Jorge Navarro, rounding out the podium at the Montmelo circuit.

The victory saw Marquez leapfrog Italian teammate Lorenzo Baldassari in the standings. There was more glory for Spain in the Moto3 when Marcos Ramirez, on a Honda, notched up his maiden victory, and in doing so became the 12th different winner in the last 12 races in the highly competitive class.

Ramirez took the lead from Honda teammate Kaito Toba after the Japanese, who started 24th on the grid, fell on the final lap. Despite a last-corner pass attempt from KTM's Spanish rider Aron Canet, Ramirez held on through to the line of a chaotic, crash-marred race.

Spain's Canet heads up the riders' standings, extending his lead from three points before the race to 23, with his closest rival Lorenzo Dalla Porta forced to retire with trouble on board his Honda. — AFP

Brumbies playing for Australian pride in quarter-finals

CANBERRA: The ACT Brumbies are the only side left flying the Australian flag in Super Rugby and coach Dan McKellar says the team will be playing for national pride in the quarter-finals.

On a freezing Saturday night in Canberra, the Brumbies rallied from 7-0 down to beat the Queensland Reds 40-27 for their sixth straight win. It was a record-setting victory, equalling their longest win streak ahead of the home quarter-final against South Africa's Coastal Sharks next Saturday.

Australia's three other teams—the Reds, NSW Waratahs and Melbourne Rebels—all lost, summing up their disappointing seasons in a World Cup year. Dane Haylett-Petty's Rebels finished 11th on the 15-team ladder, the Michael Hooper-led Waratahs came 12th and the Reds, who said goodbye to departing skipper Samu Kerevi, were second last, ahead of only Japan's Sunwolves.

New Zealand have four teams in the last eight and South Africa two. Argentina's Jaguares also made the grade after topping the South Africa conference. “I do think there's a sense that we're representing the country,” McKellar told reporters of being the last Australian team standing.

“You get a bit sick of rugby getting beaten up in Australia for one reason or another. I'd love for us to keep working hard and put some really positive stories together for our own players and group to remember.”

“But also for rugby to get some positivity over the next few weeks,” he added. “I'm confident we can do that.” Australian rugby has been through the wringer recently, with Israel Folau's sacking for homophobic comments overshadowing much of the season, which followed a wretched year for the Wallabies in 2018.

A big disappointment for Australian fans was the late-season capitulation that saw the Rebels throw away the chance of making their playoffs debut. They leaked 125 points in their last two outings, losing 59-8 at home to the Waikato Chiefs on Friday after their 66-0 thrashing by the Crusaders the week before.

Their Wallabies fly-half Reece Hodge said he feared the scale of the losses may cost some players a place in the Australia squad for the World Cup in Japan. “I'm filthy about it and if it costs me my spot then I have to live with that,” Hodge, who has won 33 caps, told reporters. — AFP

Alonso wins back-to-back Le Mans with Toyota

LE MANS: Fernando Alonso celebrated his second straight Le Mans 24 Hour race title on Sunday in a Toyota, the two-time Formula One champion sharing the driving with Sebastian Buemi and Kazuki Nakajima.

Another Toyota driven by Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose Maria Lopez, was in the lead and on course for victory only to suffer a puncture one hour from the finish. Entering the closing stages Alonso's car lagged over a lap behind the other Toyota hybrid, before lady luck intervened an hour from the 1300GMT finish to gift them the

advantage, and victory in the 87th edition of Le Mans.

Alonso's No.8 car crossed the line 17 seconds clear of the pole-sitting No.7 after 385 laps of the iconic circuit. The outcome was a carbon copy of 2018 and it handed Alonso, Buemi and Nakajima the endurance drivers' title with Toyota having taken the constructors' crown last month.

A distant third was the SMP entry driven by Vitaly Petrov, Mikhail Aleshin and Stoffel Vandoorne. Alonso lined up in the classic race after having failed in his latest bid to complete motor racing's ‘Triple Crown’ when he missed out on qualifying for the Indy 500 last month.

A Toyota win this year was all but guaranteed as for the last two seasons they have been the only manufacturer on the grid after Porsche and Audi pulled out of the elite LMP1 class which this year featured just six other cars.

Although Alonso will not be with them in 2020, Toyota will be on the grid after con-

firming they will enter a ‘hypercar’ under new regulations aimed at boosting competition and trimming costs.

Aston Martin said they too will send a team next year. As dawn broke over the circuit in the Sarthe region of France only five of the eight cars in top LMP1 category remained.

The SMP Racing car of Stephane Sarrazin, Egor Orudzhev and Sergey Sirotkin was forced to abandon the race at around 2:00 am as it was in third place. With Orudzhev at the wheel, it went off the track and was too damaged to continue.

Most of the drama in the early hours of the race was down the field. The Corvette of Swiss driver Marcel Fassler spun after contact with the Porsche of Japan's Satoshi Hoshino who is driving for the team backed by film star Patrick Dempsey.

