

3 4,608 bottles of liquor seized at Shuwaikh Port



9 Pakistan installs statue of Indian pilot shot down over Kashmir



24 Egypt opens Tora jail to media after UN report



26 Torfaera: Iceland's off-road racing mania



Bushehri resigns after grilling, blames 'influential' contractors

Tabtabaei: Roads broken like biscuits • Interior minister grilled in open session

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: In a dramatic turn of events, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Jenan Bushehri yesterday announced her resignation from the government at the end of a lengthy grilling in the National Assembly, which she accused "influential" contractors of backing. The minister announced her resignation after 10 MPs filed a no-confidence motion against her amid reports that a second motion was also signed by 10 more MPs. Parliamentary sources even said that as many as 25 lawmakers were ready to support the no-confidence motion, the number required to dismiss her.

"I am proud that I stood against the grilling of companies and contractors. I am proud that I did not sign some transactions for some of those who stood against me," the minister said. "I stood with public funds and the state and they were the price for the no-confidence motion against me. I announce my resignation and place it in the hands of the prime minister," she said. "Reform has become an impossible task. Companies in the Abdullah Al-Salem (Assembly) chamber are stronger than

reform and the interests of the nation," she concluded.

Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said he received a no-confidence motion signed by 10 lawmakers and set Nov 21 for a special session to vote on the motion. He said that the session will stand until he is notified officially that the resignation has been accepted. The Assembly later began the grilling debate of Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah by MP Riyadh Al-Adasani in an open session, after the government's request for a closed door session did not get the required majority. The Assembly also removed a grilling against the former finance minister after he resigned.

Earlier, Bushehri refuted allegations by MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei, who grilled her, that she committed several legal and financial violations. She said that she barred 14 companies from housing projects because they were very late in completing their projects, adding that she wrote to the Council of Ministers to bar them by the government. The minister also said she imposed a total of KD 24 million in fines, the highest in history, on violating

Continued on Page 24



KUWAIT: Picture combo shows MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei and Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Jenan Bushehri during a grilling debate yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News in brief

Three actors stabbed in Riyadh

RIYADH: A Yemeni man stabbed three actors at a performance in the Saudi capital, police said yesterday, in the first such attack since the ultraconservative kingdom began easing decades-old restrictions on entertainment. The 33-year-old knife-wielding assailant was arrested after state television footage showed him storming a musical performance in Riyadh's King Abdullah Park by what appeared to be a foreign theatre troupe. — AFP

Jordan foils terror plot

AMMAN: Jordanian intelligence recently foiled a plot by two suspected militants to mount terror attacks against US and Israeli diplomats alongside US troops deployed at a military base in the south of the country, state-owned Al-Rai newspaper reported yesterday. It said the suspects had planned to drive vehicles into their targets and attack them with firearms and knives. — Reuters

FT names first female editor

LONDON: The Financial Times yesterday announced that its deputy editor, Roula Khalaf, would take over as the newspaper's editor next year, the first woman to hold the post. She succeeds Lionel Barber, who will step down after almost 15 years in the top job. Khalaf joined the FT in 1995 as North Africa correspondent and went on to lead the paper's coverage of the Arab Spring, which started in 2011. — AFP (See Page 12)

Saudi video labels extremist ideas

DUBAI: A promotional video published by Saudi Arabia's state security agency categorizes feminism, homosexuality and atheism as extremist ideas, even as the conservative kingdom seeks to promote tolerance and attract foreigners. The animated clip posted on Twitter at the weekend by a verified account of the State Security Presidency said "all forms of extremism and perversion are unacceptable". — Reuters

Saudi court convicts 38 people

RIYADH: A Saudi court has convicted 38 people of terrorism-related crimes, state-run Al Ekhbariya television reported yesterday. The TV channel said they were charged with financing terrorism and with takfir. It said one of them "set up a terrorist organization in prison". It said the specialist criminal court in Riyadh, which was set up to try terrorism cases, sentenced one man to 25 years, another to 20 years and a third to 15 years. — Reuters

Exchange of fire after Israel kills top commander

GAZA CITY: Israel's military killed a commander of the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad in a strike on his home in the Gaza Strip yesterday, triggering exchanges of fire and fears of a severe escalation in violence. The targeted strike led to barrages of retaliatory rocket fire into Israel followed by Israeli air raids, and Gaza's health ministry reported five people killed and 30 wounded in the Palestinian enclave. Israel said it targeted Islamic Jihad militant sites as well as rocket-launching squads in the raids.

The rocket fire into Israel caused damage and several injuries, with at least one

rocket hitting a house and another narrowly missing passing cars on a highway. A factory in the city of Sderot was also hit, sparking a fire. Israeli medics said they had treated 39 people.

Reports that a separate strike targeted an Islamic Jihad member in Damascus added to the day's tensions. Islamic Jihad confirmed one of its officials, Akram Ajouri, was targeted in Damascus, with Syrian state news agency SANA reporting an Israeli strike had hit Ajouri's home, "killing his son Muadh and another person". Israel did not comment on that strike. An AFP correspondent at the scene of the dawn strike saw a partially destroyed three-storey building in a chic neighborhood of the capital not far from the Palestinian embassy. Glass had been blasted from one of the windows.

The initial Israeli raid in Gaza early yesterday, thought to have been carried

Continued on Page 24



GAZA CITY: Mourners chant slogans as they carry the body of Palestinian Islamic Jihad senior leader Baha Abu Al-Ata during his funeral yesterday. — AFP

Maharashtra placed under direct rule

MUMBAI: India's financial capital was plunged into political uncertainty yesterday after the president imposed direct rule on wealthy Maharashtra state after weeks of deadlock over who would form its government following fiercely fought elections. India has been battling an economic slowdown and the political

stalemate is a setback for Mumbai, which is home to business tycoons, the stock market and the glitzy Bollywood film industry.

The move is also a blow for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which was expected to remain in control of India's richest state after winning the most seats at last month's polls. "President Ram Nath Kovind signs proclamation imposing President's rule in Maharashtra," the Press Trust of India reported, citing officials. The state was ruled by the BJP and its rightwing

Continued on Page 24

EU: Israel settlement goods must be labeled

BRUSSELS: The EU's top court ruled yesterday that food products from occupied Palestinian territories must be labeled as such, drawing an angry response from Israel which slammed a "double standard". The European Court of Justice said that under EU rules on food labeling, it must be clear where products are from - particularly if they come from Israeli settlements.

That way, it said, consumers can make choices based on "ethical considerations and considerations relating to the observance of international law".

The ECJ ruling effectively backs the EU guidelines issued in 2015 on labeling goods from Israeli-occupied areas, which also prompted a furious response. At the time, Prime Minister

Continued on Page 24

Lebanon protesters clamor for citizenship

BEIRUT: Draped in the Lebanese flag, 22-year-old Dana is bursting with pride at taking part in Lebanon's "revolution" - even if her home country refuses to give her nationality. Standing amongst other demonstrators in the capital, she explains she was born in Beirut to a Lebanese mother and has spent all her life in the country. But like thousands of others in Lebanon, her father is a foreigner and, with Lebanese women unable to pass down their nationality, she has been deprived of citizenship.

"My parents divorced before I was even born. I grew up with my mother," Dana told AFP. "I see myself as Lebanese, but they don't want to recognize my

identity," she added. The politicians who do not want to change the century-old law, she says, are "patriarchal" and "racist". The right to citizenship is one of many long-standing demands to have found new life in the mass protests sweeping Lebanon since Oct 17.

The unprecedented show of cross-sectarian anger in the street brought down the government last month - but many other of the demonstrators' demands remain unmet. Outside the seat of government, 17-year-old Omar said he'd only ever been to Syria once, but was consistently suffering the consequences of his father's nationality.

Continued on Page 24



BEIRUT: A Lebanese demonstrator raises an old identity card during a march entitled "My Nationality, My Dignity" on Nov 10, 2019, calling for giving Lebanese women the right to pass on nationality to their children. — AFP

Local

Kuwait's Amir congratulates new State Audit Bureau head

Sheikh Sabah extends condolences to Bangladeshi President on train crash victims



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem and State Audit Bureau Chairman Faisal Al-Shaya. — Photos by Amiri Diwan and KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Oman's outgoing Ambassador to Kuwait Adnan Bin Ahmad Al-Ansari.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met yesterday with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem who introduced to His Highness newly appointed State Audit Bureau Chairman Faisal Fahad Al-Shaya. Speaker Ghanem also introduced Shaya to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the newly appointed head of the State Audit Bureau. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the official success in his new position, hoping that he will serve the country and its people with diligence and efficiency. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness also hosted Oman's outgoing

Ambassador to Kuwait Adnan Bin Ahmad Al-Ansari and Japan's outgoing Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki. Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meetings. In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad. His Highness also met Abdullah Hamad Al-Mekhyal who handed to His Highness the first copy of two documentary movies on heritage, culture and tradition.

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to President of Bangladesh Mohammad Abdul Hamid, offering his condolences over casualties and injuries of a train His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy upon the dead and wished a speedy recovery for the injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah have sent similar cables to President Abdul Hamid. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Japan's outgoing Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem and State Audit Bureau Chairman Faisal Al-Shaya.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Abdullah Hamad Al-Mekhyal.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Tajikistan's Premier Qaher Rasoulzoda. — KUNA

Kuwait PM holds talks with Tajik counterpart

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Monday held official talks at Bayan Palace with the visiting Premier of Tajikistan Qaher Rasoulzoda. During the talks, they two sides discussed horizons of cooperation in different fields to be in the interests of the two friendly countries and their nations. In addition, they reviewed the international and regional issues of common concern and their countries' stances towards them.

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Acting Minister of Finance Maryam Al-Aqeel, Advisor at the Prime Minister's Office and head of the accompanying honorary mission Sheikh Dr Salem Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Mahmoud Boushehri as well as a

number of senior officials at the Prime Minister's Diwan, the Foreign Ministry and Kuwait Investment Authority were present in the talks, which also included Tajikistan Premier's accompanying delegation.

Following the talks, the two sides celebrated, in the presence of Kuwait and Tajikistan's premiers, the signing of the executive program of cooperative deals on tourism. The program was signed by Minister Jabri and head of Tajikistan's tourism development authority Noaman Abdul Ghaffarzadeh. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak held a dinner banquet in honor of Rasoulzoda and his accompanying delegation.

Meanwhile, Rasoulzoda received in his residence at Bayan Palace yesterday Deputy Director General of Investment Affairs at Kuwait Fund For Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Ghanim Sulaiman Al-Ghunaiman, Kuwait's Ambassador to Pakistan, and non-resident Ambassador in Tajikistan Nassar Abdulrahman Al-Mutiari attended the meeting. — KUNA

Kuwait government praises efforts to protect state funds

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet touched on the legal measures recently taken by the legal team assigned by the Fatwa and Legislation Department regarding public funds' squandering at the Public Institution For Social Services. Upon the documents and arguments presented by the team, the British higher court issued a verdict, suspending assets of the defendant Fahad Mazayad Al-Rajaan, the former director general of the institution, all over the world. Cabinet ministers praised the relentless efforts undertaken by the institution and the fatwa department for following up on the cause of "assaulting the state public funds," as a national duty. They urged all government departments to do their best to eradicate corruption, and called on the concerned authorities to pursue the procedures to reclaim the institution funds and seek to hand over the defendant to the Kuwaiti authorities for prosecution.

This came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting held at Bayan Palace on Monday under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The council was informed about a recommendation by the economic affairs committee regarding the fourth annual report of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), containing a statistical report about its activities and enterprises. The ministers commended KDIPA's distinguished efforts to bolster the State status at the economic level, enhance the business environment for luring capitals and diversify income resources. Moreover, they looked into recommendations regarding fish farming, and resolving the issue of the dumping site for used rubber tires in Al-Rahiah.

Recent visits

Following the session, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet

Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh said the ministers kicked off the session by expressing congratulations to H.H. the Amir and H.H. the Crown Prince on the anniversary of the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). His Highness the Prime Minister briefed the ministers about outcome of the recent visit by the president of Singapore to the country and contents of the talks she held with His Highness the Amir, focusing on the relations bonding the two friendly countries, means of boosting cooperation in various fields in addition to the discussions on various regional and international topics. He informed the executives about outcome of the recent visit by the Estonian president to Kuwait and the talks she held with His Highness the Amir, dealing with means of boosting cooperation in various sectors namely in commerce and investments. Moreover, His Highness the Prime Minister touched on the current visit to the country by the Tajik president.

Amir's letter

In the meantime, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addressed the session about his visit to Saudi Arabia where he handed a letter from His Highness the Amir to the Saudi King on the close relations between the two sisterly countries. He also talked about the recent visit to the country by the minister of external affairs of Burkina Faso during which the two countries inked deals for cooperation in aviation, cultural, artistic, economic and technical fields, in addition to inking a memo for holding consultations between the two States' foreign ministries. Moreover, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled addressed the executives about the recent visit to the country by the minister of external affairs of South Sudan. During the visit, the two countries signed an agreement to establish a joint cooperation

committee and inked a memo for regular consultations between the two countries' foreign ministries.

Political developments

The conferees discussed the political affairs in light of the reports on the current political developments on both Arab and international levels. Furthermore, they welcomed the Riyadh Agreement signed between the Yemeni legitimate government and the Southern Transitional Council a few days ago, in response to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz's call and under the patronage of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. The Kuwaiti Cabinet lauded the big role and serious endeavors made by Saudi Arabia to bring views of the two Yemeni sides closer together that led to this constructive deal, which will contribute to settling differences, and maintaining security and stability in Yemen. The ministers congratulated Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi on signing the accord, expressing their confidence that it would achieve its objectives in terms of restoring security, peace and harmony in Yemen.

They expressed their denunciation of the stabbing act against some foreign tourists and Jordanian citizens in Jerash, north of the Jordanian capital. They stressed Kuwait's support to Jordan in all measures taken to maintain its security and stability. In addition, the Cabinet voiced its great sorrow over the bushfire broke out in New South Wales, east of Australia, that killed and wounded several people. The ministers expressed their sincere condolences to the Iranian people over the earthquake took place in southeastern Iran that killed and wounded several people. They expressed regret over the cyclone in Bangladesh that led to material and human losses, wishing a speedy recovery to those injured and praying to Allah Almighty to rest the victims' souls in eternal peace. — KUNA

Local



KUWAIT: Pictures taken from the debate of a grilling filed by MP Omar Al-Tabtabai against Minister of Public Work and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr Jenan Boushehri during a National Assembly session yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



4,608 liquor bottles seized at Shuwaikh Port

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle in around 4,608 liquor bottles into Kuwait. The contrabands were found in 384 cardboard boxes that were in a shipment that arrived from an Asian country at Shuwaikh Port.

Fight

Following a video clip that went viral on social media showing a fight between two persons, with one using a sharp object, the interior ministry's relations

and security information department said a man lodged a complaint against another man at Abdullah Al-Mubarak police station claiming he attacked him with a sharp object. Police arrested the suspect and detained him for further action. Meanwhile, the ministry announced that it launched investigations into claims of a citizen and a police officer who accused each other of assault, as well as claims circulated on social media that a high ranking ministry official intervened and suspended the policeman in favor of the citizen.

Defense ministry rejects children of Kuwaiti women

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The defense ministry refused to accept the children of Kuwaiti women married to non-citizens other than bedoons or GCC nationals, well-informed sources said yesterday. The sources added that a parliamentary proposal had been made to the ministry in this regard but was rejected due to reasons "deemed necessary by the Kuwaiti army." "Only in certain categories, such as advisors and specialists, are bedoons and GCC nationals accepted," the sources underlined, pointing out that this

measure is already in practice and has nothing to do with the bill to be discussed in parliament soon. The sources explained that bedoon children of Kuwaiti women are not currently accepted in the police force, while GCC nationals are.

Medical unit 'canceled'

The Ministry of Health (MoH) yesterday canceled an earlier decision to establish a digestive system unit at Thunayyan Al-Ghanem center, and decided to establish a unit at Amiri Hospital's internal diseases department.

Gynecology doctors' club formed in Kuwait

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Head of Adan Hospital's gynecology and birth department Dr Abeer Al-Thayedi announced launching the first gynecology and birth doctors' club in Kuwait with members from both the public and the private sectors. Thayedi added that the club will follow international treatment protocols to ensure the best treatment for every patient.

Lives' for Farwaniya Hospital patients with participation of 120 donors, said the department manager Safa Abdeen. He noted the campaign collected 65 blood packs, adding the drive was one of several organized in various hospitals to save lives. Abdeen stressed saving lives is a social responsibility for all social sects and that Islam and the Holy Quran urge us to save lives.

Unlicensed ads

Blood donation
The women's activity department at the Patients Fund organized a blood donation campaign titled 'Your Blood Saves Their

Capital municipal inspectors filed 39 citations for violations committed by stores, including for unlicensed ads, and removed 15 billboards and other random hoardings blocking the view.

Ready for the Beach ??

Kuwait Times
Established 1961

Subscribe or renew your subscription
& get K.D 50

1 Coupon FREE

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

Local

Zain Great Idea's finalists arrive at Silicon Valley

Entrepreneurs prepare for accelerating their tech startups in San Francisco

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the arrival of the Zain Great Idea 5 (ZGI 5) finalists to Silicon Valley, San Francisco in the United States of America. The entrepreneurs are now ready to take part in the third phase of the program: the international accelerator program in collaboration with Brilliant Lab and Mind the Bridge, a global organization bridging the world through entrepreneurship education for startups, enterprises and investors to succeed in global markets.

Throughout four successful past editions, ZGI empowered, trained, and invested in hundreds of creative and driven Kuwaiti youth, of which many now own thriving and active Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to this day. Zain Great Idea has been one of the most successful initiatives Zain presented to the Kuwaiti market as part of its comprehensive innovation and entrepreneurship strategy, with the aim of offering Kuwait's entrepreneurial community the chance to take their startups to entire new levels.

Upon their arrival to San Francisco, the finalists presented their tech startups to Mind the Bridge's top management, headed by Founder and CEO Marco Marinucci, who shared his strategic experience in business and entrepreneurship with them. Throughout an entire day, the finalists also met many local entrepreneurs in San Francisco, who shared their success stories and mentoring advice.

Zain's finalists will stay in San Francisco (specifically Silicon Valley, the world's capital of tech startups) throughout three weeks, guided by Mind the Bridge's consultants and mentors. The San Francisco program will feature extensive seminars and workshops to develop and accelerate the ZGI 5 final tech startups, which were originally selected by the judging panel in Kuwait.

Zain recently concluded the second phase of ZGI 5 in Kuwait, where nearly 100 ambitious entrepreneurs pitched their projects and ideas to the judging panel, who in return selected 10 finalists that are now taking part in the third phase: the international accelerator program in collaboration with Brilliant Lab and Mind the Bridge.

Zain's 10 finalists are Faisal Al-Basri - Mezan, Yousef Al-Husaini - Baims, Abdulwahab Al-Refaei - Cybersys, Reem Al-Farhan - CTC, Rawan Al-Sabah - The Capital, Mishari Amin - Touch point, Dalal Al-Qattan - That Designs, Fahad Al-Baghli - The Wish List, Majed Al-Hamlan - Blue Outdoors, and Mohamed Al-Raqem - WellbiiON.

The second phase's judging panel consisted of 9 experts and specialists of various business fields, including Abdullah Al-Hassawi, Asset management, Portfolio management, Financial modeling, Technical analysis, and equity reports specialist, Hisham Al-Bosaty, Startups Investor



Mind the Bridge's Founder and CEO Marco Marinucci

and Group Treasurer at EFG Hermes Holding, Maryam Saif, Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer at Zain Group, Abdulaziz Hayat, Angel Investor, Former Associate Venture Capital at Faith Capital, Board Member at Harvard Business School Club Kuwait Chapter, Atef Abdulmajeed, Private Equity and Venture Capital Specialist at KFH Capital, Saud Al-Subaie, Chief Operating Officer at Al-Sayer Facilities Company, Sadegh Zobeidi - CPLP, MBA, Director of the Center for Professional Advancement and Continuing Education (PACE) at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), Saleh Al-Shaya, Startups Investor and Alternative Investment at Rasameel Investment Company, and Dakheel Al-Dakheel, Executive Vice President Alternative Investment at Rasameel Investment Company.

The first phase of the program, the ZGI bootcamp, lasted for 4 weeks at the company's main headquarters, where the participants learned about the tech startup culture and workings from leading mentors from Stanford University, IE Business school, entrepreneurs and regional and international venture capital firms. Speakers included Abdulaziz Al-Loughani, - cofounder and Managing Partner at Faith Capital, Pedram Mokrian - professor at Stanford



SAN FRANCISCO: The 10 finalists with Zain's team in front of Mind the Bridge's headquarters in San Francisco.

University, Al-Harith Al-Atawi - cofounder and Chief Executive Officer of onegcc, Paris de L'Etraz - Director Venture Lab, IE Business School, Dr Naif Al-Mutawa - Founder and Clinical Director of Soor Center for Professional Therapy and Assessment, Dr Abdullah Al-Mutawa - owner of Rijeemy food and nutrition consulting company, Khaled Al-Mutawa - owner of Pogi for coding, Samer Baqer - Ghalia Tech company for advertising, Atef Abdulmajeed - Private Equity and Venture Capital specialist at KFH Capital, and Saud Al-Subaie - Chief Operating Officer at Al-Sayer Facilities Company.

ZGI was first launched in 2010 as a Corporate Social Responsibility initiative designed to support the youth into making their entrepreneurial dreams come true. Zain was the first in the region to launch such a comprehensive program of this kind. Then, throughout nearly 10 wonderful years, the company embraced over 500 entrepreneurs, travelled to 4 countries, and helped nearly 70 of the brightest Kuwaiti minds accelerate their ideas into active and thriving SMEs in the market.

ZGI is established by Zain in association with Brilliant Lab, a startup Accelerator Service from Kuwait, and Mind

the Bridge, a global organization bridging the world through entrepreneurship education for startups, enterprises and investors to succeed in global markets. Mind the Bridge is based in Silicon Valley with offices in US, London, Italy, and Spain.

The latest edition of the program features an all-new phase to the program: Co-developing. After Zain Great Idea is over, finalists will get full access to Zain's cross-functional team to help them get the most out of their newly accelerated startup. ZGI's entrepreneurs will be able to get consultations, mentoring, deals, tactics/strategies, and more from Zain specialists in various areas that are essential to any business, including sales, marketing, communications, legal, networks, IT, and more.

Zain is well aware of the crucial role played by private sector organizations in supporting social and economic sustainability projects. Springing from its growing commitment towards practicing its social responsibility, the company is committed to printing a positive print through all its activities. This has led Zain to embrace the most influential issues in the community, including the support of youth, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

Kuwait Times
ESTABLISHED 1961
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

STAY CONNECTED

- Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**
- Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**
- Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

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



KUWAIT: Officials attend the press conference yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Emirates Energy Award 2020 roadshow organized in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The fourth edition of the Emirates Energy Award was announced yesterday at a press conference by the organizing committee from the Supreme Energy Council in Dubai. The Emirates Energy Award is a regional prize that is awarded every two years to deserving groups or individuals in MENA region to encourage them to innovate and discover and new ways to rationalize the use of energy resources.

"The entry must be operational and implemented on the ground, and which has been helping the general public as a whole - that is one of our main requirements in order to qualify," said Nasser Al-Shuiba from the health safety environment and climate change department of the Supreme Energy Council. "The award aims to showcase power efficiency and environmental conservation initiatives on an international stage, and also to highlight the best practices and pioneering work in energy efficiency, alternative energy, sustainability and protecting the environment," he added.

The Emirates Energy Award 2020 is organized under the patronage of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, under the theme 'Inspiring Innovation for Sustainable Energy'.

The press conference witnessed great interaction by the audience interested in better understanding the details of the award and categories and how to participate. Representatives of the council highlighted the importance of the Emirates Energy Award in supporting and honoring the best energy conservation practices implemented that are considered innovative, while characterized by being low-cost alternatives and renewable energy solutions. Within its 10 categories, the award recognizes and encourages various stakeholders in leading the way in the development of cutting-edge technologies that rationalize the use of energy and

renewable energy resources. Ali Rashid, Director DSM Dubai Supreme Energy Council, said: "We are pleased to be present and promote the Emirates Energy Award in Kuwait, known for its endeavors in renewable energy projects, which will add value to the award. In today's time, it is important to make use of energy efficient practices that will lead to a sustainable future, and the young generation has an important role to play in this regard. Worldwide, innovative technologies are serving as a platform to scale and grow the economies of countries, and we are confident that EEA will serve as a robust forum for the youth and innovators to showcase their efficient solutions, which will become a game-changer in the journey of sustainable development."

Dr Sameera Omar, Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, said KISR will participate in the awards. "We are thankful to be invited and we are keen to participate in this award. We will submit our entry in renewable energy. We have knowledge and experience and knowhow in this field and we want to showcase the work being done by KISR, which we started in the 1980s. We have the potential to participate," she noted.

Shuaiba admitted that Dubai has just come up with this activity and acknowledged the work of Kuwait in many fields. "Even before we become a state, Kuwait was already there and advancing in science and technology, and many are trying to imitate it as a role model," he said. The EEA 2020 has also been unveiled in other parts of the region, including Morocco, Jordan and Egypt.

The Award's fourth edition has 10 categories, awarding excellence in: Energy Efficiency - Public Sector (Gold, Silver and Bronze); Energy Efficiency - Private Sectors (Gold, Silver and Bronze); Large Energy Projects (Gold, Silver and Bronze); Small Energy Projects (Gold, Silver and Bronze); Connecting Solar Power to Buildings Project for Large Projects (more than 500 KW); Connecting Solar Power to Buildings Project for Small Projects (less than 500 KW); Education and Capacity Building Award (Gold, Silver and Bronze); Applied Research and Product Development Award (Gold, Silver and Bronze); Young Professional Energy Award (Gold, Silver and Bronze); and the Special Recognition Award for an outstanding contributor to the energy sector.

Local

Kuwait, NATO underline distinguished cooperation

Kuwaiti officials attend four-day meeting at NATO headquarters

BRUSSELS: Top Kuwaiti and NATO officials have emphasized that the partnership between the Gulf country and the 29-member Alliance is not only growing, but also strengthening and expanding by the day. "It is a partnership that is growing every day. So we are very happy about this collaboration between NATO and Kuwait," said Giovanni Romani, head of Middle East and North Africa section at NATO. He was speaking to the press on the sidelines of a four-day meeting between Kuwait and NATO at NATO headquarters that began on Monday. "There is a very important high level meeting from Kuwait," said Romani, noting that the meetings will be held for four days. The first two days (Monday and yesterday) were dedicated to the second annual review of the NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Center in Kuwait. "This is a very important center we established thanks to the generosity of Kuwait," he said. Romani noted that four Arabian Gulf countries: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE are currently members of the ICI but added that the center has been able to attract all six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which also includes Oman and Saudi Arabia. "So we are very encouraged by the success of this Centre which is growing. We see how year after year the activities are growing and expanding its offer in terms of training, as a hub for seminars," he said.

The other two days (today and tomorrow) are dedicated to NATO and Kuwait, which will discuss strengthening their relationship and working on bilateral collaboration between NATO and Kuwait, Romani said. "We have very a friendly relationship. We get along very well with Sheikh Fawaz because we two are



BRUSSELS: Kuwaiti and NATO officials pose for a group picture on the sidelines of a four-day meeting between Kuwait and NATO at NATO headquarters.— KUNA

responsible for the Centre. So it is a partnership that is growing every day," he said. Romani said he is visiting the center often and "we are establishing collaboration with a number of entities to see what we can do more with other Commands of NATO, so we can also contribute to the success of this endeavor which is very promising and we are very happy about it."

Meanwhile, Sheikh Fawaz Al-Sabah, head of the information and security follow-up sector at Kuwait's National Security Bureau, said that today and tomorrow's meetings will review Kuwait's Individual Partnership and Cooperation (IPC) with NATO. He noted that the center in Kuwait is one of the tools for cooperation with NATO and that "we were able to implement the programs that we need from NATO in the center

itself." Sheikh Fawaz said review of cooperation between Kuwait and NATO includes issues like dealing with crises management, emerging security challenges, cyber security and public diplomacy among others.

In the meantime, Kuwait's ambassador to NATO, EU and Belgium Jassem Al-Budaiwi expressed happiness over the NATO-hosted meetings, noting that the annual review "is very important to promote the distinguished ties and cooperation between the two sides." Many issues, including military and civilian topics that are of interest to Kuwait and NATO and also to all the GCC countries will be discussed, including information technology, cyber security and dealing with crises. "Relations between Kuwait and NATO are very distinguished and we give great importance to these review

meetings," he said. He pointed out that Kuwait will host the 15th anniversary of the ICI in December, to which the four ICI members will participate in addition Saudi Arabia, Oman and the GCC Secretariat. "We in Kuwait are very proud of the deep and close coordination and cooperation with NATO and in cooperation with our brothers in the GCC so that the training of cadres in Kuwait and in the GCC countries could reach to international standards in civil and military sectors," he said. "And this cooperation also aims to promote peace and security in the region and the world," he added. NATO's ICI was launched at the Alliance's Istanbul Summit in June 2004. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg inaugurated ICI's Regional Centre in Kuwait City in January 2017.— KUNA

Kuwait stresses WMD-free Middle East

NEW YORK: Kuwait reaffirmed its commitment for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to ensure regional stability and security. This came during a speech by First Secretary in Kuwait's permanent mission to the UN Jawaher Al-Sabah during the discussion of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) report before the UN General Assembly. She stressed the importance of Israel joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, especially as it is the only non-party in the region and all its facilities should be subjected to IAEA's comprehensive safeguards system. "This year marks the 55th anniversary of Kuwait's accession to IAEA, where it continues to work closely with various IAEA departments and benefit from its programs," she said.

The anniversary coincides with Kuwait winning membership of the Board of Governors at the (IAEA) for 2019-2021; for fifth time, which reaffirms the confidence of the international community in Kuwait's balanced policy, she noted. The membership comes in

recognition of the role of Kuwait and its active participation in various activities of the Agency since 1964, as it pledges to strengthen technical and professional work with its Council in order to reach the aspirations of member states, she added. In November 2018, Kuwait hosted one of the six regional sessions organized by the IAEA on the security of radioactive sources for the Asia-Pacific region, she pointed out. It also hosted the signing of the Convention on practical arrangements to support cooperation in the field of monitoring and protection of the marine environment, and reached an agreement with Environmental and Life Sciences Research Center, she noted.

On the global level, Sabah expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation for any nuclear tests that contribute to undermining human safety and any provocation or action that would harm international peace and security. In this regard, she called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to abide by relevant international treaties and Security Council resolutions, welcoming the recent dialogue steps that should lead to stability in the Korean Peninsula. On the other hand, Kuwait is following up periodic reports issued by the Director General of the IAEA on the status of implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 on Iran's nuclear program, she noted. She stressed the importance of Iran continuing to fulfill its nuclear obligations stipulated in the joint work plan, expressing its aspiration to ratify and implement the



NEW YORK: First Secretary in Kuwait's permanent mission to the UN Jawaher Al-Sabah delivers a speech during the discussion of the International Atomic Energy Agency's report before the UN General Assembly.— KUNA

Additional Protocol. She also affirmed the right of all countries to produce, develop, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes within the framework of the NPT. Sabah reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to continue its support to the IAEA to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, calling to face world crises, strengthening nuclear security, and achieve peace and stability.— KUNA

Kuwait renews supporting UNRWA

NEW YORK: Kuwait renewed its stance on continuing to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), embodied last year with a contribution of \$50 million. This was brought up during a speech by Kuwait at the UN General Assembly Fourth Committee (C4), delivered on Monday evening by Diplomatic Attache Ahmad Al-Duweesh. Kuwait provided UNRWA with an additional donation of \$5 million during the current year. Duweesh pointed out. He deeply appreciated all UNRWA members for their strenuous efforts despite the circumstances they were going through.

Duweesh commended them for harnessing all available means to provide the necessary services to over 5.5 million Palestinian refugees across its five fields of operation. They believe in the solid foundations of Kuwait's foreign policy in supporting humanitarian issues and the pivotal role played by UNRWA, renewing its mandate for another three years, he said. He stressed continuing to support UNRWA due to the positive indicators contained in the report of UNRWA's

former Commissioner-General, including the support by Kuwait when UNRWA faced the most serious financial crisis in 2018 going from \$446 million to zero, and the financial discipline, which resulted in financial savings estimated at \$500 million in the past years. The information received regarding the financial constraints resulted in 50 students per semester and 100 daily patient visits to each doctor, making them more determined to continue the support, he said.

Duweesh said that the support will contribute to upgrading educational, health and relief services, along with providing basic needs for Palestinian refugees. He said that despite concerns over allegations made over the past few months about suspicions against some of the UN agency's officials, the assurances of the Secretary-General of the donor countries are appreciated. Duweesh wished that these suspicions will not hinder the benefit of the Palestinian refugees from the services provided by the UN agency. He called for Israel to respect its obligations under international and human rights' laws, to lift the siege off Gaza Strip and lift all restrictions imposed on citizens and goods in Palestine.

