



3 Woman and daughter
killed in fatal accident



24 Fujairah port: Oil lifeline
outside Strait of Hormuz



28 Bucks rout Raptors, take
Eastern Conference lead



Ramadan

KAREEM

IMSAK	03:13
Fajr	03:23
Dhur	11:44
Asr	15:20
Magrib	18:35
Isha	20:03

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.

Continued on Page 24

Ramadan Kareem

'Self-esteem' from Islamic perspective

By Hassan Twaha Bwambale

Allah (to Whom belong all might and majesty) likes to be praised: as such the most beloved act 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 human-beings 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 Ansari!' 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 abused.' 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.'"

Continued on Page 24

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 Tehran'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.

Continued on Page 24



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 Pendsosina 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.

Continued on Page 24

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

Continued on Page 24



AT SEA: Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) conducts a replenishment-at-sea with the fast combat support ship USNS Arctic (T-AOE 9). The US has deployed an amphibious assault ship and a Patriot missile battery to bolster an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers already sent to the Gulf. — AFP

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 Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with head of the Supreme Judiciary Council, Cassation Court and the Constitutional Court Justice Yousef Al-Mutawaa. — Amiri Diwan photo

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.



Talal Al-Turki

"NBK's fridge distribution initiative is part of our efforts to strengthen our charitable program within 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 Al-Turki said, praising the Central Blood Bank's efforts and cooperation in providing all the necessary support and facilities to ensure the success of this initiative.

Turki pointed out that NBK has been launching this initiative for two consecutive years to distribute iftar meals to a number of mosques in order to share the spirit of the holy

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 Center's visitors including fasting people and blood donors". NBK Ramadan program includes iftar banquets at NBK iftar tent located in Ras Al-Salmiya, visiting various loca-



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 NBK's social and humanitarian mission into actions as it maintains its leading position and well established track record as a dedicated financial institution.

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 Center's visitors including fasting people and blood donors". NBK Ramadan program includes iftar banquets at NBK iftar tent located in Ras Al-Salmiya, visiting various loca-

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 NBK's social and humanitarian mission into actions as it maintains its leading position and well established track 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 two-day 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 one-on-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 international developments. — KUNA



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi



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 disaster-ridden 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-Kandari 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 break-fast 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). KRCS concluded the distribution in Lahore, Kasur, Jhang, Layyah, Muzaffargarh, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Peshawar, Bannu, Kohistan, Mohmand, Bajaur, Kurram, South Waziristan, North 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-Duali in 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 set up 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-Turaiifi 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.

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, so that the result can be taken into consideration to avoid having to undergo a preliminary course.

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.

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.

85 percent Kuwaiti women won their rights: Minister

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

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

have achieved a lot in many fields and that 85 percent of them had won their political, social and professional rights. The minister made her statements 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 and UNDP Kuwait.

Speaking at the ceremony attended by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development's Secretary General Dr Khaled Mahdi, UN Resident

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 are women.

Woman, daughter dead in accident

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

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 collapsed at dawn yesterday. Salmiya fire station

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

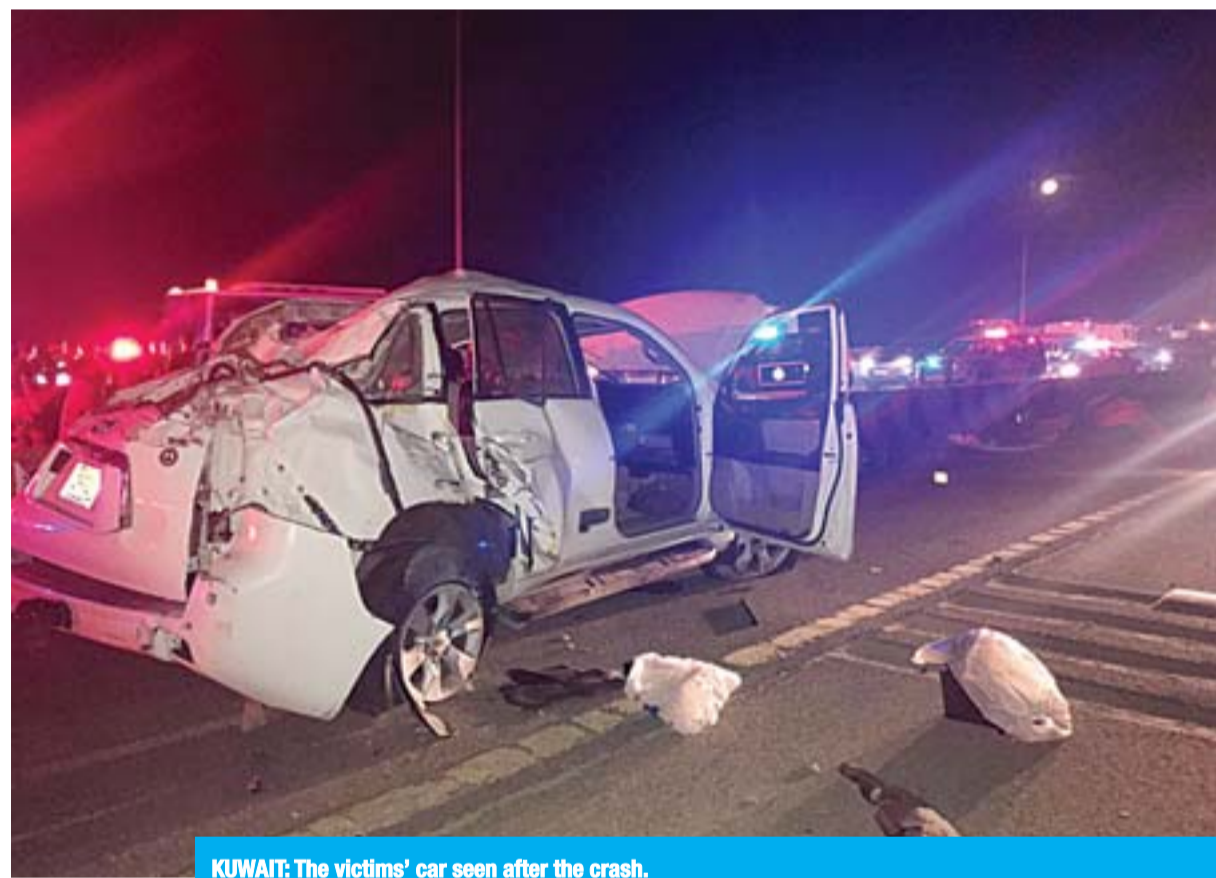
Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said inspections of stores and ads in April resulted in the removal of 753 violating ads from streets and yards. Director of inspections and services follow up in Hawally governorate Faleh Al-Otaibi said the municipality carried out inspection campaigns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

