



6 Extremists sentenced to death for Bangladesh cafe attack



20 Nobel prize winner Mahfouz lives on in Cairo's alleyways



24 113 Syrian refugees welcomed in Italy



28 Kuwait beat Saudi Arabia 3-1 in Gulf Cup of Nations



Amir instructs three authorities to join hands to boost integrity

Amir delivers message to Qatari leader through chief lawmaker



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a memento from Chairperson of the Award's Board of Trustees Sheikha Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah during the 19th edition of the HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award ceremony at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 2)

KUWAIT/DOHA: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah called Tuesday on the government, parliament and judiciary to join hands to promote integrity and fight corruption in compliance with article 50 of the constitution. HH the Amir made the remarks during a reception of National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and President of the Judicial Supreme Council and Chairman of the Court of Cassation and Constitutional Court Justice Yusuf Al-Mutawa, said Acting Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

HH the Amir said such cooperation among the three authorities should serve the interest of citizens and the nation. The Amir also said this cooperation should promote integrity and transparency, as well as fight corruption and punish all lawbreakers, said Sheikh Mohammad. Article 50 of the constitution states: "The system of government is based on the principle of separation of powers functioning in cooperation with each other in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. None of these powers may relinquish all or part of its competence specified in this constitution."

Continued on Page 24



DOHA: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem delivers a verbal message from HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani yesterday. — KUNA

MBS meets MBZ amid push to end war in Yemen

ABU DHABI: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visited the United Arab Emirates yesterday, as efforts to end the nearly five-year war in Yemen gain momentum. Riyadh and Abu Dhabi are close allies and key members of a military coalition backing the government in Yemen against the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels.

Earlier this month, a power-sharing agreement brokered by Riyadh and Abu Dhabi was reached between the southern secessionists and the Yemeni government. This has raised hopes for peace talks to end the war in Yemen's main theatre, between the coalition backed central government and the Houthis. The Saudi crown prince's visit reflects "agreement between Abu Dhabi and Riyadh... in addressing regional challenges", the official UAE state news agency WAM reported.

Continued on Page 24



ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (right) welcomes Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman yesterday. — AFP

Gulf investors to help Aramco hit IPO target

DUBAI/ABU DHABI: Saudi Arabia's wealthy Gulf neighbors plan to invest in the initial public offering (IPO) of Saudi Aramco, sources familiar with the matter said, helping out Riyadh as it strives to raise \$25.6 billion from a domestic listing of the state oil giant. Aramco has struggled to secure an anchor investor

for the listing and found little interest beyond the Gulf, forcing Riyadh to scale back ambitions for the IPO, although it would still be the world's biggest if it raises more than \$25 billion.

Aramco officials have held talks on investing with Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, both oil producing states that have close ties to Saudi Arabia and both with big sovereign funds, after Riyadh scrapped plans for roadshows outside the Gulf. Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) was considering investing at least \$1 billion, five sources told Reuters, while one of the sources said a final decision on the amount still required board approval.

Continued on Page 24

Three injured in blast at Texas chemical plant

WASHINGTON: Three people were injured in an explosion at a chemical plant in Texas yesterday which sent a huge fireball into the sky and triggered a mandatory evacuation, officials and witnesses said. Dramatic video and photos shared on social media showed a large fire at the TPC Group facility in Port Neches, near Houston, with one resident describing waking up to a huge boom. "We woke up to glass all over us and parts of the ceiling caved in, doors blown in," said Ryan Mathewson, who lives roughly two minutes from the plant. The 25-year-old told AFP he and his family were "shook up and scared" following the explosion.

TPC said two plant employees and a contractor were injured. County Judge Jeff Branick told KFDN News that one person suffered burns, one had a broken wrist and another a broken leg. He called it "a miracle" that there were no fatalities.

Continued on Page 24



PORT NECHES, Texas: Flames are seen following an explosion at a chemical plant in this city east of Houston yesterday. — AFP

BEST GYM

BLACK FRIDAY OFFERS

ONE MONTH

50 KD

2 Months Membership
+ 2 Months FREE
+ 2 Months Freeze

~~280KD~~ **99KD**

FREE

10

MASSAGE SESSIONS

12 Months Membership
+ 3 Months Freeze
+ 12 Training Schedules
+ 10 Personal Trainer
+ 10 Massage Sessions
+ 5 Sports Gifts

~~800KD~~ **199KD**

✔ BEST LOCATION ✔ BEST EQUIPMENTS ✔ BEST TRAINERS ✔ BEST PRICE

25721555 | @Rasalsalmiya2 www.RASALSALMIYA.com



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, top state officials and other dignitaries attend the ceremony.

Amir patronizes Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award, honors winners

Driving the youth to contribute more to science and technology

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday patronized and attended the 19th edition of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's Informatics Award, honoring the winners at Bayan Palace. His Highness the Amir arrived at the ceremony, where he was received by Chairperson of the Award's Board of Trustees' Sheikha Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and members of the Supreme Organizing Committee. The ceremony was attended by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Acting Speaker of the National Assembly Essa Al-Kandari and senior officials. The ceremony started with the national anthem and recited verses from the Holy Quran, then a speech by Sheikha Aida. In the speech, she said the future reveals advancement of digital industries and the expansion of virtual societies, changing cognitive pathways, which requires an improvement in thinking skills, achieved through education, training and modernization. The 'medal of informatics' was obtained by Arab World Professor Dr Belgacem Haba, in addition to 10 winners of the prize from seven Arab countries. The professor delivered a speech, saying that this prize reflected the attention Kuwait gave to scientists, driving the youth to contribute more to science and technology. The Award pioneers a path of building human exploration and development based on digital education, which was reinforced this year at Informatics Academy to contribute to the preparation of an innovative generation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikha Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah pose with the winners of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's Informatics Award.—Amiri Diwan photos



Sheikha Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah delivers her speech



Arab World Professor Dr Belgacem Haba speaks during the event



A view of the audience.



Local

Specialist applauds decision to merge nuclear medicine, radiology departments

Establishing new medical imaging departments highly positive: Official

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The former head of the nuclear medicine department at the Ministry of Health (MoH) Dr Saud Al-Enezi stressed the recent ministerial decision on establishing new medical imaging departments including nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology is highly positive for the greater good. Enezi added that the same structure is followed at various international medical centers and hospitals and that it would facilitate the ideal use of financial, technical and human resources available in both sections.

Earlier this week, the Kuwait society of nuclear medicine urged the Ministry of Health to cancel a previous decision to turn nuclear medicine departments into units under a new medical imaging department headed by a diagnostic radiologist, saying that the decision was made "without even discussing the issue with nuclear medicine doctors or justifying the decision."

"The decision was not well-studied and has negative impacts on nuclear medicine diagnosis and treatment quality," the society argued in a press statement. It further explained that the equipment used for nuclear medicine are different from those used in diagnostic radiology departments and need special licenses to handle and prepare unsealed sources of radioactive materials.

In other news, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) informed MoH about its approval to extend the suspension of the accreditation of certificates of doctors, pharmacists, nurses

and other assistant medical staff for a year instead of six months. CSC also urged MoH to report back on accrediting those certificates within the one-year grace period.

Cleaners' strike

Municipal Council member Abdul Salam Al-Randi filed a package of inquiries to the municipality's executive body concerning strikes by cleaners because of delaying their salaries for three months - September, October and November. Meanwhile, head of the municipal council's environment affairs



Council member inquires about cleaners' strike

committee Maha Al-Baghli announced concluding a workshop discussing cleanliness and garbage removal methods, in addition to further related studies. Speaking during the workshop attended by Environment Public Authority, the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait Technical College, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare and some recycling plants, Baghli said the workshop recommended amending cleaning regu-

lations. The committee also recommended installing GPS tracking systems on all garbage trucks to facilitate monitoring the execution of cleaning contracts.

Final exams

The Ministry of Education's (MoE) assistant undersecretary for public education affairs Osama Al-Sultan yesterday approved the first term's final exam timetable for the school year 2019-2020, expected to be held in the period of December 15-26 for grades 10 and 11 and the period of December 29 till January 13 for grade 12. Meanwhile, MoE's assistant undersecretary for legal affairs Dr Bader Al-Mutairi announced several court orders seconded previous MoE procedures and decisions concerning leading positions. Mutairi added MoE won the cases filed against it concerning appointing six educational affairs directors and recruitments to other leading positions.

National statistical system

The Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) stressed that it focuses its efforts on achieving its vision of building an integrated national statistical system to meet the needs of data users, and operate according to international standards. A press release issued yesterday explained that CSB works according to a schedule to publish 43 annual, quarterly and monthly specialized leaflets through its website, adding that the bureau conducts general surveys as the main source of data and information needed for economic, social and urban development.

Eight liver transplants performed in one year

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Allied Medical Services Dr Fawaz Al-Rifae said eight liver transplants were performed in one year at Jaber and Mubarak Al-Kabeer hospitals. Speaking to journalists during the opening of the 42nd Kuwait Otorhinolaryngology Conference, Rifae said there is a schedule to start other transplant programs such as for pancreas and lungs. He also commended the first heart transplant in Kuwait and lauded the team that performed it.

Rifae said the health ministry is keen on developing the human element and equipment to be at par with rapid developments in the medical world. About the ENT conference, he said this year's event is characterized by the partnership with the Austrian ENT Surgeons Association, Kuwait Association of Surgeons and Kuwait Society for Sleeping Disorders. He said the conference

is hosting a number of experts and consultants from Austria, England, US, Australia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman and UAE, and will include workshops and several surgeries.

Chairman of the ENT departments council Dr Mutlaq Al-Saihan said 40 surgeries were conducted during the conference. He said that 25 lecturers and around 450 people participated in the conference, which will discuss scientific papers by Kuwaiti consultants, who are actively participating.

Saihan said the first day covered most topics related to microscopic ear surgeries and cochlear implants, while the second day will deal with experiences and research papers. The third day will see workshops related to the latest surgeries for snoring and respiratory asphyxia. He said the conference is an opportunity for all ENT doctors to get acquainted with the most modern techniques and surgeries to help raise the scientific and technical level of doctors in Kuwait.

Court overrules verdict against former lawmaker

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Former MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei's lawyer Mubarak Al-Harbi said the court of cassation yesterday suspended a previous verdict issued

against his client in a case filed by his ex-wife and released him pending an appeal. Tabtabaei's ex-wife is suing him over allegations that he had sexual relations with her without her knowing that he had already divorced her. Separately, the court of appeal yesterday annulled the criminal court's verdict to imprison a gang of eight Kuwaitis, two expats and two bedoons over charges of impersonating as police detectives and stealing KD 140,000 in armed robberies they committed against expats.

VIVA organizes prostate cancer awareness session

KUWAIT: VIVA, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and a subsidiary of STC Group, organized a prostate cancer awareness session for its employees at VIVA's headquarter building, under the #because_we_care umbrella.

The event embraced several activities that brought the employees together to learn more about the health cause. The awareness session conducted by Dr Alaa Eldin Abdel Maksoud, Consultant Urology at Al-Seef hospital, highlighted the importance of prevention and early

screening which will in return reduce the probability of diagnosis and any required aggressive treatment. Dr Abdel Maksoud also discussed with VIVA's male employees the risks of the disease, its signs and symptoms and the given age and factors that play a main role in choosing the proper time of when one should start screening.

As part of the #because_we_care campaign, there was a high turnout from VIVA male employees who have attended the session and shown interest in the topic of discussion reflected by the continuous engagement with the doctor. This session falls in line with VIVA corporate social responsibility agenda that strives to support different initiatives all in benefit of the employees, the public and society as a whole. VIVA has concluded the session by recognizing Dr Alaa Eldin Abdel Maksoud with a trophy for his efforts and participation in this special occasion.



Call for establishing regional security system

BEIJING: The Chairman of Arab and International Relations Council Mohammad Al-Saqer called yesterday for the establishment of a regional security system "suitable and optimal" for the Arab region and its regional neighbors. The call for the regional

security system takes into account the "ambitions of the expansion of non-Arab neighboring countries" through a clear definition of regional and Arab security and similar to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). In a speech delivered at the opening session of the Middle East Security Forum held in Beijing entitled "Middle East Security, Challenges and Solutions," Saqer stressed on the necessity of conceptualizing the relations of countries in the region with international organizations, international blocs, major powers and regional powers and how to develop defenses, in addition to activating ending disputes policy. — KUNA

Ready for the Beach ??

Kuwait Times

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

Innovative technologies on display at South Korea-Kuwait 'Smart City Forum'

Work progressing to complete South Saad Al-Abdullah City, says envoy



South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Hong Youngki visits Zain's booth.



KUWAIT: Officials pose for a group photo during the forum. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The 3rd Smart City Forum was held yesterday at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel, with several innovative technologies from South Korea on display. South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Hong Youngki inaugurated the event and welcomed the visitors. "Diplomatic ties between Korea and Kuwait started in 1979 and from then on, grew from strength to strength," Hong said. "In this era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we hope to further intensify our relations and move beyond conventional modes of cooperation to partner on information technology, renewable energy, healthcare and more," he said.

"Korean businesses recently became aware of the needs and preferences of Kuwait and I can assure you that we can be your ideal partner in your aggressive promotion of economic reforms to grow the post-oil economy," he said. The ambassador also cited the Bloomberg Innovation Index, wherein Korea was recognized for the sixth consecutive year as the 'world's most innovative country'.

Hong also mentioned efforts to complete South Saad Al-Abdullah City. "The work there is progressing with the help of Korea Land and Housing Corporation - it



South Korea partner in Kuwait's development

will be the first new smart city project in Kuwait," he said. Korea Land and Housing Corporation's knowhow in developing new cities is renowned in Korea. "Today's forum is the place where we look into the policies on energy industry and new city development in Kuwait, so that the same IT smart technologies could be applied

to other smart cities in the future," he said. Saad Al-Abdullah City is located west of Kuwait City. The project once completed will house up to 40,000 families and will cover an area of 15,913 acres. There is a vast demand for further constructions of smart cities and South Korea sees itself as playing a major role in realizing future city planning projects. The project is being implemented by both private and public. South Korean contractors led by Hyundai Architects and Engineers Associates Co and POSCO A&C.

In his video message from Korea, Dr Byeon Changheum, CEO of Korea Land Housing Corporation, congratulated the organizers of the 3rd Smart City Forum. He said he is keen on completing their first major project very soon. First to present was Bedour Al-Sarah, Head of the Electrical and Renewable Energy Division at PAHW, followed by Kim Chunhee, General Manager of POSCO-ICT (Smart City Development Strategies). Other speakers included Dr Fotouh Al-Ragom, Yoon Junsuk, Chris Baik, Baik Youngho, Yoon Daehoon and Choi Dongho. The program was organized by the Embassy of South Korea.



South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Hong Youngki delivers a speech.

AUB launches Khairan clean up initiative

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) launched an initiative to clean up the seabed at Al-Khairan Bay (inlets) with the participation of a number of volunteer amateur divers from the bank's staff who enjoy diving. Taken place on the morning of Friday, November 15, 2019, to spend a whole day cleaning up the bay's seabed from water pollutants that damage and kill marine creatures and pollute their environment, which leads to depleting the vital resources of this wealth.

This initiative is part of AUB Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program consistent with its positive change-based culture which integrates environmental considerations into the core of its business, professional practices and approach to social responsibility, which in turn reflects its strong and continuous commitment to the local community, in line with the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah "New Kuwait 2035", that considers the environment one of its pillars. It also reflects the bank's commitment to contribute to the process of sustainable development, which considers the environmental dimension and its preservation one of its main themes.

Commenting on this initiative, Sahar Dashti, General

Manager Customer Protection, who is also the Head of AUB CSR Team said: "Through this initiative, we aim to contribute to the preservation of marine wealth and fish reservoirs, as well as to reduce cases of fish mortality on Kuwaiti coasts and its escape to territorial waters due to pollution. We also consider this initiative as a message to the community regarding the importance of preserving the marine environment, which is exposed to severe assaults due to the lack of public awareness in this regard, which requires intensive awareness campaigns."

Dashti affirmed that AUB is keen to establish a responsible and conscious behavior towards the environment among its employees, as well as strengthen the culture of volunteerism and teamwork among them, which contributed to the development of the concept of volunteerism with them in order to achieve the noble goals that benefit the society. This is reflected through the high turnout of the bank's staff in the activities and events in the fields of community service and environmental preservation.

Dashti added: "Our CSR obliges us to contribute to building a healthy society that is fully consistent with nature. This commitment stems from our belief that different institutions can play a pivotal role in gradually changing the society's behavior on environmental issues."

Dashti affirmed that AUB is always at the forefront with environment friendly institutions that put environmental issues at the top of their CSR programs, through which they are keen to preserve the biological balance, instill and promote the environmental culture within all segments of society and raise awareness of the negative effects arising from failure to preserve the environment and the need to take action to protect it.



KUWAIT: A number of volunteer amateur divers from AUB's staff pose for a group photo during the clean up event.

Maritime transport vital in development

LONDON: Kuwait government has listed the maritime transport and logistics sector as one of the most important sectors in New Kuwait Vision 2035 development plan to exploit Kuwait strategic location, Communication Ministry Undersecretary Kholoud Al-Shehab said yesterday. Shehab said, on the sidelines of Kuwait's participation at the 31st Assembly session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), that Kuwait owns a group of latest ports in the region, which witnesses continuous developments, in addition to being one of the major oil exporters. The maritime transport

sector represents 90 percent of the means of transport for commercial goods, transport of crude oil and its derivatives in addition to livestock, she added. Kuwait's participation in the meetings comes to run for the membership of the IMO Council, which will be held next Friday, expressing hope for Kuwait to have enough votes for a seat in the Council, she added. The Ministry Undersecretary is heading the Kuwaiti delegation in the biennial elections to select the board of directors of the organization, which is one of the most important UN organizations concerned with maritime affairs. The International Maritime Organization is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships. IMO's work supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals. — KUNA

Kuwait Times
ESTABLISHED 1961
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

STAY CONNECTED

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

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

Local

Two dead in King Fahd Road crash; second deadly accident this week

Seven arrested for forging Indian embassy certificates

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: Two men died in an accident reported yesterday; the second fatal crash to be reported in Kuwait this week. The accident was reported on King Fahd Road near Jabriya, where two Arab men were pronounced dead on the scene by paramedics. Hawally fire station men dealt with the situation. An investigation was opened to reveal the circumstances behind the accident. An accident reported on the Sixth Ring Road Monday night had left a Kuwaiti man dead and two others injured.

Forgery

Criminal detectives arrested seven Indians red-handed forging stamps, authentications and certificates of their embassy in Kuwait, Al-Rai daily reported yesterday. This made Kuwait authorities decide to review all certificates that had stamps of the Indian embassy in the past year, especially those used to get driving licenses, according to an Indian news site quoting embassy sources.

The daijiworld.com site said Kuwaiti criminal detectives arrested the seven forgers near the Indian embassy while carrying out forgeries, adding they are from Andhra Pradesh. Kuwaiti and Indian police will cooperate to find out whether they are part of a larger gang active in both countries. The website said detectives discovered that the suspects are highly skilled. They then asked a person to ask one of the suspects to forge embassy seals on a forged certificate to present to the traffic department.

The confessions of the first suspect led detectives to



Kuwait Fire Service Directorate officers are seen during a surprise inspection of combustibles refining and storage facilities.

pavement, police took necessary legal action against the driver and his vehicle was impounded.

Surprise inspection

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Deputy Director General for the Prevention Sector Maj Gen Khalid Fahd carried out a surprise inspection of combustibles refining and storage facilities in occupational areas. Several violations and warnings of administrative closures were issued. He said the presence of these factories in occupational areas is highly dangerous for people, property and the environment in case of fires, and "we are coordinating with concerned authorities to remove them from there and relocate them away from cities."

Stores damaged

A restaurant and a copying store were damaged, and a customer was injured when two cars rammed into them by mistake, Al-Rai reported yesterday. The first accident took place when a female driver stopped near a Salmiya restaurant, and after she got her meal and was about to leave, she drove into the restaurant instead of reversing. No injuries were reported. The second accident saw a taxi driver backing into a print and copy store, also in Salmiya, after he lost control of the cab. A customer in the shop was injured due to flying glass. The shop owner chose not to file a complaint.

Domestic violence

An Egyptian woman and her mother sought help after her husband beat them both and caused extensive injuries, reported Al-Rai. The mother wanted to help

her daughter, but she also received a beating, and the husband did not stop until neighbors intervened. Police arrested the husband as his wife and her mother went to hospital and brought medical reports. The husband will be referred to the public prosecution.



KUWAIT: A picture provided by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows a screengrab taken from a video showing a vehicle driving over the pavement before jumping the red traffic light.

