ISSUE NO: 17836

28 Pages 150 Fils







The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf

www.kuwaittimes.net





Fujairah port: Oil lifeline outside Strait of Hormuz



Bucks rout Raptors, take Eastern Conference lead





US warns airlines flying over Gulf as Iran tensions simmer

Iran dismisses possibility of conflict, says does not want war

MPs overpower ministers in soccer match





KUWAIT: In an annual Ramadan sporting event, Kuwait National Assembly team (lawmakers) beat government team (Kuwait ministers) 3-2 in an indoor soccer match yesterday as part of the Al-Roudhan Ramadan Tournament. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem lead the team in the encounter sponsored by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

WASHINGTON: The Federal Aviation Administration has warned US airlines flying over the Gulf to exercise caution "due to heightened military activities and increased political tensions in the region." The advisory, which also covers airspace over the Gulf of Oman, comes amid rising tensions between the US and Iran.

Increased tensions in the region "present an increasing inadvertent risk to US civil aviation operations due to the potential for miscalculation or mis-identification, said the FAA advisory released late Thursday. The regulator also warned that aircraft flying in the area could encounter "inadvertent GPS interference and communications jamming, which could occur with little to no warning."

Washington has deployed an aircraft carrier group and B-52 bombers to the region against what it claims is an imminent threat from Tehran. President Donald Trump's administration has also ordered

non-essential diplomatic staff out of Iraq, citing threats from Iranian-backed Iraqi armed groups. The White House however has sent mixed signals in recent days, amid multiple US media reports of infighting in Trump's cabinet over how

hard to push Washington's arch foe.

According to US media reports, Trump's long-hawkish national security advisor John Bolton is pushing a hard line on Iran, but others in the administration are resisting. The White House and Pentagon have been under pressure to demonstrate the reason for the huge buildup in forces and heightened rhetoric of the past two weeks. US coalition partners in Iraq had suggested earlier this week that the threat level there had not risen significantly, and members of Congress demanded to see the information behind the administration's apparent preparation for possible conflict.

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Ramadan Kareem

'Self-esteem' from Islamic perspective

By Hassan Twaha Bwambale

llah (to Whom belong all might and majesty) likes to be praised; as such the most beloved Lact to Him is to praise Him. That is due to the fact that He deserves all attributes and praises of perfection. For example, among His attributes is Al-Azeez, translated as, 'The Almighty, the All-Powerful, the Omnipotent - among others'. In this context, Allah (SWT) is the Predominant who can't be challenged or even resisted. He is the empowerer, giver

of honor and dignity, etc. Therefore, when you know that Allah (SWT) is the Omnipotent, you will try your level best to avoid annoying Him because you know there is no way to hide from Him. You will also avoid pandering to the whims and desires of some uninhibited humanbeings who would like to capitalize on your need for their help to urge you to engage in some immoral activities that violate the noble teachings of Islam.

Among the challenges Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) faced was hypocrisy in Madinah and the multiple intrigues of the hypocrites, who were not strong enough to face him but rather, decided to hid their nails of intrigues. The following incident is an explicit example on how the hypocrites were relentless looking for opportunities to undermine the unity of Muslims in Madinah.

Jabir bin Abdullah (RA) narrated thus: We were together with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in an expedition during which a person amongst the emigrants from Makkah jokingly kicked Ansari (one among the inhabitants of Madinah who wholeheartedly received the Makkah immigrants). Ansari cried to his people for help saying, 'Help, O Ansar!' and the Muhajir also cried to his people for help.

Thereupon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, What is wrong that people are repeating a call for help that was prevalent during the time of ignorance (before Prophet Muhammad's advent?). They said, 'O Allah's Messenger, a person among the emigrants kicked Ansari (one of the inhabitants of Madinah). The Prophet (PBUH) then said, "Stop this (appeal for help); for it is an evil call that stinks.

Abdullah bin Ubayy (leader of the hypocrites of Madinah) heard it and said, 'Have they, indeed, done it? By Allah, when we return to Madinah, the most honorable people will expel the most abased.' Thereupon Umar said, 'O Allah's Messenger, permit me to strike the neck of this hypocrite.' The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Leave him alone; lest people claim that Muhammad (PBUH) kills his companions." (Al-Bukhari # 4, 905 and Muslim # 2, 584)

That incident was maliciously blown out of proportion. Surprisingly, after arriving in Madinah, Abdullah's own son prevented him from entering that city until he apologized to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In this context, Allah (SWT) revealed the following verses that can be translated as: "It is they (the hypocrites) who say: Do not spend on those who are with the Messenger of God until they break away 'from him.'

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Attacks expose alternatives to Hormuz

DUBAI: Attacks on Saudi and UAE oil assets built to bypass the Strait of Hormuz, a strategically important waterway in the Gulf, have raised fears that alternative routes could be vulnerable. Four ships including two Saudi oil tankers were damaged in mysterious sabotage attacks Sunday off Fujairah, an emirate located at the crucial entrance to the Gulf. That incident was followed by drone strikes Tuesday by Yemen's Houthi rebels on a major Saudi oil pipeline, which provided an alternative export route if the Strait of Hormuz closed.

Iran has repeatedly threatened to

prevent shipping in Hormuz in case of a military confrontation with the United States, which has imposed sanctions on Tehran in recent months. Iran's armed forces chief of staff Mohammad Bagheri warned last month "other countries' oil will certainly not cross the strait" if Fehran's own exports are blocked Almost all the oil exports of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Iran itself, at least 15 million barrels per day, are shipped through the Strait of Hormuz.

"I think that the existing alternative routes for oil exports are not sufficient and not practical," Kuwaiti oil expert Kamel Al-Harami said. "Most importantly, these routes are away from the main markets in Asia," Harami said. Non-oil imports worth hundreds of billions of dollars also pass through Hormuz, making it one of the most vital maritime links in the world.

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FUJAIRAH: An Emirati man looks on at the port of Fujairah in the Gulf Emirate. —AFP

Philippines Embassy, **Kuwait authorities** probe maid's death

By Ben Garcia, Agencies

KUWAIT: The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait is closely coordinating with Kuwaiti authorities in investigating the death of Filipino household worker Constancia Lago Dayag. According to Philippine Vice Consul Charleson Hermosura, Dayag was brought to Sabah Hospital in the afternoon of May 14 from Qairawan, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Initial reports said she bore various contusions and hematoma and signs of sexual assault. "We cannot conclude anything so far, because investigations are ongoing. We won't know what really happened until the forensic investigation report comes out,"

said Hermosura. Dayag, who is from Agadanan in the Philippines, came to work in Kuwait in Jan 2016. She went on vacation after two years and returned to the same employer after a month. "It means that the employer had been good to her. At least based on our initial findings, there were no complaints against her employer prior to this. We assume she wouldn't have come back if she was not treated well. But just the same, we don't know the whole scenario as the case is still being investigated. We cannot speculate on the matter," the vice consul said.

The embassy is in close coordination with local authorities to gather evidence and investigate the untimely demise. We have assigned a lawyer to handle the Dayag case," he added. Asked if a deployment ban is possible again after this tragedy, he said: "We don't know yet - it's 'wait and see' mode by our mission here. The decision will always come from our central government in Manila. In the meantime, we will push on with regular day to day activities here



Constancia Lago Dayag

and follow their directives."

Charge d'affaires of the Philippine Embassy Mohd Noordin Pendosina Lomondot said they have requested Kuwait's general forensics and evidence department to expedite the release of the forensic report, which is usually processed in four to six weeks.

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War talk grips Iraq; US carrier returns to Gulf

BAGHDAD: Iraqis have endured successive wars but spiraling tensions between Washington and Tehran have many convinced that new conflict looms between their key allies and that they will pay the price. In Washington, some commentators shrug off the bellicose talk towards Tehran saying it will abate when President Donald Trump reins in his hawkish national security adviser John Bolton to avoid a new-and potentially far larger-foreign military commitment.

But in Baghdad, the Pentagon's deployment to the Gulf of a carrier group led by the USS Abraham Lincoln

accompanied by B-52 bombers has many people persuaded the US threats are very real. In March 2003, warplanes from the Lincoln flew sortie after sortie over Iraq in the "shock and awe" bombing blitz that signaled the start of the US-led invasion.

The carrier had first deployed to the region in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War which ousted Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait. In May 2003, it was from the Lincoln's flight deck that president George W Bush announced the 'end of major combat operations" in Iraq in front of a large banner proclaiming: "Mission Accomplished".

The victory declaration was to prove horribly premature, but to Iraqis the nuclear-powered carrier remains a potent symbol of Washington's readiness to use its formidable military might. The Lincoln "does not move just for the sake of exerting psychological pressure", said

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Sunday, May 19, 2019 Local

Qatar Amir visits Kuwait today on the occasion of Ramadan

Amir, Crown Prince receive top judges

KUWAIT: Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and a delegation accompanying him are expected to arrive to Kuwait today to congratulate His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Thursday head of the Supreme Judiciary Council, Cassation Court and the Constitutional Court Justice Yousef Al-Mutawaa and member of the Supreme Judiciary Council. His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince also held an iftar banquet for the guests. The banquet was also attended by Deputy Commander of the National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



NBK offers fridges to serve iftar meals at Central Blood Bank

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) provided fridges to keep water and dates to be distributed at the Central Blood Bank in Jabriya during the holy month of Ramadan. This unprecedented initiative is in line with the

bank's annual social program carried out throughout Ramadan. A team of volunteers will continue to tour around to ensure that water and dates are delivered on daily basis to the Jabriya Blood Bank Center where refrigerators are available throughout the holy month. "NBK's fridge distribu-

tion initiative is part of our efforts to strengthen our charitable program within Talal Al-Turki the 'Do Good Deeds in Ramadan' program. The initiative aims to provide iftar meals to fasting people and blood donors," NBK Public Relations Team Leaders, Talal

cooperation in providing all the necessary support and facilities to ensure the success of this initiative. tiative for two consecutive years to distribute iftar meals to a number of mosques in order to share the spirit of the holy

Al-Turki said, praising the Central Blood Bank's efforts and



month of Ramadan across various destinations, as it extends beyond iftar banquets and field visits, in addition to expanding the scope of the Bank's contributions during this holy month. "Our campaign has received remarkable praise. This year, a team of NBK volunteers will distribute fridges at the Central Blood Bank in Jabriya and make sure that they are fully packed throughout the holy month to service the visitors including fasting people and blood don

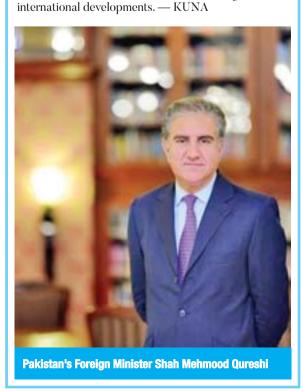
tions to distribute meals in remote and vital areas, in addition to public facilities working around the clock including hospitals and mosques, as well as distributing iftar meals at Naif Palace and participating in Eid clothes charitable campaign and other initiatives.

NBK Ramadan Program is part of the Bank's commitment to serving the community. This campaign translates social and humanitarian mission into NBK Ramadan program includes iftar banquets at NBK maintains its leading position and well established track iftar tent located in Ras Al-Salmiya, visiting various loca-record as a dedicated financial institution.

Pakistani FM hails ties with Kuwait

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi yesterday praised the level of bilateral ties with the State of Kuwait. This came in a statement prior to his departure to Kuwait for a twoday official visit to discuss issues of mutual interests. Qureshi said, "Pakistan enjoyed deep and historic relations with the State of Kuwait and I wish to make these ties cemented and stronger. I will have a oneon-one meeting with my Kuwaiti counterpart followed by delegation level talks where we will discuss ways to expand ties between the two countries.'

The Foreign Minister said that he is scheduled to meet Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah during his visit. "I hope that this visit in the holy month of Ramadan will help further cementing ties between Pakistan and the State of Kuwait," Qureshi added. In September last year, Pakistani Foreign Minister met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 37th session. Both leaders discussed issues of common concern as well as regional and





KRCS hosts girgian event for families in need

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent hosted underprivileged families for a girgian event at its headquarters on Friday evening. The traditional custom, which usually occurs in mid-Ramadan, involves handing out confectionery, sometimes mixed with small gifts or coins, in large amounts to children as they sing traditional songs dedicated to the occasion. Organizers said the event, which also included live sing-alongs and gifts, aimed to put a smile on the faces of the children and their families during the holy month of generosity. — KUNA





Kuwait provides thousands of meals to refugees in Ramadan

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti relief aid bodies this week handed out tens of thousands of meals and provided urgent medical care for disadvantaged families in conflict and disasterridden countries across Asia and Africa during the holy month of Ramadan. Earlier, Kuwait Relief Society handed out 90 days' worth of food to 36,000 refugees at Hamam camp, while the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) gave food packages to 17,000 refugees in two eastern Irbil camps. The IICO initiative, which has benefited over 3,500 families, is aimed at providing them with copious amounts of food amid a harsh summer during the fasting month of Ramadan, Kuwait's Irbil Consul General Omar Al-Kanderi said. As for the consulate itself, it has been undertaking a 10-day Ramadan break-fast initiative targeting 6,000 Iraqis. Thousands of tons of food are being handed out to lower income people in the Kurdish city. The Kuwaiti government also continues its 10,000 loaf of bread a day program in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Elsewhere, since the start of Ramadan, Kuwait Red Crescent Society has been involved in a 30-day breakfast meals program, targeting some 15,000 Syrian refugees across several cities in Jordan. Meanwhile, Syrian refugees in Turkey received hospital attention, namely 50 checkups and 27 surgeries, at the hands of a joint team of Kuwaiti and Qatari doctors in south Turkey's Hatay provincial town of Reyhanli. The initiative included ear, nose and throat and digestive endoscopy surgeries, one of the doctors, Ibrahim Al-Tawaleh said. This was the fifth trip made by the 21-member team of doctors to Syrian refugee camps.

Kuwait Food and Relief Bank signed a cooperation agreement with the UAE Food Bank for cooperation on food preservation from waste and delivering it to people in need in Kuwait and overseas. The initiative, signed during talks between the organizations in Kuwait earlier in the week, aims to promote the principles of community responsibility and hunger eradication around the world, it said. Furthermore, a delegation of Kuwait Red Crescent (KRCS) last Monday distributed food packs among deserving people in federal capital Islamabad in collaboration with Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC).KRC concluded the distribution in Lahore, Kasur, Jhang, Layyah, Muzaffargarh, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Peshawar, Bannu, Kohistan, Mohmand, Bajaur, Kurram, South Waziristan, orth Waziristan, Quetta, Pishin, Panjgur, Chaghi Karachi, Tharparkar, Umerkot, Haveli, Abbaspur, Bhimber

and Kotli cities of Pakistan in the holy month of Ramadan. The KRCS distributed 1,050 packs in eastern Punjab province, 450 packs in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 1,330 packs in northern tribal region bordering Afghanistan, 1,050 packs in southwestern Balochistan province, 650 in southern Sindh province, 800 in Pakistan administered Kashmir and 200 food packs were distributed to unprivileged people in Islamabad. The delegation head of KRC, Yousef Al Merag on the occasion expressed his immense pleasure and satisfaction over the distribution process. In a statement, he thanked Pakistan Red Crescent Society, the government and the people of Pakistan for their support to reach out the deserving people. He said that the cooperation in the humanitarian activities highlights the brotherly relations between Pakistan and the State of Kuwait. He told that distribution process of over 5,500 food packs (61 kilograms each) to needy families has been ensured. The humanitarian activities are taking place under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who is the UN Humanitarian Leader, he added.

The General Secretary of Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Khalid Bin Majeed thanked the State of Kuwait and KRCS for organizing food distribution in the holy month of Ramadan with the generous support. He said that with support of KRC and other partners, they have been able to reach out 60,000 people through distribution of food packs and iftars across Pakistan. He expressed hope that this support will form a lasting partnership to support the destitute people of Pakistan. He was optimistic to have more joint ventures between the brotherly countries. The KRC delegation monitored activities in Rawalpindi city and held meetings with PRC for improving ties in the humanitarian sector during the visit.

The KRCS delegation also included Waleed Al-Rashid, Naser Al-Mutairi, Abdul Al-Hameed Ali and Yousif Al-DuaijIn Jordan, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced that it distributed nearly 15,000 iftar meal on Syrian refugees in Jordan as well as Eid gifts on some 1,000 families during the month of Ramadan. Mishal Al-Oteibi, member of the KRCS team, said following an iftar ceremony that a program has been setup to distribute nearly 1,000 ifta meals during this month. He added that KRCS has also allocated 1,000 coupons worth 50 Jordanian dinars each (KD 22) on Syrian families to help them prepare for the upcoming Eid. Director of Public Relations and Media in the Jordanian Red Crescent Mohammad Al-Turaifi said that the program of KRCS during Ramadan includes distribution of iftar meals on 6,000 refugees over six iftar ceremonies. He added that some 9,000 iftar meals would also be distributed across the Kingdom. — KUNA



Kuwait Relief Society distributes aid to refugees at Hamam camp in Iraq.

Sunday, May 19, 2019 Local

34,000 engineers' degrees examined, 4,000 rejected: Society

Promises to help Kuwaitis retrieve their properties in Iraq

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Engineers Society Faisal Al-Atel said the society examined the degrees of 34,000 engineers applying to renew their work permits with the manpower authority and that 4,000 were rejected. Atel justified the rejection to the fact that some applicants do not hold bachelor degrees, others were not listed in their own countries and most of the degrees were below the level of engineers. "The majority of the rejected degrees were of Asian applicants," he stressed.

TOEFL and IELTS tests

Kuwait University's supreme council agreed to adopt TOEFL and IELTS test results as alternatives for the English aptitude tests Kuwait University mandates for admission. KU's registration deanery had proposed the new measure to be applied for the next academic year - 2019-2020 - provided applicants file their test results before filing their applications, so that the result can be taken into consideration to avoid having to undergo a preliminary

Kuwaitis' properties

Kuwait urged Iraq to activate a committee entrusted with reclaiming Kuwaitis' properties in Iraq, said informed diplomatic sources, noting that Kuwait's foreign ministry is keen on demanding the acceleration of this committee's work. The source added that an Iraqi delegation headed by foreign minister Mohammad Al-Hakim on a recent visit to Kuwait showed a great deal of readiness and promised to work on having Kuwaitis retrieve control over their properties in Basra, Najaf, Karbala and other Iraqi cities that are worth millions.

have achieved a lot in many fields and that 85 per-

cent of them had won their political, social and

professional rights. The minister made her state-

ments on the sidelines of sponsoring Kuwaiti

Women's Day organized by the Secretariat General

of the Supreme Council for Planning and

Development in collaboration with Kuwait University's women's research and studies center

Speaking at the ceremony attended by the

Supreme Council for Planning and Development's

Secretary General Dr Khaled Mahdi, UN Resident

and UNDP Kuwait.

Water production

The Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) distillation and desalination units managed to produce 491 million imperial gallons of water - 6 million gallons more than last year's maximum production thanks to repairing distillation units that had been out of order, said informed sources. The sources added that MEW started making up for the strategic reserves recently used when consumption exceeded production rates, noting that surpluses will be now saved as reserves.

Coordinator to Kuwait Dr Tareq Al-Sheikh, UNDP Resident Representative Hideko Hadzialic and the head of KU's women studies center Dr Lobna Al-Qadhi, Aqeel added that Kuwaiti women have assumed various leading positions, marking new successes and achievements. She also noted that 2006 was a turning point for Kuwaiti women. Mahdi stressed that women still have a long way to go to activate empowerment policies in Kuwait, adding that only 15 percent of officials in leading positions in both the private and the public sectors

85 percent Kuwaiti local spotlight women won their Farming in Kuwait rights: Minister

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

number of Kuwaiti farmers last week dis-

tributed tons of their best products to

citizens and expats free of charge at the

vegetable market in Andalus, explaining that this

step was in support of consumers and to protest

against manipulation and raising the prices of

the same products from other countries, which

they see as a war against local products. Of

course, this was a pleasant surprise for people

who went there to get local produce free of charge at a time prices of vegetables have

increased significantly without justification and

ernment of fighting Kuwaiti farmers instead of helping them, calling on the government to resign. "In light of the regional situation, Kuwaiti

farmers are being fought by the government instead of helping them until we reach self-suffi-

ciency to bear the scourge of war," he tweeted. I have been monitoring several official statements for more than a week. All the statements

are warning of a possibility of a coming war in the region, which is frightening and worrying for all. Therefore, local products are important

because the occurrence of any war - God forbid

- in the region means that imports from abroad

may stop. So dependence on local products

should not be harmed and support of local

I am not an expert on agriculture, but I know

that Kuwait may have signed agreements with

the agricultural organization FAO, which assess-

es local farmers and urges governments to sup-

port local products. I wonder why local farmers

face problems and unjustified competition.

Among the problems that hit farms in the past

was the increase in electricity and gasoline

prices and the acute shortage of workers, along

with other problems that are easy to resolve to

to farmers and all possible assistance and coor-

dination with the farmers throughout the coun-

try, along with providing necessary and vital

services in agricultural areas. But this angry

gathering recently by the farmers means that

there is a real problem that needs an immediate

developed significantly. For example, strawber-

ries are available for nearly five months on a

daily basis in most local markets. Right now, the

region is going through a real crisis and this

heated situation does not allow the anger of the

people. Local farms deserve support now and

always. I believe that it is imperative to open

marketing outlets for local agricultural products

in public parks in Kuwait throughout the year

to serve both the consumers and farms, and

increase support for each agricultural sector.

Fruit and vegetable cultivation in Kuwait has

In Kuwait, there is an official agriculture body that has been calling to provide services

end the suffering of local farmers.

solution.

MP Mohammed Al-Mutair accused the gov-

without any intervention by the government.

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Ageel stressed that Kuwaiti women

Woman, daughter

KUWAIT: A vehicle flipped over on Seventh Ring Road, killing a woman and her daughter, while two others were taken to hospital. The bodies were handed to forensics. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the accident.

Trapped people freed

A wall in a building under construction in Salmiya

responded and found three workers trapped under the rubble. Firemen freed them and they were taken to hospital by paramedics. Meanwhile, quick action by firemen freed a girl trapped in a swing in Mishref park yesterday morning. The girl was handed over to her parents.

Inspection campaigns

Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said inspections of stores and ads in April resulted in the removal of 753 violating ads from streets and yards. Director of inspections and services follow up in Hawally governorate Faleh Al-Otaibi said the municipality carried out inspection campaigns during mornings and evenings. He said inspectors checked 313 stores, issued 154 citations and removed 753 violating ads.

British Embassy keeps travel advice unchanged

are women.

KUWAIT: The British Embassy in Kuwait kept the travel advice for its nationals in Kuwait unchanged from March 28, 2019, reflecting a reduced threat to their safety. Around 8,000 British nationals live in Kuwait and a further 10,000 visit each year; most visits to Kuwait are trouble-free, the embassy noted in a statement on Thursday. The British government always cares for the safety of its nationals in Kuwait and keeps watch on the developments in the Arabian Gulf region, it affirmed. The statement followed earlier press reports in the United Kingdom that the government advised its nationals in Kuwait and other Gulf countries take care of their safety amid the current security risks in the region. —KUNA

Kuwaiti exports up 30 percent in April: Ministry

KUWAIT: Kuwait's non-oil exports rose 30 percent last April, compared with the same time period in 2018. announced the Ministry of Commerce and Industry yesterday. Total exports were about KD 12.3 million (approximately \$40 million), compared with KD 8.8 million in 2018 (about \$28.8 million). Arab countries, excluding the GCC states, accounted for KD 5.1 million (about \$16.7 million) and KD 5.3 million (about \$17.4 million) for the rest of the world. Meanwhile, Kuwait's exports to the Gulf countries reached KD 1.9 million (about \$6.2 million), the ministry said. Iraq came first in Arab countries importing Kuwaiti products, followed by Jordan, Lebanon, Algeria, Yemen, Egypt and Morocco. As for the GCC states, Saudi Arabia came first, followed by Qatar, UAE, Oman and Bahrain. The ministry added that Italy was the top country in importing Kuwaiti goods, Belgium was second, followed by France, Portugal, Turkey, Bulgaria and Spain. —KUNA



ly discovery and diagnosis in order to increase people's awareness," Dr Nuaimi said. He said there are consultation services to help cancer patients, noting that KCCC designated special courses for nurses and health professionals on a regular basis to make sure that they are aware of the most recent developments in dealing with cancer patients to guarantee treatment and care. "The goal is to remove fear and encourage positivity which make a difference in treatment," he said.

Africa's Sahel region

In other news, Kuwait expressed concern over the growing attacks and violence in Africa's Sahel region, calling for further international cooperation to resolve the situation. The remarks were made by Member of the Kuwaiti permanent delegation to the UN Counselor Tariq Al-Banai, during the UN Security Council's session on the recent development in the Sahel Joint Force late Thursday.

Banai hailed efforts of the joint force in facing terrorist attacks, bringing peace and stability to the region and protecting human rights. Furthermore, he called for achieving development in the region as part of resolving the ongoing tension. He added that the weak economy and climate change play a role in the unstable situation. The violent herder-farmer conflicts in Nigeria, Mali, Sudan and other countries in the Sahel region have been exacerbated by climate change, land degradation, and population growth. Droughts and food shortages have been also linked to the Northern Mali conflict. -KUNA

dead in accident By Hanan Al-Saadoun

collapsed at dawn yesterday. Salmiya fire station

KUWAIT: The victims' car seen after the crash

1,000 new cancer patients receive radiation therapy

By Abdullatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The International Atomic Energy Agency said Kuwait continuously works towards giving its citizens better health care, adding that this is one of its government's priorities, noting on its 'continued fight against cancer with nuclear medicine.' This was mentioned in its recent report titled 'Radiation in medicine helps Kuwait's program fight cancer.'

Head of Nuclear Medicine Physics Unit at Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) Dr Mushari Al-Nuaimi said Kuwait invested in advanced medical technology to meet the increasing demand for diagnosing and treating cancer with radiation, adding that the KCCC gives all treatment services in this regards.

case of military hostilities.

Munaikh, echoing Guterres' calls, said humanitarian supplies should be provided on a permanent basis, as well as boosting international support for a political solution that would honor aspirations of the Syrian people. "At the time we condemn the terrorist acts by the terrorist groups in Idlib, we affirm that fighting terrorist groups does not mean any party in the conflict evades its commitment as per the international law," including protection of civilians and civilian targets, he said.

Attacks against residential areas

Munaikh condemned all attacks against residential areas and medical facilities in Syria, calling on warring parties to respect UNSC resolutions, namely 2286 regarding hospitals and medical facilities, and 2427 regarding the protection of schools. He, meanwhile, said the constitutional committee should be inclusive, balanced and credible, and affirmed the only solution for the Syrian conflict was a political

Dr Nuaimi said that KCCC is a reference hospital in the treatment of cancer and was selected as a regional center for nuclear medicine, adding that the nuclear medicine department at the hospital has an integrated vision to fight cancer through four specialized units, which are the General Nuclear Medicine, Positron Emission Tomography Computed Tomography (PET/CT), Medical Physics and Central Radiation Pharmacy. He said that more than 1,000 new patients are receiving radiation therapy as part of the treatment plan using isotopes iodine-131, lutetium-177 and actinium-225, adding that the department contributes to managing nearly 80 percent of cancer patients.

Dr Nuaimi said KCCC has a central radiation pharmacy that provides all nuclear medicine services in Kuwait with radiation medicines that are ready for diagnosis and cancer treatment. KCCC has a cyclotron to produce short lived isotopes, and a facility to produce radiating pharmaceuticals. He lauded the role of the health ministry to construct a new cancer center that has six linear accelerators

'We focus on educating the public about the role of nuclear medicine, awareness campaigns and workshops in addition to exhibitions that projects the importance of ear-

resolution based on UNSC resolution 2254 and the 2012 Geneva communique in a way that preserved united, independence and sovereignty of Syria.

Meanwhile, UN Under Secretary General for

Political Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo said three million civilians were at risk in Idlib, and added civilians were paying the price of an endless war. She said the agreement between Russia and Turkey for a ceasefire contributed to less violence in the northwest Syria. However, added DiCarlo hostilities were ongoing which would have catastrophic effects on international peace and security. The current military escalation should act as a reminder for the international community that a political solution was needed more than ever, she said. "We need to activate the UN-facilitated political track as well as ending violence in northwest of Syria, so let us unite today ... to support immediate end of violence in Idlib and work towards a political solution that meet legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people," said

Security Council has responsibility towards hostilities in Idlib: Kuwait

NEW YORK: Kuwait said UN Security Council has a responsibility towards rapidly-evolving developments in Idlib, and noted Friday's UNSC session was a "preventive step" that would prevent escalation in the Syrian city. Bader Al-Munaikh, Charge d'affaires, was addressing a UNSC session on situation in northwest Syria, which was called by Kuwait, Belgium and Germany - the countries in charge of the Syrian humanitarian file. Kuwait, he said, supported UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' calls as the Syrian crisis was entering its 9th year. He added Guterres called on parties to preserve Russian-Turkish sponsored ceasefire in Idlib, respect international humanitarian law and protect human rights in Local Sunday, May 19, 2019

Kuwait Times Ramadan Kareem



Central Circle celebrates 40 years of success

Kuwait's top medical company celebrates its greatest asset; its people, says CEO Dr Alyan

By Mohammad Sheikh

KUWAIT: Central Circle Company WLL ("Central Circle") was founded in 1979. The company was a small distributor of medical products and equipment within the State of Kuwait. This changed in 2013 however, primarily due to a change of ownership and acquisition of new management, coupled with a commitment to bettering healthcare and offering unparalleled customer service.

As such and in keeping with the same vision, Dr Ziad Al-Alyan, CEO of Central Circle implemented and put into action a number of complex strategies within the company. The same strategies centered around one objective i.e. to become a market leader within the healthcare industry, mirrored with a voracious appetite to explore new and innovate medical services which can be offered within the State of Kuwait.

Today, Dr Alyan's vision has become a reality. Recently, Central Circle was endorsed as winner of 'Best Healthcare Solutions Provider in the GCC 2018' by the International Finance Magazine. This however only marks the start of Central Circle's commitment to bettering healthcare within the country.

May 15, 2019, marked the 40th anniversary of Central Circle. The anniversary was celebrated in the Four Seasons, Kuwait, complete with all employ-





CEO of Central Circle Dr Ziad Al-Alyan

ees and foreign principals in attendance. The event marked an opportunity to both celebrate the achievements of Central Circle and recognize the hard work of every employee who contributes to the ongoing success of the company.

During the opening speech of the anniversary event, Dr Alyan emphasized the need to continue to 'grow' whilst maintaining 'ethical transparency and always keeping the needs of the end user in mind.' Dr Alyan also expressed his desire to grow both in the GCC and target the international market i.e. 'to become a global leader in health services and solutions.' His closing remarks focused on the need to hire 'talent,' to encourage 'teamwork' and to 'create an environment where everyone strives for excellence.'

Central Circle would also like to thank its foreign principals, namely, Roche, Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi, Sirona and all the other dear partners that we cherish. The foreign principals are an integral part of the Central Circle family and without their continued trust and loyalty, Central Circle would not have been able to experience the recognition it has done to date. In short, Central Circle is proud to celebrate its ongoing success but remains committed to excellence and innovation within the health-



(From left) Ahmad Al-Furaih, Dr Mohammad Ashoor, Dr Ziad Al-Alyan and Ghazi Al-Dosary.



Dr Ziad Al-Alyan with Johnson & Johnson representatives.





Local Sunday, May 19, 2019

Kuwait Times Ramadan, Kareem

Zain's iftar banquets continue to offer daily meals







KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the continuation of its annual 'Iftar Al-Saem' initiative to provide fasting individuals with iftar meals as part of its extensive social campaign during the holy month of Ramadan. The company distributes nearly 35,000 iftar meals throughout the holy month.

This annual initiative, which comes for the fourteenth consecutive time this year, is considered a main pillar of Zain's comprehensive Corporate Sustainably and Social Responsibility (CSSR) campaign during the holy month of Ramadan. The iftar meal banquets are supervised by Zain's volunteers team in two main halls at Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Jahra.

Zain planned and organized a number of recreational activities for visitors of its Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh hall, including entertainment competitions and a raffle draw on travel tickets in collaboration with Kuwait Airways, as well as distributing Saveco vouchers. Zain also offered extra meals to the fasting individuals in collaboration with Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company.

Zain started the preparations for this initiative before the arrival of Ramadan, where the company was keen to cover the most populated areas of Kuwait, especially in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Jahra in order to meet the needs of the maximum amount of underprivileged individuals and families who are in most need of an iftar meal after a hard day of work.

This initiative is part of a series of programs the company is organizing throughout the holy month of Ramadan with the aim of having a deep positive impact on the community's various segments, especially the most vulnerable ones. Zain affirmed that its social and CSSR campaign during the holy month of Ramadan includes an extensive array of initiatives and programs that focus on helping less fortunate people to enjoy Ramadan happily, as well as celebrating the true spirit the Holy month brings.

Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday lives.



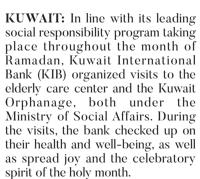
KIB supports well-being of elderly, orphans during Ramadan











The visit featured a wide range of activities and initiatives, including the distribution of gifts and girgian giveaways amongst elderly people and orphans; thereby introducing joy to the hearts of people and smiles on their faces.