He also stressed the need to continue these pressures until a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause is reached in accordance with the Arab peace initiative adopted by the Beirut summit in



NEW YORK: Diplomatic Attache Ahmad Al-Duweesh delivers his speech.— KUNA

2002. Duweesh added that this initiative provides the withdrawal of Israel from all the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese occupied territories to the borders of June 4, 1967. This initiative also ensures that the final status will be addressed in a way that would lead Palestinians to realize all their legitimate political rights, including their right to the establishment of an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, he added.— KUNA

Arab audit bodies meet in Qatar

DOHA: Audit bureaus from across the wider Arab region, including Kuwait, assembled for talks in the Qatari capital yesterday, opened by Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani. The Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI) holds sessions on a regular basis to assess progress the audit body has made in recent years, said Qatar's chief auditor Sheikh Bandar bin Saud Al Thani. The gathering is also a chance to draw up future plans and outline current goals, he added, pointing out that such talks aim to boost audit efficiency across the Arab region. The role of audit institutions, which encompasses the protection of public funds and building trust in government bodies, has grown increasingly significant, said the Qatari official. On the current round of talks, Qatar's top auditor hoped for productive results, allowing ARABOSAI to further solidify its position as a reputable audit body. A large delegation from Kuwait's State Audit Bureau is taking part in the talks.—KUNA



DOHA: Heads of Arab audit bureaus participating in the meeting pose for a group photo.— KUNA

Kuwait keen on installing technology in all sectors

KUWAIT: The acting secretary general of the Kuwait National Committee for Education, Science and Culture, which is part of the UNESCO program, affirmed Kuwait's keenness on acquiring latest technological and industrial innovations and employing them in diverse local sectors. Nadia Al-Wazzan, who was addressing "the regional forum on solidarity among academic quarters and partners of converging technology" yesterday, said this approach has tangibly taken shape in establishing apparatuses and foundations that apply technologies and offer financial support for scientific and industrial enterprises. Industrial technology features high in the New Kuwait Vision 2035, Wazzan added during the seminar, held at the National Library of Kuwait, with participation of experts from ISESCO. Meanwhile, Ali Rahal, ISECO's representative and its expert in Sharjah, the UAE, said the forum aimed at examining mechanisms and methods of coping with diverse challenges facing academic and industrial quarters, noting necessity of narrowing the gap between the two sectors.— KUNA

News in brief

General Security police can't issue traffic tickets

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Lt Gen Faisal Al-Nawaf issued a decision to take back traffic ticket books from all non-commissioned officers and policemen of the sector and hand them to the traffic department. Sources said the decision was taken after an increasing number of complaints from citizens and expats against non-commissioned officers and policemen of the supervisory and inspection department at the traffic violations investigation department, accusing them of maliciousness and abuse of authority in issuing traffic tickets. The sources said the general security policemen's job does not include issuing traffic tickets, and some of them are not fully aware of the traffic violations law.—Al-Qabas

Pharmacies back on

KUWAIT: The urgent administrative court suspended an administrative decision to close pharmacies at cooperative societies not registered in the name of a Kuwaiti pharmacist. It will discuss the case in a 2020 session, as it said the pharmaceutical law 30/2016 is void of conditions and procedures after reviewing it.— Al-Qabas

Degrees' forgery

KUWAIT: The mechanism of approving degrees adopted by the engineers' society discovered six persons who forged their degrees, who were sent to the prosecution and jailed. Informed sources said the forgers include one Syrian and five Indians working on contracts in the oil sector for private companies in various engineering jobs. The degrees of 615 persons were rejected by the engineering society and they were not given work permits as engineers, so they changed their job titles. Statistics showed that 225 became technical supervisors, 156 computer programmers, 108 maintenance technicians, 91 general supervisors and 82 foremen. It is notable that some transferred to jobs that have nothing to do with engineering, such as four as security officers, three as blacksmiths and three as money collectors.— Al-Qabas



16 dead as trains collide in Bangladesh

Macron rues global crisis, says new alliances needed

Page 8

Page 9



BEIRUT: Anti-government protesters sit under graffiti depicting Lebanese politicians with joker faces sprayed on a wall in downtown Beirut. — AFP

Lebanon leaders attempt to buy time

Protesters demand a complete overhaul of the political system

BEIRUT: Lebanon's embattled leaders tried to buy time Monday, dodging mounting public pressure over the country's unprecedented economic and political crises. Nearly four weeks into nationwide protests calling for the ouster of the ruling elite, radical changes demanded by demonstrators have not been implemented.

The peaceful protests against corruption and sectarianism have paralyzed Lebanon, worsening an economic crisis that has brought the country to the brink of default. Central bank governor Riad Salameh — increasingly under fire for his monetary policies — insisted however that deposits were safe and the country's currency would remain pegged to the dollar.

"The central bank's first and foremost goal is to protect the Lebanese pound's stability," he told a news conference. The bank has taken measures "to protect depositors and protect deposits", he said. Salameh said he had asked local banks to lift restrictions imposed after protests started on October 17. Recent decreases in capital inflows have caused dollar shortages, leading banks to cap withdrawals. On the unofficial market, the greenback has sold at up to 20 percent more than its official rate.

While Salameh insisted the financial sector would

remain solvent, trust in the central bank has plummeted and outside the news conference dozens of protesters voiced their anger. "All of them means all of them. Salameh's one of them," they chanted, in a variation of a common call for all political figures to resign.

Victory of sorts

Protesters demand a complete overhaul of a political system they say has been dominated by the same families of political leaders since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war. The government resigned on October 29 but stayed on in a caretaker capacity and parliamentary consultations on forming a new government are yet to be held.

Demonstrators call for technocrats not affiliated with Lebanon's traditional parties, but it is unclear whether this demand will be met. Activists on social media called for a general strike and to block main roads yesterday, as Speaker Nabih Berri postponed a scheduled parliamentary session by a week to November 19. In the northern city of Tripoli, thousands gathered in the main square at night fall.

Protester Bilal Hussein, 33, said parliament's post-

ponement was a victory of sorts. "This is the speaker's first time recognizing that things after October 17 are not as they were before," he said. What started as a spontaneous and leaderless movement has become more organized in recent days, with activists staging mini-protests outside institutions they view as particularly useless or corrupt.

After sunset in Beirut, dozens of protesters wrapped black cloth around the outside wall of the state electricity company, which all Lebanese hold responsible for at least a three-hour power cut every day. The activists, who set up candles along the bottom of the wall, said they wanted to give the company a taste of its own blackouts.

'Point of no return'

Earlier in the day, hundreds of students protested in several parts of the country, and dozens of demonstrators rallied near the airport. In recent days, high school pupils and university students have taken a leading role in protests, demanding a better future in a country where youth unemployment is over 30 percent. In central Beirut, Mohammed, an unemployed 51-year-old,

said he had hope in the next generation.

"We have reached a point of no return. Young school pupils are the ones who will decide our destiny," he said. Corrupt political leaders "have stolen 30 years of our lives, but they won't be able to steal a single second off the young generations". On Monday, the leader of the powerful Shiite movement Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, called for corruption prosecutions and a mechanism to return stolen money to the state.

The leader, who claims unnamed foreign entities were funding protests, had previously called on his supporters to leave the cross-sectarian street movement. The World Bank on Wednesday urged authorities to swiftly form a new government to prevent further deterioration of the economy. The crisis has hit businessmen unable to purchase imports in dollars, and caused panic among citizens fearing petrol and food shortages. Lebanon's economy has been battered by a series of political crises, compounded by the eight-year civil war in neighboring Syria. Economists are deeply concerned by the country's crippling debt of \$86 billion, which equates to roughly 150 percent of the gross domestic product. — AFP

Sikhs celebrate founder Guru Nanak's 550th b'day

ISLAMABAD: It is one of the biggest birthday celebrations in the world: millions of Sikhs marked the 550th birth anniversary of the founder of their religion, the Guru Nanak. The annual celebration has been given extra significance this year with the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor, a secure, visa-free passage between arch-rivals India and Pakistan that gives Indian Sikhs access to the place where the guru died in 1539, now one of the religion's holiest sites. Here are some more facts about Sikhs on the anniversary.

What is Sikhism?

Sikhism is a monotheistic religion born in the 15th-century in Punjab — meaning the land of five rivers, a region spanning parts of what is now India and Pakistan. Five and a half centuries later, Sikhs number up to 30 million worldwide, with a rich diaspora in places such as Canada, the US and Europe — although the vast majority remain in India. Once rulers of the Punjab, they were considered a martial race by the British colonizers.

Men, in particular, are instantly recognizable by their colorful turbans, used to cover their hair, which they must leave uncut. That is one of

the five articles of their faith they must carry all the time, known as the Five Ks: the Kesh (uncut hair), Kara (a steel bracelet), Kanga (a wooden comb), Kaccha (cotton underwear), and Kirpan (a curved dagger). Sikhs worship God, known to them as Waheguru, or "wonderful teacher", inside gurdwaras, or "doorways to God". The word "Sikh" means the "seeker", or the "learner". Male Sikhs bear the name "Singh", which means lion: while women go by "Kaur", or princess.

Who was Guru Nanak?

Guru Nanak was born in 1469 to a Hindu family at Nankana Sahib, a Pakistani city about 80 kilometers from the eastern city of Lahore. Some legends say there were signs of divinity around him from the start, such as the time a cobra was found rearing over his head — not to attack him, but to shade him from the sun as he napped. As he grew older the Guru began travelling, preaching a faith based on equality and one God. He died in 1539 in the Punjabi town of Kartarpur, in modern-day Pakistan, where his remains are buried. Nine gurus followed Guru Nanak and there is no living human successor, but the Guru Granth Sahib — the Sikh holy book — is considered the 11th and eternal.

What happens on his birthday?

Sikhs around the world, but especially on the subcontinent, will come together to sing, pray, eat and hold sprawling processions to different gurdwaras. Some of the biggest celebrations will be the site of their one of their holiest shrines, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India. In Pakistan, thousands of Sikhs are expected to mark the occasion at Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur.

Why is this year special?

Apart from it being the 550th anniversary, this year also saw the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor — a secure land link allowing Indian Sikhs to visit the gurdwara in the Pakistani town where the Guru died. The gurdwara at Kartarpur is so close to the India-Pakistan frontier that its white dome and four cupolas can be seen from across the border. But the perennial enmity between the South Asian nations, arch-enemies since Pakistan was carved out of colonial India at independence from Britain in 1947, has meant that for decades Indians could not visit — at least, not easily. Many had likened it to Muslims being able to see Mecca or Medina, but never actually able to visit. India has long been asking for Sikhs to be given access to Kartarpur, and last weekend their wish was finally granted with the opening of the corridor just days ahead of the birthday celebrations. — AFP

Iran accuses Europeans of hypocrisy over nuclear deal

TEHRAN: Iran accused European nations of hypocrisy yesterday for criticizing its latest step back from a nuclear deal while failing to fulfill their commitments of relief from US sanctions. President Hassan Rouhani made no mention of a new report from the UN nuclear agency that reveals its inspectors detected uranium particles of man-made origin at an undeclared site in Iran.

But Iran's envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna said the UN watchdog had been given access to the site "with the utmost cooperation and clarification". "Cooperation between Iran and the agency on this issue is still ongoing. Therefore, any attempt to prejudge and present immature assessment of the situation would be aimed at distorting the facts for political gains," Gharib Abadi said in a statement.

Britain, France, Germany and the EU have been trying to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal since the US unilaterally withdrew from it in May

last year and began reimposing sanctions. A year after the US pull-out from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran began reducing its commitments to the deal hoping to win concessions from those still party to the accord. Iran's latest measure came last week, when engineers began feeding uranium hexafluoride gas into mothballed enrichment centrifuges at the underground Fordow plant south of Tehran.

On Monday Britain, France, Germany and the European Union said Iran's decision to restart activities at Fordow was "inconsistent" with a 2015 nuclear deal. "The E3/EU have fully upheld their JCPOA commitments, including sanctions-lifting as foreseen under the JCPOA," they said. "It is now critical that Iran upholds its JCPOA commitments and works with all JCPOA participants to de-escalate tensions."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif hit back yesterday, "Fully upheld commitments under JCPOA? YOU? Really?" he tweeted. Zarif said Iran had already "triggered and exhausted" a dispute resolution mechanism in the troubled accord. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas had on Monday threatened the use of "all the mechanisms laid down in the agreement" to make Iran comply with its obligations under the JCPOA.

'We waited'

Yesterday, Rouhani said Iran only began scaling back its nuclear commitments a year after the US withdrawal to give the other parties time to make up for it. "We waited for a year," Rouhani told a televised news conference. "Nobody in the world can blame us by saying 'Why are you abandoning your commitments under the JCPOA today and why have you launched Fordow today?'" he said.

"This is a problem that the enemy has created for us," he said, referring to Iran's arch-foe the United States. Iran's approach, he said, was to take "the path of resistance and perseverance" by reducing commitments under the JCPOA and engaging in negotiations. "We are negotiating with the world... they are giving us proposals, we're giving them proposals. Up until today, I have not accepted the proposals I've been given."

Rouhani made no mention of the uranium particles the IAEA said its inspectors had detected at an undeclared site in Iran. In a report seen by AFP on Monday, the watchdog said its inspectors had "detected natural uranium particles of anthropogenic origin at a location in Iran not declared to the agency." The particles are understood to be the product of uranium which has been mined and undergone initial processing, but not enriched. — AFP

International

Behind Trump-Erdogan 'bromance,' a meeting to repair US-Turkey ties

'The two leaders have an affinity for each other as strongman presidents'

WASHINGTON/ANKARA: At the 2012 opening of Trump Towers in Istanbul, real estate mogul Donald Trump sang the praises of Tayyip Erdogan, telling a mostly Turkish audience that their leader, prime minister at the time, was "highly respected" around the world. "He's a good man. He's just representing you very well," Trump said at the ceremony. Since becoming the US president, Trump has openly complimented Erdogan and his combative ruling style, calling him "a friend" and "hell of a leader."

Such fondness from Trump for the Turkish president, who is due to meet with him at the White House today, is seen by many as the only reason why relations between Turkey and the United States have not completely collapsed, having soured severely over their disagreements on a host of issues.

"The two leaders have an affinity for each other as strongman presidents," said Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Program at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, while warning of the deep animosity within the bureaucracies of the two NATO allies. "The Erdogan-Trump part of the US-Turkey relationship is really the only component of it that is currently working right now," Cagaptay said. "Confidence between government agencies of both countries has eroded and there is considerable anger towards the US in Turkey and vice versa."

Washington and Ankara hit a new crisis point last month over Syria, after Erdogan began a cross-border incursion against America's Kurdish allies and upended the US presence there. Months earlier, the United States was livid over Turkey's purchase of Russian missile defense systems. Turkey shrugged off threats of US sanctions and began receiving its first S-400 deliveries in July. In response, Washington removed Turkey from

the F-35 fighter jet program, in which Ankara was a manufacturer and buyer. But so far, it has not imposed any sanctions.

The move infuriated the US Congress, whose anger toward Turkey deepened following Ankara's offensive into Syria to drive out the Kurdish militia, Washington's main partner in the fight against Islamic State. The US House of Representatives last month passed a sanctions package to punish Turkey over its Syria operation while key members of the Senate, including Trump ally Lindsey Graham, have vowed to advance it if Ankara endangers Kurds.

The House has also voted in favor of a non-binding resolution recognizing as genocide the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians 100 years ago, for the first time, angering Ankara. Some lawmakers on Monday asked Trump in a letter to rescind the invitation to Erdogan. Erdogan has managed to avoid sanctions so far, but on Sunday, White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien said the threat was real. "If Turkey doesn't get rid of the S-400, I mean, there will likely be sanctions. ... Turkey will feel the impact of those sanctions," he told CBS News.

Washington wants S-400s abandoned

The issues straining the NATO allies stretch well beyond Syria and Russia. While Washington has largely stayed quiet in the face of an increasingly authoritarian Erdogan, it wants Ankara to drop charges against US consular workers prosecuted in Turkey. For Ankara, its long-standing extradition request for US-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen, who it blames for orchestrating the 2016 failed coup, and US charges on Turkey's state-owned Halkbank for Iran sanctions-busting are also contentious.



WASHINGTON DC: In this file photo taken on May 16, 2017 US President Donald Trump meets with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey in the Oval Office of the White House. — AFP

"We are of the same opinion with President Trump to solve problems and to improve our relations despite clouds in our bilateral ties," Erdogan told reporters before his flight to Washington. "We have made significant progress on several issues despite bureaucratic and political sabotage attempts by some remnants of the previous administration."

For Wednesday, the Trump administration's main

goals are to get Erdogan to drop plans to use the S-400s and to agree to a permanent ceasefire in Syria, a senior administration official said. "We want to lock that in," the official said, referring to both issues. If Turkey agrees, Washington could eventually allow Ankara back on the F-35 fighter jet program and offer to sign a \$100 billion trade agreement, two US officials said. But Ankara has yet to signal a reversal. — AFP

Iraq protesters rally as UN steps up mediation

BAGHDAD: Iraqi protesters rallied and many schools stayed closed yesterday as the United Nations stepped up pressure on the government to agree to a raft of reforms. While security forces again faced off with activists around Baghdad's Tahrir (Liberation) Square, teachers and students went on strike across much of the Shiite-majority south.

The UN has proposed a reform plan that demands an immediate end to the violence that has killed more than 300 people since the start of October, as well as a host of reform measures. The UN's top Iraq representative, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, met with Iraq's top religious authority on Monday, days after influential neighbor Iran brokered a political deal to keep the ruling system in place. Iraq's Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani has backed the UN plan but said he feared political forces were not "serious" about enacting the required reforms.

Hennis-Plasschaert was due to attend a special parliamentary session this week in Baghdad, where demonstrators appeared bolstered by her visit. "We're optimistic about the UN and I respect her visit to Sistani," said one demonstrator, Ali Kadhem, 33, at the main protest site of Tahrir Square. "Let them intervene more in Iraq. We want them here. Our people were starved, killed. We've been through everything."

School strikes

Security forces again sealed off Tahrir



NAJAF: Iraqis accompany the coffin of a protester killed during anti-government demonstrations in the capital Baghdad, at his funeral in the central holy city of Najaf. — AFP

with concrete blocks, which activists had earlier pulled down, and lobbed sound grenades at teenage boys who had skipped class to protest. "Our country is dearer to me than my only child," read one slogan daubed on a street nearby, where the usually bustling mechanics' shops remained closed amid the unrest.

Across the country's south, meanwhile, most schools were shut as teachers and students rallied. Schools closed in the towns of Hillah and Kut, where hundreds hit the streets, and in the protest hotspots of Nasiriyah and Diwaniyah. Young people make up 60 percent of Iraq's population of nearly 40 million, and youth unemployment stands at 25 percent, according to the World Bank. The lack

of employment is a key driving force behind the popular anger, with demonstrators accusing the government, the country's biggest employer by far, of handing out jobs based on bribes or nepotism instead of merit.

UN plan

Since the protests started in early October, they have swiftly escalated into demands for a sweeping overhaul of the entire system. But political parties appear to have rallied around the government of embattled Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi. Sources told AFP they closed rank following meetings led by Iran's Major General Qasem Soleimani, the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' foreign operations arm. — AFP

Morales leaves as military pledges to tackle violence

LA PAZ: Bolivia's Evo Morales was en route to exile in Mexico yesterday, leaving behind a country in turmoil after his abrupt resignation as president. As the nation suddenly found itself without a leader, the military agreed to help police take back streets lost to violence from disgruntled supporters of Bolivia's first indigenous president.

The senator set to succeed Morales as interim president, Jeanine Anez, pledged to call fresh elections to end the political crisis. Bolivia appeared increasingly rudderless after dozens of officials and ministers resigned along with Morales, some seeking refuge in foreign embassies. Morales left the country on a military plane sent for him by Mexico, which granted him political asylum for his safety. Mexican foreign minister Marcelo Ebrard confirmed Morales was on the plane.

"It pains me to leave the country for political reasons, but I will always be watching. I will be back soon with more strength and energy," Morales tweeted. His plane landed in Paraguay's capital Asuncion to refuel early

on Tuesday, that country's interior minister Euclides Acevedo told reporters. The crisis touched off by his resignation Sunday — after three weeks of protests over his disputed re-election — deepened Monday as gangs unhappy with his departure attacked police stations and civilians, triggering panic in the streets.

On Monday night hundreds of Morales supporters who traveled to La Paz from nearby El Alto protested outside the presidential palace. Overwhelmed police asked for help from the army. "The military command of the armed forces has arranged for joint operations with the police to prevent bloodshed and fighting amongst the Bolivian family," said chief General Williams Kaliman in a televised address. Three people have died in clashes since the disputed election.

Morales supporters arrested

Morales claimed on Twitter late Monday that two of his homes had been attacked by "vandalism groups." Opposition leader Carlos Mesa claimed on Twitter that "a violent mob" was



LA PAZ: A supporter of ex-President Evo Morales cleans blood from the face of a man after being arrested by policemen who withdrew support from Morales. — AFP

heading for his home to attack it. AFP photographers saw civilians making arrests after tussling with Morales supporters in La Paz, sometimes assisted by police. Some of those detained were made to kneel in the street, hands behind their backs, and some were bloodied.

Shops and offices in La Paz were shuttered on Monday in the wake of looting that broke out late Sunday in parts of La Paz and El Alto. The police — largely confined to barracks since riots broke out on Friday, with many units

joining the protests — were returning to the streets, police chief Vladimir Yuri Calderon said.

Several of Morales' ministers and top officials resigned after his announcement — including many who sought refuge at the Mexican embassy — raising the question of who was in charge, given that vice president Alvaro Garcia Linera had also quit. Under the constitution, power then passes to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the lower house of Congress, in that order. But they have resigned too. — AFP

Supreme Court to re-examine 'Dreamers' program

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court heard arguments on the fate of the "Dreamers," an estimated 700,000 people brought to the country illegally as children but allowed to stay and work under a program created by former president Barack Obama. Known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA, the program came under attack from President Donald Trump who wants it terminated, and expired last year after the Congress failed to come up with a replacement.

Court challenges to the phase-out of the program have now risen to the top court, whose justices will take stock of the issue during oral arguments. A decision is not expected until next year, at the height of the US election campaign in which immigration is likely to be a hot button theme. For the 700,000 DACA immigrants at the crux of the debate, the outcome could not be more personal. "I am definitely afraid," said Jose, a 26-year-old who came from Mexico with his parents at age eight and now works for Microsoft, which has filed an amicus

brief in support of the Dreamers.

He was joined outside the Supreme Court by a fellow Microsoft employee, Juan, a Colombian-born 25-year-old who like Jose asked that his surname not be given. "This is not only about us individuals, but also about our families, our communities," he said. "It should not be decided by courts. Congress should have passed a comprehensive and compassionate immigration policy." Trump, in a tweet Tuesday, held out the possibility of a deal with Democrats if the court scraps the program, but scorned many of the Dreamers "as far from angels."

"Some are very tough, hardened criminals," he wrote. "If Supreme Court remedies with overturn, a deal will be made with Dems for them to stay." If the Supreme Court fails to extend legal protection to the "Dreamers," they are not expected to be automatically deported; most will probably slip quietly into the shadowy life of the undocumented, for whom working and studying is fraught with difficulty.

In the meantime "this is has been like a roller coaster," said Angelica Villalobos, a 34-year-old Mexican mother of five who works in an auto repair shop in Oklahoma. She said she and her husband, who also entered illegally as a minor, talk to their children about what might happen if the court ruling does not go their way and they might become unable to drive or work — "things that we're doing right now that keep the family more normal." — AFP

Spanish royals visit Havana for 500th 'versary

HAVANA: Spain's King Felipe VI began an unprecedented visit to Cuba yesterday to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the capital Havana at a time of increased tensions between the island nation and the United States. King Felipe is traveling alongside Queen Letizia in the first state visit by a Spanish monarch to the former colony, one of the last to gain independence from Madrid in 1898.

The capital — a magnet for millions of tourists every year — is celebrating the anniversary of its foundation on November 16, 1519. However, the wider political context is anything but festive as relations with the United States have soured considerably since President Donald Trump replaced Barack Obama almost three years ago.

Washington accuses Cuba of oppressing its people and providing military support to Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro, thus helping thwart a US bid to force out the socialist leader in favor of parliament speaker Juan Guaido. Last month Washington announced the suspension of all flights from the US to Cuba except to Havana as the Trump administration continues to roll back the improved ties instigated by Obama.

Cuba has increasingly turned

towards traditional allies Russia and Venezuela for support, but also the European Union. "Faced with the harassment of Cuba by the Trump administration, the royal couple's journey to the island can be interpreted as a support to economic, political, cultural relations and cooperation between Cuba and Spain," said Raynier Pellon, an expert at the center for international political research in Havana.

'A Clear Message'

For Cuban researcher Arturo Lopez-Levy from the Holy Names University in the US, it's "a clear message to the White House." Cuba's third largest economic partner — after China and Venezuela — with \$1.39 billion in 2018, Spain has not shied away from criticizing Trump's policies. Foreign minister Josep Borrell, who is accompanying the royal couple, blasted the Trump administration in May for an "abuse of power" after Washington gave the green light a month earlier for Cuban exiles to use US courts to sue private companies and the Cuban government over properties nationalized after the 1959 revolution.

King Felipe will meet Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel during his visit and join Havana's official historian Eusebio Leal for a tour of its fabled cobblestone streets. The king will bring a self-portrait by Francisco Goya, on loan for a month by Madrid's Prado Museum, to be displayed in Havana's Museum of Fine Arts. However, he and Letizia will leave the island before the official celebrations begin on Friday and Saturday, when several other Latin American leaders will attend. — AFP

International

France's yellow vest movement: Diminished but not vanquished

The yellow vests have nonetheless left an indelible mark on France

PARIS: On a November Saturday one year ago, hundreds of thousands of angry French donning fluorescent jackets took to the streets across the country, beginning one of the biggest and most unusual protest movements in the country's modern history. Twelve months after that first November 17 demonstration against social inequalities by the "gilet jaunes" (yellow vests) protesters, the numbers taking to the streets have starkly diminished, the movement is rudderless and President Emmanuel Macron can claim to have largely seen off the challenge.

But the yellow vests have nonetheless left an indelible mark on France, forcing the government into billions of euros of tax breaks, sending a clear message to Macron he needed to change style, and raising new questions about heavy-handed police tactics. And as Macron — who swept to power in 2017 on the wave of pledges to transform France — looks to the second phase of his term up to 2022 elections, the challenge from the street may not be over.

The yellow vests, who wear the high-visibility waistcoats that French drivers must carry by law in case of breakdown, have staged 52 consecutive weeks of protests, and at their peak in December even stormed the Arc de Triomphe in central Paris. But now just a few hundred protesters gather every Saturday in Paris, Toulouse and other French cities to press the central demands of more help for France's less well-off.

'Loss of momentum'

Laurent Jeanpierre, a political science professor in Paris, argued it would be a mistake to declare the end of the movement simply over numerical criteria. "There has indisputably been a loss of momentum compared

to the protests of last year. But the effects of the movement always extend beyond the time of mobilization," he told AFP.

Macron, who was accused by protesters of being an aloof elitist with no sense of ordinary peoples' needs, criss-crossed the country from Normandy to Corsica to hear citizens' concerns. His "Great National Debate" culminated with a total 17 billion euros (\$18.7 billion) in assistance including wage boosts and tax cuts. But the biggest change for Macron has been in the style of a president who once said the head of state should be like Jupiter, and notoriously told a jobseeker to simply cross the street to find work.

"I realized that in many situations I was not managing to make myself understood, or that by wanting to move things on with impatience and energy, I sometimes hurt people or gave the impression I wanted to change the country against the French themselves," Macron said in a radio interview. Before the yellow vests, Macron "thought that he could drive through reforms by being in this Jupiterian state," said the political scientist Jean Garrigues. "He then understood that the hostility expressed by a majority of the French forced another method on him," he added.

'Doesn't matter how many'

The yellow vests, a movement that grew out of social media, never had any formal leadership structure, and a faction that ran in European Parliament elections this year failed to muster even a percentage point of the vote. "It does not matter how many, the most important thing is still to be there," Jerome Rodrigues, who emerged as one of the most prominent leaders after losing an eye during one Paris protest,



MONTPELLIER: A man is arrested by CRS riot police on November 9, 2019 in the center of Montpellier, southern France, during a demonstration as part of a nationwide anti-government protest called by the "yellow vest" movement. — AFP

said at a rally this month in Bordeaux.

But another prominent yellow vest, Fabrice Schlegel, regrets mistakes by the movement, which he says only increased divisions in society without helping purchasing power. "Clearly we failed," Schlegel said at his home in Dole in the Jura region of eastern France. Analysts say the yellow vests were hurt by their refusal to have a clear leader who could put forward a coherent set of demands, even though many

activists argue that would be against the whole ethos of the movement.

The yellow vests have also kept their distance from France's powerful trade unions, which have traditionally presented the main social challenge to French governments, especially on the right. Unions are planning a massive strike starting December 5 that could cripple public transport, and yellow vests leaders have called to join forces with the labor protest. — AFP

High tide: French police warn cocaine fortune hunters off beaches

RENNES: French authorities have closed beaches in southwest France as packages of cocaine and other drugs continue to wash up daily along the Atlantic coast, with nearly 900 kilograms discovered since mid-October, a prosecutor said yesterday. Officials say the cocaine is extremely pure at some 83 percent, warning people who find the packages not to touch them but to warn the police.

That has not stopped some from trying to get their hands on the drugs, whose street value would be in the millions of euros, prompting police to close beaches and start carrying out patrols. On Monday, a 17-year-old was caught with five kilos of cocaine at Lacanau, a closed-off surfing beach near the southwestern city of Bordeaux — he had come from Toulouse, a three-hour drive away. A half-dozen other beaches in the area have been closed as well, with police stopping walkers for searches and also checking cars leaving nearby parking lots.

A police helicopter was also being used along the 125-kilometre stretch between Cap Ferret and Soulac-sur-Mer, which includes the Lacanau beach. A woman who gave her name as Martine failed to notice the closure signs at the Porge beach on Monday, when officers told her and a friend to leave. "When we turned around we saw a package next to the water," she said, saying they alerted the police, who estimated it weighed some four kilos before sealing it in a plastic bag. "It would have been tempting to take it, but we're honest!" she said.

'Very dangerous'

"We've recovered 872 kilos," or 1,920 pounds, Philippe Astruc, the prosecutor in the western city of Rennes, where officials are coordinating the searches, told AFP in a statement. It was a sharp jump from just two days ago, when 763 kilos were reported. "Intense surveillance has been set up by different services, notably the customs agency, all along the French coast," Astruc's office said Sunday. "In this form it's a very dangerous product that could cause an overdose," it said.

Officials have reported the drugs turning up on beaches near Nantes all the way to the resort town of Biarritz, more than 500 kilometers to the south. French investigators are working with European counterparts as well as the US Drug Enforcement Agency to try to determine why the drugs are washing up.

"There are several hypotheses, but for the moment we think it's likely they were jettisoned because of a mechanical problem or during a storm," Astruc said in a statement on Sunday. The Sud-Ouest newspaper reported over the weekend that some packages found on the beach at Arcachon, southwest of Bordeaux, were marked "Diamante" or "Brillante". Packages of cocaine marked with the same words also reportedly washed up in Florida during hurricane Dorian in September, it said. Police seized a record or more than 140 tons of cocaine across Europe in 2017, the most recent data available from the EU's European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, published in June. Most was seized in Belgium and Spain, long the main port of entry for the drug, and its purity has increased markedly over the past ten years, the agency said. — AFP

A Brexit threat in Labour's heartlands?

HARTLEPOOL: In places like eurosceptic Hartlepool in northeast England, long-held party allegiances being reshaped by Brexit could trigger a political earthquake at next month's election. The former shipbuilding and steel hub on Teesside, which voted by almost 70 percent to leave the European Union in the 2016 referendum, has been a traditional stronghold of the Labour Party.

But Britain's main opposition party could be hobbled by its nuanced stance on Brexit, which sees it favouring a second referendum after renegotiating a softer divorce deal with Brussels. That's considered a betrayal by many of Labour's once-loyal voters — and a problem the party could encounter across its Brexit-backing heartlands in northern England. "Labour has done nothing for this town," said Pat Stamper, 81, a recent convert to the Brexit Party set up by populist eurosceptic Nigel Farage. "I was Labour all my life, I was a union woman... But now, it's that," she said, pointing to a turquoise-colored placard of the Brexit Party before predicting it would win big support locally.

'Forgotten place'

Hartlepool is typical of the towns in north England, built on heavy industry but left behind by globalisation, which voted heavily in favour of exiting the EU. Sitting on the windswept North Sea coast, unemployment is nudging double digits and poverty levels are higher than the national average. On a Monday afternoon its main street was largely deserted, while many premises are vacant.

"We're like the forgotten place," said Derrick Nunn, a retiree who backed remaining in the EU and used to vote Conservative but is now unimpressed. "When we were kids we were always brought up to be told you vote

Macron rues global crisis, says new alliances needed

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday lamented an "unprecedented crisis" in the global political system and urged new alliances to solve the world's problems, in a call backed by Chinese and EU leaders. Macron hosted some two dozen heads of state and government at a Peace Forum in Paris just days after he sent shockwaves through Western capitals by warning about the viability of multi-lateral bodies NATO and the EU.

"We are experiencing an unprecedented crisis in our international system," the president said, continuing the theme of an interview he gave to The Economist, published Thursday, in which he had warned NATO was experiencing "brain death" and the EU risked becoming insignificant. The president, who has sought a prominent place on the international stage since coming to power in 2017, said "new ways of cooperation, new alliances" are needed between states and organizations.

The global political and economic systems constructed after the end of World War II, he added, had brought peace to some regions and helped lift many out of poverty. But new inequalities have emerged between peoples and countries to cause the rebirth of nationalism and

unilateralism "even among those who are the last-resort guardians of this international system," said Macron. To face today's challenges — poverty, war, unchecked population growth, migration and dwindling natural resources — the world needed "more cooperation", not less, the president insisted.

No 'hypocrisy'

And he warned there should be no "squeamishness or hypocrisy" when it comes to questioning the workings of multi-national bodies such as the United Nations, which he said had become "blocked".