After two violent clashes with the safety barriers, the Corvette had to be lifted off the circuit by a crane with the crew forced to abandon. — AFP



LE MANS: (From L) Toyota TS050 Hybrid LMP1 team Gazoo Racing President Shiegeki Tomoyama, Spain's driver Fernando Alonso, Swiss driver Sebastian Buemi and Japanese's driver Kazuki Nakajima holds the trophies on podium after the 87th edition of the 24 Hours Le Mans endurance race yesterday, at Le Mans northwestern France. — AFP

Sports

Torres, Cortes carry Yankees past host Chicago White Sox

Rizzo homers off Jansen, Cubs stun Dodgers

CHICAGO: Gleyber Torres hit a two-run homer, and Nestor Cortes Jr. pitched five-plus effective innings of relief for his first career win as the New York Yankees snapped a three-game losing streak with an 8-4 victory over the host Chicago White Sox on Saturday night. The Yankees won on a night in which they traded for Edwin Encarnacion from the Seattle Mariners, allowing New York to slot the American League's home run leader into its lineup as the designated hitter. Torres hit his 15th homer with one out in the fourth to cap a four-run inning off Reynaldo Lopez (4-7). His homer marked the 18th straight game that the Yankees homered in, their second-longest streak in team history and the third-longest in the majors this season. Chad Green started the game as the opener for the fifth time and struck out six in two innings. Cortes (1-0) followed and allowed two runs on six hits, striking out seven and walking none.

ANGELS 5, RAYS 3

Charlie Morton had his 21-start unbeaten streak come to an end as Los Angeles topped Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla. Angels left-hander Jose Suarez (2-1) went 5 2/3 innings for the win, allowing three runs and five hits, and Hansel Robles worked a perfect ninth for his 10th save. David Fletcher, Justin Bour and Kevan Smith homered for the Angels, who have won two of three in the series. Morton (8-1), who had won 11 games during his league-leading unbeaten streak, steadied after a rough start and went six innings, allowing four runs and five hits. He struck out nine and walked two.

RED SOX 7, ORIOLES 2

J.D. Martinez homered for the fourth time in his last three games, and Chris Sale struck out 10 as visiting Boston defeated Baltimore for its fourth straight win. Sale (3-7) went six strong innings. He allowed two runs on six hits and gave the Red Sox his third straight solid start after struggling at times during the first part of the season. Baltimore starter Dylan Bundy blanked the Red Sox for the first five innings before Boston got to him for three runs in the sixth. Overall, Bundy (3-8) gave up three runs (two earned) on eight hits in five-plus innings.

CUBS 2, DODGERS 1

Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run home run in the top of the ninth inning as visiting Chicago rallied to stun Los Angeles and closer Kenley Jansen. Three outs away from losing the first three games of the four-game series, the Cubs began their comeback when Kris Bryant was hit by Jansen's first pitch. Rizzo then crushed a 2-0 pitch into the Cubs' bullpen in right field for his team-leading 19th home run of the season. Kyle Ryan (2-1) picked up the victory for the Cubs. Jansen (2-2) blew his third save of the season and first since May 5 at San Diego. The Cubs' rally spoiled a solid start from the Dodgers' Walker Buehler, who took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and allowed only two hits over seven scoreless innings.

METS 8, CARDINALS 7

Pete Alonso's mammoth three-run homer fueled a five-run first inning, and New York held off visiting St. Louis. The Mets snapped a two-game losing streak but might have lost winning pitcher Noah Syndergaard, who exited with none out in the seventh due to a right hamstring strain. Syndergaard (5-4) allowed five runs (four earned)

on six hits and two walks while striking out five. Michael Wacha (4-3) allowed six runs (five earned) on seven hits and one walk while striking out four in four innings. Kolten Wong had two of six stolen bases by the Cardinals.

GIANTS 8, BREWERS 7

Kevin Pillar had a pair of RBI singles and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as host San Francisco edged Milwaukee. Brandon Crawford collected a season-high three hits, and Stephen Vogt added a career-best two triples and an RBI infield single in the eighth inning for the Giants, who have won four in a row. Trevor Gott (3-0) got the win in relief. Christian Yelich belted his major-league-leading 26th homer with two outs in the ninth, and Manny Pina also went deep for the Brewers, who have lost three of their last four. Junior Guerra (2-1) took the loss.

PHILLIES 6, BRAVES 5

Cesar Hernandez poked a single into left field in the ninth inning to drive in two runs and help visiting Philadelphia turn the tables on Atlanta with a come-from-behind win. Hernandez went 2-for-4 and finished with three RBIs, including his seventh home run of the season, to end Atlanta's winning streak at eight. The Braves had beaten Philadelphia with a ninth-inning rally on Friday night. Atlanta starter Sean Newcomb exited in the third inning after he was struck in the back of the neck by J.T. Realmuto's 102 mph line drive. Newcomb was able to leave on his own power while Realmuto was credited with a ground-rule double as the ball flew into the Philadelphia dugout. The Phillies lost Realmuto after he took a foul ball to the groin in the fifth inning.