British Embassy keeps travel advice unchanged

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



KUWAIT: The victims' car seen after the crash.

1,000 new cancer patients receive radiation therapy

By Abdullahif 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.

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 (LINACs) silos.

"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-



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

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 north-west 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

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

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 north-west 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 DiCarlo.

Farming in Kuwait



By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

A number of Kuwaiti farmers last week distributed 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 without any intervention by the government.

MP Mohammed Al-Mutair accused the government 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-sufficiency 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 farmers is a must.

I am not an expert on agriculture, but I know that Kuwait may have signed agreements with the agricultural organization FAO, which assesses local farmers and urges governments to support 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 end the suffering of local farmers.

In Kuwait, there is an official agriculture body that has been calling to provide services to farmers and all possible assistance and coordination with the farmers throughout the country, 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 solution.

Fruit and vegetable cultivation in Kuwait has developed significantly. For example, strawberries 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.

local spotlight

Kuwait Times

Established 1961

Ramadan, Kareem



KUWAIT: A group photo with guests in attendance. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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



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



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 healthcare industry.



Dr Ziad Al-Alyan with Johnson & Johnson representatives.



CEO of Central Circle Dr Ziad Al-Alyan with Sanofi representatives.



Dr Ziad Al-Alyan with Sirona representatives.

Local



Zain's iftar banquets continue to offer daily meals



Zain and Kuwait Airways officials at Zain's iftar hall.



Zain and KFMB officials at Zain's iftar hall.



Offering prizes to hall visitors.

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 Sustainability 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.



Zain's iftar hall at Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

KIB supports well-being of elderly, orphans during Ramadan



KUWAIT: In line with its leading social responsibility program taking place throughout the month of Ramadan, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) organized visits to the elderly care center and the Kuwait Orphanage, both under the Ministry of Social Affairs. During the visits, the bank checked up on their health and well-being, as well as spread joy and the celebratory spirit of the holy month.

The visit featured a wide range of activities and initiatives, including the distribution of gifts and girgarian 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.

AUK[®]

NOOR ALI ALHERZ
Class of 2015 - Computer Engineering
Women's National Futsal Team
Kuwait Football Association

*Learn
Think
Become*

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

@AUK_Kuwait
 @AUKKuwait
 The American University of Kuwait
 AUKVideos

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



In citizenship cases, Swiss democracy shows its cracks

Keyboard predators: SE Asia kids targeted by online pedophiles



SYDNEY: Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison (center on the stage) waves to his supporters following a victory speech with his family after winning the Australia's general election. —AFP

Conservatives keep power in Australia election

Victory considered a 'miracle' that defied expectations

SYDNEY: Australia's ruling conservative coalition defied expectations to retain power in national elections yesterday, 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 shock defeat.

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.

Some bookies had paid out early expecting a coalition defeat and all but the most ardent partisans had thrown 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 the country.

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

closed the gap with a negative campaign and backing 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 surprising".

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 FPÖe 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 yesterday 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 (FPÖe) 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 (FPÖe) 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 at least 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 again." —AFP

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 kidnapers 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 audaciously.”