PARIS: France's President Emmanuel Macron (R) welcomes Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita as he arrives at the Elysee presidential palace for a lunch as part of the Paris Peace Forum. — AFP



HARTLEPOOL: Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage gives a speech in Hartlepool, northeast England, on November 11, 2019 during a general election campaign visit. — AFP

Labour. I won't be voting for any of them," he said. "It's the most unpredictable that I've know it for a lot of years. People are that disillusioned about what's been going on."

'Proper Brexit'

While Britain's parliament has been wracked by division over Brexit, 225 miles north, Hartlepool has hardened its eurosceptic sentiment. The Brexit Party now controls the local council — its first in the country. Farage brought his Brexit Party bandwagon to town on Monday to announce he would be standing down his candidates in Conservative-held seats nationwide.

He had threatened to field candidates everywhere but faced defections and growing criticism that he would split the eurosceptic vote and hand victory to pro-EU parties pushing for another referendum. But his party still plans to contest hundreds of other constituencies, including "Leave"-supporting Labour seats like

Hartlepool. Labour incumbent Mike Hill looks increasingly vulnerable with Brexit now the dominant issue.

"My pledge to the voters of Hartlepool: I'm going to get a proper Brexit done, and I'm going to bring money and jobs," vowed Brexit Party chairman and local candidate Richard Tice. He insisted the party stood a better chance of beating Labour than the Conservatives, who would "end up basically being a paper candidate".

Tribal loyalty

But the ruling Conservatives — resurgent under Prime Minister Boris Johnson since he took power in July — had also scented an opportunity to win Hartlepool. The Tories have been widely disliked across swathes of working-class northern England. In the 1980s then premier Margaret Thatcher's government shut coal mines in the region, putting thousands out of work and devastating communities. Many have yet to recover. — AFP

EU lawyer backs Catalan MEP-elect, in big blow to Spain

LUXEMBOURG: A senior legal advisor to the European Court of Justice said yesterday a member of the European Parliament's mandate should depend on his or her election, in a blow to Spain's attempt to stop Catalan separatists from taking their seats. In June, Spain's Supreme Court prevented the Catalonia region's jailed former vice president Oriol Junqueras from taking up his MEP seat by refusing to release him to attend a ceremony to swear fealty to the Spanish constitution.

Under Spanish law, newly elected European lawmakers must make this oath before travelling to the parliament to take up their seats, but Junqueras appealed to the EU court and won a first victory yesterday with the legal advice. The advice of the EU advocate general, Maciej G. Spunzar, is not binding on the ECJ, but will be interpreted as a sign that the judges are likely to order that Junqueras and other Catalan MEPs be allowed to sit in parliament.

"The parliamentary mandate may be acquired solely from the electorate and may not be conditional on the completion of any subsequent formality," the court said, in a statement summarizing Spunzar's legal opinion. "He considers that taking the oath to respect the Spanish constitution is not a step in the process for election to the European Parliament in Spain, and that process must be regarded as being concluded with the official declaration of the results," he argued. "Consequently, the status of a member of the Parliament must be deemed to have been acquired solely as a result, and from the moment of that declaration." — AFP

International

Pakistan installs statue of Indian pilot shot down over Kashmir

The statue stands in a gallery named Operation Swift Retort

KARACHI: Pakistan has put on display a statue of an Indian pilot whose plane was shot down over Kashmir earlier this year, invoking the ire of India's media. The life-sized statue of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman — complete with his signature moustache — has been installed in an exhibit at a museum in Karachi run by the Pakistan Air Force. Varthaman's plane was shot down in a dogfight over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir in February during clashes which brought nuclear-armed India and Pakistan to the brink of a new war.

After his capture, the Pakistani military released video showing him sipping a cup of tea and politely refusing to answer questions. His stoic and courteous demeanor — and comment that the tea was “fantastic” — catapulted him to hero status in India. He was released several days later in a peace gesture from Pakistan aimed at defusing tensions. The statue stands in a gallery named Operation Swift Retort. The exhibit includes what Pakistan says are parts of the fuselage and tail of Varthaman's aircraft, a Mig-21, as well as a tea mug — though apparently not the same one the pilot was seen sipping from.

The gallery also contains images re-enacting the moment his plane was shot down, and photographs showing him being handed back to India at the Wagah border crossing. A mess receipt jokingly charging Varthaman for the tea — at the cost of one Mig-21 — is also framed in the exhibit. Images of the mocking receipt went viral in the days after his capture. The museum stands inside a recreational park for young people in Karachi, complete with decommissioned aircraft and other military hardware. “I feel very proud of my country seeing Abhinandan's statue at the gallery,” said Samiullah Bari, a 10th grade student visiting the museum at a school trip. Indians were less enthusiastic, however, with the Times of India newspaper calling the exhibit “a new low”. — AFP



KARACHI: Students take a selfie in front of the statue of Indian pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman (2R) whose plane was shot down over Kashmir earlier this year, put on display at Pakistan Air Force Museum. — AFP

Do-it-yourself temple waits to move into Indian holy site

AYODHYA: Huge slabs of pink Rajasthan stone, carved pillars and bricks from across India are already waiting to form a Hindu temple to be built on the site of a demolished mosque at the centre of decades of deadly turbulence. Enough stone to build a small mountain was waiting at a complex in the holy city of Ayodhya years before the country's Supreme Court ruled on Saturday that the site should be handed over to Hindus to build a new temple.

A mosque stood on the site for almost five centuries until it was demolished by Hindu zealots in 1992, sparking riots across the country in which 2,000 people, mainly

Muslims, died. Dozens of stonemasons and artisans have been chipping away at the blocks since an appeal for contributions toward a “grand Hindu temple” in Ayodhya was launched in 1990, without knowing when, or whether, the building would be erected. Cash donations and bricks were sent from around the world.

The workers went back to their home towns and villages just before Saturday's long-awaited verdict, which said Muslims would get their own land on a new site to build a mosque. After decades of litigation and religious strife, Hindus rejoiced at the ruling. Activists, priests and pilgrims have since thronged the Nyas Karyashaala workshop, a few kilometres from the contested site where Hindus believe the god Rama was born.

“We never lost faith. We always believed that a grand temple would be built,” Sharad Sharma, a spokesman for the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) told AFP at the site. “Almost 65 percent of the stone and pillars needed for the temple are ready. Our designs have also been approved by a gathering of religious leaders.”

Sharma added. While there are no officially approved plans for the temple, many believe that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will follow the design prepared by the workshop. The party has close to the leaders of the temple movement.

A model of the “approved” temple is on display at the entry to the noisy workshop. The new temple would use about 170,000 cubic feet of stone and will be 38 meters tall and 81 meters long, Sharma said. It will have its own shed for cows — considered by Hindus to be sacred — as well as a huge prayer hall. “We have planned everything to the last detail. We never stopped our work in the last three decades for a moment like this,” he added. Media reports have said construction could start as early as next year. The Supreme Court directed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government to form a trust to oversee the planning and building work. “So many of us dreamed of this moment for decades,” Brijmohan Das, a Hindu holy man associated with the movement told AFP. “It is finally happening in our lifetime.” — AFP

Afghanistan to release Taliban prisoners in hostage swap

KABUL: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced yesterday that three high-ranking Taliban prisoners would be released, in an apparent exchange for two Western hostages who were kidnapped by the insurgents in 2016. The three Taliban prisoners include Anas Haqqani, who was seized in 2014 and whose older brother is the deputy Taliban leader and head of the Haqqani network, a notorious Taliban affiliate.

“We have decided to conditionally release three Taliban prisoners who... have been in Bagram prison in the custody of the Afghan government for some time,” Ghani said in an announcement at the presidential palace. He did not specify the fate of the Western hostages — an Australian and an American — and it was not clear when or where they would be freed.

But Ghani noted in his speech that “their health has been deteriorating while in the custody of the terrorists”. He added that the release of the two professors would “pave the way” for the start of unofficial direct talks between his government and

the Taliban, who long have refused to negotiate with Ghani's administration.

Ghani, flanked by his top security advisors, said the decision to release the three Taliban prisoners had been “very hard and necessary”. His announcement came one day after Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency chief Faiz Hameed met with Afghanistan's national security adviser Hamdullah Mohib in Kabul. “They talked about improving the relation between the two countries,” Afghanistan's national security council spokesman Kabir Haqmal said. Pakistan has long been accused of supporting the Taliban, a charge it denies. The Haqqani network was described by US Admiral Mike Mullen in 2011 as a “veritable arm” of Pakistani intelligence.

‘Seriously ill’

In August 2016, gunmen wearing military uniforms kidnapped two professors of the American University of Afghanistan in the heart of Kabul. The two, American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks, later appeared looking haggard in a Taliban hostage video, with the insurgents going on to say that King was in poor health. A Taliban source in Pakistan told AFP yesterday that King had been “seriously ill”, and the insurgents were worried he could die in their custody. The elite American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) opened in 2006 and has attracted a number of faculty members from Western countries. In a statement, AUAF said it was “encouraged” to hear news of the possible release of the two professors.

“While AUAF is not part of these discussions, we continue to urge the immediate and safe return of our faculty members who have been held in captivity, away from their friends and families, for more than three years,” the statement read. The US and the Australian embassies in Kabul declined to provide immediate comment. Taliban expert Rahimullah Yusufzai said a prisoner exchange could prove a vital confidence-building measure in getting talks back on track between the US and the Taliban.

President Donald Trump in September ended lengthy negotiations amid continued Taliban violence, and experts say the US is unwilling to resume talks without some concession from the Taliban. “This step will have a big impact on the talks, the hurdles in talks are being removed, slowly and gradually,” Yusufzai said. “It very clearly shows that Americans have decided that they want a resumption of talks with the Taliban.” The other two Taliban prisoners to be released are: Haji Mali Khan, believed to be the uncle of Haqqani network leader Sirajuddin Haqqani; and Abdul Rashid, said to be the brother of Mohammad Nabi Omari, a member of the Taliban's political office in Qatar. — AFP



BRAHMANBARIA: Bystanders look on after a train collided with another train in Brahmanbaria some 130 kms from Dhaka. — AFP

16 dead as trains collide in Bangladesh

DHAKA: Two packed trains rammed into each other in Bangladesh yesterday, killing at least 16 people and injuring nearly 60 others, police said. Three coaches were sent crashing off the tracks at Mondobhag station in the town of Kasba when a Dhaka-bound train and a locomotive bound for Chittagong collided.

“At least 16 people have been killed. And another 58 were injured. We have sent the injured to different hospitals in the region,” local police chief Anisur Rahman said. Cranes and other lifting gear were brought in to rescue trapped passengers, many of whom were asleep when the early morning crash took place. “There was a

loud noise, then I saw the train was completely ripped apart,” one injured passenger told Somoy TV. “All the people around me were crying. There was blood everywhere. Some people had broken hands and legs,” another told the broadcaster. “My son was with me. I still don't know what happened to him,” the man added.

Hayat ud Doula Khan, a government official in the district, said the Dhaka-bound Turna Nishitha train, hit the Chittagong-bound Udayan Express at about 3:00 am (2100 GMT Monday) as the Udayan was about to go through Mondobhag station. Khan told AFP that the Turna Nishitha should have waited outside the station to let the other train pass and that an investigation had been started. A Bangladesh railway official told reporters faulty signals could be to blame. “Three coaches were badly mangled and the victims are from these coaches,” Khan said, adding that train services out of Dhaka had been halted because of the accident. — AFP

Lanka prisoners demand freedom

COLOMBO: Hundreds of inmates at Sri Lanka's biggest high-security prison staged a second day of protests yesterday, demanding their freedom after the president pardoned a well-connected man convicted of brutally murdering a Swedish teenager. Jude Jayamaha, convicted of killing Yvonne Jonsson in Colombo in 2005, walked free on Saturday following the highly unusual pardon granted by President Maithripala Sirisena, whose term in office ends this weekend.

Police said around 1,000 prisoners had refused on Monday to return to their cells at

Welikada prison in Colombo, while four inmates had clambered onto the prison's roof. An official said police commandos were standing by outside with orders to move in if necessary. There were reports of a similar protest at another prison in the south of the island.

The prisoners are demanding their release on the same terms as Jayamaha, who hails from a wealthy Colombo family with political connections. The victim Jonsson, 19, whose mother was Sri Lankan and father Swedish, was holidaying in Sri Lanka when she was beaten to death in a Colombo high-rise apartment after she and Jayamaha had an argument.

The trial heard her skull had been fractured into 64 pieces. Sirisena announced the pardon last weekend ahead of Saturday's presidential election, when he is leaving office. The announcement of the amnesty provoked an

Raging Australian bushfires hit Sydney suburbs

SYDNEY: Bushfires raging across eastern Australia singed Sydney's suburbs yesterday, with firefighters scrambling planes and helicopters to douse a built-up neighborhood with water and red retardant. Experts have described the conditions as the worst on record, as spring temperatures climbed toward 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and winds topped 80 kilometers per hour across a zone which has been plagued by persistent drought.

Although the bushfire season is in its infancy, scientists predict it to be one of Australia's toughest ever, with climate change and unfavorable weather cycles helping created a tinderbox of strong winds, low humidity and high temperatures. Twin blazes in the north shore suburb of Turramurra — around 15 kilometers from the centre of Australia's largest city — tore through a eucalypt forest park and sparked spot fires in homes, before eventually being brought under control.

As night fell, authorities said they were bringing another “clearly suspicious” blaze in a national park in the city's southern suburbs under control. Throughout the day, more than 300 bushfires burned up and down Australia's east coast, fanned by gale-force winds, scorching temperatures and tinder-dry bushland that has brought some of the most dangerous conditions the country has seen.

In Turramurra, gardens smouldered, thick smoke hung heavy in the air and cars, houses and roads were caked in raspberry-red retardant as if hit by a giant paintball. “It was the embers that floated up that actually went across and set off spot fires in the front yards” resident Nigel Lush told AFP, adding that one roof had been set alight.

Another resident, Julia Gretton-Roberts, said the blaze spread shockingly quickly. “Next thing I know the fire was opposite our house and it was massive and the police came and grabbed our kids and took them away,” she said. “My daughter is pretty freaked out.” Firefighter Andrew Cannon told AFP “a number of homes were threatened but it was contained by the aerial bombing”.

‘Catastrophic conditions’

From early morning thousands of firefighters spread out across New South Wales in anticipation of what they called “off the scale” fire risk and “catastrophic” conditions. They were unable to prevent several bushfires from breaching containment lines and trapping residents who had not already evacuated.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said so far only a dozen buildings had been damaged Tuesday and a handful non-life-threatening injuries were reported, but the crisis was far from over. Firefighters will be “working on these fires for days and weeks given the enormity of the firegrounds,” he said.

Even before unfavorable weather hit, days of fires had killed three people and destroyed at least 150 homes. “The conditions are expected to get worse,” Fitzsimmons said, warning residents in adjacent areas to stay alert. “Complacency kills,” he added. Up to 600 schools were closed, as well as many national parks, a total fire ban was introduced for the affected area and Rally Australia — due to be held in Coffs Harbour at the weekend — was cancelled. The military pitched in, helping firefighters with logistics and water-dropping sorties using more than 100 aircraft.

‘We'll fight it first’

In the town of Hillville a fire that has ripped through an area the size of 25,000 soccer fields approached the home of Daniel Stevens. Like many, his family — including his mother nursing a broken leg — have packed their bags, but have resisted leaving their house and everything they own. “We'll fight it first,” he told AFP, “but if it jumps the fence line into the paddock, we'll go.”

In the nearby town of Taree, dozens of people have already moved to a showground that has become a makeshift evacuation centre. Fifty-nine-year-old Caroline Watson arrived last night with her husband and their dog. “The fires are just rife. They are absolutely everywhere” she told AFP. “They didn't ask us to get out, but we figured it was coming.” Further south in the Blue Mountains on the outskirts of Sydney, veteran Winmalee firefighter Alan Gardiner said locals were “terrified and on edge”.

The town still bears the scars of a 2013 blaze that destroyed 200 homes, and residents are acutely aware that with few roads in and out of the mountains, a decision to leave late can be fatal. Efforts to burn fuel in a controlled way have been limited by months of drought-like conditions that made it too dangerous. — AFP



KABUL: This file handout photo taken on October 15, 2014 by the Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) shows Taliban prisoner Anas Haqqani, a senior leader of the Haqqani network. — AFP

angry backlash on social media as well as from mainstream political parties. The ruling party presidential candidate, Sajith Premadasa, said if elected he would consider legal options to overturn Sirisena's pardon.

“I condemn the action of granting this amnesty,” Premadasa told reporters in Colombo on Tuesday. “We will examine all legal aspects.” He added: “The release of a murderer does not conform to my set of ethics.” Jayamaha was initially sentenced to 12 years in prison. He appealed to a higher court, which rejected his plea and instead sentenced him to death, which was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in 2014. Jonsson's sister Caroline wrote in a Facebook post about her concerns over Jayamaha's pardon before the amnesty announcement. “He showed and continues to show absolutely no remorse for what he has done,” she wrote. — AFP

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

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

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

Iraqi elite rallies around Iran plan to hang on to power

Iraq's ruling parties appear to have rallied behind a strategy, blessed by Iran, to try to survive a mass anti-government uprising by containing protests on the streets of Baghdad while offering a package of political reforms and elections next year. But the proposed solution involves keeping in power a ruling elite that Iran has cultivated for years - unlikely to placate protesters who have been demanding the entire caste of politicians be swept aside.

Iran has been closely involved in formulating the new strategy, with a number of meetings between political groups and government figures attended by Qassem Soleimani, the general who commands the Quds Force of Iran's Revolutionary Guards that supervises Tehran's clients across the Middle East. Two sources with knowledge of the talks said Soleimani had approved the reform plan, which would keep Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi in power until new elections next year, as it would give Iran time to recalculate how to retain influence.

The protests pose the biggest challenge to Iraq's Shiite-dominated political order since it emerged after a 2003 US invasion toppled Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein. At least 300 protesters have been killed, most by security forces firing live ammunition into crowds. But the violent response has done little to persuade the protesters to leave the streets. A senior security official told Reuters new tactics were being rolled out to try to confine the demonstrations to Baghdad's Tahrir Square, a roadway junction at the foot of a bridge across the Tigris, where demonstrators have camped out for weeks.

"Security forces received new orders on Saturday that protesters must be kept in Tahrir Square," the security official said. "They're working quietly now to seal off the square from all directions, and an arrest campaign is expected to follow in a bid to reduce momentum of the protests."

Meanwhile the authorities will push on with a reform plan to mollify the crowd, with new elections run by a commission intended to be more independent, and parliament restructured to be smaller and more representative of Iraq's diverse population. Sources who have attended recent government meetings say the strategy now enjoys the backing not only of the Iran-backed parties that support the government, but also of their main rivals, the faction of Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr, who regularly denounces Iran and had called for Abdul Mahdi to quit.

Sunni and Kurdish political leaders also support the plan. "The anger of protesters at everyone in politics, even religious figures, forced all parties to listen to Iranian advice and work together to keep Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's government standing," said a source close to Sadr. "Even Sadr is on board," he said. "He worried that protests he's not controlling could also threaten his position" among his followers, the source said.

Reforms

The new reforms include lowering the minimum age of candidates, increasing the number of voting districts and reducing parliament to 222 seats from 329, according to a proposal from Iraq's President Barham Salih seen by Reuters. Political appointees on Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission would be replaced with technocrats and judges. Parliament will vote on the changes before eventually approving a date for early elections in 2020, two sources close to the talks said, leaving room for potential delays.

Izzat Shahbandar, an independent who has been mediating among senior political figures including Abdul Mahdi and regularly meets with protesters, said a partial cabinet reshuffle was agreed in principle, with the premier staying. "Everyone has rallied around the prime minister now. He's their best bet to avoid chaos," he said. It remains to be seen whether the promise of reforms can take any of the heat out of the protests. The reforms clearly fall short of protester demands to scrap the entire post-Saddam political system, but parties could present them as evidence that they are serious about moving in the right direction.

Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani, who speaks on politics only in times of crisis and wields enormous influence over public opinion in Shiite-majority Iraq, has called for serious reform within a "reasonable time frame". He has urged protesters not to go home until concrete steps are taken to meet their demands. As the protesters' demands have become more specific, some have called for a system with an elected executive president, less beholden to the political factions that have selected all of Iraq's post-Saddam prime ministers behind closed doors.

Most say they just want the rulers out. "They choke us so we can't breathe, so we can't speak and tell them to go away!" said Ammar, 20, from Baghdad's Sadr City district, wearing a helmet with a scarf around his face at a medical tent where he was being treated for tear gas exposure. "We're dying here for our future. We're dying for things to change." — Reuters

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



School resource officer John Pence, who serves as an extra precaution to help keep students safe in the building, poses at Sidney High School in Sidney, Ohio, Oct 31, 2019. — AFP

Why did one Ohio school district arm teachers?

At the entrance to Sidney High School in small-town Ohio, there is a poster which reads: "Inside this building, our children are protected by an armed and trained response team." In rural Shelby County, law enforcement trained some teachers to fight back, should an attacker threaten students. They were among the first in the United States to embrace the controversial strategy.

On Halloween, as high school students and staff roam the hallways, John Pence - a firearm on his belt - patrols calmly. He is a full-time resource officer, assigned to ensure security at Sidney High. That arrangement has become commonplace across the country, as the number of school shootings has multiplied. But he has back-up: The response team of armed teachers, who have volunteered for the job.

So far, about 15 US states have approved similar setups, but many are not happy about putting weapons in the hands of educators. Pence rejects the usual arguments, saying: "In some areas, probably it might not work - maybe in a city. But most of these employees have been exposed to some type of firearms training beforehand."

One Sidney teacher, who cannot be named in order to protect the confidential nature of the armed response team, is indeed one such case. He is an avid hunter. He says he had "no fears, no hesitations" about joining the effort to safeguard the school - even if that means that one day, he could find himself faced with the prospect of shooting at one of his students.

"That's one of those boxes that mentally you can have to check," he told AFP. "I have a wife and I have kids so if anybody is going to try to do any harm to them, this is what I'm going to do - this is what has to be done if it's a student that is causing the threat. The other students being

threatened, they have the right to go home to their parents that night too."

A death every 17 seconds

The idea of arming teachers - the "program" as those in Sidney call it - first surfaced after the Newtown shooting in 2012, in which 26 people, including 20 children, were killed at Sandy Hook elementary school. The shooter also shot and killed his mother before taking his own life. After that horrific attack, Shelby County Sheriff John Lenhart says he realized how vulnerable the schools in his area were. He pushed for new safety measures as he contemplated a hard truth: "The rule of thumb is after the first shot is fired, every 17 seconds after that, somebody dies. So you need an immediate response."

But he never suggested that teachers should give lessons or patrol the hallways with a firearm on their hips. "I didn't want our schools to look like the Wild Wild West, like an armed fortress," said Lenhart, who sports a thin white mustache. The response team has access to 9mm Glock pistols, which are kept - along with the ammunition - in small black safes that only open when the digital fingerprint of an authorized user is scanned.

Bob Humble, the superintendent of Sidney's school district, which accounts for 3,500 students in six buildings, is proud of being a trailblazer. He thinks that in addition to ensuring a quick response in case of an emergency, the team offers a compelling deterrent to any "crazy people with guns". "Their goal is to get the highest body count they can in the shortest amount of time," Humble says. "This is why I think the chances of this happening are very low now, simply because they know someone's going to take them down in a hurry." For Humble, having such a

security team "is just common sense". "The kids don't think anything about it. You can't really hear anyone talking about it - it's just embedded into the community now."

'It makes me feel safe'

At the end of the school day, parents, grandparents and babysitters sit in an orderly line of cars, waiting to retrieve their young charges. David Bishop, who is picking up his granddaughter, says the armed response team at Sidney High is fine with him. "My granddaughter, she knows how to handle a gun," he says. "Her brother and dad have guns, her mother too. She's too young yet, but they have taught her how to respect a gun and how to use it if needed."

High school senior Tom, who is 18 and asked that his last name not be revealed, said students hardly talk about the "program" in their free time. "We all know the weapons are there, but it doesn't really concern us. I know they are locked up in a safe - the kids can't get them," he says. The young man casually says he has faith in the teachers to protect him. "I like the idea. It makes me feel safe because I know they are specially trained if an intruder comes in and they are able to stop him," Tom explains. Before being invited to join the program, teachers are vetted in "serious interviews" and their criminal records are checked, Lenhart says. After an initial 20 hours of training given by police, teachers go through refresher courses once a month. "I'm very confident that our schools are some of the safest in the nation," Lenhart says. The teacher who is part of the response team says he believes the vetting process is airtight, so the team can be trusted. As an example, he explains that a few years ago, two teachers on staff were going through a divorce. The male teacher was immediately removed from the "program" and his access to the safes revoked while his personal life was in turmoil. — AFP

'I'm back': Lula fills leftist leadership void

Out of jail and full of rage, Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has put his far-right nemesis President Jair Bolsonaro in the crosshairs, as he takes up the mantle of leading the left. Declaring "I'm back" in a fiery speech to hundreds of supporters near Sao Paulo on Saturday, Lula, 74, appeared energized by his year-and-a-half-long incarceration for corruption as he spoke for nearly an hour in the heat, a day after walking out of prison.

Ripping apart Bolsonaro's economic policies and accusing him of serving criminal groups in Rio de Janeiro, the former president signaled his intention to fill the left's leadership void and take them to victory in the 2022 election. "The leader of the left has shown his willingness to use the most messianic version of himself to try to awaken a leftist opposition lacking ideas and leadership," the respected Folha de Sao Paulo daily said in an editorial on Monday. Brazil's left has floundered since Lula's jailing

in April 2018. Without the charismatic leader at the helm, the Workers Party (PT) that Lula helped found nearly 40 years ago lost the 2018 election to far-right Bolsonaro and has been largely rudderless ever since. Lula's release following a Supreme Court ruling on Thursday could change that, said Vinicius Vieira, a professor of international relations at the University of Sao Paulo.

"He presents a great challenge in the midst of Bolsonaro's declining popularity," Vieira told AFP. "Lula is able to mobilize a lot of people who recognize the PT's corruption, but also remember the benefits of economic growth, income growth during Lula's government." Known for his common touch, Lula plans to traverse the vast country, starting Sunday with a meeting in Recife, the capital of the northeastern state of Pernambuco, where he was born. "Lula will eclipse Bolsonaro in the coming weeks and will be the focus of attention," said Thiago Vidal, a political analyst at Prospectiva consultancy. "The question is how Bolsonaro and his government will react."

'Scoundrel'

So far, Bolsonaro has branded Lula a "scoundrel". General Augusto Heleno, the minister for institutional security and a close adviser to the president, accused Lula of inciting violence after he praised the protests against Chile's conservative President Sebastian Pinera.

Lula remains extremely popular in Brazil after he led the country through a historic boom from 2003 to 2010, earning the gratitude of millions of Brazilians for redistributing wealth to haul them out of poverty.

Since leaving office, however, his image has been tarnished by a corruption investigation called Car Wash that exposed a massive kickback scheme involving the state oil giant Petrobras. Lula was among scores of high-profile politicians and business elite caught up in the probe that shocked even Brazilians long used to corrupt leaders. He was serving eight years and 10 months for corruption and money laundering when the Supreme Court issued a ruling last Thursday that could free thousands of convicts.

Lula was sentenced to almost 13 years in February in a separate corruption case and still faces another half dozen corruption trials. While his criminal record prevents him from running for office for now, Lula has made clear he will be politically active as he seeks to revive the left. But to expand his appeal, the former shoeshine boy and steelworker is likely to tone down his fervent language and forge alliances of convenience, as he has done in the past. "He wanted a fiery first speech to please his (leftist) activists," said Sylvio Costa, a journalist for the Congress in Focus website. "But I think we will soon see a more pragmatic Lula, anxious to get the PT out of the isolation of opposition." — AFP

Brazil dentists give battered women new life

Ana Claudia Rocha Ferreira suffered domestic abuse at the hands of multiple partners, dating back to when she was just 15 years old. The violence took a mental and physical toll. "I only had four teeth left in the front. I was ashamed to go out," she explains. Rocha is one of millions of women who are victimized by their partners in Brazil. In nearly all of the cases, men target the women's faces and teeth, in order to diminish their femininity and feelings of self-worth.

Rocha was one of the lucky ones. She got new confidence - and a new smile - thanks to Rio de Janeiro dentist Armando Piva, who is part of a non-governmental network of volunteers rebuilding the teeth, and the lives, of battered women. Rocha says the dental work was like a "dream" and changed her life. But before her brilliant white grin - emphasized by bright red lipstick - was restored, Rocha went through some grim times.

"The assaults began when I was just 15 years old, and I was pregnant with my first daughter," explains the young black woman, who works at a graphic design firm - and already has four grandchildren at age 39. "He started punching me. I left him. But afterward, the father of my second daughter also started hitting me. My teeth fell out one after another," she recalls.

Rocha, who lives in a slum in Rio's vast Sao Cristovao area, says that in the favelas, "men say they like to beat up their woman so no one else wants her. They leave their mark on her face". She didn't leave her second abusive partner because she didn't have the money to do so. She

also couldn't go home to her mother, who kicked her out at a young age. Her mom's history was similar - she was beaten all of her life and did not have one tooth left, Rocha recounts. "Since I was 18 until now, I have not smiled," she laments. "I was constantly mortified."

One day, she sent a message on Instagram to an actress who she admired - a bit of a shot in the dark. She didn't ask for any money but asked for help, saying she wanted beautiful teeth like the actress had. The actress responded, putting Rocha in touch with the volunteer dentists. The treatment by Piva lasted nearly a year at his ultra-modern office in Rio's chic Barra da Tijuca neighborhood - a stark contrast to Rocha's bleak slum. He used dental implants to restore Rocha's confidence and smile. With giant hoop earrings swinging from her ears, and drawing attention to her face, she says she is very happy: "Never again will I accept being hit."

'Punches, kicks, elbow jabs'

Brazil is rough on its women: 27 percent, or 16 million women, say they suffered some kind of physical or mental abuse last year, according to the Brazilian Forum on Public Security (FBSP). Of those incidents, 42 percent were cases of domestic violence. Black women are the most often affected. And the country overall is one of the most violent in the world, with 57,000 murders last year alone. A lingering economic crisis has left 12 million people without jobs, and such hopelessness can be a breeding ground for violence against women. "We realized that the number of women who were victims of domestic violence was huge," explains Piva, who Rocha calls her "angel".

In 2012, dentist Fabio Bibancos founded the NGO Apolonias do Bem, named for Saint Apollonia, the patron saint of dentists. Her teeth were pulled out or smashed, according to Christian tradition. Piva says that more than 1,000 women have received treatment so far. The network of volunteer dentists extends beyond Brazil to 12 other Latin American countries and Portugal. In all, there are



Ana Claudia, 37, smiles as she poses for pictures during an interview in Rio de Janeiro on Sept 9, 2019. — AFP

1,700 participating doctors working with battered women of limited means. Only one condition: They must no longer live with their attacker. In Brazil, where dental practices are state-of-the-art, each woman is receiving on average five or six implants. Such treatment typically would cost about 30,000 reais, or \$7,300. For these women, it is financed by private donations, companies and the dentists themselves. There are no public funds. "In Brazil, these women have a right to mental health care and legal aid, but no help with dental care," says Piva.

"However, in a majority of cases, if not all cases, physical abuse starts with the mouth: punches, kicks, elbow jabs, or even attacks with kitchen utensils," he notes. "The attackers' wish is to destroy the woman's desire to smile. And we see that the majority of these women have lost more than half of their upper teeth." These disfigurements can prevent the women from finding jobs. "No one is going to hire a nanny without front teeth. No store is going to hire a salesperson without front teeth," says Piva. — AFP

Business

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

12 Asia in the dark on trade; stocks seek enlightenment from Trump**13** New INFINITI QX80 - Built to transform driving experiences**14** Capsule living: A 'cheap' option for young people flocking to LA

NEW YORK: A number of Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are parked at Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville, California. Boeing on Monday said it expects the 737 MAX airplane, which was grounded after two crashes killed 346 people, to resume flying in January, delaying its return by one month. — AFP

Situation critical: Vodafone future in doubt

India Supreme Court ruling - latest blow for beleaguered sector

LONDON: Vodafone said its future in India could be in doubt unless the government stopped hitting operators with higher taxes and charges, after a court judgment over license fees resulted in a 1.9 billion euro group loss in its first half. Chief Executive Nick Read said India, where Vodafone formed a joint venture with Idea Cellular in 2018, had been "a very challenging situation for a long time", but Vodafone Idea still had 300 million customers, equating to a 30% share of the sizable market.

"Financially there's been a heavy burden through unsupportive regulation, excessive taxes and on top of that we got the negative supreme court decision," he said yesterday. Vodafone had asked the government for a relief package comprising a two-year moratorium on spectrum payments, lower license fees and taxes and the waiving of interest and penalties on the Supreme Court case, which centered on regulatory fees. Asked if it made sense for Vodafone to remain in India without such a relief package, he said: "It's fair to say it's a very

critical situation."

India's top court upheld a demand from the country's telecoms department for \$13 billion in overdue levies



Organic service revenue returns to growth in Q2

and interest last month, hitting the shares of both Vodafone Idea and rival Bharti Airtel. Vodafone has clashed with Indian authorities over tax and regulatory

issues ever since it entered the country with a \$11 billion deal to buy 67% of Hutchison Essar in 2007. The arrival of new entrant Reliance Jio Infocomm in 2016 added to Vodafone's problems by sparking a brutal price war. It responded by combining its operations with Idea Cellular, a deal that closed in 2018.

Read said Vodafone was not committing any more equity to India and the country effectively contributed zero value to the company's share price. As a result of the ruling, it has written down the value of its stake in the joint venture to zero. It also owns a stake in Indian tower operator Indus Towers, along with Bharti Airtel. Vodafone's shares were up 1.7% at 163 pence at 1040 GMT as investors focused on an upgrade to its earnings forecast rather than India.