ASTROS 7, BLUE JAYS 2

Rookie sensation Yordan Alvarez slugged another home run, while left-hander Framber Valdez delivered a second consecutive quality start as Houston downed visiting Toronto. Alvarez, who added a pair of singles and posted his second consecutive three-hit game, has bashed four homers in five games since his promotion from Triple-A Round Rock last Sunday. Valdez (3-2) allowed two runs on four hits and two walks with eight strikeouts over six innings. Clayton Richard (0-3) lasted five innings for the Blue Jays, allowing five runs on seven hits and two walks with one strikeout. Toronto has dropped 13 of 17 games.

ROCKIES 14, PADRES 8

Charlie Blackmon had four hits for the third straight game, Ian Desmond hit a grand slam and Colorado roughed up San Diego in Denver. Blackmon became the first player in franchise history to have four hits in three straight games, and Desmond finished with five RBIs. German Marquez (7-3) allowed seven runs on 10 hits in 5 2/3 innings, walking four and striking out eight. Ian Kinsler had three hits and drove in three runs for the Padres, and Manny Machado had two hits before being ejected from the game in the fifth inning. San Diego skipper Andy Green and pitcher Matt Strahm were also ejected in the sixth. Eric Lauer (5-6) gave up five runs on 10 hits in 2 2/3 innings to take the loss.

TWINS 5, ROYALS 4

Marwin Gonzalez and Max Kepler both homered, and Jake Odorizzi won his 10th straight decision as Minnesota rallied to defeat Kansas City in Minneapolis. Odorizzi (10-



CHICAGO: Gary Sanchez #24 of the New York Yankees hits a two RBI double during the fourth inning against the Chicago White Sox at Guaranteed Rate Field in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

2), who hasn't lost a game since April 10 at the Mets, gave up four runs on seven hits and two walks over six innings, tying his season high in earned runs allowed. Gonzalez finished 2-of-4 with two RBIs and a run scored, and C.J. Cron drove in the winning run with a sixth-inning double. Whit Merrifield went 4-for-5 with a home run and two runs scored, and Jorge Soler hit a two-run homer for Kansas City. Glenn Sparkman (1-3) suffered the loss allowing five runs (four earned) on five hits and two walks. He struck out three.

INDIANS 4, TIGERS 2

Leonys Martin stole home, and Shane Bieber struck out 12 in 7 2/3 innings as Cleveland doubled up host Detroit. Bieber (6-2), who retired the first 12 batters he faced, allowed two runs on four hits, and Brad Hand recorded his 20th save for the Indians. Martin's bold decision in the eighth inning was the Indians' first straight steal of home plate since Grady Sizemore on Aug. 26, 2005. Miguel Cabrera had three hits for the Tigers, who have lost 10 of their last 13 games. The Indians broke through with three runs in the fifth against reliever Nick Ramirez (3-1).

ATHLETICS 11, MARINERS 2

Marcus Semien and Jurickson Profar each went 3-for-4, with Semien hitting a home run and Profar driving in four runs, as Oakland romped over visiting Seattle. Athletics right-hander Frankie Montas (9-2) pitched six quality innings, allowing two runs on six hits with one walk and nine strikeouts. Mariners opener Gerson Bautista (0-1) lasted just two-thirds of an inning, giving up two hits and walking three while striking out one. Left-hander Wade LeBlanc followed and was rocked for six runs on eight hits in 2 2/3 innings as the A's built a 9-1 lead through four innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, NATIONALS 3

Ketel Marte hit two solo home runs, and Adam Jones

and Christian Walker also went deep off Stephen Strasburg as the Arizona routed host Washington. Nick Ahmed had four hits and scored twice for Arizona, which went deep five times overall. Reliever Yoshihisa Hirano (3-3) got the win in relief. Strasburg (7-4) gave up four homers in a game for just the second time in his career. He tied a season high by allowing six runs in five innings after he had given up two runs or less in five of his previous six outings.

MARLINS 4, PIRATES 3

Garrett Cooper went 3-for-4 and scored the tiebreaking run in the fifth, leading host Miami past Pittsburgh. Pablo Lopez (5-5) earned the win, allowing seven hits, one walk and three runs in seven innings, striking out four. Nick Anderson pitched a scoreless eighth, and Sergio Romo earned his 12th save with a seven-pitch ninth. Pirates starter Dario Agrazal made his major league debut and was betrayed a bit by his defense, allowing six hits and three runs (two earned) in four innings. Geoff Hartlieb (0-1) took the loss with one run allowed in two innings of relief.

RANGERS 4, REDS 3

Jeff Mathis had an RBI single among his two hits, and Mike Minor tossed 6 1/3 strong innings as visiting Texas edged Cincinnati. Shin-Soo Choo and Asdrubal Cabrera each had an RBI single, and Danny Santana added a pair of hits for the Rangers, who took advantage of three errors to win for the 21st time in their last 31 games. Minor (6-4) was tagged for three runs on four hits with four walks and six strikeouts. Cincinnati rookie Nick Senzel exited the game with two outs in the fifth inning after he fouled a pitch that caromed off both the ground and his foot before hitting the lid of his helmet near his left eye. Reds starter Tanner Roark (4-6) allowed four runs (two earned) on eight hits in seven innings, striking out five and walking none. — Reuters

Davis heading to Lakers in blockbuster trade: Reports

LOS ANGELES: Anthony Davis will form a high-powered NBA strikeforce alongside LeBron James next season after the New Orleans Pelicans agreed to a trade deal with the Los Angeles Lakers, US media reports said Saturday.