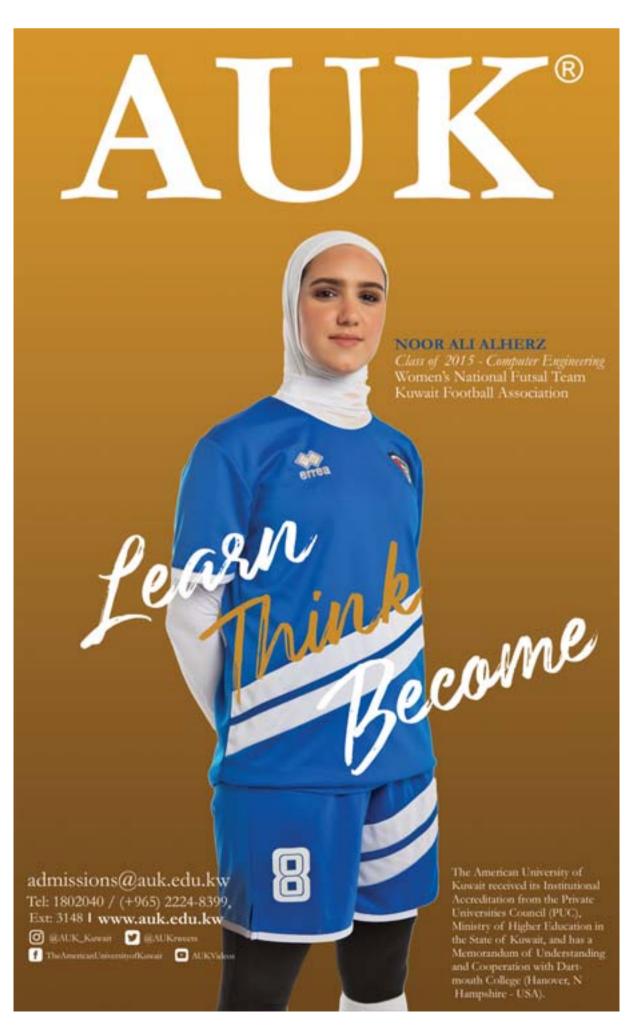
On this occasion, Senior Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "Our visits came as part of KIB's comprehensive Ramadan program which comprises a number of community-based activities and initiatives. Through this program, we demonstrate our

commitment to bridging gaps between us and diverse segments of the local community, particularly during this holy month. Every year, KIB strives to share the spirit of Ramadan with guests at these community care centers, aiming at spreading values of social solidarity and promoting communal ties with

elderly people and orphans."

Najia also noted that all organizations across the community bear the responsibility of offering support, whether financial or moral, to elderly people and orphans in the nation. He also called on everyone to work together to care for their needs and boost their spirits.

KIB's social responsibility program during Ramadan features various community-based activities that embody its impactful social mission to foster a sense of community between all segments. Additionally, as part of its social responsibility policy, the bank aims at positively impacting all members of the community.



International

Keyboard predators: SE Asia kids targeted by online pedophiles

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In citizenship cases, Swiss democracy shows its cracks

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Conservatives keep power in Australia election

Victory considered a 'miracle' that defied expectations

day, prompting Prime Minister Scott Morrison to declare: "I have always believed in miracles!" "How good is Australia!", shouted a jubilant Morrison, who came to office just nine months ago in a party coup against his moderate predecessor, Malcolm Turnbull.

While it remained unclear if Morrison's Liberal party and their rural-based National party partners would win enough seats to form a majority government, the leader of the main opposition Labor party conceded defeat shortly before midnight. "It is obvious that Labor will not be able to form the next government", Bill Shorten told stunned supporters in Melbourne. "In the national interest, a short while ago I called Scott Morrison to congratulate him," Shorten said, adding that he would also stand down as leader of his party in the wake of its

The result was a monumental upset and a failure by pollsters, who had for months predicted a comfortable victory for Labor after six years in the opposition. in the towel. The results appeared to show a fractured electorate with minor populist and right-wing parties playing an outsized role in tipping the balance in favour of the conservatives in key districts in the northeast of

They include Pauline Hanson, whose party shrugged off revelations her party solicited money from the US gun lobby and Clive Palmer — dubbed Australia's Donald Trump — who splashed tens of millions on a populist campaign. Australia has compulsory voting and a complex system of ballots ranked by voter preference, with big political, economic and cultural differences from state to state on the vast island-continent.

'Snatched a win'

Many of the laurels for victory will go to Morrison, who just weeks ago looked set for an electoral drubbing, fated to enter the history books as one of the most short-lived prime ministers in Australian history. But he

SYDNEY: Australia's ruling conservative coalition defied Some bookies had paid out early expecting a coalition closed the gap with a negative campaign and backing expectations to retain power in national elections yester— defeat and all but the most ardent partisans had thrown from the country's biggest media organization — owned by Rupert Murdoch — mainly targeting older, wealthier voters concerned over Labor plans to cut various tax loopholes in order to fund spending on education, healthcare and climate initiatives.

"Labor campaigned hard on a big target strategy with a series of key tax concessions, that ultimately seem not to have resonated with voters," said Rob Manwaring, a political lecturer at Flinders University in Adelaide. "Despite the wider fragmentation of the right in Australia, they have snatched a seeming win," he told AFP, calling the coalition victory "extraordinary and

Liberal supporters were ecstatic over the result. "Unbelievable," gushed Anthony Ching at the Liberal party headquarters. "Everybody was expecting that we were not going to win." Labor backers were disconsolate. "I think Morrison campaigned on fear, and people have fallen for it," Julie Nelson, 67. Climate change had featured prominently throughout the campaign.

Australia is one of the most vulnerable of all developed nations to climate change and a season of record floods, wildfires and droughts has brought the issue from the political fringes to front and centre of the campaign. In traditionally more conservative rural areas, climate-hit farmers are increasingly demanding action, while in several rich suburbs, a generational shift has seen eco-minded candidates running Liberal party luminaries close.

In northern Sydney, former Prime Minister Tony Abbott — who once described climate change as "crap" — lost a seat he has held for a quarter century to independent challenger Zali Steggall, a lawyer and Olympic medalist in Alpine skiing. While admitting his own defeat, mainly over the climate issue, Abbott claimed there had been "realignment" in Australian politics with Liberals winning more of the working class vote, adding: "I'm not going to let one bad day spoil 25 years". The national campaign has been an often ill-tempered pitched-battle. Candidates have been egged and abused, and a slew have resigned for racist, sexist and otherwise jaw-dropping social media posts. —Reuters

Austrian far-right leader resigns over 'Ibiza affair'

VIENNA: Austrian Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache, a key figure of the European far-right, resigned yesterday after explosive revelations from a hidden camera sting, just days before key EU elections. "I tendered my resignation as vice-chancellor of Austria to Chancellor Kurz, and he accepted this decision," an emotional Strache said in a televised statement which almost certainly marks the end of his career.

Media reports emerged on Friday alleging that Strache promised public contracts in return for campaign help from a fake Russian backer he met on the island of Ibiza a few months before 2017's parliamentary elections in Austria. Germany's Der Spiegel and Sueddeutsche Zeitung published hidden-camera recordings of the sophisticated sting operation at a luxury villa.

Yesterday Strache, 49, insisted he was the "victim of a targeted political attack", which had used illegal means to entrap him, but that he was leaving in order to avoid further damage to the government. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz was due to give his reaction to the scandal yesterday, with rumors rife that he may push for early elections. About a thousand demonstrators gathered in front of the chancellery building yesterday, demanding the resignation of the government as a whole. Some held signs that read: "Sebastian, your government, your responsibility."

'Stupid, irresponsible'

In the recordings Strache and his party's group leader in parliament, Johann Gudenus,



VIENNA: Austria's Vice-Chancellor and chairman of the Freedom Party FPOe Heinz-Christian Strache gives a press conference. —AFP

are seen discussing with a woman purporting to be the niece of a Russian oligarch how she can invest in Austria. Strache insisted vesterday that he had not met the woman again after the meeting in the villa, nor did his party receive any funds from her.

"What I said, seen from a sober point of view, was a catastrophe," he admitted. "Yes, it was stupid. Yes, it was irresponsible. Yes, it was a mistake," he said, describing what he did as "alcohol-influenced macho behavior". He appeared close to tears as he apologized to his family, friends and supporters, in particular his wife as he had tried to impress his "attractive host".

Strache also announced that he was stepping down as head of his far-right Freedom Party (FPOe) with Transport Minister Norbert Hofer temporarily taking over the party leadership. Gudenus has also resigned from all his political positions. In the recordings, the woman posing as an oligarch's niece says she specifically wants to gain control of the country's largest-circulation tabloid, the Krone Zeitung. Strache is seen suggesting that new owners could make staff changes at the Krone and use the paper to help his Freedom Party (FPOe) in its election campaign.

He goes on to suggest the woman would then be able to gain access to public contracts. According to the newspapers, Strache says that there would be no resistance among the Krone's editorial staff as "journalists are the biggest whores on the planet". Both the newspapers that published the footage say they don't have any firm information over who set up the elaborate sting. —AFP

US university doctor sexually abused atleast 177 students

WASHINGTON: An Ohio State University team doctor sexually abused at least 177 male students over nearly two decades and was never disciplined at the US school despite reports of his actions, an investigation found Friday. Richard Strauss, who died in 2005, committed the abuse while employed at the school from 1978 to 1998, and university staff was made aware of claims as early as 1979, according to a 12-

month independent probe. The probe looked into misconduct allegations from 1979 to 1997 reported by former students — 150 of whom reported first-hand accounts of sexual abuse committed by Strauss. In all, more than 440 former students and university staff believed to have information related to allegations involving Strauss were interviewed for the investigation. The victims included school athletes as well as other students who saw Strauss at the university health center and at an off-campus private medical office.

Strauss established the private medical office in 1996 after he was suspended from his activities as a treating physician at the school but remained a tenured faculty member. University president Michael Drake said an independent investigation was launched into the allegations after they were brought to the university's attention last year. "The findings are shocking and painful to comprehend,"

Drake said as he made the redacted investigation report public.

"On behalf of the university, we offer our profound regret and sincere apologies to each person who endured Strauss's abuse. Our institution's fundamental failure at the time to prevent this abuse was unacceptable — as were the inadequate efforts to thoroughly investigate complaints raised by students and staff members.'

The abuse, which included "excessive" genital exams and fondling, "escalated over time" as students underwent a series of examinations, according to the report. "We find this range of acts 'abusive' because they exploited the power Strauss enjoyed purely by virtue of his status in the doctor-patient relationship," it said. Perkins Coie, the law firm that conducted the investigation, said it is also examining whether Strauss may have examined students of high school age while serving at the university.

While Strauss resigned from university medical staff at the end of 1994, he remained on the faculty until retiring as professor emeritus in 1998, an honorary status the university is revoking. The university is covering the costs of counseling for those affected by the abuse. Drake said his school has implemented safeguards since Strauss's departure, including a sexual violence consultation team, a centralized anonymous hotline, mandatory reporting of sexual assault for all university employees and mandatory sexual prevention education for incoming students, faculty and staff. 'Issues of sexual misconduct and abuse challenge our society in real and important ways," he added. "It is our collective responsibility to remain ever-vigilant and work to ensure that this can never happen

International

Kidnappings-for-ransom spreading across Nigeria

'Abductions are indiscriminate and everyone is at risk'

LAGOS: Aminu Magami, a taxi driver in northwest Nigeria, froze in fear when more than 20 gunmen stormed an expressway one night in February, shooting into the air. "One of them ran towards my car" as Magami was stuck, the road blocked. "I just sat there and raised my hands, begging them," he recounted. Magami was taken hostage in his native Zamfara State, where he was held captive and tortured for nearly a month. His home state is reeling from a spate of attacks, with 203 crime-related deaths and 281 kidnappings in the first three months of 2019, according to Nigeria's top police officer, Mohammed Adamu.

This is nearly half the 685 kidnappings countrywide in the first quarter of the year - an average of seven per day. Another 1,071 people were killed in crime-related violence, Adamu recently told reporters. In Nigeria, kidnappings for ransom have been a risk in the oil-rich south for decades. But in recent years, the practice has spread to other areas, with northwest Nigeria - the home region of President Muhammadu Buhari - an increasingly concerning criminal front. The number of reported abductions across the country is rising, according to security experts. The causes are multiple, including difficult economic times and overstretched security forces facing threats on several fronts -Islamist insurgents and land battles between herders and farmers.

Torture

Magami and his passengers, two women and three children - including a baby - were kidnapped in Gusau, the capital of Zamfara state. They were chained and held captive in dark huts with dozens of others, in a dense forest

In Angola oil region, separatists accuse president of crackdown

CABINDA, Angola: Since he came to power in 2017, Angolan President Joao Lourenco has promoted himself as a transparent, moderate leader keen to draw a line under the 38-year rule of Jose Eduardo dos Santos. But in the northern oil-rich province of Cabinda, Lourenco is accused of turning the screws on separatists who say they have been targeted by a new wave of state repression. Cabinda is a small, poor, coastal province that produces 60 percent of Angola's oil - despite being entirely cut off from the rest of the country, sharing its borders instead with the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

that spreads across northwest Nigeria and neighboring Niger, a haven for criminal and militia groups. Armed kidnappers called Magami's family daily, demanding huge ransoms. His family - traders and farmers - struggled to get together the 440,000 naira (\$1,222) to pay the captors.

Magami was freed after 25 days in chains, with no support from the police despite several calls from his family, he told AFP by telephone. Debts from the ransom raised will hang over Magami's family for months. The typical kidnapper profile has changed dramatically in recent years - as has that of their victims, said Nnamdi Obasi from the International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank. "The gangs involved now appear more organized, operating in larger groups, with more elaborate logistics, striking more audactions."

And while they previously targeted "relatively well-to-do and high net-worth individuals", today "abductions are increasingly indiscriminate and everyone, rich or poor, is at risk," said Obasi. As the risk has shifted northwards, the oil-rich region around Port Harcourt in the south, where kidnappings continue, is no longer the worst-affected.

Bandit gangs

Obasi pointed out that the country's general security situation has deteriorated as resources have been sucked into the fight against a Boko Haram Islamist insurgency in northeast Nigeria. In addition, an historic conflict over land resources between herders and farmers across north and central Nigeria has worsened in recent years. Targeted operations within the last week have led to the arrest of 93 suspected kidnappers across northern Nigeria, with

In January, the security forces targeted supporters of the Independence Movement of Cabinda (MIC), a small secessionist group. About 70 people were arrested as they prepared for a demonstration to mark the 134th anniversary of the treaty that made Cabinda a Portuguese territory in 1885. "What the Angolan state is doing to us is persecution. The authorities treat us as terrorists," Jeovanny Ventura, a long-time Cabinda independence activist, told AFP.

"And it has not improved under Joao Lourenco - everything we organize always ends up with supporters being taken into detention." With a population of 400,000, Cabinda has experienced a low-level separatist insurgency since it officially became part of Angola at independence in 1975. The struggle has been led by FLEC (the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda) and fuelled by anger over the government taking huge profits from the province's oil reserves that make Angola one of Africa's top two producers.

"The people of Cabinda have never benefited from its

dozens of automatic weapons confiscated, police told reporters Thursday.

But rural areas, often devoid of police, have become increasingly vulnerable to attack, with helpless communities depending on armed vigilantes for a semblance of security. The rise of various militia and vigilantes, in turn, has led to growing concern about the proliferation of automatic weapons in north and central Nigeria. Bandit gangs have become common in the rural northwest, stealing cattle, destroying property - and kidnapping people for ransom.

Refuge for insurgents

The northwest has become a focal point where many security challenges overlap, agreed Sambo Junaidu, a top minister of the Sultan of Sokoto, the most important Islamic monarch in Nigeria. The northwest is becoming "a refuge for insurgents and bandits" Junaidu said. "They are like chameleons, they mix up." These include Boko Haram fighters fleeing military campaigns in the northeast and heading northwest, where security is more lax.

A common belief in the region is that gangs have been able to act with relative ease due to covert support from security officials and politicians who share in their profits. "High profile people, politicians in the government, connived with the bandits," Junaidu alleged. Magami worries for the future. "Things have been getting worse, not better." He may be free, but the legacy of his captivity endures. "The chains damaged my hands, I cannot even put on my trousers anymore, let alone talk of working again," he said. "But I am happy to be alive." — AFP

oil," said lawyer Arao Bula Tempo, who campaigns for independence. "The unemployment rate is 88 percent and the infrastructure that exists dates back to colonial times – Angola is doing nothing here." Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have denounced cases of torture and arbitrary detention in Cabinda. "Unlike other parts of Angola where we have seen progress in the right to protest and in freedom of expression, the situation in Cabinda remains tense," Zenaida Machado, Angola specialist at HRW, told AFP. "Arbitrary arrests happen on a monthly basis."

Driving from Cabinda city airport, the pot-holed road reveals the province's dire plight. The city's roads flood every time it rains, and many neighborhoods have no electricity, drinking water or sewage systems. Last November, Lourenco held a rare cabinet meeting in Cabinda. "I will personally follow up on all the Cabinda projects in order to improve the situation," he told the gathering. For residents, such promises mean little. — AFP

News in brief

Asylum claims in Canada triple

MONTREAL: The number of people seeking asylum in Canada more than tripled over a two-year period and reached a monthly peak in Aug 2017 when thousands crossed illegally from the US, Statistics Canada said on Friday. Since Donald Trump took office as US president in Jan 2017 pledging a hard line on immigration, Canada has faced a spike in asylum seekers who walked across the border, some braving biting cold and dangerous treks. Claims jumped from 16,058 in 2015 to 50,389 in 2017. They rose even higher, to 55,023, in 2018. A monthly peak of 8,801 asylum requests was reached in August 2017, Statistics Canada said. Haitians, with 7,787 claimants, were the largest group that year, followed by Nigerians and US citizens. — AFP

Gov protests 'dumping' of migrants

MIAMI: Florida's governor decried Friday what he called a plan to send undocumented migrants to his southeastern US state to relieve overcrowding at the southern border with Mexico, a claim immigration authorities denied. Florida officials including Governor Ron DeSantis said the state can't cope with the 1,000 undocumented migrants they anticipate federal authorities will send each month to two counties near Miami. "We cannot accommodate in Florida the dumping of unlawful migrants into our state," DeSantis told a press conference, adding he will raise the issue with President Donald Trump. — AFP

Pope accepts resignation of bishop

SAO PAULO: Pope Francis on Friday accepted the resignation of a Brazilian bishop reportedly suspected of extorting priests and covering up sexual abuse, the Vatican said in a statement. Vilson Dias de Oliveira, 60, confessed to Brazilian police in April that he had swiped \$4,000 from parish funds for personal use, telling them he did so because he was having financial difficulties, local media said. Dias also allegedly protected a priest accused of sexual abuse. The Vatican always announces when Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of a bishop, but never explains why. — AFP



International

Sunday, May 19, 2019

In 2020 race, Democrat Warren rises on the power of her ideas

Warren's assuredly liberal plans have already taken concrete form

FAIRFAX: Of the score of Democrats racing to take on Donald Trump in 2020, progressive Elizabeth Warren has stealthily climbed to third place thanks to a full slate of policies that appear to resonate strongly with voters. "I've got a plan for that," the 69-year-old senator told cheering supporters at a campaign stop this week in Fairfax, Virginia, employing a catchphrase of what is so far the most policydetailed campaign of the White House race.

With nearly 18 months to go before the election, Warren's assuredly liberal plans - for ending rampant inequality, rebuilding the middle class, breaking corporate monopolies, protecting women's reproductive rights - have already taken concrete form and are published on her website, unlike many of the other 22 contestants in the Democratic race. "She has the most detailed plans," said Cheryl Schoenberg, who came to see Warren with her husband and two daughters. "I want something inspiring," she told AFP. "There's a lot of negativity around and I want my girls to see a great female role model." Warren appears far less stiff in person on the campaign stump than she can sometimes come across on television. "Dream big, fight hard, let's win!" roared the candidate clad in a vermilion red blazer as she concluded a speech that spotlighted her humble roots and how they led to what she described as the "fight" of her life.

'Fresh blood'

Born into modest means in the heartland

state of Oklahoma, Warren experienced the cruelty of economic uncertainty when she was just 12 after her father, the family's sole breadwinner, suffered a heart attack. Her mother managed to find a minimum wage job, which saved the family from bankruptcy. Today, Warren warned, such modest salaries can no longer keep families afloat, conditions that make it harder for low-income minorities to

escape poverty. Married for the first time at just 19, she gave up a university scholarship, but as a young mother managed to complete her degree by attending night school. She became a teacher to children with special needs, a law professor at Harvard, a US senator in 2013, and ultimately a presidential hopeful, she recounted, to cheers from the Fairfax crowd. With higher education now costing a fortune in the United States, Warren explained her proposal to forgive most student loan debt and establish networks of affordable preschool and daycare facilities.

Warren has proposed a tax on the very wealthy to pay for such measures, and blasted Washington for perpetuating "a government that works great for those with money and isn't working for anyone else". Until the 1990s Warren was a Republican. She said it took time for her activist political views to take root, and she eventually abandoned the Grand Old Party when she felt it was cozying up to Wall Street. A specialist in bankruptcy law, Warren sounded the financial alarm long before the 2008 crisis. She was called on by Congress to oversee implementation of the financial sector bailout plan, before president Barack Obama tapped her to create a watchdog agency to protect the rights of financial

Warren was the first big name to officially enter the race to challenge Trump. With about eight percent support according to a RealClearPolitics poll average, she remains in third place, well behind frontrunner Joe Biden (39 percent) and liberal Senator Bernie Sanders (16 percent). But in Fairfax, Democrats seeking change view Warren, despite pushing 70, as a breath of fresh air compared to the race's two older political veterans, who are both over 75. "We need fresh blood," said Virginia public school employee Leonard Barrett, 28.

'Negative' baggage

Not only has Warren woven one of the most developed Democratic networks in early-voting states, she is also "really controlling the debate" by staking out so many policy positions, argued Robert Boatright, a professor at Clark University in Warren's state of Massachusetts. But the liberal icon does have "some negative stuff attached to her," Boatright adds, referring to the controversy over Warren's exaggerated claims of Native



Trump has adopted the racial slur Pocahontas" as a mocking nickname for Warren, leaving some Democrats to worry that she might be too vulnerable in a headto-head campaign duel with the brash New

York billionaire. Student Monet Ballard, 20,

campaign stop at George Mason University on May 16, 2019. — AFP

said she initially felt let down by Warren over the heritage controversy, but appreciated her public apology and said she was moved by her Fairfax address. People make mistakes and Warren "owned up" to hers, Ballard said. — AFP

Joementum: Biden ramps up 2020 bid with wind at back

PHILADELPHIA: Democratic frontrunner Joe Biden was to kick off his 2020 presidential bid yesterday with a call for fairness and equality in America, urging voters to heal deep divisions and reject Donald Trump's "hard heart". "Some say Democrats don't want to hear about unity. That they are angry - and the angrier you are, the better," Biden will say at a campaign rally in Philadelphia, according to speech excerpts. "I don't believe it," he will tell the crowd, adding that he is running for president to offer Democrats and Republicans alike a "different path" towards unity.

"If the American people want a president to add to our division, to lead with a clenched fist, closed hand



and a hard heart, to demonize the opponents and spew hatred, they don't need me. They already have a president who does just that." Biden, 76, sits atop the pack of 2020 contenders, relishing his prime position. No one knows whether the man who served as number two to popular Democratic president Barack Obama for eight years will run away

with this contest - his third White House bid in as many decades - or fade out in the months-long test of political skill and stamina to come.

But the former longtime senator and lion of the Democratic Party is gearing up for what is certain to be a titanic battle against Trump. After a month of modest events at union halls and pizza joints in early-voting states like Iowa, Biden is counting on making a splash at a rally in Philadelphia, the largest city in must-win Pennsylvania, a state Trump snatched from Democrats in 2016. He has made Philadelphia his campaign headquarters, in a sign of the importance he places on winning back the state for his party in 2020.

Biden will acknowledge that the country fell short of its ideals early on. "Equality. Equity. Fairness. America didn't live up to that promise for most of its people, for people of color, for women," he will say. The kickoff is near the Philadelphia art museum steps immortalized by the scrappy boxer's run in the movie "Rocky."

Biden was born and raised in Pennsylvania, and the rally is a nod to his modest roots. But far from being the underdog, Biden is looking to cement his status as the man to beat, the blue-collar voter whisperer who is best positioned to defeat Trump. And while his delayed race entry drew criticism that he might not be ready to mount an energized campaign, the slow-and-steady strategy appears to be paying off.

Polls give Biden a growing lead over the 22 other hopefuls. The latest RealClearPolitics aggregate puts him at 39.1 percent support, more than double the 16.4 percent of his nearest rival, liberal Senator Bernie Sanders. No one else is in double digits. After a deeply divisive 2016 race, Democratic voters may be looking for an antidote to Trump, the brash politically inexperienced billionaire. "What matters to them at the moment is a safe choice, a known entity," Lara Brown, director of George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, told AFP. Biden's celebrity rivals that of Trump. But as voters start paying more attention, Biden - who to date has campaigned mostly in broad strokes - will be under pressure to flesh out positions on everything from health care and wages to immigration. Biden's dominance has already changed the race's dynamic, with its early stars like senators Sanders, Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren forced to play catch up, and leveling criticism at the frontrunner. They are expected to ramp up criticism of Biden as the embodiment of the Washington establishment. Several rivals are from a newer generation, putting them at odds with the old-school Biden. And while candidates are honing their messages at town halls and meet-and-greets, Biden has opted for more protected environments. — AFP

Life goes on under cloud of smog in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY: Scientists say breathing the heavily polluted air in Mexico City these days is like smoking somewhere between a quarter- and a half-pack of cigarettes a day. But that has not stopped Oscar Chong from going out for his daily workout, despite four days of warnings from the authorities to avoid strenuous physical activity outside. "I'm addicted to exercise. If I don't work out on a daily basis, I don't feel well. It actually helps release my creativity, among many other things. If I just stayed home, I'd be staring at the walls, staring at my computer screen, and ideas are never born that way," Chong, a graphic designer,

The trim 51-year-old was taking a break from his interval workout in the capital's largest park, the Bosque de Chapultepec - which the authorities actually closed at one point this week, to hammer home the message that running or cycling in the middle of an air pollution alert was not a good idea. The sprawling city - a metropolitan area of more than 20 million people - has been blanketed in a thick cloud of smog since last weekend.

Authorities blame the problem on dozens of wildfires that have broken out across central Mexico in recent weeks, and the lack of wind or rain to disperse the resulting particles. However, experts agree the city's chronic pollution problems are also at fault. Mexico City is prone to air pollu-

tion, both because of the mountains that surround it - trapping smog overhead - and its more than five million cars. But the wildfires have undoubtedly made matters worse. They have sent the levels of PM2.5 soaring -tiny particles produced by any fire that are the deadliest air pollutant. Authorities declared a pollution alert from Tuesday to Friday, after the micro-particle level hit 158 micrograms per cubic meter. That is the equivalent of smoking more than seven cigarettes a day, according to a widely cited study by US doctors Richard and Elizabeth Muller.

On Friday, the level fell slightly, leading the authorities to call off the alert. But breathing the air was still equivalent to smoking nearly five cigarettes a day, according to the 2015 study, which compared deaths from air pollution and smoking. The "goal of this calculation is to help give people an appreciation for the health effects of air pollution," the Mullers wrote. "Of course, unlike cigarette smoking, the pollution reaches every age group."

'Feels horrible'

The gray cloud of smog has scrambled people's routines in the sprawling mega-city. Officials are urging residents to avoid physical activity outdoors, and children, the elderly and those with respiratory illnesses to remain inside. They have canceled school and sporting events. The football league moved a key semi-final match to Queretaro, some 200 km to the northwest. Many residents who can afford it have decided to do the same, skipping town until the pollution dies down - though many traditional getaway spots outside the city are polluted, too.

That includes the picturesque colonial city of Puebla, 135 kilometers to the southeast, which is dealing with an extra dose of pollution thanks to the nearby Popocatepetl volcano, which has been spewing ash into the sky. Other



MEXICO CITY: A woman rides a bike wearing a face mask

residents have little choice but to ride out the smog, which not to go out. It smells like something burned," Nicte Munoz, 38, said from behind a surgical mask on her way to the environmental organization where she works. "It's not at all good for our health. It feels horrible when you're going up the stairs and suddenly you can't walk or breathe," said Diana Mariscal, 21, a communications student from the central city of Pachuca who was visiting for the weekend. Authorities have shut down large construction sites, restricted the use of older vehicles and ordered certain polluting industries to cut emissions by 30 to 40 percent. They have even shut down some of the city's beloved street-food stands to reduce smoke. — AFP

In citizenship cases, Swiss democracy shows its cracks

GIPF-OBERFRICK, Switzerland: Nancy Holten is annoying. She is so annoying in fact that residents of the small village in Switzerland she calls home voted, twice, to bar her from becoming Swiss. The 45-year-old, with her long, flowing dark hair, was born in the Netherlands, but moved to Switzerland when she was just eight years old. She speaks fluent Swiss German, her children are Swiss and she says she feels Swiss.

"Switzerland is my home," she told AFP in a recent interview in the small apartment she shares with her three teenage daughters in the northern village of Gipf-Oberfrick. So when she finally got around to applying for citizenship back in 2015, she expected the process to be easy. She was wrong. As part of Switzerland's famous direct democratic system, some smaller municipalities leave naturalization decisions up to a vote by the town assembly. Critics say the system allows for more emotionally-charged and potentially more discriminatory decisions. When Holten showed up for the vote in the village of around 3,500 inhabitants, her neighbors had turned out in unusually high numbers, to reject her.

Ban cowbells?

The outspoken vegan and animal rights activist had rubbed many in the small, conservative community up the

Sudan army rulers say talks with protesters to resume

KHARTOUM: Talks between Sudan's army rulers and protesters are set to resume, army rulers announced yesterday, as Islamic movements planned to rally for the inclusion of sharia in the country's roadmap. The ruling military council announced "the resumption of negotiations with the Alliance for Freedom and Change on Sunday," following international pressure to get back to the table. There had been some breakthroughs last week on Sudan's future leadership, following the ouster last month of longtime leader Omar Al-Bashir after mass protest.

The generals and protest leaders had been expected to



GIPF-OBERFRICK, Switzerland: Nancy Holten poses for a photograph with her Swiss ID card next to a road sign in this Swiss village on May 6, 2019. — AFP

wrong way with her alternative lifestyle and vocal criticism of the ultimate Swiss symbols: the cowbell. "These bells hurt their ears," she said, picking up a heavy brass cowbell she had purchased. She passed the colorfully embroidered strap over her head, and covered her ears as the bell clanged loudly around her neck. "I don't mind traditions as long as they don't hurt anyone," said Holten, who also angered many with calls for silencing the village church bells at night. "I guess I made too much noise for people," she said.

In the village assembly, many railed against her, booed those who came to her defence and overwhelmingly rejected her citizenship application. "Emotions ran a bit high," said Urs Treier, a spokesman for the village administration, which in vain had urged the inhabitants to allow Holten to become Swiss. — AFP

come to an agreement on Wednesday on the thorniest issue - the make-up of a new body to govern Sudan for three years. But that meeting never took place and on Thursday the head of the military council, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, confirmed talks were suspended for 72 hours. Demonstrators subsequently spent hours meeting Burhan's demand to dismantle roadblocks which had paralyzed parts of the capital.

World powers on Friday urged the generals to resume meetings on Sudan's future leadership. Representatives from the United Nations, African Union and European powers "called for an immediate resumption of talks", said Tibor Nagy, the US assistant secretary of state for Africa. They called on both sides to "reach an agreement ASAP on an interim government that is truly civilian-led and reflects the will of the Sudanese people," Nagy tweeted Friday. The generals have allowed protesters to maintain their sit-in outside Khartoum's army headquarters, where they remain camped out to demand a rapid transition to democracy. — AFP

UKIP turns to far-right in bid to stay relevant

EXETER: The UK Independence Party, which came first in the 2014 European elections in Britain, has taken a turn to the far-right as it struggles to recover from a long slump in popularity. It is five years since Nigel Farage spearheaded the party's first election victory, where it claimed more than a quarter of the vote and 24 MEP seats. But UKIP is currently struggling while Farage's new Brexit Party is topping the opinion polls. "It's now about time to ask the question of whether the UK Independence Party can actually survive," Matthew Goodwin, a politics professor at the University of Kent, told AFP.

In the 2016 Brexit referendum, UKIP achieved its defining objective of persuading Britons to back leaving the EU. But it has been on a downward spiral ever since. Farage resigned in the aftermath of that vote. And Gerard Batten is now the party's fourth leader since then and has been widely criticized for pushing policies perceived as anti-Islamic. The party has also embraced far-right figures such as Tommy Robinson - the founder of the anti-Islam English Defence League - who has become an advisor. "It's moved in a very different and, some would say, darker direction," said Goodwin. "It's radical rightwing, possibly becoming extreme in its views relative to average public opinion.

For the European elections on May 23, UKIP selected Carl Benjamin, a controversial YouTuber who adopts the pseudonym Sargon of Akkad, as one of its candidates. The 39-year-old, who has nearly a million followers on the online video platform, is standing for the party in southwest England. He became prominent in the online world in the 2014 "Gamergate" incident, where women in the computer gaming world were systematically targeted with abusive threats. In 2016, he tweeted that he "wouldn't even rape" opposition Labour MP Jess Philips and has attracted fresh controversy since by refusing to apologize for the remark. Police are now investigating the incident. Some rival candidates are refusing to share pre-election debate stages with him, while campaign groups Hope Not Hate and Stand Up to Racism have warned about his comments. At a campaign stop this week in the city of Exeter, Benjamin insisted he is a classical economic liberal in favor of limiting big government and immigration, and that UKIP's members are unfairly portrayed. — AFP

Modi meditates as India mega election nears end

Gandhi meets Naidu • PM slams Godse comments by Thakur

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked trip yesterday, Modi also reviewed reconstruction projects on a spiritual break yesterday to a famous Himalayan pilgrimage site in an apparent last-ditch effort to woo Hindu voters as India's acrimonious marathon election wound to a close. On the eve of the seventh and final day of voting in the world's biggest democratic exercise, Modi, 68, meditated at a holy cave wrapped in an orange robe in the northern state of Uttarakhand. Seated on a bed and propped up by a pillow, Modi was pictured inside the cave after having walked on a red carpet to the revered Kedarnath shrine dedicated to Hindu deity Lord Shiva.