Upgraded forecast

The world's second largest mobile operator reported improving organic revenue growth with signs of

improvement in Spain and Italy and as it integrates a German cable acquisition. It said organic service revenue rose 0.3% in the first half, as it returned to growth in the second quarter, while organic core earnings rose 1.4%. It increased its forecast for adjusted core earnings to 14.8-15.0 billion euros from its previous forecast of 13.8-14.2 billion euros, but said India and lower cash flows following the sale of assets in New Zealand meant free cash flow would be "around" 5.4 billion euros, rather than the "at least" 5.4 billion euros previously forecast.

Apart from India, Read said he was pleased with progress. "This is reflected in our return to top-line growth in the second quarter, which we expect to build upon in the second half of the year in both Europe and Africa," he said. Read cut Vodafone's dividend for the first time in May after tough market conditions and a need to invest in its networks and airwaves caused him to back-track on his pledge not to reduce the payout. — Reuters

Could property inheritance help close US 'wealth gap'?

WASHINGTON: From her home in West Oakland, a gentrifying neighborhood across the bay from San Francisco, Iris Corina could see a looming problem - and she worried her neighbors were not doing enough to prepare. Of the more than 70 families living around her, she knew of just two that had formally written wills and gone through the related legal process to ensure their homes passed on to their children when they died.

"African-American properties are not being transferred (to the next generation)," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Property values have gone up so much, our children can't afford to buy a home in West Oakland." "So what's going to happen when you pass, and your son and daughter

aren't getting along? You need to make it as easy as possible not to lose (your) property," said Corina, 70, who finished up her own will a year ago.

Financial experts warn that the lack of estate planning among US low-income and minority communities leaves families at risk of losing what is often their largest single asset, potentially propagating longstanding racial inequalities. While 45% of white adult Americans respondents have a will, just 31% of black Americans do, according to a 2019 survey from Caring.com, a non-profit for caregivers.

Further, will writing in general is on the decline, with a Gallup 2016 survey revealing a 6% drop from a decade earlier, in addition to significantly lower rates among poor Americans. The issue is getting new attention, fueled in part by the increasing recognition of the persistent "wealth gap" between white and minority communities, lawyers and banking executives told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Astrid Andre, an adjunct professor at New York Law School who focuses on economic development, noted that homeownership has historically been seen as a safeguard against gentrification and a tool for lifting families out of poverty. But there has

not been similar emphasis on maintaining that asset between generations, she added. "Having (estate planning) as a priority as part of our financial literacy discussion could be really helpful," she said. "But it's not happening quite yet."

Racial gap

In the United States, what happens to the assets of a person who dies without a will varies from state to state. Most states seek to split real estate among the deceased's surviving heirs, which usually means spouses and children but can also include distant relatives - none of whom are bound to the original owner's wishes.

A form of this problem known as heirs' property - a type of enforced communal ownership that can arise when land or a home is passed on without a clear will - has resulted in the loss of nearly 3.8 million acres of land over the past century, according to the US government. Most of that land, valued at some \$6 billion, belonged to black families, the research showed. The exact role that inheritance and related financial transfers between generations play in the wealth gap remains unclear.

A 2011 study from the Urban Institute, a US-based policy research group, estimated

that they account for about 12% of the gap, while other researchers have suggested it could be higher. Either way, recognition of the link between wills and financial security has risen significantly among black Americans, said Teri Williams, president of OneUnited Bank, which serves black and low-income communities. "A will is the least expensive thing you can do to leave intergenerational wealth," she said. "The importance of estate planning is critical."

One reason attention around the issue of estate planning is building is that the black generation that started to gain access to capital in the 1960s is now getting to the point where its members are thinking about their legacy, Williams explained. "For a long time, our elders really were focusing on being able to take care of (their) children, and it has now moved to 'What legacy can I leave them?' That's a huge change," she said.

Totally at risk

Still, there are major obstacles to getting people to follow through on estate planning, according to families and legal experts. It can be prohibitively expensive for many, said Corina in West Oakland, recalling that she was ready to spend

\$500 to write up her will when she found a cheaper option through a local non-profit. The process is also time-consuming and nitpicky, she said - and it forces people to consider their own death, a task that is easy to put off until another time.

Corina got help with her will from Housing and Economic Rights Advocates, which began its estate-planning program in 2017 in response to the high levels of housing foreclosures in the San Francisco area after the 2008-2009 financial crisis. Initially, the non-profit was focused on housing preservation, explained one of its attorneys, Aeyoung Kim, but it soon realized there was a root problem that needed to be addressed: a lack of clear property titles.

"Someone's grandparents had purchased the home, and they were living there but didn't know that there were some (legal) steps they should have taken," Kim said. "So they pay the mortgage or rent ... and (then) suddenly they receive a foreclosure notice." The group is now the only non-profit in the state that does full estate planning, using grant money to lower the cost of the services, and high demand has made it difficult to keep up, according to Kim. — Reuters

Asia in the dark on trade; stocks seek enlightenment from Trump

Shares bounce, Japan's Nikkei end 0.8% higher

SYDNEY: Asian share markets edged higher yesterday and Europe looked set to follow as investors awaited a speech by President Donald Trump on US trade policy and on news he will likely delay a decision on whether to slap tariffs on European autos. EU officials said Trump was expected to announce this week that he was delaying the tariff decision on cars and auto parts imported from the European Union likely for another six months. The news boosted expectations about Trump's speech later in the day about his administration's long-running trade war with China.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan climbed 0.5%, following a sharp 1.2% pullback on Monday. Japan's Nikkei, which dithered either side of flat most of the day, ended 0.8% higher. But Shanghai blue chips eased 0.2% after bank lending growth undershot analysts' estimates, while Australian shares were down, too. E-Mini futures for the S&P 500 rose 0.2%, while EUROSTOXX 50 futures gained 0.4%.

A positive speech on US-China trade would likely satisfy market participants even without specific details of the "Phase 1" agreement under negotiation, said Jim Paulsen, chief investment officer at The Leuthold Group in Minneapolis. "It still feels like we're pretty close to having something done," Paulsen said on Monday. "Even if it's meaningless, it will be meaningful." Trump wrongfooted markets over the weekend when he said there had been incorrect reporting about US willingness to lift tariffs on China.

Investors also were anxious about the situation in Hong Kong after a violent escalation of protests knocked nearly 2% off Asia-exposed banks HSBC and StanChart. Hong Kong's embattled leader Carrie Lam

yesterday said protesters who are trying to "paralyze" the city were extremely selfish and hoped all universities and schools would urge students not to participate in violence. Lam was speaking a day after police shot a protester and a man was set on fire in some of the most dramatic scenes to grip the city during the more than five months of civil unrest.

Boris gets Brexit boost

A partial holiday in the United States had closed the Treasury market on Monday and made for a quiet ses-



Sterling holds gains after Boris gets a Brexit boost

sion on Wall Street. The Dow ended up 0.04%, while the S&P 500 lost 0.20% and the Nasdaq 0.13%. Treasuries were in demand when trading resumed in Asia, with yields on 10-year notes dropping to 1.9070% and away from last week's three-month top of 1.97%. They were last at 1.9539.

In currency markets, the main action was in sterling which hit a six-month high on the euro on Monday after the Brexit Party said it would not contest previ-



SIDDHPUR: A trader cleans a camel as he waits for customers during a Cattle Fair near Saraswati river bank at Siddhpur, some 120 kms from Ahmedabad yesterday. — AFP

ously Conservative held seats in the UK election. In a boost for Prime Minister Boris Johnson ahead of the Dec 12 election, Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage said he did not want anti-Brexit parties to win, so was standing down candidates in seats won by the Conservatives in 2017.

The pound reached 0.8582 per euro, and firmed to \$1.2856 having risen 0.6% overnight. Against a basket

of currencies, the dollar steadied at 98.224. The euro edged up to \$1.1038 and away from a three-week low of \$1.1015, while the dollar faded to 109.26 yen. Spot gold suffered a third day of declines, to touch its lowest since early August at \$1,447.89 per ounce. It was last trading at \$1,450.44. US crude gained 28 cents to \$57.14 a barrel, while Brent crude futures added 35 cents to \$62.53. — Reuters

Vietnam coal, crude oil imports surge on rising energy demand

HANOI: Vietnam's coal and crude oil imports surged in the first ten months of this year, government data released yesterday showed, highlighting the Southeast Asian country's increasing reliance on imported energy to support its fast-growing economy. Vietnam has one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia, backed by robust exports and foreign investment. Economic growth this year is expected to surpass the government's target range of 6.6%-6.8%, as the country benefits from the Sino-US trade war.

The strong growth has boosted demand for coal. Imports of the commodity, mostly from Australia and Indonesia, during the January-October period more than doubled from a year earlier to 36.8 million tons, valued at \$3.25 billion, the Customs Department said in a statement. The imported coal will mostly be used for the country's growing fleet of coal-fired power plants, which will still play a key

role in its power generation mix for the years to come even as Hanoi promotes renewables.

The country's crude oil imports rose 80.6% from a year earlier to 6.8 million tons during the period, the department said. Once a key export earner for Vietnam, crude oil output of the country has been declining recently as its reserves fall at existing fields and as China's increasingly assertive stance in the region hampers offshore exploration.

Government data showed crude oil output in the first ten months of this year fell 7.2% from a year earlier to 9.3 million tons. Meanwhile, its coal output rose 10.5% to 37.9 million tons. The Ministry of Industry and Trade said in July Vietnam will contend with severe power shortages from 2021 as demand outpaces construction of new plants, with electricity demand expected to exceed supply by 6.6 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) in 2021,



HANOI: A Vietnamese laborer load bags of cement on a barge at a loading dock along the Red River in Hanoi yesterday. — AFP

and 15 billion kWh in 2023.

Vietnam will need an average of \$6.7 billion a year to expand its annual power generation capacity by 10% between 2016 and 2030, the ministry had said.

Yesterday's customs data also showed Vietnam recorded a trade surplus of \$9.01 billion during the first ten months of this year, widening from a surplus of \$7.24 billion a year earlier. — Reuters

Crisis-hit Nissan chops forecasts, net profit 'worst for a decade'

YOKOHAMA: Crisis-hit Japanese automaker Nissan yesterday slashed its full-year forecast for both sales and profit as it struggles with weak demand in Japan, the US and Europe, as well as fallout from the arrest of former boss Carlos Ghosn. Nissan downgraded its net profit forecast to 110 billion yen (\$1 billion) for the fiscal year to March 2020, compared with an earlier estimate of 170 billion yen.

Full-year sales are now estimated at 10.6 trillion yen, down from a previous forecast of 11.3 trillion yen. Nissan blamed the poor outlook on weak first-half earnings, a strong yen, an uncertain global outlook and the stagnation of the car industry in general. Incoming

chief financial officer Stephen Ma said: "Sales in China outpaced the market but sales in other key regions including the US, Europe and Japan underperformed in those markets. This resulted in the overall decrease of our market share."

Net profit for the six months to September plunged 73.5 percent to 65.4 billion yen, the worst first-half result since the global financial crisis a decade ago. "Nissan is in a very severe situation at a time when competition in the global auto market is further intensifying," said Satoru Takada, auto analyst at TIW, a Tokyo-based research and consulting firm. It was Nissan's first earnings announcement since the appointment last month of Makoto Uchida as new chief executive, elevating the insider heading the firm's China unit as it overhauls its leadership after the Ghosn scandal.

Uchida's appointment, to take effect on December 1, came after months of turmoil for the automaker in the wake of the arrest of former chief Ghosn on allegations of financial misconduct. Former CEO Hiroto Saikawa resigned in September after an investigation prompted

by the Ghosn scandal revealed he was among Nissan executives who received excess pay by altering the terms of a share price bonus. "Nissan's new management is setting sail in a storm," Takada said. "Uchida is expected to show new strategies for Nissan's survival," he said.

'Additional restructuring'

The automaker has cited a global slowdown in the auto sector, but it is also suffering from a lack of innovation on its production line and reputational damage from the Ghosn scandal. Uchida inherits the harsh cost-cutting measures Saikawa proposed as a way out of the crisis-including reducing dealer incentives and promotions but also cutting global production by 10 percent to 2023 - a measure that means the loss of 12,500 jobs. "Additional restructuring is possible in the wake of the layoff plan," Takada said. Asked about possible fresh job losses, Nissan official Ma said no new announcement would be made until the full new management team is in place on December 1. The company is "very urgently working" to improve sales and profitability, Ma said. — AFP

Roula Khalaf picked as 'first woman' to edit Financial Times

LONDON: Roula Khalaf will become the first woman to edit the Financial Times in its 131-year history after Lionel Barber said he would step down in January. Khalaf served as deputy editor, foreign editor and Middle East editor during her more than two decades at the salmon-pink newspaper. In recent years she has also sought to increase the number of female readers and journalists at the title. "It's a great honor to be appointed editor of the FT, the greatest news organization in the world," she said. "I look forward to building on Lionel Barber's extraordinary achievements and am grateful for his mentorship through the years."

Khalaf, from Lebanon, will join Katharine Viner at the Guardian as one of the few women to edit major newspapers in Britain. Prior to joining the FT in 1995, she worked at Forbes magazine in New York and holds a master's degree from Columbia University. Tsuneo Kita, chairman of Nikkei, said Khalaf had been selected for her sound judgment and integrity. "We look forward to working closely with her to deepen our global media alliance," he said in a statement.

Barber, the most senior financial journalist in the country, will step down after 14 years as editor and 34 years at the newspaper. During his time he engineered a successful push into online subscription that protected the title as others battled plummeting advertising revenue, and managed the move to a new owner after Japan's Nikkei bought the FT from Pearson in 2015. The FT passed the milestone of one million paying readers in 2019, with digital subscribers accounting for more than 75% of total circulation. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.550
Euro	337.590
Sterling Pound	393.330
Canadian dollar	230.890
Turkish Lira	53.090
Swiss Franc	307.780
US Dollar Buying	297.100

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.790
Indian Rupees	4.268
Pakistani Rupees	1.977
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.681
Nepali Rupees	2.659
Singapore Dollar	224.680
Hongkong Dollar	38.915
Bangladesh Taka	3.540
Philippine Peso	6.015
Thai Baht	10.096
Malaysian ringgit	77.890

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.268
Qatari Riyal	83.702
Omani Riyal	791.553
Bahraini Dinar	809.220
UAE Dirham	82.972

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.500
-----------------------	--------

Egyptian Pound - Transfer

Yemen Riyal/for 1000	18.888
Tunisian Dinar	1.223
Jordanian Dinar	111.150
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	429.880
Syrian Lira	0.203
Morocco Dirham	0.000
	32.193

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	304.190
Canadian Dollar	230.445
Sterling Pound	392.730
Euro	337.205
Swiss Frank	305.050
Bahrain Dinar	808.955
UAE Dirhams	83.220
Qatari Riyals	84.460
Saudi Riyals	82.015
Jordanian Dinar	430.325
Egyptian Pound	18.889
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.681
Indian Rupees	4.257
Pakistani Rupees	1.955
Bangladesh Taka	3.530
Philippines Peso	5.988
Cyprus pound	18.100
Japanese Yen	3.785
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.688
Malaysian Ringgit	74.380
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	43.900

Thai Bhat	11.010
Turkish Lira	53.060
Singapore dollars	223.375

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY BUY SELL

British Pound	0.384373	0.398273
Czech Korune	0.005145	0.014445
Danish Krone	0.040875	0.045875
Euro	0.328298	0.341998
Georgian Lari	0.102238	0.102238
Hungarian	0.000914	0.001104
Norwegian Krone	0.029275	0.034475
Romanian Leu	0.053532	0.070382
Russian ruble	0.004750	0.004750
Slovakia	0.009106	0.019106
Swedish Krona	0.027341	0.032341
Swiss Franc	0.299592	0.310592
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.200168	0.212168
New Zealand Dollar	0.186504	0.196004
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.224537	0.233537
US Dollars	0.300450	0.305750
US Dollars Mint	0.300950	0.305750
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003001	0.003802

Chinese Yuan	0.042094	0.045594
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036823	0.039573
Indian Rupee	0.003669	0.004441
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002703	0.002883
Korean Won	0.000251	0.000266
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069571	0.075571
Nepalese Rupee	0.002626	0.002966
Pakistan Rupee	0.001295	0.002065
Philippine Peso	0.005755	0.006055
Singapore Dollar	0.218403	0.228403
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001319	0.001899
Taiwan	0.009891	0.010071
Thai Baht	0.009695	0.010245
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.801672	0.809732
Egyptian Pound	0.018646	0.021387
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000211	0.000271
Jordanian Dinar	0.423562	0.432562
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021208	0.045208
Omani Riyal	0.785908	0.793809
Qatar Riyal	0.082996	0.083830
Saudi Riyal	0.080127	0.081427
Syrian Pound	0.001291	0.001511
Tunisian Dinar	0.102940	0.110940
Turkish Lira	0.045936	0.055781
UAE Dirhams	0.082228	0.083056
Yemeni Riyal	0.000990	0.001070

Business

German investor confidence index improves despite recession fears

Eurozone bonds fall on expectations

BERLIN: The prospect of a Brexit deal and easing trade relations between the US and China have led to a marked improvement in German investor sentiment, a survey showed yesterday. The ZEW institute's investor confidence index for Germany, the biggest European economy, reached -2.1 points in November, a significant rise of 20.7 points from the previous month. "Hope is growing that the political and economic environment will improve in the near future," ZEW president Achim Wambach said in a statement.

Wambach explained that the prospect of a Brexit deal and the chance of an initial agreement in the trade dispute between the US and China had contributed to the indicator's sharp rise. The decreased likelihood of US tariffs on EU-imported cars was also a factor, he said. The ZEW indicator for the euro-zone also improved dramatically in November, jumping 22.5 points to a level of -1. Economic expectations for Germany, however, remained low at -24.7, an improvement of just 0.6 points from October.

LBBW bank economist Jens-Oliver Niklasch warned that this figure was a reason for caution while the US-

China trade dispute was ongoing. Traditionally the economic motor of the euro-zone, German industry has been unsettled by global trade tensions and their destabilizing effects on exports. German growth figures for the third quarter of 2019 are to be published Thursday amid fears that the country's economy might still be shrinking. After a decline of 0.1 percent in the second quarter, another drop would Germany meet the technical definition of a recession.

Euro-zone bonds fall

Meanwhile, European government bonds fell yesterday on expectations that US President Donald Trump will again postpone a decision on whether to impose tariffs on European Union autos, driving investor appetite out of safe-haven sovereign debt. A better-than-expected German Zew investor sentiment survey had little impact on euro area bonds.

Trump is scheduled to discuss US trade policy at the Economic Club of New York yesterday, with market participants expecting him to announce that he is putting off the decision for six months ahead of the expiration of a 180-

day delay to the results a "Section 232" investigation ordered under a Cold War-era trade law.

Trump said in the spring that imports of autos and auto parts were a threat to national security, which led him to instruct US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to negotiate deals with both the European Union and Japan to address the impairment and report back to him within 180 days on the progress. That deadline is today.

Views that auto tariffs will be postponed were already priced into euro zone government bonds, said Peter Chatwell, head of rates strategy at Mizuho. "But when the news is confirmed, there is room for a little bit more weakness," he added. Trump's lunchtime address will also be closely watched by investors anxious for any positive news about his administration's long-running trade war with China, especially given recent speculation that the United States was ready to roll back its import tariffs on Chinese goods.

German Bund yields were around 1 basis point higher at -0.243%, close to a five-month high of -0.218% reached last week as investors shifted their long positions on

German Bunds into short positions, according to Jefferies analysts. "We continue to have a small bearish bias in Bunds, despite yields close to our fair value estimate of -30 bps," said Mohit Kumar, managing director at Jefferies.

"The macro environment is positive for risky assets with positive developments on the US-China trade war and our expectation that economic data as well as inflation prints should start picking up," Kumar said. The mood among German investors improved more than expected in November, a ZEW survey showed yesterday, with the research group pointing to a more favorable outlook for Europe's biggest economy due to recent developments in trade conflicts, though this has had little impact on bond prices.

Yields on bonds issued by other euro area countries, including Italy, rose by a similar amount. "In Italy, investor position is still long," said Kumar. Italy, in particular, and to a lesser extent Spain and Portugal, have borne the brunt of selling in recent sessions. Spanish 10-year bond yields were up around 2 bps at 0.443%, following a sell-off on Monday in southern European bond markets.—Agencies



Infiniti QX80 built to transform driving experiences

KUWAIT: The INFINITI QX80 brought by Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, exemplifies INFINITI's presence in the luxury SUV segment. The INFINITI QX80 takes INFINITI's 'Powerful Elegance' design language in a bold new direction, creating a powerful, contemporary and commanding aesthetic.

The flagship SUV model has been created to meet the needs of today's luxury car buyers, and brings a more modern interpretation of upscale luxury to the full-size SUV segment. It appeals to buy-

ers that demands space and utility, hand-crafted quality and modern design, and effortless on-road performance. For all those looking to harness the road's boundless potential and enjoy infinite adventures, Infiniti Al Babbain accommodates its customers with added benefits ranging from, free service for 100,000 KM, a 5 year warranty alongside door-door service, and road assistance.

The QX80 has a refined and spacious cabin that features high-quality materials, a hand-crafted finish and advanced drive-assist technologies. With a taut yet comfort-oriented suspension, and ample performance from its 5.6-liter V8 engine, the QX80 gives drivers an assured feeling of control and confidence at the wheel. The QX80's rear entertainment system has also been upgraded. Higher-resolution screens provide the interface for connectivity and entertainment devices. The system also now supports 31 languages, up from three in the outgoing QX80.

The QX80 is available with a range of technologies to inform the driver of their surroundings, help

them avoid potential hazards and ease the monotony of driving in certain conditions. These technologies include: Lane Departure Warning and Prevention, Intelligent Cruise Control, Distance Control Assist, Predictive Forward Collision Warning, Forward Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Warning and Intervention and Backup Collision Intervention.

This year, INFINITI QX80 received the 'Best Premium SUV' accolade at the prestigious 'Wheels 2018 Car of the Year' awards or popularly known as COTY in addition to '2019 Ideal Vehicle Award' in the Luxury SUV segment from AutoPacific, the automotive research and consulting firm. The Ideal Vehicle Awards (IVA) recognize vehicles that exceed owners' expectations, based on responses from more than 50,000 owners of new vehicles across all major manufacturers. Infiniti Al Babbain encourages its customers to explore the unique features of the QX80, by visiting the Infiniti showroom located in Al Rai. The showroom is open daily except Fridays.

NBK Economic Update

Oil rally stalls on reemergence of global growth

KUWAIT: Oil prices were back in familiar territory as the first week in November drew to a close: buffeted by a combination of overarching global macro concerns, specifically the off/on progress in US-China trade talks, and oil oversupply worries. International crude oil benchmark Brent crude was last trading at around \$62.5/bbl (+16.2% ytd), down from its more than 4-week high of almost \$63/bbl on 5 November. The US crude benchmark, West Texas Intermediate (WTI), was trading at \$57.2/bbl (+26.1% ytd).

Both markers had been enjoying three days of gains on the back of signs of progress in US-China trade negotiations—a 'Phase One' trade deal had been talked about—as well as positive US jobs numbers and manufacturing data. But following reports that US President Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping may not be able to sign the long-coveted partial trade deal until December, and the publication by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) of data showing that US crude stockpiles had increased by much more than expected (+7.9 million barrels to 446.8 mb by the week ending 1 November), prices were once more on the back foot.

Also imparting a bearish spin on proceedings were reports that the OPEC+ group is unlikely to push for further production cuts at their next scheduled ministerial meeting in December. This came after OPEC, in its World Oil Outlook 2040, predicted that world oil demand would grow by a modest 1.0 mb/d over the medium term while US shale production would increase by a robust 40% by 2025. The producers' group anticipated a decline in its own market share from the current 35% to 32% by 2025.

Prices traded sideways in October in the absence of specific triggers. With Saudi crude production restored to 'normal' levels relatively quickly in October after the drone strike on the Abqaiq/Khuraib oil processing infrastructure the previous month, oil prices had traded sideways for most of October. Any lingering geopolitical risk premia disappeared with the full restoration of Saudi production. And with supply-side triggers largely absent, anxieties about the trajectory of global economic growth were once again in the ascendancy.

Overarching macroeconomic concerns - Both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), lowered their forecasts for the global macroeconomic and oil demand growth pictures, respectively, in October. The IMF cited rising trade barriers and increased geopolitical and trade uncertainty among the factors driving a 'synchronized' global slowdown, that left growth in 2019 at 3.0%-the slowest since the financial crisis more than ten years ago. Projected economic growth in 2020 was reduced by 0.2% points to 3.4%.

The IEA, for its part, trimmed its oil demand growth forecast again for 2019 by 0.065 mb/d to 1.0 mb/d and for 2020 by 0.11 mb/d to 1.2 mb/d, respectively, although the

agency did acknowledge that some of this year's adjustment was due to 2018 crude demand figures in the US being revised upwards. As things stand, oil demand growth in 2019 will likely be the weakest in three years, reflecting softness in Europe, India, Japan, Korea and the US. Chinese oil consumption, however, continues to be robust.

Non-OPEC supply gains despite record OPEC+ production cut compliance - Markets appear to have largely shrugged off the drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities and the negative implications for global oil supplies. The Abqaiq/Khuraib outage were the largest contributors (1-1.2mb/d) to the steepest monthly fall in oil supplies (1.5 mb/d) in more than a decade; declines in Norway and Canada as well as further falls in Venezuelan production accounted for the rest.

Nevertheless, non-OPEC supply growth, led by robust US shale growth, dominates the supply outlook, helping to offset the cutbacks in production that OPEC+ has orchestrated this year. US crude production reached a historic high of 12.6 mb/d in October. The IEA sees US crude oil production alone increasing by 1.2 mb/d in 2019 and 0.9 mb/d in 2020, which accounts for at least 75% of the crude that OPEC+ has removed from the market.

Due to Saudi Arabia's involuntary production cut in September, OPEC+ compliance skyrocketed to 230% from 120% in August. OPEC and its partners were characteristically tight-lipped about further OPEC+ production cuts, preferring to wait until December's biannual ministerial meeting before making any announcements. So long as some OPEC producers, such as Iraq and Nigeria, continue to produce above their quotas, it does not seem likely that further cuts will be on the cards.

NBK adds Dark Mode feature, enhancements to Mobile Banking App

KUWAIT: In an effort to provide a comprehensive and convenient banking experience to its customers and to maintain its leadership position in the sector, National Bank of Kuwait added "Dark Mode" feature and new enhancements to the NBK Mobile Banking App as part of its continued efforts to offer comfort to customers while ensuring they benefit of exceptional advanced digital solutions and banking services.

Dark Mode provides protection for users by avoiding straining their eyes when using their iOS devices during the night. The feature also helps reduce the consumption of battery of devices. Another enhancement made is on the NBK Quick Pay service, enabling customers to send their payment request through WhatsApp, in addition to the existing SMS and email features, responding to customers' request. Moreover, new enhancements were added to the NBK Mobile Banking App for smartwatches, adding extra features that comprise access to the account and credit card balances, last transactions and many more.

Speaking of the new features, Cigdem Itemir Carino, Consumer Banking Group Head of Digital Transformation, said: "NBK strives not only to provide the best digital solutions and banking services but also a comprehensive banking experience that takes into account the health of our customer by ensuring our services are easy and convenient to use. This comes as part of NBK's sustainability strategy where customer service is one of the key pillars of this strategy."

Carino reaffirmed that NBK is committed to design innovative services for NBK Mobile Banking App, which comes as part of the Bank's digital transformation strategy. She added: "We are delighted with our customers' responses to the new updates that are constantly made to the NBK Mobile Banking App and we promise them to provide more updates that meet their needs and make their transactions faster and easier."

She pointed out that NBK Mobile Banking APP enables customers to complete most of their banking transactions from anywhere and anytime 24 hours a day, without having to visit branches. Global Finance magazine awarded National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) the "Best Consumer Digital Bank" and the "Best in Mobile Banking" in Kuwait in 2019 for its leadership and continuous efforts in this field. The FTSE Russell Foundation also listed NBK in its FTSE4Good Global Sustainability Index following its review last June, making it the only Kuwaiti bank to join the index.

The Bank constantly updates the NBK Mobile Banking App to offer a safe and secure way for customers to conduct transactions such as opening accounts, applying for loans, credit card limit increase, advanced payment features like e-Payments to enable online payment for purchases and NBK Quick Pay for fast and easy transfers, managing the accounts and cards while travelling, checking the NBK Miles and NBK Rewards Points, activating dormant accounts, establishing standing orders, finding the nearest branch, ATM or CDM in Kuwait, requesting an account statement or new checkbook, and many more services that make using NBK Mobile Banking App the perfect companion in Kuwait and when travelling.

Boeing: 737 MAX to resume flying

NEW YORK: Boeing on Monday said it expects the 737 MAX airplane, which was grounded after two crashes killed 346 people, to resume flying in January, delaying its return by one month. In a statement, the group said it still hopes to receive certification next month from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), allowing it to resume MAX deliveries to airline customers before the end of the year.

"In parallel, we are working towards final validation of the updated training requirements, which must occur before the MAX returns to commercial service, and which we now expect to begin in January," Boeing said. It had previously

planned for the model to resume flying in December. The new timetable was well received by the market, with Boeing shares increasing 4.7 percent by around 2:30 pm on the New York Stock Exchange.

The 737 MAX planes have been grounded globally since mid-March, following the deadly Lion Air crash of October 2018 and the Ethiopian Airlines crash in March this year. The grounding has dragged on far beyond initial expectations as Boeing had to upgrade systems and faced questions from regulators and politicians over the plane. Southwest Airlines and American Airlines on Friday pushed back their timeframe again for

resuming flights on the 737 MAX until early March. Southwest, the largest MAX customer at the time of the grounding with 34 of the aircraft, is currently doing without 175 flights per day out of a total of up to 4,000 while the planes are out of commission. Companies also need to take into account the time needed to train pilots and install modified software on the aircraft before they can re-enter regular service. Boeing said Monday it has completed the first of five milestones it must meet before returning the MAX to service: a multi-day simulator evaluation with the FAA to "ensure the overall software system performs its intended function."—AFP



VICTORVILLE: Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are parked on the tarmac after being grounded, at the Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville, California. — AFP

Business

Capsule living: A 'cheap' option for young people flocking to LA

Capsule-living concept catching on in other expensive US cities

LOS ANGELES: Kay Wilson packed up her life in a hurry and moved to Los Angeles... only to find that what she paid in Pennsylvania for a nice studio apartment would only get her a 2.9-square-meter box in California. Her new home is a capsule, inspired by the famous hotels in Japan. Wilson arrived a month ago at UP(st)ART, a community for young people with artistic aspirations in need of an affordable place to live.

Each room contains up to six capsules, which Wilson describes as "cozy." They contain a single bed, a bar for hanging clothes, a few compartments for storing shoes and other items and an air vent. By most standards, the accommodation is still not cheap - \$750 per month plus taxes. That works out at around \$800, which is slightly more than the 26-year-old was paying in Bethlehem, around 70 miles outside Philadelphia.

"I couldn't afford a studio by myself. Not at all," she told AFP. "It's \$1,300 or more." Jeremiah Adler, founder of UP(st)ART, said each capsule costs roughly half the rent of a studio in Los Angeles—the US entertainment capital, and one of its most expensive cities. Cheaper options exist, but UP(st)ART offers a good, central location and modern buildings equipped with a gym, dance classes, recording studio, art workshop and free cleaning and laundry services.

Among the rules: women and men sleep apart, and having sex is not an option. Still, the capsule-living concept is also catching on in other expensive US cities including New York. For Dana Cuff, an architect and professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), this type of community presents only a short-term solution. "We basically need to be developing a huge range of options for the kinds of

housing that are available," she said. "To me, co-living pods... are symptoms of this deep need for a much greater range of housing alternatives."

'Living with the minimum'

It's taco night, and around 50 people are eating together in one of the four-building complex's communal areas. Among the group are rappers, dancers, sculptors and actors from the US and elsewhere. Kimma Moonshine has lived in the community for a year, and told AFP that so far she has not found living with 90 housemates to be overwhelming. "You learn to live with the minimum," said the Canadian 27-year-old, a painter who currently works as a nanny. She paid less at her previous home, but she prefers this option. "I had 12 roommates, the only way I could work on my art was on the kitchen table after everyone went to sleep. It's cool having that workshop now."

Alejandro Chupina, 27, left home as a teenager because his parents did not support his career as an actor and musician. He moved into an UP(st)ART capsule eight months ago, attracted by the recording studio, and is happy with his choice. "We have so many different amenities... for what we're paying, I feel like we're getting way more, in different ways," said the young man with a handlebar moustache, who can recite the musical "Hamilton" by heart.

Hollywood calling

Wilson's plan to move to Los Angeles was brought forward from a year away to just weeks when she received an offer to work in a salon. "I sold all my belongings and I moved here to be in this pod... I'm finding comfort in being uncomfortable," she joked.



LOS ANGELES: Kay Wilson poses in her pod in the UP (st)ART house in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

But Wilson, who earns the minimum wage of \$13 per-hour plus tips, did not move to Los Angeles simply to be a salon stylist. Like many who come to Hollywood, she dreams of becoming a successful actress.

UP(st)ART, which opened three years ago and resembles a cross between a college dorm and a luxury

hostel, seems like the ideal place to start. "People who were here two or three years ago when they started—they're starting to get cast in TV shows and record deals and everything like that," said Adler. "And so that's a rewarding thing, being able to watch people's careers progress." — AFP

Del Monte opens fresh-cut facility in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Del Monte, a leading provider of fresh, healthy and great-tasting food to consumers around the globe, opened its fresh-cut facility in Kuwait on Monday October 21, 2019. The opening comes in line with Del Monte's endeavors to expand in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in continuation of its success story since its first debut in the UAE in 2007.