News in brief

London embassy denies bomb report

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Embassy in London categorically denied on Tuesday reports posted on social media claiming that a car parked in front of the embassy last Friday contained explosives. As soon as the car stopped in front of the embassy, the security contacted Britain's police, which came immediately and inspected the vehicle, the embassy said. It added that the police did not find anything inside the car that may threaten the safety of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission. The driver of the car was investigated and fined by the police, as he parked his vehicle in a forbidden place, it noted. The embassy appealed to those who circulate such a false and untrue information to be accurate, and stop publishing or circulating it. — KUNA

GCC Secretary General's nominee

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah denied Tuesday social media reports that Kuwait withdrew candidacy of former Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf for the GCC Secretary General's post. "Some of the countries have expressed their approval in principle," Jarallah said. He added that the GCC member countries would discuss the candidacy of Hajraf during the upcoming ministerial meeting. — KUNA

Army Chief meets military officials

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khuder tackled on Tuesday, during a meeting with Italian Commander of the Special Forces General Nicola Lanza, joint cooperation. A statement by the Defense Ministry said Khuder affirmed on the keenness by the two countries to develop and enhance relations between the two sides. The statement added Khuder also met with China's military attache to Kuwait and the two discussed issues of common concerns. — KUNA



Man beats wife, mother-in-law

the place where the illicit activities were being carried out. It was stormed and the six other suspects were found there. Preliminary estimations indicate that the total amounts collected by the seven forgers reached KD 50,000 per month.

Reckless driver arrested

The interior ministry's relations and security information department said following a video clip showing a motorist jumping the red light by climbing on the

Germany's best barbecue restaurant near Frankfurt.
The unique restaurant that hospitality is from heart.
We love our guests. It's a pleasure for us to serve you!

Thank you Kuwait
(over millions fans!!!)
for the many reviews. Here are few of the rates:

"Very nice place, lovely Team, amazing atmosphere!"
"When we look the videos, we feel us at home by family!"
"God bless you and your work, always shine like a moon, always be happy, always laugh!"

شعرت كثيراً بالود والشرف والاحترام.
شكراً لكم على ذلك وعلى الكثير
من الهدايا. أتمنى جداً أن أرحب
بكم في ألمانيا. حماكم الله! فريق
Brathähnchen Farm و رادي

Soon: our homemade sauces,
porcelain in delicatess shops!

www.brathaechnchenfarm.de | FON: +49 6663-228
info@brathaechnchenfarm.de
winterholidays: 30.12.2019 – 14.02.2020

Consumer Protection Department

Recall of a Product

Apple three-prong AC wall plug adapters
Manufactured from 2003 to 2010
Distributed between approximately January 2003 and January 2015

The CPD and Apple Inc. announce, in accordance with the Concerning Consumer Protection law No. 39 of 2014 and its executive regulations number 27 of 2015, that they will recall the following products:

Brand & Model

- Apple three-prong AC wall plug adapters (UK-style Type G) designed primarily for use in United Kingdom, Singapore and Hong Kong, manufactured between 2003 and 2010 and distributed between approximately January 2003 and January 2015 as original equipment with Mac and certain iOS devices and as part of the Apple World Travel Adapter Kits.
- Affected wall plug adapters are white, with no letters in the inside slot where it attaches to an Apple power adapter. New wall plug adapters are white with grey on the inside portion that attaches to the power adapter. For ease of reference, to distinguish between the new and affected plug adapters, please refer to the below picture.

Note: Apple USB power adapters are not affected by this program.

Recall Reasons In very rare cases the wall plug adapters may break and create a risk of electrical shock if exposed metal parts are touched.

Procedures Customer safety is always Apple's top priority, and it has voluntarily decided to exchange affected wall plug adapters with a new adapter, free of charge. Consumers have the following options to obtain replacement products: go to an Authorized Apple Service Provider, or Contact Apple Support Further instructions can be found at: www.apple.com/kw/support/three-prong-ac-wall-plug-adapter/

Contact Details Further information including details of how to exchange affected wall plugs can be found at www.apple.com/kw/support/three-prong-ac-wall-plug-adapter/ or telephone 222822921. Toll-free phone number is for landlines. You may be charged when calling from a mobile phone. This number may not be accessible from some mobile network providers. For more information, contact your network provider.

135 مركز الطوارئ @mociq8 | www.moci.gov.kw



With tears, white roses, Vietnam receives first bodies found in truck

Merkel defends 'bulwark' NATO after criticism



DHAKA: Police escort extremists accused of allegedly plotting the Holey Artisan Bakery cafe attack to a courtroom for their trial yesterday. — AFP

7 handed death for Bangladesh cafe attack

Islamist extremists 'will be executed by hanging'

DHAKA: Seven Islamist extremists were sentenced to death in Bangladesh yesterday over a savage attack at a Dhaka cafe in 2016 that killed 22 people, mostly foreigners. A special anti-terrorism tribunal delivered the verdict in a crowded courtroom in the capital, with judge Mojibur Rahman saying the attackers wanted "to draw the attention of (the) Islamic State" group.

The brazen assault in July 2016 saw young men armed with assault rifles and machetes lay siege to the Holey Artisan Bakery cafe in Dhaka's well-heeled Gulshan neighborhood. After a 10-hour standoff, military commandos stormed the eatery and freed more than two dozen hostages. The extremists wanted to "undermine public safety, create anarchy and establish a Jihad(ist) state, the judge said, adding that the seven "will be executed by hanging until

they are pronounced dead".

Some of the men shouted "Allahu Akbar (God is greatest)" and "long live faith of Islam" before they were led to a police van. Two of those convicted wore prayer caps bearing the insignia of Islamic State. Nine Italians and seven Japanese were among the 18 foreigners to be hacked or shot dead in the attack, while two policemen also died. All five militants were killed when the military stormed the cafe, which was popular with Westerners.

Eight others - including mastermind Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, a Canadian of Bangladesh descent - were killed during raids in Dhaka and its suburbs months after the attack. Counter-terrorism police said 19-year-old Rohan Imtiaz led the attack. The attacks were claimed by IS but the government blamed a local militant group Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB)

and said their commanders were among the dead. Police have also blamed JMB for most of the extremist attacks in the South Asian nation since the late 1990s.

IS link?

University of Oslo researcher Mubashar Hasan called the verdict "a milestone", saying he hoped it would "give some sort of closure to the victims". Japan's top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga did not comment on the ruling but thanked Dhaka "that the trial on this case was carried out promptly". Defense lawyer Dalwar Hossain said there would be an appeal, claiming police had extracted confessions through torture.

An eighth man who had been charged was acquitted. The hostage crisis marked an escalation in extremist attacks following a spate of murders

claimed by IS and Al Qaeda of rights activists, gay people, foreigners and religious minorities. The assault was also seen as a major blow to Bangladesh's image as a moderate Muslim nation and the secular government launched a massive crackdown in its wake that saw more than 100 Islamist extremists killed and nearly 1,000 others arrested.

But Dhaka has repeatedly denied that international jihadist networks have a presence in the country. The IS-linked news agency Amaq however published extensive details of the attack, including photos from inside the cafe. Security was tight in the court complex and in the city of 18 million people ahead of the verdict. It followed the recent arrest of nearly two dozen suspected extremists. Three Islamist extremists were also sentenced to death on Monday over the murder of one of their alleged leaders in 2012. — AFP

Trump starts Thanksgiving break with anger-filled rally

SUNRISE, Florida: A darkly angry, sometimes swearing President Donald Trump vowed to win landslide reelection at a Florida campaign rally Tuesday ahead of a Thanksgiving break spoiled by looming impeachment. The rally in Sunrise, located just north of Miami, saw Trump unleash harsh invective against his political foes, calling out Democrats "depravity" and claiming that "the failed Washington establishment" is targeting him because he is "exposing a rigged system."

As always, Trump reserved special venom for American journalists, whom he called "some of the most corrupt people in the world". The attack prompted thousands in the crowd to turn and boo and shout insults at media outlets covering the event. With Democrats scheduling the next phase of impeachment in the House of Representatives for next week, the Sunrise event allowed Trump to show off the right-wing base he's counting on to keep him in power through the crisis - and again in the 2020 election.

Democrats in the House seem likely now to impeach Trump on charges that he abused his office by attempting to pressure Ukraine to open a deliberately embarrassing corruption probe of one of his main 2020 Democratic rivals, Joe Biden. Even if the Republican-dominated Senate acquits him, as expected, that would still make him only the third president ever impeached. But Trump hopes to take revenge by winning reelection, and Florida will be a key piece to the electoral puzzle.



SUNRISE, Florida: US President Donald Trump waves to supporters during a "Keep America Great" campaign rally at the BB&T Center on Tuesday. — AFP

Trump recently made the state his legal home, after he announced a switch of residence from his native New York, and he'll hope to repeat his surprise win there against the far more heavily favored Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016. Even the choice of rally location, inside pro-Democratic Broward County, demonstrated his intent to challenge for the state's crucial electoral college votes. "That landslide is going to start right here in the great state of Florida," he said. "Four more years! Four more years!" the crowd chanted.

Storm clouds

After the rally, Trump was to retreat to his Mar-a-Lago golf resort for the rest of the week, including Thursday's national Thanksgiving Day holiday. But there was to be no respite from the impeachment probe, which Democrats say has already proved Trump ran a corrupt parallel foreign policy intended to benefit his political fortunes at home. The Democratic chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives,

Jerry Nadler, announced that new public hearings, which could lead to articles of impeachment, will start December 4.

Nadler even issued an invitation for Trump to attend. "The committee looks forward to your participation," Nadler said. At the rally, Trump called impeachment a "witch hunt." He then drew some of the loudest applause of the night by saying that Americans knew the case against him was "bulls**t."

Trump is increasingly frustrated and angered by impeachment, which has left the country almost evenly divided, fueling predictions for the most ill-tempered and volatile election season in decades. Impeachment even made its way into the friendly annual ritual of a presidential pardon for two enormous turkeys at the White House on Tuesday. The birds "already received subpoenas to appear in Adam Schiff's basement on Thursday," Trump joked to guests in the Rose Garden, referring to the head of the intelligence committee leading the impeachment probe in the House of Representatives. —AFP

Sudan cabinet scraps law abusing women's rights

KHARTOUM: Sudan's cabinet Tuesday scrapped a controversial law that severely curtailed women's rights during the 30-year tenure of deposed autocrat Omar Al-Bashir, state media reported. Thousands of women were flogged, fined and even jailed during Bashir's rule under the archaic public order law. "The council of ministers agreed in an extraordinary meeting today to cancel the public order law across all provinces," the official SUNA news agency reported.

The cabinet's decision is still to be ratified by the ruling sovereign council, which is an 11-member joint civilian-military body. Bashir seized power in an Islamist-backed coup in 1989, severely restricting the role of women in Sudan for decades. During his rule, authorities implemented a strict moral code that activists said primarily targeted women, through harsh interpretations of Islamic sharia law.

Bashir was deposed by the army on April 11 after months of protests against his rule. Women were at the forefront of the demonstrations. In February, Bashir had acknowledged in a briefing with reporters that it was the public order law that had angered younger generations, especially women. Activists say security forces linked the public order law with article 152 of the Sudanese

penal code, which stipulates punishment for "indecent and immoral acts".

Under the law those who consumed or brewed alcohol - banned in the northeast African country - were punished, while activists said security forces used the legislation to arrest women for attending private parties or wearing trousers. Sudan's new government led by Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has assured citizens it will uphold women's rights.

"The government has delivered what it had promised. This is a real win for us, for the feminist movement in Sudan and for women's rights," said prominent Sudanese activist Tahani Abbas. "Many women were flogged and humiliated because of this shameful law. With this decision, Sudan is now moving toward a new life where women can enjoy dignity."

A senior member of Bashir's ex-ruling National Congress Party contended that it had been implementation of the law by individual actors - rather than the law per se - that had created problems. "Some policemen were using this law to harass women," said Mohamed al-Amin, who is also a defense lawyer for Bashir. "What we need is to precisely define under article 152 the dress code for women."

On Tuesday, the cabinet also decided to "restructure the country's judicial system in order to prepare it for the new era," SUNA reported without elaborating. The cabinet also agreed to form a committee to review all appointments made during the Bashir era that are suspected of having been made on the basis of questionable personal connections or favors. Bashir, who is in prison in Khartoum, is on trial for allegedly illegally acquiring and using foreign funds. — AFP

International

Washington receives 20,000 messages from Iran protests

Hundreds of banks and government sites burned

WASHINGTON: The United States said it has received nearly 20,000 messages from Iran about protests including photos and videos after appealing to demonstrators to defy restrictions on the internet. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stood at the podium in front of images of blazing streets, four days after he asked Iranians to send in information so the United States can "expose and sanction the abuses."

"We've received to date nearly 20,000 messages, videos, pictures, notes of the regime's abuses through Telegram messaging services," Pompeo told reporters, referring to the encrypted app. "To the courageous people of Iran who refuse to stay silent about 40 years of abuses by the ruling regime, I say simply this: the United States hears you, we support you and will continue to stand with you in your struggle for a brighter future for your people and for your great nation," Pompeo said.

The protests, triggered by a sharp rise in gas prices, came after a year and a half of biting sanctions imposed by President Donald Trump that aim to contain Iran's regional role. In response to Iran's effort to shut down the internet, the United States has imposed sanctions on the communications minister and pressed Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to suspend the accounts of Iranian government leaders. Amnesty International said Monday that at least 143 demonstrators have been killed since November 15 as the regime tries to repress protests violently.

Approximately 731 banks and 140 government sites

were torched in recent unrest in Iran, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said in remarks published by the official IRNA news agency yesterday. More than 50 bases used by security forces were attacked and approximately 70 gas stations were also burned, he said, without specifying where the attacks took place. According to IRNA, Rahmani Fazli also said up to 200,000 people took part nationwide in the unrest that began on Nov 15 after the announcement of gasoline price hikes.

London-based Amnesty International said on Monday it had recorded at least 143 protesters killed in the protests, the worst anti-government unrest in Iran since authorities put down the "Green Revolution" demonstrations against election fraud in 2009. Iran has rejected Amnesty's death toll. It says several people, including members of the security forces, were killed and more than 1,000 people arrested. The Center for Human Rights in Iran, a New York-based advocacy group, said the number of arrests was probably closer to 4,000.

The protests quickly turned political, with protesters calling on top leaders to step down. The government has blamed "thugs" linked to exiles and the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia for stirring up the street unrest. The protests came as new US sanctions imposed this year cut off nearly all of Iran's oil exports, and as similar protest movements erupted in Iraq and Lebanon against governments that include heavily armed pro-Iran factions. —Agencies



TEHRAN: An Iranian woman walks past a billboard as she talks on the phone in the capital yesterday. —AFP

Rescuers use drones and dogs to search for Albania quake victims

THUMANE: Emergency crews found five more bodies yesterday as they used drones, dogs and heavy machinery to search through the wreckage after Albania's worst earthquake in decades, bringing the death toll to at least 26. In the town of Thumane, close to the centre of Tuesday's quake, a woman stood in front of a collapsed building calling out for rescuers to find her niece. Soon after crews brought out two bodies. Police said they had found another victim earlier, before dawn. Another two were recovered hours later.

In one of the busiest streets in the resort of Durres, two people were feared trapped in the rubble of a collapsed hotel. "We don't know whether they are alive or not," Mert Eryuksel, a rescue worker from Turkey said. Countrywide, the Defense Ministry said around 650 had been injured, with another 20 reported missing. If the death toll continues to rise, the earthquake could be more deadly than one in 1979 in which 40 were killed.

The 6.4 magnitude quake, centered 30 km west of Tirana, was felt across the Balkans and in the southern Italian region of Puglia, across the Adriatic Sea from Albania. At least 250 aftershocks - two of them magnitude 5 - then shook the Balkan country and continued into yesterday. Hundreds of people spent the night sleeping in tents pitched by the emergency services. Italy, France, Romania, Turkey, Greece, Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia have sent 200 specialised troops, tools and teams of tracker dogs to help the relief effort.



DURRES, Albania: Rescue workers and firefighters search for survivors stuck under the rubble of a collapsed building in this town in western Albania yesterday. —AFP

Adrian Muci said six of his relatives had died in two separate buildings, and his own house was on the point of collapse. "I have other cousins and relatives but I don't know where they are and if they are dead or not," he told Reuters. "I will never be able to live in my house any more." The government proclaimed yesterday a day of mourning and Prime Minister Edi Rama said the authorities would rehome people who had lost their houses in hotels during the winter.

"I believe we shall put them in new houses within 2020, in better housing than they had," Rama said in a televised comment. He said a donor conference with Turkey and regional countries would be organized and he would discuss potential help with NATO allies during next week's summit in London. Albania is the poorest country in Europe, with per capita income a quarter of the European Union average, according to the International Monetary. —Reuters

Turkey in dark tunnel: Erdogan's former ally

ANKARA: Former Turkish deputy prime minister Ali Babacan warned on Tuesday of the dangers of "one man rule" and said he hoped to have formed a new political party by the end of the year to challenge President Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AK Party. Babacan resigned from the AK Party (AKP) in July, citing "deep differences". A founding member of the Islamist-rooted AKP, which has ruled Turkey since 2002, he served as economy and then foreign minister before becoming deputy prime minister, a role he held from 2009 to 2015. But following a failed military coup in 2016, Erdogan has presided over purges in the civil service, the judiciary, the military and academia that critics say undermine the rule of law and democratic freedoms. Erdogan also assumed new powers under a constitutional overhaul at the expense of parliament and the government. "We have seen that Turkey has entered a dark tunnel, with its problems on every issue growing by the day," Babacan told broadcaster HaberTurk in his first live interview since resigning from the AKP.

"Consequently we have begun our efforts to create a new party," he said. Babacan largely refrained from directly criticizing Erdogan, but repeatedly said that a lack of democracy under "one-man rule" damaged the country. "There were important principles and values during the foundation of the AK Party, but there has been a significant departure from these principles. This has become a national issue, and we felt a serious responsibility toward our country," Babacan, along with Turkey's former president Abdullah Gul, another AKP founder and onetime Erdogan ally, has long been rumored to be planning a rival party. Babacan said Gul would not be actively involved in the party, but was working as an adviser or "big brother". Former Turkish prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu also fell out with Erdogan in 2016 and criticized the AKP's economic policy, but Babacan ruled out Davutoglu joining his new party. Turkey's next elections are scheduled for 2023. —Reuters

Washington airspace alert sparks White House lockdown

WASHINGTON: The White House and US Congress were locked down for nearly an hour Tuesday over a suspected airspace intrusion over Washington, but hours later officials still had no explanation for what triggered the alert. Major Andrew Hennessy, a spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command, told AFP that "a track of interest" appeared on radars early Tuesday, sparking concern. "Something that gave off a signature that our radar registered" set off the alert, he said.

A US Coast Guard helicopter deployed by NORAD to investigate what appeared to be an unidentified aircraft nearing tightly controlled Washington airspace found nothing. "There was no aircraft to intercept," Hennessy said. Hennessy declined to comment on speculation that a flock of birds may have triggered the alert.

Hennessy also said an earlier NORAD tweet that said fighter jets had been scrambled to intercept the threat was incorrect. The fighter jets reported were part of a previously scheduled exercise by the 113th Wing, District of Columbia Air National Guard unit based at Joint Base Andrews, just outside of Washington. "It just happened to be at the same time. They were not involved in the interception,"

said a spokesperson for Andrews.

The White House was locked down for nearly an hour due to what the US Secret Service, which protects the president, described as "a potential violation of the restricted airspace in the National Capital Region." There was no information about what President Donald Trump and his wife Melania did during the alert. The incident evoked memories of the September 11, 2001 attacks when Al Qaeda jihadists flew two airliners into the World Trade Center in New York and a third into the Pentagon.

A fourth airliner that crashed in a field in Pennsylvania was believed to have been intended for the White House or the Capitol. Washington airspace restrictions were severely tightened after those attacks, which left nearly 3,000 dead. And surface-to-air missile batteries have been installed around the city to target potentially attacking aircraft. A number of Americans have flown aircraft into downtown Washington in the past.

In 1974, Robert Preston, a despondent army private who was 20 years old, landed a military helicopter on the White House lawn, after police cars tracked him on the ground and Secret Service agents fired at him with shotguns. In April 2015, Florida mailman Doug Hughes, angry about how big money was allegedly corrupting US politics, flew undetected in a small gyrocopter into downtown Washington, landing it just outside the Capitol building. He landed without incident, was arrested and a year later was sentenced to 120 days in jail for the felony crime of operating an aircraft without a pilot license. —AFP

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Sponsor in Kuwait

Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) invites application from technically, financially, reputable and managerially capable firms / companies for appointment of a Sponsor in Kuwait. With reference to the request for Proposal (RFP), such firms / Companies must meet the minimum laid down requirements, as per detail given in the RFP available on PIA and PPRA websites i.e. www.piac.com.pk and www.ppra.org.pk.

PIACL reserves the rights to reject or accept any or all application; however, the reason for the same will be communicated on request.

Interested parties may send their application along with complete proposal in single stage one envelope procedure basis, however, two sets of documents should submit for Sponsor appointment on the following address through registered mail or courier service within 30 days from the date of publishing advertisement in sealed envelopes clearly marked as "Appointment of Sponsor in Kuwait".