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 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 kidnapers 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. Wilson 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

More
FAMILY SELFIES
with our special fares

Fly Emirates and get set for a memorable family holiday with special Economy Class and Business Class fares to select destinations. Take advantage of our limited time offer and book by 30 May 2019 for travel until 30 November 2019. Simply visit emirates.com/kw

DESTINATION	ECONOMY CLASS RETURN FROM (KWD)*	BUSINESS CLASS RETURN FROM (KWD)*
Dubai	68	253
Chennai	78	297
Bangkok	120	449
Frankfurt	148	684
Munich	149	630
Amsterdam	160	950
Kuala Lumpur	166	677
London Heathrow	169	641
Rome	180	676
New York	235	961

FLY BETTER

Emirates

*Terms and conditions apply. Offer is valid for booking until 30 May 2019 for travel until 30 November 2019. Seasonality, blackout dates and flight restrictions will apply. For more information contact your travel agent, call Emirates, or visit us on emirates.com/kw

Business

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

12 Kuwait's consumer spending growth to pick up in Q2 2019**13** China's tough rhetoric leaves trade talks with US in limbo**14** 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

the market in its direction towards balancing, and inventories (are) back to normal level. And two to be responsive to market needs. We will strike the right balance I am sure."

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'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 prices.

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

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 soirées.

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

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 or 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.

Business

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

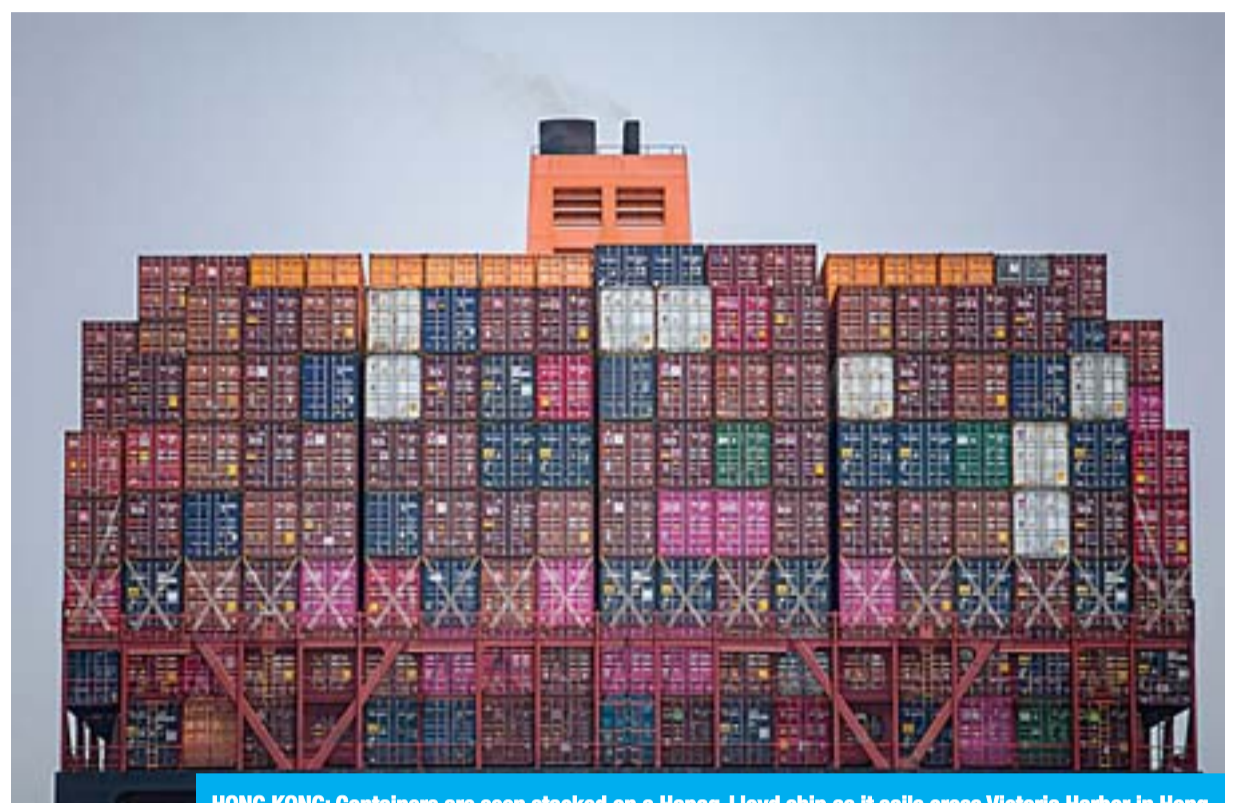
fresh bout of selling and China's yuan slid to its weakest against the US dollar in almost five months. Prices of US government debt were trading higher.

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 10-month 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.



HONG KONG: Containers are seen stacked on a Hapag-Lloyd ship as it sails cross Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong. —AFP

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-era trade law.

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, Ontario.

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 USMCA. 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



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

ing of USMCA ratification and said he was optimistic Canada would be able to move forward well in the coming weeks. —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

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 of 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 telecom networks.

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 comment.

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 telecom 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

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 draft budget.

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

What's On



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



Group 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.