The ceremony was attended by Mohammad Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Fresh Del Monte Produce; Larry Memmott, Deputy Chief of Mission at US Embassy Kuwait; Shari Stout, Senior Commercial Officer, US Embassy Kuwait; Saqr Abu-Shattal, Ambassador of Jordan to Kuwait; Ayman Al-Basha, Commercial Division Manager/Fresh Foods, The Sultan Center; Makram Malaeb, Corporate Commercial Director at The Sultan Center; Muntaser Al-Qadah, General Manager, McDonald's Kuwait; Charbel BuMusa, Procurements and Quality Manager, McDonald's Kuwait; Ian Parkes, Deputy Chief of Production Unit, Foods and Restaurants



Division, Alshaya Group; Mohammed Abbas, VP for APMENA region, Del Monte; and Akram Kamal, General Manager, Del Monte Kuwait.

"The newly launched fresh-cut facility is yet another milestone achieved by Del Monte under its expansion strategy in the MENA markets," commented Mohammed Abbas, VP for APMENA region. "The new launch will foster our position as a leading provider of fresh fruit and vegetables that boost wellness and healthier lifestyle of the people."

He added, "The successes achieved by Del Monte in the region since 2007 are a result of its more than 125 years old passion of providing healthy nutrition and products. Our new fresh-cut facility is the chosen fresh produce supplier of large companies such as Mc

Donald's in Kuwait, which is a testimony of the quality of products and services we provide."

The new state-of-the-art facility offers just-in-time delivery capabilities including cold storage facilities, fresh-cut fruit and vegetable operations, and an ultra-fresh juice manufacturing operation. It reflects the principles of product innovation, quality, freshness and reliability that Del Monte has adopted since its inception over a century and two decades ago.

"We are glad for this recent development, and are determined to push forward our reach in Kuwait and the wider MENA region in order to continue providing healthy and fresh food to people of the region, and be an integral part of their healthy lifestyle," Mohammed Abbas concluded.

Kam Air commences direct flights to Kuwait

KUWAIT: Kam Air, the largest private airline in Afghanistan had commenced its direct flights from Kabul to Kuwait effective 01 November, 2019. Kuwait is Kam Air's 9th international sector after Delhi, Istanbul, Ankara, Dushanbe, Tashkent, Jeddah, Sharjah and Islamabad. Akash Raj - Chief Commercial Officer, Kam Air, said, "It is important to have a local partner and Ejaza Travel as our General Sales Agent, who shares a common vision and has an experienced team of professionals with deep knowledge and extensive network

into the local market.

We are delighted to be working with such a well-established GSA, and look forward to growing our presence in the important Afghan market in Kuwait". "Starting direct flights to Kuwait reaffirms Kam Air's commitment to provide its passengers with wider network and reliable services. Kuwait has a large Afghan Community who currently travels via different transit points.

These direct flights will enable them to travel with more facilities including personalized Afghan services and ideal flight timings that will help them reach their final destinations soon." Said Philip George, Kam Air's Kuwait Station Manager. Afghanistan has a large community based in middle east including Kuwait, who frequently travels to Afghanistan to visit their families and friends. Kam Air's start of flights to Kuwait will help the Afghans based community in terms of direct flights and localized services.



Chicken 'billionaire' Poland is Europe's poultry king

KONDRAJEC PANSKI: In what looks like a Niagara Falls of yellow feathers, thousands of chicks cascade down a conveyor belt in central Poland. A day old, they only have 41 left to live. Their fate is sealed: once grown, they will wind up on a plate. Their lives may be brief, but their living conditions could be better, according to animal rights activists, ever more active and influential in Poland and elsewhere.

The city of New York voted last month to ban the sale of foie gras, which is made from the livers of force-fed ducks and geese. Also last month France announced that the culling of male chicks by maceration would be outlawed by the end of 2021. For the day-old Polish chicks, their next stop is a chicken coop the size of a hangar. It houses 54,000 chickens - hopping, pecking, clucking and raising their heads to drink from suspended water bowls.

Chicken over pork

"After six weeks, the chickens grow to between 2.7 and 2.8 kilograms" after weighing 40 grams on day one, said Andrzej Gontarski, head of the farm comprising a dozen such warehouses in the village of Kondrajec Panski. Poland's poultry industry has come a long way over the last decade. The country is now Europe's top chicken producer and exporter, having raised more than a billion chickens for meat last year, according to Statistics

Poland - or 10 times more than in 2009. Chicken was the natural choice over pork: the sky is the limit for the poultry export market, whereas many countries, especially Muslim ones, do not allow pork. The production cycle is also shorter, and the invested funds are recouped faster, after a dozen weeks or so. Dressed in a sterile white jumpsuit, Gontarski enters the massive chicken coop, triggering a white wave of agitated birds.

Life is short

Their short lives will come to an end in the nearby village of Ujazdowek at a slaughterhouse - owned by the Polish firm Cedrob - that employs 1,600 people and processes 750,000 chickens a day. Attached by their knees to an overhead chain conveyor, the chickens are anaesthetized and then paralyzed by an electric shock, having first been spritzed with water to help the current pass more easily. Their necks sawed off, the chickens lose all their blood, which dribbles down into a suspended trough. The animals die after a half hour. They are then spritzed with warm water to make it easier for a machine furnished with rubber fingers to pluck their feathers. Sent to a cold room to lower their body temperatures, the chickens are cut into pieces. Another machine packages up the segments to be sold either frozen or fresh. — AFP

Singapore baggage handler jailed for swapping tags

SINGAPORE: A Singaporean baggage handler has been jailed for 20 days for swapping tags on nearly 300 suitcases at the city-state's airport, causing them to end up at wrong destinations around the world. Tay Boon Keh, 66, had pleaded guilty to charges of swapping the tags on 286 bags at Changi Airport, one of the world's busiest hubs. He made the swaps between November 2016 and February 2017 out of "frustration and anger" after his request for additional staff at his work section was ignored, a district court heard.

Suitcases originally bound for various parts of the world, including Perth, Manila, Frankfurt, London and San Francisco, were affected, according to court documents. The bags belonged to passengers transiting through Changi and using Singapore Airlines and its regional wing SilkAir. Tay was suffering from major depressive disorder when he committed the offences, the court heard.

But state prosecutors said evidence presented at a hearing showed his condition "did not contribute significantly to his commission of the offences" as he continued to have control over his actions. Prosecutor Thiam Jia Min said the swapping could have caused "potentially, even serious or fatal, consequences" as some passengers could have been left without medications. Changi handled nearly 65.6 million passengers last year. — AFP

Warba Bank wins 'Best Banking Innovative Application Award'

KUWAIT: Warba Bank has been nominated to receive the 'Best Banking Innovative Application in Kuwait for 2019' Award by the Islamic Retail Banking Conference (IRBA); the Bank has been qualified for the award based on its innovative digital service "Jam3eya. Mohamed Atef Al Sherif, Chief Strategy & Digitation Officer at Warba Bank, received the award on behalf of the Bank during the awards ceremony held in Muscat on November 04.

IRBA is the biggest platform for leaders in banking services and regional Islamic financing; whereas it relies on a unique mechanism supported by high-end criteria and strict academic analysis to evaluate banks' performance and competence. Winners are selected by a committee of independent experts who have proved a tremendous commitment by participating in the development, growth and success of retail Islamic banking.

In his statement, Al Sherif said: "this is a new milestone added to Warba Bank series of awards and yet another tangible proof of the Bank's position as a leading Islamic Financing institution offering unique services recognized by one of the elite entities in Islamic Banking Sector". He added: "winning this award is yet another example on the Bank's strategy success, which mainly focuses on tailoring modern Islamic banking services and solutions adding value to customers' banking experience and their daily transactions".

As for Warba Bank exclusive Jam3eya digital service which has been the main reason qualifying the Bank to win the award, Al Sherif stated: "our aim for launching this service is to reinforce the saving concept amongst our customers while offering them an old service with a modern flavor, to better suit today's fast lifestyle more accurately



with convenient ways to collect money. We promise our customers and the Islamic banking sector to keep on providing secured services, which are tailor -made to cater for their current and future financial needs".

It's noteworthy that Warba Bank launched, last June, its digital Jam3eya which enables customers to create their own "Online Jam3eya" through its application and invite friends and family to participate. Participants number varies from one to eleven persons maximum. According to this unparalleled service, Warba Bank has been able to eliminate the traditional concept of saving, relieves burdens of follow-ups and holding cash.

Alternatively, the Bank offered a new modern digital concept marked with easiness and flexibility; where customers only need to create their Jam3eya through the app, name it, then invite selected people who will receive SMS to accept or reject participation. Through Jam3eya, customers can follow-up the money collection, settlement dates as well as selecting the month when they wish to avail from the Jam3eya.

What's on

Burgan Bank celebrates successful graduation of its young bankers

Burgan Bank, an employer of choice, recently celebrated the graduation of the newest batch of 21 trainees from its dedicated academy program. Led by the Learning and Development department, the annual training platform develops the skills of young graduates and equips them with practical banking experience. The new bankers were equipped with a wide range of skills that will enable them to easily transition into the banking sector.

The program included a two-week field training exercise across the banks' branches to enable the rising employees to translate their theoretical knowledge into practical experiences. The induction also consisted of an extensive introduction to the various banking products and services, as well as training on one of the most important skills - customer experience. This annual training platform comes as part of the bank's mission to ensure its clients are consistently accommodated with the most qualified profession-

als to maintain customer loyalty and satisfaction.

The program is intended to prepare the Kuwaiti youth for leadership positions in the future, which is a wider core objective to advance the country's banking leadership competencies. Burgan Bank Senior Manager - Learning & Development, Ghada El-Kadi said: "As the core department for managing in-house talent, it is always part of our mission to first familiarize the trainees with our brand values and dynamic corporate culture. This culture at Burgan Bank is characterized by a positive, hard-working and ambitious drive to excel, reflected through employees relationship with both their colleagues and clients. To sustain the community and its future, while maintaining our position as a financial powerhouse, our aim remains to support new potential and progress through relevant programs."

Burgan Bank Group now includes more than 920 employees in Kuwait and a vast



network of 169 branches strategically distributed across Kuwait, Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey. The group boasts

decades of achievements and award winning performances by the diverse departments since 1977. The bank aims to reach the next

phase of growth and success by investing in its growing national talent and producing best-in-class banking leaders.

Jumeirah Group sees growth in GCC guests as brand expansion plans continue

Jumeirah Group confirmed at its annual GCC roadshow in Abu Dhabi that it is seeing continued growth in guests from the region travelling to its global portfolio, with a 4 percent increase in GCC guests' room nights into its global portfolio, particularly in Germany where room nights are up 10 percent versus same time last year. Whilst Jumeirah's hotels and resorts have always been a popular choice for GCC residents travelling to the UAE, the figures demonstrate the increasing global appeal of the brand's renowned Arabian hospitality and further validate its focus on expansion not only in the region but in Europe and Asia.



Speaking at Jumeirah at Etihad Towers in Abu Dhabi, Chief Executive Officer Jose Silva also discussed the Group's plans in the region which include Jumeirah Muscat Bay in Oman, Jabal Omar Jumeirah in Makkah, KSA and the group's second property in Bahrain. Planned international openings in 2020 include Jumeirah Guangzhou in China and Jumeirah Bali in Indonesia, where 123 spacious private villas are set amidst lush and tropical gardens, overlooking the renowned Dreamland surfer's beach.

This is in addition to the recent opening of two new hotels in Abu Dhabi: Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island Resort and Jumeirah Al Wathba Desert Resort, giving Jumeirah Group the ideal portfolio of city, beach and desert in the capital.

Renovation has also been a big focus in the UAE and the UK with Jumeirah Group investing in the full refurbishment of the iconic Jumeirah Beach Hotel in Dubai, The Carlton Tower Jumeirah in London reopening in spring 2020, and the completed renovation of the rooms and suites at the palatial Jumeirah Al Qasr. The sixth floor of Jumeirah Al Naseem is also currently undergoing a transformation to create six luxurious suites due for completion in early December 2019. To further enhance its leisure offering, the Group is currently adding a new infinity adult pool at Jumeirah Al Qasr.

Jumeirah Group also updated stakeholders from across the GCC on the developments in relation to its brand strategy which, in line with

Jumeirah's luxury proposition, focuses on delivery of service beyond expectations, elevated dining experiences and unmatched physical spaces both in quality and design. 2019 saw thousands of guests take advantage of the new 24/7 e-butler service that allows guests to communicate requests via mobile quickly and efficiently, and Chief Culinary Officer, Michael Ellis, introduced a number of new concepts and culinary innovations to enhance Jumeirah's dining scene in the UAE.

These included the unveil of four signature restaurants: the new Mediterranean menu at Rockfish crafted by Marco Garfagnini, the relaunch of two of Dubai's most-loved venues - Shimmers and Zheng He's ChinesePan-Asian - as well as a Peruvian-Nikkei fusion pop-up KAYTO in Jumeirah Al Naseem under celebrated chef Christian Goya. Coming soon, FIKA by Chef Izu Ani is another ground-breaking concept that celebrates healthy living as a way of life at Jumeirah Beach Hotel.

The Group's focus on design has also taken centre stage throughout the renovations, new concepts and new hotel builds, including Jumeirah Nanjing whose striking and iconic architecture was created by the legendary architect Zaha Hadid, inspired by a graceful sailing ship, capturing Nanjing's blend of traditional and cosmopolitan style.

Jose Silva, CEO of Jumeirah Group said: "Jumeirah Group is expanding regionally and internationally and in the privileged position of having the loyalty of many of our guests from the GCC and beyond. That position comes with an obligation to keep delivering service beyond expectations, a key area of our strategy moving forward with a particular focus on dining, design and curating truly memorable experiences for our guests. The GCC is a very important market for us both from a visitor and growth perspective, and we continue to look for the right opportunities to extend our brand footprint across the region."



BSK hosts annual Higher Phase Prize Giving 2019

The Higher Phase Prize Giving for students in Year 10-13 at The British School of Kuwait (BSK) took place in the opulent setting of the Al Badriah Ballroom at The Jumeirah Hotel, as parents, students and staff celebrated the extraordinary achievements of the school year 2018-19 in the presence of BSK Chairman Sadiq Al Mutawa and BSK Founder and Director Madam Vera Al-Mutawa MBE.

Year 12 student, Abdulrahman Fares, opened the ceremony with Quran reading. The Higher Phase Head Teacher, Emma Bowie welcomed parents, staff and students, before delivering her annual report, including student successes and university destinations. The event then saw Special Awards, including those for the House Competitions, MUN, Debating, Mathematics, Biology, ABRSM, LAMDA, Hadith, Quran, Music Performance and Academic Excellence. Presentations were made by Madam Vera, Principal Paul Shropshire and the Ambassadors of Australia Jonathan Gilbert; India K Jeeva Sagar; Morocco Jaafar Hakeem and Palestine Rami Ehsan Tahboub.

The head students Hashem Hashem and Maria Elias then delivered a speech. They shared their pride in the achievements of their peers and of their time at BSK. Prestigious Subject Awards went to the top student in each subject in each year group, based on end of year examinations for Year 10 students and actual GCSE/IGCSE and AS results for students in Years 11 and 12.

A video montage of supportive messages from previous alumni and uplifted by



a rendition of Ain't No Mountain High Enough from the Higher Phase Octet was played. Excellence Awards and Subject Commendations were also awarded to students who had excelled either in an overall capacity or in individual subjects. Guest of Honor Jonathan Gilbert, Ambassador of Australia entertained the audience with an informative speech about determination and courage.

The final student awards were Assistant Head Teacher and Head Teachers' Awards. These were conferred on students who have proven themselves to be model BSK students. The four coveted Head Teacher Awards were given by Head Teacher Miss Emma Bowie to Njood Alajmi from Year 9, Mahima Juyal from Year 10, Fatmah Al-Rashdan from Year 11 and Maria Elias from Year 12. BSK Principal, Paul Shropshire rounded off the evening by proposing a vote of thanks, congratulating the students on their outstanding successes for the previous year and wished them well for the coming year. The evening closed with the students and parents enjoying a sumptuous buffet dinner.

ICSK Khaitan students complete ACCA diploma

A grand ceremony to felicitate and award Diploma in Accounting and Business to Commerce Students of ICSK, Khaitan was held at Millennium Hotel and Convention Center, Kuwait on November 8, 2019. Sixteen young and dynamic students of ICSK, Khaitan achieved a professional milestone by completing their Diploma studies while pursuing their Class 11th and 12th CBSE Commerce studies.

The function was graced by the august presence of luminaries from industry and academia.

The program started with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by the Kuwait National Anthem and it was followed by an invocation song by Lena Maria George and Megha Johnson. K Gangadhar Shirsath, Principal ICSK, Khaitan, welcomed the distinguished guests Pinak Maitra, CFO, KIPCO, Michael Gordon, Director, British Council, Kuwait, Alexander Leach, Education Manager, ACCA, Middle East, Amitabh Ranjan, Second Secretary, Embassy of India in Kuwait, Anjum Masood, Principal, International School of Pakistan, Kuwait, Shaik Abdul Rahiman, Chairman, BOT, ICSK, Vinukumar Nair, Vice - Chairman, BOT, Amer Mohammed, Secretary, BOT, S N Raju, Hon. Treasurer, BOT, Principals, Vice - Principals and Deputy Vice - Principal of various branches of ICSK, parents, students and staff of ICSK.

K Gangadhar Shirsath stressed the importance of dreaming big and working hard to fulfill these dreams. He congratulated the students or their exempt long effort and brilliant success. He, further, urged these students to continue their journey and bring it to fruition by completing their degree in BSc. Accounting from UK. Shaik Abdul Rahiman, Hon.

Chairman, BOT, the visionary and leader who floated the idea of ACCA coupled with Commerce at senior secondary level of CBSE, also congratulated the successful students. He motivated the students to set higher targets and work towards achieving them.

He appreciated the efforts of staff and students in making ACCA education a successful venture as ICSK is the only school offering ICSK qualification to its students along with their CBSE studies. It's allowing students to gain skills as well as certifications from ACCA, UK which has got high value worldwide in job market of accounting field. He informed that these students with Diploma have achieved stage in ACCA equivalent to B.Com degree before completing their class 12th and that remains a unique achievement for them as well as ICSK.

Pinak Maitra, CFO, KIPCO, touched a chord among the audience by narrating his personal experiences to inspire the young children. He underlined the need to be focused and ethical in one's approach in the field of accounting and business and advised students on some key values as his success tips. Students felt lucky with his presence as he is a role model for success in the field of commerce and they were happy to receive awards through him. A motivational song 'Speak Life...' rendered by Alpha and Irene moved the audience next.

Ariz Umer, thereafter familiarized the audience about the need for financial literacy. Alexander Leach, Education Manager, ACCA, Middle East, averred that the requirement for accounting professionals is going to increase in the years to come. He also congratulated the students on their success and assured all support from ACCA to help more youth to

avail benefits of this program. He appreciated ICSK for being a Silver Learning Partner and Computer Based Exam Centre for ACCA in Kuwait with highest number of enrollments.

The next part of the Ceremony was giving among the ACCA Diploma certificates and mementos to the students. Each student received a rousing applause from the appreciating audience.

Michael Gordon, Director, British Council, Kuwait, admired success of the students and wished them good luck for their future endeavor. He too assured support from British Council for educational activities and shared some words of wisdom from his educational experience.

Alisha Rouf gave an impressive dance performance on the theme of high hopes.

Aqeel Khan and Shafqat Hussain, ACCA mentors, the tireless teachers, who helped the students realize their dreams,

thanked parents, students, ICSK, Khaitan, and others for their integrated efforts. The distinguished guests were thanked for their inspiring presence and felicitated with mementos by the ICSK Management. The International School of Pakistan felicitated the ICSK Chairman and Principal of ICSK Khaitan as their appreciation for this success being associated with ACCA as well. ICSK management also presented the token of appreciation to the ACCA Mentors and CBE team Hema and Tasadduq for their dedicated efforts behind this success.

It was followed by a photo session comprising the distinguished guests and diploma holders.

The program concluded with vote of thanks delivered by Dr V Binumon, Principal, ICSK Senior and Sr. Administrator. The spectacular ceremony came to an end with sumptuous dinner and setting new goals for the much motivated student awardees.



Strange disease threatens the Caribbean coral reef

CANCUN: The breathtaking reds, yellows and purples of the Mesoamerican Reef have been turning sickly white, leading researchers on a desperate hunt to understand and fight the mysterious disease killing the Caribbean's corals. In a little over a year, the Mexican Caribbean has lost more than 30 percent of its corals to a little-understood illness called SCTL.D, or stony coral tissue loss disease, which causes them to calcify and die. Experts warn the disease could kill a large part of the Mesoamerican Reef, a magnificent arc of more than 1,000 kilometers of coral shared by Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.

SCTL.D has put the region in a bind: it could potentially devastate the vital tourism industry around the reef, the second-largest in the world after Australia's Great Barrier Reef. And yet, it is highly possible that too much tourism is in fact fueling the problem, scientists say. SCTL.D, which has also been infecting coral off the coast of Florida since 2014, was first detected in the Mexican Caribbean in July last year, near the reef's northern tip.

It has since spread 400 kilometers to the south, reaching Belize and causing more coral loss than occurred in the past 40 years in the region, according to the environmental group Healthy Reefs for Healthy People. The disease takes just weeks to kill off coral tissue that took decades to grow, said Melina Soto, the organization's coordinator in Mexico. "If we keep going at this rate, this ecosystem is going to collapse in the next five to 10 years," she told AFP.

Brink of extinction

Scientists say SCTL.D is even more dangerous than coral bleaching, another damaging condition that has affected reefs around the world, including the Great Barrier Reef. Bleaching happens when environmental

changes, such as warming ocean temperatures, cause corals—which are colonies of tiny animals—to expel the microscopic algae known as zooxanthellae that live inside them and give them their vibrant colors. A reef can recover from coral bleaching if its environment recovers in time.

But SCTL.D is fatal. "It's a complete detachment of the coral tissue, which dies and leaves behind a white skeleton," said Claudia Padilla, a scientist at CRIP Puerto Morelos, a marine biology research center on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. To the untrained eye, the impact of the disease is not highly visible yet. "They looked marvelous to me. I would never have thought they were dying, like the experts say," said Emanuel Fernandez, 34, an Argentine chemical engineer, after a snorkeling tour off the coast of Cancun, the region's most famous resort. But the impact is all too visible to experts. "You used to go diving and see these thriving colonies (of corals). Now they're all dead," said Padilla. Twenty-five of the region's 40 coral species have been affected, she said. Of those, three are on the brink of going extinct in the region. Researchers are currently building up a DNA bank of the endangered corals, hoping they can one day bring them back from extinction in the wild if needed.

Too much tourism?

Scientists are racing to understand what causes SCTL.D. One prime suspect is poor water quality, caused by sewage and a recent surge of decomposing sargassum seaweed—another environmental emergency in the region. Another likely factor is the chemicals in tourists' sunscreen, which the authorities have now banned. "Many studies indicate that a particle found in sunscreen, oxybenzone, impedes the corals' reproduction," said Christopher Gonzalez, regional director for the national



CANCUN: Photo shows a coral off-Mexico's Quintana Roo State, affected by a disease known as white syndrome, which is different from coral bleaching, and more deadly. — AFP

parks commission. This month, authorities temporarily closed three sections of the reef, Palancar, Colombia and El Cielo, which receive thousands of visitors each year.

Now, government officials, the tourism industry and residents are forced to find a delicate balance: a level of tourism that will neither kill off the reef nor the economy.

Around 725,000 tourists have visited the Mexican Caribbean's reefs so far this year, a similar figure to previous years, according to officials. "If we lose the reef, we lose our main economic activity: tourism," warned Maria del Carmen Garcia, head of the Coral Reef National Park in Puerto Morelos. — AFP

CLINIC

PAGE







248 33 199

DENTAL

These services include, but are not limited to, the below:

- Periodontics
- Removable Prosthodontics
- Orthodontics
- Surgeries & Procedures
- Endodontics / Restorative
- Teeth Whitening
- Fixed Prosthodontics
- Digital Imaging





1808088 taibahospital.com
@taibahospital

DENTAL



Dr. Wael El-Aghawi
Consultant, Prosthodontist, Implantologist
& Cosmetic Dentistry



Dr. Harry Samsan
Dental Consultant & Oral Surgeon



Dr. Suchinthan Sundaramoorthy
Orthodontist



Dr. Arwa Abdelkhalik
Pedodontist



Dr. Abdelrahman Al Qenawi
Dentist



Dr. Nancy Bastoun
Endodontist



1808088 taibahospital.com
@taibahospital





Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally
Senior Registrar



Dr. Abeer Khattab
Specialist



Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid
Consultant



Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally
Senior Registrar



Dr. Abeer Khattab
Specialist



Ophthalmology Services



Cataract Surgery



Glaucoma



Retina



General Ophthalmology



Follow-Up All Treatments

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Snapchat

Tel: 1808082
WhatsApp Us
+965-6000 2184



To advertise on this Page



Call: 24833199 ext:101,102

To advertise on this Page

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

WELCOME

Dr Tammam Abou Ali

Consultant ENT, Head Neck, Facial Plastic Surgeon

Relationship of the nasal cavity of surgeons in UK and Ireland. 10 years work experience in ENT Hospital NMR Kuwait. In Head of ENT department in Fawcett Hospital NMR 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

Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!





Dr. Klean Turak
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Zareena Zahir
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Hasan Khan
Senior Cardiologist



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

50721507
24551555
www.exircenterkw.com

EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER

Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCES

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



CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

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

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

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

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

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

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

SPECIALIZED IN:

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

SHARQ, Ahmad Alsheer st., Building 6B, Floor 13.
Tel.: (+965) 22060777
@DrFahamed, @FahadSabb, @FahadSabb
Email: drfahamed@beautybeyond.com.kw

To advertise on this Page

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

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

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

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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

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

Academic Certificates - Training

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

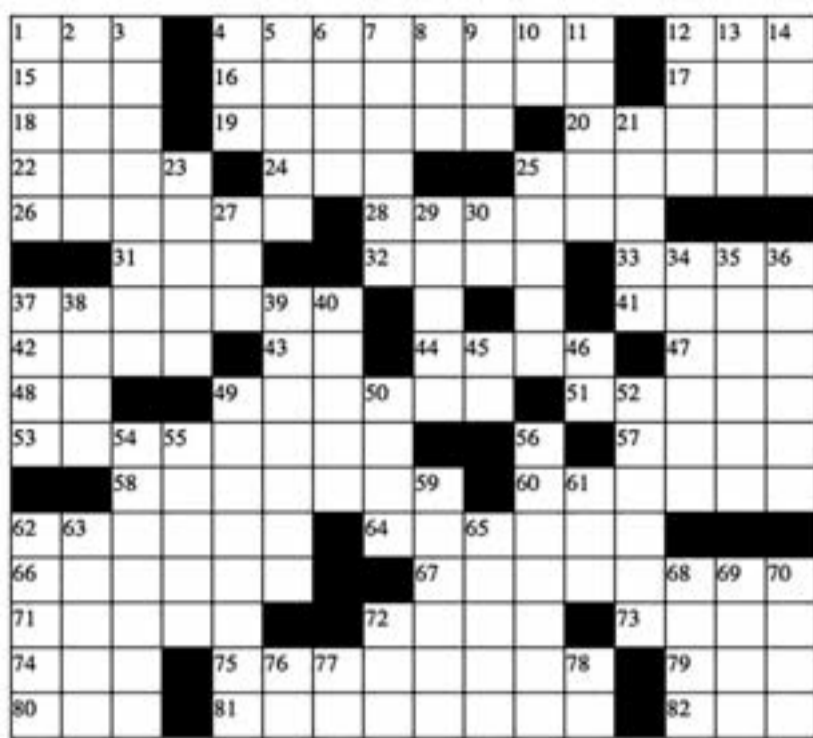
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2358



ACROSS

1. An honorary degree in science.
4. Taxonomic kingdom comprising all living or extinct animals.
12. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
15. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
16. The deck between the bridge and the forecastle.
17. Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.
18. A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc. except for certain white blood cells.
19. Filled with a great quantity.
20. A genus of Platatea.
22. By bad luck.
24. Narrow wood or metal or plastic runners used for gliding over snow.
26. The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.
28. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
31. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
32. The content of cognition.
33. Strike sharply.
37. Indian nun and missionary (born in Albania) dedicated to helping the poor in India (1910-1997).
41. Small deer of Japan with slightly forked antlers.
42. Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality.
43. A metric unit of length equal to 100 meters.
44. A submachine gun operated by gas pressure.
47. Fleishy folds of tissue as those surrounding the mouth.
48. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
51. A religious doctrine that is proclaimed as true without proof.
53. Shaped like a cross.
57. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
58. Famous chief of the Ottawa who led an unsuccessful rebellion against the British (1715-1769).
60. The right to buy or sell property at an agreed price.
62. The act of concealing yourself and lying in wait to attack by surprise.
64. Any plant of the genus Kalnia.
66. A region in central Italy.
67. Workplace consisting of a long narrow path or shed where rope is made.
71. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
73. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
74. A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
75. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
79. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus Iva with small greenish flowers.
80. A slight amount or degree of difference.
81. Woody climbers of tropical Asia to Australia.
82. (British) Your grandmother.

DOWN

1. Disposed of as useless.
2. A Hindu disciple of a swami.
3. Someone opposed to violence as a means of settling disputes.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Family members may want to talk to you about family business matters. It would be wise to listen and take notes. This is nothing serious-just preventative measures for future safety and a good feeling of completion and belonging. Break up the sober moment and open up the discussion to praise and encouragement for others. Some may think you are older than you are, for you can step in and offer wonderful advice and insight. You may even enjoy the thought of being older and probably treat authority, the elderly and your teachers with great respect. Life seems to be working with rather than against you so do not hold back.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This day may be the beginning of a long dreamy time when you find it easy to lose yourself in one flight of fancy or another. Normally clear in your thinking, ideas temporarily become fuzzy, and it is hard to be logical or consistent. Let yourself dream today. Work will go well but it is the quiet moments that make thinking difficult. A little writing may help. Busy yourself in new projects that show your bent for beautification, perhaps planting a vegetable garden or putting in a fish tank. This would be a great time to treat your kids or the neighbor's kids to a visit to the zoo. Perhaps you will enjoy a good book or movie later today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may have the opportunity to play the role of guardian angel or mentor to someone in need today. You can demonstrate a great deal of understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others and you are in a good position to communicate and promote a healing. A very young relative might not want to wait on the next vacation to enjoy those children's books that you have accumulated over the years. Consider mailing a few fun books so they can receive something special in the mail. They will love whatever you send because you thought of them. Breakthrough thinking is available today and may come through your immediate surroundings, home and environment-your support system. You will receive monetary rewards today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

In a word, it is your emotions and inner strength that holds your innermost self together. Your feelings are not just important-they are central to knowing more about you. A strong devotional nature becomes apparent to anyone who takes time to know you. Everything else is centered upon this inner drive and energy. The search for a mate and marriage in particular are crucial for you. Communication with those in a place of worship is possible, enjoyable and uplifting at this time. You are driven to unite and find out what togetherness means. Cleaning, health-awareness, shopping and cooperation from each member of the family or from friends make your day move along easily.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There will be less of an impulse now for recognition. There is a growing need to enjoy some quality time this day. Perhaps you like to listen to teaching tapes or a hobby has taken up space in your creative sector. This time will be less outward and may call for a change of action. This is not a time of outreach and not necessarily the best point to start any great projects. There is introspection, and you may find yourself letting go of plans and projects started in a more outward phase. You may take an interest in your own psyche, religion and spiritual ideas. You take in new impressions. With all of this desire for productive time alone, you will still find time to enjoy your friends from time to time, especially today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could find that you are appreciated and valued for your feelings and your ability to get things done. You can always find the resources you require, plus the necessary instruction in how to use them. You have an inner vision and you are able to understand the true picture. This often finds you working as a go-between with others. Today you might use your special gift for spanning the generation gap by bringing older and younger people together. Your wisdom can be shared as you may find yourself involved in settling disputes. Because you love animals so very much, this evening may become your special time to work in finding homes for lost animals. You may talk with the new owners and help with food and training issues that may be frustrating.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Interaction with others is the focus of this day. Neighbors, friends and family members may take on more importance. Outdoor activity through, perhaps, a tour of a nearby park, zoo or group garage or yard sale can be enjoyed by many. You have a lot of energy and tend to be impatient with those who slow your pace-careful. You soak up what you need to see quickly and are ready to go forward with new experiences. You could be awed as you may find yourself unexpectedly involved with some influential individuals. This may be a great time to suggest a future meeting that will give you time to communicate some of your ideas. Keep your composure and you will do fine. Many of your friends wish they had thought of your ideas; you are spontaneous.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will often find yourself choosing between comfort and progress. Progress is occasionally comfortable, but only when you are looking at where you have been. Today you choose to improve or enhance your surroundings with trees, flowers and perhaps a vegetable garden. Designate a little area for the younger members of the family and you could help teach the importance of helping things grow. Perhaps radishes and onions will be on your table this summer. This afternoon you may decide to watch a car race, participate in team sports or enjoy some trendy pastime with a friend. Your sense of mission makes for impulsive, sometimes rash, but always brave actions.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Increasing inner confidence helps you emerge from a long period of doubt. Finances are better and you can now pay more attention to the needs you have been pushing aside. There is much to accomplish today. Perhaps some repair work or catch-up work needs your attention. You push hard and much energy can be wasted if you do not stop to plan for the end result you want to achieve. You seem to choose friends that plan well, and today would be a good time to toss around a few ideas with them. This afternoon you can balance all this hard work with some fun activity. You will be pleased to discover that somebody who opposed you in the past is now more understanding of your viewpoint.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Immediate needs are where your attention is today. Shopping and tending to chores are high on your to-do list. You have learned to prioritize and this is good. You have the patience that is necessary for helping friends this afternoon. This could mean a move or perhaps watching the kids while the parents tend to some difficult project. You are good at communicating and conveying your thoughts to others. You have a lot of energy and come across as assertive and in control of whatever is set before you now. You pursue your obligations with much emotion and obvious enthusiasm. You are conventional when it comes to your needs and surroundings.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A lazy morning may consist of updating a scrapbook or photograph album. A cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins now emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. Family, home and relatives play big parts in your life. This mood may promote a frenzy of phone calls to out-of-touch loved ones or friends. You want to belong on a private, intimate and personal level. A hobby is most fun when it is shared, and that is where a friend might find you this afternoon, playing with a hobby. You may enjoy some time in a park with a friend later today. Helping others is what you do best: you attract more people to you than you believe possible.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You always seem to say just what you mean. You will be right-on when it comes to questions of feelings-you may be more interested in matters of psychology, different cultures and history. You can find support from all sides when it comes to any sort of mental activity. A new game or an interesting movie may be the goal for the afternoon. You communicate with accomplished skill and it is stimulating just being with you. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student, able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Your ambitions go hand-in-hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. The evening has romantic possibilities-a time you may look back on fondly.