The closing date for submission of bids is **28.12.2019 at 11:00 am**. Opening date of the tender will be **28.12.2019 at 11:30 am** in the office of the undersigned. Application/proposals must accompany copies of documents as advised in the RFP and should be in ENGLISH.

Incomplete application without the required documents shall not be entertained.

Dy. General Manager, Agency Affairs
Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited
Room No. 202-A, PIA Head Office Building,
Karachi Airport - 75200, Pakistan,
Email: khisapk@piac.aero, Tel: +92 21 9904 4969

PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES CORPORATION LIMITED
Karachi Airport - 75200, Pakistan
Tel: +92 21 9904 4969
www.piac.com.pk

CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

RECALL INFORMATION

HONDA

MODEL NAME: HONDA ACCORD
MODEL YEAR: 2018 & 2019

RECALL REASON TRANSMISSION OIL LEAK DUE TO SAND INTRUSION DURING SANDSTORMS

PROCEDURE RUBBER RING REPLACEMENT IF NECESSARY

VEHICLES AFFECTED VIN FROM 1HGCV1610JA600602 TO 1HGCV1669KA606850

CONTACT US TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL THE HONDA ALGHANIM SHOWROOM AT 1822777

THIS RECALL IS PURSUANT TO ARTICLES (42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47) OF 27/2017 ISSUING THE EXECUTIVE BYLAWS OF LAW NO. 39/2014 ON CONSUMER PROTECTION

135 مركز الطوارئ @mociq8 | www.moci.gov.Kw

International

Namibians vote in a tight contest clouded by brutal economic crisis

Toughest contest yet for scandal-hit ruling SWAPO party

WINDHOEK: Namibians voted yesterday in what was expected to be the toughest contest yet for the party that has ruled for three decades of independence, an election it was still expected to win despite a brutal economic crisis. President Hage Geingob, Namibia's third leader since the sparsely populated and mostly arid country freed itself from the shackles of apartheid South Africa in 1990, is seeking a second and final term from 1.3 million registered voters.

He faces nine challengers including Panduleni Itula, a dentist-turned-politician who is a member of the ruling SWAPO party but is running as an independent. Itula is popular with young people, nearly half of whom are unemployed. Concurrent legislative polls will elect 96 members of parliament, testing SWAPO's 77-seat majority. Polls opened at 7 am and close at 9 pm. Results are expected within 48 hours. Namibia's ruling party has successfully tackled problems left over from decades of neglectful rule by a German colonial and later white minority South African administrations.

The proportion of Namibians living below the poverty line fell by three quarters, from nearly 70 percent in 1993 to 17 percent in 2016, according to World Bank figures. But now SWAPO is contending with an economy that has been in recession for nearly three years, one of Namibia's worst-ever droughts and the

biggest corruption scandal in its history—all of which have conspired to make this election unexpectedly tough for Geingob, who won by 87% last time.

"I campaigned like hell but if I lose I will accept that. I am a democrat," Geingob told reporters shortly after voting. The economy has been marred by a drought that ravaged agricultural export crops, as well as by unprofitably low prices for Namibia's main hard commodities, uranium and diamonds. The Bank of Namibia expects the domestic economy to contract for a third year in 2019, by 1.7%. A scandal in which two ministers were alleged to have conspired to dole out fishing licenses to Iceland's biggest fishing firm, Samherji, in return for kickbacks has also taken the shine off the ruling party.

Yet loyalty to the former guerrilla movement remains high. "Namibia has gone through a very terrible time," Leevylee Abrahams said, after casting his vote. "But I'm voting for continuity because I believe that this government can really improve the lives of people, given a chance again." Whether the result is close or not, a SWAPO win is likely to be controversial, especially since the court threw out a case mounted by the opposition against the use of electronic voting machines it fears will be used to cheat. The military said in a statement it was on high alert for violence, which Namibia has avoided in previous polls. —Reuters



WINDHOEK: Namibians wait in line to vote in the general election at the Mandume Primary School polling station in Katutura yesterday. —AFP



Drought, low uranium prices hurt growth

German AfD plots new course with radicals on the rise

BERLIN: Germany's far right AfD party is choosing new leaders on Saturday in a vote shaped by an increasingly powerful radical wing which wants a rethink of the country's culture of atonement for Nazi crimes. The anti-migrant party's radicals have the upper hand following a series of electoral gains in eastern regions in September and October that have caused widespread domestic and international concern. A few days ahead of the vote at the party conference, only one member of Alternative for Germany has officially put forward their candidacy for the job.

Lawmaker Gottfried Curio, 59, is known for his strident anti-migrant speeches but does not have broad support in the party and is seen as having few chances. The real drama will come on Saturday when candidates will pitch for the support of some 600 delegates at the conference in Brunswick in northwest Germany. Of the party's two current co-leaders, Joerg Meuthen is expected to seek a new mandate while Alexander Gauland has said he will only decide on the day depending on who else comes forward.

'An anarchic clique'

The party, which was only established six years ago, is riven with personal and ideological rivalries and Gauland himself called it "an anarchic clique". Meuthen, a university professor from the wealthy Baden-Wurttemberg region in western Germany, represents the more moderate wing of the party.

The suspense is over who, if anyone, will replace the 78-year-old Gauland—a central figure in the party who is also co-leader of its MPs.

Gauland has until now managed to unite the AfD's factions but the growing influence of one group—known simply as "The Wing"—is a challenge. The group's leading protagonist is Bjoern Hoecke, the AfD's leader in the eastern region of Thuringia where the party came second in an election in October. "The Wing" aims to radicalize the party by tackling one of the foundation stones of Germany's post-war political culture—atonement for its Nazi past.

While accusations of links between some of the faction's candidates and neo-Nazi groups have failed to frighten off voters, they have drawn the attention of the secret services to the party's activities. "The electoral successes of the pre-fascist wing in the eastern regions will accelerate radicalisation," said Matthias Quent, a researcher specialising in the far-right, quoted by the Swiss daily Tagesanzeiger. "More and more moderate AfD members are leaving the party," he was quoted as saying.

Radicals an 'integral part'

One name that different factions could get behind is that of Tino Chrupalla, a 44-year-old MP and former house painter who is expected to put himself forward. "If I am asked, I will not shirk my responsibilities," he recently told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Chrupalla has said "The Wing" is an "integral part" of the AfD but has kept his distance from the radicals. Whoever takes over faces a challenge in reviving the party's popularity on a national level.

With 91 MPs, the AfD is now the third political force in the German parliament after the CDU and SPD. But its support in opinion polls has stagnated at around 13 to 15 percent. The AfD started out as a eurosceptic party but became increasingly anti-migrant and opposed to Angela Merkel after the German chancellor welcomed around one million asylum-seekers in 2015 and 2016. —AFP

Buttigieg claims 2nd, Warren sinks in new 2020 poll

WASHINGTON: Political wunderkind Pete Buttigieg rocketed into second place in the Democratic presidential nomination race, polling showed Tuesday, with support for progressive ex-frontrunner Elizabeth Warren sliding as voters sour on her universal health care proposal. Buttigieg, the moderate millennial mayor of South Bend, Indiana, leapfrogged the race's main liberal candidates, Warren and fellow senator Bernie Sanders, to claim second behind the resilient national leader Joe Biden, according to Quinnipiac University's latest poll.

Former vice president Biden leads with 24 percent among Democratic voters and independents who lean Democratic, a rise of three percentage points and a reclaiming of pole position

since Quinnipiac's last poll on October 24, when he trailed Warren. Buttigieg jumped from 10 percent to 16 percent in that timeframe, while Warren's support was halved, from 28 to 14 percent, and Sanders slid three points to 13 percent.

The survey of who Democrats want to challenge President Donald Trump in November 2020 shows billionaire former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg, who only recently launched his presidential bid, tied for fifth place with three percent support. Quinnipiac's poll of 1,355 voters comes just nine weeks before the first votes in the nominating contest are cast in Iowa, where 37-year-old Buttigieg has stormed into the lead.

The figures are unwelcome news for Warren, who was riding a growing wave of support in recent months, only to see it crash amid opposition to her Medicare for All proposal that would do away with private health insurance. "Buttigieg has broken into the top tier, apparently at the expense of Warren, who has taken a dive after being hammered for being too far left on health care and other issues," Quinnipiac polling analyst Tim Malloy said in a statement.

Buttigieg and Biden oppose Medicare for All, instead offering proposals that



DENISON, Iowa: Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg speaks to guests during a campaign stop at Cronk's restaurant on Tuesday. —AFP

would broaden health care coverage to more Americans without ending private insurance, as the plans backed by Warren and Sanders would do. Medicare for All has grown increasingly unpopular among American voters. According to Quinnipiac, 36 percent say

it is a good idea, while 52 percent say it's bad. In late March that spread was 43 percent to 45 percent. Buttigieg still remains in fourth place in the national poll aggregate compiled by RealClearPolitics, behind Biden, Sanders and Warren. —AFP

Top Malta politicians quit; probe into slain reporter widens

VALLETTA: Two high-ranking politicians in Malta's government resigned on Tuesday, with a third "suspending himself" in the biggest political fallout to date from a widening probe into the brutal murder of investigative reporter Daphne Caruana Galizia. The resignations of Keith Schembri, the chief of staff to Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, and tourism minister Konrad Mizzi heaped pressure on the government over its handling of Caruana Galizia's car bomb assassination in 2017.

"Murderers!" chanted hundreds of protesters gathered outside parliament, with some throwing eggs at Muscat, who has been accused of impeding justice by protecting his closest allies. Jeering demonstrators shouted "Mafial!" at the prime minister as he was whisked away by a large

group of bodyguards.

Sources told AFP that Schembri had been called in for questioning by police after being fingered by the main suspect in the case, prominent businessman Yorgen Fenech. Fenech, who was arrested on his yacht last week as he tried to leave the country, has requested immunity to reveal what he knows. The mogul was released on bail on Tuesday. Investigators suspect Schembri may have tipped Fenech off, sparking the failed get-away bid, Maltese media reported. Muscat refused to say what prompted Schembri's decision to resign, telling reporters it was premature to speculate.

Hours later, Mizzi told journalists it was his "duty" to step down to allow Muscat's government to complete its term. In another blow to the government on Tuesday, Economy Minister Chris Cardona's office said he was "suspending himself with immediate effect from his position as minister, pending the investigations". Opposition leader Adrian Delia told parliament that Muscat's position was "untenable, because the only decisions he can take are to protect those around him".

Caruana Galizia, a popular journalist and



VALLETTA: Protesters holding a photo of slain reporter Daphne Caruana Galizia gather outside parliament on Tuesday. —AFP

blogger described as a "one-woman WikiLeaks", became known for exposing cronyism and sleaze within the country's political and business elite. She had alleged

that Schembri — who served as Muscat's chief of staff since 2013 — and Mizzi had been involved in corruption, claims both men have denied. —AFP

Merkel defends 'bulwark' NATO after criticism

BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday put up a spirited defense of NATO after French President Emmanuel Macron's criticism, saying Germany has a bigger interest today in ensuring the bloc stays together than even during the Cold War. Days before leaders of the transatlantic alliance are due to hold a summit, Merkel said NATO had been a "bulwark for peace and freedom" over the past 70 years.

"The preservation of NATO is in our own interest, more than during the Cold War," Merkel told parliament. The German

chancellor's strong defense of the bloc came after Macron said it was suffering from "brain death". In his interview with The Economist earlier in November, Macron blindsided his allies as he decried a lack of coordination between Europe and the US. He also lamented recent unilateral action in Syria by Turkey, a key member of the alliance.

Merkel had reacted then with uncharacteristic gusto, slapping down what she described as unnecessary "sweeping judgments". While not referring directly to Macron's remarks in her speech to German parliament, Merkel addressed the French leader's critique. Turkey was a "difficult partner" in NATO, she acknowledged, but also noted that being a partner meant being able to air differences of opinion. "I say that Turkey should stay a NATO member... because it is of strategic importance for the alliance that Turkey is part of it." —AFP



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers a keynote speech on the 2020 budget at the Bundestag yesterday. —AFP

Business

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019

12 World stocks near record highs; index climbs 2 points on hopes**14** Feuding firms risk disrupting electric car battery supplies**14** Mercedes-Benz Kuwait participates in GulfRun GP event in Motor Town

SELANGOR: A worker prepares to unload palm oil fruits from a lorry at a factory in Sepang, outside Kuala Lumpur. — AFP

Kit Kat, Dove makers could face fines

The green palm oil push

KUALA LUMPUR: Companies that make top brands including Kit Kat chocolate and Dove soap may face fines if they fail to buy more green palm oil under new rules aimed at improving the controversial industry's environmental sustainability. Green groups cautiously welcomed the move from the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a watchdog that sets environmentally-friendly standards and brings together a wide range of industry players, but were sceptical the rules would be strictly enforced.

The world's most widely used vegetable oil is found in everything from biscuits to make-up, but has long drawn the ire of environmentalists who blame it for fuelling widespread deforestation. Swaths of jungle, particularly in the world's top producers Indonesia and Malaysia, continue to be cleared as plantations expand aggressively, laying waste to the habitats of a kaleidoscope of rare animals, including endangered orangutans and Borneo pygmy elephants.

Consumer pressure has increased in the West as activists mount strident campaigns denouncing the destructive industry, leading some companies to cut back on the commodity or stop using it entirely. Public disgust was underlined last year when millions viewed a

Christmas advert from British supermarket chain Iceland, which has stopped using palm oil in its own-brand products, featuring a cartoon orangutan telling a little girl its jungle home had been destroyed.

Iceland's managing director had previously criticized the "agonizingly slow" progress in sustainable palm oil production. The RSPO was established in 2004 to promote green palm oil, and developed criteria for growers who want their product certified as "sustainable". These include a ban on logging virgin forests for plantations and reducing use of fires - which sometimes burn out of control and spew toxic haze into the air - to clear land, but activists regularly criticize the body for failing to enforce its rules.

Green credentials

Joining the Kuala Lumpur-headquartered body is voluntary and it has attracted over 4,000 members, including growers, consumer goods giants and traders. Nineteen percent of palm oil globally is now RSPO-certified. Major companies value membership as it boosts their green credentials and losing it can bring a flood of negative publicity. When Kit Kat maker Nestle was thrown out last year for breaching the rules, they regained their membership

within weeks after scrambling to meet requirements.

Critics however say progress towards making the industry more environmentally friendly has been hampered as major firms such as Nestle and Unilever, which owns Dove, are not purchasing enough of the more expensive sustainable oil, discouraging farmers from growing it. In a bid to force them into action, the watchdog will require companies to increase their purchases of sustainable palm oil by 15 percent every year or potentially face fines or suspension from the body.

"The production of RSPO-certified palm oil has for years been well ahead of the demand for sustainable palm oil," Carl Bek-Nielsen, chief executive director of Malaysia-based palm oil grower United Plantations said. "However, there is now hope for change." But environmentalists voiced doubts over whether companies would accurately report how much sustainable oil they were buying and noted that details on fines and enforcement had not yet been made public. "I am hopeful - but I am not that positive," said Annisa Rahmawati, a Greenpeace forests campaigner.

'Keep to the rules'

The RSPO's board of governors recently endorsed the

measures and is encouraging members to start working towards them next year, but precise details of sanctions are still being worked out. Nestle, whose products also include Smarties and Quality Street chocolates, said it was committed to having 100 percent of its palm oil certified by the green body by 2023.

Critics say the Swiss food giant has a long way to go. Last year Nestle's sustainable palm oil use reached 56 percent in Europe but in China, where there is less consumer pressure, the figure was zero, according to data the company provided to the RSPO. Anglo-Dutch giant Unilever, which also makes Ben and Jerry's ice cream, welcomed the watchdog's new rules. "Our ambition is to make sustainable palm oil commonplace," the company said.

But some said the watchdog should in the first instance ensure growers were complying with basic standards that ensure palm oil is sustainable. "There is little point in all these companies buying more certified palm oil, if the companies producing it are not keeping to the rules," a spokeswoman for the Environmental Investigation Agency, which has produced reports critical of the green body said. The RSPO has rebuffed claims in the EIAs reports, and insists it is still the best system to tackle issues in the industry. —AFP

Audi to slash 9,500 jobs in Germany

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: German luxury carmaker Audi said Tuesday it planned to slash 9,500 jobs in Germany by 2025 as part of a massive overhaul to help finance a costly switch to electric vehicles. The job cuts will be achieved through an early retirement program and natural turnover at its two German plants, the company said in a statement. At the same time, the Volkswagen subsidiary said it would create 2,000 new jobs in the areas of electromobility and digitization as it pivots to the smarter, cleaner cars of tomorrow.

The shake-up comes as Audi, like other carmakers, grapples with slowing demand in a weaker global economy, tougher pollution rules and the huge investments needed for the battery-powered era. "In times of upheaval, we are making Audi

more agile and more efficient," said CEO Bram Schot. "This will increase productivity and sustainably strengthen the competitiveness of our German plants."

The remaining roughly 50,000 workers at Audi's Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm factories will have job security until the end of 2029 under the hard-fought deal struck with labor representatives. "We have reached an important milestone," said Peter Mosch, head of Audi's works council. "The extension of the employment guarantee is a great success in difficult times." Audi said the reorganization would help boost earnings by six billion euros (\$6.6 billion) by 2029, keeping the premium brand on track to reach a profit margin of nine to 11 percent.

New CEO

The jobs cull comes after Audi was hit by falling sales, revenues and operating profits over the first nine months of 2019. But the company is far from alone in feeling the pain from an industry in the throes of transformation and buffeted by the knock-on effects from US-China trade tensions and Brexit uncertainty. German car parts suppliers Bosch and Continental

have themselves announced thousands of job cuts to slash costs, while Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler is reportedly planning to axe 1,100 managerial roles.

Hoping to turn the tide at Audi, the Volkswagen group earlier this month said it had picked former BMW purchasing chief Markus Duesmann to replace Schot as the brand's chief executive from April. Under Schot, Audi suffered more than other German manufacturers from the introduction last year of strict new emissions testing standards in the European Union, which led to expensive production bottlenecks.

And like its rivals, Audi is spending billions on new technologies, including battery-electric and hybrid vehicles, connectivity and autonomous driving. But the firm last year also had to pay an 800-million-euro fine over its role in the "dieselgate" scandal. The saga erupted in 2015 when the Volkswagen group admitted to installing cheating devices in 11 million diesel cars worldwide to dupe regulatory emissions tests. Audi's engineers are suspected of having helped developed the software used to make cars emit less pollutants under lab testing conditions than on the road. — AFP

Tesla and Ford trade challenges in macho truck world

SAN FRANCISCO: Tesla and Ford were in a virtual stare-down on Tuesday in the macho truck world, each claiming their electric pickup was strongest. Dueling tough talk was exchanged on Twitter after Tesla chief executive Elon Musk posted a video of a freshly-unveiled "Cybertruck" trouncing a Ford F-150 in a tug-of-war. The video had logged nearly 13 million views at Twitter as of early Tuesday in California, and been "retweeted" more than 110,000 times.

In the clip, a wedge-shaped Cybertruck drags an F-150 uphill, with smoke coming from the Ford's rear wheels as it tries to go downhill. "Better than a Ford F-150, faster than a Porsche 911," Musk claimed in an earlier tweet. Ford Motor Company vice president Sunny Madra issued a challenge to Musk in response

to the video, "Hey @Elon, send us a Cybertruck and we will do the apples to apples test for you," Madra tweeted. "Bring it on," Musk fired back.

Musk's boasts ignited online debate, with Ford defenders arguing the F-150 was at a disadvantage for reasons that included lacking a load to enhance rear-wheel drive traction and that the Cybertruck may have gotten a head-start. Tesla's new electric pickup truck has secured almost 150,000 orders, Musk said on Twitter just two days after its big reveal went embarrassingly wrong. The billionaire Tesla co-founder floundered on stage in California last week when the vehicle's armored glass windows cracked in a demonstration intended to prove their indestructible design.

The industrial-looking Cybertruck is covered in the same steel alloy Musk plans to use for his SpaceX Starship rocket and will be able to go from 0 to 100 kilometers per hour in about three seconds, the Tesla chief executive claimed in his presentation. He said the entry-level model will have a starting price of \$39,900 and a 400-kilometer range, while a deluxe option will be able to travel twice the distance and will sell for \$69,900. No date has been given for its release, but analysts said it would not be ready before the end of 2021 at the earliest. — AFP

Business

World stocks near record highs; index climbs 2 points on hopes

Safe-haven gold heads for worst month in almost three years

LONDON: World shares made another push for a record high yesterday after US President Donald Trump said Washington and Beijing were in the final throes of inking an initial trade deal.

The reaction to the polls squeeze has been modest as the prospect of another hung parliament raises the prospect of some form of coalition government made up of parties supporting a second Brexit referendum.

YouGov will release seat-by-seat predictions of the election outcome at 2200 GMT. The 'multilevel regression' and 'post-stratification' model accurately predicted the 2017 hung parliament, so it will be closely watched. Polling is certainly not infallible though.