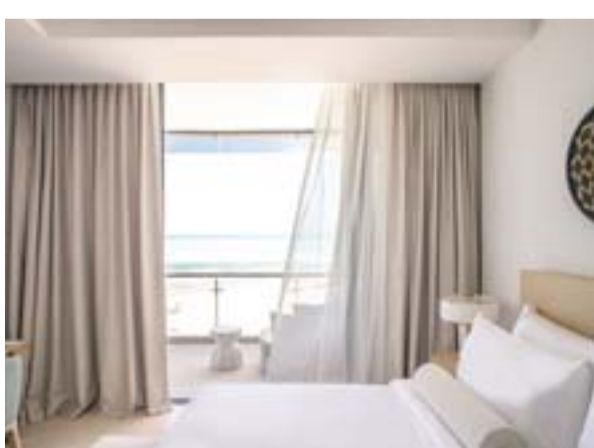
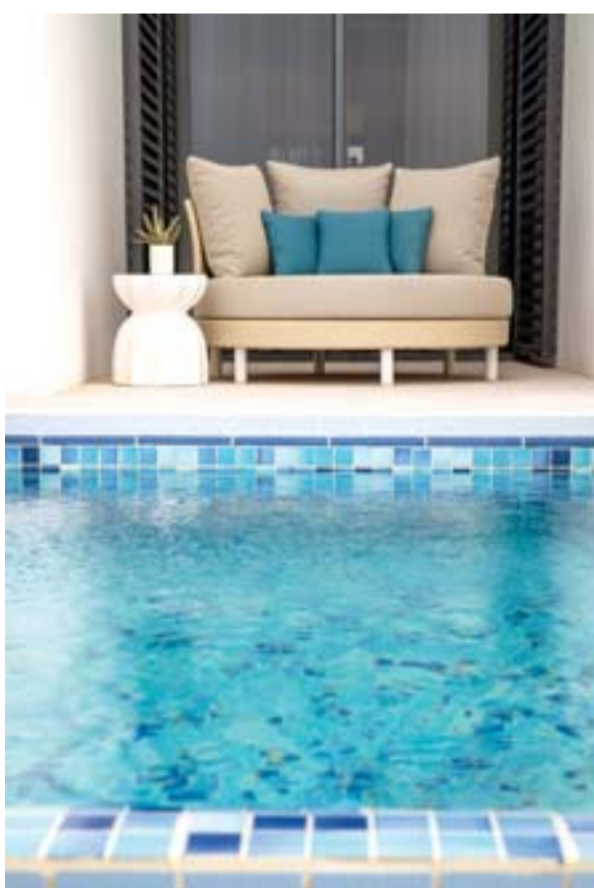
Al-Mukhaizeem said: "We at KFH are proud to be part of the economic and cultural bridge between Kuwait and Turkey. We have a strong belief in the Turkish economy, and the serious

steps taken by the Turkish Government to involve participation banks in the country's development." He affirmed KFH's commitment as a key partner in Turkey'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



With 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 memories.

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

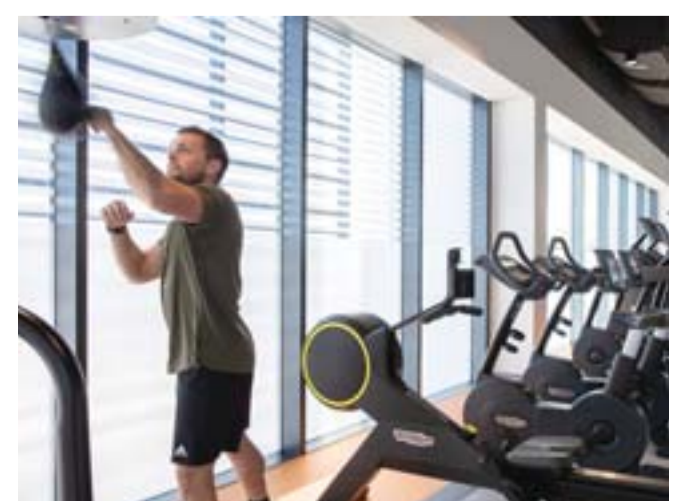
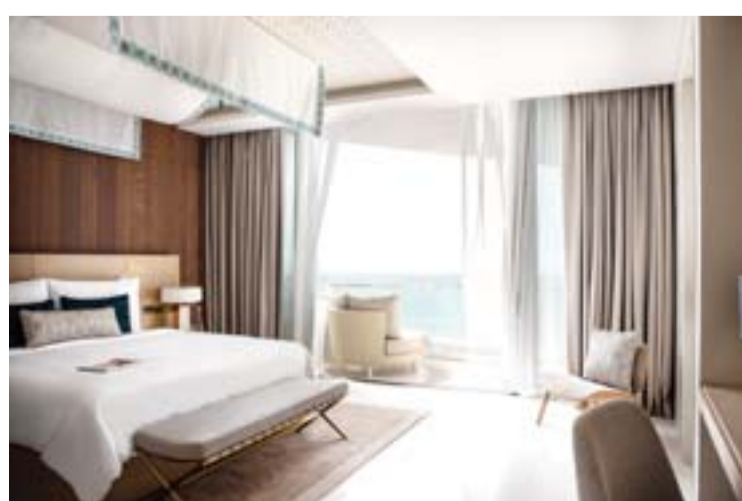
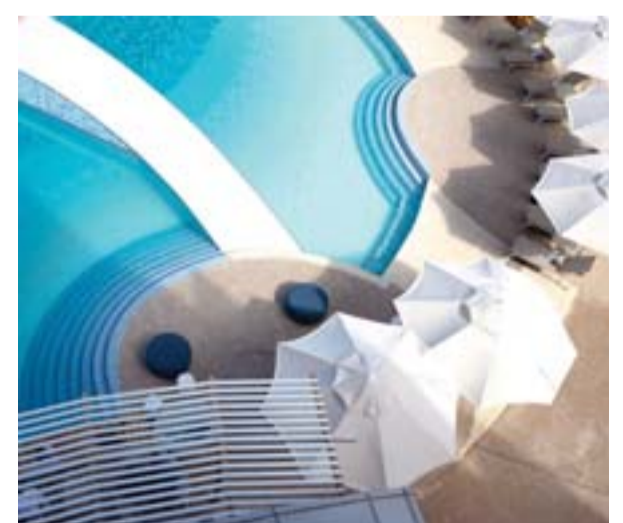
- 1. There are eight amazing villas and 70 incredible suites**
The stunning duplex villas with either two, three or four-bedrooms and their own secluded pools provide a world away within the luxury coastal resort. While the 70 suites, offering 88 to 309 square meters of space for families of all sizes, deliver an unparalleled view of the island's natural beauty.
- 2. Delectable food and drinks**
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.
- 3. 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 turtle.
- 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 Abu Dhabi and Zayed National Museum.