He also shared pictures that he took en route to the shrine on Twitter where he boasts 47.3 million followers. He had to take special permission from the national poll watchdog for the trip as election rules prohibit any campaigning 48 hours before voting, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said. Modi, who is seeking a second term after leading his right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to power in 2014, has pitched himself as a Hindu nationalist to curry favor with the country's majority community, which makes up around 80 percent of the 1.3 bil-

His hectic campaign which started in March has seen him address three rallies a day on average, crisscrossing the length and breadth of the geographically diverse nation which is officially secular and home to a sizeable Muslim minority. "PM Modi addressed 142 public rallies, held four roadshows and according to conservative estimates he directly addressed about 15 million people in these rallies," BJP president Amit Shah said Friday. On his after floods in Uttarakhand in 2013 killed some 6,000 people. Some 900 million people are eligible to vote in the election, with results due on May 23.

Anti-BJP alliance

Opinion polls predict that the BJP may lose seats this time despite its formidable campaigning machine, meaning it might need a coalition to form a new government. Modi's main rival is Rahul Gandhi, 48, of the Congress party, the scion of India's famed Nehru-Gandhi dynasty. The two parties have thrown almost daily barbs at each other, accusing each other of corruption, nepotism and fake nationalism. Yesterday, Gandhi met Chandrababu Naidu, the chief minister of southern Andhra Pradesh state who has been trying to cobble an opposition alliance against Modi. At their meeting in New Delhi, they discussed the "impending need to bring together all parties which are against the BJP", PTI reported, quoting sources.

As in previous elections, the polling has been marked by violence, most recently in West Bengal state where tens of thousands of security forces have been deployed following street clashes between BJP and rival supporters of the regional Trinamool Congress party. The gargantuan election has also seen a flood of "fake news", including photoshopped images and edited video clips, with both main parties using legions of people to manage social media.

Modi on Friday condemned a firebrand Hindu election candidate from his ruling party who called the assassin of independence hero Mahatma Gandhi a "patriot". The conservative prime minister was forced to act as a backlash grew over comments by Pragya Singh Thakur, already dogged by a criminal case over a 2008 bomb attack. Thakur later issued an apology for her statement that Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse "was, is, and will remain a patriot". But it failed to douse the controversy, and the BJP said it has launched an inquiry into Thakur. "Any comments and or statements made on Gandhi or Godse are absolutely wrong. Such language and thoughts should be condemned and are unacceptable in a civilized society," Modi said in a television interview. "People with such beliefs must think one hundred times before saying such things. "She apologized publicly for the comments, but I won't forgive her at a personal level," Modi told the News 24 channel

Gandhi was shot three times in Jan 1948 by Godse, a Hindu fanatic angered by what he considered Gandhi's pandering to Muslims and by India's partition after independence in 1947. The BJP astounded many last month when it named Thakur as its parliamentary candidate in the Madhya Pradesh state capital of Bhopal. Critics accused the party of using Thakur to polarize voters on religious lines. Thakur was arrested shortly after a bomb blast near a mosque in Melegaon, Maharashtra state, in 2008 that killed six people and injured 100. One charge against her has been dropped, but Thakur is still on bail waiting for another charge to be heard.

Thakur said she had only given her "personal opinion" about Gandhi. "My intention was not to hurt anyone's sentiments. If I've hurt anyone, I do apologize. What Gandhi has done for the country cannot be forgotten," she said.



NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes part

The opposition Congress party, which Gandhi once led, called on Modi to expel Thakur from the BJP. "Remove terror accused Pragya Thakur from your party. Her statements have not only brought disgrace but also hurt the sentiments of people in India and across the world," said a party statement on Twitter. — AFP

News in brief

250,000 Rohingya receive ID cards

GENEVA: The UN said Friday it has registered more than 250,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, providing many with their first ever identification cards and proof of their right to return to Myanmar in the future. The UN refugee agency also said the registration could serve as a tool for law enforcement to help counter human trafficking. "Over a quarter of a million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar have now been jointly registered and provided with identity cards by Bangladesh authorities and UNHCR," spokesman Andrej Mahecic told reporters in Geneva. The new ID cards, provided to all refugees over the age of 12, lists important information, including names, family links and fingerprints and Iris scans. — AFP

Rohingyas stopped from journey

COX'S BAZAR: Bangladesh authorities prevented 84 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar from attempting a perilous boat journey to Malaysia, officials said yesteray. Police in Pekua said 67 Rohingya Muslims from Kutupalong - the largest refugee settlement in the world - were stopped as they waited to board a fishing trawler. They included 31 women and 15 children. On Saint Martin's, a small Bangladesh island in the Bay of Bengal, the country's coast guard stopped 17 other Rohingya and five Bangladeshi traffickers before they could board a rickety fishing boat. Fayezul Islam Mondol, the regional coast guard commander, said they were acting on a tip off. — AFP

Hero dog saves buried baby

BANGKOK: An attentive dog in northeastern Thailand is being hailed as a hero after finding and saving an infant allegedly buried in a field by his teenage mother, police said yesterday. The newborn was lying under a layer of dirt near a farm in the Chumpuang district of Nakhon Ratchasima province but was found the same day - May 15 - by a curious canine named Ping Pong. The dog dug around the area and began barking, alerting his owner a cattle herder, who went to the site. "I don't think it was long after his mother buried him before the dog found him," case officer Panuvat Udkam told AFP. He added that the boy was healthy, was recovering in hospital, and was so young he had not been named yet. The teenage mother was charged with attempted murder and abandonment of children. — AFP

Lanka marks war anniversary with thousands missing

MULLAITTIVU, Sri Lanka: Still reeling from the Easter terror attacks, Sri Lanka commemorates this weekend 10 years since the end of a bloody civil war that killed at least 100,000 people, from which the scars are still not healed. Security was tight in the north of the island, home to Sri Lanka's minority Tamils, ahead of solemn ceremonies yesterday. Sri Lanka's government and top military brass were due to hold their own commemoration in Colombo today.

On May 18, 2009 government forces brought their noholds-barred military offensive to an end at a lagoon in the northern coastal district of Mullaittivu with the killing of Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the rebel Tamil Tigers. Sri Lanka's then-president Mahinda Rajapakse declared an end to the 37-year separatist conflict - marked by massacres, suicide bombings and assassinations - between Tamil militants and the central government, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese.

But for thousands of war widows and other victims on both sides, this marked the start of a new struggle: to find out the fate of their loved ones. About 20,000 people are still missing, including 5,000 government troops. Anandarasan Nagakanni, 61, is still searching for her son Arindavadas. "He was last seen with the Sri Lankan army, and after that we haven't seen him," she told AFP at a tiny makeshift office in Mullaittivu, where a notice board was covered with dozens of photos of missing people. Nagaraja Sureshamma, 65, who lost one son and is still looking for the other, recalled the horrors of the final months and how civilians scrambled to escape indiscriminate attacks and shelling. — AFP

Uttar Pradesh: The key prize in India's election

VARANASI: If Uttar Pradesh were a country, it would be one of the world's most populous. And this poverty-stricken northern melting pot of over 200 million people is the biggest prize in India's election ending today. Uttar Pradesh (UP) has 80 parliamentary seats, the most of any state, and at the 2014 election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swept up 71 of them. This helped give BJP a three-decade record of 282 seats in the 545-seat parliament to oust India's grand old Congress party, which sunk to a record low of 44, just two of them in UP.

"To be in Delhi, you need to perform very well in UP," Ashok Upadhyay, political scientist at Banaras Hindu University, told AFP. Many analysts credit the BJP's previous electoral success to a fragmented opposition and a massive shift of disparate caste groups towards Modi over an array of issues, including emotive religious appeals. UP, which has given India nine prime ministers, lies at the center of the country's vast northern Hindi-speaking belt, home to around a third of India's 1.3-billion population and which in 2014 formed the core of the BJP's support.

Dalit voting power

But the landlocked region, home to the Taj Mahal and roughly the size of Britain, is also a cauldron of religions and castes and in this election an unlikely anti-Modi alliance has been formed. One part of it is the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), headed by Mayawati, the formidable "Dalit Queen" whose championing of India's lower castes helped her become UP chief minister four times. She has partnered with her former sworn foes the Samajwadi Party (SP), led by another former chief minister Akhilesh Yaday, and the smaller Rashtriya Lok Dal party (RLD). Absent from the tie-up though is Congress.

"Our aim is to oust the BJP and for the entire opposition to be united," Vandana Singh, spokeswoman for Yadav's Samajwadi Party, told AFP. The state's chief minis-



shaven-headed, saffron-robed Hindu monk whose uncompromising rhetoric has alienated many voters. The BJP insists it is confident but experts say the ruling party knows it is going to lose support in UP.

As a result the party is aiming to make up for losses by picking up seats in north-eastern and eastern India, most notably in West Bengal where it faces another tough challenger in the hard-left Mamata Banerjee. "Getting a majority (in parliament) means a comprehensive electoral performance across the country," Nalin Kohli, a BJP spokesman, told AFP.

Vital Varanasi

But personal honor is also at stake in UP for both Modi and Raĥul Gandhi, the head of Congress hoping to become the fourth member of India's venerable Gandhi-Nehru dynasty to become prime minister. The UP city of Varanasi. where Hindus are cremated on the banks of the holy

68-year-old's popularity there is unparalleled. He won the seat with a huge majority in 2014, telling voters that he wasn't an outsider - he hails not from UP but from Gujarat · but Varanasi's "son of the soil".

Locals praise him for his efforts to develop the city dotted with temples and thronging with pilgrims and tourists in a state that is a byword for chronic underdevelopment. But he may have overstepped the mark with his ambitious plan to urbanize the city, razing centuries-old homes to clear the view to a Hindu temple. "People of Uttar Pradesh are angry with Modi and I think both Modi and BJP will pay politically for it," Santosh Singh, a restaurant owner in Varanasi, told AFP. "BJP is no longer a people's party, it's just about Modi," he said. Gandhi, 48. meanwhile is standing in Amethi, a family bastion in the state. But he is also contesting a constituency in the southern state of Kerala, something allowed under Indian election rules - just in case. — AFP

SE Asia kids targeted by pedophiles

BANGKOK: Southeast Asia is in the grip of a fresh surge of pedophile activity with predators orchestrating and watching abuse on live-streaming sites and via webcams, and paying for it with near-untraceable cryptocurrency, victims and children's charities warn. With widespread poverty, lax laws, and creaking judicial systems, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and the Philippines have long been seen as soft spots by foreign and local pedophiles eeking out underage sex in person.

Tougher policing and greater awareness has deterred some offenders, but technology has shifted the patterns of abuse in a region with growing access to broadband internet and encrypted technology. Pedophiles can now use an array of mobile and online tools - including social networks, video-sharing sites, and the dark web - to direct and watch child rape and sexual abuse with anonymity, experts warn. Predators watch the rapes on large platforms that are not likely to close," said FranÁois Xavier Souchet, of Thai-based NGO Terre des Hommes.

"It's live, nothing is recorded... everything is encrypted. They pay more and more in Bitcoins, encrypted money makes their transactions as secure as possible," he added. This week online giants including Apple, Google, Microsoft, and Facebook are giving evidence to the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse (IICSA), which is being held in London and will look at how to prevent online sex crimes as part of its remit. Demand for child sexual abuse via webcam is an increasing cause of human trafficking, according to a UN report, with

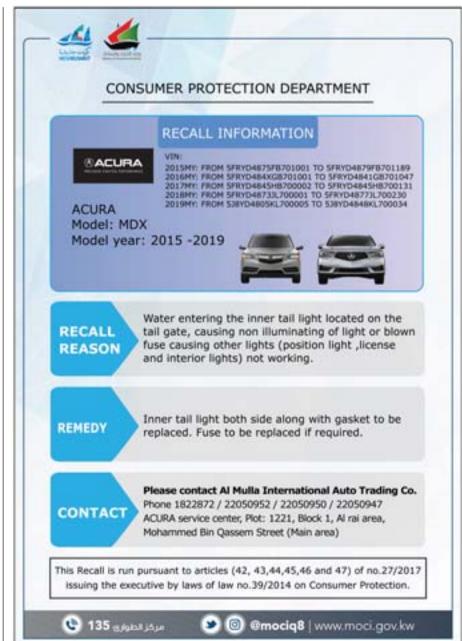
suggestions Thailand has become a hub in the trade, as well as the Philippines. Cassie, a Filipina victim, said she was just 12 when she was forced to commit sexual acts-both with an adult man and alone - in front of a webcam. She moved to Manila to work as a maid but was exploited by her mother's employer. The torment went on for five years. She said "I felt trapped, betrayed and alone. I was thinking, 'I want to die, I want to die because of this pain, but I can't'." Her abuser received a two year jail

Last month, advocacy and legal aid group International Justice Mission (IJM) warned Philippine children were at risk of being forced into live streamed sex abuse, where paedophiles pay to direct so-called "shows" online. "Easy access to the web and money transfer services make the country a global hotspot for this problem," said IJM, noting that it is often parents or family members that organise or even commit the abuse.

Terre des Hommes drew attention to the problem using a computer-generated girl nicknamed "Sweetie" that hung out in chatrooms and was approached by about 20,000 people - mostly men - in a matter of weeks. Last year a report by the Internet Watch Foundation found online child abuse imagery had increased by a third in 2017.

In March, a teacher was arrested and charged in his native France with rape, abuse of minors and possession of child pornography. The 51-year-old, who worked in schools in Asia, is alleged to have befriended kids in a working-class Bangkok neighborhood before building a rapport on social networks, police sources

The same month, prosecutors charged another Frenchman with ordering videos of rape and sexual assaults of Filipino children. The suspect, a 55-year-old former police officer, was arrested after a seizure of computers and live-streaming equipment in the Philippines. — AFP



Sunday, May 19, 2019

Analysis



THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF ESTABLISHED 1961

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

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432 **ADVERTISING** : 24835616/7 : 24835620/1

CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163 **ACCOUNTS** : 24833199 Extn. 125 COMMERCIAL : 24835618 P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.

With overseas impasses, Trump hits rough patch

rom the crises with Iran and Venezuela to the drawn-out negotiations with China and North Korea, President Donald Trump's foreign policy is hitting a rough patch. While just a few months ago Trump was hopeful for big wins on the international scene, has recently appeared frustrated on multiple fronts.

Tensions soar with Iran

Trump a year ago took the United States in a sharply different direction on Iran as he pulled out of a multinational deal negotiated under his predecessor, Barack Obama, under which Tehran drastically scaled back its nuclear work in return for promises of sanctions relief.

Trump instead has imposed an ever-mounting series of unilateral sanctions, including vowing to stop all countries from buying Iran's chief export of oil, as he seeks to curb the clerical regime's "destabilizing" role in the region. But a year later, Iran has not met any of the 12 demands laid out by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and European powers are openly dismissive of

their US ally as they try to preserve the nuclear accord.

The showdown sharply escalated this month when
the United States said it was deploying an aircraft carrier strike group and nuclear-capable bombers to the region in response to what officials called an imminent threat from Tehran. But Trump ran for office on promises to scale back costly overseas interventions and a series of reports say he has begun to doubt the approach of his hawkish national security advisor, John Bolton, who for years has advocated attacking Iran. Trump has said he wants dialogue with Iran - which looks unlikely to reciprocate in a substantive way.

Impasse on North Korea

Unlike Iran, which still is observing the nuclear deal, North Korea has tested nuclear weapons - and is estimated to be producing enough material for a new bomb every two months. "This is a defeat. The end result of Trump will be that North Korea will continue to proliferate and Iran will return to proliferation," a European diplomat said. North Korea was supposed to be the main success story for Trump, who held two landmark summits with leader Kim Jong Un in hopes of negotiating a deal to end its nuclear arsenal.

But the last encounter, in Hanoi in February, ended in stalemate with Trump's aides firm against lifting sanctions until North Korea comprehensively gives up its nuclear weapons. Trump has voiced hope for reviving talks. But little headway is visible and North Korea recently tested two short-range missiles - not seen as a violation of agreements, but still a sign of how much the situation has worsened.

Frustration in Venezuela

Trump had long criticized the US policy of regime change, advocated by neo-conservatives within his Republican Party in the 2000s. But the president himself has found an exception - Venezuela. In January, Trump declared President Nicolas Maduro - a socialist who presides over a crumbling economy and whose re-election was tainted by widespread allegations of irregularities - to be illegitimate and recognized opposition chief Juan Guaido as interim leader.

In a rare success at finding allies, more than 50 countries now back Guaido including most powers in Latin America and Europe. But an April 30 uprising planned by Guaido quickly fizzled out, with the Trump administration saying several key figures in the Maduro regime failed to carry out promises. Venezuela remains in a stalemate, with the United States refusing dialogue with Maduro. Guaido nonetheless said he sent delegates to Norway, which is seeking to mediate, although he denied talks with Maduro.

Power struggle intensifies with China

Trump as a candidate promised a tough line with China on trade and has carried through, recently slapping tariffs on a \$200 billion tranche of Chinese merchandise and effectively barring telecom giant Huawei from the US market. But a resolution on the trade disputes between the world's two largest economies remains elusive, despite rounds of talks and several indications that an accord was imminent. China has announced its own retaliatory tariffs and has struck back, in particular by drastically cutting purchases from US farmers and ranchers - a crucial voting base for Trump in next year's election.

Syria, Afghanistan withdrawal

Trump took office vowing to end seemingly perpetual wars that have brought enormous costs to the United States over the past two decades. But his promise in December to withdraw all of the estimated 2,000 US troops in Syria triggered a backlash that contributed to the resignation of his respected defense secretary, Jim Mattis. — AFP

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



A Palestinian man sprays water on children to help ease the heat, in front of the Dome of the Rock mosque in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. -

Washington complicity in Israel's violations of international law

Dr James J Zogby President Arab American Institute

ast week I addressed a United Nations Security Council meeting on "Israeli Settlements." Because I knew other speakers, experts and diplomats, would address the illegality of Israeli settlements, the economic and human rights impact on the Palestinian people, and the stated design of the entire settlement enterprise to eliminate the possibility of a viable and contiguous Palestinian state - I focused my remarks on my government's role in enabling Israel's settlements and its complicity in Israel's violations of international law.

This may seem like harsh language, but when nothing is done to stop an activity that violates international law, contributes to human rights abuses, and presents a clear danger to peace - then I don't know any other way to describe American actions. During the past 50 years, there has been a steady erosion in US policy toward Israeli hehavior in Palestinian lands

Successive American administrations' attitudes toward Israeli settlements have gone from passive acquiescence to outright acceptance. Even when some presidents expressed opposition to Israeli settlements, they took no concrete action to stop them. The net result has been that the settlement population in the occupied territories grew from 50,000 during the Carter Administration to 620,000 Israeli settlers today. The growth of settlements and settlers has been as steady as the erosion of the official US policy on this critical question.

In 1976 the Ford Administration was firm in its support of the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Conventions, which governs the behavior of an occupying power, to Palestine. President Jimmy Carter was equally firm on this matter. He even sought a formal legal opinion from the State Department Legal Advisor who determined that settlements were, in fact, a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. US adherence international law regarding settlements ended with President Ronald Reagan.

Reagan was neither a student of law nor policy and when tackling complex matters in interviews, sometimes made awkward pronouncements based on his vague

recollection of policy talking points. One particularly sloppy example occurred during his first week in office. When asked about Israel's planned expansion of settlements, he said "As to the West Bank, I believe the settlements there...they're not illegal. Not under the UN resolution that leaves the West Bank open to all people -Arab and Israeli alike.

Though sloppy, this statement became US policy. During the rest of his time in office, Reagan meandered between contradicting Carter's position on the illegality of settlements and saying that settlements were eroding "Arab confidence in Israel's willingness to enter into a peace agreement." In the end, Reagan had done real damage to US policy. After him, no US president referred to settlements as illegal.

Reagan's successor, George HW Bush was firmly opposed to Israeli settlements, even withholding, as a penalty, Congressionally-approved loan guarantees from Israel. Still, Bush never called settlements illegal, instead terming them "obstacles to peace." President Clinton. who inherited the Oslo Accords, continued a similar approach to settlements. He never claimed settlements were illegal and instead argued that continued construction was in violation of the "Oslo process," which prohibited the parties from undertaking "unilateral actions" that could predetermine final negotiations.

While expressing concern with settlement expansion, the George W. Bush Administration often took positions which enabled their growth. For example, he acceded to Israel's effort to distinguish between "legal" settlements and "illegal" outposts, insisting that the latter be removed (they were not), while only paying scant attention to the former (many of which Israel proceeded to encapsulate behind a 420 mile wall - redrawing its borders with the West Bank).

And despite endorsing the "Road Map" - which called on Israel to dismantle all settlement "outposts" erected after March 2001 and freeze all settlement activity - Bush sent a letter to Prime Minister Sharon in April 2004 which stated that, "in light of new realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli population centers, it is unrealistic to expect" these settlements will be removed after final status negotiations.

In short, what was once illegal became accepted as a "new reality." President Barack Obama made repeated efforts to end settlement expansion. In his 2009 Cairo speech, Obama said, "the United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements. This construction violates previous agreements and undermines efforts to achieve peace...it is time for these settlements to stop.'

When challenged by the Israelis on the need to allow natural growth" and their claim that the Bush Administration had given them permission to build within the "blocs" that were assumed Israel would annex the Obama Administration initially denied the validity of the Bush "promise" and Secretary Clinton forcefully stated that President Obama "wants to see a stop to settlements - not some settlements, not outposts, not 'natural growth' exceptions...That is our position. That is

what we have communicated very clearly." Despite this rhetoric, little changed and eventually bama officials also began speaking of existing settle ments as "realities" that would eventually be annexed by Israel with Palestinians being compensated with unspecified "land swaps." It was President Donald Trump who delivered the final blow to the US position on settlements. Under his leadership, settlements are not only legal, they aren't even "obstacles to peace."

When Israel announces new construction, there's nary a peep from the State Department. And while we haven't seen "the ultimate deal," from what we know, most likely this administration will bless Israel's retention of all settlements it has constructed. What's clear is that the US bears responsibility for Israel's continued flouting of international law.

Despite past empty protests: we have continued to provide massive amounts of aid and loan guarantees; we have blocked all efforts to censure Israeli behavior; and, Congress and state legislatures are in the process of criminalizing the right of Americans to use boycotts to oppose settlements. There is no other way to describe this behavior other than to say that we have become complicit in Israel's international law violations. The international community needs to develop a new strategy to deal with this critical matter.

Will the US apex court reconsider abortion rights?

merican evangelicals have high hopes that the US Supreme Court, with its newfound conservative majority, will be tempted to chip away at its historic decision to legalize abortion. Forty-six years after its landmark Roe v Wade decision, the high court is at the heart of a heated offensive led by states with conservative majorities who oppose the voluntary termination of pregnancy.

This week alone, Alabama passed a law banning women from having an abortion even in cases of incest or rape and the Missouri legislature made illegal abortions from eight weeks of pregnancy. Both states have vowed to prosecute doctors who perform the procedure.

Georgia, Ohio, Mississippi, Kentucky, Iowa and North Dakota have enacted laws banning abortion from the moment a fetal heartbeat is detected, around six weeks of gestation, before most women know they are pregnant. All of these laws flagrantly go against Roe v Wade, which guarantees women's rights to abortion as long as the fetus is not viable - around 24 weeks of

The new pieces of legislation are therefore widely expected to soon be blocked in court. But their backers seek to go beyond that step, planning to appeal such decisions until they reach the Supreme Court in hopes this will lead to the long-sought conservative goal of overturning the abortion ruling. "All the conservative states across the US are testing the limits, they see it's a sympathetic court to the conservatives," Lawrence Gostin of Georgetown

"(President Donald) Trump has changed the balance of the Supreme Court, so that he now has a Supreme Court that is decisively conservative and unfriendly to women's reproductive rights, that's unquestionably true." During the 2016 campaign, Trump secured the evangelical vote that had been initially hesitant to cast ballots for the bombastic, twice-divorced billionaire by promising to appoint anti-abortion justices at the highest court in the land.

Since his election, the president has brought two appointees to the high court -Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh - and the progressives are now a minority of four on the nine-person bench. "We know who put them in the court and why, we know that Trump and (president George W.) Bush are expecting them to vote to overturn Roe. But in the past, presidents have been wrong in their selection," said Mary Ziegler, a law professor at Florida State

"There are a lot of uncertainties, so we don't know where the conservative justices stand exactly." She noted that during his confirmation hearings, Brett Kavanaugh insisted he supported upholding past rulings. "Chief Justice John Roberts is very aware of how the public perceives the Supreme Court. He likes the idea that people have respect for the court," said Sherry Colb of Cornell Law School.

In February, Roberts joined liberal justices in freezing the Louisiana law that critics say imposed such drastic conditions on doctors who perform abortion procedures





A sign in support of House Bill 126 is seen outside Missouri Gov Mike Parson's office in Jefferson City, Missouri. Tension and protest arose after the Missouri House of Representatives passed a bill to ban abortions after 8 weeks of pregnancy. — AFP

that only one of them was left able to provide the service in the entire state. Two years earlier, however, Roberts had backed a similar law in Texas. Observers say the shift shows the chief justice places more emphasis on his central role on the bench over his own personal convictions.

'Patchwork'

In another sign of a tempered stance from the court, it has yet to decide whether to take up an appeal from Indiana seeking to uphold a law that treats a fetus as an individual. Since December, the justices have put the case on their agenda a dozen times without making a decision either way - a highly unusual process, Ziegler noted. "They are continuing to kick the can down the road. I don't know what the point of waiting is, sooner or later, if they do want to take it, it starts to push it to 2020," when the next US presidential vote will take place, Ziegler added.

"If the idea is not to have a lot of controversy, stalling a decision to an election year is not a smart move." AE Dick Howard of the University of Virginia School of Law said such moves make it seem "unlikely' that the court will overturn its 1973 decision. "But it is ready to chip away at it," he added. "You will see a (conservative) majority that will increasingly relax the limits they place on the states." Abortion rules vary greatly from state to state, in what Howard describes as a "patchwork" of legislation.

Some states discourage women from seeking the procedure by requiring two separate medical opinions and parental authorization for minors. Others impose such strict conditions on clinics that most have closed. Gostin pointed to the problem of unequal access for women in different states. "A woman of means will always be able to get an abortion in the United States, she will be able to travel to California, New York, (Washington) DC," he said. "The poor women in rural areas... they are the ones that are going to suffer." — AFP

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

Kuwait's consumer spending growth to pick up in Q2 2019



China's tough rhetoric leaves trade talks with US in limbo



Ooredoo Group jumps up list of world's top 50 telecom brands





Falih: No oil shortage, OPEC to act if needed

Joint ministerial panel of OPEC and non-OPEC to meet today

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said yesterday that he saw no oil supply shortage as global oil inventories are still rising, particularly from the United States, but OPEC will be responsive to the oil market's needs. Speaking in Jeddah ahead of a ministerial panel gathering today of top OPEC and non-OPEC producers, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, Falih told Reuters OPEC will not decide on output until late June when the group is due to meet next.

"I am not sure there is a supply shortage, but we will look at the (market) analysis. We will definitely be responsive and the market will be supplied," Falih said, when asked whether an increase in output was on the table due to oil shortage concerns.

"But all indications are that inventories are still rising. We saw the data from the US week after week, and they are massive increases, so there is obviously supply abundance."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Russia and other non-OPEC producers, known as OPEC+, agreed to reduce output by 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) from Jan. 1 for six months, a deal designed to stop inventories building up and weakening prices.

"We will be flexible. We are going to do the right thing as we always do," Falih said of any decision at the meeting in June on continuing the reductions. Falih said OPEC was guided by two main principles: "One to keep

As bitcoin gyrates, less euphoria at blockchain gathering

NEW YORK: The vibe at a gathering this week for blockchain enthusiasts felt decidedly less exuberant than its predecessor a year ago after dizzying swings in bitcoin. Last year's Consensus blockchain conference took place just four months after the virtual currency hit almost \$20,000, spawning a legion of bitcoin millionaires who rode in swanky luxury cars and partied in over-the-top soirees.

Despite bitcoin's latest bounce, this year's gathering, again held at a hotel in New York, featured less ostentatious displays of wealth and a more sober

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said yesterday that he saw no oil supply shortage as global oil inventories are still rising, particularly from the United States, but OPEC will be responsive to the oil

Saudi Arabia does not see a need to quickly boost production now with oil prices around the \$70 a barrel level, as it fears a crash in prices and a build-up in inventories, OPEC sources said. But Russia wants to increase supply after June when the current OPEC+pact is due to expire, the sources said.

The United States on the other hand, which is not a member of the OPEC+ but is a close ally of Saudi Arabia, wants the group to boost output to bring oil prices down.

Falih has to find a delicate balance between keeping the oil market well supplied and prices high enough for Riyadh's budget needs, while pleasing Moscow to ensure Russia remains in the OPEC+ pact, and being responsive to the concerns of the United States and the rest of the OPEC+, the sources said.

OPEC+, the sources said.

OPEC's agreed share of the cuts is 800,000 bpd, but its actual reduction is far larger due to the production losses in Iran and Venezuela. Both are under US sanctions and exempt from the voluntary reductions under the OPEC-led deal.

US President Donald Trump has called on OPEC and the group's de facto leader Saudi Arabia to lower oil

sensibility. The shift is partly a reflection of bitcoin's dramatic price swings, as well as a sign of the evolution of blockchain technology into more real-life, less trendy applications.

"It's definitely less buzz, less show," said Wes Fuldord, chief executive at Bitfarms Technologies, a cryptomining operation based in Quebec. "But it's reflecting signs of a more mature market."

Blockchain is a digital ledger that is the underlying technology of bitcoin with broad applications in finance and many industries that permit multiple users to share data and information in real time. The technology is considered secure because the data cannot be altered.

"In 2018, we just had a lot of PowerPoint presentations," recalled Francois-Xavier Thoorens, founder of blockchain company Ark. "This year, we have real products." Display stands at the event included a Deloitte product of three screens that employs blockchain for cybersecurity, and an application from startup Riddle & Code that authenticates

Today's ministerial panel meeting, known as the JMMC, comes amid concerns of a tight market as Iran's oil exports are likely to drop further in May, and shipments from Venezuela could fall more in coming weeks due to the sanctions by Washington.

Oil contamination also forced Russia to halt flows along the Druzhba pipeline - a key conduit for crude into Eastern Europe and Germany - in April. The suspension, as yet of unclear duration, left refiners scrambling to find supplies. But US crude inventories rose unexpectedly last week to their highest since September 2017, while gasoline stockpiles decreased more than forecast, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said on Wednesday.

Tensions between Saudi Arabia and fellow OPEC member Iran are also running high, after last week's attacks on two Saudi oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and another on Saudi oil facilities inside the kingdom. An OPEC and non-OPEC technical committee found that oil producers' compliance with the supply-reduction agreement reached 168 percent in April, three sources told Reuters yesterday. That shows that OPEC+ producers are cutting output by more than their share. Saudi Arabia has been pumping below its production target since January to keep oil inventories and prices in check.

Meanwhile, Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) chief said yesterday continued instability in Libya could

expensive watches.

Speakers included representatives of Pfizer and AstraZeneca, who discussed blockchain applications in pharmaceutical research, and Microsoft, which is marketing a blockchain-based "decentralized identity" to secure personal data. Attendees also discussed solutions to manage the ownership of digital assets and the various legal and regulatory issues that have surfaced. This year's conference, sponsored by the digital media company CoinDesk, follows a turbulent year for bitcoin, which bottomed out at \$3,200 in December in a decline that sparked skepticism on the potential of blockchain.

The recent rally in bitcoin-doubling to \$8,000 from \$4,000 in late March-failed to push conference attendance to the 2018 count of 8,000. This year's event drew just 4,800 people.

The volatility in bitcoin prices as especially troubling for some observers. Fuldord said some smaller players have exited the market, leaving it to more established companies.—AFP



Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih attends a press conference at the end of the 13th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) of OPEC and non-OPEC countries in Baku.—AFP

make it lose 95 percent of its oil production. "Unfortunately if the situation will continue like this I'm afraid that maybe 95 percent of production will be lost," Mustafa Sanalla told reporters in Jeddah ahead of a ministerial panel gathering today of top OPEC and non-OPEC producers. Sanalla said an attack had happened near Zella oilfield earlier yesterday. —Reuters

Huawei statement on US ban order

KUWAIT: Huawei is the unparalleled leader in 5G. We are ready and willing to engage with the US government and come up with effective measures to ensure product security.

Restricting Huawei from doing business in the US will not make the US more secure or stronger; instead, this will only serve to limit the US to inferior yet more expensive alternatives, leaving the US lagging behind in 5G deployment, and eventually harming the interests of US companies and consumers. In addition, unreasonable restrictions will infringe upon Huawei's rights and raise other serious legal issues.

NBK Economic Report

Kuwait's consumer spending growth to pick up in Q2 2019

Labor market presents a more mixed picture

KUWAIT: Consumer spending growth continued to moderate percent y/y in March. Consumer loans account for less than 10 in 1Q19 amid an easing in consumer confidence, modest wage growth and pressure on expatriate numbers. While some of these factors will persist this year, we look for other factors including low inflation, solid employment growth, an expansionary government budget and easing central bank consumer lending regulations - to help maintain spending growth at a reasonable level.