Wordsearch Puzzle

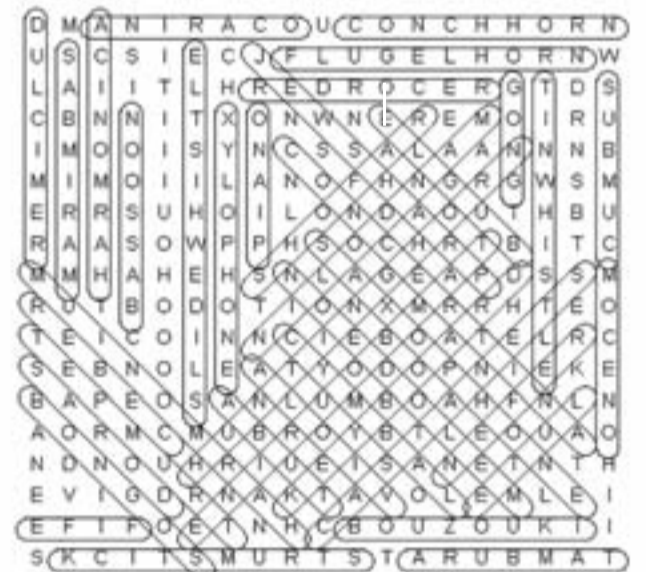
New York City 1

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| BASKETBALL | FERRIS | IMMIGRANTS | SKYSCRAPERS |
| BOROUGH | FIFTH AVENUE | LAFAYETTE AIRPORT | SOCCER |
| BROADWAY | FINANCE | MANHATTAN | SPORTS |
| BROOKLYN | FOOTBALL | MEGA | STATEN ISLAND |
| CHINATOWN | GRAND CENTRAL | MUSICALS | ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL |
| CONEY ISLAND | TERMINAL | NASDAQ | SUBWAY |
| CULTURAL | GREENWICH VILLAGE | NEW YORK TIMES | THE BIG APPLE |
| EMPIRE STATE BUILDING | GROUND ZERO | NYSE | THE BRONX |
| ENTERTAINMENT | HARBOR | PLAYS | TIMES SQUARE |
| FASHION | HIGHRISES | POPULOUS | UNITED NATIONS |
| | HOCKEY | QUEENS | WALL STREET |
| | HUDSON RIVER | | |

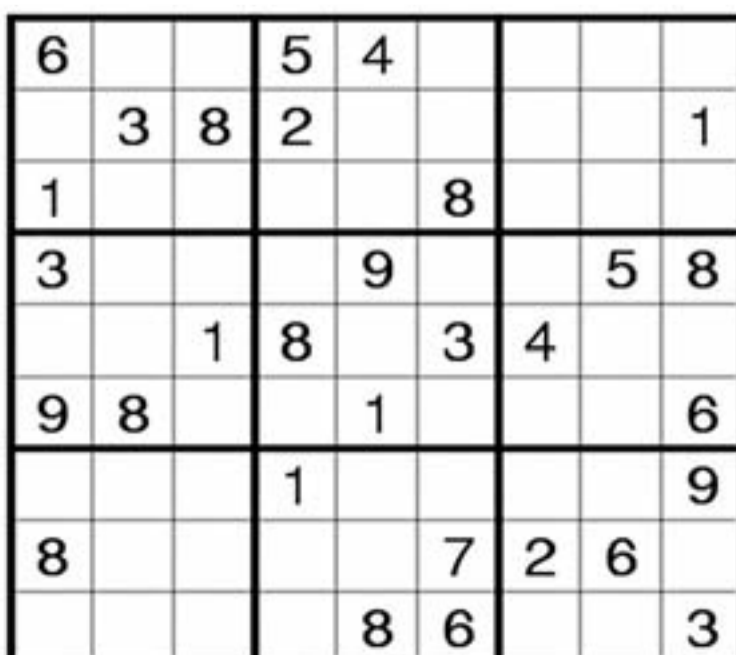
Musical Instruments 2



- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| BASSOON | FFUE | MARIMBAS | SHOFAR |
| BONGOS | FLUGELHORN | MELCOEON | SLIDE WHISTLE |
| BOUZOUKI | GONG | MOCENO | STRIMSTICK |
| BUGLE | HARMONICA | NEFER | TAMBOURINE |
| CASTANETS | HARMONIUM | OCARINA | TAMBURA |
| CONCERTINA | HUNTING HORN | PIANO | TIN WHISTLE |
| CONCH HORN | JEW'S HARP | REBEC | TRUMPET |
| CUMBUS | KEYBOARD | RECORDER | TUBA |
| CYMBAL | LUTE | SAROD | VIOLA |
| DULCIMER | MANDOLIN | SAXOPHONE | XYLOPHONE |

Hidden sentence: MUSIC WITH DINNER IS AN INSULT BOTH TO THE COOK AND THE VIOLINIST

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019



.....
Australian actresses Nicole Kidman, right, and Margot Robbie arrive for the 26th annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Celebration in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP
.....

Mobile theatres to screen **child slavery** film in rural India

A film about a boy trafficked to work in a carpet factory is to be screened in remote Indian villages to raise awareness about child slavery among families often targeted by human traffickers. Due to be released on Thursday, "Jhalki" tracks a nine-year-old girl's struggle to find her younger brother after their parents unwittingly sell him to a trafficker. "We want to reach a large number of people to create awareness about child labor," Brahmanand Siingh, director of "Jhalki" told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The film was inspired by the Indian campaigner against child trafficking and Nobel peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Siingh said yesterday. Figures released by India's National Crime Records Bureau last month showed that about 3,000 human trafficking cases were reported in 2017, a drop of about 60 percent from more than 8,000 recorded in the previous year. Traffickers target people in rural villages - largely poor, women and children - luring them to cities with the promise of good jobs but then selling them into modern day slavery.

Picture Time, a startup that screens films in villages using inflatable, air-conditioned theatres with high quality sound, will take "Jhalki" to rural India and charge 50 rupees (\$0.7) per ticket. "The reach of Picture Time goes right down to interiors where there are no theatres. We can show the film, create awareness," Siingh said. Campaigners at Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation will also screen the film in villages where they work to alert residents to traffickers targeting their area.

India's multiple film industries churn out thousands of films every year, yet it has the lowest number of cinema screens per capita in the world after China, the United States and Britain, consultancy KPMG said in a report this year. Some of the poorer states of India such as Chattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand, record the highest numbers of children trafficked for sex or work but have few cinema theatres. Sushil Chaudhary, Picture Time's founder, said they screened "Padman", a film on menstrual hygiene, and "Toilet-A Love Story" about open defecation, in villages in the last couple of years. "Jhalki is an important film. It should go places," Chaudhary said. — Reuters

Disney bets streaming launch on new 'Star Wars', past classics

The star of Disney's hugely ambitious new Star Wars television series remembers the moment he first stepped into a galaxy far, far away. Pedro Pascal was trying on his character's helmet for "The Mandalorian"-the mega-budget, live-action show which launches the Disney+ streaming platform this Tuesday-when he caught a glimpse in the mirror. "If you grow up playing with Star Wars toys, and seeing the movies, and then you're staring at yourself and you are the image of that childhood imagination-it's a super 'pinch me' moment," recalled Pascal.

Disney is banking heavily on audiences getting that same feeling. Its new rival to Netflix-costing \$6.99 a month in the US-trades heavily on nostalgia, boasting a huge back-catalog from classic Disney animations and Pixar favorites to Marvel superhero films and "The Simpsons." But Disney+ has relatively few original titles at launch, meaning a lot is riding on "The Mandalorian." Written and helmed by Jon Favreau, who directed Disney's wildly successful remakes of "The Jungle Book" and "The Lion King," the show brings together a constellation of stars from within and beyond the legendary franchise.

Chilean actor Pascal, familiar to fans of "Game of

Thrones" and "Narcos," plays a masked bounty hunter known as The Mandalorian. Plot details are tightly under wraps. But the story is set five years after "Return of the Jedi," and follows his adventures as a gun-for-hire roaming the galaxy's lawless outer reaches. "He's cloaked in mystery-an entire story that is literally hidden underneath the armor," Pascal told journalists at a Los Angeles press conference. He will be joined by veteran action star Carl Weathers ("Rocky"), former martial arts fighter Gina Carano ("Deadpool") and "Breaking Bad" villain Giancarlo Esposito.

Lucas's right hand

Taika Waititi ("Jojo Rabbit," "Thor: Ragnarok") directs an episode as well as voicing a droid, while Nick Nolte and German auteur Werner Herzog also have roles. But die-hard Star Wars fans will be most excited by the presence of executive producer and director Dave Filoni, described as George Lucas's "right-hand man." Star Wars creator Lucas sold Lucasfilm to Disney in 2012. But Filoni worked for almost a decade closely alongside the filmmaker on previous Star Wars projects, and brings some old-

school continuity to the project.

"One of the dreams George had even when I worked with him on 'Clone Wars,' he would talk about the future being streaming, the future being episodic, serialized Star Wars," said Filoni. Huge advances in technology-and Disney's deep pockets-have now brought what was once only possible in blockbuster films to the small screen. "I tried to offer the knowledge that I've had passed on to me by George for Star Wars, and the way that he likes to shoot things," said Filoni.

Lucas himself even visited the set, appearing in an Instagram photo shared by Favreau last year. Along with "The Mandalorian," at least two other live-action Star Wars series are in the works for Disney+.

Disney archive

From launch, the platform will also premiere a live-action remake of "Lady and the Tramp." Post-production of the new movie took place on the same studio lot outside Los Angeles where the 1955 original was created. It was filmed using real dogs-mainly strays rescued from shelters and foster families-who had mouth movements superimposed onto them with computer-generated visual effects. Tessa Thompson and Justin Theroux voice the pampered pure-breed and stray mutt who fall deeply in love. Disney+ will also feature at launch a new mockumentary based on "High School Musical."

The 10-episode scripted series sees pupils at the real Salt Lake City school where the original movie was filmed rehearse a new production of its hit songs 13 years later. According to Disney, the show has been created "through the lens of 2019's significant cultural sensibilities"-for instance, the lead female character is being raised by two moms. But fondness for cherished past favorites will be key for Disney+, as it competes in a crowded marketplace with Netflix, Amazon Prime, Apple TV+, HBO Max and more. The Mouse House is opening its film archive on the streaming platform, with movies from classics "Old Yeller" and "Fantasia" through to "Frozen" and "Iron Man" online from day one. Subscribers will have to wait longer for a vast pipeline of new projects, from a grown-up "Lizzie McGuire" reboot starring Hilary Duff to multiple Marvel superhero TV shows. — AFP



View of signage at the world premiere of Disney's 'Frozen 2' at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California. — AFP



Helena Bonham Carter had sleepover at Windsor Castle

The 'Crown' actress, along with her then-partner Tim Burton, Rachel Weisz and her husband Daniel Craig, spent the night at the royal residence "about 10 years ago" and even had a tour of the building given by Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip. She said: "It's fun! Rachel Weisz was there with James Bond. I stayed in Prince Charles's rooms. We had supper and the Queen and Prince Philip gave us a tour." The visit was made even more special by the fact each guest was given something from the royal archive that had a connection to them, with 'Alice in Wonderland' director Tim presented with a first edition of Lewis Carroll's classic fairytale and Helena - who por-

trayed the Queen Mother in 'The King's Speech' - given a letter from King George VI's speech therapist. She added in an interview with Radio Times magazine: "They'd found something from their archive that each of us would appreciate. "So Tim had the first edition of 'Alice in Wonderland', I had a letter from Lionel Logue, who was the King's speech therapist. "It was really touching." The 53-year-old star plays the queen's late sister, Princess Margaret, in the new series of 'The Crown' and has previously admitted she spoke to the royal - who died in 2002 - via a medium before taking on the role.

Lamar Odom gets engaged



The 40-year-old basketball player is set to wed Sabrina Parr - who he has been dating for just three months - after popping the question during a romantic dinner at Prime 112 Restaurant in Miami, Florida. Lamar shared a photo of himself and Sabrina - who showed off her huge pear-cut diamond engagement ring - at the restaurant on his Instagram account and captioned the picture: "Introducing my new fiancée!! Soon to be Mrs Parr-Odom. She the ONE!!!! @getuptoparr.(sic)" The 32-year-old life coach also shared the news on her own account, showing followers a series of videos of her new jewelry. She captioned her post: "I SAID YES!!!![ring and bride emojis]@lamarodom #mrsparrodom #lamarandsabrina (sic)" Lamar recently described his relationship with Sabrina as the "most serious and committed" he had ever been in and admitted he was "tired" of being asked about his ex-wives Khloe Kardashian and Lisa Morales - with whom he has 21-year-old daughter Destiny and 17-year-old son Lamar Jr. - because he's in a different phase of his life now. Posting a picture of himself and Sabrina embracing, he wrote on Instagram: "The look on @getuptoparr face is how she makes me feel everyday. Outside of my daughter, this is the most serious and committed relationship I've ever been in with a woman. I'm tired of people asking me questions about my ex's based on old interviews and old comments! I said what I said then based on where I was in life at that time. I was young, wasn't sober and going through a lot. All of that is different now. I'm at where I want to be at! (sic)"



Selena Gomez learns to forgive

The 'Look At Her Now' singer tries to live by the rule "Treat other people the way you wish you were treated" and admitted the "biggest lesson [has been] how to learn. [when it comes to] the people that have hurt me the most, to forgive them. And to continue to understand and have compassion for people." The 27-year-old singer admitted she was body-shamed after her weight began to fluctuate because of the medication she was taking to combat auto-immune condition lupus, which led to her undergoing a kidney transplant in 2017. Speaking on her friend Raquelle Steven's video podcast 'Giving Back Generation', she said: "I experienced [body-shaming]

with my weight fluctuation for the first time. "I have lupus and deal with kidney issues and high blood pressure, so I deal with a lot of health issues, and for me that's when I really started noticing more of the body image stuff." Selena explained that lupus doesn't directly affect her weight but a "combination" of different health factors do. She added: "It's the medication I have to take for the rest of my life-it depends on even the month, to be honest. So for me, I really noticed when people started attacking me for that. "In reality, that's just my truth. I fluctuate. It depends what's happening in my life." And the 'Wolves' hitmaker admitted the comments really upset her and left her feeling "messed up". She added: "That got to me big time. That really messed me up for a bit."

Anna Kendrick watches football while listening to 'The Nutcracker'



The 34-year-old actress has shared the bizarre annual tradition that her family indulge in every year over the festive season, which involves watching American football without the sound on, and instead having the score of the famous ballet - which was written by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky - playing in the background. Speaking on 'Good Morning America', Anna said: "We do something weird - we watch football with 'The Nutcracker' on. We turn the sound off of football, and we play 'The Nutcracker' because every now and then it lines up perfectly. I encourage you to do this at home. It's so much fun ... a play will align perfectly as the music crescendos - it's really great. Everyone cheers!" Meanwhile, Anna recently said she was "really intimidated" by Los Angeles when she first moved there from her hometown of Portland,

Maine. She said: "There are still streets that I go down that give me butterflies, because the city really intimidated me when I first arrived there. There's a certain section of Sunset Strip that I remember driving on and being like, 'Oh my God, I will never belong here.' My pulse goes through the roof every time I drive on it. I thought if I stepped out of the car, people would know and they'd be like, 'Oh, she's faking it.'" And whilst she's nervous of LA, she loves being so "anonymous" in New York. The 'Noelle' star added: "In LA, to a certain extent. Nobody gives a s**t, but I can sometimes feel a bit of a shift in people. Actually, it's funny being here in New York and realising that in the evenings, if I go out walking, I'm really anonymous ... I forgot how nice it is not to have to tilt my head down or wear a baseball hat."

Shakira suffered depression after her vocal cord hemorrhage

The 'Hips Don't Lie' hitmaker - who has sons Milan, six, and Sasha, four, with Gerard Pique - suffered a hemorrhage of her right vocal cord in 2017, which left her unable to sing, and forced her to postpone her El Dorado World Tour. And now, the singer has said she felt as though she lost her "identity" during her health crisis, and her mental health suffered as a result. Speaking to The Guardian newspaper, she said: "It was my identity. There were times I couldn't even get out of bed - I was so depressed. "I was not positive. I was so pessimistic. I was a bitter person to be around. Gerard saw the worst of me. "Either I needed surgery or divine intervention." Shakira, 42, ignored doctor's advice to

undergo surgery, and instead tried methods including tried hypnosis, meditation, and even some holy water from the French city of Lourdes to try and correct the damage to her singing voice. Eventually, she began to rediscover her singing voice, and returned to the stage in June 2018, for a show which she described as like "having some kind of religious experience." Shakira also explained that every subsequent night of her 'El Dorado' tour - which has now been turned into a movie - was "a gift". Meanwhile, the singer teased new music last month, which will come as her first since her health scare, and since the 2017 album 'El Dorado'.



Hilaria Baldwin suffers another miscarriage

The yoga instructor and her husband Alec Baldwin - who have Carmen, six, Rafael, four, Leonardo, three, and Romeo, 17 months, together - learned the tragic news at a hospital appointment on Monday and though they are in "shock", Hilaria hopes she will eventually get pregnant again. Hilaria - who also suffered a miscarriage in April - shared a video on Instagram along with the caption: "We are very sad to share that today we learned that our baby passed away at 4 months. "We also want you to know that even though we are not ok right now, we will be. We are so lucky with our 4 healthy babies - and we will never lose sight of this. I told Carmen and took this so I could send it to Alec. "I guess this is a good way to share it with you too. I told her that this baby isn't going to come after

all...but we will try very hard to give her a little sister another time. I'm really devastated right now...I was not expecting this when I went to my scan today. I don't know what else to say...I'm still in shock and don't have this all quite clear. Please no paparazzi...that's all I ask [heart emoji (sic)]." In the video, 35-year-old Hilaria snuggled up to Carmen as her daughter asked questions about when the next addition to their family will arrive. She replied: "I don't know. I'm gonna try really hard." The little girl then gave her mother kisses after the brunette beauty admitted she felt "sad". The tragic news comes just a month after the couple revealed they were expecting a daughter. After suffering her first miscarriage, Hilaria announced this pregnancy in her first trimester and found it "liberating" to do so.



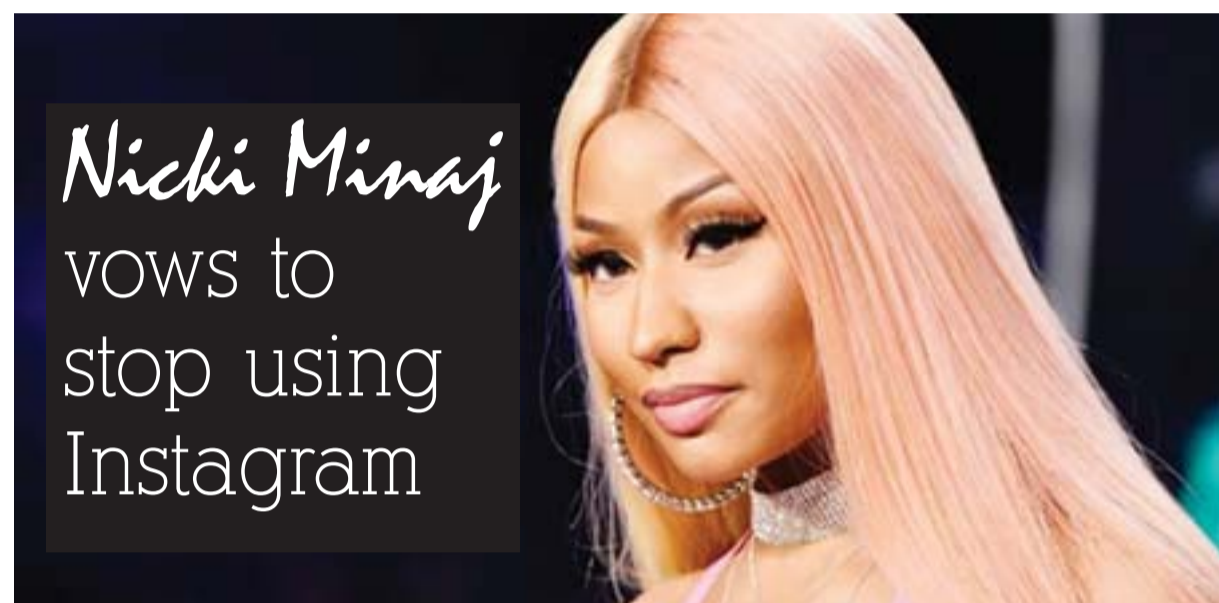
Chris Evans is 'looking for a way out' of acting

The 'Avengers: Endgame' star has said that whilst he loves his career, he goes through cycles of wanting to walk away from Hollywood "every couple of months", and has been considering a career change for several decades. He said: "Every couple of months, I decide I'm done acting. This has been my thing for decades now. I'm always looking for a way out, but I do love it." The 38-year-old star made a name for himself with breakout roles in 'Not Another Teen Movie' in 2001, and 'Fantastic Four' in 2005. And after a successful run on the big screen as Captain America in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), Chris' latest role is in upcoming limited series 'Defending Jacob', which will air on Apple TV+. Chris believes the future of acting is in "innovative" television shows and streaming service series, as he says filmmaking can become "stale" after a while. Speaking to Scarlett

Johansson as part of Variety's Actors on Actors series, he added: "I think TV right now, those creative minds are given a bit more freedom. It feels like movies sometimes get inundated with studio notes, and all of a sudden, what was once an original idea becomes boiled down to the lowest common denominator, and then you have no one's favorite movie but everyone's lukewarm movie. I think that's why people may be turning away, and looking to things like streaming service shows that actually are innovative. "After a while, the process of filmmaking does get stale. You just want to try and find a new way into what has become very familiar. I think what I was hunting for was that prolonged period of time within a scene, thinking it would allow this liberation. It couldn't have been more to the contrary. When you're onstage, it's just like, 'Man!' because you have so much to remember."

Sarah Hyland hasn't set a date for her wedding yet

The 28-year-old actress got engaged to Wells Adams while on vacation in Fiji in July but they are in no rush to tie the knot as they are just enjoying the current phase of their relationship. Speaking on the red carpet at the People's Choice Awards on Sunday, she told E! News: "We have not set a date or anything. We're trying to really just enjoy being engaged." And the 'Modern Family' actress joked she's busy trying to cut costs before she really gets her planning underway. She quipped: "I'm going to be cutting down the list until we don't even have a wedding. Weddings are expensive." While the couple may not have set a date yet, they have done some planning and Sarah recently revealed she has asked eight of her closest friends to be part of her bridal party. The actress shared a photograph of her "bride tribe" - excluding Vanessa Hudgens and Nicholas Carbone - on her Instagram account at the weekend as they all posed together for a silly shot. She captioned it: "I swear we can be classy [devil emoji] Meet the #BrideTribe (can someone photoshop @vanessahudgens & @nicholasjcarbone in this for me please??) (sic)." Vanessa revealed at the beginning of last month that she had been asked by the brunette beauty to accompany her down the aisle. The 'High School Musical' actress shared a picture on her Instagram Stories of a wooden box her close friend sent her, which was decorated with leaves and had her name written on it. The 'Second Act' star tagged Sarah in the post and added a GIF graphic, which read: "Bridesmaid." — Bang Showbiz



Nicki Minaj vows to stop using Instagram

The photo sharing app recently announced plans to hide the number of people who have "liked" pictures on the site for other people, meaning the only person who will be able to see the engagement on their content is the owner of the post. And whilst many have applauded the decision - which is believed to help people combat the pressures of social media - Nicki, 36, has said she'll stop using Instagram if they implement this feature, because she doesn't think it's any "better". The 'Anaconda' hitmaker tweeted: "I'm not posting on IG after this week cuz they removing the likes. Hmmm what should I get into now? Think of all the time I'll have with my new life. "They took away your engagements in the first place by disrupting the algorithm. Then they boost it to show you how much better this new iPhone is. I mean how much better this new IG feature is. - lemme guess, u don't believe your iPhone messes up when the new iPhone comes out... (sic)" Nicki's outrage comes after Kim Kardashian West

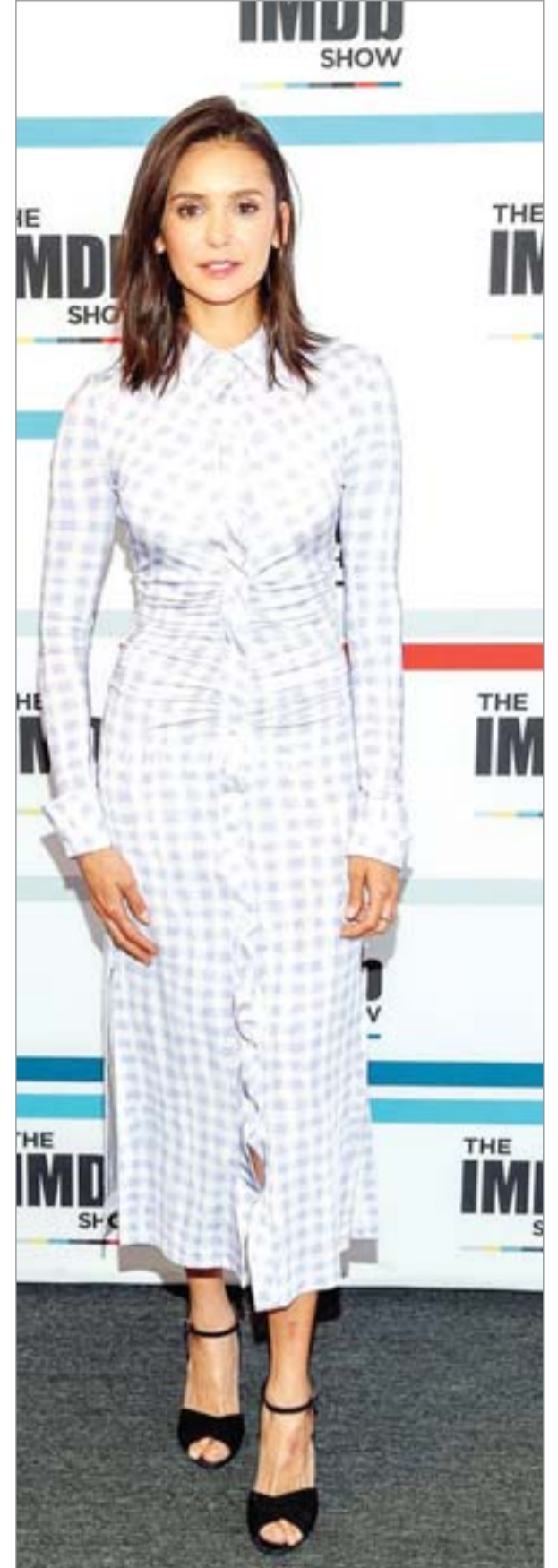
said she was pleased to see creators of the app discussing plans to remove likes, although she noted it could have an impact on celebrities and influencers, who often earn a bulk of their money from the amount of followers and interaction they have on a post. She said: "It is tricky. I think about when I raise my kids: Screen time, phone time, what to post, what not to post. As far as mental health, it's something that, you know - I think taking the 'likes' away and taking that aspect away from it would be really beneficial for people. "And I know that the Instagram team has been having lots of inner conversations with a bunch of people to get everyone's take on that and is taking it really seriously. And that makes me happy." Instagram CEO Adam Mosseri announced plans to test the new feature last week, when he said he wanted to "depressurize" the site for young people.



'Gossip Girl' reboot to feature non white leads and have queer content

In July, it was confirmed the hit HBO show's creators Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage had struck up a deal with the new streaming service HBO Max, seven years after the original series ended, for 10 one-hour episodes for a new generation of teen viewers. And now, Joshua Safran - who helped write and executive produce the original series - has revealed they have signed up a much more diverse cast in the revival so that the show reflects the world now, and he also teased it will provide a huge "twist" to the storyline. Speaking at Vulture Festival, Safran said: "There was not a lot of representation the first time around on the show. "I was the only gay writer I think the entire time I was there. "Even when I went to private school in New York in the 90s, the school didn't necessarily reflect what was on 'Gossip Girl'. "So, this time around the leads are non-white. "There's a lot of queer content on this show. "It is very much dealing with the way the world looks now, where wealth and privilege come from, and how you han-

dle that. "The thing I can't say is there is a twist, and that all relates to the twist." The original series, adapted from the books by Cecily von Ziegesar, ran from 2007 to 2012. It featured a salacious mix of intrigue and romance amongst a group of privileged teens in high-society New York, all narrated by the mysterious blogger Gossip Girl. The original starred Blake Lively, Taylor Momsen, Leighton Meester, and Ed Westwick. 'Frozen' star Kristen Bell supplied the voice of the anonymous Gossip Girl, who was revealed in the series finale to be Dan Humphrey (Penn Badgley). Bell is reprising her role as the narrator in the reboot, which is set 12 to 13 years after the original series, and she is "thrilled". She told Variety: "They just said, 'We've got really good news. It's looking like we're going to do another version of 'Gossip Girl' and we would for you to return.' "I was thrilled because ... it was a very easy job for me. "I got to come in and play around." The reboot is expected to launch on HBO Max in 2020.



Nina Dobrev spends night in the emergency room

The 'Vampire Diaries' star was forced to spend a night in hospital over the weekend for an unknown reason, but was supported through her stay by her best friend Julianne Hough, who took to Instagram to document the event. Julianne, 31, posted a video of their trip to the ER on her Instagram story, and said: "Well, this is my night at the emergency room on a Sunday night with guess who?" And text on the clip read: "Who would I be at the Emergency Room with on a Sunday night?! Thank god I went to visit this little sheesh! (sic)" A few hours later, Julianne revealed her mystery friend was in fact 30-year-old Nina, although she didn't disclose the reason the actress had found herself in hospital. However, a source confirmed to E! News that the star is "fine". Last year, Nina and the professional dancer opened up on their lengthy friendship, which they both feel has lasted for decades. Nina said: "It feels like we met when we were 2 years old because I feel like I have known you my entire life. We are goofy, we like to laugh, we like to play with our dogs and hang out and watch movies and get ready together and go places together. "We just like to be around each other. I can only speak for myself, but Julianne is such a positive, awesome person. She has an infectious energy that you just want to be around, so selfishly I am just trying to get a little bit of her energy transferred to me Whilst Julianne added: "We're like yin and yang - like same thing with Nina - you also have an infectious energy. You're always the person that's inclusive of everybody and always making sure everybody is having fun, and we're like a spontaneous combustion of energy when we're together, at least we think so."



Jessica Alba listens to dope music whilst she's in glam

The 'Sin City' actress has shared her ritual for getting red carpet-ready, which involves chilling out and getting a massage - if there is time - and setting the mood with the right music. She said: "If I have time, I'll get a massage to unwind and relax. "It's important to listen to dope music while getting ready to set the tone for the night." The 38-year-old star - who has children Honor, 11, Hayes, 22-months and eight-year-old Haven with husband Cash Warren - also shared her biggest tip for preventing slipping out of heels. She explained: "I put double-sided tape onto the soles of my feet so that I don't slip out and this keeps my

feet from sliding out of my shoes." And to ease the pain, Jessica applies a CBD lotion to her feet and knees. She added to PEOPLE magazine: "Lastly, I slather on Lord Jones High CBD Formula Body Lotion focusing on my feet and knees when I know I'm going to be in heels all night." The blonde beauty also has to use the best products to keep her make-up in place because she has sensitive eyes, which are set off by the flash of cameras. She admitted: "I'm usually just focused on trying to get through it without tearing up. "I have sensitive eyes so all of the flashes going off make my eyes water."