- 5. 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 dunes.
- 6. Authentic Moroccan Hamman**
A grand Moroccan Hamman 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 HUSKIN, Subtle Energies, Biologique Recherche and Hammami, delivering a skincare experience that lasts long after you've stepped out of your luxury robe.



- 8. 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 natural daylight in the pre-function area and a separate private entrance. In addition, a beautifully landscaped garden provides the perfect location 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

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

WASHINGTON: On December 11, 2017, US 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

be pessimistic, and assume political dithering lay ahead, "it could be the 2060s."

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

CLINIC
PAGE





248 33 199





Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally
Senior Registrar



Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid
Consultant



Dr. Abeer Khattab
Specialist



Cataract Surgery



Glaucoma



Retina



General Ophthalmology



Follow-Up All Treatments

Follow us on Social Media @haddclinikw

Tel: 1801082
Whatsapp Us +965-6000 2184

Dr Sahar Ghannam

Dermatology consultant, skin treatment and laser

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
Mobile: 90974754/ 99166746

 saharpolyclinic
 Dr.saharghannamsclinic
 Email: drsgderma@gmail.com

WELCOME

Dr Tammam Abou Ali

Consultant ENT, Head Neck, Facial Plastic Surgeon

Fellowship of the royal college of surgeons in UK and Ireland.
18 years work experience in Qatar Hospital WLL Doha.

Fellow of ENT department in Forensic Hospital WLL Kuwait.
10 years work experience in UK and Ireland.



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

1 888 883

www.qmc-kuwait.com

 qmckuwait



Call: 24833199 ext:101,102 or

Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617

or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

Dr. Husain Alenzi

-Board Certified Urologist.
-Endourology Society-Approved Fellowship In Endourology And Robotic Surgery At Western University, Ontario, Canada.



Expert in diagnosing and treating:

- 1- Urinary Stones (Kidney, Ureter & Bladder) By Endoscopy & Laser
- 2- Prostate Cancer And Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
- 3- Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms In Males And Females
- 4- Tumors And Malignancies Of The Urinary Tract (Kidney, Adrenals, Ureter, Bladder And Testes)
- 5- Male Factor Infertility And Varicoceles (Microscopic Surgery)
- 6- Erectile Dysfunction

Contact Taiba Hospital: 1808088

94449452

 Twitter: @DrHusain_Urol

Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!





Dr. Kiran Turak
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Zareena Zahir
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Hasan Khan
Senior Cardiologist



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

50721507

24551555

www.exircenterku.com

EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER

Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCES

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

 #exircenterku

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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

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

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

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

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

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

SPECIALIZED IN:

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

SHARD, Ahmad Alsheer st., Building 14, Floor 13.
Tel: (+965) 22060777
@DrFahadmed, @FahadSabb, @dardonabb
Email: drfahadmed@beautybeyond.com.kw

To advertise on this Page

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

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

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

مستشفى دار الشفا
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, Including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally Invasive surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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