A senior Japanese ruling party official said yesterday he believed the government was striving to compile a supportive spending package worth about 10 trillion yen (\$92 billion).



Chinese shares fall on weak industrial profits

In currency markets, the dollar was stronger against developed and emerging currencies, with dollar/yen holding above 109 and euro/dollar steady at \$1.10.

No fear Another signal of the rising market confidence was the CBOE VIX equity volatility index, the so-called fear gauge, subsiding to seven-month lows.

It is now less than half the level it was in August, when US-China talks looked close to collapsing, and a third of last December's level when stock markets were pulled lower by trade angst and rising interest rates.

Kay Van-Petersen, global macro strategist at Saxo Capital Markets in Singapore, said while Sino-U.S. trade headlines may be driving some tactical, near-term moves in the market, they were mostly just "noise".



FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), gives her signature to be printed on Euro banknotes in Frankfurt am Main yesterday. —AFP

seized on the plunge in borrowing costs to issue its biggest international bond ever on Tuesday.

Some analysts said a renewed fall in US and European bond yields this week also pointed to more mechanical explanations beyond trade for rising equity prices. US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said on Monday that monetary policy was "well positioned" to support the strong US labor market.

Despite central bank intervention.

Among the main commodities, oil prices edged lower after reaching their highest since late September on the reassuring trade headlines. US West Texas Intermediate crude was down 0.21% at \$58.29 per barrel.

Frozen harvest leaves bitter taste for sugar beet farmers in US

HALLOCK: Weather during harvest season in the US Red River Valley, a fertile sugar beet region in Minnesota and North Dakota, has to farmers felt like a series of plagues.

Next came a deep freeze, ruining the underground sugar beet crop, and dealing a harsh blow to farm incomes. "I can take a couple of perils from Mother Nature and after that I'm on my knees," said Dan Younggren, 59, who was unable to harvest 500 acres of sugar beets, or 40% of his plantings near Hallock, Minnesota.

Extreme weather has hampered planting and harvesting of corn, soybeans, and other crops throughout 2019 across the United States and Canadian farm belts. But in Minnesota and North Dakota, which accounted for 56% of the US sugar beet acres this year, the freeze is a double whammy.

Younggren's five-generation farm must pay American Crystal Sugar a fixed cost of \$343 for every unharvested acre, totaling roughly \$171,500 to be docked from payments for beets he did harvest. On Monday, the US government authorized the import of an additional 100,000 short tons of Mexican refined sugar due to the harvest issues.

Rising current spending leads to budget deficit

KUWAIT: Preliminary data from the Ministry of Finance shows that the budget registered a deficit of KD 745.5 million during this fiscal year (starting April) up to October.

The rise in the deficit came amid a decline in Kuwait Export Crude (KEC) prices, frail energy demand, and capped production. Oil revenues declined as well on lower production, suggesting a moderate growth outlook, despite expansionary fiscal policies.

Nevertheless, compared to the corresponding period of last year, total budgetary oil revenues declined by 18.6% y/y as KEC prices and oil production fell by 8.6% and 1.2% y/y during the period April-October 2019, respectively.

Table 1: Public finances, KD million unless otherwise stated

Table with columns: Apr-Oct 2017, Apr-Oct 2018, Apr-Oct 2019, % y/y. Rows include Revenues, Non-oil, Oil, Total Expenditures, Current Expenditures, Compensation of Employees, Goods & Services, Subsidies, Grants, Social Subsidies, Miscellaneous & Transfers, Capital Expenditures, Budget Balance, RFFG transfers, Budget Balance after RFFG transfers.

of the fiscal year by 16.5% y/y.

Total spending registered a notable rise of 20.8% y/y for the fiscal year running up until October, boosted by higher than normal increase in current spending. The increase in current spending was driven by three key factors.

Second, grants rose by 10% y/y, reflecting the continuous increases in government transfers to government related entities, which depend, to a large extent, on those transfers.

The State Audit Bureau in its recent report emphasized the need for fiscal discipline and serious measures to reduce the impact of oil price fluctuations on the budget through diversifying budget revenue sources. In the absence of a debt law, persistent large deficits could lead to the GRF depletion over the next few years.

This calls for implementing fiscal measures to reign in budget deficits and preserve what is left of the GRF resources. Diversifying the sources of revenues should stabilize the fiscal stance in the medium and long term, promote sound fiscal management, and reduce the heavy reliance on highly uncertain oil revenues.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co. Table with columns: Country, Rate. Includes EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ASIAN COUNTRIES, GCC COUNTRIES, ARAB COUNTRIES.

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd Table with columns: Rate for Transfer, Selling Rate. Includes Egyptian Pound - Transfer, Yemen Riyal/for 1000, Tunisian Dinar, Jordanian Dinar, Lebanese Lira/for 1000, Syrian Lira, Morocco Dirham, US Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Sterling Pound, Euro, Swiss Frank, Bahrain Dinar, UAE Dirhams, Qatari Riyals, Saudi Riyals, Jordanian Dinar, Egyptian Pound, Sri Lankan Rupees, Indian Rupees, Pakistani Rupees, Bangladesh Taka, Philippines Peso, Cyprus pound, Japanese Yen, Syrian Pound, Nepalese Rupees, Malaysian Ringgit.

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL Table with columns: CURRENCY, BUY, SELL. Includes British Pound, Czech Korune, Danish Krone, Euro, Georgian Lari, Hungarian 0.000905, Norwegian Krone, Romanian Leu, Russian ruble, Slovakia, Swedish Krona, Swiss Franc, Australian Dollar, New Zealand Dollar, Canadian Dollar, US Dollars, US Dollars Mint, Bangladesh Taka.

Table with columns: Rate, % y/y. Includes Chinese Yuan, Hong Kong Dollar, Indian Rupee, Indonesian Rupiah, Japanese Yen, Korean Won, Malaysian Ringgit, Nepalese Rupee, Pakistan Rupee, Philippine Peso, Singapore Dollar, Sri Lankan Rupee, Taiwan, Thai Baht, Vietnamese Dong, Bahraini Dinar, Egyptian Pound, Iranian Riyal, Iraqi Dinar, Jordanian Dinar, Kuwaiti Dinar, Lebanese Pound, Moroccan Dirhams, Omani Riyal, Qatar Riyal, Saudi Riyal, Syrian Pound, Tunisian Dinar, Turkish Lira, UAE Dirhams, Yemeni Riyal.

At Carmax...
Peace of mind is guaranteed

Al Mulla Group launches its CARMAX 3S facility



Al Mulla Motors, a leader in the automotive industry and a benchmark for customer service excellence, has announced the official launch of its CARMAX 3S facility (used car and aftersales network) – a new arm of the group that will service and repair multi-brand cars while also selling certified pre-owned vehicles. The launch follows the recent inauguration of a used car showroom in Al Rai, multi-brand CARMAX car service center in Fahaheel and Parts outlet in Shuwaikh. Al Mulla Motors expanding its expertise and offering its services to customers with all makes and models of cars across Kuwait.

CARMAX is very popular brand under the portfolio of Al Mulla group. This brand established in 2010 with pre-owned certified used car business and in 2012 diversified the brand to OES parts business to cater almost all the Japanese, Korean and American brands.

Carmax is dedicated in providing an unrivalled choice of pre-owned vehicles of the best quality at the best price. This is simply because we want to ensure the best car buying experience in Kuwait for each of our customers. From Mitsubishi and Acura, we are the right place to buy your dream car

because each car at Carmax offers the best value.

At Carmax, all our vehicles are inspected by trained technicians and pass multi-stage testing procedures to become eligible for Carmax. In addition to the impeccable condition of our used and certified cars, we also have a number of very low mileage cars that are carefully used by company managers. Our customers' oriented approach is renowned because of the special benefits we offer our customers at Carmax.

Carmax displays Mitsubishi and Acura for an attractive price offer that meets different budgets: from ASX 2017, Outlander 2017, Eclipse Cross 2018, Pajero 2018, Montero Sport 2016 to Lancer 2016. Further to the guaranteed best prices, Carmax's amazing package includes many other value added features such as: Scheduled Maintenance, Manufacturer's Warranty, Free registration and insurance, Managers' Usage.

You can visit us at Al Rai, Block 4, Ali Mubarak Al Doub St. next to Ace hardware. Mobile numbers 50817770- 99905747.

Within the growing number of Independent Service

Centers (ISC) in the market, Al Mulla motors is committed to take this new opportunity and develop their first service center based on ISC concept with their own CARMAX brand identify. The repairs are performed by professionally trained multi brand experienced technicians using most modern tools and equipments without compromise on repair quality. They strictly follow dealership standard in all their process and committed to deliver the best customer experience thru their facility.

They aim to enhance their customers' overall experience by promoting unique features such as automated vehicle repair status notification, online booking, online payment and much more, which itself is a highest benchmark. They also offer CARMAX service to their fleet customers using Mobile Service solutions.

Over the past six decades, Al Mulla Motors has become a leader in the automotive sector thanks to its focus on providing high-quality service and convenience using advanced technology to ensure superior customer experience.

They offer wide range of service and the prices are

highly challenging to make it hard for anyone in the market to compete.

With the launch of CARMAX, Al Mulla Motors is entering an emerging and growing Kuwait market for pre-owned vehicles and multibrand vehicle servicing. Benefit from their exclusive offer for only KD 7 get oil and filter service with 17 free check - up points.

For more information on CARMAX service center, please call 23923957. Alternatively, you can visit their Aftersales facility located in Fahaheel, Al Dabbous Street between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m

The Carmax spare parts for all models and make, offering affordable prices and best quality. Carmax products are engineered and developed by reliable OEM suppliers and these products are even validated in the local market before they start selling. The products range covering Oil Filters, Coolant, Lubricants, Air Cleaner Elements, Brake pad and rotors, Batteries and Tyres etc.

Visit our shop at Shuwaikh Canada Dry Str., Telephone number 249 2702- 05,



Business

Feuding firms risk disrupting electric car battery supplies

SK Innovation and LG Chem locked in US legal battles

SEOUL: In 2018, South Korea's SK Innovation beat its larger, local rival LG Chem to a multibillion dollar deal to supply German carmaker Volkswagen with electric vehicle batteries in the United States. With great fanfare, SK Innovation (SKI) broke ground in March on a \$1.7 billion factory in Commerce, Georgia, about 200 km from VW's Chattanooga plant, which will be the automaker's electric vehicle hub in the United States. LG Chem (LGC) had other ideas.

Stung by missing out on the VW deal to the new kid on the block and the departure of 77 employees for its rival across the Han River in Seoul, LGC took SKI to court in the United States in April accusing it of misappropriating trade secrets. Fast forward seven months and the two firms have hit each other with US lawsuits for battery patent infringements in a bitter row that threatens to disrupt the launches of electric vehicles (EVs) by some of the world's biggest carmakers.

US court filings reviewed by Reuters show the feuding firms are trying to stop each other from importing and selling EV batteries destined for the SUV's VW will build in Tennessee as well as GM's Bolt, Ford pickups, Jaguar's I-Pace, Audi's e-tron, and Kia Motor's Niro. At stake is the Korean firms' ability to supply automakers in the United States with batteries just as the car producers are scrambling to lock in supplies with lucrative contracts ahead of an expected surge in demand, according to court filings by the two companies and several industry experts. "Whoever loses the fight would suffer a fatal blow, unless the two reach a settlement. This will also be a setback for automakers," said Cho Jae-phil, a professor at Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology who worked previously at another Korean rival, Samsung SDI.

Ford spokeswoman Jennifer Flake said it was encouraging LGC and SKI to resolve their conflict without litigation and that it believed there was sufficient

demand for multiple suppliers. "We are aware of the issue. As a normal course of action, we have business continuity plans in place to protect our interests," Flake said in an emailed statement to Reuters. GM spokesman Patrick Morrissey said the company was aware of the dispute and at this point it did not expect any impact on the production of its Chevy Bolt electric vehicle. Kia, Jaguar Land Rover and Volkswagen, which also owns Audi, declined to comment.

Trade secrets

Volkswagen has said it is worried there won't be enough batteries for all the EVs it plans to launch in the next five years, partly because producers such as LGC and China's CATL don't have enough skilled workers for new plants in Europe to ramp up output quickly.

According to Korea's battery industry tracker SNE Research, the market for EV batteries - the most expensive and important component in the vehicles - is set to grow 23% a year to reach \$167 billion by 2025, making it bigger than the global memory chip market which is expected to be worth \$150 billion by then. In one court filing, LGC said its rival poached employees working on its own project to supply batteries for VW's MEB electric vehicle architecture - and that SKI only won the VW contract because it had misappropriated trade secrets.

SKI has denied stealing trade secrets, saying its staff signed agreements not to use information from former workplaces. "We value intellectual property," a spokesman for SKI said. If the US International Trade

Commission (ITC) rules in favour of LGC on June 5, when it is due to make a preliminary ruling, that could jeopardize SKI's plans to supply VW in the United States with batteries from Georgia or a new factory in Hungary, according to court filings.

In April, LGC asked the ITC to block SKI from bringing batteries and components into the United States, as well as manufacturing systems needed for US production which is scheduled to start in 2022. The SKI spokesman said there had been no change to its schedule for the factory, which will have the capacity to make batteries for more than 200,000 EVs a year. He said SKI had received inquiries about the lawsuits from customers, including if they would have an impact on supplies, without elaborating.

LGC said a final ruling on the case would be made on Oct. 5 next year but it asked the ITC earlier this month to make a so-called default judgment against SKI quickly. According to a memo obtained by Reuters yesterday, the Commission's investigative staff recommended a motion in favor of LGC as it is "the most appropriate sanction for Respondents' (SKI's) widespread spoliation of evidence."

Evidence spoliation is destruction or alteration of evidence that may be used in a legal proceeding. The staff also said a two-day hearing may be held "because of the severity of the allegations of misconduct and the extraordinary nature of the relief requested by (LGC)." SKI denied the allegation of evidence spoliation in a statement on Wednesday, saying it is "sincerely responding to any investigation by the ITC" and its

statement of position filed with the panel will clear the "groundless" accusation.

War of words

The patent infringement lawsuits lodged by the companies in the United States, meanwhile, mean that if one, or both, lose they probably won't be able to market products using the patents in question in the country, the companies said in court filings. The two have taken their feud to South Korean courts as well.

LGC said in a statement it would be impossible to design around its patents while SKI said losing the patents case could create "substantial setbacks" to its battery business. SKI and LGC said there had been no supply disruptions yet. LGC was an early industry force to be reckoned with, winning a deal in 2008 to supply batteries for GM's Volt, the world's first mass-market, plug-in hybrid car, and it has since worked with almost every EV maker including Tesla.

But LGC has been grappling with an exodus of workers: 1,258 staff jumped ship from 2016 to 2018, according to its sustainability reports. The company told Reuters the total number of staff who have joined SKI since 2016 has risen since it filed its complaint in April to about 100. The bitterness of the fight is worrying Korean government officials on the grounds it could damage the firms' reputations and let rivals win market share from South Korean companies.

Lawmakers have called on the government to intervene and Industry Minister Sung Yoon-mo said in October it was watching the dispute closely to see how and when it could play a role to bring about a "positive outcome for the country overall". Beejay Kim, a battery consultant, said Volkswagen may have to broker a truce as the dispute could disrupt not only battery suppliers but also reduce competition between its vendors. "No one wants them to fight till the end," he said. —Reuters

NBK issues \$750 million RegS/144A Perpetual Non-Call 6-year Tier 1 capital securities

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) issued \$750 million RegS/144A Perpetual Non-Call 6-Year Tier 1 capital securities, offering 4.5% coupon rate; the lowest for GCC Tier 1 issuance amongst both conventional and Sharia-compliant issuances. The Tier 1 capital securities were more than 3-times oversubscribed with a peak order book of \$2.3 billion.

The proceeds of the issuance will boost the Banks' capital base (additional Tier 1) in compliance with the Basel III regulatory framework and Central Bank of Kuwait regulations. The issuance was well received by fixed-income investors and financial institutions around the world, reflecting NBK's well-established reputation and solid investors' confidence.

The transaction achieved a globally diverse order book led by US investors at 33%, followed by UK investors at 27%, Asian-Pacific investors accounted for 20%, while European and MENA investors each made up 10% of the final order book. The Additional Tier 1 Capital securities issuance, which is the largest in the GCC compared to similar issuances,

attracted strong participation from global investors reaching 90%.

The issuance received a 'Baa3' rating from Moody's, underscoring the bank's outstanding credit ratings. NBK Capital, Citi, JP Morgan and Standard Chartered acted as Global Coordinators and Joint Lead Managers, while HSBC and UBS acted as Joint Lead Managers on the transaction. NBK continues to collectively enjoy the highest credit ratings from the top three international rating agencies; Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's.

The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. The NBK has an extensive local and global presence. It has boosted its foothold in a number of international hubs in London, Paris, Geneva, New York, Singapore, and China (Shanghai), in addition to a number of MENA countries including Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Turkey.

'Organic European Juices' in Kuwait



KUWAIT: As part of the European Union campaign entitled (Organic European Juices) to promote Europe produce of organic fruit juices in GCC markets, an information event took place yesterday at Marina Hotel- Kuwait, in the presence of European juices' producers, importers from Kuwait and media representatives.

During the event, comprehensive briefs about organic European fruit juices (cherry, apple and pomegranate juices) were given elaborating on the quality of produce, packaging and transportation up to high-end standards. Each product has been highlighted by one partner: Organic pomegranate juice has been elaborated by ASOP a producer's organization whereas Organic cherry

juice was given by BNHU a non-profit trade organization, as well as organic apple juice by BIOROMANIA, an association of entities (organization, producers) that are activated in the organic farming sector.

Representatives of the program operators Vlad Ciocianou representative of Bioromania and Mariana Miltenova representative of Bulgarian National Horticultural Union travelled to Kuwait. The event consisted of an informative platform about the European Juices with in-depth insight on the production process of fruits, juices production, preserved and transported.

Following the presentations' session, b2b meetings were organized between the exporters and

potential Kuwaiti importers who have appreciated the quality of the juices and discussed with the European delegation potential cooperation's opportunities. The event agenda was concluded by juices tasting sessions followed by lunch.

It's noteworthy that both actions were implemented, through the EU campaign "European Organic Juices" which aims at creating the awareness about quality European agri-food products in GCC markets; particular interest was shown by representatives of the Kuwait trade world for the excellent organic juices from Europe, while appreciating both tastes and quality that match perfectly with the public, making Kuwait a new potential market!

KPC and EQUATE to inaugurate 4th KIACS Conference

KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Company (KPC) & Subsidiaries and EQUATE announced yesterday that they will inaugurate the Kuwait 4th Industrial Automation and Control Systems (KIACS) Conference 2019, which will be held at Maha Ballroom- the Regency Hotel, on December 1st and 2nd, 2019.

The conference will gather experts in the oil and gas, technology and other industries to showcase the latest advancements made in the field of cyber security in response to evolving threats on industrial control systems. The conference will be hosted under the Patronage of Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water. KIACS 2019 focuses on the progressive approach in detecting and eradicating increasingly sophisticated and complex cyber-attacks against the industry.

Commenting on the upcoming conference and its objectives, the head of IT Steering Committee in the K-Companies and Kuwait National Petroleum Company Deputy CEO for Projects, Abdullah Fahhad Al-Ajmi, said: "We reaffirm our commitment to addressing challenges to our cyber security and the solutions that aim to protect our industry. At this unique conference, we shall discuss how to face those threats to the control systems."

For his part, Vice President for Technical Services at EQUATE, Nawaf Al-Khaleedi, commented: "We are pleased to contribute to addressing the challenges at every level of industrial control systems and to share experiences. This will help develop the necessary governance and compliance measures required to counter these challenges. We look forward to host speakers from across the globe and sectors to join efforts in safeguarding the overall sustainability." KIACS 2019 Conference is sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Fortinet, Schneider Electric, Oracle, Honeywell, Thales and Kuwait University. Over 1,800 individuals will be attending the Conference, including 20 global and local experts who will be drawing attention to the latest advancements made in the field of cyber security in response to evolving threats on industrial control systems.

Mercedes-Benz participates in the GulfRun GP event

KUWAIT: Al Mulla Automobiles Co, the sole authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz vehicles in Kuwait, concluded its participation in the "GulfRun GP" event, which was held at Kuwait Motor Town from 21 to 23 November. Al Mulla Automobiles Co took this opportunity to showcase the Mercedes-AMG GT 63 four doors, Mercedes-AMG GT 43 four doors, Mercedes-AMG E 63S, and the brand new Mercedes-AMG CLA 35 through on-track activities presenting guests and clients with a safe platform to test-drive the vehicles on track and as passengers with experienced driving professionals.

In addition, Al Mulla Automobiles Co. dedicated a full day to off-road activities in which it showcased the off-road capabilities of the Mercedes-Benz G 500 and GLE 450. The three-day event offered a great opportunity for the company to share with its fans a thrilling Mercedes-Benz experience at the "GulfRun GP" event.