Key indicators of consumer activity eased in 1Q19. Growth in official point-of-sale (POS) transactions and ATM withdrawals slowed to 4 percent v/v in 1019 from 6 percent in 4018, continuing the softening trend that started in the middle of last year. Growth in the NBK consumer spending index (CSI) has followed a similar path, averaging just 1.4 percent in Q1. Encouragingly however, monthly CSI figures for April show a pick-up in growth to 1.9 percent y/y reflecting a strong monthon-month increase. This could be a sign that the spending slowdown has bottomed out, perhaps as a result of the recent sharp rise in consumer borrowing. The easing in spending in Q1 was mirrored by a fall in consumer confidence. Ara's consumer confidence index fell to 103 in 1019, well below the 12-month average. While lower oil prices and news headlines of a softening global economy may have been a factor, index weakness was led by the 'current employment' subcomponent (possibly linked to news of plans to cut expat numbers), while the 'purchase of durable goods' component was also weak.

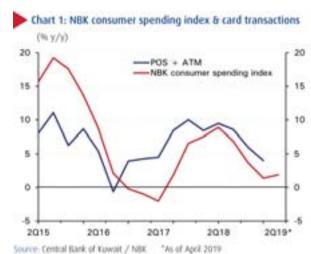
A key cause for optimism on the spending outlook is the recent rise in lending. Consumer loan growth climbed to a fiveyear high of 7.8 percent y/y from 3.9 percent in February. After years of softness, consumer lending has risen strongly in each month since December, coinciding with the loosening of consumer loan limits (to KD 25 000 from KD 15 000 previously) by the Central Bank of Kuwait. The pickup in consumer borrowing will most likely show up in higher spending in the coming months due to lag effects. In spite of the surge in consumer credit, growth in household debt overall - which includes loans for house purchase - has continued to gradually ease, at 5.6 percent of all household debt, so the latest strength does not imply a large impact on the total household debt burden, or a squeeze on spending potential.

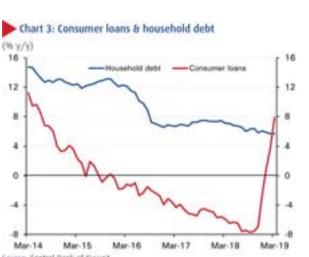
Labor market

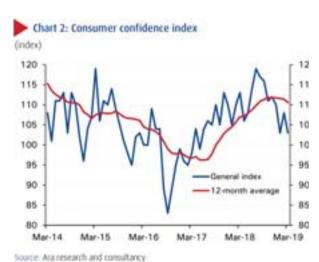
The improving jobs picture is also offering some support to consumers. Employment growth recovered in 2018 (end-year), rising to 4.2 percent y/y from a multi-year low of 2.4 percent in 2017, on improvements in hiring of both Kuwaitis and expats. Strong hiring by the public sector saw jobs growth for Kuwaiti nationals reach a high 3.7 percent in 2018, and expat hiring rose by a two-year high of 4.3 percent. However the composition of expat jobs growth may be less favorable than the headline figures suggest: much of it is stemming from the construction sector, where Kuwaitization targets are low and there is a high share of low-skilled laborers. If gains are largely in low-paid jobs, any boost to consumer spending might be limited.

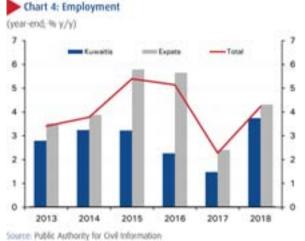
Continued softness in wage growth is also likely to weigh on spending. Growth in the average wage for Kuwaitis enrolled in state pension plans improved slightly but remained weak at 0.2 percent y/y in 4Q18 from -0.6 percent in Q3. Indeed after accounting for inflation, real wage growth was flat in 4Q18, having declined for most of the past two years. However soft wage growth may be partly due to a rising number of new entrants, who typically earn relatively low wages and may therefore be pulling the average wage lower.

Finally, while employment growth for expatriates is broadly favorable, overall population trends are less so thanks to a drop in the number of non-working expats, i.e. dependents. The overall expat population grew 2.8 percent in 2018, less than the growth in employment, due to a 1.3 percent decline in the number of dependents. The drop comes amid increases in certain charges such as health insurance and school fees, previous subsidy cuts, and also some political pressure to limit expat numbers. A drop in dependents would add further downward pressure on consumption.









Bayt.com Report

What are the differences between working in large vs small companies?

's bigger always better? That's certainly a discussion to be had when it comes to deciding whether to pursue work at a large company or at a small or medium-sized company. There is no universal truth in this area, and there are advantages and disadvantages in either choice. However, experts at Bayt.com have provided this list of pros and cons to consider, that can make your decision will be easier to make.

Large companies: The positives

Large corporations are large for a reason. Through increased success and growth, a small company becomes a larger one over time, gaining unique advantages and perks in the job market. Here are a few positives to consider about pursuing work at a large company:

Clearer structure

Entering a large company is like becoming part of a machine that has withstood the test of time. For this reason, there is usually an established order of doing things that enables you to know exactly what your job is, how you fit into your department and the obvious pathways for promotions and raises as soon as you walk through the door. Although this sort of structure is not the right path for everyone, if you want a job with an increased sense of stability, clearly defined and structured paths for advancement, then larger companies have these in spades.

More benefits

Generally, larger companies tend to be better

when providing benefits such as health insurance, transportation allowances, training budgets, etc. This is because they often have a larger revenue than smaller corporations, making it easier for them to afford paying for increased benefits packages.

Of course, this only matters if you end up taking advantage of all the available benefits. Regardless of what company size you end up going for, it is always prudent to find out what benefits are available to you before joining.

More room for career change

While your role may be very specific in a large company, it is easier to change positions and explore new areas of work without leaving the company altogether. You can go from being a web developer to being a project manager, or start off as a graphic designer and wind up working as a marketer. You might still need to hunt a little and work hard to qualify for the career change you want, but it is definitely a plus if you are already working for the company. That is one less thing the hiring manager has to worry about.

Large companies: The negatives

Working for a large company is not all sunshine and rainbows, however. While you may be tempted to get in at a large, multinational company, you should consider these drawbacks beforehand.

Change happens slowly

Change can move at a glacial pace at some companies. Even if the company you work at is open to new ideas, convincing your department to move to a different model, take on a new strategy or create a new product can take a lot of time. Many of you will want to leave their mark on the company they work for; however, this might be more straightforward and easier in a smaller company than a large one. You have to remember that since the company has been around for a while, it will have its own way of getting

Getting to know everyone is hard

You could be the most social, friendly person in your company, but if you work at a company with hundreds or thousands of employees, it will be a very challenging feat to get to know everyone. What becomes inevitable here is the chance your job will be affected by someone you have never even met. This could be the CEO, the legal department, or any number of potential suspects, but someone could make a decision that determines how you work and it will be difficult for you to speak to that person directly to raise your concerns. Of course, a good company will typically have a method for employees to voice serious objections to upper management, but this is not always guaranteed.

Your surroundings influence your success

Another issue is that your success, happiness and work-life balance can be determined by where in the company you are placed. Working within a dysfunctional team can bring down the quality of your work or force you to put in more hours no matter how hard you work. It might even affect your chances of moving up within the company. In large corporations, team effort is incredibly important. Ideally, your team or department will raise you up and not bring you down.

Small companies: The positives

You may or may not consider smaller companies less impressive than a large, multinational, but there remains many perks to be enjoyed if you are employed at a smaller company. Here are some of the benefits

Greater visibility of success

Unless you hold a high enough position, the victories and achievements you accumulate while working at a large company might never reach the ears of the CEO. In contrast, your great work will be seen by everyone at a small company. This makes it much easier to distinguish yourself through applying your unique skills. Your actions are also seen as much more significant due to your increased visibility in smaller companies.

If you are just starting out in a new career, working for a small company is an excellent way to establish your abilities, gain confidence, improve your skills, and build a reputation that can follow

Greater agility

Working more closely with your coworkers does not only mean you have increased visibility, it also means you have easier access to a lot of the machine's moving parts. The fact you will be able to speak directly to your upper management to voice concerns or pitch ideas will result in much faster movement and application of changes. What could take weeks or even months to get done in a larger corporation as you move through all the official channels can be as simple as knocking on your boss's door once at a smaller one.

More varied responsibilities

While working in a larger company enables you to switch to a different job and exercise an entirely new skill set without leaving your companv. smaller companies may require you to exercise a different skills set without ever leaving your desk. This is especially true for startup companies where you might be asked to fulfil more roles that lie outside a narrowly-defined job description. For instance, you could work primarily as a copywriter and find yourself trying your hand at Photoshop on the next. If you are the sort of professional who enjoys using and developing a variety of skills without having to change jobs entirely, a smaller company may be more suited to you.

Small companies: The negatives

There are also a few things to consider when weighing the negatives of working at a smaller

Greater visibility of failure

Just like your triumphs and successes will be magnified under your CEO's gaze at a smaller company, your misfires will be, too. Of course, a good employee will always want to minimize failure regardless of how many witnesses there will be, but it is definitely disheartening if you have made a mistake and all your coworkers know. It is important to note that this should not stop you from seeking work at a smaller company. Part of becoming a better professional is learning how to fail gracefully and learn from your failures.

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VIVA launches home Internet offer with postpaid plans starting KD 25

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, and its arm to provide Internet services Qualitynet, have launched an amazing offer on home Internet service for the first time, with VIVA Postpaid plans. This offer allows customers to enjoy fast internet service starting KD 25, and receive a router upon one year commitment, with high internet speed reaching 50 Mbps.

Eng Maziad Nasser Al-Harbi, CEO of VIVA commented: "We are is always keen to offer the latest in digital and internet services to ensure a high level of customer satisfaction and we have distinguished ourselves by remaining at the forefront in the technology arena and our range of products, so we launched this offer on the home Internet to meet all the requirements of our customers from different segments, at a speed that suits their needs."

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things 'More' for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established a pioneer position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling.



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EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co. **EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES** Euro Sterling Pound Canadian dollar Turkish lira 227.650 51.190 304.300 US Dollar Buying 296.400 ASIAN COUNTRIES Japanese Yen Indian Rupees Pakistani Rupees 2.187 Srilankan Rupees 1.724 Nepali Rupees Singapore Dollar 2.706 Hongkong Dollar Bangladesh Taka 38.827 Philippine Peso Thai Baht 5.835 9.726 Malaysian ringgit 77.903 GCC COUNTRIES 81.281 Saudi Rival Qatari Riyal Omani Rival Bahraini Ďinar UAE Dirham 82.986 ARAB COUNTRIES Egyptian Pound - Cash

Egyptian Pound - Transfer

Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.223
Tunisian Dinar	105.030
ordanian Dinar	430.290
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.26
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Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.340
Canadian Dollar	227.315
Sterling Pound	400.840
Euro	342.770
Swiss Frank	310.905
Bahrain Dinar	809.355
UAE Dirhams	83.265
Qatari Riyals	84.500
Saudi Riyals	82.055
Jordanian Dinar	430.540
Egyptian Pound	17.753
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.721
Indian Rupees	4.390
Pakistani Rupees	2.154
Bangladesh Taka	3.605
Philippines Pesso	5.865
Cyprus pound	18.105
Japanese Yen	3.750
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.748
Malaysian Ringgit	74.240
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.330
Thai Bhat	10.526

Turkish Lira Singapore dollars

Bangladesh Taka

XCHANGE COMPAN	Y WLL
BUY	SELL
Europe	
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0.005232	0.014532
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0.001339	
0.030796	0.035996
0.065339	0.082189
0.004729	0.004729
0.009118	0.019118
0.027628	0.032628
0.295537	0.306537
Australasia	
0.201525	0.213525
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America	
0.221349	0.230349
0.300700	0.306000
0.301200	0.306000
	BUY Europe 0.381288 0.005232 0.041549 0.333288 0.132217 0.001339 0.030796 0.065339 0.004729 0.009118 0.027628 0.295537 Australasia 0.201525 0.193033 America 0.221349 0.300700

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Phi	ilippine Peso
Sin	gapore Dollar
Sri	Lankan Rupee
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Th	ai Baht
Vie	etnamese Dong

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Turkish Lira

UAE Dirham

Yemeni Riyal

Malaysian Ringgit	0.069454	0.075454
Nepalese Rupee	0.002682	0.003022
Pakistan Rupee	0.001525	0.002295
Philippine Peso	0.005760	0.006060
Singapore Dollar	0.216680	0.226680
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001377	0.001957
Taiwan	0.010174	0.010354
Thai Baht	0.009301	0.009851
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.793917	0.810417
Egyptian Pound	0.017598	0.020198
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000210	0.000270
Jordanian Dinar	0.424997	0.433997
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020524	0.044524
Omani Riyal	0.785370	0.791050
Qatar Riyal	0.079454	0.084394
Saudi Riyal	0.080193	0.081493
Syrian Pound	0.001292	0.001512
Tunisian Dinar	0.097563	0.105563

Sunday, May 19, 2019

China's tough rhetoric leaves trade talks with US in limbo

Trump delays decision to impose auto tariffs

WASHINGTON/BEIJING: China struck a more aggressive tone in its trade war with the United States on Friday, suggesting a resumption of talks between the world's two largest economies would be meaningless unless Washington changed course. The tough talk capped a week that saw Beijing unveil fresh retaliatory tariffs, US officials accuse China of backtracking on promises made during months of talks and the Trump administration level a potentially crippling blow against one of China's biggest and most successful companies.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang, asked about state media reports suggesting there would be no more trade negotiations, said China always encouraged resolving disputes with the United States through dialogue and consultations. "But because of certain things the US side has done during the previous China-US trade consultations. we believe if there is meaning for these talks, there must be a show of sincerity," he told a daily news briefing. CNBC, citing sources, said the trade talks had stalled and the next round of discussions was "in flux."

The United States raised Beijing's ire this week when it announced it was putting Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, the world's biggest telecoms equipment maker, on a blacklist that could make it extremely hard to do business with US companies. The US Commerce Department may soon scale back restrictions on Huawei by issuing a temporary general license to allow time for companies and people who have Huawei equipment to maintain reliability of their communications networks and equipment, a department spokeswoman said. The possible general license would not apply to new transactions, the spokeswoman said, and would last for 90 days. China has yet to say whether or how it will retaliate, although its state media is sounding an increasingly strident note. The ruling Communist Party's People's Daily published on Friday a front-page commentary that evoked the patriotic spirit of the country's past wars. "The trade war can't bring China down. It will only harden us to grow stronger," it said.

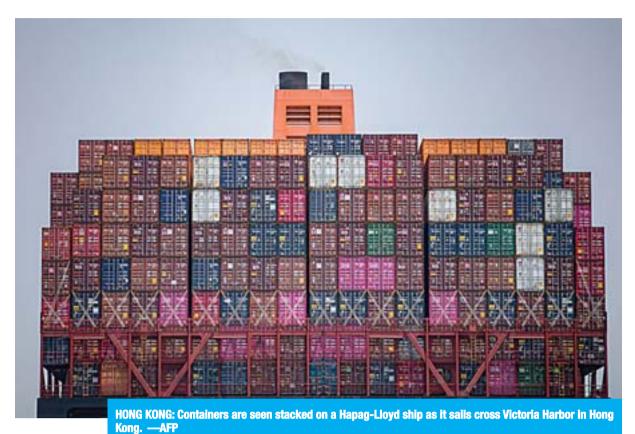
Global stocks, which rebounded this week on the prospect of another round of US-China talks, suffered a fresh bout of selling and China's yuan slid to its weakest against the US dollar in almost five months. Prices of US government debt were trading higher.

The increasingly acrimonious trade dispute has rattled investors who fear that the countries are careening dangerously down a track that will badly damage global supply lines and put the brakes on an already slowing world economy. The South China Morning Post, citing an unidentified source, reported that a senior member of China's Communist Party said the trade war could reduce China's 2019 economic growth by 1 percentage point in the worst-case scenario.

"Both sides might need some prodding, but we've had a very clear opportunity for one side or the other ... to say this isn't going to work ... and neither side did," said Derek Scissors, an expert on Sino-US economic relations at the American Enterprise Institute think tank, who put the chance of a deal this year at over 50/50.

Auto tariffs

US President Donald Trump, who has embraced protectionism as part of an "America First" agenda aimed at rebalancing global trade, has accused China of backing out of a deal earlier this month that would have ended the 10month dispute. Earlier this month, Reuters reported China had backtracked on commitments to change its laws to resolve core US complaints about theft of intellectual property, forced technology transfers and other practices. Trump punctuated two days of talks in Washington last week with a decision to raise tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent. The negotiations ended in a stalemate. On Monday, Beijing said it would raise its tariffs on a revised list of \$60 billion in US goods effective June 1. Trump, in turn, said he is considering slapping tariffs on the remaining \$300 billion in Chinese imports to the United States. The US president also continues to dangle the possibility of imposing tariffs of up to 25 percent on imported cars and parts, a move that could be devastating for a number of US trading partners, including Japan and Germany.



The White House said on Friday that Trump's decision on auto tariffs would be delayed by up to six months to allow more time for trade talks with the European Union and Japan. Automakers have strongly opposed the tariffs, saying they would hike prices and threaten thousands of US jobs. There is also strong opposition in the US Congress, with many prominent members of Trump's Republican Party rejecting the idea. US Senate Minority Leader Chuck

Schumer, a Democrat, praised the administration's decision to delay the auto tariffs. "Positive step. The pressure must be strong on China, not on our allies who we should encourage to join us in confronting China," Schumer tweeted. The United States and Canada also announced on Friday a deal to remove tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum in exchange for new curbs to keep dumped metals from China and other nations out of the US market.—Reuters

US lifts tariffs on Canadian, Mexican metals in boost for trade pact

WASHINGTON/OTTAWA: The United States struck deals on Friday to lift tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico, the three governments said, removing a major obstacle to legislative approval of a new North American trade pact.

The separate agreements, which will not impose US quotas on Canadian and Mexican metals shipments, will also eliminate Mexican and Canadian retaliatory tariffs on a broad range of US products, including pork, beef and bourbon. The United States and Canada said their agreement will be implemented by today afternoon, and includes new curbs aimed at preventing dumped steel and aluminum from China and other countries from entering the US market via Canada.

President Donald Trump had imposed the global "Section 232" tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum in March 2018 on national security grounds, invoking a 1962 Cold War-

Both Canada and Mexico argued for 14 months that their metals industries posed no security threat as their economies are integrated with the United States, and challenged the tariffs before the World Trade Organization.

"This is just pure good news for Canadians," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters after announcing the deal to workers at Stelco Holdings Inc's steel mill in Hamilton,

Stelco shares soared 11 percent on the news, while top US steelmaker Nucor fell 3.1 percent and US Steel Corp, which had seen massive profit improvement because of the tariffs, fell 1.2 percent. Spokesmen for US Steel and Nucor, which had advocated for maintaining strong tariff protections, could not be reached for comment.

Trade deal vote

The metals tariffs were a major irritant for Canada and Mexico and had caused them to halt progress toward ratification the new US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the trilateral trade deal to replace the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement. US lawmakers with constituents suffering from Canadian and Mexican retaliation, including Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, also said they would not consider a USMCA vote with the tariffs in place. After the deal, Grassley tweeted: "Thank u Mr President for really helping the farmers of Iowa w this important step in USM-CA. w lifting metal tariffs @realdonaldtrump just proved he can deliver on negotiations. China ought to take note/start dealing in good faith & take Pres Trump seriously.

Trudeau said Canada would now work with the United States on the tim-



MIAMI, FLORIDA: Construction workers are seen as they work with steel rebarduring the construction of a building on Friday in Miami, Florida. —AFP

was optimistic Canada would be "be weeks".—Reuters

ing of USMCA ratification and said he able to move forward well in the coming

US may scale back Huawei trade restrictions to help existing customers

WASHINGTON: The US Commerce Department said on Friday it may soon scale back restrictions on Huawei Technologies after this week's blacklisting would have made it nearly impossible for the Chinese company to service its existing customers.

The Commerce Department, which had effectively halted Huawei's ability to buy American-made parts and components, is considering issuing a temporary general license to "prevent the interruption of existing network operations and equipment," a spokeswoman said.

Potential beneficiaries of the license could, for example, include internet access and mobile phone service providers in thinly populated places such as Wyoming and eastern Oregon that purchased network equipment from Huawei in recent years. In effect, the Commerce Department would allow Huawei to purchase US goods so it can help existing customers maintain the reliability of networks and equipment, but the Chinese firm still would not be allowed to buy American parts and components to manufacture new products.

The potential rule roll back suggests changes to Huawei's supply chain may have

immediate, far-reaching and unintended consequences. The blacklisting, officially known as placing Huawei on the Commerce Department's entity list, was one or two efforts by the Trump administration this week allegedly made in an attempt to thwart national security risks. In an executive order, President Donald Trump also effectively barred the use of its equipment in US tele-

The United States believes Huawei's smartphones and network equipment could be used by China to spy on Americans, allegations the company has repeatedly denied.

The latest Commerce move comes as China has struck a more aggressive tone in its trade war with the United States, suggesting talks between the world's two largest economies would be meaningless unless Washington changed course. A spokesman for Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker, did not immediately respond to a request for

Out of \$70 billion Huawei spent buying components in 2018, some \$11 billion went to US firms including Qualcomm, Intel Corp and Micron Technology Inc.

If the Commerce Department issues the license, US suppliers would still need separate licenses to conduct new business with Huawei, which would be extremely difficult to obtain, the spokeswoman said. The temporary general license would last for 90 days, she said, and would be posted in the Federal Register, just as the rule adding

PARIS: Chairman of Chinese telecome group Huawei's Board of Directors

Ken Hu speaks during his visit at the Vivatech startups and innovation fair, in Paris. —AFP

Huawei to the entity list will be published in the government publication on Tuesday.

"The goal is to prevent collateral harm on non-Huawei entities that use their equipment," said Washington lawyer Kevin Wolf, a former Commerce Department official.

The entity listing bans Huawei and 68 affiliates in 26 countries from buying American-made goods and technology without licenses that would likely be denied. The entities list identifies companies believed to be involved in activities contrary

to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

In a final rule posted on Thursday, the government tied Huawei's entity listing to a criminal case pending against the company in Brooklyn, New York.

US prosecutors unsealed the indictment in January accusing the company of engaging in bank fraud to obtain embargoed US goods and services in Iran and to move money out of the country via the international banking system. —Reuters

Trade war fears hit Wall Street as pound tumbles on Brexit angst

NEW YORK: Wall Street finished a topsy-turvy session in the red Friday amid worries over US-China trade talks, while the pound fell to multi-month lows on renewed prospects of a no-deal Brexit.

US investors reacted negatively to media reports that described talks between the US and China as stalled following the White House's move this week to block Chinese telecommunications company Huawei from the US. That drew more confrontational rhetoric from Chinese government officials.

"It feels as though further discussions on trade have been put on hold," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at National Securities. "Today it seems the door is shut" to further talks, he added.

Angst over China ultimately outweighed two other conciliatory steps by President Donald Trump on Friday on trade: the lifting of steel tariffs on Canada and Mexico, and a six-month delay on imposing tariffs on auto imports which has worried Europe and Japan.

Stocks in New York briefly rallied after data showed US consumer confidence at a 15-year high. But then shares weakened, especially in the last hour of trading, with the S&P 500 finishing with a loss of 0.6 percent for the day.

European stocks also closed lower, although London's losses were minimal due to the latest pullback in the pound.

'Hard' Brexit ahead?

The British currency fell to multi-month lows against the dollar and euro after Britain's Labour opposition pulled out of key talks with Prime Minister Theresa May. "The overriding fear for currency traders is that... a hard, no-deal Brexit is back on the table," said Jasper Lawler, head of research at London Capital Group. "Soft Brexit optimism is fading, pulling the pound lower." —AFP

Lebanese labor union, fearing budget cuts, warns of big strikes

BEIRUT: A major Lebanese labor union vowed on Friday to ramp up strikes and protests across the country if the government cuts wages or benefits as part of its 2019

Lebanon's cabinet has met almost daily to complete a budget that tries to get its large deficit under control and rein in one of the heaviest public debt burdens in the world. Friday's cabinet session, which some ministers had said they expected to produce an agreement on the draft budget, ended without one, and ministers said they would meet again today. Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri says this may be the most austere budget in Lebanon's history.

Fearing the budget will cut their wages, pensions or benefits, public sector workers including army veterans and central bank employees have protested and gone on strike. It points to the political minefield that Lebanon's coalition government faces. President Michel Aoun this week urged Lebanese to end protests and make sacrifices to rescue the country from economic and financial crisis. —Reuters

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Ooredoo Group jumps up list of world's top 50 telecom brands

2019 Brand Finance report confirms Telco leader's brand value at \$3.8 billion

DOHA: Ooredoo Group confirmed yesterday it has rate reputation - and this strength is then used to again been listed in the Telecoms 300 2019 report as one of the top 50 telecommunications brands in the world, with a brand value of some \$3.779 billion.

The Qatar-based telecommunications provider jumped to 41st in the Top 50 rankings, from 43rd last year, reporting a growth of 12 percent in brand value. Also, Ooredoo Group maintained its Brand Rating status of AA+, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) of 77.4, up from 74.7 the previous year.

Industry valuation and strategy consultancy Brand Finance produces the rankings list each year according to valuations of telecommunications companies worldwide. Brands are first evaluated to determine their strength - based on factors such as marketing investment, familiarity, loyalty, staff satisfaction and corpodetermine the proportion of a business's revenue that is contributed by the brand. Information gained from both processes then forms the basis of the rankings of the world's most valuable telecommunications brands.

Brand Finance has previously noted the consistent increase in Ooredoo Group's brand value since the company began its global brand roll-out in 2013, with the telecommunications operator now active in 10 markets across the Middle East, North Africa and

Major corporate developments are being undertaken, including an ongoing complete digitalization program, and significant investment is being made in networks - most notably 5G, in which the telecom leader is a global pioneer - as well as in efforts to ensure

complete customer satisfaction.

Ooredoo Group's total brand value has grown from less than \$1 billion to more than \$3 billion, and it is now becoming one of the most widely recognized communications brands in the world today.

Speaking of the 2019 ranking, Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani - Group Chief Executive Officer said: "We are delighted to confirm that, yet again, we are among the Top 50 telecommunications brands in the world, recognizing our significant achievements in the world of telecommunications. We have a phenomenal leadership team, backed by the visionary support of our board of governors and our leaders in Qatar, and we are proud our efforts are acknowledged by industry analysts in this way.'

"We continue to expand and evolve, reaching new



customers and new markets around the world with new and innovative technology. We aim to become data experience leaders across our global footprint, enhancing people's digital lives and ensuring everyone can enjoy the Ooredoo Supernet and the benefits it brings, and we are rightfully proud to be leading the way in the journey towards full commercial 5G. Our brand is going from strength to strength and we look forward to consolidating our position as one of the world's top 50 telecoms brands this year", added Sheikh Saud.

AUB congratulates winners of Al-Hassad weekly draw

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced on the 15th of April 2019 the winners of its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic account which is the very first draw account in Islamic banking in Kuwait that has reshaped the lives of thousands lucky winners. Al-Hassad has have over 850 prizes, over a 12 month period.

The weekly draw announced the grand prize winner of KD 10,000 as Suad Ghloum Al-Qattan.

20 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Abeer Mezaal Al-Owairdhi, Tayseer Obaid Al-Sheikh, Razan A Al-Melhem, Doaa Mohamad Ali, Musab Nouman Ukaye, Musaed Salem Al-Barjas, Aref A Rahman Joudeh, Mohammad Hassan Abdulnabi, Nahedah A Al-Baz, Shareefah Faraj Al-Dhafeeri, Sulaiman Saleh Abdullah Al-Tharban, Suhaiel A Al-Ghadhban, Ahmad Eid Al-Azmi, Ahmad Aadil Mohammed, Abrar Mohammad Al-Huwaidi, Majeed Ali Yousif, Dheya Yaqoob Yusuf, Ali Radhi, Abbas Ahmed Hasan and Hasan Ghuloom Ali.

Al-Hassad Islamic Account presents also four quarterly mega prizes of KD 250,000 that will help the lucky winners achieve their dreams and aspirations in addition the monthly draw to win a prize of KD 100,000.

One powerful new aspect of the Al-Hassad Islamic Account is the prize draws on the holy occasion of both Eid ul-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha, when the winning customers will receive the Eid prizes of KD 100,000 each. May the Eid always bring prosperity and blessings to the

Al-Hassad Islamic Account presents also 21 weekly prizes comprised of a grand prize of KD 10,000 and 20 prizes of KD 1,000 each. In addition to the highly attractive package of the prizes, there will be the annual expected profits on, which makes the Al-Hassad account a useful tool; for family and other savings, both for the short term and for the longer term - a fact which well appreciated by a large multitude of new and old customers.

To be eligible to participate in the draw, the customer should have a minimum balance of KD 100, whereby the customer has two chances to participate, with a maximum of 30,000 chances per draw, in addition to annual profits for all participants. Every KD 50 invested for at least 15 days entitles the customer to one chance in the each draw. The longer the customer keeps his balance the bigger the changes of participation in the draw. Draws are held every Wednesday at AUB Kuwait or AUB Bahrain depending on the draw plan. On the occasion Ahli United Bank congratulate its winning customers, and commented that there are many chances to win waiting for our customers.

Gulf Bank congratulates winner of monthly salary draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced the winner of its fourth monthly Salary Account draw of the year. This month's lucky winner, Salman Ali Al-Shamali, will take home a cash prize of up to 12 times his salary.

The draw, which took place at the Gulf Bank headquarters in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, is the fourth of its kind this year. So far, Al-Shamali is one of four winners of the monthly draw this year, each of whom took home cash prizes.

"What an incredible surprise to have won," said Salman Ali Al-Shamali, the winner of Gulf Bank's monthly Salary Account draw. "I transferred my salary to Gulf Bank a year ago and never would have expected to win a cash prize worth 12 times my salary! I highly recommend everyone to transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank."

With the new 2019 Kuwaiti salary offer, new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the monthly draws, giving them the chance to win cash prizes of up to 12 times their salary. Customers are also enrolled in a yearly draw of Kuwait's largest salary prize, a cash prize of up to 100 times the winner's salary.

Gulf Bank's Salary Account also gives new customers the opportunity to receive either a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest-free loan of up to KD 10,000. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and are eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank. Customers can also enjoy additional benefits like a



Visa or Mastercard credit card free of for a loan of up to KD 70,000 or a charge for a year. They can also apply consumer loan of up to KD 25,000.

Burgan Bank offers free Eideya delivery service to premier banking customers

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the free Eideya Delivery service to Premier Banking Customers in collaboration with "Qiblah" company for concierge services. This service enables Premier Banking customers to receive new bank notes before the Eid holidays at their offices or homes, avoiding the hassle of waiting in the branches at that time of the year.

To request this service, Premier customers can sim-

ply contact Qiblah concierge services starting 10 am until 4 pm, by calling 22317755 or emailing Burganpremier@qiblah.com.kw to request the amount of Eid money required and state their address in order for the concierge messenger to deliver it accordingly. Noting that this service is available from 19th of May till 29th of May 2019.

It is worth mentioning that the Eideya delivery service comes as part of the bank's wide range of valuable its Premier customers.

Additionally, the bank's collaboration with "Qiblah' for concierge services stems from its commitment of supporting its customers' everyday requirements with unmatched personalized experience. Burgan Bank's premier customers can avail instant concierge services from a selected list of more than 20 services such as travel bookings, airport transfers, visa assistance, party planning, valet parkers and others.



The free concierge services have been introduced as part of the bank's wide range of valuable privileges and benefits that is especially designated for its Premier

Going down: Brazil economic woes hit stocks and currency

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil: Atrophying growth forecasts and waning confidence in President Jair Bolsonaro sent Brazil's stocks and currency to their lowest level of the year this week, as analysts warned of further falls. Since touching a record 100,000 points in mid-March, the Bovespa has fallen 10 percent and wiped out gains made since far-right Bolsonaro took power on January 1 on a promise to revive Latin America's biggest economy.

The benchmark index closed just below 90,000 on Friday, while Brazil's currency traded at its lowest level against the dollar in eight months, breaking through four reais.

The sharp declines have been fanned by uncertainty over US-China trade talks that has pummelled stocks and currencies in emerging markets, which are perceived as riskier bets. But the "external headwinds" have been compounded by concerns over Brazil's feeble economy, which has struggled to grow since emerging from the devastating 2015-2016 recession, said William Jackson of London-based Capital Economics. "There was a lot of hope when Bolsonaro came to power that the economy would turnaround, but we have seen no evidence of this," Jackson told AFP.

This week's massive nationwide protests over education spending freezes, money laundering accusations against Bolsonaro's eldest son and the slow pace of economic reforms were adding to the general malaise. "The economy is really flirting with recession," Jackson added.

by economy minister Paulo Guedes, who warned this week that Brazil was "at the bottom of the well" as he slashed the government's forecast for 2019 economic

That was followed by central bank chief Roberto Campos Neto, who

The bleak outlook was underscored growth to 1.5 percent from 2.2 percent.

RIO DE JANEIRO: Atrophying growth forecasts and waning confidence in President Jai Isonaro sent Brazil's stocks and currency to their lowest level of the year this week as analysts warned of further falls.

flagged a likely contraction in the economy in the first quarter following a slowdown at the end of 2018.