ESPN and the Los Angeles Times said unsettled star Davis will join the Lakers in a move which will see the Pelicans receive multiple players and draft picks in return. The Pelicans roster will be bolstered by the arrival of Lakers players Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram and Josh Hart.

More significantly, the Pelicans will also receive three first-round draft picks, including the number four overall pick currently owned by the Lakers heading into next Thursday's NBA draft.

It means the Pelicans now have the first and fourth picks in the draft, potentially giving the franchise the chance to build a championship-contending team. For the Lakers, the move gives James the sort of high-caliber roster reinforcement he has been craving since his arrival in Los Angeles from the Cleveland Cavaliers last summer.

Davis, 26, shares the same agent as James, and has been agitating for a move since January, when he informed the Pelicans he planned to leave. The Lakers made a bungled attempt to trade for Davis in February but pulled out of negotiations with New Orleans after complaining of "outrageous" demands by the Pelicans.

The Lakers had reportedly agreed to offload Ball, Ingram and Hart as well as Kyle Kuzma and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope in the earlier negotiations. The collapsed deal was reported to have destabilized the Lakers dressing room and the team's season tailed off dramatically as they failed to make the playoffs once again.

That disappointing finish to the Lakers season led to the shock resignation of president of basketball operations Magic Johnson. Johnson later said a rift with Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka had been behind his departure, accusing his former colleague of "betrayal." —AFP



Maria Sharapova

Returning Sharapova inspired by 'ultimate fighter' Nadal

SANTA PONS: Maria Sharapova says she will draw inspiration from Rafael Nadal's incredible powers of recovery as she resumes her injury-hit career on the Spanish great's island next week.

The 32-year-old Russian has not played a competitive match since pulling out of the St Petersburg Open in January and underwent surgery on her right shoulder a few weeks later.

She returns to action next week at the Mallorca Open grasscourt event as she prepares for Wimbledon, the tournament that launched her to fame and fortune 15 years when she claimed the title as a teenager.

Sharapova was already training on grass in the sunshine Balearic isle while Nadal was winning his record-extending 12th French Open last weekend, having battled back from knee injuries.

"He is the ultimate fighter and an amazing example of what you can achieve if you have the will and the passion for what you do," Sharapova said on Sunday.

"I've always admired the way he has fought through all the injuries he's had and he's the greatest example of that. The sport is so physical, especially the way he plays, but brings an optimistic perspective on his work that he can come back and be a champion. He is extremely motivated."

Five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova, ranked

86th in the world, says she is pain free and happy to be back on court, although admits the real test will be in matches. "The shoulder is doing well, I took my time in order to come back to my first event and feel that I have a really good chance at it," Sharapova told Reuters. "With every match it will be a good test, but I need to get it out into the battlefield to test it. You can heal all you want but when you get back to your sport it's a different ball game."

Sharapova admits few people will "give her a shot" at challenging for the Wimbledon title, but believes she has a chance of making an impact if her shoulder holds up. Most of all, however, she is excited to return with her passion for the sport intact after so many injury setbacks and also missing 15 months because of a doping ban. "I still have many expectations on myself even though I think I also have many opportunities to do other things," said Sharapova.

"But this sport is very unique and special and I enjoy trying to be better every day."

She said she hopes the decision to undergo surgery will allow her to start enjoying the sport again. "Before it was about pain management, I wasn't really enjoying playing because after every match I was thinking about what I needed to do to help my shoulder," she said.

"There were some great matches at the start of the year but once I played that first match in St Petersburg I knew that I needed a clear mind."

Asked why she selected Mallorca for her return, she looked up to the blue skies.

"It's a great place to train," she said. "The conditions here are maybe better than the rain delays you may have in England, maybe playing a couple of matches in a day." Sharapova is scheduled to play her first match tomorrow. — Reuters

Woodland comes through in clutch to keep US Open bid on track

PEBBLE BEACH: Gary Woodland's whole sporting life has prepared him for Sunday, when he takes a one-shot lead into the final round of the 119th US Open Golf Championship.

The 35-year-old American is hardly a household name, despite three US PGA Tour titles, but he's confident he can hold his own against the game's best-including former world number one Justin Rose who will play alongside him in the final group. "I worked for this my whole life. I've trained since I started walking," Woodland said. "I've played sports, I've competed. I've learned how to win, even if I haven't done it as much as I'd like."

"I know what it takes to win. And my game is in a great spot." Woodland, who abandoned college basketball to pursue golf, has worked hard to polish up a short game long overshadowed by his booming length and worked with British putting coach Phil Kenyon to step it up on the greens. After failing to produce a top-10 finish in his first 27 majors, he has contended at the last two PGA Championships—where playing alongside Brooks Koepka and Tiger Woods gave him valuable lessons in performing on the big stage.

"I know if I play my game and play like the way I've been playing, the guys from behind me are going to have to do something really, really special," he said.