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

Academic Certificates - Training

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

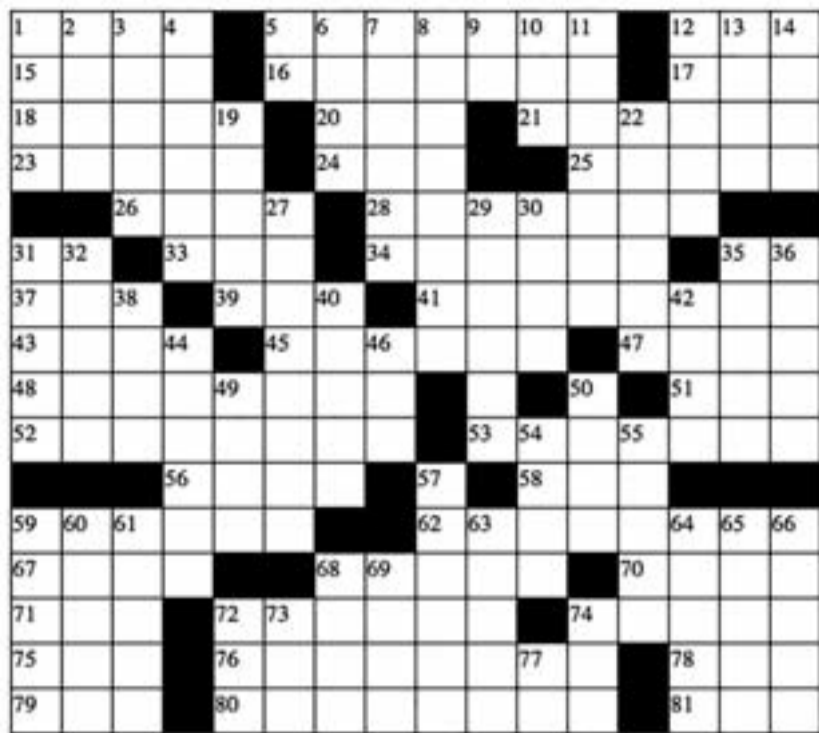
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2211



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 central India.
23. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
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.
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.
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.
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 from aba cloth.

DOWN

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

3. Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
4. A member of the Himalayan people living in Nepal and Tibet who are famous for their skill as mountaineers.
5. A white trivalent metallic element.
6. Large recently extinct long-horned European wild ox.
7. A wind from the north.
8. Low stingless nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
9. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
10. The former capital and 2nd largest city of Brazil.
11. Port city that is the capital and largest city of Estonia.
12. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
13. Queen of England as the 6th wife of Henry VIII (1512-1548).
14. Type genus of the Majidae.
19. A major European river carrying more traffic than any other river in the world.
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 walk).
30. (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea.
32. Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
35. New Zealand conifer.
36. All the plant life in a particular region.
38. Small slender gull having narrow wings and a forked tail.
40. Relating to or accompanying birth.
42. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
44. A pin used to hold the tie in place.
46. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
49. A bluish shade of green.
50. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
54. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
55. Lower in esteem.
57. Consider or describe as similar, equal, or analogous.
60. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
61. Mechanical device consisting of a toothed wheel or rack engaged with a pawl that permits it to move in only one direction.
63. Of or relating to a seizure or convulsion.
64. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
65. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
66. Jordan's port.
68. Divisible by two.
69. Tear or be torn violently.
72. An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
73. A rapid bustling commotion.
74. Feline mammal usually having thick soft fur and being unable to roar.
77. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



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 selfish. 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.



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.

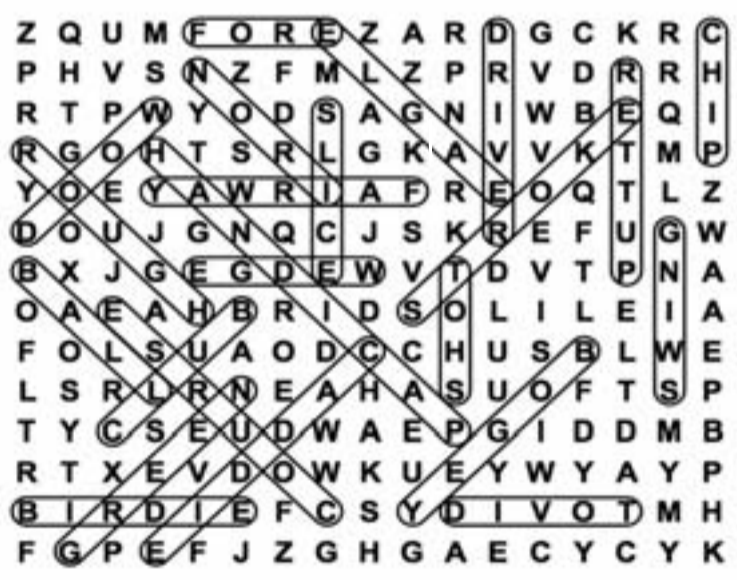
Wordsearch Puzzle

Good Eating - Word Search



- | | | |
|--------|----------|------------|
| BEANS | FRUITS | RICE |
| BREADS | MEAT | VEGETABLES |
| CEREAL | MILK | VITAMINS |
| CHEESE | MINERALS | WATER |
| DAIRY | NUTS | YOGURT |
| EGGS | OILS | |
| FATS | PASTA | |
| FIBRE | POULTRY | |

Friday's Solution



- | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|
| BALL | EAGLE | SLICE |
| BIRDIE | FAIRWAY | STROKE |
| BOGEY | FORE | SWING |
| CADDIE | GREEN | WEDGE |
| CHIP | HANDICAP | WOOD |
| CLUB | IRON | |
| COURSE | PUTTER | |
| DIVOT | ROUGH | |

Daily Sudoku



Friday's Solution



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 a thousand memes, dead at seven

She died just as she had lived, in a blizzard of memes, 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 cats: 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 ennuï-filled slogans such as "Your face...I hate it" or "I don't care what you think, I'm napping."