Market analysts have pared their full-

year growth forecasts 11 weeks in a row and now expect the economy to expand by an anemic 1.45 percent, according to the latest central bank survey.—AFP

Markets expect interest rate cuts as economic outlook worsens

LONDON: The risk of the United States slipping into recession in the next year is elevated according to most traditional measures, even though policymakers say the economy is in a good place.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York's yieldcurve model implies the probability of the economy being in recession in May 2020 is now about 28-29 percent, based on the yield spread between three-month and 10-year US Treasury securities. If that probability does not sound particularly high, the implied probability of recession 12 months before each of the last three downturns started

was 38 percent (2008), 26 percent (2001) and 31

The median probability of recession 12 months ahead over the last 60 years has been just 8 percent and the current recession risk is in the 87th per-

centile of the distribution since 1959. Federal funds futures prices are now fully pricing in a quarter-point cut in policy-controlled interest rates by the end of the year, as traders anticipate the Fed will cut interest rate as a precaution against a deeper slowdown. Yields on Treasury securities across the spectrum from six months to 10 years, as well as inflation-protected securities, have been falling in absolute terms as investors anticipate rate cuts and a general flight to safety. With rates on onger-dated securities falling faster than shorterdated ones, the yield curve is progressively inverting. The march towards inversion shows no sign of reversing despite optimistic statements from Fed officials, the White House and Wall Street analysts.

Different this time?

the yield-curve model by arguing "this time is different" because of distortions in the Treasury market as a legacy of quantitative easing during and after the last recession. Others note the yield-curve model is based on traders' expectations about the performance of the economy and these could change if incoming data is more favorable.

Policymakers on the interest-rate setting Federal Open Market Committee concluded at their last meeting that continued expansion of economic activity was the most likely outcome.

But the model has a good track record identifying end-of-cycle recessions and serious mid-cycle slowdowns that were bad enough to prompt the central bank to cut interest rates, so it should not be dismissed casually.

Movements in other asset prices are also consistent with the view that the US and global economies are facing a serious loss of momentum or recession within the next year.

China's currency has fallen sharply against the US dollar amid growing fears about the fallout from Some observers have dismissed the warning from the trade war with the United States. The modity prices.—Reuters

International Monetary Fund has downgraded its 2019 growth forecasts for all the advanced economies by an average of 0.2 percentage points since January and 0.3 percentage points since

for most major emerging markets this year, including Russia, India, Brazil, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and South Africa.

The Fund has also downgraded growth forecasts

Elevated recession risks are embedded in a range of asset and commodity prices.

Spot oil prices, for example, have remained steady despite multiplying production problems as traders anticipate an economy-driven slowdown in consumption growth. If the US and global economies skirt recession and regain some of their lost momentum later in the year, there will have to be a major re-pricing of assets and commodities.

For the moment, however, traders are anticipating the risks to growth will be severe enough to force the Fed and other central banks to cut interest rates, and those fears are holding down com-

Sunday, May 19, 2019

What's On





Al-Mukhaizeem: KFH proud of its role as strategic partner in Turkish economy



roup Chief Strategy Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Eng Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem said that KFH is proud of its role as a strategic partner in the Turkish economy and the Turkish banking sector, indicating KFH-Turkey was established in 1989 and it is now the largest Islamic bank in Turkey. Al-Mukhaizeem's statement was made, during his speech at the Ramadan Ghabqa of Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Kuwait that was sponsored by KFH. The Ghabqa was held at Sheraton Hotel in the presence of many officials, ambassadors, and Heads of diplomatic missions.

Al-Mukhaizeem added that the close bonds between Kuwait and Turkey go back many years, and hopefully they will continue for many more, noting that KFH-Turkey helped finance several vital projects in Turkey which had a positive impact on the Turkish economy. He explained that KFH-Turkey is currently

the largest bank operating in the participation banking sector in Turkey with around 40% market share, over 400 branches and around 6,000 employees.

He continued: "As an active member of the Turkey-Kuwait Business Council under the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEiK), KFH is taking part in enhancing the already strong economic relations between the two countries. KFH Group was honored to be part of the financing deal for the Canakkale bridge, which is the largest of its kind in the country, with approximately KD 72 million . In Kuwait, KFH financed half of LIMAK's KD 249 million facility for the construction of Kuwait International Airport's new passenger terminal.

Al-Mukhaizeem said: "We at KFH are proud to be part of the economic and cultural bridge between Kuwait and Turkey. We have a strong belief in the Turkish economy, and the serious steps taken by the Turkish Government to involve participation banks in the country's development."He affirmed KFH's commitment as a key partner inTurkey's economy to maintaining the strong Kuwaiti-Turkish relations, hoping for more growth and prosperity.

He expressed his thanks to Her Excellency Ambassador of Turkey to Kuwait Ayse Hilal for her kind invitation to sponsor and attend the annual 'Ghabga" held by the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in this Holy month of Ramadan, indicating it is always a pleasure to be part of these events which reflect the firm and flourishing Kuwaiti-Turkish relations. Meanwhile, Ambassador of Turkey to Kuwait Ayse Hilal praised the role of KFH in strengthening ties between Kuwait and Turkey. She added that KFH is a world leading Islamic financial institution and has a proven track record of achievements.







Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island: A beacon of tranquility for families during Eid holidays

Tith its stunning natural beauty, tantalizing culinary experiences and sumptuous SPA, Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island Resort is a veritable beacon of luxurious relaxation for families from across the Gulf as they celebrate the upcoming Eid Al Fitr holiday. Nestled within Saadiyat Island's scenic beachfront, the resort composed of eight private villas and 293 rooms, including 28 panoramic suites is ideally equipped to deliver life-long

Recognized by the World Travel Awards Middle East as Abu Dhabi's Leading Luxury Resort 2019, the Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island Resort is located around the corner from the internationally acclaimed Louvre Abu Dhabi and only 10 minutes away from Yas Island's numerous attractions including Yas Waterworld, Yas Mall, Ferrari World and Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi. 10 reasons why Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island Resort is the best place to celebrate Eid with your family

There are eight amazing villas and 70 incredible suites The stunning duplex villas with either two, three or four-bedrooms and their own secluded pools provide a world away within the luxury coastal resort. While the 70 suites, offering 88 to 309 square meters of space for families of all sizes, deliver an unparalleled

Delectable food and drinks

view of the island's natural beauty.

Seven enticing food and beverage venues cater to every craving including authentic Italian at Mare Mare, Levantine mezzes and grills at TEAN, and fresh roasted coffee and pastries at Majlis Saadiyat.

Surrounded by natural beauty

The Jumeirah at Saadiyat occupies a stunning stretch of pristine coastline overlooking 400 meters of sand dunes lapped by turquoise waters and home to a variety of wildlife including the protected Hawksbill sea

4. A hub of culture and recreation

Saadiyat Island is transforming into a world-class leisure and cultural destination. Already home to the iconic Louvre Abu Dhabi and Saadiyat Beach Golf Club, the island will soon also host the Guggenheim **8.** Abu Dhabi and Zayed National Museum.

Peace of mind

Guests are welcomed to take part in sunrise yoga, find a secluded spot to watch the sunset, or relax in one of three infinity swimming pools that blend into the sand

Authentic Moroccan Hamman

A grand Moroccan Hammam forms the center of the resort's SPA, which includes 15 treatment rooms, hydrotherapy pools, a steam room, a saltroom and a traditional Arabic Rasul room. The spa also features a VIP couple's spa suite with a private entrance.

7. Opulent skincare

Across every one of SPA's 15 treatment rooms is an impressive range of premier skincare brands including 111SKIN, Subtle Energies, Biologique Recherche and Hammamii, delivering a skincare experience that lasts long after you've stepped out of your luxury robe.



Space that embraces your special occasions

With more than 600 square meters of event space, the Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island Resort has the ideal space for any function. The space is divisible into five rooms with naturaldaylight in the pre-function area and a separate private entrance. Inaddition, a beautifully landscaped garden provides the perfectlocation for an intimate gathering.

9. A sanctuary of wellness at Bodyism

Bodyism Saadiyat is a super-luxe gym that provides exclusive training and bespoke programs for guests and members. From one-on-one training to group classes, every session involves a holistic approach that will revitalize, rehabilitate and energize participants on a mental and physical level.

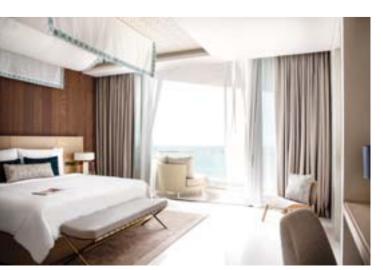
10. Caring for you and the environment too

The resort is free of plastic straws and single-use plastics bottles, representative of a host of environmentally conscious services available at the resort.











Health & Science

Sunday, May 19, 2019

After the Moon, people on Mars by 2033 or maybe 2060

WASHINGTON: On December 11, 2017, US
President Donald Trump signed a directive be pessimistic, and assume political dithering lay ahead, "it could be the 2060s." President Donald Trump signed a directive ordering NASA to prepare to return astronauts to the Moon "followed by human missions to Mars and other destinations." The dates fixed by the space agency are 2024 for the Moon and Mars in 2033, but according to experts and industry insiders, reaching the Red Planet by then is highly improbable barring a Herculean effort on the scale of the Apollo program in the 1960s.

'The Moon is the proving ground for our eventual mission to Mars," NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine said at a conference this week. "The Moon is our path to get to Mars in the fastest, safest way possible. That's why we go to the Moon." According to Robert Howard, who heads up the lab developing future space habitats at the legendary Johnson Space Center in Houston, the hurdles aren't so much technical or scientific as much as a question of budget and political will.

"A lot of people want us to have an Apollo moment, and have a president stand up like Kennedy and say, we've got to do it and the entire country comes together," he said. "If that happened, I would actually say 2027. But I don't think that's going to happen. I think in our current approach, we are going to be lucky to do it by the 2037 date." But Howard said if he were to

Psychological challenges

From the design, manufacture, and testing of the rockets and spaceships required to learning the best way to grow lettuce: all the groundwork remains to be done. Just getting there will take six months at least, as opposed to three days to the Moon. The whole mission could take two years, since Mars and the Earth are close to each other every 26 months, a window that must be taken.

Key tasks include finding a way to shield astronauts from prolonged exposure to solar and cosmic radiation, said Julie Robinson, NASA's chief scientist for the International Space Station. "A second is our food system," she added. The current plant system ideas "are not packageable, portable or small enough to take to Mars." And then there's the question of dealing with medical emergencies: astronauts will need to be able to treat themselves in case of any accidents. "I actually think a big deal is the suits," added Jennifer Heldman, a NASA planetary scientist.

One of the major gripes of the Apollo astronauts was their gloves, which were too inflated and prevented them from doing dexterous work. NASA is developing a new suit, the first in forty years, called xEMU, but it won't be ready for its first outing in the International Space Station for a few more years. On Mars, dust will be even more of a problem than on the Moon. The Apollo astronauts returned with huge amounts of lunar dust in their modules. Keeping it out of habitats will be critical for a mission that involves spending months on the Red Planet.

Techniques to exploit Martian resources to extract water, oxygen and fuel necessary for humans to live there don't yet exist — and must be tested on the Moon by the end of this decade. Finally there's the most fundamental question: how will a group of people cope with the psychological stress of being totally isolated for two years? It won't be possible to communicate in real time with Houston mission control: radio communications will take between four and 24 minutes between the planets, one-way. NASA plans to test out delayed-communication exercises on board the ISS in the coming years.

Artificial intelligence must also be developed to assist and guide the astronauts. A researcher commissioned by NASA to study the likelihood of getting to Mars by 2033 concluded the objective was "infeasible." "It isn't just budget," said Bhavya Lal of the Science and Technology Policy Institute. — AFP

Study urges measles jabs as cases surge

PARIS: Vaccination against measles should be mandatory for children before they start school in order to prevent future outbreaks of the resurgent disease, according to new analysis released Friday. The World Health Organization says cases of measles — a highly contagious viral infection that causes rashes and fever that can prove fatal surged 300 percent in 2018.

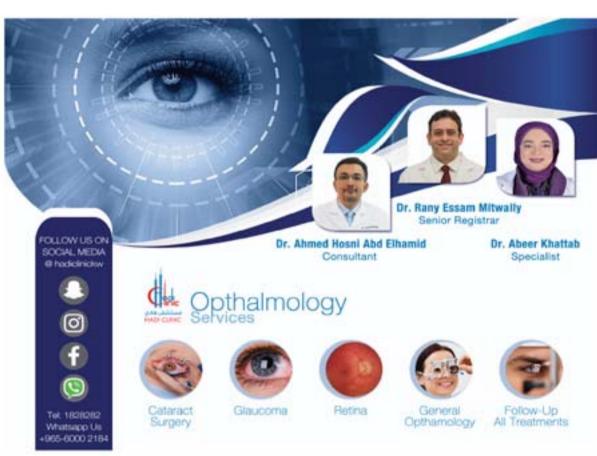
While many new cases occurred in countries undergoing unrest or conflict, several developed nations registered significant rises in infections — a phenomenon experts attribute to creeping "vaccine resistance". Despite a widely effective, almost universally available vaccine costing pennies, more and more parents are willingly putting their chil-

dren in harm's way due in part to a fraudulent scientific paper published over 20 years ago that subsequently fed conspiracy theories about plots to spread the disease.

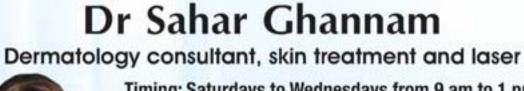
Filippo Trentini and colleagues from the Bruno Kessler Foundation looked at seven rich nations and used computer modeling to examine several different vaccination scenarios between now and 2050. They found that in nearly all countries surveyed, current immunization programs will be insufficient to maintain "safe" levels of immunity among populations. The WHO says the number of unvaccinated individuals in a given country should not exceed 6-8 percent of the population in order to avoid widespread outbreaks. "This is a complex phenomenon and it may have various causes depending on the region," Trentini told journalists. "In high-income countries, for example, it may be attributable to vaccine resistance and to the clustering of unvaccinated people in specific groups of the population."—AFP



Kuwait 📤 Times 248 33 199







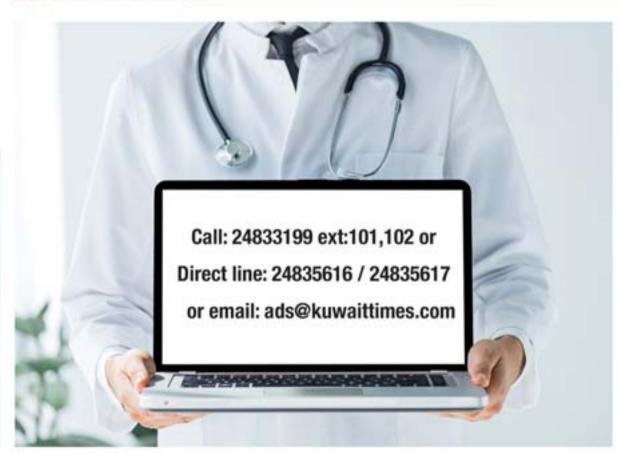
Timing: Saturdays to Wednesdays from 9 am to 1 pm and from 8 pm to 12 pm

Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm

Friday is a holiday. Address: Fourth Ring Road - Abdallah Fadalah Street, Meidan Hawally, opposite fire station - block 35, building 31.

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

Dr.saharghannsmclinic Email:drsgderma@gmail.com





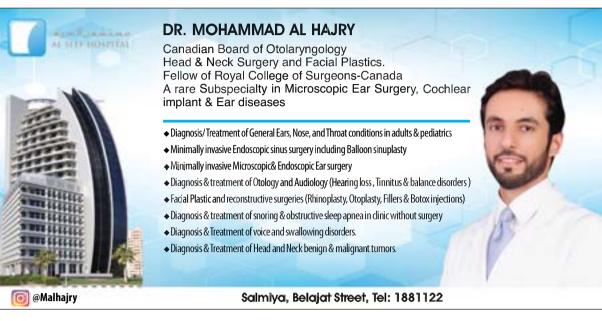


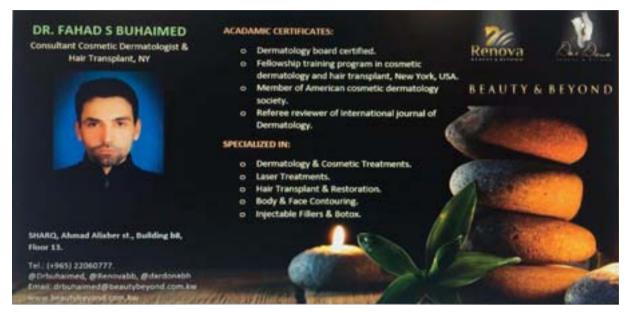
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Sunday, May 19, 2019

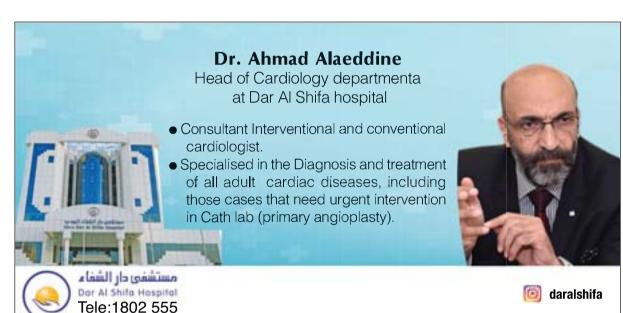


Kuwait 📤 Times 248 33 199















Dr. Hani Haider

General Surgery Consultant

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 ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries

ic_kwt

- Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries

◆ Breast surgeries

- Hernia repair
- ◆ Cholecysteclomy & laparoscopic appendicectomy
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- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries
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Scope of Clinical Practice:

♦ General & Laparoscopic Surgery

❖ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms ♦ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy

♦ Stomach Balloon insertion & removal

Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
 Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery

♦ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, including Colorectal Cancer Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess

♦ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)

- Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships: ◆Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (com-
- ♦Transanal minimally invasive 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

♦ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment

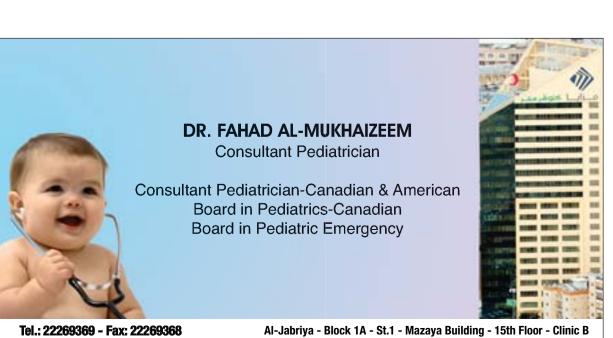
♦ American Board of Surgical Critical Care

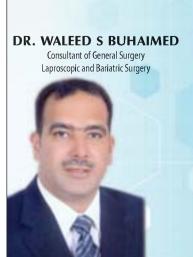




Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo — Rectal Surgeon

📵 daralshifa Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com





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.

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Stars

CROSSWORD 2211

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 20 21 22 22 22 22 23 24 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 26 27 28 29 30 35 36 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 42 42 42 43 44 45 46 47 44 48 49 50 51 50 51 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 56 57 58 55 56 57 58 55 56 57 58 55 56 57 58 55 56 64 65 66 66 66 67 70 74 74 74 74 75 76 77 78 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 82

3. Tropical American tree producing cacao

4. A member of the Himalayan people liv-

ing in Nepal and Tibet who are

5. A white trivalent metallic element.

European wild ox.

7. A wind from the north.

of Brazil.

mals.

walk).

city of Estonia.

6. Large recently extinct long-horned

8. Low stingless nettle of Central and

9. A highly unstable radioactive element

(the heaviest of the halogen series).

10. The former capital and 2nd largest city

11. Port city that is the capital and largest

12. A long noosed rope used to catch ani-

13. Queen of England as the 6th wife of

19. A major European river carrying more

22. Yellow carotenoid pigments in plants

and animal fats and egg yolks.

27. (informal) Inclined to club together.

29. Of or relating to abasia (inability to

deep and daughter of Ea.

32. Used as a Hindi courtesy title.

35. New Zealand conifer.

and a forked tail.

Semitic peoples.

49. A bluish shade of green.

Carangidae.

55. Lower in esteem.

or analogous.

one direction.

sion.

66. Jordan's port.

68. Divisible by two.

69. Tear or be torn violently.

fections of the skin.

30. (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery

36. All the plant life in a particular region.

40. Relating to or accompanying birth.

42. Any of numerous local fertility and

44. A pin used to hold the tie in place.

50. Any of a number of fishes of the family

57. Consider or describe as similar, equal,

60. (of complexion) Blemished by imper-

toothed wheel or rack engaged with a

pawl that permits it to move in only

63. Of or relating to a seizure or convul-

chopped cucumbers and spices.

65. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked

72. An emotional response that has been

74. Feline mammal usually having thick soft

77. A brittle silver-white metalloid element

that is related to selenium and sulfur.

acquired by conditioning.

fur and being unable to roar.

73. A rapid bustling commotion.

on a skewer usually with vegetables.

64. An Indian side dish of yogurt and

61. Mechanical device consisting of a

46. An ugly evil-looking old woman.

54. A former copper coin of Pakistan.

38. Small slender gull having narrow wings

nature deities worshipped by ancient

traffic than any other river in the world.

Henry VIII (1512-1548).

14. Type genus of the Majidae.

of small green flowers.

famous for their skill as mountaineers.

South America having velvety brown-

ish-green toothed leaves and clusters

ACROSS

- 1. Either of two large muscles of the chest.
- 5. A part of a part.12. Rate of revolution of a motor.
- 15. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
- 16. A republic in the western Balkans in south-central Europe in the eastern
- Adriatic coastal area.

 17. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
- 18. A horse used to set the pace in racing.20. A large vase that usually has a pedestal
- or feet.
 21. A Dravidian language spoken in south
- 23. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar

central India.

- dar. 24. Relating to or characteristic of or
- 24. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
- 25. In some classifications considered a genus of the subfamily Lutrinae.
- 26. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 28. Genus of widely distributed agarics that have white spores and are poisonous with few exceptions
- sonous with few exceptions.
 31.A soft silvery metallic element of the
- alkali metal group.
 33. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
- 34. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
- 37. Take in solid food. 39. A woman religious.
- 41. A person who eats human flesh. 43. Assist or encourage, usually in some
- wrongdoing. 45. The dialect of Malay used as the
- national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
- 47. An international organization created in 1949 by the North Atlantic Treaty for purposes of collective security.
- for purposes of collective security.
 48. Former name for the order Crocodylia.
- 51. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 52. A drawstring bag for holding money.53. Genus of tall smooth herbs of forested
- mountains of Europe and Asia minor. 56. A sudden numbing dread.
- 58. Tag the base runner to get him out.
- 59. Of or relating to the sea.
- 62.100 qindarka equal 1 lek.
- 67. The act of scanning.70. A branch of the Tai languages.
- 71. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- 75. (of champagne) Moderately dry.
- 76. Order of mammals having few or no teeth including
- teeth including.
 78. The bill in a restaurant.
- 79. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
- 80. A shorter form of rondeau. 81. A loose sleeveless outer garment made
- A loose sleeveless outer garment mad from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An informal term for a father.2. An unfledged or nestling hawk.

STAR TRACK

(X)

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today could be a day of rest but your mind is running at a fast pace. You feel you're capable of anything now. Just set your sights high enough. This is a time of exploring your feelings and acting upon the results. It can be scary or it can be cathartic. It's what you make of it. Plans for your life come with clear-minded acceptance after the thought. Closer relationships of life, like a loving one between partners, takes on more meaning now. What you may have thought was alright before may have you examining the situation now more closely with thoughts of self in mind. This isn't self-ish. It's making your life better whatever the results, you think.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a time you feel anything is possible. What a great feeling? You have optimism and faith that you can accomplish anything you go for in business and in your family life too. You're open to discussion on a wide range of subjects. When casting your net wide enough in talks you learn from many sources. Therefore, you have the ability to use items you've gleaned in group conversations for other uses too. Some may disagree with you but you take it in stride. Be proud of yourself now. Be especially nice to those you love and you'll be more pleased. Family is where you need to be. Enjoy your evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

All the components have come together to make you know you're capable of creating anything you want in your life. You've got faith, optimism and you're unafraid to take big chances. There is a confidence in you that hasn't wasted any time in helping you create better. Take the time on this Saturday to check out your emotional life to see what you can do to promote better there as well. After all that wanderlust for emotional new beginnings could cause you to become a little anxious even though you know you'll get what you ask for and have been given proof. Make notes on the pros, no cons. And go for it.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A woman or younger person may be the one who supports you in some manner now. It could result from your past bringing you new ways in which to provide expertise and get the job done. Added optimism and faith makes a difference now too. You find yourself working harder, Cancer, with good results. Socializing with friends, neighbors and some younger people bring new ideas which you can elaborate upon and use to your betterment. You've got a grasp of the abstract and spirituality that's hard for others to understand. Have no fear though because you can teach what you know. Life is good. Enjoy your day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Getting away from routine is needed by you now. Taking the time to rest or even work away from your normal settings is the best thing you can do for you at this time. Learning what's going on with siblings or neighbors takes on emotional significance. Communicating feelings is very important. Optimism is what keeps you rolling. Knowing that everything will be okay is what you need. You're in the process of exploring your emotional feelings with the idea that new may be so much better than the old.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you're at work today, you realize you can do anything. If not, it's the same feeling. Clear insights make this possible either way. Optimism and faith that everything will work out is part of your mentality and you're right. If anything negative comes up, understanding why and being quick to right the perceived wrong is your forte now. You want to travel and you want to make new discoveries in your world. That has you displaying itchy feet on most subjects with your desire to learn and teach. If you don't take the time to work through this by leading your own crusade, you'll wish you had. Get some rest and enjoy your mental wanderlust.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Good Eating - Word Search

V S L E D W W D Q S F A T S U N I N W C A A T S A P I I C C P D I S A A I H S X M V T B Y K F L O E L E R B R E M Q A F E Y R T H L T T Y K M I N E R A L S R F T B R O I T I E C Y J S X I Q V R A L H R S E Q E E O Z M E Q I Z T O B U P B E V Q O G S P U T E E G G U R O X U K S T U N L A K G R L C X S L P S T I U R F M L E D A B H F N Z X U Q F M T I I V E E S S I M A K E C W E I N M J O R J O L Z F E J G N A Q S S B R E A D S P I S B C G T J M J A H C L C S W T I O Z C S

BEANS BREADS CEREAL CHEESE DAIRY EGGS FATS

FIBRE

MEAT
MILK
MINERALS
NUTS
OILS
PASTA
POULTRY

FRUITS

RICE VEGETABLES VITAMINS WATER YOGURT

ways to tu can do any

Libra (September 23-October 22)

You feel an overwhelming desire to take care of yourself. Because of this, you may even start a diet of good organic foods and eat like people from a different age. Exercise may also become a habit with long walks outdoors or setting up a time to treadmill at the office. Work means a great deal to you now and you're working longer hours but also being more productive while doing so. Constantly coming up with new ways to turn a profit and to make work simpler is part of your allure. You realize you can do anything now and you can which will help you in the coming days as well.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a great time in your life though you may not realize it at this time. Opportunities for travel and education come and bring you unseen prospects for the future. Your occupation may be rewarded with all you want. Perhaps there's even a change in your profession to one you thought of a long time ago but didn't think you'd ever be able to complete. Now's your time to make it happen. Higher ups are willing to assist you in your endeavors. On another note, you're feeling more optimism than usual and you seem to achieve your desires. Set your sights on what you want and go for it.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Optimism and faith drive you forward on your quest for making the most of your career. You believe in yourself and those who work with you. Anything is possible, is your motto. Taking chances is part of your persona now. At home, you may have a conversation you weren't looking forward to about responsibility and assisting each other. This could even be with a child or sibling, no easy task. You're able to express this communication in such a manner that it's straightforwardly understandable making you look good in the other person's eyes. Someone may take you to task for not having the same values they do or so they think. You can straighten them out very easily now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Get away from routine today. Do something completely different. Though you generally work all the time even when you're not on the job, you may find something that will help you at your work from your little excursion today. You don't want anyone to tell you what to do now. Independence is uppermost in your mind. Mental discipline is here for you now on the day you shouldn't really need it unless you've started your work again instead of playing. You've got the feeling that anything you want is possible and you're right. Make a mental note of all the thoughts you're having about work. Enjoy your day with someone you love.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a tendency to take chances now. You feel as if you can accomplish anything especially when you have help. Optimism is part of the expanding mindset you have now along with the faith that you can do anything. This is a time to really look yourself over and think about what you want. Needs should be considered first. In that way you can put together a list for your wandering thoughts. New love relationships may be forming now. Make sure that they are something you can handle and will enjoy for many years to come. In this world of tossing items away when you're no longer enjoy them is a reason why we have all the trash in the world.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Ambition and the pursuit of success has you thinking, even if you're not working today, about the possibilities and your explosive conversation yesterday. What's practical and successful is on your mind big time now. If you're going to move from your job or significant other, then make the move the right one for you. Feeling sorry for others doesn't cut it right now. It's good that you have a great psychic sense now to help you out with this major life's change. After thinking this one over, you may decide to stay where you are but you'll want some changes done there to make you happier. This is all about you now.

Friday's Solution

Golf - Solution



BALL BIRDIE BOGEY CADDIE CHIP CLUB COURSE DIVOT

FAIRWAY FORE GREEN HANDICAP IRON PUTTER ROUGH

EAGLE

SLICE STROKE SWING WEDGE WOOD

Friday's Solution

С	A	R		Α	L	K	A	L	I	Z	E		Α	С	T
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Daily Sudoku

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

Friday's Solution

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

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019



Indian actress Deepika Padukone poses as she arrives for the screening of the film 'Dolor Y Gloria (Pain and Glory)' at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

Grumpy Cat, the face that launched 'Blame of Thrones': a thousand memes, dead at seven

The died just as she had lived, in a blizzard of memes, deals were estimated to have made her owner, Tabatha tweets and news reports celebrating her feline frown and distinctly unamused expression. On Friday, the world learned that Grumpy Cat, the internet sensation whose scowl launched a thousand memes-earning her 1.5 million Twitter followers and 8.3 million Facebook fans-had died at the age of seven. Grumpy Cat, whose pre-celebrity name was Tardar Sauce, burst to fame in 2012 when her owner's brother posted a picture of her mirthless mug on social media. Within 48 hours, her image had been viewed more than a million times.

A real-life Garfield on social media obsessed with cat pics: a star had been born. Six months later, as her fame spread around the world, Grumpy Cat appeared at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, where thousands lined up to have their photo taken with the celebrated sourpuss. She was invited to star-studded movie premieres, had a cameo role in Sesame Street, took part in the Hollywood Christmas parade and had her own animatronic wax likeness at Madame Tussaud's-which of course she was invited to be photographed with as it was unveiled.

The Lifetime Channel made a movie featuring the miserable-looking moggie called "Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever," and a New York Times bestselling book was written about her. Friskies cat food became an official sponsor and she had her own "meme manager." Fans could buy Grumpy Cat socks, or an endless choice of tee-shirts emblazoned with ennui-filled slogans such as "Your face....I hate it" or "I don't care what you think, I'm napping."

Fat cat

The branded merchandising, which included pillows, pens, mugs and bags, as well as the sponsorship and media Bundesen of Arizona, a wealthy woman. It allowed her to quit her job as a waitress at Red Lobster within days of her cat's internet debut, US media reported. Bundesen denied reports that she had made as much as \$100 million from the cat's fame, but has declined to say how much her pet earned.

The cat's image was hot property: last year, a California jury awarded Bundesen's company, Grumpy Cat Limited, damages of \$710,001 in a lawsuit against a beverage company that had created an unauthorized line of "Grumpy Cat Roasted Coffee" and which was selling Grumppuccino teeshirts without sharing profits. Financially, Grumpy was a fat cat. But she was not bad-tempered in real life, according to her owner who attributed her scowly expression to the fact that she had feline dwarfism and a marked underbite.

Her death at the age of seven was due to a urinary tract infection, her Twitter account said, with the announcement, "Some days are grumpier than others." "We are unimaginably heartbroken to announce the loss of our beloved Grumpy Cat," Bundesen wrote. "Besides being our baby and a cherished member of the family, Grumpy Cat has helped millions of people smile all around the world - even when times were tough," she said. "Her spirit will continue to live on through her fans everywhere," she said. Described by CNN as a "furry titan of the internet," Grumpy's obituary appeared in The Washington Post, Der Spiegel in Germany, Le Monde and even the Russian business magazine Kommersant. And, of course, her demise was the top trending story Friday on Twitter, where fans posted thousands of messages of condolence and mourning. — AFP



In this file photo Grumpy Cat attends the 'Cat Summer' video launch party at Bleecker Street Records in New York City. — AFP

Fans lament rushed final GoT season

s "Game of Thrones" suits up for one last swordfight a phalanx of enraged viewers large enough to flatten the massed armies of Westeros is voicing its displeasure over what they consider a botched ending to the beloved show-with some even clamoring for a doover. Since its first episode eight years ago the HBO show about noble families vying for the Iron Throne has picked up just about every award going on the way to becoming a global ratings smash and a cultural phenomenon.

But its legacy is under threat from an increasingly vocal section of fans furious over what they consider poor writing in the shortened final two seasons, after the script had moved beyond the source novels by American writer George R R Martin. A Change.org petition called "Remake Game of Thrones Season 8 with competent writers" was approaching 850,000 signatures early Friday, ahead of

"There's been a lot of negativity about the windup, but I think it's just because people don't want ANY ending," tweeted horror author Stephen King, one of the show's most high-profile fans. "But you know what they say: All good things..." One source of discontent is a dramatically sped-up narrative arc that has seen central character Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke) descend suddenly and

incongruously into atrocity-committing madness. "Turning one of the top two heroes in the game into a villain is something that you have to really set up straight... to have the fan base just go along with it," said entertainment host A. Ron Hubbard on his top-rated "Game of Thrones: The Podcast." "It's just that I don't think they did the job particularly well." Other fans are equally bewildered by the moral regression of Nikolaj Coster-Waldau's Jaime Lannister-an unambiguous bad guy back in 2011 whose redemptive arc over seven seasons was one of the most interesting aspects of the show's scrupulous, patient plotting.