Woodland remained supremely poised Saturday in the face of back-nine adversity. He hit a shot at the 12th out of tall rough on the lip of a bunker, but chipped in from the fringe to save par. Two holes later he was in the rough again, and chucked his chip to come up short at the par five, where he was again looking bogey but rolled in a 42-foot putt from off the green for another par.

In between he missed the fairway at 13, but kept his round going with a four-footer to save par.

They were the kind of holes that once might have derailed a round, but his game has matured there, too.

"It took me a lot to learn to control adrenaline," Woodland said. "Other sports you use adrenaline to your advantage. Out here, when I get a little excited, I need to find a way to calm myself back down."

"I was able to control myself and get back in the moment. I've learned to take an extra deep breath and really start controlling everything, and not just the game, controlling the mental side, too." — AFP

Sports

Messi 'bitter' as Colombia stun Argentina in Copa America match

Argentina can still make knock-out stages with games against Paraguay, Qatar

SALVADOR: Lionel Messi said his team was feeling bitter after Argentina lost their opening Copa America match 2-0 to Colombia despite dominating the second half. Goals from Roger Martínez and Duvan Zapata in the final 20 minutes gave Colombia their first tournament victory over Argentina in 20 years as Messi's hopes of finally landing a major international tournament after losing in four finals suffered a serious blow.

"We leave here feeling bitter," said Messi following the Group B clash in Salvador. "In the second half we had our chances." One of the best of those fell to the 31-year-old Barcelona icon but he headed wide after Colombia's goalkeeper David Ospina got down quickly to push out a header from center-back Nicolas Otamendi.

But although Argentina dominated possession and created more chances in the second period, they rarely caused Ospina any serious concerns. "We didn't want to start this way, obviously, but now we have to lift our heads and keep going," said the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, who lined up in an enviable forward trio with Manchester City's Sergio Agüero and Angel Di María of Paris Saint-Germain.

"In the first half we retreated a little and were holding on, but in the second we really opened up," said Messi, the Argentina captain. "Whenever you lose it's hard for us, we usually take it badly. Now we have to think about Paraguay."

Argentina can still make the knock-out stages with games against Paraguay and guests Qatar, the Asian champions, to come. Midfielder Leandro Paredes, who forced a diving save out of Ospina with one long range

strike and sent a second whistling past the post, was pleased with the second half performance.

"We created a lot but unfortunately they scored in our best period," he said.

Colombia were the better side in a goalless first half but scored twice against the run of play in the second period, with both goals coming from substitutes.

"I came on and helped my team. We did the best we could and we managed to turn the game around at the end of the second half. We played really well," said Zapata, who this season helped Italians Atalanta qualify for the Champions League for the first time in their history. Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz, who only took over Colombia after leaving his job with Iran at the end of the January-February Asian Cup, paid tribute to the side's collective effort.

"Colombia as a team was the best player on the pitch. We played with a lot of discipline, concentration, with responsibility, and players with the quality of James (Rodríguez) and (Radamel) Falcao helped us a lot in this organization," said Queiroz.

And he praised his team for "controlling Messi a bit," noting that "we're always talking about him and you cannot neutralize him."

Both he and Argentina counterpart Lionel Scaloni agreed that each side had their moments during the game. "In some moments we were on top, then they were superior to us—that's how football goes, there are different stages in matches," said Scaloni. Colombia, though, are well placed to win the group now. "We're still a long way from where we want to go," warned Colombia's playmaker James Rodríguez. —AFP



SALVADOR: Argentina's Lionel Messi (L) and Colombia's Davinson Sanchez vie for the ball during their Copa America football tournament group match at the Fonte Nova Arena in Salvador, Brazil. —AFP

Antuna hat-trick helps Mexico to rout Cuba in Gold Cup opener

PASADENA: Uriel Antuna scored a hat-trick as Mexico got their Gold Cup campaign off to a dominant start with a 7-0 rout of Cuba in their opener at the

Rose Bowl on Saturday. The 21-year-old was a last-minute replacement for injured defender Jorge Sanchez in the Mexico squad for the tournament and the addition paid big dividends.

The LA Galaxy midfielder gave Mexico the perfect start in their quest for a seventh Gold Cup title when he scored in the second minute of the match, moments after Raul Jimenez had hit the post from close-range.

Antuna, who just made his international debut 10 days ago off the bench against Venezuela, gave his team a 4-0 advantage in the 44th minute, then capped his night with a final goal in the 80th minute.

Jimenez scored twice, while Diego Reyes and Ernesto Vega also tallied for El Tri. Cheered on by a

supportive crowd, Mexico showed no sign of letting down their fans despite missing key figures like Hector Herrera, Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez, Carlos Vela and Hirving Lozano from their squad.

It was a first competitive win for new manager Gerardo "Tata" Martino, who was hired back in January and had overseen three friendly wins against South American opposition. Cuba, making their first Gold Cup appearance since 2015, have now lost to Mexico four times in as many meetings in the biennial championship of the North, Central American and Caribbean region. Canada earlier thrashed Martinique 4-0 at the same stadium in Saturday's other Group A match. — Reuters

Froome confident of full recovery after horror crash

LONDON: Chris Froome said Saturday "he is lucky to be here" after suffering multiple fractures in a high-speed crash that ruled him out of the Tour de France.