Mercedes-Benz hosted its guests in two garages within Kuwait Motor Town. Available on location were sales consultants, product experts, aftersales, and service teams for any customer inquiries. Al Mulla Automobiles also had a boutique and accessories corner where customers were presented with a variety of offerings from the latest Mercedes-Benz collection 2019.

The garages featured a selection of vehicle displays including the brand new CLA 35 Coupe and Mercedes-AMG A 35 Sedan, which were presented to our customers for the first time, and the Mercedes-AMG GT 43 four door Coupe. Michael Ruehle, Divisional General Manager, at Al Mulla Automobiles Company stated: "We were delighted to participate in the "GulfRun GP" event in its first edition held in Kuwait Motor Town, the event was a great success and the turnout was impressive.

We were happy to engage with our Mercedes-Benz customers and fans and present them with an opportunity to take part in on-track and off-road activities to see the full capabilities of Mercedes-Benz vehicles.



The feedback we received has been great. On behalf of Al Mulla Automobiles Co, I would like to thank the organizers and our guests for making it such a success and we look forward to participating in future editions."

GulfRun GP event in Kuwait Motor Town included a variety of activities for motorsports enthusiasts and participants, including an intense qualifying and finale shootout across four categories with more than 100 participating racers. The GulfRun event was held for the first time in Kuwait Motor Town and presented a wide range of engagement activities for its guests.

"GulfRun" was established in 2005 by a group of young Kuwaitis who have a passion for the automotive world. It has since been transformed into a full season of activities related to motor sports, including 24-hour World Series Karting Race, and the region's largest Time Attack event in both Kuwait and Bahrain. For more information and queries related to Mercedes-Benz Kuwait passenger cars and vehicles, please contact our customer service on 1-887-888, follow us on Instagram @mercedesbenzkuwait or visit our website at www.kuwait.mercedesbenzme.com.

What's On

Ahmadi governorate, CA conclude prostate cancer awareness campaign



Under the auspices of Ahmadi governor, Sheikh Fawwaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Ahmadi governorate recently concluded a campaign organized by CA to boost public awareness concerning prostate cancer through visiting various diwaniyas and co-

ops under the motto of 'Awareness is prevention'. Speaking on the occasion, Ahmadi governorate technical office manager, Ibrahim Al-Foudery stressed on the significance of awareness campaigns noting that Sheikh Fawwaz had given direct instructions to lend helping hand

to all official, private and voluntary bodies for the greater good of the community. On his part, Dr Ali Al-Qattan stressed on the importance of regular checkups for the elderly to avoid various diseases including cancer.

Palestinian band 'Soul 47' perform at Al-Shaheed park



Within the activities organized by LOYAC's Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA) The Palestinian three-member band: Soul 47 recently performed at Al-Shaheed park presenting a mixture of outstanding e-music and songs in Arabic and English. The concert was attended by the Palestinian ambassador to Kuwait, Rami Tahboub and his accompanying delegation as well as LOYAC's chairperson, Fare'a Al-Saqqaf. Speaking on the occasion, the band leader, Tareq Abu Kuwaik expressed his joy on the band's first performance at Al-Shaheed park and in Kuwait. Abu Kuwaik also explained that the band's name represents the freedom of transport in the pre 1947 border demarcation between Arab countries. The Soul 47 band was formed in Amman, Jordan in 2013 including Ramzi Sulaiman, Hamza Aran'out, Wala Sbait in addition to Abu Kuwaik.



Al-Zad co-sponsors Horeca Kuwait 2020

In collaboration with the Hospitality Services Co., Leaders Group Company for Consulting and Development announced that more and more hospitality, catering and hotel equipment companies have so far announced their intention to take part in Horeca Kuwait 2020 exhibition due to be held at Mishref International Fair grounds in the period of January 20-22, 2020.

Announcing his company's participation in this annual exhibition, Al-Zad Trading Group's chairman of board of directors, Abdullah Al-Nafisi, expected

growing demand on hospitality services in Kuwait due to the increase of luxurious hotels numbers in the few past years and the competition amongst catering companies and restaurants. He added that 120 new hotels had been built in three years. Al-Nafisi added that Horeca had proved the significance of specialized exhibitions in promoting trade exchanges amongst specialized companies brought together under one roof.

Speaking about his group, Al-Nafisi said that it was one of the biggest 'full line' suppliers to

hotels and restaurants in Kuwait. He added that it was established in 1994 and became one of Kuwait's largest suppliers to the hotels, restaurants and catering companies. He also noted that the company was established by the owners of Kuwait's five-star hotels and that it was now the sole agent of international food brands and the first distributor of those products in the entire GCC region.

Al-Nafisi added that the group has a branch for raw materials needed to produce sweets and pastries, a gourmet for organic and imported products, a branch for sweets (Sweet Dalia) and huge fleet of refrigerated trucks to ensure immediate delivery of refrigerated or dry products.



Abdullah Al-Nifisi

Further, Al-Nafisi added that the group owns a travel and hotel booking agency through which it serves clients seeking travelling for tourism or overseas treatment.

Critic Hadbah majors in Suad Al-Sabah's Poetry



Critic Mohamed Sami Abu Hadbah recently got a Ph.D. degree in 'Style Structures in Suad Al-Sabah's Poetry' and published a book with the same thesis title including full studies of nine of her poetry collection books. The study started with a brief note about Suad Al-Sabah's life then a preamble about stylistic concepts and relation with other sciences including language. The second chapter of the book talked about phonetic and rhythmic structures including repetition, phonological synthesis, external acoustic and rhythmic structures, music and

rhymes. The third chapter talks about grammatical structures while the fifth chapter introduces an applied study about Al-Sabah's style. "The lady of the words, Suad Al-Sabah sailed in the world of poetic creativity and held the beacon to defend women's rights in the Arab world and thus became their official spokesperson for their feelings and silent hearts. Her poetry is full of love and words that dance to its music. Her poetry is also full of pain that brought mothers to tears, it is full of patriotism and ambition," Abu Hadbah said in the book's preface.

ICSK Amman students win at BISQ 2019



ICSK Amman's young quizzers, Caleb Kurian George of class VIII, Issam Thalath of class VII and Alvin Jerry of class VI, who won the Bhavans Middle East Inter School Quiz Competition in September 2019, represented Kuwait at

the GCC finals of 'BISQ 2019' on November 23, 2019. They emerged winners of the BISQ 2019 quiz competition, competing with various teams from the different schools across the Middle East.



Within the "Kuwait on the Silk Route" program designed to explore Kuwaiti cities, the Diplomatic Women Committee recently organized a trip to Ahmadi city, during which the committee advisor, Narjis Al-Shatti briefed the visitors about the city and its various facilities. The trip included the ambassadors of Chad and Kyrgyzstan to Kuwait and a number of ambassadors' spouses who were all hosted at KOC's Ahmed Al-Jaber Museum.

Health & Science

Washington DC sues e-cigarette firm Juul for targeting minors

WASHINGTON: Washington DC has joined the states of New York and California in suing Juul Labs, the United States' largest electronic cigarette manufacturer, for targeting youngsters with its marketing campaigns. The vaping industry faces intense scrutiny for an epidemic of lung ailments that has killed more than 40 people and sickened over 2,000 in recent months, as well as skyrocketing use among minors.

Juul had illegally sold to underage customers, used social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram to advertise to them, and misrepresented the safety of its products, according to a lawsuit filed by Washington's district government on Tuesday.

"We're seeking to stop JUUL from engaging in these illegal practices that have dragged a new generation into nicotine addiction," the capital's Attorney General Karl Racine said on Twitter. The company specifically targeted young people through the use of flavorings, a sleek design and an altered chemical composition designed to appeal to first-time smokers, according to the lawsuit.

The court filing also claimed Juul employed "influencers" — who are paid to promote products to their followers on social media — to appeal to a younger market. The company said it had not yet reviewed the complaint but was focused on combating underage use.

Juul had "suspended all broadcast, print, and digital product advertising in the US and are investing in scientific research," said a statement by company spokesman Ted Kwong. The firm has previously denied that its products were aimed at minors and has pulled certain flavorings, such as mint and mango, from the market.

More than five million middle and high school students



WASHINGTON: in this file illustration taken on October 02, 2018, a man exhales smoke from an electronic cigarette in Washington, DC. — AFP

reported using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days, an all-time high, the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey reported this month. US federal regulators this summer opened an investigation into potentially "deceptive marketing" by Juul after the surge in vaping-related deaths. President Donald Trump said he was considering a ban on flavored e-cigarette products in September but walked back the idea after a vigorous industry lobbying campaign. — AFP

Thailand reverses ban on weed killer linked to cancer

BANGKOK: Thailand reversed a decision yesterday to ban a controversial weedkiller and extended the permitted use of two other pesticides for six months, following pushback from its multi-billion dollar agriculture industry.

Glyphosate — a weed killer better known by its trade name Roundup — is a lightning rod for controversy, as more than 42,700 lawsuits pile up in the US with plaintiffs alleging that it caused diseases including terminal cancers.

But it remains popular among farmers in Thailand — one of the world's leading rice and sugar producers — who are among the heaviest users of pesticides in a sector that employs 40 percent of the population. Studies have linked glyphosate, paraquat and chlorpyrifos to a variety of illnesses, and the kingdom last month decided the trio would be prohibited from its crops by Dec 1.

But Thailand's National Hazardous Substances Committee ruled Wednesday that the continued "limited" use of glyphosate would be permitted,

said Industry Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit, without elaborating. The committee's decision, which was "unanimous," also allows farmers to continue using the two other pesticides until June 1, 2020, he added. Paraquat, a herbicide which the US Centers for Disease Control calls "highly poisonous", has been banned in the European Union since 2009, while studies have linked chlorpyrifos to developmental delays in children.

Manufacturer Monsanto — a subsidiary of German chemical giant Bayer — could be on the hook for billions of dollars, though its chief executive has insisted "leading regulatory agencies worldwide are convinced that glyphosate-based products are safe". The weedkiller remains popular among agricultural workers for its effectiveness and its low cost, and is still widely used in the US. The US Department of Agriculture had written letters to Thailand asking to delay the ban, saying that it could disrupt soybean and wheat imports to the kingdom.

Suriya of the Industry Ministry said those impacts on Thailand's agro-animal businesses had been overlooked when the ministry originally banned glyphosate in October. Biothai, a foundation advocating for the ban, called Wednesday's decision "disappointing", adding that a six-month extension for the use of the other two chemicals "could affect the health of farmers, consumers and children." — AFP

CLINIC

PAGE







248 33 199

CARDIOLOGY

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

- Acute coronary syndrome
- Heart ultrasound (Echocardiogram)
- Pulmonary embolism
- Dobutamine Echo
- Chronic Ischemic heart disease
- Coronary angiography and PCI
- Cardiac arrhythmias
- 24-Hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring
- Hypertension
- 24-Hour Holter monitoring
- Atrial fibrillation
- Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG)
- Cardiomyopathy





1808088 taibahospital.com
@taibahospital

CARDIOLOGY



Dr. Ashraf Al Khalifa
Consultant of Cardiology



Dr. Fouad Al Etoush
Consultant of Interventional Cardiology



Dr. Abdumohsen Al-Hashim
Consultant of Cardiology & Echocardiography



Dr. Abdullah Hadi
Consultant of Internal Medicine, Adult Cardiology & Interventional Cardiology



Dr. Ayat Ali
Cardiologist



Dr. Ashraf Al Morry
Cardiologist



Dr. Mohamed Aboelenin
Cardiologist



Dr. Mohammed Al Banna
Consultant Cardiac Surgeon



1808088 taibahospital.com
@taibahospital

Ophthalmology Services



Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally
Senior Registrar



Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid
Consultant



Dr. Abeer Khattab
Specialist



Cataract Surgery



Glaucoma



Retina



General Ophthalmology



Follow-Up All Treatments



Tel: 1808088
WhatsApp Us: +965-0000 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

Following of the royal college of surgeons in UK and Ireland.
10 years work experience in Zain Hospital Doha Kuwait.

As Head of ENT department in Farwaniya Hospital Doha 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.qmckuwait.com

Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!



Dr. Kiran Turaka
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Zareena Zahir
Ophthalmologist



Dr. Hasan Khan
Senior Cardiologist



Dr. P. Seshendra Neth
Orthopaedic Consultant (ASSETRA)
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 / 24568850 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 Alieher st., Building 68, 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-Gastroctomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernia Surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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

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

Academic Certificates - Training

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

Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019



A model presents a creation by Hungarian designer Anita Pasztor during the Marie Claire Fashion Days of Budapest in the 'Millenaris' cultural centre. — AFP

Hollywood tackles toxic masculinity with teen drama 'Waves'

Reeling from the #MeToo movement, Hollywood has put toxic masculinity under the spotlight this year with a batch of Oscars contenders zeroing in on the father-son dynamic. From Joaquin Phoenix in "Joker" to Brad Pitt's "Ad Astra," A-listers have flocked to roles which highlight the damage caused by sons' quests for their fathers' approval. But none have confronted the theme more brutally and personally than "Waves," the indie coming-of-age teen drama being tipped as an Oscars dark horse.

The film, portraying a black middle-class family in Miami which implodes following a tragedy, has been hailed as "a knockout" by the New York Times and an "intimate epic"

by The Hollywood Reporter. Director Trey Edward Shults modelled the film's strict patriarch on his own stepfather, whose overzealous coaching results in a hideous high-school wrestling injury—a trauma which is dramatized in the movie, and leads to devastating consequences.

"It is a cautionary tale of the traditional idea of masculinity," Shults, 31, told AFP. "We don't have to build these tough exteriors—we can be vulnerable, we can communicate." Described as a "Dazed and Confused" for the Instagram generation, the film shows how the expectation that teenage boys be strong, silent and stoic endures in American culture.

It was released this month by A24, the

indie production house behind Oscar-winner "Moonlight," with which "Waves" shares its setting and several themes.

Shults said he forged the central character after swapping stories with star Kelvin Harrison, whose musician father tried and failed to push him to follow in his footsteps. "We would do these sort of intense therapy sessions... him talking about his father's state of mind, his father's father, where that stuff came from." The consequences of that pressure led, midway through the film, to what Shults calls "the ultimate tragedy."

Terrifying

Later, another character's reluctant visit

to reconcile with his dying biological father in hospital is ripped directly from the director's own life. Filming the scene was "terrifying," said Shults, adding that the plotline of a teenage boy dragged to the hospital bed by his girlfriend after years of not communicating was "as identical as can be" to his own life. "It's like an all-consuming dread that hits you at, like, the pit of your stomach, reliving the most traumatic thing... It was cathartic. But it was hard."

The movie has stirred controversy in some parts because its director is white. Many of its poignant scenes about the black experience were shaped by Harrison and his on-screen father Sterling K. Brown ("This Is Us").

But Shults—whose half-siblings are black—said he did not set out to write about a black family until Harrison came on board, and racial politics were always secondary to universal themes of family grief.

In fact, race serves mainly to amplify the father's intense drive to succeed. Being black means "we are not afforded the luxury of being average," the father tells his son during one argument. "That's all Kel (Harrison). That's all with his dad. They had that very talk," said Shults, who admits that trying to portray an African-American family's experience was intimidating. "It felt like a lot of responsibility."—AFP



US movie director Richard Linklater poses during a photo session in Paris. — AFP

Trump's 'narcissism' only thing saving US, says top director

Donald Trump's "malignant narcissism" is the only thing stopping the US president plunging the country into a foreign war, according to cult American director Richard Linklater. The acclaimed maker of "Boyhood", "Dazed and Confused", "Slacker" and the trilogy of romantic hits that began with "Before Sunrise", said that Trump is "instinctually adverse to war because it would put the attention somewhere else and not on him."

"If you are at war you got to do a lot of work. You got to show up at meetings, read memos and make decisions. You can't just watch TV all day and tweet," the director told AFP as a major retrospective of his work opened in Paris. Linklater said he has been glued to the impeachment hearings aimed at the president in the Democratic-led House of Representatives.

"People ask me if I have been watching any good movies. I say, 'No, I'm watching impeachment hearings.' That's the best reality show in town," he said. The Texan said he was worried major damage will be done to the US political system if Trump is elected for another four years in 2020. "I am an optimist but my optimism is tinged by cynicism about the system itself. Can Putin put Trump in another time?" he

added, referring to reported Russian interference in the 2016 vote.

Not worst president

"He probably could because of the electoral college. I read today that he can maybe lose by as many as five million votes (next time) and still maybe stay president. It's horrible." But Linklater, 59, said Trump was not the worst American president ever. "At least he hasn't started wars. He is clearly the worst person to be in there but is not yet the worst president."

"He doesn't have a body count. Bush and Cheney killed a lot of people. The only thing keeping us out of wars is his narcissism. This is my theory," the director added. "This is a case of his malignant narcissism saving us currently from violence—not that he might resort to that if he thought it was to his advantage," said the maker of "School of Rock". Hollywood star Ethan Hawke, who has acted in many of Linklater hits, echoed his fears at the opening of an exhibition dedicated to the director's career at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. "We have such a failure of our political and spiritual leadership right now," the actor told AFP.—AFP

Going 10 rounds with combative US writer James Ellroy

James Ellroy is adamant, as he often is. "I don't talk about the present or answer any question about the present time under any circumstances. I don't write about it and I don't talk about it," said the writer of "The Black Dahlia" and "LA Confidential". Two minutes into an interview with AFP in Paris, the veins on his baldpate are bulging, and he is threatening to walk out.

Interviewing Ellroy—who says he "prefers boxing to culture"—has long been something of a bare-knuckle sport. The most pugnacious of American novelists will not brook any parallels between the white supremacists and closet fascists who populate his latest novel, "This Storm", set just after Pearl Harbor, and the rise of the far-right in the US in recent years. "I am tired of fielding queries asking if I am really writing about America today. 'It's a jackoff. No, I'm not!' an exasperated Ellroy snapped.

Quoting Mussolini

He starts his sprawling, multi-stranded story that roams between Mexico and his native Los Angeles at the end of 1941 with a quote from the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini: "Blood alone moves the wheels of history." "I like the in-your-face quality of quoting Mussolini," Ellroy drawled, his voice so rich you could stand a spoon in it. "I would hardly call him an admirable human being, but he said something true."

There is no shortage of blood over the 600-plus door-stopping pages of "This Storm". "I like big stuff," said Ellroy. "It's a statement for me. 'I don't want to be one of these guys like Philip

Roth who writes skinnier and skinnier books. I want the big-ass books with big epic vision," he said, in a swipe at the late, great author of "American Pastoral" and "Portnoy's Complaint".

'I'm an original'

"This Storm" is the second book in Ellroy's "Second LA Quartet", which when combined with his "Underworld USA Trilogy" will take in a span of 31 years in the history of his hometown and his country. Ellroy is already working on the third book of the quartet. "I am 71 and healthy and we will see if I can write the second 'USA Underworld Trilogy' (after that). I will be old."

But the man who first made his name as a crime writer, and whose signature staccato style has loosened out into rich and baroque commentary on the human condition, has no doubts about his own place in the literary canon. "I have merged the crime novel the historical novel and the political novel. That may be my great achievement," he said. "I created a new genre. There is no heir, there are no antecedents... I am an original—they come around once in a while. "I was not really influenced by anybody. And nobody is going to do what I do."

'I ignore the present'

Ellroy proudly admits to living in the past. He said he does not read any of his contemporaries and instead sticks to vintage crime fiction from the golden age of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. "I ignore the present day and it is easy to ignore it because I don't have a computer. I write my books by hand and very rarely watch TV, other than for boxing. "I have always lived in the historical LA of the past. Even when I was a kid in the mid-1950s I would look back.—AFP



In this file photo Canadian actor Godfrey Gao a.k.a. Godfrey Tsao poses on the 'Pink Carpet' ahead of the start of the 2017 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in Shanghai. — AFP

Taiwanese-Canadian model Godfrey Gao dies while filming in China

Taiwanese-Canadian actor and supermodel Godfrey Gao, the first Asian to be the face of Louis Vuitton, died while filming a TV show in China yesterday. The 35-year-old Gao collapsed in the eastern city of Ningbo while on the set of "Chase Me", a competitive sports reality show in China's Zhejiang Television. A statement from the network said Gao had slowed and fallen to the ground while running during filming, and that the hospital had confirmed it was a sudden cardiac death.

His management company Jetstar Entertainment said in a statement posted on the Twitter-like Weibo platform that Gao had fainted and was declared dead after nearly three hours of medical care. The statement thanked "every fan who loves Godfrey" and said his death was "extremely painful". In 2011 Gao became the first Asian model to be signed by Louis Vuitton, and he played the role of Magnus Bane in 2013 Hollywood action film "The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones". — AFP

Lifestyle | Music & Movies



A picture shows the desk of Egyptian novelist and Nobel prize winner Naguib Mahfouz displayed at his museum at al-Azhar district in the heart of the capital Cairo. — AFP photos



A mural depicting Egyptian novelist and Nobel prize winner Naguib Mahfouz is pictured.