"It feels like some of the characters' arcs are false because they're not given enough time to play out," said University of Northern Illinois medieval history professor Valerie Garver, who accused showrunners David Benioff and D.B Weiss of "rushing" the truncated, six-episode final

Millions of sick days

The effect has been to lower expectations to such an extent that many fans are complaining about a denouement they have yet to even see. "I'm really disappointed in Next Sunday night's finale of 'Game of Thrones'" joked Brent Spiner, who played android Data in "Star Trek: The Next Generation." More than 100,000 people voted on the Internet Movie Database to give season eight's penultimate episode 6.1 out of 10, a harsh rating for a show that had never rated lower than 8.1 in previous seasons.

"This show is just so good and has been so important that even if most people are upset with the ending I think still it will be held up as a show that was pretty extraordinary," said Garver. And if the social media backlash looks harsh, it is worth remembering that the vast majority of any show's viewers do not immediately take to Twitter with their comments if they liked what they saw. The proof of this can be found in the "Game of Thrones" audience figures, which hit a record 12.5 million live US viewers for the most recent episode-with a further six million watching later.



In this file photo British actress Emilia Clarke arrives for the 'Game of Thrones' eighth and final season premiere at Radio City Music Hall in New York city. — AFP

For perspective, one of the show's nearest premium cable rivals, Showtime's "Homeland," managed 1.2 million viewers per episode in 2018 and "The Sopranos," regarded as HBO's greatest show, would pull in 11 million a week at its 2002 peak. There's little reason to expect anything but phenomenal figures for the feature-length "GoT" finale, with an estimated 10.7 million Americans expected to skip work the following morning to catch up, according to a survey by The Workforce Institute at Kronos.

Ash and brick

Back in the fictional continent of Westeros, the biggest mystery of "Game of Thrones" remains: who will be sitting on the Iron Throne as ruler of the Seven Kingdoms when the curtain comes down? British bookmaker William Hill has 20-year-old Isaac Hempstead Wright's Bran Stark as favorite, closely followed by his fictional sister Sansa, played by Sophie Turner. That assumes, of course, that the Iron Throne still exists after Mother of Dragons Daenerys went full "Mad Queen" last week-torching most of Dubrovnik, the real-life Croatian double for the Westerosi royal seat of King's Landing. "The Iron Throne is very much gone, as is most of the population in the capital of the Seven Kingdoms," the bookmaker said on its website. "Is it actually possible for anyone to inherit a mountain of ash and brick?"—AFP

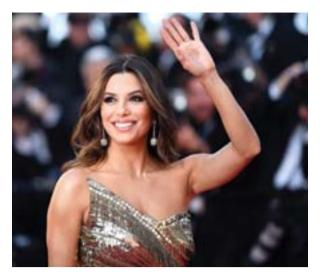
Lifestyle | Movies

Eva Longoria warns abortion bans are danger to women

ctress Eva Longoria said restrictive abortion laws passed in Alabama and Missouri are a threat to women, with stars set to protest against the bans on the Cannes red carpet yesterday. "What's happening in Alabama is so important in the world," the "Desperate Housewives" star said, referring to the US state which has banned terminations even in the case of rape or incest. "It's going to affect everybody if we don't pay attention," she said.

Longoria warned of a "domino effect" with a dozen other Republican-controlled US states seeking to restrict the rights of women to abortion. The Latina actress produced the Netflix documentary "Reversing Roe" last year which showed how pro-life groups are mounting a major push to overturn the landmark US Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in 1973. Her comments come as a group of female stars led by Charlotte Gainsbourg, Spanish actress Rossi de Palma and French director Claire Denis are set to stage a protest for abortion rights on the Cannes red carnet

The gathering was originally meant to support the Argentinean documentary, "Let It Be Law", which is premiering Saturday in the festival's official selection. It tells the story of the struggle for women's rights in the huge, largely Catholic Latin American country, which has become bitterly divided over abortion.



US actress Eva Longoria waves as she arrives for the screening of the film 'Rocketman' at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos

Red carpet protest

Months of protests to decriminalize abortion in Pope Francis' homeland culminated in a make-or-break Senate vote in February. But the eighth attempt to pass a freedom-to-choose law failed at the final hurdle when it was



Spanish actress Rossy de Palma poses as she arrives for the screening of the film 'Dolor Y Gloria (Pain and Glory)'.

voted down by 38 votes to 31 in the Senate. The decision led to thousands demonstrating on the streets of the capital Buenos Aires. "That night (of the vote) I nearly died from the cold, from the rain, I almost broke my camera,"

the documentary's director Juan Solanas told AFP.

"I felt anger and indignation," said the director, son of the celebrated filmmaker Fernando "Pino" Solanas, a winner at Cannes for his 1988 film "Sur". "I grew up in an atheist family (and) I respect people's beliefs, but it is medieval and violent to impose them on people who don't think the same," he added. He and pro-choice Argentinean activists plan to recreate a "green wave" of women in green handkerchiefs, the symbol of Argentina's pro-abortion movement on the red carpet. Solanas said restrictions, like those passed in Alabama and Missouri, will lead to women's deaths.

"In Argentina, one woman dies every week following an illegal abortion-more than one a day in Latin America, where 300 million women live without the right to end their pregnancies." Longoria, one of the founders of the Time's Up movement, which is pushing for gender equality and women's rights, told a Kering Women in Motion talk at Cannes Friday that it is likely to get involved in the 2020 US presidential election. "We're trying to figure out what is Time's Up's role in these elections, and how can we have an impact," she added. Despite the momentum that the movement picked up in Hollywood after #MeToo, she said in the workplace generally "the statistics are going the wrong way. We're not improving."—AFP

Star Madden plays 007 peekaboo at Cannes

ame of Thrones" heartthrob Richard Madden tried to bat off mounting speculation Friday that will be the next James Bond as Daniel Craig bows out after eight years as 007. The British actor turned heads on the Cannes film festival red carpet Thursday in a Bond-style white tuxedo, with rumors further fuelled by a string of Instagram poses in exotic settings typical of the British spy.



British actor Richard Madden attends a press conference for the film 'Rocketman.' — AFP

But the Scottish actor-whose accent closely resembles that of the original OO7, Sean Connery-coyly brushed off the rumors when he appeared at a news conference Friday for the Elton John biopic "Rocketman". However, neither did Madden rule it out in a retort likely to further fuel speculation. "It's very flattering to be involved in that conversation at all, but it's all just talk and next week I'm sure it will be someone different," he said as co-star star Taron Egerton, who played Elton John, began humming the Bond music.

Mother's Aleppo film moves Cannes to tears

Ith the thud of shells exploding all around them in the dark, a terrified young couple sneak past lines of Syrian troops back into besieged Aleppo, their six-month-old daughter Sama clutched in a sling. It is a key moment in Waad al-Kateab's powerful and intimate documentary "For Sama", a love letter to her infant daughter to explain what they lived through in that city of death and devastation just in case they didn't make it.

The film, which charts five years of Kateab's life from student protester to wife and young mother, reduced much of the audience at the Cannes film festival to tears and brought the house to its feet in a minutes-long standing ovation. Kateab was just 20 when the pro-democracy protests began in Syria, prompting a bloody crackdown by President Bashar al-Assad that has killed 370,000 people and displaced millions.

The northern city of Aleppo suffering some of the heaviest fighting after rebels seized its eastern sector in 2012. Her idea was to document their increasingly precarious lives in the city as the crushing might of the Russian-backed Syrian military pressed in, with the footage juxtaposing the joy of falling in love and the excitement of becoming a mother with the daily trauma of life inside the ravaged city's last hospital.

At one point in July 2016, when the situation was already very extreme, Kateab and her doctor husband Hamza went to Turkey to see his sick father. While there, they heard regime forces were poised to totally cut off eastern Aleppo. "We knew we had to go back," Kateab told AFP. Within an hour, they had packed, despite pleas from his parents not to go, or to leave baby Sama behind.

Not brave, just human

With access to Aleppo almost impossible, the young family somehow made the treacherous journey, sneaking past government troops in the dead of night to reach the "safety" of the rebel-held east of the city. At one point, baby Sama starts wailing, prompting frantic hushed efforts to calm her in a surreal scene in which they sing her a nursery rhyme about chicks and a mother hen. "We were very scared because we didn't know where the regime sol-

The white tuxedo was immortalized by Connery who wore it at the start of "Goldfinger" (1964) with the style becoming one of the spy's most famous looks. In the critically-acclaimed "Rocketman", Madden plays Elton John's controversial lover and manager John Reid. The dashing actor further teased comment with revealing photos of himself preparing for his Cannes premiere, his bathrobe opened provocatively to the thigh.

Madden starred in "Game of Thrones" as the ill-fated King Robb Stark, and last year led the cast of hit BBC drama "The Bodyguard", a taut political thriller which broke download records in Britain. Madden is currently the UK bookmakers' favorite to play Bond with odds of 3/1 from William Hill, Betfair and Paddy Power, according to the Oddschecker website. He is closely followed by Tom Hiddleston who starred in "The Night Manager", while Idris Elba, James Norton and Cillian Murphy fall further behind.

Among the more improbable choices is Javier Bardem at 20/1 on Paddy Power, and Matt Damon at 100/1 on Betfair. Bookies are also taking bets on some female actresses, including Emily Blunt, Phoebe Waller-Bridge who wrote BBC drama "Killing Eve" and Angelina Jolie. The long-awaited new Bond film is due for release in April 2020, but its creators have yet to announce its title. It will be the 25th film in one of the world's most enduring franchises, and Craig's last outing as the world's favorite spy.

Oscar winner Rami Malek has been cast as the villain and Ralph Fiennes returns as Bond's boss M. Also returning to the cast is French actress Lea Seydoux, Naomie Harris as Moneypenny and Ben Whishaw as gadget-savvy spook Q.—AFP

diers were exactly. We knew it was very risky, there was shelling on the front line so they were just about to take the road," Kateab said.

What dragged them back was the close bonds they had built with those living under bombardment, and the sense they had a crucial role to play. "We lived with these people for five years, we shared all these experiences with them, the shelling the bombings. Hamza knew how much of a difference a doctor would make in that situation, and I knew how important it was to document things," she said. "We are not brave, we are just people. Any normal human being would do the same thing."



Syrian director and producer Waad al-Kateab poses during a photocall. — AFP

'I need you to understand'

As the film plays out, the lives of real people are brought sharply into focus, the absurdity of laughter as missiles crash down overhead, the children painting a bombed-out bus, the snowball fights, the aching grief of two little boys over the body of their brother. Their life increasingly revolves around the hospital where Hamza and his team race to treat the flood of victims which at one point reaches 300 a day, and which is then itself hit in an air strike.

Central to the story is her struggle with the impossible question of whether or not to flee the city to protect her daughter. "Sama, I've made this film for you. I need you to understand what we were fighting for," she says in the voiceover. Co-director Edward Watts said it was crucial to counter the regime's propaganda-that they were fighting Islamic State terrorists in Aleppo. "ISIS was only in Aleppo for three months," he told AFP. —AFP

First African woman enters Cannes race with migrant ghost story

black African woman has entered the race for Cannes's coveted Palme d'Or top prize for the first time in its 72-year history, with a moving ghost story about migrants dying at sea while trying to reach Europe. Mati Diop, 36, grew up in France and belongs to a Senegalese artistic dynasty including her uncle, acclaimed director Djibril Diop Mambety, and her father, musician Wasis Diop. She said after the red-carpet premiere of "Atlantics" that it was while she was making a short film in Senegal a decade ago that she began to wrestle with the tragic push-and-pull factors leading Africans to flee the continent.

"I was spending time in Dakar at the time and was struck by the complex and sensitive realities of the phenomenon we called at the time 'illegal emigration'," she said. "Once I had finished my (short) film, I felt I still had a lot of dimensions and issues to explore. I had the desire and the idea to tell the story of youth disappearing into the sea, through the perspective of a young woman." She chose a Romeo and Juliet story of star-crossed young lovers, but with a supernatural twist.

The heroine of the film is Ada, growing up in a poor district of Dakar. Although her parents have arranged her marriage to a wealthy young man, Ada has already fallen in love with Souleiman, a builder who's been cheated out of his salary by a corrupt developer. He and a group of fellow workers decide their only future lies in Europe and set off in a motorized boat known as a pirogue for the Atlantic.

Wait this long

News of the boat's sinking and the death of its passengers reaches home but Ada can't quite believe Souleiman is gone. Suddenly her friends start seeing him everywhere around town and Ada receives mysterious text messages on her mobile, while more and more people come down with an inexplicable fever. Their affliction, which also leads victims' irises to turn white, turns out to be a visitation of the souls of the dead, with Souleiman entering the body of a policeman.

The supernatural tale of love beyond death, which garnered strong reviews, drew comparisons to "Personal Shopper", the arthouse hit starring Kristen Stewart, and even the 1990 blockbuster "Ghost". But the migrant crisis, in which nearly 2,300 people died trying to reach the shores of European countries last year according to the UN, adds political heft and moral urgency to the film. Diop said that while the weight of the tragic situation was difficult to bear, she seized on the character of Ada, a young women who "wakes up to a new dimension of herself", as a ray of light.

Asked about her own role as a trailblazer at Cannes, Diop told reporters the news had "quite honestly made me sad at first because we had to wait this long." Just four of the 21 directors vying for the Palme d'Or are women.

'So excited'

She said she had had an "urgent need" to feel more represented on screen and see more people who look like her behind the camera, telling fresh stories. "As a black woman I really missed black figures and black characters cruelly. And that's also why I made this film: I needed to see black people on screen-huge, everywhere," she laughed. "It's also something new. I can't believe when I go to see a Jordan Peele movie... I can't even believe what I'm feeling," she said, referring to the Oscar-winning African-American filmmaker behind "Get Out" and "Us".

"I'm so excited, I'm looking at how many black people are in the room-I almost count them... it's a little hysterical." Diop said Cannes as the world's biggest film festival had the power to help transform the industry by knocking down barriers for previously excluded groups. "Hopefully it will be more and more common that black people are in front of characters of the same color. Inshallah (God willing)," she said. — AFP



Austrian film director Jessica Hausner poses during a photocall. — AFP

Not so crazy: Cannes film upends Hitchcock's 'hysterical' women

essica Hausner, one of four female directors vying for the Cannes top prize, remembers watching "crazy women" in movies by the great Hollywood masters and sensing something was off. "I mean 'Vertigo'-it was clear he was the one who was crazy," she said of Hitchcock's film noir classic in which a traumatized policeman (James Stewart) tracks a "hysterical" woman (Kim Novak). For Hausner's feminist scifit thriller "Little Joe", which is premiering at the world's top film festival, she said she wanted to explore how "crazy" becomes a label used to keep women down.

"I was always fascinated by the films about crazy women. I felt that male perspective and I thought 'Yeah, but what's so crazy about them?" she said. "The 'craziness' of women is actually the very interesting point about them because I think it's also about being sensitive and intelligent." "Little Joe", the Austrian director's first English-language feature, tells the story of Alice (British actress Emily Beecham), a senior botanist in a biotech firm in the UK of the near future.

She leads a team of plant breeders developing genetically manipulated strains of flowers that can make their owners eternally happy if they sniff the pollen. A single mother, Alice names the blossom "Little Joe" after her young son, whom she worries she is neglecting while she pursues her career.

Unlike a fairytale

The top-secret project begins to derail when Alice's male colleagues and her son become addicted to the scent and allow their love for Little Joe to supplant all their human relationships. Anyone who comes between them and their blossoms soon becomes seen as a threat. A veteran of the lab (Kerry Fox) is the first to raise the alarm to the dangers of the flowers but is dismissed as batty by her co-workers and, at least at first, Alice.

Hausner said Alice's "Dr Frankenstein" character, who loses control of her own creation, served as a good metaphor for motherhood and its occasional ambivalence. "The main character of my film is a woman torn between her responsibility for her work and for the plants she created but on the other hand there is her son that she takes care of," she said. "It's not a social drama or a psychological drama-I think the film's more a fairytale-like story. In a fairytale the main character has to overcome all these problems. But unlike a fairytale, in the end (of the film) nothing is more clear than it was in the beginning."

'I'm still waiting'

Beecham said she and Hausner had looked to women researchers like French microbiologist Emmanuelle Charpentier, who helped develop the gene-editing process CRISPR/Cas-9, and primatologist Jane Goodall for inspiration. The English actress said Goodall in particular commented on how her relationship with her family had interfered with her research. "She kind of had to put that on the back burner and put the chimpanzees in the forefront," said Beecham, best known for her part in Joel and Ethan Coen's "Hail Caesar".

Hausner, who began as a script assistant on Michael Haneke's suburban horror film "Funny Games", is a regular of the Cannes sidebar sections who has developed a cult following for unsettling dramas including "Lovely Rita" and "Lourdes". She said she welcomed a debate raging at the festival about movie industry sexism. "Before that, it was obvious too but no one said anything. It was just the way it was. Male directors dominated the festival and not only this festival but all the festivals," she said.

She said that she knew the deck was stacked against women when she was 16 and her parents gave her a book about great people in history. "I opened the index and there was one woman and it was (the scientist) Marie Curie," she said. "And I thought 'Maybe it's only for men' but on the other hand I knew exactly that this is not true-a woman can do great things as well. So I waited, I thought, 'This will change.' But it didn't change for such a long time. Now I'm 46 so it's 30 years later and I'm still waiting."—AFP

Lifestyle Features

Groundbreaking Pidgin opera mixes music for cultural harmony

he cheering crowd in southwestern Nigeria is thousands strong but when the performer on stage in a yellow catsuit and glittering cape beats out eerie rhythms on a steel drum, they hush. Then as Helen Epega begins to sing, her powerful voice filling the air at the outdoor auditorium, the crowd roars. The musical genre may be unusual in this part of the world but people understand it-Epega is singing what she and organizers of the festival in which she is participating say is the world's first opera in Pidgin.

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation, with many ethnic groups and hundreds of languages. But Nigerian Pidgin-a lingua franca sometimes referred to as "Broken English"-is understood by almost all. "The reaction has been overwhelming," said 37-year old Epega, who performs under the stage name The Venus Bushfires and comes from the southern Nigerian city of Benin. "People are really excited about it," she told AFP. "Perhaps it is because they feel they haven't had a voice, or had a chance to express themselves in this way."

Written by Epega herself, the opera has yet to be staged in its entirety but it will involve several singers and an orchestra. But she has performed long excerpts with various drums and guitar, in Europe, Cape Town and Lagos, among other places. And as Epega performed at the recent African Drum Festival in the southwestern city of Abeokuta, the audience danced along, breaking with tradition for an opera.

Titled "Song Queen", it is about a warrior queen and people who "sing a peaceful reality into the world" through music, she said. The crowd loved it.

Bridging cultures

The use of Pidgin, which is understood across Nigeria, provides unaccustomed access to opera. "It is not the music I think of when you talk of African drumming," said student David Ikeolu at the festival. "But she is singing



our language, and that is special to hear," he added. More than just serving as a lingua franca, Pidgin can also help to bring people together, Epega said. "It shows that it is not only OK to break barriers-in fact, we must," said the singer, who has also lived in Britain. "If we are going to have a dialogue about unity and peace and love, we must find ways to build bridges between ourselves."

Pidgin power

Pidgin, which is endlessly changing, was once scorned by some as a language of the street. But it has a powerful and growing cultural influence across all classes. The BBC has started a Pidgin radio and news website, stand-up comedians are entertaining packed audiences and novels are being written in the language, noted Nigerian author Richard Ali. He said he had recently helped translate an 11th-century Arabic story of Al-Hariri of Basra into Pidgin. "Adaptable, jazz-like and subversive," the writer said of Pidgin in a recent article. Ali also praised Pidgin as a bridge-building tongue that enables even rival groups who cannot understand each other to speak to one another and laugh, turning "competitors into comrades".

'Afro-futuristic'

With her hair in long tresses dramatically looped up in curls around a horizontal baton, Epega beats out rhythms on a "Hang", a Swiss-made percussion instrument. Two steel shells, one upon the other, resonate when she taps the Hang with her palms, creating a ghostly sound like that produced by Caribbean steel pan drums. Like Nigeria's forever changing Afro-pop music, Epega's sound fuses very different musical styles together for something she describes as "Afro-futuristic".

It is a mix of old and new, bringing together "a blend of the rich African tradition of storytelling, using Nigerian Pidgin English, with Western classical opera," she said. Epega's inspirations-from Nigeria's late Afrobeat icon Fela Kuti to British singer Kate Bush and Mozart-reflect her upbringing in both Nigeria and Britain. "I think I'm finding a way to marry them all together," she said, grinning.

Unity in diversity

Celebrating the strength of unity in diversity was another key theme of the festival. Wole Soyinka, the 1986 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature who comes from Abeokuta, acted as an advisor to its organizers. "When you watch a performance of drumming, you are listening to poetry too," Soyinka said, addressing the opening ceremony. "If you listen to a recital, it is all about rhythm."

For Epega, mixing the beat of traditional drums with the sounds and rhythms of modern instruments conveys a powerful message about inclusion. "I'm saying that no matter where you're coming from, and where you are on the musical, cultural and social spectrum, I believe we all meet when we speak the same language," she said: "Music".—AFP



Nigerian opera singer and performance artist Helen Epega, performs during the world's first opera in Pidgin, popularly called 'broken English', during the African Drum Festival in Abeokuta, Ogun State in southwestern Nigeria. — AFP





This picture shows a restored Orient Express train displayed at the Gare de l'Est train station in Paris. — AFP photos

Could the fabled Orient Express take to the rails again?

from a bygone golden age, steaming through **▲**Europe experiencing top-notch cuisine and the company of fellow passengers who could be writers or spies. And who knows, maybe a mysterious murder along the way deep in the night... The last true Orient Express travelled from Paris to Istanbul in 1977, drawing the curtain on almost a century of taking travelers on the fabled route from western Europe to the shores of the Bosphorus in Turkey.

The train also entered popular culture, playing a central role in celebrated books and movies, not least Agatha Christie's 1930s novel "Murder on the Orient Express" which has inspired several films. The brand name was acquired by French rail operator SNCF which has now, at huge expense, restored original Orient Express carriages and is mulling relaunching the service.

SNCF is this week exhibiting seven original carriages at Gare de l'Est station in Paris which have been returned to their original splendor after seven years of restoration. Three are dining cars which were used on the actual Orient Express in its heyday while the four others were used on routes run by the company in the south of France and other European routes.

Height of luxury

The cars display the height of luxury with plush armchairs for seats, immaculately varnished wooden tables and art deco fittings.

Tt conjures up the atmosphere of rail travel SNCF picked up the brand from la Compagnie internationale des wagons-lits (CIWL), after the Orient Express service stopped in 1977, but barely exploited it until it began restoring the carriages from 2011. "To restore them, we went into our archives to find the original plans or samples of tissues and so forth," said Guillaume de Saint Lager, the executive director of Orient Express. "We used exceptional experts."



For SNCF chief executive Guillaume Pepy the display at the Gare de l'Est could be the start of a new beginning for the Orient Express. "It is clearly a big investment, some 14 million euros (\$15.6 million), but it is an investment in railway heritage," said Pepy. "They are a shop window for the expertise of the SNCF in preserving heritage." After intense research, the SNCF found historic Orient Express carriages in a siding in Poland close to the border with Belarus and can now boast a set of 16 carriages-including 9 sleeping cars and four saloons.

Aim is to run all around Europe

SNCF last year sold 50.1 percent in the company holding the rights to the Orient Express brand to French hotel group Accor, which wants to open luxury hotels under the name. Meanwhile the Venice Simplon-Orient-Expressa privately owned luxury train first established by an American entrepreneur in the 1980s-currently plies a route between Calais in northern France, Paris, Verona and Venice in Italy. An exhibition at Paris' Museum of the Arab World in 2014 on the Orient Express proved a smash hit and encouraged SNCF to restore the carriages. "Our aim is to have the Orient Express on the rails all around Europe," said Pepy.

But whether a re-launched Orient Express will again steam between Paris and Istanbul remains to be seen. "We need to look at the state of the carriages and see under what conditions they could travel again and how they could be brought in line with the security specifications that exist in Europe," Pepy said. "We are doing the technical work now and hope we can have a positive decision this summer," he added.—AFP

Germany green-lights e-scooters on roads, not pavements

ermany on Friday authorized bat-tery-powered scooters on its streets and cycle paths but banned them from pavements to protect pedestrians as the two-wheeled craze continues to spread across Europe. Following fierce debate over road safety and the impact on traffic, the upper house adopted a proposal by Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer to approve the "electric propulsion vehicles" for road use. They are either loved or loathed in Europe's biggest economy.

"In Germany, souls are divided over escooters. Rarely has a new technology aroused such strong popularity-and such strong rejection", said Achim Berg, presi dent of Germany's IT federation Bitkom. Scheuer was forced to amend his initial suggestion to allow electric scooters on pavements, after it sparked an outcry from politicians, police unions and insurance groups. Electrical scooters will only be allowed on pavements in exceptional cases, to be expressly indicated by signs. Escooter users must respect a speed limit of 20 kilometers per hour and be aged 14 years or older.

'Would be a Ferrari'

The decision opens up the market for mobility companies vying to provide rented e-scooters in Germany's cities with Berlin-based startup Tier and Sweden's Voi up against US firms Lime and Bird, leaders in the fast-growing sector. Europe's leading economy, with its mostly flat, highly urbanised geography and spiderweb network of cycle paths is a potential goldmine for e-scoot rental providers waiting in the wings. "You have to expect a greyhound race. Whoever can convince people first will win the market," said Hans Preissl, a

spokesman for Frankfurt's traffic authority. The economic model of the booming escooter market still needs refining however, warns a study by the Boston Consulting Group on Friday. "If market growth were vehicle acceleration, the humble electric scooter - the latest answer to urban mobility - would be a Ferrari," said BCG, which predicts "consolidation is inevitable" in such a crowded market. Undeterred, German car behemoth Volkswagen is eyeing the e-scooter market with plans to incorporate them into its own car-sharing scheme by the end of the year.

However, an influx of scooters could intensify the battle for space on Germany's streets, where cycling associations have long demanded more and wider bicycle paths. The co-existence of cyclists and escooter users on Germany's cycle paths could quickly become untenable, warns Der Spiegel, "while imposing half-empty

cars will continue to occupy lanes", refer-



In this file photo a man rides an E-Scooter of rental company Tier in Berlin. — AFP

Inevitable conflicts

"Conflicts are inevitable," Social Democrat politician Anke Rehlinger said Thursday, adding that "continuous" effort should be made to define new rules for the e-scooters. Scheuer labeled them a "genuine additional alternative for cars" in Germany's traffic-choked cities yet there are also medical warnings against their use on Germany's roads. "E-scooters are highly dangerous in city traffic - not least because other road users find it extremely difficult to adjust to them," Christopher Spering, from the German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, told the Neue Osnabr, cker Zeitung newspaper.

There are also fears cyclists could be pushed off cycle paths specifically built for them. "The already very limited area, currently granted to cycle traffic, should not have its use further extended," said Jens Hilgenberg, traffic expert of the environmentalist group BUND told magazine Der Spiegel. Daily newspaper Maerkische Oderzeitung says German cities have a choice-either they "risk chaos and even war between the modes of transport" or they prioritize cyclists, e-scooters users and pedestrians resulting in "painful losses for motorists" in inner city areas.—AFP



Kim Kardashian names fourth child Psalm West

ality television star Kim Kardashian announced on Friday she has Randashian wrote "Psalm West" in a post to her 60 million followers on Twitter that included a photo of the infant wrapped in a blanket in a crib with a caption that read in part: "We are blessed beyond measure. We have everything we need." Kardashian and her musician husband Kanye West have three other children - Chicago, a girl who was also born via a surrogate in January 2018, a son, Saint, 3, and daughter North, 5. Kardashian has said she decided to use a surrogate after doctors warned of serious health risks if she became pregnant again following the birth of Saint in 2015.—Reuters

Lifestyle | Features







Participants in the Red Bull Paper Wings World Finals 2019 compete in Salzburg, Austria.— AFP photos

Want Alpine thrills? Try competitive paper plane flying

f you've ever wanted to earn your wings ecologically, economically and quietly while breathing healthy Alpine air, read on, because you can. Welcome to the paper plane world championship, which Austria hosts this weekend as the erstwhile pastime of the bored school kid morphs into a competitive fest with a world "title" at stake. Competitors-around 180 people from around the globe-were able to travel ultra lightly to Salzburg with their "kit" composed of simple pieces of standard A4 size paper.

A classic tourist trip to the city would more normally entail a little Mozart or, for the less classically-inclined, a peek at the backdrop to the Sound of Music. But, for one weekend only, competitors will be out to see who can launch their "fighter aircraft" the furthest or loop the loop most spectacularly or else stay in the air the longest. The winner of each category will take home a world title in a showdown which had its own qualifying tournament

spread across 58 countries.

Most participants say they came to the event, organized by Austrian firm Red Bull, just "by chance" or "for fun". But once engaged, the competition has really drawn them in, organizers say. "The level is impressive. Some participants can throw for 50 meters," French competitor Jonathan Miraucourt, 24, said as he prepared to joust in the "long distance" category. Miraucourt, a student in the southern city of Montpellier but originally from Tahiti, explained he "only" managed 35 meters to qualify.

He said he was pondering even at this late stage whether to change his trusted technique of a small runup designed to ensure a stable flight. Participants have varying views on technique, from how to fold the paper just so in order to propel the "jets" skyward. Amid the atmosphere-more holiday camp than sporting extravaganza — many experienced competitors are happy to pass on tips to those who are relative novices.

Paper, scissors... chuck

Ryan Naccarato, from Los Angeles, won the "acrobatic" category in 2012 and wears the calm mien of that successful experience as he prepares for his third event in a competition first held in 2006. "You have to adapt to the parameters of each event: the quality of the paper, weight, air temperature, humidity," explains the 29-yearold, a big fan of origami. That art of paper folding originated in Japan, which is where 54-year-old Emmei Shinichi-the oldest competitor in a mainly male field-

Counting down to the event, Shinichi was studiously putting the final touches to a complex model he hopes can remain airborne longer than anyone else's. In the acrobatic category, all designs are allowed as long as the creation comprises nothing more than paper, some glue and a little judicious use of scissors to trim wing or fuselage. One Indonesian entry consisting of two pieces of

paper flapping in concert was arousing early curiosity, as was an Indian man's concept of a paper boomerang that looked to be able to reach impressive speeds.

"For distance, we all make the same type of plane, in the form of a very fine arrow," explained an Algerian, flexing his arms and shoulders in warm-up exercises to ward off the potential onset of cramps at just the wrong moment. The last edition in 2015 saw 53.22 meters sufficient to land the distance title for a flight time of 14.36 seconds. All planes have to be made onsite in the organizers' Hangar7, home to historical planes and Formula One cars. The venue has a view of the majestic Alps... as well as Salzburg airport's runways-albeit too far away to have its airspace affected.—AFP

Thai artist dishes out communal curry at US museum

Rickrit Tiravanija is betting that this communal experience can break down artificial divides as he serves curry to visitors at the Hirshhorn Museum in an installation that opened Friday. The feast is part of the art. Visitors fill their bellies with red, yellow and green curries while watching local artists cover the once white gallery walls with photorealistic drawings of protests in Thailand and the United States.

"There are people who would have never sat next to each other sitting next to each other, discovering each other or themselves in a different way," Tiravanija said. In a 2010 presentation in Bangkok, Tiravanija did the cooking himself with open fires and boiling pots of curry alongside fresh ingredients-an impossible task in security-minded US museums. At the Hirshhorn, area restaurant Beau Thai is catering the food.

It's not every day that we have heating elements-otherwise known as fire to our fire wardens-and food," quipped museum director Melissa Chiu. Even when the daily servings of curry are gone, the spiced fragrances linger, and the installation encourages people to meet, gather and discuss in a joyous cacophony enhanced by the steel flooring in the 150-person capacity room.

Tiravanija, who had participants make friends while washing dishes at the posh Art Basel fair in 2015, is part of a group of artists including Pierre Huyghe, Liam Gillick and Jorge Pardo concerned with "relational aesthetics," whose works are defined by the interaction and collaboration they elicit. "It's experiential, it's about art that socializes ideas and sets open discussion spaces," said curator Mark Beasley.

Irony of color

The title of the installation, "(who's afraid of red, yellow and green)," is a wink to American artist Barnett Newman's "Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue?" (1966-1970) provocative series of four large-scale paintings, two of which were vandalized in museums. Tiravanija's use of parentheses and lowercase suggests the questions here are more of a "subtext." The colors in the title of Tiravanija's piece represent the military (green) and the two

main factions of anti-government protesters in Thailand at their peak in 2010: the "red shirt" rural farmers and "yellow shirt"

"For me, it's the irony of the idea of the color," said Tiravanija. "I wanted to become more sophisticat-

you still live in the same green)' at the Hirshhorn Museum in place." Societies have Washington, DC. — AFP photos ed and technologically advanced, but, the work recalls, a primal tendency to destroy one

lence or the fear of the other-and it's being used. It's not just inane, it's manipulation." Breaking down barriers over a meal may sound utopian, but the murals serve as a reminder of societal frictions that lie just beneath the surface. They include reproductions of photographs taken from the 2010 Thai political protests and crackdown, the US civil rights movement, the Women's March in Washington and the

paramilitary groups killed dozens of students. The sketches will be drawn on top of one another in thick layers.