Froome, 34, was airlifted to hospital in Saint-Etienne for emergency surgery after slamming into a wall at high speed during practice on Wednesday ahead of the fourth stage of the Criterium du Dauphine race in central France.

The force of the impact fractured his pelvis, right femur, hip, right elbow and left him with broken ribs. "I know how lucky I am to be here today and how much I owe to all the paramedics and medical staff on the race," said Froome.

Froome will miss out on a chance to win a record-equalling fifth Tour de France title next month, but after successful surgery there is hope he could return to cycling in six months.

"Whilst this is a setback and a major one at that, I am focusing on looking forward. There is a long road to recovery ahead, but that recovery starts now and I am fully focused on returning back to my best," Froome said in a statement given by Team Ineos.

He was pictured in a hospital bed, smiling and giving a thumbs-up to the camera. "This is obviously a tough time but I have taken a lot of strength from the support over the last three days. The outpouring of support has been really humbling and something I would never have expected." Froome was travelling at around 50 kilometres per hour when a gust of wind hurtled him towards a wall after he momentarily took his hand off the handlebars to blow his nose. In thanking the medical care he has received, the British rider also acknowledged his gratitude to the medical services.

"I'd like to extend my gratitude to the Team, especially Doctor Richard Usher and his medical staff, who have been exemplary since the crash. "In addition, I am so thankful to the emergency services and everyone at Roanne Hospital who assisted and stabilised me, as well as the surgeons, doctors and nurses at the University Hospital of St Etienne, who have really gone above and beyond the call of duty, for which I am ever so grateful."

Froome may be gone from the Criterium du Dauphine but he is not forgotten with Dutch climbing specialist Wout Poels of his Team Ineos dedicating his win in the mountainous penultimate stage on Saturday to the stricken Briton.

"It's great news for the team and this is a present for Chris," Poels said after the win. "It was nice to have the freedom to go for the win, but it's sad for Chris." On the Tour de Suisse, meanwhile, where reigning Tour de France champion and teammate Geraint Thomas is taking part, Ineos team director Gabriel Rasch said it was business as usual.

"There's no extra pressure on the guys this week given what has happened to Froomey," he said. Meanwhile, Thomas said all of Team Ineos was behind Froome in his recovery. "It's scary. It's never nice to hear, especially when it's a close friend," Thomas told BBC Wales.

"It sounds horrific really. It was one of those where he would have had time to actually think; he knew he was about to crash. "It wasn't 'boom' and you're on the floor before you know it. It was one of those where you try to save it. That's the worst."

"It sounds like he was lucky to come away with the damage he's done really. It could have been a hell of a lot worse." —AFP

Fury batters Schwarz, eyes Wilder rematch

LAS VEGAS: Unbeaten British heavyweight Tyson Fury outclassed Germany's Tom Schwarz to score a victory by second-round technical knockout Saturday. Fury, determined to put on a show on his Las Vegas debut, overwhelmed Schwarz with a dazzling display of ringcraft before unloading in the second round at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

The flamboyant 30-year-old had established his dominance early, rocking Schwarz repeatedly with a series of stiff left jabs in the opening round that rapidly reddened the previously unbeaten German fighter's face. In the second round Fury bamboozled Schwarz by switching to southpaw, once again landing blows on his less experienced opponent with ease.

Fury had Schwarz on the canvas after uncorking a crisp right-left combination, blood pouring from the German fighter's nose. He then cornered Schwarz and unfurled a series of unopposed punches that left referee Kenny Bayless no option but to wave an end to the fight. "The key tonight was to enjoy myself," Fury said afterwards. "I used the jab, I was slipping and sliding."

"I came here to have fun and put on a show for Las Vegas and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did," added Fury, who had entered the ring wearing a Stars and Stripes-themed costume to the strains of James Brown's "Living in America."

"I felt like it was my coming out party," Fury added. "I wanted to show a few things to the American public to introduce myself properly. And tonight I showed a little bit of speed, boxing skill, an ability to slip and slide and most importantly, to finish."

The win saw Fury improve to 28-0-1 with 20 knock-outs and will heighten demand for a rematch against undefeated WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder. Fury and Wilder fought an epic battle in their first meeting in Los Angeles last December, when Fury famously got up from a 12th round knockdown to earn a draw. Fury said after his win on Saturday that his camp is planning one more fight, either in late September or early October, before a rematch with Wilder early in 2020.

"What's next? Next year we're going to hunt down Deontay Wilder for that green belt," Fury said. Fury's US promoter, legendary boxing impresario Bob Arum, suggested a rematch with Wilder could surpass the earnings records set by Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather's 2015 bout.

"I've been around a long time," Arum said. "And this guy (Fury) is right now easily the best heavyweight in the world, maybe one of the all-time best heavyweights."

"I mean how do you deal with a guy who is 6ft 9in and moves the way he does? He's something else and something special." Arum said that next year's likely rematch with Wilder would take place in Las Vegas.