Nobel winner **Mahfouz** lives on in Cairo's alleyways

The legacy of Islamic Cairo's most famous son Naguib Mahfouz lives on in its winding lanes more than three decades after he became the only Arab to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. A mosaic of the bespectacled author overlooks a market teeming with children on bikes, waiters balancing trays of hot drinks and shoppers haggling with hawkers over the price of meat. It could be a scene straight out of a typical Mahfouz novel focusing on the minutiae of life in the Egyptian capital, with its satirically political overtones and timeless characters.

After years in the making, a museum in the writer's honor opened in July this year. A new translation of previously unpublished Mahfouz work is also in print, underscoring 13 years after his death the mark he made both on world literature and on Egyptians themselves. In November, young writer Ahmed Mourad sparked controversy in Egypt when he suggested that the quality of Mahfouz's work needed to be adapted to make it more contemporary.

The backlash at this tarnishing of the great man's reputation forced Mourad to go on the popular television talk show circuit to clarify his comments. Mahfouz is considered to be the father of the modern Arabic novel: he broadened its literary range by pushing through sacred red lines including religious taboos. And he was nearly killed for doing so. In 1994, a knifeman

stabbed him in the neck in an assassination attempt. The attacker had been acting on a fatwa or religious edict issued by radical Egyptian-American imam Omar Abdel-Rahman, denouncing what he deemed to be the prodigious author's blasphemous prose.

About Cairo with love

Mahfouz's daughter Om Kalthoum said he was so deeply enmeshed in the chaotic energy of Cairo that the city itself was a major character in his work. The writer's routine included walks along the corniche by the Nile to his favourite cafes near Tahrir Square, epicentre of the 2011 revolution, and to cultural salons. "He wrote about Cairo with true love. He described it in granular detail. Even if he criticised it, it was still full of love," she told AFP. She and her sister accepted their father's 1988 Nobel Prize on his behalf because of his inability to travel due to his deteriorating eyesight.

Om Kalthoum said: "I remember sometimes we used to go to Al-Hussein (the area around the Al-Hussein mosque in the heart of Islamic Cairo) and we'd sit in the cafe bearing his name," the Naguib Mahfouz Cafe. "He showed us Midaq Alley—it was pretty much the size of a small room—and he would tell us great stories about his days as a schoolchild," she recalled. "Midaq Alley" was one of his most widely read books globally and was adapted into a 1995 film starring

Salma Hayek.

The site of the museum dedicated to him is in a beautifully restored Ottoman guesthouse in Islamic Cairo dating to 1774, and was chosen because he spent his early years there. In the Al-Gamaleya neighborhood the budding writer was surrounded by 10th century walls and a myriad of hiding spots for curious kids. Om Kalthoum noted that being raised there left an indelible mark on her father's imagination. Mahfouz's precious belongings including his mahogany desk, honours such as his Nobel certificate and even his last pack of cigarettes are among the items displayed in an exhibition that covers three floors.

A universal writer

Roger Allen, emeritus professor at Penn University in the United States and a prolific translator of Arab writers but especially Mahfouz, told AFP the author was monumental "in the development of Egyptian fiction". His writings delved into "ancient Egypt, Sufism, politics", Allen said. "You get glimpses of his many interests. He was working on multiple tracks throughout his career." Allen translated a collection of his writings into English this year in a work entitled "The Quarter".

The collection "reflects what a Cairene quarter looks like"—much like where the museum dedicated to him is located now. It is also "a heavily symbolic entity associated with humanity",

Allen added. "His works take on universal themes that show how to organize society and how it can be disrupted by forces," he said. The new collection is based on a pile of papers that his daughter found years after his death. It was organized and originally published in Arabic by Mohammed Shoaib, an editor with the culture journal Akhbar Al-Adab.

He told AFP that "in the years before winning the Nobel, he lost his eyesight so his relationship with reality was almost severed. Writing for him became an obsession." Shoaib has been archiving Mahfouz's papers with Om Kalthoum's help for a multi-volume biography. He talked about Mahfouz's pioneering role in revolutionizing the Arab novel to the extent that many Arab authors now follow in his footsteps.

Aala al-Aswany from Egypt, Ahmed Saadawi from Iraq and Algeria's Ahlam Mosteghanemi have all found a global readership with books that have won international awards. "The main idea behind his work since the 80s was returning to his childhood... his beginnings and the alley," Shoaib said of Mahfouz. "He was talking about his personal life in a way, but through the memories of the past." — AFP



A mural depicting Egyptian novelist and Nobel prize winner Naguib Mahfouz is pictured.



In this file photo US actor and director Robert Redford reacts after receiving the Honor award during the 44th edition of the Cesar Film Awards ceremony at the Salle Pleyel in Paris. — AFP

Robert Redford warns of 'dictator-like' Trump

Legendary US actor Robert Redford hit out at the Trump administration on Tuesday in a scathing open letter warning that America faced a "dictator-like" attack by a man who, he said, must be voted out of office in 2020. "We're up against a crisis I never thought I'd see in my lifetime: a dictator-like attack by President Donald Trump on everything this country stands for," the 83-year-old founder of the Sundance Film Festival wrote in an op-ed for NBC News.

"We have much to lose—it is a critical and unforgiving moment," wrote the Hollywood heartthrob, who memorably starred in the 1976 political thriller "All the President's Men" about the Watergate scandal that brought down Richard Nixon. "This monarchy in disguise has been so exhausting and chaotic, it's not in the least bit surprising so many citizens are disillusioned," Redford wrote.

"It's time for Trump to go," he said. "And it's up to us to make that happen, through the power of our votes." Redford plays a fictional US president in HBO's new series "Watchmen"—which imagines a parallel world where the actor succeeded Nixon as head of state and remained in power for 26 years. The screen legend had publicly praised Trump during the 2016 election campaign, saying he "shakes things up," although a spokesman later clarified that Redford did not back the real estate mogul for president.

In his op-ed, Redford explained that while he did not vote for Trump, he had been willing to "give the guy a chance." But he said he was almost instantly disillusioned. "There are only 11 months left before the presidential election; 11 months before we get our one real chance to right this ship and change the course of disaster that lies before us," Redford wrote. —AFP

Top French actress files abuse charge against director

French star Adele Haenel lodged a formal complaint on Tuesday against a film director she claims sexually harassed her between the ages of 12 and 15, her lawyers said. The actress shook the French film industry earlier this month with accusations about being repeatedly touched and kissed by Christophe Ruggia, who directed her in her first film role.

The 30-year-old winner of two French Oscars initially refused to bring charges because she said so few sexual assault cases come to court in France. But she changed her mind and went to a police station in a Paris suburb on Tuesday to make a formal complaint against Ruggia. The director, now 54, initially denied the accusations before asking Haenel to forgive him, saying: "I did not see that my adulation and the hopes I placed in her, might-given her young age—be distressing (for her)."

Emotional interview

Paris prosecutors had already opened a preliminary investigation after she detailed the alleged abuse in a lengthy livestreamed interview to investigative website Mediapart. The interview was seen as a turning point for the #MeToo movement in France, where the film industry has not been rocked in the same way as Hollywood. It helped galvanize renewed criticism of controversial director Roman Polanski, whose new film "An Officer and a Spy" was released in France earlier this month.

Polanski, who has French citizenship, has been a fugitive from US justice since 1978 after admitting to the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl in a plea bargain to avoid a trial on more serious charges. Days before his historical thriller opened, a French photographer claimed that Polanski had raped her in 1975 when she was 18 after beating her "into submission" at his Swiss chalet. —AFP



This image grab taken from an AFP video shows French actress Adele Haenel waiting at the Central Office for the Suppression of Violence against Persons in Nanterre, on the outskirts of Paris. — AFP

Glories of old Kabul emerge from decades of war - and trash

Kabul is rising from the ashes, shedding decades of war and mountains of trash to rebuild its pummelled culture. It's no small job. When restoration began in the Old City, some locals had moved their 'front door' to the second storey, so high were the heaps of garbage piled against their homes. Today, more than a decade on, dozens of mud and wood courtyard homes have been restored in the historic Murad Khani district, and locals throng its narrow alleys and weave through its once decimated bazaar of food stalls and shops.

In a city brimming with security checkpoints and newbuilds, old mosques, community bath houses and gardens have come back to life, drawing visitors and locals alike. "The preservation of cultural heritage is important, and is far more valuable than converting Kabul into a sterile, glass-and-steel city," said Pietro Calogero, a professor of urban studies at the San Francisco State University. "Monuments and cultural heritage are integral to the political effort to win the loyalty of the Afghan people."

Forty years of war, from the Soviet occupation of the 1980s to internal strife and Taliban rule, have destroyed much of Afghanistan's prized art, artefacts and architecture. When the Taliban government was ousted in 2001, restoring monuments and historic neighborhoods was a low priority, given the urgent need for essentials from roads to sewer lines. So non-profits - including the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) and Britain's Turquoise Mountain Foundation (TMF) - stepped into the void.

"The restorations instilled a sense of pride in the local community," said AKTC general manager Luis Monreal, who credits the build with also creating homes, jobs and tourism. "Far more than a programme of historic preservation, the work has sought to contribute to the lasting redevelopment of the economy, society and culture of the country," he said.

Casualty of war

From the English cathedral city of Coventry bombed in World War II, to Syria's ancient Palmyra desecrated in 2015, cultural sites have often been a casualty of conflict. In Afghanistan, the militant Islamic group blew up giant statues of Buddha in Bamiyan province in 2001, and destroyed scores of smaller artefacts dating from the third century. A

US-supported project at the national museum of Kabul aims to reassemble thousands of broken fragments of Buddhist artefacts into statues within the next three years.

Other projects focus on old Kabul, a city of nearly 5 million, most of whom live in unplanned, informal settlements. "The government lacked the resources to restore damaged heritage structures, even if it recognised the merit in doing so," said Kabul Mayor Ahmad Zaki Sarfaraz. "So we encouraged the participation of non-profits and others in preserving Afghan heritage, which is a way for the city to recover and boost its revenue potential also," he said.

In 2002, AKTC signed a deal to restore several buildings, monuments, parks and other public spaces in Kabul. In the Asheqan wa Arefan area, AKTC renovated more than two dozen homes, buildings and bath houses; it paved alleyways, built drains and improved water supplies, Monreal said. The project provided training and work for dozens of locals in conservation, along with old crafts such as carpet weaving, woodwork, glass-blowing and tile making, he said.

"Afghan traditional cities and architecture are the product of centuries of development, which have a direct bearing on regional identity and sense of place," Monreal said. "A rich cultural heritage in danger of being cast aside in the race to modernity after years of war was a significant element in reconstruction, not only of buildings, but awareness and professions that contribute to Afghan identity," he said.

Business is back

In Murad Khani, an 18th century area just north of the Kabul river, TMF has restored some 50 houses, and set up an institute to train Afghans, women included, in woodwork, ceramics, calligraphy, jewellery and glazed tiles. Their output is sold by well-known global brands such as Kate Spade, Monsoon and Asprey, according to its website. At one courtyard house, the walls have been fortified and the restored woodwork gleams in the sun. "It is good that it is being renovated and preserved for future generations," said Safia Ahmad, who says the house has been in her husband's family for generations.

Parts have been left for residents to fix, though, and Ahmad said they could not afford to repair the cracks in the walls and stop the ceiling from caving in. "We will have to wait till we have the money to do it," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Elsewhere in the neighborhood, men sit outside the mosque chatting, and shoppers throng the food stalls and shops. — Reuters

Lifestyle | Gossip

TOM HANKS STUNNED WHEN NOT RECOGNIZED ON 'JEOPARDY!'



The 63-year-old Oscar-winning actor saw the funny sides when he was shown a clip from the game show in which his appearance in a short video taken from his new film, 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood', drew a complete blank from all those taking part. Shown the clip from the game show on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live', Tom laughed and said: "You are kidding me! You are kidding me! They didn't even have any wrong suggestions? Bing, Woody Harrelson? Bing, Mahershala Ali? "What was the name of

the category? Washed up career choices for 800? Bad casting for 1000, Alex?" But the 52-year-old talk show host told his guest he should take it as a compliment. He said: "I look at it as you inhabited that character so beautifully that even they were absorbed instantaneously!" Tom nodded and replied: "OK, I'll take that, I'll take that. Thank you! "I think actually they were blinded by the red sweater. They couldn't make anything out." The recent episode of 'Jeopardy!' saw contestant Beverly select the 'Biopic' category, and so the group

was shown a clip of Tom as children's TV presenter Mr Rogers in his new film and Alex Trebek then said: "In 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood', beloved children's TV show host Mr Rogers is played by this beloved actor." The host was then met by total silence from all the contestants before Beverly eventually buzzed in - but was too late. The 79-year-old presenter said: "The film opens Friday. That's Tom Hanks. Not quickly enough, Beverly."

French Montana suffers from dehydration and exhaustion

The 'Unforgettable' hitmaker was taken to hospital last Thursday and it is still unclear whether he will be released in time for Thanksgiving later this week as doctors are still running tests and keeping the rapper under observation. Sources told TMZ French's problems stem from a travel schedule that saw him visit four countries in just six days as he fell seriously ill when he returned, and he still has a raised heart rate and stomach pains. French shared a brief update on Instagram earlier this week, revealing he was still in an intensive care unit (ICU), and a board on the wall of his room revealed hospital staff were trying to "manage pain" for him. He has had a number of visitors to keep his spirits up, including Meg Thee Stallion, and it was recently revealed he's also been in touch with his former girlfriend Khloe Kardashian as she has been worried about him. A source said: "Khloe has been in touch with French. She heard the news and was concerned about him. She is still worried about him and hoping he gets some good news and they figure out what's going on." The 35-year-old rapper had been rushed to hospital with cardiac issues when he started suffering from "stomach pains, nausea and an elevated heart rate". LA County Sheriff's deputies had actually been called to the house at 1.30pm over reports of a suspected robbery - which turned out to be a false alarm - but they were so concerned by French's condition that they summoned an ambulance to take him to hospital. He was quickly transported there, where he was treated with IV fluids.



Priyanka Chopra surprises Nick Jonas with new dog



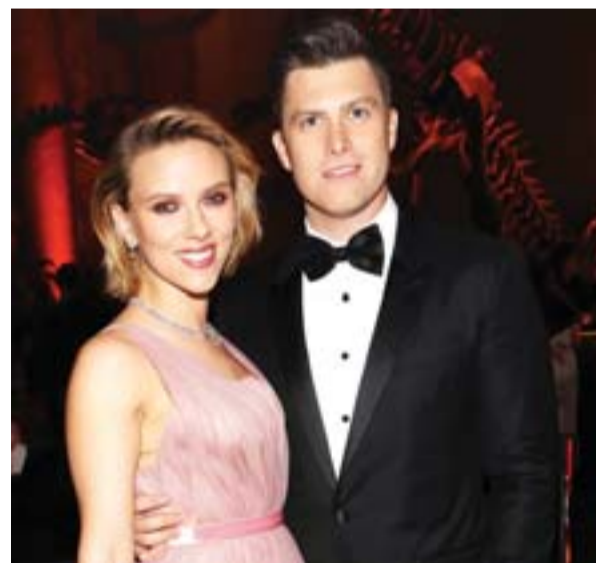
The 'Sky Is Pink' star gave her husband the shock of his life when she returned home with their new puppy, a German Shepherd, who they have decided to call Gino Jonas. He wrote on Instagram: "Pri came home with the absolute best surprise this morning. Please meet our new pup @ginothegerman I haven't stopped smiling since I woke up this morning and finally realized what was going on. Thank you @priyanka-chopra (sic) And under his post, Priyanka wished her husband a happy "almost anniversary baby", before adding: "ur face ... hilarious (sic) The 'Quantico' actress also shared the video to her own social media account, captioning it: "so much cute in the same frame ... happy almost anniversary baby. (sic) The new arrival also has its own Instagram account, @ginothegerman, and it has already amassed an impressive 181,000 followers at the time of writing. In the page's bio, it reads: "My daddy's a Rockstar! (sic)" They have already shared several pictures of Gino Jonas, two with the 'Only Human' singer which are captioned: "I'm here. I'm home ... Morning cuddle puddle with daddy. (sic)" Whilst another is the dog's "first selfie" and the fourth was captioned: "From a few weeks ago. Felt cute ... might delete later." And it wasn't only Priyanka with a surprise for their anniversary, as Nick recently admitted he is planning his own "surprise" for Priyanka for their wedding anniversary on December 1. He said: "Well, I don't wanna say what we're doing to celebrate because it's a surprise for her, and she might be watching. And if she is, then I wouldn't want the surprise to be spoiled. We will be taking a few days away from the tour to have some time."



Jennifer Lopez had to fight to shake off her 'diva' label

The 50-year-old singer-and-actress - who is engaged to Alex Rodriguez and has twins Max and Emme, 11, with ex-husband Marc Anthony - always strives to be "better", and admitted the early days of life in the spotlight was "trial and error" when it came to learning how to behave in the public eye. She said: "I had terrible things happen in the beginning of my career that I had to come back from. I did magazine articles where I said the wrong thing. It was a trial-and-error thing. "And then you get put in a category of like you're this person or that person and you're a diva. "But at the same time, I had to look and go, what am I doing? Because at the end of the day, it's always do you like what you're doing. And for me, it's always about how can I get better? That's why I do so much. How can I be better? I'm going to be a better mom, sister, daughter, friend, business partner, a better actress, better singer, better dancer, bet-

ter producer. It's always about, how can we do it better next time? Because you make mistakes." The 'Hustlers' actress always tries to be her "best self", even when she's having a "bad day" because she feels a "responsibility" to be nice to people. Speaking to the LA Times in a round table with Charlize Theron, Renee Zellweger, Awkwafina and Cynthia Erivo, she said: "I feel like there is a responsibility when you're a public person. You can't get around it. "I know we all want to be like, 'Just want to be me', and I just want to do this and I just want to do that. And I don't care what people say or think. But we have to because we care what people say. "And so it's just about being your best self. And I think that's where I keep my mind. "It's like you think I'm a good celebrity because what I'm trying to do is put my best foot forward all the time and still be myself, still be authentic to who I am."



Scarlett Johansson used to 'romanticize' marriage.

The 35-year-old actress has been married twice, once to Ryan Reynolds between 2008 and 2011, and once to Romain Dauriac - with whom she has five-year-old daughter Rose - from 2014 to 2017. And she has now admitted she didn't "understand" marriage when she first tied the knot with 'Deadpool' star Ryan, who is now married to Blake Lively. Scarlett said: "The first time I got married I was 23 years old. I didn't really have an understanding of marriage. Maybe I kind of romanticized it. I think, in a way." The 'Lucy' star is now engaged to Colin Jost, and has said she is now able to make "more active choices" about her love life, and has a greater desire to "build a family" than she did when she was younger. Speaking to Vanity Fair magazine, she added: "It's a different part of my life now. I feel like I'm in a place in my life, I feel I'm able to make more active choices. I'm more present, I think, than I've been before. "The idea of building a family, making a family, and having that work, I like that idea. I think that would be wonderful. I've always wanted that. I wanted that also in my marriage to my daughter's father as well. It just wasn't the right person. But I like that idea." Scarlett and Colin got engaged in May after two years of dating, and the actress recently said she was "surprised" by the proposal. The 'Black Widow' star said: "It was surprising, he's got a lot behind that news desk he's hiding. He's very charming and very thoughtful and romantic. But yeah, I was surprised. Even if you kind of imagine what that moment's gonna be like, it's still beautiful moment. It was very personal, it was a very special moment. I think, more than anything, when someone tells you they want to spend their life with you, that's a lovely, special thing."

Selena Gomez has had 'really powerful' year

The 27-year-old singer launched herself back into the spotlight this year with her first new music since taking a break to focus on her health and wellbeing, and has now hailed 2019 as one of the best years of her life, because she achieved so much more than she thought she would. She said: "I think every time the holidays come up, there's some part of you where you kind of sit and reflect on the year. This year was really, really powerful for me. I can say that I'm so proud of how hard I worked, and that I truly am excited to just sit back with my family, and enjoy, and turn off everything. I always just think about what happened, and where I want to go in life, and hope for the best." The 'Look At Her Now' hitmaker believes her upcoming album is the "best" she's ever done. She added: I can say this, and it might not sound right, but I've tried my hardest to make this the best album I've ever done. And I feel like I lived up to the expectations. Hopefully that doesn't come back to bite me." And Selena says the best place to listen to her album - which is set to be released on January 10 - is in the car. Speaking to InStyle magazine, she said: "Always the car. Sometimes me and my friends will just say, 'Hey, do you want to go for a drive?' And we'll just take a drive somewhere, maybe to the beach, and listen to music together. Like, evening time. It's just really pretty, and you're with your friends, you get to go somewhere nice, and you can listen to music really well." — Bang Showbiz



Travis Scott 'still loves' Kylie Jenner

The 28-year-old rapper and the 22-year-old reality star - who have 21-month-old daughter Stormi together - went their separate ways in October this year after more than two years together. But it has now been claimed Travis still has feelings for the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star, although he feels their romance was "too fast too soon". A source told Us Weekly magazine: "[He] feels that their relationship was too fast too soon. He loves her, but he wanted to be able to live his life and travel and be with other people and not have to worry about always going back to his family." Despite their split, Travis and Kylie have been spending time together as they continue to co-parent Stormi, and sources recently said Travis is "all about Stormi" whenever he has free time. The insider said: "It's not anything new that they spend a lot of time together. Even after they decided to take a break, they still spent time together with Stormi. And Travis was always free to come and go at Kylie's so he can see Stormi. "Now when he isn't working, his free time is all about Stormi. Kylie and Travis always had fun co-parenting, but you can tell that Kylie is happy Travis isn't working right now. She is happy that he is around." Last month, Kylie was joined by Travis when they took their daughter to the immersive Halloween-themed jack-o'-lantern experience 'Nights of the Jack' in Los Angeles.