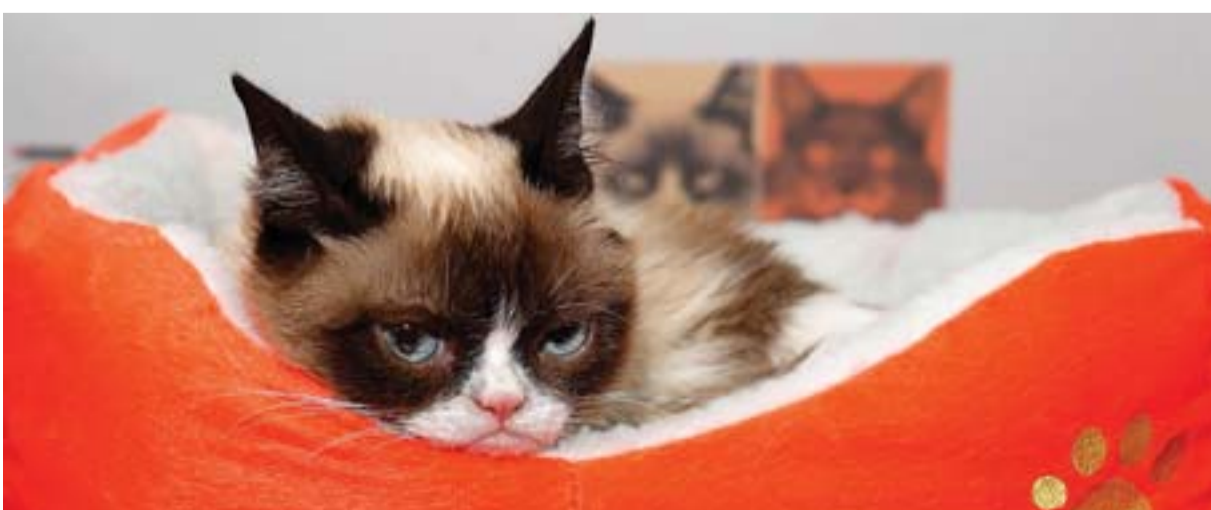
Fat cat

The branded merchandising, which included pillows, pens, mugs and bags, as well as the sponsorship and media

deals were estimated to have made her owner, Tabitha 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 Grumpuccino tee-shirts 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

'Blame of Thrones': Fans lament rushed final GoT season

As "Game of Thrones" suits up for one last sword-fight 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 do-over. 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 today's finale.

"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 season.

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 penul-

imate 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 | Features

Groundbreaking Pidgin opera mixes music for cultural harmony

The 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.



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".

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

'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?

It conjures up the atmosphere of rail travel 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 re-launching 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.

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-Express—a 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

Germany on Friday authorized battery-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 e-scooters. Rarely has a new technology aroused such strong popularity—and such strong rejection", said Achim Berg, president 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. E-scooter 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-scooter 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 e-scooter 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 e-scooter users on Germany's cycle paths could quickly become untenable, warns Der Spiegel. "while imposing half-empty cars will continue to occupy lanes", referring to Germans' love of large cars.



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 Sperring, from the German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, told the Neue Osnabrücker 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

Reality television star Kim Kardashian announced on Friday she has named her fourth child, a boy born last week via a surrogate, Psalm West. Kardashian 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

If 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 Miracourt, 24, said as he prepared to joust in the "long distance" category. Miracourt, 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 run-up 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-year-old, 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—comes from.

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

Rich or poor, liberal or conservative, from one corner of the globe to another, we all sit down to share a meal. Thai artist Rirkrit 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" royalists.

"For me, it's the irony of the idea of the color," said Tiravanija. "I wanted to show that may be this color or that color but you still eat the same curries, you still live in the same place." Societies have become more sophisticated and technologically advanced, but, the work recalls, a primal tendency to destroy one another remains. "We should have a better world now," Tiravanija said. "The terrible thing about it is that it keeps cycling back—violence 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 1976 Thammasat University massacre, when Thai state forces and paramilitary groups killed dozens of students. The sketches will be drawn on top of one another in thick layers.

"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.

To supplement the experience, six films by emerging Thai filmmakers 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



Thai artist Rirkrit Tiravanija speaks to members of the press at his interactive exhibit '(who's afraid of red, yellow, and green)' at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC.— AFP photos

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

By Ali Al-Masaudi

Translated by Abdulraouf Salim

I 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 cross-fertilization 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 learning.

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.



A local artist sketches over a projection.



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



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 1,200-kilometre East West Pipeline, able to pump five million barrels of oil a day from Saudi's Eastern Province to a Red Sea port.

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.

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 Alhaji 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.

Alhaji 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 Jarjafi. "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 Iran 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 Jarjafi, 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 Iranian-backed 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.

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

'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 your 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 inter-faith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, you can contact TIES at Tel: 25231015/6; Hotline: 94079777; e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

Sports

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.