Berlin's Museum of Islamic Art: House of 93,000 artifacts

The Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin is the largest of its kind in Europe, as well as North and South America, hosting 93,000 items dating back to the Islamic civilization. In 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) listed the Museum in the international heritage, which reflects its antique and important collectables. The two-storey museum, built between 1920 and 1930, is part of the Pergamon Museum, and attracts thousands of tourists annually, exhibiting chapters of Islamic history and

art. The Pergamon Museum is situated on the Museum Island in Berlin and houses monumental buildings such as the Pergamon Altar, the Ishtar Gate of Babylon, the Market Gate of Miletus reconstructed from the ruins found in Anatolia, as well as the Mshatta Facade. The museum is subdivided into the antiquity collection, the Middle East museum, and the Museum of Islamic art. — KUNA



New H&M tagline sparks outcry over gender violence association

A new collection from fashion giant H&M has unleashed protests from women's rights campaigners because it includes the slogan "I love GBV", the initials of the designer but also a widely used acronym for gender-based violence. H&M said the slogan, emblazoned on hats, a necklace and boxer shorts with a red heart symbolizing the word "love", was an abbreviation of Italian designer Giambattista Valli and any other associations were unintentional. But women's rights activists demanded the prod-

ucts be withdrawn saying it was "crazy" to continue selling them. "This is not an obscure term. It's very commonly used as a short hand for gender-based violence," said Heather Barr, the women's rights division co-director at global advocacy group Human Rights Watch. The Swedish retailer launched the clothing line on Nov. 7 in its first collaboration with Rome-born Valli, known in the fashion world for its ready-to-wear and haute couture pieces. "We condemn any type of violence, and as a value

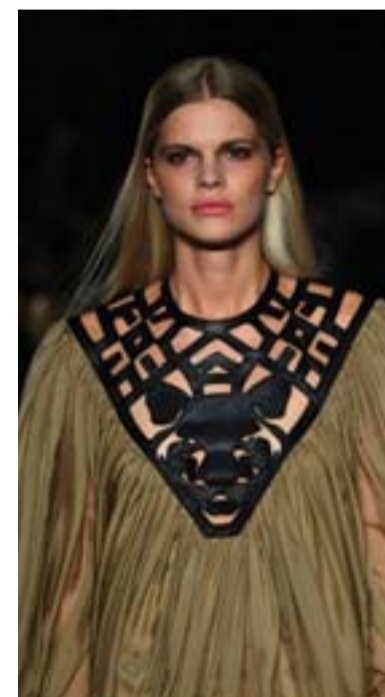
driven company, we believe in an inclusive and equal society," said H&M spokesman Hacan Andersson in an email to the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Gender-based violence affects one in three women worldwide according to the United Nations. A study by the UN last year found that the most dangerous place for women around the world may be at home and the number of those killed by a partner or relative was rising globally. The items that featured the tagline were still list-

ed for sale on H&M's website on Monday. "By coming up with this line in the first place it demonstrates the lack of awareness about women's rights," Pakistan-based Barr, who was among those who protested the tagline on Twitter, said by phone. "The right thing to do would have been to remove them all and apologize." — Reuters



Budapest Fashion Week

Models present creations of the womenswear brand 'Elysian' by Hungarian designer Boglarka Bodis during Budapest Central European Fashion Week in the 'Balna' cultural center of Budapest, Hungary. — AFP photos



Models present creations by Hungarian designer Katti Zoob during Budapest Central European Fashion Week in the 'Balna' cultural center of Budapest, Hungary.

Classifieds

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

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

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Relatively hot with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Fair with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 24 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas and some scattered clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 12/11/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	29 °C	20 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31 °C	14 °C			
ABDALY	32 °C	14 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	31 °C	16 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	28 °C	22 °C			
AHMADI	27 °C	23 °C			
NUWAISIB	29 °C	18 °C			
WAFRA	31 °C	14 °C			
SALMY	- °C	- °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	11/13	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear.	30 °C	14 °C	VRB	06 - 22 km/h
Thursday	11/14	Relatively hot and scattered clouds will increase gradually with a chance for scattered light rain.	30 °C	13 °C	VRB-SW	06 - 26 km/h
Friday	11/15	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thunders at times.	28 °C	14 °C	SW-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Saturday	11/16	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thunders at times.	27 °C	14 °C	NE-SE	18 - 50 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:47
Sunrise	06:09
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:33
Sunset	16:55
Isha	18:14

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT		
MAX. Temp.		31 °C
MIN. Temp.		13 °C
MAX. RH		84 %
MIN. RH		21 %
MAX. Wind		S 18 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.		0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mathu Thadathil Mathew, holder of Indian Passport Number J 0976591, do hereby change my name to (Given name: Mathu, Surname: Thadathil Mathew) as per my Adhar Number 3826 2249 3565 for all purpose. I also undertake of effect the change in all my other public documents.

I, Sherwin Mathu Mathew, holder of Indian Passport Number T 5334952, do hereby change my name to (Given name: Sherwin, Surname: Mathu Mathew) as per my Adhar Number 2472 9763 6887 for all purpose. I also undertake of effect the change in all my other public documents.

I, Melita Mathu Mathew, holder of Indian Passport Number P 9484735, do hereby change my name to (Given name: Melita, Surname: Mathu Mathew) as per my Adhar Number 2190 5103 3734 for all purpose. I also undertake of effect the change in all my other public documents.

(C 5472) 13-11-2019

Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines`	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 13/11/2019				Departure Flights on Wednesday 13/11/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEQ	441	Asyut	00:05	NIA	1504	Asyut	12:30
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	KIS	6033	Mashhad	12:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	TBZ	6606	Mashhad	12:55
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	IAW	158	AI Najaf	13:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	CLX	7912	Hanoi	14:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	RBG	218	Asyut	14:35
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	673	Kuwait	15:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	UAE	878	Dubai	15:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
JZR	502	Lahore	02:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	156	Alexandria	02:55	JZR	125	Dubai	15:50
RJA	784	Amman	03:05	KNE	520	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	103	London	15:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	1600	Amman	16:00
NIA	1604	Luxor	03:10	JZR	405	Kochi	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	128	Sharjah	16:15
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
RBG	1153	Asyut	04:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
ETH	3424	Bahrain	04:15	FEQ	242	Alexandria	16:55
KAC	796	Madinah	04:25	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	SVA	505	Madinah	17:00
JZR	1738	Cairo	04:45	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:35
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10	KAC	503	Beirut	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	OMS	226	Muscat	17:50
RBG	215	Sohag	05:35	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	615	Bahrain	18:10
JZR	708	Luxor	06:15	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	JZR	733	Cairo	18:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	JZR	253	Amman	19:15
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
JZR	724	Alexandria	07:50	KAC	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	351	Kochi	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:15	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	NIA	1406	Sohag	21:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	RBG	219	Sohag	21:35
KAC	341	Damascus	10:00	THY	1089	Doha	21:50
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	THY	1413	Tabriz	22:25
JZR	114	Doha	11:10	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
IGO	1755	CNN	11:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
NIA	1405	Sohag	11:30	JZR	407	Ahmedabad	22:40
KIS	122	Dubai	11:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	6032	Mashhad	11:45	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
IAW	157	AI Najaf	12:00	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	JAV	622	Amman	23:15
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				SVA	515	Riyadh	23:25
				SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45
				JZR	701	Asyut	23:45

Egypt opens jail after UN report

CAIRO: Egyptian authorities on Monday opened up Tora prison in Cairo for a media tour, following a UN report on the "brutal" conditions in which jailed ex-president Mohamed Morsi was held before his death. In a rare tour of the sprawling jail complex, journalists were shown an exhibition of furniture made by inmates, a farm with cows and ostriches, and a brief football match between prisoners.

The guided tour comes ahead of a mission to Geneva by Egyptian officials for a review on Wednesday before the United Nations Human Rights Council. It was arranged in response to a stinging review last week by an independent panel of UN experts that blasted conditions in Tora. The experts said the death of ousted Islamist president Morsi, who was held in Tora for five years, could amount to a "state-sanctioned arbitrary killing". The former president died in June after collapsing in a Cairo courtroom while on trial.

"Morsi was held in conditions that can only be described as brutal, particularly during his five-year detention in the Tora prison complex," the experts said in a statement. His death "after enduring those conditions could amount to a state-sanctioned arbitrary killing", the experts added. They also warned that thousands are at risk of death in the same prison.

On the media tour, abuse charges in Tora were dismissed by politicians and personalities that included for example retired ex-national football goalkeeper

turned television pundit Ahmed Shobeir. "This prison is more of a seaside resort now compared to what it used to be," Mostafa Bakry, a pro-Sisi parliamentarian, contended. He told AFP that inmates were treated with dignity, pointing to a newly-mowed football pitch. On documented allegations of abuse, Bakry said these were foreign-originated charges designed to sow chaos, echoing the common response of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. The former head of the army turned president led the military's ouster of Morsi in 2013.

"Inmates are not sitting in their cells. They can play soccer or exercise and there are a lot of activities for them," said Alaa Abed, a former policeman and current head of parliament's human rights committee. Other senior officials declined to speak on the record during the tour, while AFP was prevented from talking directly with inmates.

The family of prominent human rights lawyer Mohamed El-Baqer, who was detained in September, said on social media they were prevented from seeing him yesterday because of the media tour. Rights groups have regularly accused Egyptian authorities of severe violations including torture, overcrowding and medical negligence in jails. Some 4,000 people, including lawyers, activists, professors and journalists, were detained in a wave of arrests following rare anti-Sisi protests in September, according to local rights groups. — AFP



CAIRO: A picture taken during a guided tour organized by the Egypt's State Information Service yesterday shows inmates cooking and serving food for visitors in Tora prison. — AFP

'Sister protests': Lebanon, Iraq look to each other

BEIRUT: A Lebanese flag flutters in the protest-hit Iraqi capital. More than 900 km away, a revolutionary Iraqi chant rings out from a bustling protest square in Beirut. "Don't trust the rumors, they're a group of thieves," sings a group of Lebanese musicians in Iraqi dialect, referring to political leaders they deem incompetent and corrupt. "The identity is Lebanese," they continue, reworking the chant by Iraqi preacher Ali Yusef Al-Karbalai, made popular during the street movement there.

Such recent shows of solidarity have become a common feature of protest squares in the two countries, where corruption, unemployment and appalling public services have fuelled

unprecedented street movements demanding the ouster of an entire political class. They serve to "shed light on similarities between the two movements and boost morale," said Farah Qadour, a Lebanese oud musician. "The two streets are observing and learning from each other," said the 26-year-old who is part of the group that adopted Karbalai's chant.

In Lebanon's southern city of Nabatiyeh, hundreds brandishing Lebanese flags chanted: "From Iraq to Beirut, one revolution that never dies." And in the northern city of Tripoli, dubbed the "bride" of Lebanon's protest movement, a man standing on a podium waved a wooden pole bearing the flags of the two countries. "From Lebanon to Iraq, our pain is one, our right is one, and victory is near," read a sign raised during another protest, outside Beirut's state-run electricity company.

'We're with you'

In Tahrir Square, the beating heart of Baghdad's month-old protest movement, demonstrators are selling Lebanese flags alongside Iraqi ones. They have hung some on the abandoned Turkish restaurant, turned by Iraqi demonstra-

tors into a protest control tower. Banners reading "from Beirut to Baghdad, one revolution against the corrupt" could be seen throughout.

Lebanon and Iraq are ranked amongst the most corrupt countries in the region by anti-graft watchdog Transparency International, with Iraq listed as the 12th most corrupt in the world. Public debt levels in both countries are relatively high, with the rate in Lebanon exceeding 150 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). "What's happening on the streets in Iraq and Lebanon, they're sister protests," said Samah, a 28-year-old Lebanese demonstrator. "They're the result of an accumulation" of years of problems.

One video that went viral on social media networks showed a masked Iraqi protester dressed in military fatigues demanding the resignation of Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, one of the main targets of protesters in the small Mediterranean country. In a video released online, a group of young Iraqi men had filmed themselves singing, "Lebanon, we're with you!"

The two movements also seem to be adopting similar

protest strategies. In both countries, rows of parked vehicles have blocked traffic along main thoroughfares in recent weeks. University-aged demonstrators wearing medical masks or eye goggles have occupied bridges and flyovers, refusing to believe pledges of reform from both governments.

'The goal is one'

The big difference is that in Iraq, the demonstrations have turned deadly, with more than 300 people, mostly protesters but also including security forces, killed since the movement started Oct 1. Lebanon's street movement, which started on Oct 17, has been largely incident-free despite scuffles with security forces and counter-demonstrators rallying in support of established parties.

The two movements, however, are united in their anger about the kind of political system that prioritizes power-sharing between sects over good governance. The consecutive governments born out of this system have been prone to deadlock and have failed to meet popular demands for better living conditions. — AFP

Maharashtra placed under...

Continued from Page 1

regional ally Shiv Sena ahead of the elections. But the two parties failed to agree on a power-sharing deal after the election results showed the coalition had won a comfortable majority for a second consecutive term.

Bushehri resigns after grilling...

Continued from Page 1

companies, adding she has signed housing contracts worth KD 232 million and public works contracts worth over KD 800 million. Tabtabaei accused the ministry of

EU: Israel settlement goods...

Continued from Page 1

Benjamin Netanyahu compared them to the Nazi boycott of Jewish businesses. The Luxembourg-based court ruled after France's top tribunal asked for clarification of rules on labeling goods from the West Bank, including annexed east Jerusalem, which the international community considers occupied Palestinian land, as well as the Golan Heights, which Israel took from Syria in 1967.

"Foodstuffs originating in the territories occupied by the State of Israel must bear the indication of their territory of origin, accompanied, where those foodstuffs come from an Israeli settlement within that territory, by the indication of that provenance," said an ECJ statement announcing its decision. France published guidelines in 2016 saying products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Golan Heights must carry labels making their precise origin clear.

This was challenged by the Organisation Juive Europeenne (European Jewish Organization) and Psagot, a company that runs vineyards in occupied territories. Israel's foreign ministry issued a statement yesterday saying it "strongly rejects" the ruling. "The ruling's entire objective is to single out and apply a double standard against Israel," it said. "There are over 200 ongoing territorial disputes across the world, yet the (European Court of Justice) has not rendered a single ruling related to the labeling of products originating from these territories."

But a spokeswoman for the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, insisted the ruling "does not concern products from Israel itself". It would not affect the privileged trading status the Jewish state has under its association agreement with the bloc, she added.

Shiv Sena quit the coalition Monday, hoping to convince ideological rivals the center-left Indian National Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party to form a government instead.

Under India's constitution, New Delhi can take direct control of a state in the absence of a local government and after obtaining consent from the president. The president's direct rule can last up to six months, but experts said fresh elections are likely to be called within a few weeks to solve the political quagmire, unless one of the parties is able to cobble together a coalition. — AFP

delaying key projects and impacting development, adding that as a result of the ministry failing to carry out its projects, the Amiri Diwan took over from the ministry and completed them. He charged that employees who fight against corruption in the ministry are sent for interrogation, while those who are serious about work are sidelined.

Tabtabaei strongly criticized the ministry for failure to deal with roads, "which are broken like biscuits". He also charged that key housing projects are delayed and that 50 percent of housing projects are late. MP Safa Al-Hashem defended the minister and her achievements, but said she has become a scapegoat for some problems.

"The EU does not support any form of boycott or sanctions against Israel and the EU rejects attempts by the campaigns of the so-called Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement to isolate Israel," spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said.

Elsewhere, the secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Saeb Erekat, welcomed the ruling but urged the EU to go further. "Our demand is not only for the correct labeling reflecting the certificate of origin of products coming from illegal colonial settlements, but for the banning of those products from international markets."

The court said that labeling products as from the "State of Israel" when in fact they come from "territories... occupied by that State" could mislead consumers. The court added that EU regulations on labeling the origin of goods were intended to allow consumers to make "informed choices" - not just on health, economic, environmental and social grounds, "but also to ethical considerations and considerations relating to the observance of international law". "Such considerations could influence consumers' purchasing decisions," the ECJ said.

On the issue of Israeli settlements, the court said "they give concrete expression to a policy of population transfer conducted by that State outside its territory, in violation of the rules of general international humanitarian law". Consumers might be misled if it was not made clear that products originated in these settlements, the court added.

But Francois-Henri Briard, the lawyer for Psagot, condemned the ruling, saying it catered to "political prejudices". "If such labelling is applied to Israeli products, surely it will also need to be applied to scores of other countries around the world who could be argued to be in violation of international law," he said in a statement. Francois Kalifat of the CRIF umbrella association of French Jewish groups called the ruling "discriminatory and intolerable". He said it would strengthen the BDS movement, which calls for a broad-ranging boycott of Israel over its treatment of the Palestinians. — AFP

Exchange of fire after Israel kills...

Continued from Page 1

out by a drone, killed Islamic Jihad commander Baha Abu Al-Ata, 42. Islamic Jihad confirmed his death along with that of his wife. Israel blamed Ata for recent rocket fire into its territory and said he was preparing further attacks. As the retaliatory rocket fire followed, air raid sirens rang out in various parts of Israel as residents took cover in bomb shelters.

Israel's military said yesterday morning that around 50 rockets had been fired at its territory and air defenses had intercepted around 20 of them, but that number increased throughout the day. Video spread online showing the rocket that hit the highway at Gan Yavne in Israel's center, narrowly missing cars.

Islamic Jihad, allied to Hamas, the Islamist movement that rules Gaza, claimed responsibility for rocket fire from the strip. Schools were closed in both the Gaza Strip and in parts of Israel, including in the commercial capital Tel Aviv. The Israeli army ordered "non-essential" workers in Tel Aviv, central Israel and the Gaza border region to stay at home and banned public gatherings.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu charged that Ata had over the past year "planned and executed many attacks" and "fired hundreds of rockets at communities adjoining Gaza". "Israel is not interested in escalation, but we shall do everything necessary in order to defend ourselves," he said in a televised statement from defense headquarters. "I'm telling you in advance, it could take time."

Nadav Argaman, head of domestic security agency

Lebanon protesters clamor for...

Continued from Page 1

Each year, he has to make his way to General Security headquarters to renew his residency permit - like all other non-Lebanese. "They treat us like foreigners. It's humiliating," he said, holding the Lebanese red-green-and-white flag.

Last year, Human Rights Watch (HRW) strongly denounced the law, noting that Lebanon lags far behind some other countries in the region on the issue. Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen all provide equal citizenship rights to the children of both women and men, while Iraq and Mauritania confer nationality to those born in the country, according to HRW.

At a Beirut protest, Samer stood in a small crowd, raising his fist and chanting against political leaders he sees as inept and corrupt, the majority of whom have been in power since the end of the country's 15-year civil war in 1990. "But we need it (citizenship) to work, to sign up our children at school and receive social security," said the 33-year-old, whose father is Palestinian and who is himself the father of three.

Despite activists campaigning to amend the 1925 nationality law, Lebanese authorities have been reluctant to do so. In this small multi-confessional country of around

Shin Bet which took part in the targeted strike, said the operation "allowed us to reach the level of the bed in which he slept, the small room in which he lived, in which he hid". Damage from a blast could be seen at Ata's home in the Shejayia district of eastern Gaza City. Mosque loudspeakers rang out with news of Ata's death early yesterday and crowds joined his funeral procession through the streets of the city, occasionally firing guns into the air.

A joint statement by Gaza's militant groups said Israel had crossed "all red lines" and would face consequences. Hamas leader Ismail Haniya said "today's crime and the Israeli bombardment in Gaza are added to the Israeli criminal record that is intended to liquidate the Palestinian cause by attacking the Palestinian people, the resistance and high-ranking resistance officers".

Israel said Ata was behind rocket fire towards a music festival in the Israeli city of Sderot in August as well as further rocket attacks at the start of November. It has also accused him of being behind sniper fire and drone launchings. Ata "is responsible for most of the terror attacks in the last year from the Gaza Strip," the army said, describing him as a "ticking bomb". It alleged he was "promoting preparations to commit immediate terror attacks in various ways towards Israeli civilians and (Israeli) troops during the recent few days".

The strikes and rocket fire raised the possibility of a severe escalation between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza. Three wars have been fought between them since 2008 and Gaza has been under a strict Israeli blockade for more than a decade. Islamic Jihad is the second most-powerful militant group in the Gaza Strip after Hamas. The flare-up comes at a sensitive time politically for Israel. A Sept 17 general election ended in a deadlock and a new government is yet to be formed. It was the second election since April, when polls also ended inconclusively. — AFP

4.5 million, the political system relies on a fragile balance of power between communities. Authorities fear that changing the law would open the door - especially through marriages of convenience - to the naturalization of some of the majority-Sunni 1.5 million Syrians and around 174,000 Palestinians living in the country, according to official estimates.

Last year, then foreign minister Gebran Bassil suggested amending the law to allow for Lebanese mothers to pass on their nationality - but only if the father was neither Palestinian nor Syrian. "It's racism," said Randa Kabbani, coordinator of the "My Nationality, My Dignity" campaign demanding citizenship for children of Lebanese women. Of the 10,000 impacted households identified by the campaign, some 60 percent are Syrian, 10 percent Egyptian, and just seven percent Palestinian, Kabbani said.

Others are Jordanian, Iraqi, American or hold European nationalities, she added. Around 80 percent are Muslim and 20 percent Christian. Samer said those pushing for reform are not demanding the naturalization of all Palestinians living in Lebanon, "but only those born to a Lebanese mother. It's a natural right".

Kabbani said she was delighted the issue had gained new momentum in the ongoing protests. "Before the movement, women were almost ashamed to speak up about it. But today they're clamoring loud and clear," she said. On Sunday, hundreds of protesters took part in a march organized by "My Nationality, My Dignity" in the capital. Volunteers with the campaign have erected a tent in the square by the office of the now deposed cabinet to discuss the issue. — AFP

Sports

Hamilton's success 'getting a bit boring' for Verstappen

Verstappen has 100 starts, seven wins since becoming sport's youngest driver

MILTON KEYNES: Lewis Hamilton's domination of Formula One is "getting a bit boring" and the time is fast approaching for the younger generation to take over at the top, says Red Bull youngster Max Verstappen.

The Dutch driver hopes he and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, also 22-years-old, will be fighting for the Mercedes driver's throne next year. "I think it's good for the sport to have the young guys now coming up and hopefully taking over very soon," Verstappen said ahead of Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix, the first race since Hamilton clinched his sixth title in Texas.

"It's getting a bit boring seeing Lewis win, so we have to try and change that," he added at an event to announce a personal sponsorship with pan-European online used car marketplace CarNext.com. Verstappen has 100 starts and seven wins to his name since becoming the sport's youngest driver and next season he could yet become the youngest champion.

Hamilton, who can equal Michael Schumacher's record seven titles and surpass the great German's 91 wins, will be 35 in January. "He's getting older ... so for sure it will stop at one point," said Verstappen.

"It's just going to depend on the team, to be honest. It's not going to depend on Lewis. If Mercedes keeps building really dominant cars, for sure he's going to win. So we just have to make sure as a team that we can beat them."

Verstappen said engine partners Honda had a breakthrough year in 2019 and he was confident former champions Red Bull, third overall, could be in the mix in 2020. "I think we are on the right path. When you see the engine

power compared to Mercedes and Renault, we are very close to Mercedes now so that is very promising for next year," he added.

CarNext.com Chief Executive Ewout van Jarwaarde said Verstappen and his company were both disruptive forces in their own arenas, but the driver was eager to douse the flames of recent controversies.

In Texas last month he labelled comments by Hamilton after a Mexican Grand Prix clash as "disrespectful" and "silly" while accusing Ferrari of cheating. "It's a very sensitive subject, so for me I try not to go there anymore," he said when asked about words that angered Ferrari. "I prefer just to go ahead, leave everything behind ... just focus on Brazil."

Of his relationship with Hamilton, Verstappen said the Briton was "very special and definitely one of the best drivers ever" and said he had never really had a problem with him. "We talked on the grid (in Austin). I respect Lewis, of course, but we are also hard racers and sometimes it can be a bit more tough. But we talked and it's all good." Verstappen recognised he had made mistakes this year, despite a strong and consistent season, but would not have it any other way.

"Everybody makes mistakes, otherwise it's better to put a robot in," he said. "It's good to make mistakes as well, you learn from it." He said he was happy at Red Bull, despite speculation he might one day replace or join Hamilton at Mercedes. "I really want to win with Red Bull," he said. "I really feel at home, which I think is also very important for a driver — that you feel appreciated." — Reuters



AUSTIN: File photo shows Formula One World Drivers Champion Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain and Mercedes GP celebrates after the F1 Grand Prix of USA at Circuit of The Americas on November 03, 2019 in Austin, Texas. — AFP

GAZOO Racing wins 6 hours of Fuji for seventh time in eight years

FUJI: The GAZOO Racing (GR) team maintained its perfect record in the 2019-2020 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season with a one-two victory on home ground in the 6 hours of Fuji recently. The reigning world champions won at Fuji Speedway for the seventh time in eight years, with the No. 8 TS050 Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) driven by Sebastien Buemi, Kazuki Nakajima and Brendon Hartley earning victory from pole position. Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi, and Jose Maria Lopez finished second in the No. 7 TS050 HEV, leaving both crews tied for first place in the drivers' championship, while the GR team stretched its lead in the manufacturer's championship by 35 points.

The newly-introduced Success Handicap system was implemented for the first time during the event, which imposes lap time penalties on LMP1 vehicles based on their current standing in the championship leaderboard. The impact of the regulations became apparent during the opening laps. With Buemi at the wheel, the No. 8 TS050 HEV carried a one second-per-lap handicap, successfully holding off a strong challenge to lead from the start. Meanwhile, Kobayashi faced a 1.4 seconds lap-time penalty in the No. 7 TS050 HEV, resulting in an exciting fight for second position.

After taking their places in the top two positions, the

GR TS050 HEVs steadily stretched their advantage. Their lead was further strengthened by the fastest pit work in the field, although the No. 7 TS050 HEV was unable to mount a challenge for first place throughout the race due to the 0.4 seconds-per-lap difference in success handicap.

The gap remained stable, with the No. 8 TS050 HEV taking the chequered flag in the TS050 HEVs' final race in Japan, 33.955secs ahead of the No. 7 TS050 HEV. The result marked Buemi's 16th outright WEC victory, extending his series record, and the fourth time Nakajima has won his home race. Meanwhile, Hartley stood on the top of the podium for the first time as a GAZOO Racing driver.

"I would like to congratulate the team on their brilliant performance. We are thrilled to achieve our second perfect result of the season, especially here at our home circuit," said Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "The newly implemented handicap system imposes some regulations on our vehicles, but the team still managed to achieve an outstanding one-two victory with the superior performance of the Toyota TS050 HEV."

"Toyota has been pioneering hybrid electric technology for more than 20 years. Through this journey, we have been continuously developing and testing our machines under extremely challenging road conditions, including racing events such as WEC. These events provide us with learnings and invaluable insights that inspire our efforts to create environmentally friendly vehicles that are engaging and fun to drive. We extend our gratitude to our loyal fans for their constant encouragement, and look forward to their support during this promising season," Miyamoto added.

Sebastien Buemi, Driver of the No. 8 TS050 HEV, said: "I am really pleased with the race and the results. We executed a clean race and managed the conditions well, so thanks a lot to the team for their hard work. Of course, it's

even more important to win this race because we have a lot of Japanese fans supporting us and some very important guests, so everyone is very happy. Now we're equal on points in the championship with the No. 7 guys, so Shanghai is going to be an interesting weekend."

Kazuki Nakajima, Driver of the No. 8 TS050 HEV, added: "It's great to win again here in Fuji in front of our home fans: congratulations to everyone in the team. It was important to us to get a one-two in the last Japanese race for the TS050 HYBRID because we have experienced so many emotions with this vehicle. It's like an old friend, so we had to give it a last win at home. It was a tough race in changing conditions but we kept a strong pace and were quick on the intermediate tires. We controlled the race and managed the traffic well, so I am very happy."

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nurburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established GAZOO Racing (GR), to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' GR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, GR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

Following the team's second one-two finish of the season, the success handicap on both vehicles will be increased for the next race, the 4 Hours of Shanghai on 10 November. The lap time penalty will be identical for both TS050 HYBRIDS, as they now have the same number of World Championship points.

Rally Australia cancelled because of raging bushfires

COFFS HARBOUR: Organisers yesterday cancelled this week's Rally Australia, the final round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship, because of bushfires raging near the Coffs Harbour venue in New South Wales.

The event had been scheduled to begin tomorrow and had already been scaled back as Australia struggles to control the blazes that have killed three people. "Considering the best interests and safety of everyone involved in the rally, and of course the wider community, it is not appropriate to conduct the rally," event chairman Andrew Papadopoulos said in a statement.

"Our thoughts are with the NSW community, especially the people who have lost loved ones, livelihoods and homes." Estonia's Ott Tanak wrapped up his first World Rally title when he finished second to Thierry Neuville in the rally of Catalonia just over two weeks ago.

Tanak, who drives for Toyota but will switch to Hyundai next season, now finishes the season 36 points ahead of Belgian Thierry Neuville. Tanak is the first non-Frenchman to win the title since Norwegian Petter Solberg in 2003. Sebastien Loeb won it nine years straight with Sebastien Ogier winning the last six.

Hyundai will win the manufacturers crown by virtue of being 18 points ahead of Toyota going into the now-cancelled Australian race. The cancellation announcement came after growing tension among drivers and crews who feared if the rally went ahead it would be in impossible conditions.

With ash and thick smoke in the air, the teams had been told to vacate the service area and return to their hotels. Hyundai Motorsport said in a statement it had been "saddened" to witness the devastating bushfires and "we trust that this decision, taken by the organisers and the authorities, is the correct one and considers the best interests and safety of everyone involved in the rally, and the wider community."

"First and foremost, our thoughts and best wishes are with local firefighters, residents and officials who are affected by this critical situation." Toyota Gazoo Racing said the cancellation "was the only right thing to do as our thoughts are with all those affected, their loved ones and people of NSW impacted by the devastating bushfires."

"We'd like to send our deepest respect to the firefighters protecting and keeping us safe!" Toyota tweeted. Dozens of bushfires were burning out of control in New South Wales as temperatures approached 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) with winds forecast to top 60 kilometres (40 miles) per hour. — AFP



Albon to race on at Red Bull F1 team in 2020

LONDON: British-born Thai racer Alexander Albon will continue to partner Max Verstappen at Red Bull in 2020, the Formula One team announced yesterday. The 23-year-old made his debut with Red Bull-owned Toro Rosso this season but replaced underperforming French driver Pierre Gasly at the energy drink brand's senior team from the Belgian Grand Prix in August.

"Alex has performed extremely well since his debut with the team in Belgium and his results — seven finishes in the top-six — speak for themselves," said team principal Christian Horner in a statement.

"It's extremely hard to deny that level of consistency and in tandem with a growing reputation as a tenacious, fiercely committed racer, Alex has proved that he fully deserves to continue his progress with Aston Martin Red Bull Racing."

Italy-based Toro Rosso confirmed separately that Gasly and Russian Daniil Kvyat, another former Red

Bull driver, would continue as their lineup next season. Yesterday's announcements left only struggling former champions Williams with a seat to be filled, although that is expected to go to 24-year-old Canadian Formula Two driver and team reserve Nicholas Latifi.

Albon was tipped by Toro Rosso boss Franz Tost before the season started as the year's likely surprise package and he has cemented his reputation with strong performances alongside Verstappen, winner of two races in 2019.

The Thai has finished all his seven races for Red Bull in the top six, scoring 68 points in addition to the 16 he took with Toro Rosso in the first half of the year. He is now sixth in the overall standings. Last season, however, Albon was racing in Formula Two and seemingly destined for a future with Nissan in the all-electric Formula E series before Red Bull stepped in.

"I am really excited to be partnering Max again for next year and I know how fortunate I am to be given this opportunity," he said. "I'm hugely thankful that Red Bull have put their trust in me and believed in my results since I joined the Team and for them to keep me in the car next year is a big deal."

"This year has been an incredible year for me and getting the call up to Red Bull mid-season was already a big step, so now I will use the learnings from this season and use the experience to improve and fight at the front in 2020." — Reuters

Aussie Sutton accused of being a 'doper' by ex-Team Sky doctor

LONDON: Former Team Sky head coach Shane Sutton has been called "a doper" and a "serial liar" by the lawyer of the team's one-time doctor Richard Freeman at a medical tribunal in Manchester. Sutton, who resigned as British Cycling's technical director in 2016 after enjoying success with their track team, has been named as the person Freeman ordered testosterone for in 2011.

"Our case about Mr Sutton is that he's a habitual and serial liar," said Freeman's lawyer Mary O'Rourke. "He's a doper, with a doping history." Sutton, who was accused of discriminatory language while he was at British Cycling but cleared of all but one of the nine accusations, denies he "bullied" Freeman into ordering 30 Testogel sachets to treat his erectile dysfunction.

He is due to give evidence later yesterday, Freeman, who was British Cycling and Team Sky's doctor from 2009 till he resigned in 2017, is facing a charge of medical misconduct from the General Medical Council.

They allege he ordered the Testogel sachets for the National Cycling Centre in May 2011 knowing or believing it was intended for an athlete to enhance perform-

ance and then lying to cover up the order. The GMC's case is that the testosterone was used for "micro-dosing" as a way of improving an athlete's performance.

Their lawyer Simon Jackson has said that 62-year-old Sutton is being used as a scapegoat by Freeman. Freeman denies the charge. Earlier yesterday, the tribunal ruled the general topic of erectile dysfunction could be the subject of questions to Sutton in public.

Any other questions about his medical history must be asked in private. The GMC had applied for all of Sutton's health matters to be heard in private session, saying his anonymity had been "stripped away" by O'Rourke.

The tribunal said Jackson had already brought up erectile dysfunction in public session and the usual process to secure anonymity for Sutton was "always bound here to be more illusory than real" because of the Australian's public profile.

Meanwhile, British cycling champion Harry Tanfield has signed on with AG2R La Mondiale for next season, the French team said yesterday.

The 24-year-old who won the individual pursuit at the British track championships last year will line up with Romain Bardet, top climber in the 2019 Tour de France, in a team that has brought in four newcomers ahead of the 2020 season.