In this photo Parisa Haidary drives a mini-bus to pick up women passengers in Kabul. — AFP photos



'Pink Shuttle' buses help Afghan women navigate conservative society

Parisa Haidary gets behind the steering wheel of a mini-bus, kicks off her high heels and with a socked foot presses the accelerator, carefully easing the 10-seater into Kabul's ever-clogged traffic. The Afghan mother, who works for a women-only bus service, smiles as other road-users-all of them men-gawp in astonishment. "We get a lot of different reactions," she says. "Some drivers block our way, others

chosen from 100 candidates. The first-of-its kind service is helping women navigate the many challenges they face getting around Kabul, where a woeful lack of transport options is compounded by the risk of harassment if they walk on the streets.

"We have transportation problems for women. In fact, public transportation does not exist, especially for women in Kabul," project coordinator Obaidullah Amiri said. Pink

Terrifying traffic

According to Khan Mohammad Shinwaray, police chief at Kabul's traffic department, the number of women drivers in the capital has been steadily growing, with 275 licenses approved for the first half of the year. This is quite a jump: In the years between 2012 and 2016, just 1,189 women in total got licenses in the city, according to Nove Onlus. It is a "positive change to see Afghan women driving in Kabul," Shinwaray said. "There are no restrictions on women becoming drivers."

Navigating Kabul's traffic is no easy feat. Traffic can flow fast one moment, then suddenly grind to a complete standstill for hours on end. Road signs are non-existent, few of the streets are named and drivers often zoom the wrong way into oncoming traffic. Usually it is the bigger of two vehicles that wins the right of way. Congestion has only got worse in recent years as Kabul has been sliced into ever-smaller portions by new security measures and entire streets and landmarks suddenly disappear behind towering blast walls. When extremist Taliban insurgents



In this photo Razia Dalili, front seat, gestures as she drives a mini-bus to carry women passengers in Kabul.

honk at us, some even drive alongside at the same speed when the road is clear."

In an ultra-patriarchal society where it remains rare to see a woman behind the wheel, Haidary is one of four drivers working for Pink Shuttle, a pilot bus program employing only women to ferry female passengers and their kids across the Afghan capital. "I love driving and am interested in my job. The only concern we have is the security situation. We have to stay fearless," Haidary said.

The 36-year-old former beautician, who has also worked as a television journalist, and her colleagues were

Shuttle being run by Nove Onlus, an Italian non-governmental group that in turn is being supported by the Only The Brave foundation, created by fashion designer Renzo Rosso.

Amiri said the pilot project, which started in May and also receives backing from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), is set to be extended. While the service is currently being offered for free to a limited number of pre-approved passengers, Nove Onlus hopes it will become financially sustainable within two years.



swept to power in 1996, women were forced to stay home, barred from most jobs, and deprived of their right to an education.

After the militants were toppled in late 2001 and a US-backed government took over, gender equality was enshrined in the Afghan constitution, though discrimination remains rife. Fatima Mohammadi, a 31-year-old Kabul resident who has been driving for about four years, said she appreciated the freedom of having a car but still deals with daily harassment on the road. "I usually don't leave the windows of the car open," she said. "Sometimes when another driver or passerby smiles or says 'Well done,' it feels like harassment."

Women like Haidary and Mohammadi worry the Taliban might one day return to power, and take away their relative freedoms. Negotiations between the US and the Taliban that could have paved the way to an eventual peace settlement collapsed in September, and now no one is sure what will come next. "If the Taliban come back, I hope they are not the same group they used to be," said Haidary. "If they impose the same limitations, we will lose our jobs."—AFP



In this photo Fatima Mohammadi drives her car on the streets of Kabul.

Go for lunch: Japanese yakitori chicken gets space thumbs-up

Japanese chicken yakitori kebabs, one of the country's most-loved fast foods, will soon be making an appearance in orbit after Japan's space agency cleared them for astronaut meals. The charbroiled chicken meat on skewers and flavored with a variety of sauces is hugely popular in Japan and abroad, and a canned version has just won certification as a "Japanese space food" for consumption on the International Space Station. Yakitori joins 34 other Japanese items such as "onigiri" rice balls, ramen noodles, seaweed soup and cooked mackerel, as Japanese astronauts pine for a taste of home while in orbit.

They can pick what certified Japanese food to bring on their ISS missions, adding to base meals selected by NASA, a spokesman from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) explained on Wednesday. The approved yakitori will come in two flavors—soy sauce and "yuzu kosho"—green pepper infused with the Japanese citrus fruit yuzu. But while astronauts may want the full yakitori experience of chewing from a bamboo skewer, strict space rules will make this impossible.

"Eating from skewers in space would be good... but the policy is to leave as little waste as possible," the JAXA spokesman told AFP. So the yakitori will be eaten from ring-pull cans with special velcro to keep it from floating away in the micro-gravity environment. The approved yakitori cans are manufactured by Hotei Foods, based in Shizuoka, southwest of Tokyo. The company said they expect their cans will blast off when Japanese astronauts leave for the ISS next year. They won JAXA approval after clearing a rigorous set of criteria such as guaranteeing the food would not degrade even after 18 months at room temperature. — AFP

Michelin brands French chef 'diva' in 'Cheddargate' case

A French celebrity chef has been branded a "diva" for taking the Michelin guide to court yesterday for suggesting he used cheddar cheese in a soufflé. In a case that could have far-reaching consequences for restaurant critics, chef Marc Veyrat is claiming he was "dishonored" by the red guide when it stripped his flagship restaurant in the French Alps of its coveted third star in January.

Dubbed "Cheddargate" by wags, he claimed that an "incompetent" Michelin inspector mistakenly thought he had adulterated a soufflé with the much-maligned English cheese instead of using France's Reblochon, Beaufort and Tomme varieties. It is the first time that a chef has sued the guide, the most prestigious in the world.

If Veyrat wins the case, and forces Michelin to hand over its secret judging notes, it could cause an earthquake in the restaurant world, potentially setting a precedent for other disgruntled chefs.

Veyrat, 69, made his name with so-called "botanical" cooking using wild herbs gathered in his native Haute Savoie region. He said the Michelin review nearly broke him, sending him into an eight-month depression, and leaving his cooks in tears.

Pathological egotism

But Michelin hit back on the eve of the court battle, branding Veyrat a "narcissistic diva" suffering from "pathological egotism". The larger-than-life figure, instantly recognisable for his wide-brimmed black Savoyard hat and dark glasses, told AFP that the case, which opens before a judge in a suburb of the French capital Wednesday, is a matter of "honour" for him.

"That they said that my soufflé was full of cheddar... and that they took "my virtual scallops" to be real coquilles Saint-Jacques when they were made from a base of burbot (fish) livers from Lake Geneva shows a lack of competence," he said. But Michelin's lawyers were withering in response, calling the case "grotesque". "The court is not there to protect men's vanity," barrister Richard Malka told AFP.

"Mr Veyrat wants France to abandon the principle that restaurant critics should have the freedom to have an opinion because his restaurant has two stars rather than three—because (La Maison des Bois) was judged to be just excellent rather than brilliant," he added. Malka said the case flies in the face of reason and basic constitutional right of freedom of expression.

While Veyrat is demanding symbolic damages of one euro (\$1.1), Michelin is now counter suing for 30,000 euros in costs and compensation. But Veyrat's lawyer Emmanuel Ravanos said that the case was far from an abuse of the legal system. "For decades Marc Veyrat has been used to his cooking being judged and compared and he knows that no one has (Michelin) stars for life." However it all depended on the criticism being "rigorous", he added. — AFP

Iranian supreme leader says 'very dangerous' plot foiled

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday said his sanctions-hit country had foiled a "very dangerous" plot after violent demonstrations triggered by a fuel price hike. New York-based Human Rights Watch, meanwhile, accused Tehran of "deliberately covering up" more than 100 deaths and thousands of arrests during the crackdown. The demonstrations first flared on Nov 15, hours after a midnight shock announcement that petrol prices would immediately go up by as much as 200 percent in the Islamic republic.

A near-total Internet blackout was imposed as the protests turned violent, with police stations attacked, petrol pumps torched and shops looted. Connectivity was restored for much of the country after the unrest was quashed within days, and mobile access was returning late yesterday. The outage had apparently been enforced to temper shows of dissent and stem the flow of videos of violence being shared online.

But it also made it difficult to know the full extent of the bloodshed. Officials in Iran have confirmed five people were killed and so far announced about 500 arrests, including of some 180 "ringleaders". London-based Amnesty International said on Monday that 143 people were killed and up

to 7,000 arrested, citing what it said were "credible reports".

Iran has blamed the unrest on "thugs" backed by its foreign enemies, including the US, Israel and the People's Mujahedeen of Iran, an exiled armed opposition group it considers a "terrorist" cult. "The people foiled a deep, vast and very dangerous conspiracy on which a lot of money was spent for destruction, viciousness and the killing of people," Khamenei said, quoted on state television.

The leader was speaking at a gathering of the Basij, a loyalist militia which he advised to have a presence in all districts of Iran and to remain a step ahead of the enemy. On Twitter, Khamenei expressed his "heartfelt gratitude and appreciation" to the Iranian nation in a post that featured pictures of a massive pro-government rally held Monday in Tehran.

"The people proved again that they are powerful and great, and defeated the big conspiracy of the enemy with their presence on the scene," he said. "Police and security forces... performed their duty, but what the nation did during this week was more important than any other measure," said another tweet. The tweets accused the "#GlobalArrogance and #Zionism" - Iran's

arch-enemies the US and the Jewish state - of being behind the street violence.

The United States said it had received thousands of messages from Iran about protests after appealing to demonstrators to defy the internet restrictions. "We've received to date nearly 20,000 messages, videos, pictures, notes of the regime's abuses through Telegram messaging services," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, referring to the encrypted app. Iran has yet to respond.

Long-fraught links between Tehran and Washington plunged to a new low in May last year when the US unilaterally withdrew from an international accord that gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear program. In its report released in Beirut, Human Rights Watch accused Iran of "deliberately covering up the scale of the mass crackdown against protesters".

HRW called on Iranian authorities to "immediately announce the number of deaths, arrests, and detentions... and permit an independent inquiry into alleged abuses". Its deputy Middle East director, Michael Page, criticized Iran for having so far "refused to provide an accurate death toll and instead threatened detainees with death". "Keeping families in the dark about



TEHRAN: An Iranian man checks his phone on a park bench in the capital yesterday. — AFP

the fate of their loved ones while ratcheting up an atmosphere of fear and retribution is a deliberate government strategy to stifle dissent," Page said.

The unrest erupted after the price of

petrol was raised by 50 percent for the first 60 litres and 200 percent for any extra fuel after that each month. The government says the proceeds will go to poor families. — AFP

113 Syrian refugees welcomed in Italy

ROME: More than a hundred Syrian refugees arrived in Rome yesterday, the latest wave of refugees from the war-torn country to be escorted to safety in Europe. The 113 men, women and children arrived at Rome's Fiumicino airport from Lebanon where church groups had arranged their safe passage out of refugee camps. "Viva Italy," shouted the approximately 30 children among the group, as a host families and volunteers greeted the new arrivals - some of them family members - with smiles and tears.

"These kids have only known the war and refugee camps. But now they'll have a future in Italy," said Marco Impagliazzo, president of the Community of Sant'Egidio, which together with the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy (FCED) and the Waldensian Evangelical Church, organized and financed the safe passage. Since 2016, the groups have together brought over 3,000 Syrians to Italy, France, Belgium and Andorra, 1,800 of them to Italy alone.

For the new arrivals, the network provides housing and organizes schooling for children as well as language classes. Within about a year, most families have begun to integrate into society, organizers say. One, Rola Alattal, 20, came to Italy a year and five months ago with her immediate family, and was again at the airport yesterday to greet her uncle, a beaming Ibrahim Bitar, and his young family.

"Things were getting a bit bad for him in Syria," said Alattal, explaining how Bitar escaped to Lebanon after being

pressured to join the Syrian army two years ago. But without documents, he couldn't work and his situation became more desperate. Another new arrival, Bushra Alkanj, 26, was to travel to Padua to live with other young women, since she had arrived alone without family. "Just like the others here, we're excited to go to our new home," said Alkanj.

Alkanj left her home and family in 2012 in Syria for Lebanon, where she continued to study and volunteer to help other exiled Syrians. "But like so many other Syrians in Lebanon the situation is getting worse and so I was forced to ask for help," said Alkanj. "Now I feel safe, I'm in Italy."

Syria's war has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions, mostly to Turkey and Lebanon, since it erupted in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan wants to repatriate some of the 3.6 million Syrians in the country to a "safe zone" in northern Syria, a move humanitarian groups such as Amnesty International say amounts to sending them back to a war zone. Last month, Erdogan threatened to send millions of Syrian refugees to Europe, increasing fears of a new wave of migrants.

Organizers of yesterday's safe passage expressed concern, saying governments were increasingly impeding humanitarian groups' work, with the result that refugees were even more desperate. "People are more afraid, they're risking more, their lives," said Christiane Groeben, vice president of the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy. "When government people say ... that the numbers (of migrants arriving in Europe) have gone down, they have gone down because more people have drowned," said Groeben, referring to migrants, including Syrians, who continue to take the perilous sea route for Europe. — AFP



ROME: Syrian children are welcomed by NGOs and volunteers of the Community of Sant'Egidio as they arrive at Fiumicino international airport yesterday as part of a humanitarian corridor. — AFP

More protesters killed in Iraq anti-govt unrest

BAGHDAD: Two protesters were shot dead in Baghdad yesterday and other Iraq cities were shrouded in acrid smoke from burning tyres as demonstrators pressed their campaign of anti-government rallies. Masked youths sealed off streets with makeshift barricades across the restive south as schools and public offices stayed shut. "The government has lost all its legitimacy. We don't want them," said one protester in the southern city of Basra. "They meet every day and claim to be discussing our demands, but we expect nothing from them."

For nearly two months, Iraq's capital and Shiite-majority south have been gripped by the largest protests since the 2003 US-led invasion

that toppled Saddam Hussein. In central Baghdad, young demonstrators donned helmets and medical masks to face off again with security forces unleashing tear gas. Iraqi medical and security sources said at least two demonstrators were shot dead in Baghdad as protesters and security forces clashed.

An AFP correspondent reported volleys of gunfire from behind concrete barricades where the security forces were deployed. The Islamic State group, meanwhile, claimed that it was behind three deadly explosions that rocked Baghdad late on Tuesday, killing six people. The near-simultaneous blasts were caused by explosives-laden motorcycles and roadside bombs in Shiite neighborhoods, medical and security sources said. They were the first such attacks in Baghdad in several months claimed by IS, a group which the Iraqi authorities said had defeated two years ago.

The street violence in Iraq has left more than 350 people dead and some 15,000 wounded over the past two months. Another 100 protest-

ers suffered injuries in two days of rallies in Hillah, just south of Baghdad, when security forces used tear gas against them. The unrest has paralyzed daily life in many towns and cities, with schools intermittently closed, streets blocked and government offices empty.

Yesterday, religious authorities in the holy city of Karbala ordered their private schools there, and in nearby Babylon and the second holy city of Najaf, kept shut for two days. They feared a repeat of Tuesday's chaos when riot police and protesters clashed, leaving one demonstrator dead. Karbala, visited by millions of Shiite pilgrims from around the world each year, had seen deadly skirmishes overnight and during the day.

Demonstrators yesterday torched tyres in and around the city, sending thick plumes of black smoke barreling skywards. In Nasiriyah, further south, authorities ordered all public offices closed for two days, although these had been largely shut already by ongoing sit-ins and marches. — AFP



BAGHDAD: Iraqi demonstrators burn tyres amid clashes with security forces in the capital's Al-Rasheed Street near Al-Ahrar bridge yesterday. — AFP

Three injured in blast at Texas...

Continued from Page 1

The local Nederland Volunteer Fire Department said a mandatory evacuation had been ordered for everyone living within a 1/2 mile radius of the plant.

The TPC Group said the explosion happened in what it said was a "processing unit" at around 1:00 am local time (0700 GMT). "TPC Group has activated its Emergency Response Plan and requested assistance

MBS meets MBZ amid push to end...

Continued from Page 1

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan greeted Prince Mohammed at the capital's airport. The streets of Abu Dhabi were lined with Emirati and Saudi flags, while road signs that usually display traffic warnings greeted Prince Mohammed. The sound of fighter jets resonated across Abu Dhabi's skies as the two leaders headed together to the opulent presidential palace, where Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler was greeted with the classic Saudi song "You are the King".

This comes a day after the Saudi-led military coalition said it will release 200 Yemeni Houthi rebels and permit some flights from the insurgent-held capital

from Port Neches Fire Department and Huntsman," it said in a statement. "The event is ongoing, but will be brought under control as quickly and safely as possible. At this time, personnel at the site have been evacuated. We have accounted for all site personnel and three personnel have sustained injuries and are being treated."

The Port Neches plant is around 135 km from Houston. More than 200 people work at the facility, according to TPC Group's company website. The facility produces butadiene, a flammable gas used in the production of synthetic rubber, and other petrochemicals such as butane. A shelter for those forced from their homes has been opened at a church in Nederland, local media said. — AFP

Sanaa. The initiatives coincided with a lull in Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia launched from Yemeni soil and come after a senior official in Riyadh this month said it had an "open channel" with the Iran-aligned rebels. Patients needing medical care will be allowed to be flown out of Sanaa airport, which has been closed to commercial flights since 2016, coalition spokesman Turki Al-Maliki said in a statement on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in Yemen's war in March 2015, shortly after the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa. Since then, tens of thousands of people - most of them civilians - have been killed and millions displaced in what the UN has termed the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Prince Mohammed's visit also comes at a time when Saudi Arabia is seeking to attract investment in its oil giant Aramco's initial public offering, which could be the world's largest flotation. According to Bloomberg, Abu Dhabi intends to invest as much as \$1.5 billion in the listing. — AFP

Amir instructs three authorities to join...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Ghanem yesterday relayed a verbal message from HH the Amir to Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin

Hamad Al-Thani during a meeting in the Qatari capital. HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah's message dealt with bilateral ties and the latest developments in the region, according to the Kuwaiti parliament's Al-Dostour news service.

Ghanem also conveyed HH the Amir's warmest greetings to Qatar, wishing the Gulf country continued prosperity and success. The Qatari Amir reciprocated the warm sentiments. The National Assembly speaker arrived in Qatar a day earlier to attend the opening of the Gulf Cup football tournament. — KUNA

Gulf investors to help Aramco...

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) also planned to invest in the IPO, two of the sources said, although the size of Kuwaiti commitment was not immediately clear. ADIA and Aramco declined to comment. KIA did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Saudi Arabia aims to sell a 1.5 percent stake in Aramco, valuing the company at \$1.6 trillion to \$1.7 trillion, a lower valuation than the \$2 trillion target initially sought by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, known as MBS, who has made the offering a cornerstone of his economic diversification program.

Jason Tuvey, senior emerging markets economist at Capital Economics, said that any Gulf state investment in the IPO would be "purely a political decision rather than anything (else)". He said commitments by Abu Dhabi and

Kuwait, which both sit on huge oil reserves of their own, would be "to show their support to MBS and his plans to diversify the Saudi economy". ADIA, estimated to have assets of nearly \$700 billion, is chaired by the president of the United Arab Emirates and its deputy chairman is Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, a close ally of the Saudi crown prince.

When Aramco's IPO plans were first flagged in 2016, an international listing was seen as one of the central elements, prompting interest among exchanges from New York to Singapore. But many foreign institutional investors have said Aramco's valuation looked expensive and raised concerns about political, governance and environmental issues.