YANKEES 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

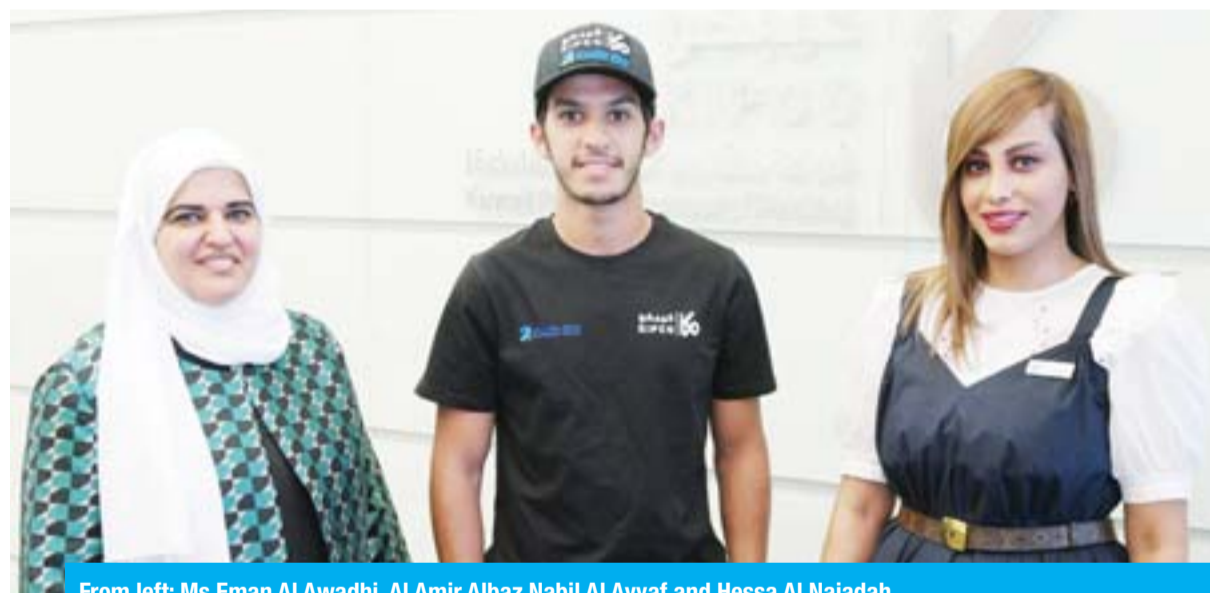
Atlanta cranked three home runs in a nine-run sixth inning in support of Max Fried and rolled to a win over visiting Milwaukee. The Braves posted their sixth win in the past seven games. Atlanta entered the sixth with a three-run lead and put it away with the long ball. Dansby Swanson snapped an 0-for-17 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

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."



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 making the play offs.

"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 benefited from turnover ball for their first points with Harry Plummer scoring in the corner.

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.

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 five-pointer 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. Owens—who 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 person—what 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

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 six in 2011.

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' vic-

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 the 100m."

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 were 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 one-day international total, with last year's 481 for six against Australia following their 444 for three against Pakistan in 2016.

"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 Sarfraz 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 catch 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

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."

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 same now.

"He's driving it 330 yards in the middle of the fairway. He's got 9-irons when most of us are hitting 5-irons, 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 whip and timing."

"Brooks has just got pure power and he's an athlete. 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 so much heavier than a golf club."

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," Koepka said.

He shot the lowest round by any Woods playing partner in a major since Woods turned professional in

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

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

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

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, keep putting the ball in the right spot."

"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

Sports

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 Muller 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 commitment 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.

"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 Ciudad 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 post.

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.

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 the field." —AFP

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 sparked 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

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

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

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Real Madrid CF v Real Betis	beIN SPORTS HD 3	13:00
SD Eibar v FC Barcelona	beIN SPORTS HD 3	17:15
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
AC Chievo Verona v UC Sampdoria	beIN SPORTS HD 4	13:30
Parma Calcio 1913 v ACF Fiorentina	beIN SPORTS HD 1	16:00
Empoli v Torino FC	beIN SPORTS HD 4	16:00
AC Milan v Frosinone Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 4	19:00
SSC Napoli v Internazionale Milano	beIN SPORTS HD 1	21:30
Juventus FC v Atalanta	beIN SPORTS HD 4	21:30

Red Bull NEYMAR FIVE

OUTPLAY THEM

NATIONAL FINAL AT MARINA CRESCENT
23.05 AT 9:00 PM

SIGN UP AND QUALIFY FOR THE WORLD FINAL IN BRAZIL!

REGISTER AT: REDBULLNEYMAR.FIVE.COM

FOR MORE INFO CALL: 67765544

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

26 Lyles beats fellow American Coleman in 100m photo finish

27 Fairytale farewell for Robben and Ribery as Bayern win Bundesliga



MILWAUKEE: Kawhi Leonard #2 of the Toronto Raptors shoots the ball against the Milwaukee Bucks during Game Two of the Eastern Conference Finals at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

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 energy."

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 with 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 below 13.

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 thoughts-despite 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 focusing 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 winner said.

"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 semi-final 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