1976 Thammasat University massacre, when Thai state forces and

To supplement the experience, six films by emerging Thai film-

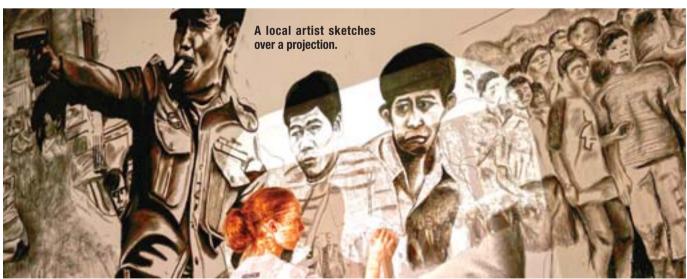


show that may be this col
Thai artist Rirkrit Tiravanija speaks to or or that color but you members of the press at his interactive still eat the same curries, exhibit '(who's afraid of red, yellow, and

another remains. "We should have a better world now," Tiravanija said. "The terrible thing about it is that it keeps cycling back-vio-

"It will get dense enough that it will cancel itself out. But in that sense, I would like to say, 'don't forget that it is still there," the artist said. "With machines that remember everything for us, we are going to lose our memory much faster than we realize." The ephemeral experience, which the Hirshhorn has added to its collection and runs through July 24, is participatory, so museum goers are encouraged to lend their hand to the mural.

makers curated by independent director and Palme d'Or winner Apichatpong Weerasethakul are screened in one room, with Tiravanija's feature "Lung Neaw Visits His Neighbors" (2011) in another. The latter film follows a retired Thai rice farmer living off the land in the bucolic surroundings of his native northern Chiang Mai province at a time when the capital Bangkok was erupting with political unrest. It begs the question: in such paradisiacal surroundings, what else is needed?—AFP





People queue to be served a bowl of rice and curry as part of the interactive exhibit.

Abdullah Al-Mubarak in the Poetry and Thoughts of Souad Al-Sabah

By Ali Al-Masaudi Translated by Abdulraoof Salim

was preparing to look for "Abdullah Al-Mubarak" in the poetries of Souad Al-■ Sabah and I found his presence in herself and her life, much wider than the area of poetry, he is decreed on all her details and all her history. If you speak with her about politics, she says Abdullah Mubarak. If you speak with her about love, she says Abdullah Mubarak. If you speak with her about love, she says Abdullah Mubarak.

If you start speaking about Arabism, she whispers Abdullah Mubarak, and if you mention the sacrifice, and reputation she says: Abdullah Mubarak, if you refer to the wisdom

and governance she says "Abdullah Mubarak" Souad was like the moon that revolves around the Earth. It is the moon with its clarity, manifestation, and beauty, and it is the earth with all its tender and tenderness. There is a state of attraction and eternal attraction between them, the moon cannot get out of Earth orbit, and the earth will not be a beautiful land without moon...Therefore, Abdullah Al-Mubarak was not limited in poetry, but in whole thought as a life and faith approach, and as gratitude...

It is surprising that this man decided to retire from political life and leave the media while penetrating the thought of the writer poet, he attended the social, intellectual, poetic and political life through which all these presences. After a life full of movements and transformations, the role of loyalty came after the departure. The intimate fulfillment, a trait of the virtues of authentic Arab women.

Women poets have been famous for their lamentations. Mustafa Sadiq Al-Rafeay said in his book "History of Literature" (Lamentation is the pillar of Arabic poetry for women), the immortality of the Brothers in the poems of Khansaa in her brother Sakhr.

But the product of Souad Al-Sabah Poetry and human and intellectual took the form of fulfillment more than the form of a lament. She always addressed him as a reality, as a presence. Standing in front of her with its body and history, although it is a passionate and conscious discourse of the magnitude of absence at the same time. It is not a protest against the loss. It was not clear from every decision that she rejected that absence or protested the destinies, but she accepted what happened with the same satisfaction.

At the same time she re-shaping the audience in another way, her achievements are an extension of his presence, and her children are a continuation of his prestige and her memories are reshaping the past reality of a future reality. This is how Souad Al-Sabah brings back the fulfillment events that Arab women have known by it. The most amazing thing is the heart of Souad Al-Sabah. Because the encounter between Souad and Abdullah was a convergence of emotions and crossfertilization of the ideas of this rare relationship that is admirable and proud.

And how wonderful it is to change Souad Al-Sabah the stereotype in poetry that in which the aesthetics of poetry comes with a lover is not the husband. The poetic and prose discourse of Souad Al-Sabah against Abdullah Al-Mubarak was numerous. In a press question asked by those who asked her

to marry after the death of Abdullah Al-Mubarak, she answered this crucial and astonishing answer.

She said: When I married my cousin, darling and my teacher, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, I was in the first secondary school, I found a perfect man I cannot describe, and he stood by me since the first day, and ceded his historical privileges and is known as the head of the family. He pushed me to the sun fields to learn from culture and science and to increase my knowledge and thinking.

This great man walked with me all this long way and was proud of me that I was

Souad Al-Sabah is an extreme fascination with the husband, and she is fully convinced of him as a life partner, not a media allegation, nor a literary narrative. This persistence in saying, and the persistence of the expression and the sweeping sense of its forms and forms, proves and confirms what is going on. It mobilizes all her senses so that the words are packed. Honestly, there is no limit to her purity and serenity. Her poem (the last of the swords) which may be a lament for a whole generation, is a milestone in her poetic journey in terms of her sense, flow, love, words and successive images that tell bitterness of a woman who is tall for her mountain.

In the poem, the feelings of the nation interfered with the feelings of the beloved. The nation's sorrows in the affairs of the wife are extremely sensitive, the most painful, the climax of pain and the sorrow of grief. And what is the meaning of the last swords only what you mean the last rounds of knights in the war, the last sword only after the curtain falls the curtain on all wounds. The most important book about Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabeer the founder of modern Kuwait tells the history. The most wonderful and enjoyable pages are those that have been written in texts issued for the first time in 2006.

In the literary experience of Souad Al-Sabah, whose first trip took off in her first "in My Life" in 1963, her last break was "letters of the beautiful time" there is a moral lesson in poetry. We are accustomed to poems and poets to write about the love that we do not know their names and forms. They are not husbands or wives. The experience of poetry has been rooted in our minds that a wife cannot be a lover, nor does the husband deserve to be trampled by spinning poems. And that's what it's like to escape poetry by feeling to the distant other.

When we make a comparison between Souad's messages and Ghada's letters... The letters of the two books are written in love ink, longing pens, and material. And paved on the paper of Love. For two bright stars in the skies of Arabic literature. A book prepared by Souad Al-Sabah and another prepared by Ghada Al-Samman. When the two books are subject to criticism. Ghada graduated from the subject of hadeeth and to be harmed only as a beloved inspiration, followed by a famous Arab writer, he is not her husband. He is even married to a woman and justifies another woman's betrayal. He is impressed by his range in the writer and expands over the pages of the release which triggered a sensation and he tells her: you can go into history like a spear. You can and you deserve that.

Classifieds



STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Sunday, May 19, 2019



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

No Current Warnings

WEATHER WARNING		
STATION	MAX, EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	36 °C	27 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	38 °C	23 °C
ABDALY	41 °C	22 °C
BUBYAN	• °C	- °C
JAHRA	41 °C	25 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	35 °C	24 °C
SALMIYAH	30 °C	26 °C
AHMADI	32 °C	26 °C
NUWAISIB	39 °C	22 °C
WAFRA	41 °C	21 °C
SALMY	42 °C	24 °C

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		4 DAYS FORECA	ST			
dres.	2015-040-0	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Temper	ratures	facetamen sa	Contraction (a)
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	MAX.	MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Sunday	05/19	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	37 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	08 + 32 km/h
Monday	05/20	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas and some high clouds will appear	36 °C	24 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Tuesday	05/21	Hot and Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scattered light rain	40 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	05/22	Hot and Partly cloudy	41 °C	26 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h

PRAYER	HMES
Fajr	03:24
Sunrise	04:54
Zuhr	11:44
Ast	15:20
Sunset	18:35
Isha	20:02

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT					
MAX. Temp.	42 °C				
MIN. Temp.	23 °C				
MAX. RH	68 %				
MIN. RH	09. %				
MAX. Wind	S 36 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					
Davida	22517722					

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						

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIANA VALERIAN FERNAN-DES would like to change my father's name Cosmos Xavier Fernandes to Cosme Xavier Cornelo Cipriano Fernandes as per his birth certificate. (C 5532) 17-5-2019

I, ISABEL SEBASTIANA LAURI-ANA FERNANDES, daughter of Antonio Milton Fernandes and Purificacao Isabel De Almeida, wife of Mr. Ignatius Francis D'Silva, Major of age, Married, R/o. P.O. Betim, Salvador Du Mundo, Salem Saloi, Bardez, Goa, presently resident of Bldg# 23, Block# 9, Ibn Zuhr Street, Khaitan, Kuwait, do here wish to correct my name from Isabel Lauriana D'Silva to Isabel Sebastiana Lauriana Fernandes and my mother name Purification Fernandes to Purificacao Isabel De Almeida,

in my Indian Passport bearing

No. M5455148. Hereafter in all my dealings & Documents I will be called in name of ISABEL SEBASTIANA LAURIANA FER-NANDES. (C 5529)

I, Saifuddin Kutbuddin, holder of Indian Passport No.
Z1922953 issued at Kuwait on 17/09/2011, permanent resident of Mohammediya Galiakot, Rajasthan, Pin 314026, residing in Kuwait at present hereby declare the name change as Given Name: Kutbuddin Surname: Saifuddin. (C 5531) 16-5-2019

EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988



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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

	_	hts on Sunday 19/5/2019		JZR	212	Jeddah	13:45			ights on Sunday 19/5/2019		MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	IRA	600	Tehran	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	JZR	713	Sohag	00:10	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FDB	5059	Dubai	14:15	MSC	406				872		14:15
										Sohag	00:15	UAE		Dubai	
KAC	102	London	00:50	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	KAC	792	Madinah	14:40	JZR	409	Delhi	01:10	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:45								
				KAC				IGO	1758	Kochi	01:10	FDB	5060	Dubai	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:20		618	Doha	14:50	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	562	Amman	14:50	THY	773	Istanbul	01:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	118	New York	15:00	JZR	701		02:00	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
				KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05			Asyut					
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55					KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
PGT	828	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:10	JZR	111	Doha	02:10	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	PGT							
				ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35		859	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30					KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:35	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	PGT	829	Istanbul	02:59	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	546	Cairo	15:50	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	JZR	222	Riyadh	16:05								
				KNE	531	Jeddah	16:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	JZR	1233	Taif	16:25
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15					ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	JZR	732	Cairo	16:10	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KNE	532	Jeddah	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15								
				KAC	502	Beirut	16:15	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	FEG				MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05		241	Alexandria	16:45	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	KAC	151	Istanbul	17:35
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	SAW	705	Damascus	17:00	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10				
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	JZR	116	Doha	17:05					KAC	503	Beirut	17:40
				JZR	124	Dubai	17:15	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:15	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
MSR	0516	Cairo	04:25	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:30					JZR	1219	Jeddah	05:25	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30								
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:35	MSR	0517	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
				JZR	104	Bahrain	18:10	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	JZR	253	Amman	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	-				RJA	643	Amman	07:00				
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30					SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR	302	Istanbul	18:40	KAC	167	Paris	07:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
				RJA	640	Amman	19:05	BAW	156	London	07:40	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	173	Munich	07:45	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
BAW	157	London	06:10					KAC	413	Bangkok	07:45			,	
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20					JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	KAC	744	Dammam	19:25	JZR	211	Jeddah	08:00	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:40
		9		NIA	161	Cairo	19:30	IGO	1756	CNN	08:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	KAC	163	MXP	08:35	-			
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45	KAC	501	Beirut	08:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00									KAC	691	Muscat	19:35
QTR	8511	Doha	07:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	545	Cairo	08:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
				KNE	381	Taif	20:00	KAC	561	Amman	08:55				
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	FDB	057	Dubai	20:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
IGO	1755	CNN	07:10	OMA								RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00		647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	117	New York	09:05	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:10	QTR	8512	Doha	09:05	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
				MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	791	Madinah	09:10				
KAC	352	Kochi	08:05	RBG	213	Sohag	20:30	IRA	666	Esfahan	09:10	NIA	162	Cairo	20:30
IRA	601	Tehran	08:10	KAC	620	Doha	20:30					KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
JZR	702	Asyut	08:25					KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	174	Munich	20:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15			,	
				QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:40	FDB	058	Dubai	20:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10			-		KAC	333	Trivandrum	21:05
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40					JZR	731	Cairo	09:45	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	384	Delhi	09:45	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	09:55				
				ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	KAC	101	London	10:05	RBG	214	Sohag	21:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	JZR	1234	Taif	21:15	JZR	301	Istanbul	10:20	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:20					KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40					KAC	617	Doha	10:40				
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
				KAC	164	MXP	21:40	IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	1220	Jeddah	10:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	10:55	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	564	Amman	21:55							Bahrain	
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	QTR	1082		22:05	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	11:00	KLM	445		22:10
JZR	410	Delhi	11:50	-		Doha		GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
				ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:20					KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00				
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30					JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC				RBG	555	Alexandria	22:30	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
	614	Bahrain	12:30	GEC	8456	Frankfurt	22:55	JZR	221	Riyadh	12:40	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00			•					
MSR	610	Cairo	12:45	MSC	501	Alexandria	23:10	JZR	123	Dubai	12:45	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	13:00					IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
				JZR	254	Amman	23:10	JZR	115	Doha	13:25	RBG	556	Alexandria	23:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	MSC	415	Sohag	23:15								
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:35	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

Sunday, May 19, 2019



JERUSALEM: A Palestinian takes a selfie photograph with her telephone in front of the Dome of the Rock mosque in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. — AFP

Fujairah port: UAE oil lifeline outside Strait of Hormuz

DUBAI: A mystery "sabotage" attack on four ships, including three oil tankers, off the UAE coast has highlighted the importance of Fujairah port located just outside the key Strait of Hormuz.

Strategic location

The port of the emirate of Fujairah, located on the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates, is about 180 kilometers from Abu Dhabi - the richest of the seven emirates with 90 percent of the country's oil production. It is 70 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz and 80 nautical miles from Iran's Jask port, on the opposite side of Gulf waters. Fujairah is the only emirate in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates that is located on the Arabian Sea, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has repeatedly threatened to close if a military confrontation with the United States erupts. If the strait is closed, the UAE will be able to continue exporting oil from Fujairah, whose port would become a lifeline.

Fujairah has become a major player in the UAE's oil exports with two terminals, a pipeline from Abu Dhabi and a huge crude storage facility. The 406-kilometre pipeline, owned by Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline Co. (ADCOP), can carry over 600,000 barrels of crude oil from Abu Dhabi to Fujairah.

The pipeline's capacity can go up to 1.6 million bpd in case of need. Fujairah port has two oil terminals with a capacity to handle over 50 million tons of oil a year. It can load Very Large Crude Containers (VLCC) and in 2016 it launched a new dock for supertankers. The port has a huge oil storage facility with a capacity for 10 million tons of crude oil, or around 70 million barrels. Abu Dhabi, which sits on a majority of oil reserves in UAE, has recently awarded a \$1.2 billion contract for building a second storage area holding 42 million barrels.

History

Work on Fujairah port began in 1978 as part of plans to develop the UAE's economy. Operations began in 1983. Ruler of Fujairah, Sheikh Hamad Bin Mohammed Al-Sharqi, said there are plans to boost port capacity "at the local, regional and global levels", according to UAE state news agency Wam. The port is a key platform for local and international companies, he said during a visit there. "Especially since Fujairah port is strategically located outside the Strait of Hormuz on the open seas," added Sheikh Hamad. — AFP

Attacks expose alternatives...

Continued from Page 1

Halting navigation in Hormuz, a narrow chokepoint at the mouth of the Gulf, would likely send oil prices soaring to over \$100 a barrel and substantially disrupt supplies, he said. Crude was trading at \$72.80 per barrel at 0400 GMT on Friday. Gulf states, mainly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have been working on alternative routes to bypass the strait. Riyadh has built a 1,200kilometre East West Pipeline, able to pump five million barrels of oil a day from Saudi's Eastern Province to a

The kingdom is working to raise its capacity to seven million bpd. The UAE has also built a 406-kilometre pipeline from Abu Dhabi to the emirate of Fujairah on the Arabian Sea, outside Hormuz, which has a capacity of 1.6 million bpd. Fujairah boasts a huge storage area capable of holding some 70 million barrels, with a second such facility in the works there for 42 million barrels.

US warns airlines flying over...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Iran's top diplomat yesterday dismissed the possibility of war erupting in the region, saying Tehran did not want a conflict and that no country had the "illusion it can confront Iran", the state news agency IRNA reported. Tensions between Washington and Tehran have increased in recent days, raising concerns about a potential US-Iran conflict. Earlier this week the United States pulled some diplomatic staff from its Baghdad embassy following attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf.

'There will be no war because neither do we want a war, nor has anyone the idea or illusion it can confront Iran in the region," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told IRNA before ending a visit to Beijing. President Donald Trump has bolstered economic sanctions and built up US military presence in the region, accusing Iran of threats to US troops and interests. Tehran has described those steps as "psychological warfare" and a "political game".

"The fact is that Trump has officially said and reiterated again that he does not want a war, but people around him are pushing for war on the pretext that they want to make America stronger against Iran," Zarif said. He told Reuters last month that Trump could be lured

Other Gulf states have built smaller storage in countries such as South Korea. "Saudi Arabia has positioned itself as a safe, reliable supplier of oil. The attacks challenge this position," Houston-based oil expert Anas Alhajji wrote on Twitter. He described the attacks as "significant" since these pipelines aim to reduce Iran's influence on the oil flow by bypassing Hormuz.

Alhajji however insisted that Saudi oil installations are well-protected and the attackers focused on the most remote, most vulnerable installations. Oil transit was disrupted in 1984 during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) when more than 500 vessels were destroyed or damaged in the so-called "Tanker War". Regional tensions have soared since US President Donald Trump pulled out of a nuclear deal with Iran a year ago and imposed a stifling oil embargo on the Islamic republic.

'Markets will always be jittery after a threat to chokepoints, and this can go well beyond oil prices, as many other commodities pass the Strait of Hormuz," Karen E Young, from the American Enterprise Institute said. Although the Gulf oil exporters will be the main losers, the closure would also punish Asian oil importers - mainly China, Japan and South Korea which depend for more than half of their energy needs on Middle East imports. — AFP

into a conflict by the likes of US national security adviser John Bolton, an ardent Iran hawk.

In a sign of the heightened tension across the region, Exxon Mobil evacuated foreign staff from an oilfield in neighboring Iraq after days of sabre rattling between Washington and Tehran. Elsewhere in the Gulf, Bahrain warned its citizens against traveling to Iraq or Iran due to "unstable conditions." In Washington, officials urged US commercial airliners flying over the waters of the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to exercise caution.

A Norwegian insurers' report seen by Reuters said Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards were "highly likely" to have facilitated the attacks last Sunday on four tankers including two Saudi ships off Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates. In Tehran, the commander of the Revolutionary Guards named a new head of the force's intelligence unit yesterday, the Fars news agency reported. Iranian officials have denied involvement in the tanker attacks, saying Tehran's enemies carried them out to lay the groundwork for war against Iran.

US officials, however, are concerned that Tehran may have passed naval combat expertise onto proxy forces in the region. Following the re-imposition of US sanctions, a senior Iranian maritime official said Iran had adopted new tactics and new destinations in shipping its oil exports. Iranian crude oil exports have fallen in May to 500,000 barrels per day or lower, according to tanker data and industry sources, after the United States tightened the screws on Iran's main source of income. — Agencies

War talk grips Iraq; US carrier...

Continued from Page 1

civil rights activist Aysar Jarjafji. "It is deployed for a reason and returns home only when it has accomplished its mission," she said.

Columnist Hussein Rashid agreed. "There is no question about it, there will be war," he said. "And Iraq will be the first loser. "The Abraham Lincoln bombed Iraq. We have a bad memory of that." Taxi driver Abu Hammudi too believes war is coming. It is Ramadan and the streets of Baghdad are largely deserted during the day as Muslims await the iftar meal that marks the end of their dawn-to-dusk fast. "The city is empty, it's like wartime," he said. "I remember perfectly well how Baghdad was bombed in 1991. It was a horrific night. No one had expected it to happen but it did." Like many taxi drivers in Baghdad. Hammudi drives an Iranian-manufactured yellow Saipa.

The neighboring countries, which have centuries-old religious and cultural ties, have massively expanded cross-border trade since the US-led overthrow of Saddam's regime, which fought a devastating 1980-88 war against Iran. Trump strongly disapproves and has piled huge pressure on Iraq to reduce its economic dependence on it neighbor since he abandoned his predecessor Barack Obama's 2015 nuclear deal with İran last year.

Philippines Embassy, Kuwait authorities...

Continued from Page 1

Earlier, the Philippine Embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) expressed condolences to the family of Dayag. The embassy hoped it would not trigger another diplomatic crisis between the two countries as in the case of another Filipina, Joana Demafelis, whose body was found stuffed in a freezer in Feb 2018 at an abandoned apartment belonging to a couple who had hired her. The body was believed to have been in the freezer for over a year. Local media in Kuwait noted there was evidence the woman had been tortured and strangled.

The Foreign Ministry said Kuwait is following with concern details of death of the Filipina citizen. In a statement issued by the Department of Consular

But in Iraq, the Trump administration faces the hard reality that US military trainers and contractors work in the same ministries and businesses as those of Iran. "American interests are present in Iraq and militias linked to Iran are also present here," said Jarjafji, sipping an after-iftar drink at a Baghdad cafe. She was referring to Iraq's Hashed Al-Shaabi paramilitary force, which is dominated by Iranian-trained Shiite militias. Those Iranian military trainers, like their US counterparts working with the regular army, played a major role in helping Baghdad defeat the Islamic State group fighters who overran much of the north and west of Iraq in 2014.

But it those same Iranian-trained militias which Washington said on Thursday pose the "imminent" threat to US personnel in Iraq that prompted the latest military deployments. Washington has blacklisted Iran's Revolutionary Guards-the parallel army which provides the training-as a "terrorist" organization. Iraqi militia commanders on Thursday dismissed the US allegation as a "provocation" and "psychological warfare". And Washington's assessment of the immediacy of the threat is not shared by all of its allies in the coalition it forged to fight IS.

"There has been no increased threat from Iranianbacked forces in Iraq and Syria," British coalition spokesman Major General Chris Ghika said on Tuesday. Iraqi university professor Issa Al-Abbadi said he was still hopeful that the realities on the ground would lead moderate voices to prevail. "There could be a deal. Interests are at stake," he said of the uneasy coexistence between Washington and Tehran in Iraq. "Victory in war is in avoiding it." — AFP

Affairs, the Ministry offered sincere condolences to the family of the deceased, adding that it is following up with authorities the circumstances of the incident. The statement added that the Philippines' authorities would be informed of the results of the investigation, stressing that the State of Kuwait has laws that preserves the rights of all residents.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel stressed Kuwait's keenness on protecting the rights of expat workers and those of domestic helpers in particular, adding that Kuwait does not tolerate any violation of expats' rights.

Commenting on statements recently made by the Philippines' minister of labor on the likelihood that his country might ban sending workers to Kuwait following the death of a Filipina housemaid, Aqeel said that investigations are still ongoing and that there is no proof of any assault so far. "Such incidents happen from time to time but cannot be taken as a base to assess Kuwait's keenness on protecting expat laborers," Aqeel stressed, noting that Kuwait is a state of institutions and that its judiciary is a safe haven for both citizens and expats.

'Self-esteem' from Islamic...

Continued from Page 1

Yet to God belongs the treasures of the heavens and the earth. But the hypocrites do not comprehend 'this.' They say 'with hollow pride': Should we return to Madinah 'from this campaign', the most honorable will expel the most abased from it. Yet, indeed, invincible might belongs to God 'alone', and thus shall it be' for His Messenger and for the believers. But the hypocrites do not know 'it.' (Munafiqoun 63: 7 - 8)

Due to the fact that when someone sincerely believes in God, He endows him with honor, a believer is advised not to humiliate himself. Hudhaifa bin Al-Yamaan (RA) narrated that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "It is not appropriate for a believer to humiliate himself." His companions asked, "How can someone humiliate himself?" He replied, "He exposes himself to a trial that he cannot handle." (Al-Albani rated it as authentic in Saheeh At-Tirmidhi # 2, 254)

Even if you are a sincere believer and know for sure that God (Allah) has conferred upon you honor and dignity - among others - this doesn't give you a carte blanche to be proud and thus look down upon others. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) although believed by Muslims to be the best human-being, never looked down upon anyone. He was extremely humble.

Uqbah bin Amrou (Prophet Muhammad's Companion) said: A man approached Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to ask some questions. During their discussion, the man was continuously trembling out of respect for the Prophet (PBUH). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) comforted him, saying, "Take it easy; for I am son of a woman who used to eat dried meat." (Refer to SaheehIbnMa'jah # 3, 312 and 2, 693)

After that the Prophet (PBUH) recited the following verse, translated as: "Extend not your gaze at what We have bestowed on certain classes of the unbelievers, nor grieve over them. And lower you wing of compassion 'to the believers." (Al-Hijr 15: 88) In another verse, Allah (SWT) also instructs Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to be humble. He says what can be translated as: "So forewarn, 'O Prophet,' your nearest relatives. And lower your wing 'of compassion' for the believers who follow you." (Ash-Shuara'a 26: 215)

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

Bryant hits three homers in Chicago' win as Trout, Angels trot past Royals

Reynolds homers to help Pirates defeat Padres

WASHINGTON: Chicago's Kris Bryant slugged three home runs and drove in five runs, and the Cubs hit six homers in a 14-6 rout of the host Washington Nationals on Friday. Bryant clubbed his third homer-and fourth hit-in the ninth inning. He went deep in each of the final three frames, joining Sammy Sosa (2002) as the only Cubs players to homer three innings in a row. Bryant, 27, also had a three-homer game in Cincinnati on June 27, 2016. Cole Hamels (4-0) tossed five innings of two-run ball as the Cubs broke a two-game losing streak behind an 18-hit attack. Bryant went 4-for-6, Willson Contreras had four hits including a two-run homer, Albert Almora Jr. and Kyle Schwarber hit two-run blasts, and Javier Baez extended his career-high hitting streak to 15 games with two hits.

ASTROS 3, RED SOX 1

George Springer clubbed his American League-leading 17th home run in the eighth inning, and Houston rallied for a victory at Boston, the Astros' ninth consecutive win. Springer socked a first-pitch changeup from Rick Porcello 395 feet just to center field, scoring Jake Marisnick and erasing a one-run deficit. Porcello entered the eighth having retired seven consecutive batters before surrendering his first extra-base hit of the night when Marisnick doubled to left. Porcello (3-4) allowed two runs on six hits and one walk with three strikeouts in seven-plus innings for Boston, which had won 12 of 15 games. Will Harris (1-0) threw one scoreless inning for the win, and Roberto Osuna handled the ninth inning for his 11th save.

PIRATES 5, PADRES 3

Bryan Reynolds decided a pitching duel between former Padres teammates Jordan Lyles and Joey Lucchesi with a two-run homer to lead visiting Pittsburgh to a win in San Diego. Reynolds followed a one-out single by Josh Bell in the fourth with a 415-foot drive to center off a 2-and-0 sinker from Lucchesi. The homer erased a 1-0 Padres lead that came in the first inning when Franmil Reyes homered off Lyles. Lyles (4-1) allowed one run on five hits and a walk with 12 strikeouts over seven innings to lower his ERA to 1.97 in eight starts. Lucchesi (3-3) also allowed five hits in seven innings. He didn't issue a walk and struck out six.

ANGELS 5. ROYALS 2

Mike Trout singled, doubled, walked, stole a base and scored a run to lead Los Angeles' balanced attack in a victory over Kansas City in Anaheim, Calif. While Trout set the pace, he had plenty of help from his teammates. All nine hitters in the starting lineup reached base either by hit or walk, including seven who had at least one hit. Matt Harvey (2-3) gave up the two runs on four hits and four walks in five-plus innings. Four Angels relievers combined for four scoreless innings, anchored by Hansel Robles, who pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

KIPCO and Burgan Bank support BMX biker Al Ayyaf in World Cup competitions

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and Burgan Bank announced the joint sponsorship of Al Amir Albaz Nabil Al Ayyaf, who will be competing in the BMX Freestyle World Cup in France from May 29 to June 6.

Alayyaf is a freestyle BMX athlete, and earned first place in the recent tournament in Saudi Arabia, thus qualifying for the World Cup in France later this month.

Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, said: "KIPCO is proud to support talented young men and women who help place Kuwait on the global map in the different talents in which they excel. This is especially true of sports, as people have begun to place more importance on wellness and better quality of living. We are delighted to support Alayyaf, who is a role model for Kuwait's youth. We wish him all the best as he competes under the Kuwaiti flag."

Blues snap long winless run against Chiefs

WELLINGTON: The Auckland Blues snapped an eight-year, 15-match winless run against the Waikato Chiefs yesterday as the NSW Waratahs punished the Queensland Reds for an 11th successive time in a try-fest.

Gerard Cowley-Tuioti sealed the vital win for the Blues with his touchdown after the full-time hooter ensuring a 23-8 bonus point victory. It was the first time they have beaten their nearest neighbours since round

In Brisbane, the Tahs' incredible run against their oldest rivals continued with a pulsating 40-32 win that featured 10 tries. The Waratahs only got four of them with Bernard Foley's boot winning the match as he kicked four conversions and four penalties. In contrast, the Reds' Bryce Hegarty missed five conversions.

It was a crucial win to keep them in touch with the Brumbies at the top of the Australian conference with the Super Rugby finals fast approaching. The Blues' vicYANKEES 4, RAYS 3

Gio Urshela hit a game-winning single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, capping a three-run rally that pushed New York past visiting Tampa Bay. The Yankees beat the Rays for the third time in four meetings this year when Urshela hit a 2-0 fastball over center fielder Kevin Kiermaier's head off Jose Alvarado (0-3). Upon hitting the ball, Urshela pumped his right fist and flipped off his helmet to celebrate giving New York its third walk-off win of the season and producing his first career walk-off hit. Luke Voit, who went 3-for-4, started the comeback from a 3-1 deficit by hammering the first pitch of the ninth over the right-center-field fence to make it a one-run game. The Yankees later forged a 3-3 tie when pinch runner Thairo Estrada scored on a wild pitch.

ATHLETICS 7, TIGERS 2

Frankie Montas came within one out of his first career complete game, Mark Canha and Chad Pinder blasted two-run homers, and visiting Oakland overpowered Detroit. In his 22nd career start, Montas (5-2) gave up two runs on four hits without a walk and struck out 10. Canha also hit a two-run homer in the Athletics' 17-3 victory on Thursday in the series opener. Khris Davis supplied three hits, a run and an RBI. Miguel Cabrera and Josh Harrison had RBI doubles for the Tigers, who have lost five straight, all at home. Daniel Norris (2-2) gave up six runs on seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

BLUE JAYS 10, WHITE SOX 2

Justin Smoak, Danny Jansen and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered, and Toronto coasted to a win over host Chicago. Billy McKinney finished 4-for-5 with two doubles and an RBI for the Blue Jays, who amassed 15 hits. Toronto bounced back from a two-hit performance one night earlier to even the four-game series at one win apiece. Leury Garcia and Yoan Moncada each drove in one run to lead the White Sox at the plate. Guerrero provided the highlight with his third home run in 17 games since reaching the big leagues. With one on and nobody out in the fourth, he ripped a high line drive toward straightaway center field.

MARLINS 8, METS 6

Jorge Alfaro hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs to help Miami end a seven-game losing streak with a win against visiting New York. Miami's Garrett Cooper had two hits and drove in his first two runs of the season to end a 26-inning scoreless streak. Brian Anderson had two hits and scored twice for the Marlins, who also ended a seven-game losing streak against the Mets dating to last season. Trevor Richards (1-5) went 6 1/3 innings for Miami, allowing three runs and six hits. He struck out four and walked three

PHILLIES 5, ROCKIES 4

Bryce Harper greeted reliever Carlos Estevez with a



WASHINGTON: Trea Turner #7 of the Washington Nationals forces out Kris Bryant #17 of the Chicago Cubs to start a double play in the first inning at Nationals Park in Washington, DC. — AFP

two-run double in the fifth inning, propelling Philadelphia to a victory over visiting Colorado in the opener of a three-game series. Cole Irvin (2-0) overcame his own fielding miscues to win his second straight start, thanks in large part to the three shutout innings by three Philadelphia relievers. Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run homer, and Jean Segura had three hits for the Phillies.

ORIOLES 5, INDIANS 1

Jonathan Villar belted a three-run homer, and Dylan Bundy tossed 5 2/3 solid innings as Baltimore recorded a victory at Cleveland. Stevie Wilkerson homered to lead off the fourth inning and added an RBI double in the eighth for the Orioles, who posted just their second win in their last nine outings overall and fourth in their last 16 versus Cleveland. Wilkerson also made a leaping catch in center field to deny Carlos Gonzalez of extra bases in the eighth inning. Jake Bauers had an RBI single in the second inning for the Indians, who mustered just three hits-all singles-after setting season highs in both runs and hits (14) on Thursday in a 14-7 victory in the opener of the four-game series

RANGERS 7, CARDINALS 3

Rougned Odor and Shin-Soo Choo each homered

during a seven-run second inning, and Adrian Sampson earned his first major league victory by tossing 5 1/3 solid innings of relief as Texas cruised past St. Louis in the opener of a three-game series in Arlington, Texas. The Rangers have won three straight. The Cardinals have lost three straight and are 4-12 since May 1. Cardinals starter Miles Mikolas (4-4), who spent the 2014 season with the Rangers, faced the minimum in the first inning before Texas busted out in the second, when nine of its first 10 batters reached against Mikolas.