"The fight will be in the first quarter of next year," he said. "Right now, I can't see why that fight won't surpass Mayweather-Pacquiao." Fury's win came a fortnight after Britain's WBA, WBO and IBF heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua was stunned by Andy Ruiz Jr. in a massive upset in New York. —AFP



NICE: Sweden's midfielder Elin Rubensson (C) celebrates after scoring a goal during the France 2019 Women's World Cup Group F football match between Sweden and Thailand, yesterday at the Nice Stadium in Nice, southeastern France. — AFP

Sweden cruise past Thailand to make Women's WCup last 16

NICE: Sweden cruised into the knockout stages of the Women's World Cup yesterday after comfortably seeing off Thailand 5-1 to move top of Group F. Peter Gerhardsson's side are three points ahead of tournament favourites the USA, who take on Chile later on Sunday in Paris, after a routine win that however saw emotional scenes when Kanjana Sung-Ngoen scored a late consolation goal for the Thais.

Linda Sembrant and Kosovare Asllani put the Swedes two up after 19 minutes with Fridolina Rolfö rifling a long-range finish three minutes before the break. Lina Hurtig headed home at the end of a flowing move with nine minutes left before the Thais, reeling from a humiliating record 13-0 defeat to the Americans in their opening match, restored pride through captain Sung-Ngoen's drilled near post finish.

The goal sparked wild celebrations and even tears from the Thai players and coaching staff, but VAR stepped in to dampen their mood when Natthakarn Chinwong was judged to have handled in the area deep into stoppage time.

Elin Rubensson made no mistake from the spot to complete an easy win and her side's qualification from the group. Should the USA beat Chile as expected the Swedes will have to defeat them in their final match on Thursday if they want to win the group, due to the Americans' whopping goal difference advantage.

Meanwhile, Canada beat New Zealand 2-0 in a

women's World Cup Group E game in Grenoble on Saturday to cement a place in the second round and leave the Kiwis on the brink of elimination.

Earlier in Valenciennes, the Netherlands saw off a spirited Cameroon 3-1 to also move to six points in the group and secure their place in the last 16. Canada had beaten Cameroon 1-0 in their opening game while New Zealand had battled hard before losing to an injury-time Dutch goal.

On Saturday, Canada again dominated and bombarded the New Zealand goal with 22 total strikes, 11 of them on target. The Canadians took the lead after 48 minutes. Nichelle Prince raced down the left wing, where the New Zealand defence had struggled even before right back C.J. Bott went off injured in the 17th minute.

Prince cut in along the goal line and then pulled a precise pass back to Jessie Fleming who side-footed the ball inside the far post. Prince added a second after 78 minutes, poking home a rebound from close range after Christine Sinclair's powerful downward header hit the inside of the post.

Despite the assist, it was another frustrating evening for 36-year-old Sinclair who is chasing retired American Abby Wambach's record of 184 international goals. Sinclair remained on 181 goals for Canada after nodding the ball against the bar in the first half, skying a shot from a precise low cross by the outstanding Janine Beckie early in the second and hitting the post before Prince's goal. Canada and the Netherlands meet in Reims on June 20 to decide who will top the group. At the same time, New Zealand will play Cameroon in Montpellier. As things stand, a win could be enough to take either team through to the second round as one of the four best third-place teams, although that could change by kick off. — Agencies

25 Huget double leads Toulouse to 20th French title

26 Returning Sharapova inspired by 'ultimate fighter' Nadal

27 Sweden cruise past Thailand to make Women's WCup last 16



Sharma stars as India beat Pakistan

Kohli becomes quickest player to score 11,000 one-day international runs



MANCHESTER: India's captain Virat Kohli (R) plays a shot as Pakistan's captain Sarfaraz Ahmed looks on during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match between India and Pakistan at Old Trafford in Manchester, northwest England, yesterday. — AFP

MANCHESTER: Rohit Sharma scored his second hundred in three innings as India maintained their unbeaten record against Pakistan at the World Cup with an 89-run win under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method yesterday. Sharma's 140 was the centrepiece of a total of 336-5 that also featured captain Virat Kohli's 77. Victory in this rain-curtailed clash saw India, who have now won all seven of their World Cup matches against Pakistan, remain unbeaten after four pool games at this year's edition.

Pakistan, whose only 2019 pool win so far was a shock defeat of hosts England, were never truly up with the rate in the showpiece match of the 10-team round-robin stage. They still had hope at 117 for one even though the most made by any side batting second to win a World Cup match is Ireland's 329 for seven against England at Bangalore in 2011.

But Kuldeep Yadav then struck twice to spark a col-

lapse that saw Pakistan lose four wickets for 12 runs in 18 balls as they slumped to 129 for five in 27 overs-long past the 20-over cut-off point needed for a result under D/L.