Team director Vincent Lavenu said he came close to signing the Briton a year ago. "He is a talented rider who is going to help us in the time trials," Lavenu said. "He will bring quality to the classics races." — AFP

Sports

Seahawks edge previously unbeaten 49ers 27-24 in NFL thriller

‘That was a team win and that’s what championship teams do’

LOS ANGELES: Seattle’s Jason Myers kicked a 42-yard field goal as overtime expired to give the Seahawks a 27-24 victory over previously unbeaten San Francisco in an NFL thriller on Monday.

In a wild drama filled with stellar defensive plays and each team missing a chance to win in overtime, the Seahawks improved to 8-2 while dropping the 49ers to 8-1, still a half-game atop Seattle in the NFC West division.

“I don’t ever remember playing in a game that was so crazy, back and forth and back and forth,” Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson said. “It was an incredible game.”

Deadlocked 24-24 after regulation time, the epic matchup needed the full 10 extra minutes to decide a winner. Wilson completed 24-of-34 passes for 232 yards and a touchdown but delivered his first interception in 119 throws to nearly doom Seattle.

San Francisco’s Jimmy Garoppolo completed 24-of-46 passes for 248 yards, also with a touchdown and an interception. The drama intensified in overtime as Wilson drove Seattle deep into 49ers territory but was intercepted to Dre Greenlaw at the San Francisco 4-yard line to thwart the threat.

The 49ers marched to the Seahawks 29 before being stopped, but rookie kicker Chase McLaughlin, signed only four days ago as an injury fill-in, was wide left on a 47-yard field goal attempt with 3:06 remaining.

After an exchange of punts, Seattle took over with 85 seconds remaining at their 36. Wilson scrambled for 21 yards on third down to put the Seahawks in field goal range, setting up the winning kick by Myers.

“We knew this game was going to come down to the wire,” Wilson said. “Any time there’s a chance, we think we’ll find a way.”

It was Seattle’s third win this season in games where

they trailed by 10 or more points. “Our defensive unit had a great game,” Wilson said. They made some incredible plays when they needed to.

“That was a team win. That’s what championship teams do.” Only reigning Super Bowl champion New England (8-1) has as many wins as the 49ers and Seahawks.

TO THE LAST SECOND

Myers hit a 46-yard field goal to give the Seahawks a 24-21 lead with 1:45 remaining but McLaughlin’s 47-yard field goal equalized with one second remaining to force over-time. McLaughlin had only been signed last Thursday after veteran 49er kicker Robbie Gould suffered a quad injury last week in practice.

The Seahawks had a 21-10 lead when San Francisco struck back on a key defensive play.

Wilson was sacked and lost a fumble that 49ers’ defensive tackle DeForest Buckner returned 12 yards for a touchdown.

Garoppolo flipped a pass to Kendrick Bourne for a 2-point conversion that lifted the hosts within 21-18 and McLaughlin lifted them level on a 39-yard field goal with 6:21 remaining in regulation.

Wilson threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Jacob Hollister and, after Jadeveon Clowney sacked Garoppolo and recovered a fumble at the 49ers’ 24, Cris Carson scored on a 1-yard run for a 21-10 Seattle edge.

Clowney had returned a Garoppolo fumble 10 yards for a touchdown with 2:51 remaining in the second quarter to pull Seattle within 10-7 at half-time.

San Francisco seized a 10-0 lead on Garoppolo’s 10-yard touchdown pass to Bourne late in the first quarter after McLaughlin kicked a 43-yard field goal to cap the opening drive. — AFP



SANTA CLARA: Chase McLaughlin #5 of the San Francisco 49ers misses a field goal attempt in overtime against the Seattle Seahawks at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. — AFP

Australia primed to end T20 World Cup drought: Gilchrist

MUMBAI: The Twenty20 World Cup is the only major piece of silverware missing from Australia’s trophy cabinet but the hosts are gearing up perfectly to end the drought next year, former wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist has told Reuters.

Australia are the most successful side in the 50-over World Cup with five titles but are yet to taste success in the shortest format’s showpiece event, which has been held six times since its inaugural edition in 2007.

Aaron Finch’s side beat Sri Lanka and Pakistan in recent back-to-back T20 series to go unbeaten in the format in 2019 and Gilchrist said home conditions would make Australia hard to beat when the World Cup starts next October.

“I think they are really well-placed seeing how they’ve started the summer,” Gilchrist said in an interview. “They’ll love the conditions, they love the grounds, they’re bigger grounds, they’ll play them well.”

“We got everyone available now, which is great. I think Australia is, probably for the first time ever, focusing on picking their best team regularly and not just for the World Cups.”

Australia won 2-0 in India in February before blanking Sri Lanka and the world’s top-ranked T20 side Pakistan at home recently and they have scheduled plenty of matches in the shortest format before next year’s tournament.

Gilchrist, who retired in 2008 after a glittering career spanning almost 12 years, said Australia had enough time to pin down their perfect combinations for the shortest format.

“I think they’re probably still working out whether to use two spin bowlers or one spin bowler and a batting all-rounder like Mitch Marsh or (Marcus) Stoinis,” he said after a promotional event in Mumbai for Tourism Western Australia. “Ashton Agar is doing a really good job, and if you look at all the successful bowlers in T20 around the world, they’re all spinners. Nine out of the top 10 in the rankings are spinners. “They’ve got time to work that out but I think they have got a really well-balanced squad.”

‘WONDERFUL JOB’

Gilchrist says Tim Paine’s glove work is on a par with the best in the world and Australia’s 34-year-old test captain was also doing a “wonderful job”. Batting talisman Steve Smith is banned from leadership roles until March because of his involvement in last year’s Cape Town ball-tampering scandal and Paine has been credited with helping guide the test side out of the dark days that followed.

While Paine also helped Australia retain the Ashes on English soil for the first time since 2001 earlier in the year Smith’s show with the bat during the series sparked calls for him to be restored to the captaincy.

“I still think in test cricket you’ve got to be looking to pick your best wicket-keeper,” said Gilchrist, who played 96 tests and 287 one-day internationals.

“Like every player he’s got to hold his spot in the team. As far as being selected as the best available option for that player-type, I think he’s doing a wonderful job.”

“What he took on, when he took it on, he in partnership with (coach) Justin (Langer) and all the players over the past 12 months have done a remarkable job to just get a nice, stable balance back.”

“I can’t see any rush to push him out, as long as he’s still performing, like we all had to, to stay in the team.” — Reuters

India look to consolidate top spot against Bangladesh

INDORE: Virat Kohli’s India will be aiming to strengthen their number one position in the world Test championship when they start a two-match series against Bangladesh tomorrow. India start as favourites to pick up 120 points from the two games against a Bangladesh side missing key players.

The hosts have recorded two sweeps in the five-day format since the start of the Test championship in August, beating South Africa and the West Indies. New Zealand and Sri Lanka are second and third, already 180 points behind though they have played only one series each.

India go into the first match in Indore boosted by a 2-1 Twenty20 series win over Bangladesh. Kohli, who opted out of the T20 matches, returns to lead the side that recently won their record 11th straight series at home.

Rohit Sharma has been on hot form, hitting two centuries and a double ton in his debut series as opener against South Africa. The pace department also looks settled despite the absence of injured Jasprit Bumrah and played a key part in the three convincing Test wins over South Africa.

Bangladesh, under new captain Mominul Haque, had a troubled build-up to a series after star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was banned for two years, with one year suspended, by the International Cricket Council.

He admitted failing to declare illegal approaches by bookies and the ban ruled Shakib out of the tour and next year’s World T20 in Australia. Earlier a player revolt put the India tour in doubt before the national board gave in and increased match payments. The touring side is also missing prolific opener Tamim Iqbal who took a break due to family reasons.

Liton Das, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad will lead the team’s batting alongside Mominul who was

not part of the T20 squad. “I never considered captaincy as pressure or responsibility. If I keep thinking that as a captain I have to take extra responsibility to carry the team forward then I will be in some pressure,” Mominul said after being named captain.

“But if I play my natural game, and think that I am a batsman who needs to score for his team, then it will not have any effect.” The second match of the series will be the first day-night Test to be staged in India. Kolkata’s Eden Gardens will host the spectacle.

Squads

India: Virat Kohli (capt), Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant

Bangladesh: Mominul Haque (capt), Shadman Islam, Imrul Kayes, Saif Hasan, Liton Das, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mohammad Mithun, Mosaddek Hossain, Mehedi Hasan, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman, Al-Amin Hossain, Abu Jayed, Ebadat Hossain. — AFP

Torfaera, Iceland’s off-road mania

AKRANES: After more than half a century, revving engines in the tough off-road sport known locally as “torfaera” still draw crowds who love the noise and daring drivers. Us late summer and Akrafjall mountain, which looms over the small town of Akranes, has been turned into a temporary race track.

Instead of asphalt, rocky terrain dotted with tufts of grass serves as proving grounds for the drivers of 19 purpose-built 4x4 vehicles. Known internationally as “Formula Offroad,” a more direct translation of the Icelandic torfaera is “difficult driving” or “difficult road”.

Ahead of the fourth of five rounds of the Icelandic championship, the vehicles, which look like a cross between a jeep and a dune buggy, are being prepared for the challenge. At the wheel of “Bomban” (The bomb), 30-year-old Olafur Ingjaldsson is a bag of nerves before his first race.

“But it happens so fast that you forget everything. They say you can go and 10-20 seconds later it’s over,” he tells AFP, in an effort to reassure himself at the same time. The drivers are only protected by a helmet, a safety harness and the vehicle’s reinforced roof. Racing up and down steep hills, the drivers try to pass through gates and earn points. Stopping or touching one of the gates results in points being deducted. Some drivers make the tracks, which include seemingly vertical hill climbs, look effortless, while others get stuck in the dirt or tip over, leaving their cars looking like a turtle on its back.

NATIONAL SUCCESS

The suspense draws several thousand spectators. Crowds are filled with families and tickets cost around 2,500 Icelandic kronur (around \$20 or 18 euros). “The enjoyment is the excitement, hearing the noise and seeing people sort of trying the impossible,” said Tryggvi Thordarson, president of the Icelandic Motorsport Association, which governs torfaera.

Starting in the early 1960s, the sport was born when fans of 4x4s working for Icelandic rescue services began to show what their vehicles were capable of in the hilly terrain. The goal was originally to raise funds for their operations, and competitions were held between different rescue teams that went head-to-head in off-road races. The first official championship was held in 1965 in the Mosfellsdal Valley, near the capital Reykjavik. Formula Offroad has since spread outside Iceland, particularly to other Nordic states, but it has also made its way to the US.

EXPENSIVE CARS

One of the cars lining up for the Akrafjall race is dubbed Hekla, and it packed around 1,000 horsepower under the hood. Drivers must be careful with that kind of power however, it isn’t just for speed. The tracks “are not that long and they are difficult, you have to turn ... so speed is not an option,” mechanic Arnar Bjarkarsson tells AFP. “The main thing is about power,” Bjarkarsson explains, noting that all those horses had to be tamed.



AKRANES: Known internationally as “Formula Offroad,” a more direct translation of the Icelandic torfaera is “difficult driving” or “difficult road”.

Successful drivers can be tight-lipped about how to achieve that. “The more you train, the better you get,” Thor Palsson, winner of 2018 and 2019 championships, replied when queried by AFP.

Drivers, who are almost all amateurs, are often more concerned with just finishing than getting a record time. “I have to be really progressive and thinking what I’m going to do and try to choose the best way to drive. And maybe it’s working or maybe not,” says Haukur Einarsson,

a driver who also plays bass in a rock band. Meanwhile, trying to limit breakage isn’t only aimed at keeping drivers safe, but also to protect their wallets, as cars cost between five and 15 million kronur (around \$40,000 to \$120,000). In the early 2000s, international TV channels like Eurosport and the BBC were interested in torfaera, which drew sponsors as well. But with the 2008 financial crisis, sponsors became scarce, forcing drivers and their teams to rely more and more on themselves. — AFP

Sports

Emotions got the better of me, says dropped Sterling

We are like a family and all families have disagreements: Southgate

LONDON: Raheem Sterling said he allowed his "emotions" to get the better of him leading to a brief altercation with Liverpool's Joe Gomez that resulted in the Manchester City player being dropped for tomorrow's Euro 2020 qualifier against Montenegro.

Sterling admitted on Instagram yesterday he and Gomez "had words" when they met up at the England camp the day after Liverpool's 3-1 win over defending champions City which left the latter nine points adrift of Jurgen Klopp's side.

"Both Joe and I have had words and figured things out and moved on," Sterling said. "We are in a sport where emotions run high and I am man enough to admit when emotions got the better of me. "This is why we play this sport because of our love for it — me and Joe Gomez are good, we both understand it was a five to 10-second thing... it's done, we move forward and not make this bigger than it is."

"Let's get focus on our game tomorrow," Sterling added. The Daily Mail reported that Gomez and Sterling had to be separated by teammates on Monday after a "physical confrontation". The pair had also clashed on the field towards the end of Sunday's match.

England manager Gareth Southgate moved quickly to deal with the issue — arguably one of his achievements during his time in the post has been to erase the rivalries between members from different clubs which plagued previous England squads.

The likes of former star defender Rio Ferdinand have spoken about how when they used to join the England camp he and Manchester United players would stick together and find it hard to mix with Chelsea or Liverpool stars.

Southgate said in a hastily-organised press confer-

ence on Tuesday he would rather deal with the matter publicly now than let it fester till his usual meeting with the media on the eve of matches.

The 49-year-old, clearly irked by how the information had leaked out regarding the set-to, said Sterling's emotions had run over but "it is not the same for Joe (Gomez)".

However, he emphasised a line had been drawn under the incident. "I love all of my players," he said. "We are like a family and all families have disagreements. "The important thing is for a family to communicate and work through problems."

"I don't expect as a manager to not have to deal with issues, that's part of the job. "Our focus is now on moving forward." Despite being dropped for tomorrow's match Sterling took part in England squad training — as did Gomez — yesterday.

Sterling, who according to some reports had packed his bags but changed his mind when Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson intervened and persuaded him to stay, has been one of the stars of England's qualification campaign, scoring eight goals in six games.

A draw against Montenegro at Wembley will be enough to guarantee England's place at Euro 2020. Sterling has enjoyed a makeover in his image in the past year with less biting observations of his perceived lifestyle in the press and more positive headlines regarding his public stance against racism.

Six Chelsea fans were banned — one for life — after racially abusing him during a league game last season. He also suffered abuse along with England team-mates in their Euro qualifiers against Bulgaria and Montenegro.

The 24-year-old silenced the critics over having a



BURTON-ON-TRENT: England's defender Joe Gomez (L) and England's midfielder Raheem Sterling attend an England team training session at St George's Park in Burton-on-Trent, central England yesterday, ahead of their Euro 2020 football qualification match against Montenegro. — AFP

rifle tattooed on his leg by revealing it was his pledge never to touch a gun following his father being shot dead in Jamaica in front of his own father when the star was just two.

He has been hailed by London Mayor Sadiq Khan for his campaigning against racism. "I'd go as far to say he's the best statesman we have (for fighting racism)," Khan said in September this year. — AFP

High standards helping Liverpool's full backs fire: Andy Robertson

LONDON: A day after Liverpool's Andy Robertson made his fourth assist of the Premier League season in Sunday's 3-1 victory over defending champions Manchester City, he issued a challenge to fellow full back Trent Alexander-Arnold.

The Scotland captain posted a short video clip on Twitter of himself smiling wryly with the caption "Realising you have more assists than @trentaa98" to

which his team mate responded "Come back in May."

The healthy rivalry between the Merseyside club's marauding full backs has seen them create chances on par with some of the best forwards in the world, adding venom to Liverpool's already potent attack as they chase a first league title in 30 years.

"Me and Trent had big numbers last season in terms of contributing to goals and stuff, but it was more than that," Robertson, 25, told Liverpool's website <https://www.liverpoolfc.com/news/first-team/372976-andy-robertson-man-city-reaction>.

"Defensively we were also very good and this season we've tried to do the same. We just try and produce high standards in every single game — it's not always possible." Robertson and England's Alexander-Arnold have combined for 30 league assists — 15 each — since August 2018 when Liverpool began to hit top gear under manager Jurgen Klopp.

In the 12 games the pair have started this season,

Liverpool have conceded 10 goals with only second-placed Leicester City (eight) and Sheffield United (nine) letting in fewer. Robertson hailed the remarkable progress of Liverpool-born Alexander-Arnold, who is not far behind him with three assists this season.

"Trent is 21 and he's producing performances unbelievably and hopefully he keeps that up," Robertson said. "Hopefully the team keeps it up because we're doing well so far and there's confidence in that changing room."

More praise came from former Liverpool striker Peter Crouch. "Some of Trent's passing is as good as a midfielder's. I've played with Steven Gerrard and Xabi Alonso and I'd put him right up there," Crouch told the BBC in his role as an analyst.

"With what they do for this Liverpool team, Robertson and Alexander-Arnold are redefining the way full backs play." — Reuters

Premier League sharpshooters in Africa as CAN qualifying begins

JOHANNESBURG: English Premier League sharpshooters Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah flew to Africa this week, seeking goals as 2021 Cup of Nations (CAN) qualifying kicks off.

New Arsenal captain Aubameyang has claimed eight league goals this season and Liverpool duo Mane and Salah seven and six respectively, putting the trio among the top 10 scorers. The form of Gabonese Aubameyang, Senegalese Mane and Egyptian Salah will encourage their nations as they face two matches each between this Wednesday and next Tuesday.

Mane, who is looking good to succeed two-time winner Salah as African Footballer of the Year, will be first into action with Senegal hosting Congo Brazzaville in Thies today.

Having scored for Liverpool in a 3-1 triumph over reigning champions Manchester City Sunday and travelled to Dakar Monday, Mane will have little time to prepare for the Group I clash.

Fortunately for 2019 Cup of Nations silver medallists Senegal, whose defence is marshalled by Napoli centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly, Congo have not impressed recently. Any outcome other than a comfortable win for Senegal would be surprising as the nation currently ranked first in Africa launch another attempt to win a maiden Cup of Nations title.

Aubameyang and Salah play tomorrow with Gabon away to central African neighbours the Democratic Republic of Congo in Group D and Egypt at home to Kenya in Group G. Salah will work with recently appointed Egypt coach Hossam el Badry for the first time, having missed a warm-up win over Botswana last month because of an injury.

El Badry succeeded Mexican Javier Aguirre, who was sacked after the Pharaohs flopped as 2019 Cup of Nations hosts, losing to South Africa at the last-16 stage. Another Premier League star available to the new coach is Mahmoud "Trezeguet" Hassan, who scored for Aston Villa in a weekend defeat at Wolves.

Kenya appeared at a Cup of Nations this year for the first time since 2004 and edged Tanzania between group losses to eventual champions Algeria and runners-up Senegal.

Aubameyang, the son of a former international, and Gabon have unhappy memories of recent Cup of Nations. They could not win any of three 2017 group matches despite being hosts and made a humiliating first round exit before faring even worse in the following edition by failing to qualify.

Aubameyang struggled for form in Africa and refused to travel from Gabon to South Sudan for a 2019 qualifier because he believed the chartered aircraft was unsafe. Only a handful of countries leave DR Congo capital Kinshasa with maximum points and a realistic target for new Gabon coach Patrick Neveu would be a draw.

Algeria star Riyad Mahrez has managed only two Premier League goals for Manchester City this season and was an unused substitute at Liverpool. The 'Desert Foxes' hope this will not affect his performance when the trophy-holders host shock 2012 African champions Zambia, who failed to qualify for the last two Cup of Nations, in Group H.—AFP

VAR has been a success despite criticism: Swarbrick

LONDON: The use of the Video Assisted Referee (VAR) in the Premier League has been vindicated despite several controversial decisions and criticism from fans and pundits, the system's chief Neil Swarbrick said on Monday.

Speaking to the media after the latest round of matches in which Sheffield United had a goal disallowed for offside against Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City were denied a penalty for handball against Liverpool, Swarbrick defended the technology.

"We are in the infancy with VAR, 12 match weeks into the Premier League season, and you need to give us time to operate and utilise it," he told Sky Sports.

"It is working as we wanted. It's taken quite a few years for other competitions or sports - the likes of cricket and rugby union - to get to where they are today regarding technology. It doesn't happen overnight."

VAR was introduced in the Premier League this season after trials in the League Cup and FA Cup. Asked by the BBC how he would rate the use of VAR on a scale of one to 10, Swarbrick said: "I'd give us around about seven-ish. We have more decisions correct with VAR than without it."

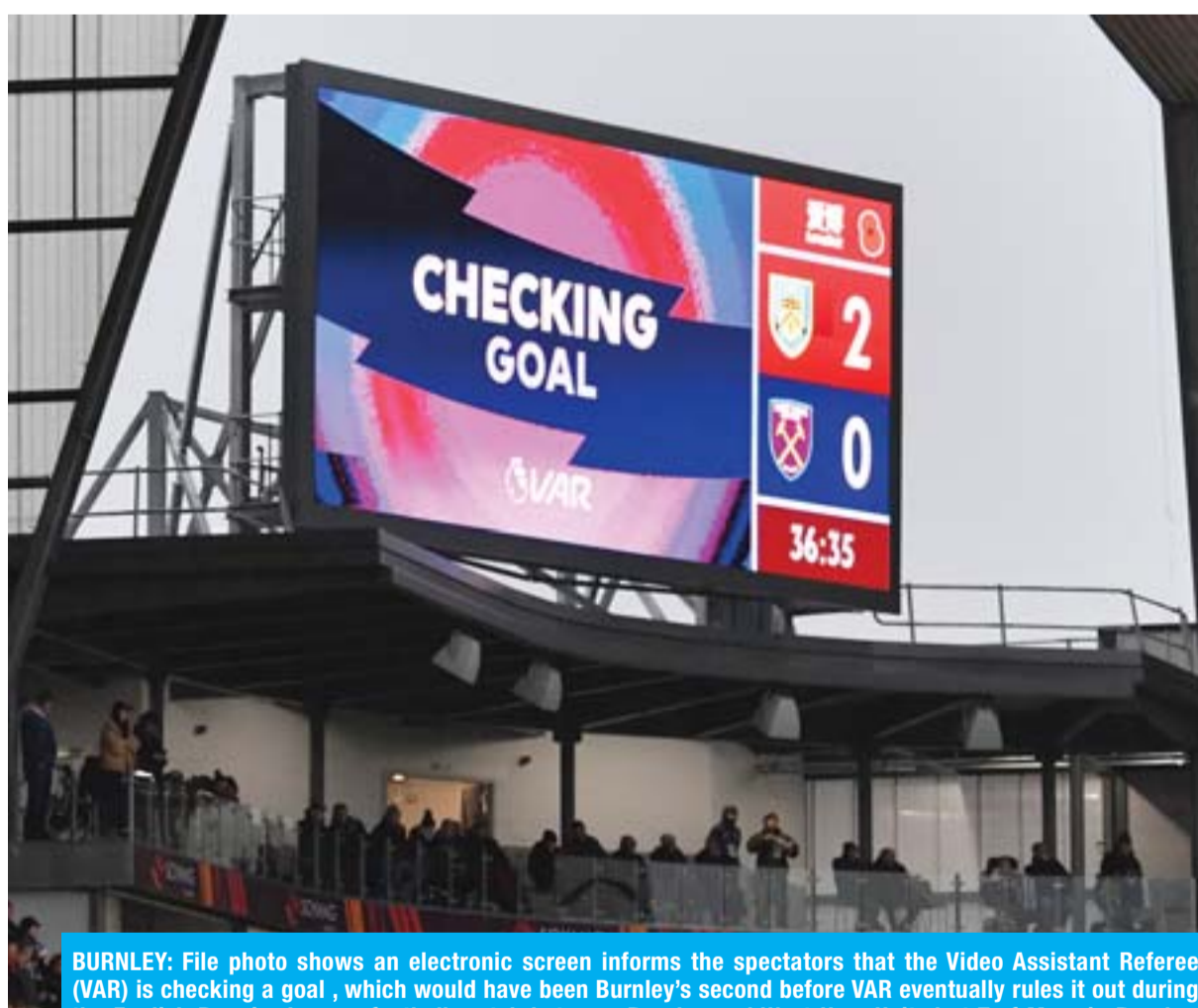
"If the mark now is seven - early days - in two years' time I'm hoping for maybe an eight and a half or nine. "We are open to evolving with this - it's not a case of we're not budging. We will listen to feedback and where we can improve things, we will do."

Some pundits were less enthralled with the system which has also infuriated fans around the world, mostly for decision-making delays which take up to several minutes. Former Chelsea striker Chris Sutton was one of the system's harshest critics.

"Seven out of 10? Did he really say that with a straight face? Come on, are you serious?" Sutton told the BBC. "There have been so many high-profile, horrific mistakes. They've got too much wrong. I wanted VAR to work, I backed VAR, but they are making such a mess of it."

Former England goalkeeper Paul Robinson also pulled no punches in criticising VAR. "It's been a bit of a disaster," he said. It's still a matter of opinion because it doesn't clear up a clear and obvious error. It's just someone else's opinion.

"It's been a complete mess from day one and it's caused more problems than it's worth." — Reuters



BURNLEY: File photo shows an electronic screen informs the spectators that the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) is checking a goal, which would have been Burnley's second before VAR eventually rules it out during the English Premier League football match between Burnley and West Ham United at Turf Moor in Burnley, north west England on November 9, 2019. — AFP

Momota in shock withdrawal from Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG: World number one Kento Momota unexpectedly withdrew from badminton's Hong Kong Open yesterday — without playing a match — leaving Indian challenger Kidambi Srikanth to advance to the second round.

The shock departure comes only a few days after the 24-year-old beat Taiwan's world number two Chou Tien-chen to claim his 10th title of the year at the Fuzhou China Open, seemingly on an unstoppable path to 2020 Olympic glory.

Momota and Srikanth — who have played each other 15 times, with the Japanese player winning 12

games — were set to clash on Wednesday, but there was no indication why he had withdrawn from his first match. Srikanth will now face either compatriot Sourabh Verma or Frenchman Brice Leverdez to reach the quarterfinal.

The 26-year-old has been on mixed form after crashing out of the Denmark Open in October.

Momota, with over 300 wins under his belt, saw his career descend into controversy in 2016 when he was suspended for more than a year for visiting an illegal casino and was denied a spot at the 2016 Rio Olympics. The star, who was world number two at the time, has since worked his way back to the top and his win in China had raised his Olympic hopes a year ahead of the Tokyo Games.

This year alone he claimed Japan's first All England men's series title in March, retaining the Japan open — which also doubled up as a test event for the 2020 Olympics — before triumphing at Victor China Open, the Korea Open, and the Denmark Open. —AFP

25 Hamilton's success 'getting a bit boring' for Verstappen

26 Seahawks edge previously unbeaten 49ers 27-24 in NFL thriller

27 Emotions got the better of me, says dropped Sterling



Clippers earn win in Leonard's reunion

Three-pointer binge carries Jazz past Warriors



LOS ANGELES: Montrezl Harrell #5 of the LA Clippers goes up for a dunk during the game against the Toronto Raptors at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

LOS ANGELES: Lou Williams scored 21 points off the bench to help the Los Angeles Clippers post a 98-88 victory over the visiting Toronto Raptors on Monday night. Kawhi Leonard, who led the Raptors to their first NBA title last June, scored just 12 points on 2-of-11 shooting in his first game against his former club since leaving as a free agent. Leonard also had 11 rebounds, nine assists and three steals but committed nine turnovers. Montrezl Harrell contributed 14 points, 11 rebounds and three blocked shots for the Clippers. Patrick Patterson scored 12 points, and JaMychal Green had 10 points and 12 rebounds. Pascal Siakam recorded 16 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for the Raptors. Norman Powell scored 15 points. Fred VanVleet had 14 points and eight assists, and Chris Boucher added 13 points.

ROCKETS 122, PELICANS 116

James Harden scored 39 points and Russell Westbrook added 26 as visiting Houston won its fourth consecutive game, beating the injury-depleted New Orleans. Harden scored 13 straight points as the Rockets took command midway through the fourth quarter. Eric Gordon came off the bench to add 17 points, and Clint Capela had 11 points and 20 rebounds. JJ Redick scored 24 to lead the Pelicans, who played without Brandon Ingram (knee), Lonzo Ball (groin) and Zion Williamson (knee). Josh Hart scored 19 points, and Jrue Holiday added 18 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds.

JAZZ 122, WARRIORS 108

Mike Conley and Donovan Mitchell combined for six 3-pointers in a five-minute flurry late in the second quarter, helping Utah build a commanding lead en route to a victory over Golden State in San Francisco. Rudy Gobert recorded 25 points and a game-high 14 rebounds, and Mitchell added 23 points and Conley 22 for Utah, which won its third straight. Coming off 52- and 30-point games on the road, the Warriors' D'Angelo Russell led all scorers with 33 points. Returning from a five-game absence caused by a ligament injury in his left hand, Draymond Green had four

points, seven rebounds and four assists in 22 minutes.

CELTICS 116, MAVERICKS 106

Kemba Walker sank eight 3-pointers and scored 24 of his 29 points in the second half to lead host Boston past Dallas. Jaylen Brown had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and Marcus Smart scored 17 as the Celtics extended their winning streak to eight. Boston played its first game without forward Gordon Hayward, who will miss six weeks after surgery to repair a fracture in his left hand. Luka Doncic scored 34 points for the Mavericks, who lost for the first time in five road games.

GRIZZLIES 113, SPURS 109

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored a season-high 24 points and Dillon Brooks added 21 as visiting Memphis outlasted San Antonio on the night the Spurs retired the jersey number of longtime standout Tony Parker. Jae Crowder's second-chance 3-pointer with 1:48 to play gave the Grizzlies a 111-108 lead, which it did not relent. Jonas Valanciunas had 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Brandon Clarke scored 14 points off the bench as the Grizzlies snapped a two-game losing streak. Aldridge led the Spurs with 19 points, with Rudy Gay hitting for a season-high 18, Derrick White adding 15, Bryn Forbes scoring 14 and DeMar DeRozan contributing 12.

TIMBERWOLVES 120, PISTONS 114

Andrew Wiggins poured in 33 points, and Minnesota spoiled the return of Blake Griffin with a win at Detroit. Wiggins, who surpassed the 8,000-career-point mark in the first half, added six rebounds and five assists. Karl-Anthony Towns supplied 25 points, eight rebounds and six assists while Jake Layman contributed 16 points off the Minnesota bench. Treveon Graham added 13 points and six rebounds. Griffin missed the first 10 games of the season due to hamstring and knee injuries. He had 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists in 24 minutes. Luke Kennard led the Pistons with 25 points and seven rebounds. —Reuters

Federer 'excited' to play Djokovic

LONDON: Roger Federer said he had "flushed away" the pain of his defeat in the Wimbledon final as he prepares for a rematch against Novak Djokovic after keeping alive his hopes of a seventh ATP Finals crown yesterday. The Swiss put himself back into the mix at the end-of-season event with 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 win against Italian debutant Matteo Berrettini.

The third seed had put himself under enormous pressure by losing his first round-robin match in Group Bjorn Borg on Sunday to Dominic Thiem. The six-time champion was not at his fluent best yesterday but ultimately had too much for his Italian opponent, who had won just three games against Djokovic in his opener.

If Austrian fifth seed Thiem beats Djokovic in the evening match, he would seal one of the two semi-final spots in the group, leaving the others to scrap it out for the second. Federer, 38, will face the Serbian second seed on Thursday in a repeat of July's marathon Wimbledon final, during which he squandered two championship points on his own serve.

The Swiss was asked after his win against Berrettini whether that defeat had left emotional or mental scars. "We'll find out, but I think it's all flushed away from my side," said Federer, who added that it had taken him two weeks at most to get over the loss.

"A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. We have played a lot of matches since, and I think we both look back at a great match. I think we both can take away some confidence from the match." He added: "Actually, it's good for me to play him again, and maybe that all helps to get a chance to get him back or whatever it is, but at the end of the day, I'm here for the World Tour Finals and not because of the Wimbledon finals."

Both Federer and eighth seed Berrettini were solid on serve in the first set of their contest. The Swiss eventually earned himself the sniff of a chance in the 12th game,

winning the first break point of the match but Berrettini snuffed out the danger and held to take it into a tie-break. Federer upped the level of his game in the shootout, helped by some wayward shots from his opponent plus a Berrettini double-fault and won it comfortably 7-2. The Swiss, clad in black, broke immediately at the start of the second set to leave the Italian with a mountain to climb.

Djokovic is hunting a sixth ATP Finals title to pull level with Federer's record and is also seeking to pip Rafael Nadal to the year-end number one ranking. On Monday, top seed Nadal lost his opener in Group Andre Agassi to defending champion Alexander Zverev while Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Daniil Medvedev.

Meanwhile, former world number one Kim Clijsters could struggle to compete with the top players when she returns to the WTA Tour in 2020 as the sport has become more physically demanding during the eight years she spent in retirement. Naomi Osaka's former coach said. The popular Belgian won four Grand Slam titles before retiring from the sport for a second time in 2012 but in September the 36-year-old announced that she would come out of retirement again because of her love for the sport. "It's hard to say what I expect from Kim as I don't know how she is physically. Tennis really got way more physical the last few years on the WTA Tour," Sascha Bajin, who guided Osaka to two Grand Slam titles and was named 2018 WTA coach of the year, told the WTA website.

"For sure, she can still turn matches with her championship mindset and playing the right ball in big moments, but I really don't know if that's going to be enough to compete in this modern age."

Clijsters, who first retired in 2007 to start a family, had planned to resume her career in January but then delayed her comeback after suffering a knee injury. Bajin believes Clijsters has the advantage of experience if she decides to chase a fifth singles Grand Slam title.

"I can't wait to actually see it... it's easier for someone to climb back to the top once you've been there. You know what you have to do. The biggest challenge is going to be competing again on a daily basis... bringing it every day," he added.—Agence