BRAVES 12, BREWERS 8

Atlanta cranked three home runs in a nine-run sixth inning in support of Max Fried and rolled to a win over visiting Milwaukee. The Braves posted their sixth win in the past seven games. Atlanta entered the sixth with a three-run lead and put it away with the long ball. Dansby Swanson snapped an 0-for-17 skid with a three-run shot to get it started, and Josh Donaldson added a solo homer. Tyler Flowers finished it with a two-run blast to center field. The Braves completed the rally on Ronald Acuna Jr.'s two-run single. Acuna was 3-for-4 with three RBIs and Atlanta improved to 6-1 since he moved into the leadoff position. — Reuters

From left: Ms Eman Al Awadhi, Al Amir Albaz Nabil Al Ayyaf and Hessa Al Najadah

On her part, Hessa Al Najadah, Burgan Bank's Assistant Public Relations Manager, said: "We are delighted to sponsor, alongside KIPCO, such a talent. Our support of Alayyaf directly reflects our commitment to raising the profile of the local sports community and also Kuwait's reputation worldwide. The sponsorship is in line with Burgan Bank's CSR strategy, which places sports and active living at its core. We wish Alayyaf the best of luck."

tory, which snapped a run of four losses, moved them ahead of the Chiefs into fourth-place in the New Zealand standings and kept alive their slim hope of

"It's very satisfying," an elated Blues skipper Patrick Tuipulotu said. "After our run in the last couple of games to come in and finish it off like that, I'm very happy." Chiefs captain Brad Weber described the outcome as "incredibly frustrating".

We were our own worst enemies out there," he said. In the opening plays, both sides opted for scrums instead of penalties in the shadow of the posts, only to turn over the ball. After missed opportunities at both ends, the Chiefs finally mounted a length-of-the-field attack and put the first points on the board.

Rieko Ioane was caught in possession and when he tried to offload the ball it was grabbed by Mitchell Karpik who dotted down. The Blues also benefitted from turnover ball for their first points with Harry Plummer

When a Marty McKenzie penalty put the Chiefs back in front, the Blues regained the lead with a Melani Nanai try just before half-time. A Plummer penalty and a try to Ofa Tu'ungafasi in the second half pushed the Blues out for 18-8 before Cowley-Tuioti's try capped the performance.

Meanwhile, Al Amir Albaz Nabil Al Ayyaf said: "I am proud to be the first Kuwaiti to compete in a global BMX freestyle competition, as interest in this sport grows in the region. I would like to thank KIPCO and Burgan Bank for the importance they place on helping young Kuwaitis excel in their areas of interest, and for the great support they provided me as one of many athletes striving to build a reputation for Kuwait in the sports arena worldwide."

WAVES OF MOMENTUM

In Brisbane, Foley's kicking was almost flawless, leaving skipper Michael Hooper a happy man. "It was a really enjoyable game. Both teams were riding waves and waves of momentum. I was glad we could wrestle it back," he said. "We've had trouble with some of our set-pieces, particularly our scrum, so a couple of penalties there at the death was a huge boost." They got an early breakthrough when Foley rolled through a tackle to post the first fivepointer on three minutes. But the Reds quickly hit back with giant lock Angus Blyth driving head down over the line from a scrum for his maiden Super Rugby try.

The home team grabbed another minutes later when Wallabies centre Samu Kerevi burst through two tackles and flicked a clever pass to Jock Campbell who also scored his first try in the competition.

In a free-flowing game, Michael Wells pulled one back for the Tahs before Sefa Naivalu latched onto a Hegarty grubber kick for the fifth try of the half with the Reds going to the break 15-14 in front. Three more tries came within nine minutes of the restart-two to Hegarty and one from Alex Newsome as the game came alight.

Wells got his second to inch the Waratahs in front on 53 minutes, before Alex Mafi collected a kick to the wing and ran over for the Reds' sixth try. But three late penalties booted by Foley sealed the win. — AFP

Folau's sacking the correct decision: Owens

LONDON: Israel Folau's sacking by Rugby Australia over homophobic comments is the correct decision, the openly-gay Test referee Nigel Owens told the BBC yesterday. Owenswho came out as homosexual in 2007 — said Rugby Australia's firm action had sent a "clear message" to others who might be tempted to express their beliefs.

Folau, a fundamentalist Christian, posted a banner on his Instagram account in April that read: "Drunks, homosexuals, adulterers, liars, fornicators, thieves, atheists and idolators -Hell awaits you."

"It is an important message from the Australian Rugby Union, who I think have dealt with it properly in the only way that they could," said Owens. "It is a clear message going out to people that there are consequences for expressing those beliefs, which are very, very hurtful and not acceptable in today's society.

'Rugby is a sport inclusive for all, which means I can be a part of the sport. When you're in that sport you must respect other people within that sport." The 47-year-old Welshman, who will take part in his fourth World Cup in Japan later this year, said he understood that Folau and others with South Pacific heritage held deep religious views.

"I respect their religion, I respect their beliefs and all I would like to ask is that they respect other people's way of life and try to understand that it's not a choice," said Owens, who took an overdose when he was 26 due to his internal conflict over his sexuality.

"I cannot choose my sexuality; I can choose what religion I follow, I can choose what kind of person I am-I'm a good personwhat sport I play. There are many, many things I can choose in life but my sexuality is not one of them, that's what I'd like them to understand.

"It's a shame that it's gone to this and none of us should take any pleasure in the fact that somebody has lost his job and lost his career." —AFP

Sunday, May 19, 2019 Sports

Lyles beats fellow American Coleman in 100m photo finish

American Aleia Hobbs wins women's 100m in 11.03 seconds

SHANGHAI: Noah Lyles launched himself from near the back of the field to beat fellow American Christian Coleman by just 0.006secs and win the 100 metres at the Shanghai Diamond League yesterday.

Lyles's blistering 9.86sec was the best time this year and a personal best, and lays down a marker ahead of the world championships in the autumn and the Tokyo Olympics next summer.

The 21-year-old, part of a new generation of American sprinters, ducked to the line with a glance to his left to Coleman. A photo finish confirmed Lyles had won. Third was South Africa's Akani Simbine and fourth last year's Shanghai victor, Britain's Reece Prescod.

It is early days in the season, but Lyles and his rivals are already eyeing the Doha world championships in September while the 2020 Tokyo Games also loom. Lyles, the 200m Diamond trophy winner last year, celebrated wildly and said: "In pre-season I'd taken a couple of losses, a couple of second places, even on my home track, so I really wanted to come out here and told my coach I wanted to do something.

"I told him that today is the day, today is the day we put it all together." Asked by AFP what message his nail-biting win sent to the rest ahead of a crucial 14 months, Lyles said: "I really wanted to make sure that this year everybody knows that I'm a 100m and 200m runner, not just a 200m runner who's kind of running

In the women's 100m, Aleia Hobbs of the United States, running out of lane seven, streaked home clear of the field for victory in 11.03sec. Jamaica's world and Olympic 110m hurdles champion Omar McLeod collapsed crying on the track and had to be consoled by his rivals after his fourth victory in as many appearances in Shanghai.



SHANGHAI: Aleia Hobbs of USA celebrates after winning the women's 100 metres athletics event during the IAAF Diamond League competition in Shanghai yesterday.

The 25-year-old, winner in 13.12 sec, said: "It was difficult for me mentally to compete today. "My auntie died yesterday. But then I asked myself, 'what would she want?" "And she would want me to race."

In a highly anticipated match-up, Qatar's Abderrahman Samba overtook his flagging American rival Rai Benjamin over the last hurdle to win the men's



SHANGHAI: Noah Lyles of USA (L), Su Bingtian of China (C) and Christian Coleman of USA (R) compete in the men's 100m athletics event during the IAAF Diamond League competition in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP photos

400m hurdles. Samba, the second-fastest man in history in the event with his 46.98sec last year, was already the quickest this year and his 47.27 lowered his previous mark.

It was the first time that the Saudi-born Samba and rising prospect Benjamin-the joint third-fastest ever

and still aged only 21 — had faced one another. "It was a great race and Rai and I pushed each other to the line," said a smiling Samba, 23.

'The main goal is the world championships (in Doha) later this year. "This year is a big year and I feel better this year." — AFP

England beat Pakistan for series win

NOTTINGHAM: Ben Stokes's unbeaten 71 rescued England from a top-order collapse as the World Cup hosts and favourites beat Pakistan by three wickets with three balls to spare at Trent Bridge.

Friday's win in a floodlit match saw England secure the series at 3-0 up with one to play, but it was far from routine. England were cruising to a target of 341 at 201 for one when Jason Roy's dismissal for 114 sparked a collapse that saw three wickets lost for seven runs in 10 balls.

And when Moeen Ali was out for a duck, England ere 216 for five But Stokes steadied the ship and with No 8 Tom Curran (31) got England back on track in a stand of 61. Curran, pushing for a place in England's final 15-man World Cup squad, had already taken four for 75 in Pakistan's 340 for seven.

This was a modest score at Trent Bridge, where England have twice set the record for the highest oneday international total, with last year's 481 for six against Australia following their 444 for three against

We got there in the end," man-of-the-match Roy told Sky Sports. "I knew we had a big total on the board and I got out and I knew the job wasn't done so I was very frustrated. "But then the boys came in and finished it off extremely well."

Jos Buttler, captaining England after regular skipper Eoin Morgan was given a one-game ban for a slow over-rate following Tuesday's six-wicket win in Bristol, was pleased by the way the world's number one-ranked ODI side had got out of a tight spot.

"You've just got to find a way to win and we're going to have situations where we play poorly through a phase of the game, but we've managed to come out the other end of that today to win the game," he said.

Pakistan captain Safraz Ahmed was once again left lamenting his side's sloppy fielding. "It was definitely tough luck for us after we put runs on the board," he said. "But unfortunately our bowling execution was not up to the mark and we didn't field well."

Roy, missed on 25 by Fakhar Zaman, reached his eighth ODI hundred in style, with fourth six in 75 balls faced, by lofting off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez over extra-cover. But the 28-year-old couldn't see England home, gloving a hook off



NOTTINGHAM: England's Ben Stokes (R) plays a shot as Pakistan's Sarfraz Ahmed looks on during the fourth One Day International (ODI) cricket match between England and Pakistan at Trent Bridge in Nottingham. —AFP

Hasnain to wicket-keeper Sarfraz.

Test captain Joe Root (36) then edged left-arm spinner Imad Wasim to short third man where Hafeez held on at the second attempt. England's 208 for three soon became 208 for four when Buttler, who made 110 not out at Southampton last weekend before being rested for Tuesday's six-wicket win, fell for a duck when he miscued a sweep off Imad to Hafeez at short fine leg.

Moeen Ali was also out for a duck, top-edging a sweep off Shoaib Malik with Fakhar, running back from mid-on, holding a tough catch. Left-arm quick Junaid Khan reduced England to 258 for six with a superb right-handed caught and bowled off a slower delivery to dismiss Joe Denly.

And when Curran was yorked by Hasan Ali, England

still needed 22 off 16 balls. Stokes got the target down to 10 off 10 when he carved a six off Junaid that just cleared deep cover and he finished the job with a single.

He faced 64 balls, with five fours and three sixes. Earlier, Pakistan failed to capitalise on Babar Azam's hundred. Their innings fell away following a century stand between Babar, who made 115, and Hafeez (59).

Pakistan suffered a setback when Imam-ul-Haq, fresh from his career-best 151 at Bristol, had to retire hurt on three after missing an intended pull off an 89 mph ball from fast bowler Mark Wood that hit him on the elbow but X-rays showed no fracture.

Babar's 10th four, a leg-glance off Stokes, took him to his ninth ODI hundred and first against England, in 104 balls before he holed out off Curran. — AFP

Woods edged Koepka by a stroke last month to win the Masters, ending an 11-year major win drought for his 15th career major title. He won the first 14 with big 54-hole leads and sees Koepka able to do the

way. He's got 9-irons when most of us are hitting 5irons, 4-irons, and he's putting well," Woods said.

"That adds up to a pretty substantial lead and if he keeps doing what he's doing, there's no reason why he can't build on this lead." Woods can see himself in Koepka. "Relative to the field, I was about that long early in my career, when you're able to hit the ball much further than other players," Woods said. "I was never that big. I was 130 pounds. But we're both able to generate speed. I didn't have muscle. I did it through

lete. He played other sports and he could have easily been a baseball player. Players like that who come to golf generally hit the ball far because a baseball bat is

Koepka dismisses the hurry to anoint him as the new Tiger, even as he admits he has a great chance to win his fourth major in his past eight starts today. "I've got 11 more to go or 12 more to go before that happens,"

He shot the lowest round by any Woods playing partner in a major since Woods turned professional in him," Koepka said.

Koepka said that when Woods shook his hand after the round he said, "Keep it up. Great playing, and finish it off strong." Koepka said it wasn't even a great day lamenting two bogeys.

there today and battled it, I think was probably more impressive than (his 63), not having your A game but still being able to shoot a great score.'

Asked about how he blasted out of tall weeds, Koepka said, "That's why I go to the gym." Asked about his putting, Koepka said, "I feel as comfortable as I've ever felt putting this week. I feel every time I even slide the putter right behind the ball it's lined up

And he admits he learned by playing alongside Woods in the past not to watch him as he had on television as a child. "All I did was watch him for nine holes. That's what I grew up doing," Koepka said. "And you

And it's clear Koepka has learned from Woods when you have a lead to keep going. "I'd like to see that lead grow as large as it possibly can," Koepka said. "I still have to go out there and do what I'm supposed to do,

'Make sure you don't make any double bogeys and I should have a good chance of winning the championship." — AFP

US Olympic swimmer returns to pool after cancer fight

LOS ANGELES: Five-time Olympic champion swimmer Nathan Adrian, competing for the first time since he was diagnosed with testicular cancer, finished fourth in the 100m freestyle Friday at the Tyr Pro Series in Bloomington, Indiana.

Adrian, the 100m free gold medalist at the 2012 London Games and owner of four Olympic relay golds, clocked 49.31 seconds to finish 55-hundredths behind winner Zach Apple.

The 30-year-old announced in January that he had been diagnosed with cancer, saying it was caught early and his prognosis was good.

"It's a good feeling," Adrian told NBC's Olympic Channel. "It's tough to describe, right? This is home for me. Honestly, I've never been to Bloomington, but this environment-that's what feels right." Adrian is aiming to swim in the 4x100m freestyle relay at the world championships in Gwangju, South Korea, in July and race individually at the Pan American Games in Lima the following week.

He qualified for those teams last year. Next year he is hoping to qualify to swim on a fourth US Olympic team at the 2020 Tokyo Games. "You get something like an adverse health diagnosis, everything kind of stops," said Adrian, who underwent two surgeries. "You realize health is number one and everything had to be pushed to the side. "Fortunately, we're through that for now, and I get to do what I can to get back on track." — AFP

Marquez matches Rossi pole record

LE MANS: World champion Marc Marquez drew level with Valentino Rossi's record 55 MotoGP poles with the quickest time in yesterday's qualifying for the French Grand Prix at Le Mans. The session was staged in changeable conditions which made tyre choice a complex affair, as underlined by Marquez posting the fastest lap only to then fall off his Honda.

The Spaniard quickly climbed back on board to continue unscathed. He was joined on the front row by Ducati duo Danilo Petrucci and Jack Miller for today's fifth leg of the season. "Today was one of those days when it wasn't funny to be a rider because in these conditions you don't know whether to stick on wet or dry tyres," said Marquez.

"With this light rain it's really hard," added the championship leader. He holds a one point advantage over Suzuki rival Alex Rins, who trailed in only 19th. French fans eager to see home hope Fabio Quartararo replicate his fine performance in qualifying in Jerez a fortnight ago, when the 20-year-old became the youngest rider to take pole in a MotoGP, were left disappointed.

The Yamaha-SRT rookie will set off from 10th on the grid. The second row of the grid features Italian trio Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati), Rossi (Yamaha) and Franco Morbidelli (Yamaha-SRT). Riders will be keeping a careful watch on the weather for the race which is due off at 1200 GMT. —AFP

Tiger passes golf supremacy to Koepka at historic PGA

BETHPAGE: There wasn't a ceremony and Brooks Koepka says he needs plenty more major wins to match Tiger Woods, but the aura of golf invincibility has been passed, at least verbally.

It happened at the PGA Championship after defending champion Koepka fired a five-under par 65 at Bethpage Black on Friday to seize a seven-stroke lead on 12-under 128.

It's the largest 36-hole lead in modern major history. It's the lowest 36-hole score in major history by two shots. And it's clear Woods, Koepka's playing partner the past two days who missed the cut with scores of 72 and 73, sees what happens when a new generation learns from his legend.

"At 29 he has got many more years ahead of him where he can do this," Woods said. "He paid his dues. He found a game and a dedication that he needed to play well and he's doing that."

"He's driving it 330 yards in the middle of the fair-

"Brooksy has just got pure power and he's an athso much heavier than a golf club."

1996. "You have to bring your game when you're with

"I didn't strike it that good. But the way I hung in

can't do that. You've got to focus on your own game."

keep putting the ball in the right spot.

Fairytale farewell for Robben and Ribery as Bayern win Bundesliga

Departure marks end of a glistening decade of success for Bayern

BERLIN: Departing veterans Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben both scored in their final game at the Allianz Arena yesterday as Bayern Munich beat Eintracht Frankfurt 5-1 to wrap up a seventh successive Bundesliga title

The fairytale farewell for club icons Robben and Ribery saw Bayern end an unusually tight title race two points ahead of rivals Borussia Dortmund, who beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 2-0.

Nine points behind Dortmund in December, Bayern lost just one game between January and May as they bounced back to be crowned German champions for the 29th time in their history.

Robben and Ribery, who will both leave the club at the end of the season, came off the bench against Frankfurt to score Bayern's fourth and fifth goals and end Dortmund's hopes of pulling off a final day miracle.

Their departure marks the end of a glistening decade of success for Bayern, who are now set for a major squad overhaul ahead of next season, having already signed World Cup winners Benjamin Pavard and Lucas Hernandez.

Kingsley Coman gave Bayern a dream start, slotting home a Thomas Mueller through ball after just four minutes. There was brief hope for Dortmund as both they and Frankfurt scored either side of half-time.

After Gladbach dominated the first half, Jadon Sancho smashed in the opener for Dortmund, and Reus doubled the lead after the break.

In Munich, Sebastien Haller bundled in a shock equaliser at a corner just after the break, but Bayern responded furiously, and David Alaba restored the lead in a matter of minutes.

Dortmund's hopes lay in tatters when Renato Sanches blasted the ball in from close range to score his first Bundesliga goal and put Bayern 3-1 up.

Ribery and Robben each came off the bench to standing ovations in the second half, and Ribery danced through the Frankfurt ranks to seal the title on 72 minutes, before Robben completed a fairytale afternoon with an 85th minute tap-in.

The defeats for Gladbach and Frankfurt saw Bayer Leverkusen sneak into the fourth Champions League spot behind RB Leipzig, as they won 5-1 away to Hertha Berlin. Fans displayed a tifo thanking the pair for their "fight and committment for our colours", and the two players looked close to tears as they and fellow departing veteran Rafinha were presented to the Allianz Arena for one last time.

"They have defined an era here, and from an emotional point of view, I would have played them, but I have to make sporting decisions," said coach Niko Kovac. Robben and Ribery will both leave Bayern this summer after 10 and 12 years of respective service.

The wing duo, who have notched up numerous domestic trophies and won the Champions League with Bayern in 2013,now have an eighth Bundesliga title for Robben and a record ninth crown for Ribery. — AFP



MUNICH: (front row L-R) Bayern Munich's Dutch midfielder Arjen Robben, Bayern Munich's Brazilian defender Rafinha and Bayern Munich's French midfielder Franck Ribery (R) lift the trophy as Bayern Munich players including Bayern Munich's German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer celebrate after the German First division Bundesliga football match FC Bayern Munich v Eintracht Frankfurt in Munich, southern Germany, yesterday.— AFP

Griezmann whistled as Atletico come back to draw with Levante

MADRID: Antoine Griezmann was jeered during his last game for Atletico Madrid and Rodrigo might have scored his final goal for the club as they came from behind to draw 2-2 against Levante in La Liga yesterday.

Griezmann received whistles at the City of Valencia Stadium from the visiting fans, who were also heard chanting "out, out, out" before goals from Sergio Camello and Rodrigo ensured Atletico at least ended the season with a draw

"We had to highlight the work of the gladiators who are leaving," Simeone said afterwards. "Their greatest legacy is not the titles won, it is their commitment and respect. I love them very much."

Simeone has dismissed fears of a mass exodus, despite both Diego Godin and Griezmann already announcing their departures, with the likes of Rodrigo, Juanfran and Filipe Luis all expected to follow.

If this was to be their farewell outing for Atletico, it was an underwhelming finale as Levante, who only secured safety from relegation last weekend, claimed a deserved point.

They might have been disappointed not to take all three after leading 2-0 at half-time thanks to goals from Erick Cabaco and Roger Marti before then playing against 10 men for the best part of 40 minutes after Angel Correa was sent off.

orrea was sent off.
"We could have won 3-0, but we relaxed." said

VALENCIA: Levante's Portuguese defender Ruben Vezo (L) challenges Atletico Madrid's French forward Antoine Griezmann during the Spanish League football match between Levante and Atletico Madrid at the Ciutat de Valencia stadium in Valencia yesterday. — AFP

Levante coach Paco Lopez. Atletico fought back, Rodrigo firing into the top corner before 18-year-old substitute Camello scored his first goal for the club, finishing at the back pact.

Simeone's side finish second again with 76 points, three fewer than last season. They come in above Real Madrid for a second consecutive year but will end up 13 points behind Barcelona, if the Catalans win away at Eibar today.

Griezmann was unable to add to his tally of 133 goals in 257 games across all competitions in what became a bitter end to his five successful seasons for the club.

Godin was given a rousing goodbye ceremony at the Wanda Metropolitano last weekend but the timing of Griezmann's announcement, perhaps deliberately, meant he avoided a last meeting with the Atleti fans.

But those that made the trip to Valencia were determined to make their displeasure known and it was noticeable that Griezmann made a swift exit after the final whistle. Camello, born in Madrid and a product of Atletico's academy, delivered a more positive message for the future and a timely reminder of Atletico's ability to endure in recent years, despite the departures of their biggest stars. — AFP

Bale set for final game at Real Madrid

MADRID: Zinedine Zidane hinted yesterday that Gareth Bale could make his last appearance for Real Madrid today after saying he would make changes this summer ahead of the final match of their miserable La Liga season

Bale fell out with Zidane towards the end of the Frenchman's first spell in charge and their relationship has quickly soured again, with the Wales attacker starting just five times since the coach's return in March and left out completely for Real's last two matches against Villarreal and Real Sociedad. Zidane said Bale would be in the squad against Real Betis on Sunday but, asked by reporters if it would be his last game for Madrid, he said: "I don't know, I can't tell you. It's the season finale and next year there are going to be changes. But I don't know what is going to happen."

Madrid face Betis at the Santiago Bernabeu in their

final match of a campaign that will see them finish third, behind both Barcelona and Atletico Madrid, and trophyless after being knocked out of the Copa Del Rey by Barca and the Champions League by Ajax.

Zidane has pledged to make changes once the campaign is over, with several players including Bale expected to be sold, and defended his right to make the big calls. "It's my decision," Zidane told reporters. "That is clear as water. I'm the coach and I will always do what I want to do. If not, I'll leave.

"For signings and those sorts of things we have people who work on them but we work together." Zidane took charge with Madrid's season all-but over and their performances have fizzled out in recent weeks.

Their defeat by Real Sociedad last weekend means they have lost two of their last three matches and won only three of their last eight. "The message is clear, it is the last game and we want to say goodbye to the fans with a good game and a victory," said Zidane.

"It has been a complicated year and I want to convey that we are looking ahead to next season and to show the fans that we will return with enthusiasm to make them proud of the team again."—AFP

Ibrahimovic of losing his cool. "Zlatan is a talented player, he obviously knows what he is doing, he is a clever boy and you know, it is a part of the game," Johnson said.

"I would be frustrated if I were him too, you

know. Can't blame him for his frustration at that point in the game," the goalkeeper added. It is the second retrospective sanction Ibrahimovic has received in recent weeks.

He was hit with an undisclosed fine on May 10

after being found guilty of diving during his team's loss against Columbus Crew. Ibrahimovic was also involved in a stormy on-pitch altercation with Real Salt Lake's Nedum Onuoha last month.

Onuoha later claimed Ibrahimovic had been making threats towards him during the match before later apologising. "From 60 minutes in, he's saying to me what he's going to do me, he's going to hurt me," Onuoha said afterward.

"And this is the guy who's the face of the MLS, as he calls himself, but this is the way he plays on



SPANISH LEAGUE	
Real Madrid CF v Real Betis	13:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
SD Eibar v FC Barcelona	17:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
AC Chievo Verona v UC Sampdoria	13:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Parma Calcio 1913 v ACF Fiorentina	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Empoli v Torino FC	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
AC Milan v Frosinone Calcio	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
SSC Napoli v Internazionale Milano	21:30
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Juventus FC v Atalanta	21:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	

De Bruyne has no sympathy for Liverpool over narrow title miss

LONDON: Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne understands Liverpool players being disappointed at falling just short of winning the Premier League title but he does not have any sympathy for them.

The 27-year-old Belgian midfielder says simply his side were better than Liverpool. City, who face Watford in the FA Cup final chasing a historic domestic treble, retained their title by a point from Liverpool.

De Bruyne says no one would have felt sorry for City when they lost to Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League quarter-final. "No," he said this week when asked did he have sympathy for Liverpool.

"It's a remarkable effort but it means that we were just better than them in the end. "I don't feel sorry for them because I don't think they'd feel sorry for us. "I don't think anybody felt sorry about the way we went out of the Champions League."

He played a less influential role than in City's 2017/18 title triumph, starting just 11 league matches with bit parts in eight others due to two serious knee injuries and then a hamstring problem.

De Bruyne, who had a superb 2018 being named City's player of the 2017/18 season and then sparkled for Belgium as they finished a best ever third in the World Cup, says Liverpool feeling sore is understandable. "I know how they feel because you're going to feel disappointed," said De Bruyne, who is fit for selection for the Cup final.

"We'd feel the same if it happened to us. But we're still competitors. We want to win as much as they do but I can understand the feelings they have." De Bruyne, whose high point in what he admits has "not been the most fun season" has come off the pitch with his second son being born, is a great believer in football being played through emotions.

However, he says the introduction of VAR-it was that which cost City victory over Spurs in the Champions League as Raheem Sterling's late goal was ruled out for offside-is removing that ingredient from the game. "For me football is still a game of emotions," he said. — AFP

Ibrahimovic hit with ban after neck grab

LOS ANGELES: Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been suspended for two games after grabbing New York City FC goalkeeper Sean Johnson by the neck during Los Angeles Galaxy's defeat last weekend, Major League Soccer said Friday.

The MLS Disciplinary Committee announced in a statement it was sanctioning Ibrahimovic for violent conduct after the incident in the 86th minute of the game on May 11. Ibrahimovic and Johnson wrestled each other to the floor after coming together in the closing stages of Galaxy's defeat last week.

Both players received a yellow card for the incident for unsportsmanlike conduct. Johnson later accused the field." —AFP



Sport Times

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

Bryant hits three homers in Chicago' win as Trout, Angels trot past Royals



Lyles beats fellow American Coleman in 100m photo finish



Fairytale farewell for Robben and Ribery as Bayern win Bundesliga





Bucks rout Raptors to take finals lead

Antetokounmpo played a key role in setting that tone-with a dunk

LOS ANGELES: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points and grabbed 17 rebounds to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a convincing 125-103 victory over the Toronto Raptors Friday for a 2-0 lead in the NBA Eastern Conference finals.

The top-seeded Bucks, who rallied to win game one of the best-of-seven series, never trailed and led by as many as 28 points to double their lead in the series, which moves to Toronto for games three and four on Sunday and Tuesday.

"Mentally, we were ready for this game," Antetokounmpo said. "Once the game started, we did a great job setting the tone. We knew Toronto was going to come and try to play hard and try to get one at our place."

Antetokounmpo played a key role in setting that tone-with a dunk, an emphatic block on Raptors center Marc Gasol and another dunk in the opening

minute of the contest.

"I know every night when the game starts my teammates are looking at me," Antetokounmpo said. "I think it definitely gave the team a lot of

The Bucks made sure the Raptors never got a sniff, roaring to an 18-point lead in the first quarter on the back of nine quick points from Nikola Mirotic and a 12-0 scoring run late in the period.

Milwaukee led by 25 points, 64-39, at halftime, with Ersan Ilyasova contributing 15 of his 17 before the break and Malcolm Brogdon 12 of his 14 off the Bucks' bench in the first half.

Overall the hosts' reserves out-scored Toronto's 31-11 in the first half and 54-39 overall. Six Bucks

players scored in double figures, and coach Mike Budenholzer said it all started Antetokounmpo.

"I think everybody fed off of Giannis and how he started the game," Budenholzer said. Kawhi Leonard led the Raptors with 31 points. He came out firing in the third quarter but despite his aggression the Raptors never got the deficit

Kyle Lowry finished with 15 points, connecting on just four of 13 shots from the field. Norman Powell added 14 off the bench, but they were the only Raptors to score in double figures. "We didn't play very well tonight," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "We were just a step too slow. We settled in with some space and gave them some confidence early, and you just can't do that."

Milwaukee notched their sixth straight win in these playoffs and their sixth post-season victory by at least 20 points-tying an NBA record. The Bucks' only defeat this post-season came in game

one of the second round against the Boston Celtics. Antetokounmpo was one of three finalists for the NBA Most Valuable Player award announced on Friday along with Houston's James Harden and

Oklahoma City's Paul George. But he said the honor was far from his thoughtsdespite the chants of "MVP! MVP!" that fans rained on him in the fourth quarter after he drove for a layup, drew a foul and converted the free

throw with 5:51 to play. "I don't care about that right now," said Antetokounmpo, who scored 11 points in the fourth quarter. "I care about going to Toronto and focus-ing for game three." That's exactly what the

Raptors plan to do, too. They've done what they were supposed to do and protected their home court," Nurse said. "Now we've got to go and do the same." — AFP

Djokovic survives scare, Nadal coasts into Rome s-finals

ROME: World number one Novak Djokovic saved two match points against former US Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro to advance to the semi-finals of the Italian Open in a three-set Roman thriller on Friday as defending champion Rafael Nadal swept through without dropping a set.

But Swiss star Roger Federer and women's world number one Naomi Osaka both pulled out injured from the last warm-up tournament before the French Open starting in just over a week. Djokovic saved match points in the second set tie-break before winning through 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, sealing victory with an ace on his first match point after a three-hour battle.

"I had luck in the decisive moments in the second set

tiebreak," said the 31-year-old. "Towards the end of the first set he just started hitting the ball really well from both corners. "Also backhand side, backhand down the line. He was playing really well. Gave me a lot of trouble. But I never lost faith," the four-time Rome

"I'm just really pleased to overcome." Del Potro had pulled out of Indian Wells and Miami with a knee injury, but matched Madrid Open winner Nadal shot for shot, wrapping up the first set 6-4 in just over an hour.

The world number nine received treatment on a bloodied big toe after Djokovic levelled one-set all. But he kept up the pressure with Djokovic again needing to save three break points on his serve in the fourth game of the final set before breaking for 3-2 as the momentum swung his way.

The 15-time Grand Slam winner next plays Argentine Diego Schwartzman, who eliminated Japanese sixth seed Kei Nishikori 6-4, 6-2.

Eight-time Rome champion Nadal eased through 6-4, 6-0 against fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco to set up a rematch with Greek rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas for a place in the final. Tsitsipas

advanced after Federer-returning to clay after a two-year absence-retired with a right leg injury before their game.

For 32-year-old Nadal it is his fourth straight semifinal on clay this season, but he has not managed to go further before his bid for a 12th French Open title at Roland Garros.

Tsitsipas stunned Nadal in last week's Madrid Open semi-finals before falling to Djokovic, but lost to the Spaniard in the Australian Open semis earlier this year. "After a lot of years here, I know what happened last week, and I'm going to try to do it better tomorrow," said 17-time Grand Slam winner Nadal.

Reigning US and Australian Open champion Osaka withdrew with a stiff right hand giving Madrid Open winner Kiki Bertens a ticket to the semi-final. "I woke up this morning and I couldn't really move my thumb,"

the 21-year-old said. "I'm not mad, but between sad and disappointed," added Osaka, who still hopes to compete at Roland Garros. Sixth seed Bertens now goes through to meet Britain's Johanna Konta, who battled past Czech Marketa Vondrousova 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Federer, a quarter-finalist in Madrid, was playing in the Italian capital to prepare for his return to the French Open for the first time since 2015. "I am not 100 percent physically and after consultation with my team, it was determined that I not play," he said.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion had been on court for nearly four hours on Thursday, saving two match points to win through in three sets against Borna Coric after earlier easing to a straight sets win over Portugal's Joao Sousa. The former world number one had been a late addition to the Rome tournament as he sought clay-court practice ahead of his bid to add to his lone French Open title from 2009.

In a battle between former women's world number ones, Karolina Pliskova won through against Victoria Azarenka 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-2. The Czech fourth seed next plays Maria Sakkari of Greece who also needed three sets to get past France's Kristina Mladenovic 5-7, 6-3, 6-0.

Pliskova and Sakkari last met in the second round at the Foro Italico when the Czech, furious at a line call, smashed a hole in the umpire's chair after losing in three sets. — AFP