A third rain stoppage came with Pakistan 166-6 off 35 overs. The match then descended into something of a farce when play resumed under leaden skies, with Pakistan requiring an outlandish 136 more runs in five overs to reach a revised victory total of 302 in 40 overs. That target which, eventually became 94 off the last six balls, unsurprisingly proved beyond them as Pakistan finished on 212-6, dealing a major blow to their semi-final hopes as India took the bragging rights yet again. Worryingly for India, paceman Bhuvneshwar Kumar limped off in the fifth over of Pakistan's chase with a hamstring injury that sidelined him from the rest of the match. But Vijay Shankar, completing the over, struck first ball when he had opener Imam-ul-Haq lbw for sev-

en. Fakhar Zaman (62) and Babar Azam (48) repaired the damage with a century stand, before they both fell to left-arm wrist-spinner Yadav as they tried to up the tempo. Babar was bowled between bat by a superb delivery before Zaman miscued a sweep to short fine leg. All-rounder Hardik Pandya then took two wickets in two balls. Mohammad Hafeez was caught at deep square leg before Shoaib Malik played on for his second successive duck—a wicket greeted with huge roars by the massed ranks of India fans in a capacity crowd, with an estimated one billion watching on television.

Earlier, Kohli became the quickest player to 11,000 one-day international runs, getting there in 222nd innings compared to compatriot Sachin Tendulkar's previous record of 276 innings.

Meanwhile, Pakistan left-arm quick Mohammad Amir continued his fine form with 3-47 despite two early warnings for running on the pitch. But not even Amir

could stop Sharma and KL Rahul (57) marking their first ODI match as an opening duo with a stand of 136 after Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed won the toss.

Sharma, who made 122 in India's opening win over South Africa and 57 against Australia, went to fifty with a six over long-on and a cut four off successive deliveries from recalled leg-spinner Shadab Khan.

He then entered the 90s with an extraordinary square-cut six off paceman Hasan Ali. His single off Shadab saw Sharma to an 85-ball hundred including three sixes and nine fours. It was Sharma's 24th ODI century. But a quickfire stand of 98 with Kohli ended when Sharma, trying a needlessly extravagant scoop, flicked Hasna to short fine leg. Kohli, 71 not out at the start of a 55-minute rain break, fell soon after the resumption when, trying to hook Amir, he 'walked' for a catch behind by wicket-keeper Sarfaraz despite replays appearing to show he didn't hit the ball. — AFP

Sarri takes charge at Juventus after leaving Chelsea

MILAN: Maurizio Sarri was named as new coach of Juventus after his exit from Chelsea was confirmed by both clubs yesterday, following a troubled single season in London. Sarri returns to Italy on a three-year deal just a season after leaving Napoli for Stamford Bridge, where he failed to garner fan support despite winning the Europa League and returning the Blues to the Champions League thanks to a third-placed finish in the Premier League.

"Maurizio Sarri has returned to Italy, where he has coached for the majority of his career. And from today, he will take over the reins at Juventus with a contract until June 30, 2022," Juventus said in a statement.

The Europa League win last month was Sarri's first major trophy as a coach, but he will be expected to deliver far more in Turin. Juventus have won Serie A

for the past eight seasons, denying Sarri during his time at Napoli despite posting a club record points tally in each of his three years in charge.

However, Massimiliano Allegri left the Bianconeri at the end of the campaign after failing to guide the Italian giants to Champions League glory despite the signing of Cristiano Ronaldo last year. With Ronaldo now 34, Juventus' first Champions League title since 1996 will be Sarri's top priority.

The Italian champions are keen on the brand of football Sarri imposed during three years at Napoli. However, questions will be asked of Sarri's ability to handle a dressing room of big egos at Juventus given his struggles to impose the same style and deal with player relations at Chelsea over the past year.

Sarri routinely questioned the mental strength of his squad at Stamford Bridge, claiming they were "difficult to motivate." The 60-year-old former banker looked set to leave in February when his authority was questioned after goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga refused to be substituted towards the end of the League Cup final to stay on the field for a penalty shootout, which Chelsea lost to Manchester City. Yet, Sarri did manage to end on a high as Chelsea lost just one of their last eight Premier League games while the other contenders for a top-

four finish stumbled towards the end of the season. Eden Hazard then bade farewell in fitting fashion by scoring twice in a 4-1 rout of Arsenal in the Europa League final to ensure Chelsea again ended the season with a trophy despite the turmoil.

The timing of Juventus' approach could not have been better for Sarri, though, with success at Chelsea likely to be far tougher for his successor. Hazard joined Real Madrid last week for a fee in excess of 100 million euros (\$113 million), while Chelsea currently cannot recruit a replacement with the club serving a two-window transfer ban handed down by FIFA. That is likely to lead to a change of tack in appointing the 11th permanent manager of Roman Abramovich's reign in charge of the club. Chelsea are expected to try and lure a club legend in Frank Lampard back to Stamford Bridge despite the former midfielder's relative lack of experience after just one season in management at Derby.

His attempt to lead the Rams back to the Premier League fell just short with defeat to Aston Villa in the Championship playoff final. However, Lampard's return would appease a fan base that never took to Sarri and should see Chelsea using the transfer ban as an opportunity to finally prioritise the products of the club's highly respected academy. —AFP



BAKU: In this file photo taken on May 29, 2019, Chelsea's Italian head coach Maurizio Sarri holds the trophy as he celebrates winning the UEFA Europa League final football match between Chelsea FC and Arsenal FC at the Baku Olympic Stadium in Baku. — AFP