The head of the biggest refiner in Japan, a major Saudi oil importer, said Japanese firms were unlikely to invest because of difficulties in valuing the Saudi firm. Malaysian and Russian oil firms also said they would not invest. The sale process for listing Aramco on Riyadh's Tadawul exchange kicked off on Nov 3. Lead manager Samba Capital said retail subscriptions reached 27.04 billion Saudi riyals (\$7.21 billion) on Tuesday, ahead of today's deadline. — Reuters

Sports

Bolivia's women wrestlers back in the ring after unrest

'I love demonstrating the ability, agility that a woman can have'



EL ALTO: Bolivian wrestler Ana Luisa Yujra (R), aka "Jhenifer Two Faces" and Lidia Flores, aka "Dina, The Queen of the Ring", both members of the Fighting Chollitas, fight at Sharks of the Ring wrestling club in El Alto, Bolivia, on November 24, 2019. —AFP



EL ALTO: Bolivian wrestler Ana Luisa Yujra (R), aka "Jhenifer Two Faces", a member of the Fighting Chollitas, fights with a male wrestler at Sharks of the Ring wrestling club in El Alto, Bolivia. —AFP

EL ALTO: Wearing a bright green billowing skirt and dainty black velvet flats, Bolivian wrestler Lidia Flores launches herself from the second rope of the outdoor wrestling ring and squashes her hapless male opponent.

Suspended for two weeks as anti-government protests and blockades rocked El Alto, a sprawling city overlooking La Paz, the cholitas luchadores are back on the canvas at Sharks of the Ring wrestling club.

The raucous crowd of elderly men, young women and parents with small children heckle and hurl insults as the indigenous women wrestlers, wearing traditional multilayered "pollera" skirts and long braids, flip, kick, punch and pull each other's hair in a chaotic show that often spills outside the ring onto the pavement.

Flores, whose performance name is "Dina the Queen of the Ring," says wrestling is a welcome relief from the pressure of her day job cooking in a restaurant.

"Wrestling de-stresses me," Flores, 44, tells AFP as she stands outside the venue before the match handing out fliers to people walking through a street market.

After a fortnight hiatus, the feisty mother of three,

who has been wrestling for 12 years, is "very keen" to get back in the ring. "With these problems, with so many blockades, nothing to eat, it was very stressful," she says, a black bowler hat worn by many indigenous women perched on her head.

Weeks of unrest triggered by the disputed October 20 election, which Evo Morales claimed to have won and opposition groups said was rigged, have made life difficult and dangerous for people in El Alto, a stronghold for the former president.

A siege of a key fuel plant turned deadly last week when protesters clashed with heavily armed security forces, leaving eight people dead.

Two days later, police tear-gassed demonstrators who marched on La Paz with five of the bodies to demand justice and the resignation of interim President Jeanine Anez, who replaced Morales after he quit on November 10 and fled to Mexico. With roads blocked and many afraid to leave their homes in the city more than 13,000 feet above sea level, the Sunday high-altitude wrestling matches were cancelled for a fortnight.

"It was the first time (in eight years) that we had to

stop because of conflict," says organizer Marie Penaranda, 30, as she sells tickets for 20 bolivianos (around \$3) each.

Tensions eased at the weekend with the passing of a bill authorizing new elections and ongoing talks between the caretaker government and protesters aimed at ending the unrest.

Ana Luisa Yujra, better known as "Jhenifer Two Faces," says the spectacle is "affordable" therapy for the crowd after so much violence.

"I love demonstrating the ability, agility and capacity that a woman can have," says Yujra, who works as a geriatric nurse.

'Rough but interesting'

Flores, wearing a shawl the same shade of garish green as her flouncy skirt, climbs into the ring and tosses her bowler hat on the floor.

To warm up for her mixed pairs fight against Yujra, the plump wrestler performs a couple of running somersaults on the canvas, revealing the lacy layers of her pollera and her underwear to the scores of spectators.

Martha Mayta, 28, sits in the front row enthralled by the performance.

"It is really admirable ... how these women in a pollera can get into the ring, wrestle, be in those positions," she tells AFP.

The sight of male and female wrestlers stomping, beating, choking and spraying water on each other does not bother the crowd as they egg on the performers to go even further.

"It is a demonstration for us of a woman defending herself against men," Norah Martinez Salazar, 34, tells AFP.

"It seems rough, but it's something interesting."

After an intense battle peppered with references to the political crisis gripping the country, Yujra and her male partner decked out in shiny red trousers and matching top, are declared the winners.

A visibly exhausted and dishevelled Flores blows kisses to her fans as she leaves the ring defeated and returns to the makeshift change room.

"I feel bad," she says. "I'm really tired and out of breath." —AFP

Gulf Basketball Championship concludes today

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The preliminary matches of the 16th Gulf Basketball Championship will conclude today with a match between Qatar and UAE at 5:00 pm followed by a match between Kuwait and Bahrain.

Saudi team tops the table with 5 points after 3 matches, followed by Bahrain with 4 after two matches, UAE 4 after 3 matches, then Kuwait with 3 points from two matches and finally Qatar with 2 points from two matches.

The UAE-Qatar match is expected to be very strong bearing in mind UAE's strong performance against Kuwait, restoring hopes to reach the semi final, while Qatar seeks to restore its usual image and get into competition once again.

The Kuwait-Bahrain match will be so important because it will decide Kuwait's qualification to the next round, and it will be very difficult because of the strength of the Bahrain team.

Meanwhile the GCC Basketball organizing committee decided to change the time of the championship



tournament in Qatar from mid April to 29th May until 6th June as a preliminary suggestion in waiting for the Asian Federation approval.

On his part Chairman of the Committee UAE's Abdellatif Al-Fardan said a meeting will be held with

the Asian Federation Secretary General to approve the final day for the GCC Clubs date.

Kuwait's representative in the organizing committee Thamer Al-Shanfa thanked committee members for agreeing to change the date of the clubs championship.

Blackhawks halt Stars' record-tying run

CHICAGO: Corey Crawford made 32 saves for his first shutout of the season as the Chicago Blackhawks defeated visiting Dallas 3-0 Tuesday night, preventing the Stars breaking the record for longest winning streak in team history. Brandon Saad, Patrick Kane and Connor Murphy scored as Chicago snapped the Dallas' franchise-record-tying, seven-game winning streak and 12-game point streak (11-0-1). The shutout was the 26th of Crawford's 13-year career with the Blackhawks. Kane extended his point streak to 13 games, during which he's had 22 points (nine goals, 13 assists), and helped the Blackhawks snap a three-game winless streak (0-2-1).

BRUINS 8, CANADIENS 1

David Pastrnak scored three times, Brad Marchand and Charlie Coyle each added a goal and two assists,

and Boston crushed host Montreal. Jake DeBrusk, Anders Bjork and Danton Heinen also scored, and Sean Kuraly had three assists as the Bruins won for the fifth time in their past six games (5-0-1). Jaroslav Halak stopped 36 shots. Shea Weber scored for the Canadiens, who have lost five straight (0-3-2). Carey Price allowed the first five goals on 11 shots before he was pulled 1:10 into the second period.

WILD 3, DEVILS 2

Ryan Suter scored the tiebreaking goal three minutes into the third period, and Kaapo Kahkonen made 32 saves in his NHL debut as Minnesota edged New Jersey in Newark, N.J. The Wild improved to 4-0-3 in their past seven games and held the lead this time after blowing late leads and losing in overtime Monday to the New York Rangers and Saturday to the Boston Bruins. Former Devil Zach Parise and Jordan Greenway also scored for Minnesota, which played its league-leading 17th road game. Jesper Boqvist and Kyle Palmieri scored for the Devils, who have been outscored 31-14 in the third period this season. —Reuters

Sacked Folau raises compensation claim to Aus\$14 million

SYDNEY: Sacked Israel Folau increased his demand for compensation against Rugby Australia to Aus\$14 million (US\$9.5 million) yesterday, claiming that he could have been Wallabies captain.

The stridently Christian fullback was fired in May for "high-level" misconduct after posting on Instagram that "hell awaits" gay people and others he considers sinners.

The 30-year-old is pursuing legal action against Rugby Australia and NSW Rugby, claiming he was unlawfully dismissed under legislation that disallows sackings because of a person's religion.

The governing body insists his firing was purely contractual.

Folau had previously been seeking Aus\$10 million for lost earnings, but this has been increased by Aus\$4 million, which if successful could plunge Australian rugby into financial difficulties.

A trial has been set for February

unless court-ordered mediation in December is successful, with Folau lodging an updated statement of claim in the Federal Circuit Court, which was made public yesterday.

Folau has gained the support of prominent conservatives and is cashed up after the Australian Christian Lobby raised more than Aus\$2 million in just two days to help pay his legal fees.

Super Rugby's record try-scorer, who has played 73 times for the Wallabies, said his four-year contract termination would cost him Aus\$4.2 million.

His new claim also tallied match payments, Aus\$1.5 million a year he could have earned with Rugby Australia after 2022 and a similar amount annually should he have opted to play with an overseas club towards the end of his career.

Lost sponsorships and missed revenue that comes with competing at World Cups and possibly captaining the Wallabies were also used to justify his demand.

Rugby Australia had no immediate comment on the new claim.

Folau argued in an earlier statement of claim that his dismissal was "an unreasonable restraint of trade" because it stopped him playing the sport. —AFP

Mustafa Karam shooting tourney begins today

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The Mustafa Karam and Sons shooting tournament will start today at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex in the Olympic Skeet and Trap events. Shooters from club and National Guard will start their official training, as they will shoot at 75 targets.



Technical and Administrative departments made all the necessary preparations to allow shooters show their skills, and successful ones will be chosen to join national teams. Kuwait Shooting Sport Club treasurer Essa Ahmad Al-Buti Butaiban thanked the company who committed itself to support Kuwait shooting activities and encourage outstanding shooters out of its believe is the importance of supporting sports. He said the technical department made sure ranges are ready for a fair competition for shooters and juniors who receive class and field instructions at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Olympic Shooting Academy

Sports

Archer 'over' racism shock as England regroup for second Test

Jofra ready to help England bounce back from heavy first Test defeat

HAMILTON: England paceman Jofra Archer said yesterday he had "moved on" after being racially abused by a spectator in New Zealand and was ready to help the tourists bounce back from a heavy first Test defeat.

Archer said his focus was on the second Test in Hamilton beginning Friday, not the racial taunts thrown at him late in the opening match in Mount Maunganui on Monday as England were drubbed by an innings and 65 runs.

"I'm over it. I've left what happened at the ground and I've moved on," the Barbados-born bowler said in a column for the Daily Mail. New Zealand, who will be without opening bowler Trent Boult and all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme for the second Test, expressed shock at Archer's treatment, with skipper Kane Williamson offering an apology on behalf of all Kiwis.

"I should also say it was just one person who was shouting stuff. But I found the incident a real shame," said Archer who added he was disappointed other spectators did not intervene. "I thought members of the crowd around the guy might have pulled him up because I could hear him from the pitch as I was walking off. I guess they didn't," the 24-year-old said.

New Zealand Cricket said a life ban and a referral to police awaits the perpetrator once identified. The incident has overshadowed the build-up to the second Test and its impact on the tourists in the wake of a demoralising loss remains to be seen.

Director of cricket Ashley Giles described Archer as "emotional" and "hurt", but the abuse could also serve to draw England's players together. Further unsettling the team in Hamilton will be new coach Chris Silverwood's departure at the end of day two, when he leaves for England after a family bereavement.

What is beyond doubt is that England need to vastly

improve with both bat and ball after an insipid display at Mount Maunganui that raised questions about Joe Root's Test captaincy.

Root went into the series vowing England would "bat longer" and play "attritional cricket" with a long-term view on reclaiming the Ashes in Australia in 2021-2022.

Instead, England's batsmen, including Root himself, threw away their wickets with rash shots on a pitch that yielded a double century for Kiwi wicketkeeper BJ Watling and a maiden ton for allrounder Mitchell Santner.

Silverwood rejected criticism of Root's leadership record but said his coaching team would try to ease the burden of captaincy, allowing the player to concentrate on his batting. "We have to help him, talk to him and try to strip pressure away... we are starting a new sort of era now," he said.

While Archer failed to fire in the first Test, New Zealand are poised to unleash their own speedster in Hamilton on the form of Lockie Ferguson. The absence of Boult and de Grandhomme, both with muscle problems, opens the way for Ferguson's Test debut and also prompted Daryl Mitchell's call up into the wider squad.

Williamson was under an injury cloud after leaving the field early clutching his lower back but later insisted he was fit and had not aggravated hip injury that kept him out of the Twenty20 series against England. A win or draw will secure New Zealand's fifth consecutive Test series victory on home soil.

However, the series will not count towards the World Test Championship, which began in August and will end in June 2021.

New Zealand squad: Kane Williamson (capt), Todd Astle, Tom Blundell, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom



HAMILTON: England's Jofra Archer (L) stands with Sam Curran during a team training session ahead of the second cricket Test between England and New Zealand at Seddon Park in Hamilton, yesterday. The second Test match begins tomorrow. — AFP

Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Jeet Raval, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, BJ Watling.

England squad: Joe Root (capt), Jofra Archer, Jonny

Baird, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Jack Leach, Saqib Mahmood, Matthew Parkinson, Ollie Pope, Dominic Sibley, Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes. — AFP



KTTF honors 48 referees

By Abdellatif Sharara

KUWAIT: Kuwait Table Tennis Federation (KTTF) hon-

ored 48 referees of both genders after successfully passing the new referees course, the federation organized at the start of the current season, under the supervision of the games international association.

Deputy Chairman of the Board, and head of the referees committee Khalid Al-Khudhari and his deputy Nayef Al-Qabtani distributed the certificates to the referees. Al-Khudhari said the Board of Directors and its Chairman are keen on developing the administrative



and technical staff at the federation through specialized courses, carried by approved lecturers by the international association.

He said there was a course for coaches, and now the referees course ended. He lauded the referees efforts, adding that the lack of complaints from clubs over the officiating of the league matches indicates their technical and administrative abilities that contributed the success of table tennis season 2019-2020.

Australia favourites for 'fast bowler's dream' pink-ball Test

ADELAIDE: Australia will not be complacent in the second Test against Pakistan this week despite the odds being stacked heavily in their favour, they said, insisting day-night cricket is a "completely different beast".

The home team went one up in the two-Test series with a crushing innings-and-five-run victory inside four days at the Gabba in Brisbane last weekend. But the match starting tomorrow at Adelaide Oval is a pink-ball affair, which Australian captain Tim Paine said would produce different conditions with generous grass on the pitch and outfield.

"Certainly there's going to be times during the game where tactics might be slightly different — day-night," he said. "We'll wait and see on the wicket and how the ball handles it, whether it goes soft or if it'll nip around for the whole game."

"Everyone's looking forward to it but we do know it's a completely different beast," he added. Australia are overwhelming favourites. They have won all five pink-ball Tests they have played since the concept was launched four years ago, with three of them coming in Adelaide and quick bowlers Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins all excelling under lights.

Cummins said the Adelaide Oval at night was "a fast bowler's dream". "Our record there is really good, we know the conditions well, it'll be a bit of a different game (to Brisbane), I think," Cummins told cricket.com.au.

"We've all spent quite a few long days in the dirt on flat MCG or SCG wickets, so a bit of grass on the wicket, the pink ball zipping around at night — it's a fast-bowler's dream." Add into the mix that Pakistan have now lost 13 consecutive Tests in Australia and Paine's men will be disappointed if they do not wrap up the series 2-0.

They are expected to stick with the same XI from Brisbane, although fast bowler James Pattinson is in the squad and available again after being suspended from the Gabba for player abuse in a domestic match.

Pakistan took some positives from a gutsy second-innings 335 in Brisbane, where Babar Azam scored a century and wicketkeeper Muhammad Rizwan 95. They were let down by a poor first innings batting effort and the inability of their young bowling attack to threaten an Australian top order that put on 222 for the first wicket and added another 129 for the second.

Pakistan took a gamble at the Gabba by leaving out experienced paceman Mohammad Abbas, giving exciting 16-year-old Naseem Shah a debut, and he may be drafted back in for Adelaide, with Inram Khan appearing to be the likely fall guy.

Naseem held his own in Brisbane, finally removing David Warner for 154 to give him match figures of one for 68, and skipper Azhar Ali liked what he saw. "For a 16-year-old guy, he came up and bowled at a consistent pace. His line and length were also good and he will be a good prospect for Pakistan," he said, adding that selectors would take a good look at how best to deal with the Adelaide conditions before deciding on their team.

If Pakistan opt to manage Naseem's workload and rest him, they have the option of 19-year-old Musa Khan. Former Australian skipper Steve Smith expects Pakistan to "come back hard at us". "You

Bailey appointed Australia selector

SYDNEY: Former Australia Twenty20 captain George Bailey was appointed yesterday as one of the country's three national selectors, replacing the retired Greg Chappell. He joins chairman Trevor Hohns and coach Justin Langer and draws the curtain on his long playing career after the domestic Big Bash League in early February to take on the role full-time.

"I have been fortunate enough to contribute as a player for quite a few years, and to now have the opportunity to continue in the role of selector is a tremendous honour," said Bailey. "I'm confident I can add value to the selection process and that my experience will be complementary to that of Trevor and Justin."

Bailey, 37, played five Tests, 90 one-day internationals and 30 Twenty20s for Australia. He has also been a stalwart for Tasmania, the Hobart Hurricanes and Melbourne Stars since making his first-class debut in 2004. He is currently 12 runs short of 10,000 first-class runs.

"He is an outstanding leader and one of the most respected, thoughtful and generous figures in international cricket," said Cricket Australia's head of national teams Ben Oliver said. "His extensive experience across all formats, and deep knowledge of T20 cricket, will be invaluable as we head into a home T20 World Cup (next year) and beyond."

Bailey replaces former Australian skipper Chappell, who had been Cricket Australia's national talent manager for the past nine years as well as a selector before calling it quits in September. — AFP

Root has full support of England players: Stokes



HAMILTON: England's Ben Stokes (R) stretches with team mates during a team training session ahead of the second cricket Test between England and New Zealand at Seddon Park in Hamilton, yesterday. — AFP

HAMILTON: England's Ben Stokes described the Test side's captaincy as one of the most criticised roles and said the team had shared the responsibility for their heavy defeat by New Zealand in the opening Test.

England were beaten by an innings and 65 runs at Mount Maunganui on Monday as the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the two match series. "The pressures of being England Test captain are huge. It can be one of the most criticised jobs in England... sometimes unfairly," all-rounder Stokes told BBC's Test Match Special.

"There are 11 guys on the field that contribute to a win or loss. It doesn't all fall on the captain." Root's form has also come under scrutiny since he was named full-time Test skipper in 2017 and the 28-year-old, who has not scored a century since February, said the pressure of captaincy was not an excuse for his batting woes.

"He's England's best player and he knows he has got the full support of us in the changing room," Stokes added. "We put our hands up as players when we don't perform as well and unfortunately Joe cops most of that. But as a

playing group, we stick together and we hold our hands up together."

Stokes said England would not be distracted by the departure of coach Chris Silverwood, who will return home after day two of the second test starting on Friday, due to a family bereavement.

"Family always comes first, no matter where you are in the world or a situation a team finds itself in," Stokes added. "We do all the tactical analysis so, once we get going, the onus will be on the players. Chris going home won't be a distraction to us." — Reuters

Sports

Tottenham win on Mourinho home debut, Lewandowski hits four for Bayern

Guardiola's City get a point they needed to progress from Group C

PARIS: Tottenham Hotspur came from two goals down to beat Olympiakos 4-2 and qualify for the Champions League last 16 on Jose Mourinho's home debut on Tuesday, while Robert Lewandowski continued his incredible season by scoring four times for Bayern Munich.

Spurs were one of three teams to secure their place in the knockout phase with one game to spare as Manchester City and Real Madrid also made it to the last 16. However, it looked like it might not be Tottenham's night as they went 2-0 down inside 19 minutes in north London with a Youssef El Arabi strike followed by a Ruben Semedo tap-in for Olympiakos.

Mourinho, though, had been unbeaten in his first home game in charge of each of the seven previous clubs he had coached, including in each of his two spells at Chelsea. Dele Alli pulled one back for Spurs just before the interval, and Lucas Moura set up Harry Kane to equalise five minutes after the break.

KANE SCORES BRACE

A thumping Serge Aurier strike completed the turnaround on 73 minutes before Kane headed in Christian Eriksen's free-kick to become, on his 24th appearance, the quickest player to 20 goals in Champions League history. "The boys gave everything, the feeling is good and we have difficult matches to come. We can look to the Bayern Munich game with different eyes," Mourinho told BT Sport.

Tottenham will finish second in Group B behind their final-day opponents Bayern, who made it five wins from five in Europe this season as Lewandowski's quadruple helped them to a 6-0 win at Red Star Belgrade.

Lewandowski scored four goals in the space of 16 second-half minutes, the first of them a penalty, in between goals by Leon Goretzka and Corentin Tolisso. Lewandowski has scored four times in a Champions League game once before, for Borussia Dortmund against Real Madrid in 2013. He now has 27 goals for Bayern this season. "I am just as happy when I don't score and we win," the Polish striker told German Sky.

SUBDUED CITY

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City got the point they needed to progress from Group C, drawing 1-1 with Shakhtar Donetsk. On a subdued occasion, Ilkay Gundogan got a 56th-minute opener, but Manor Solomon levelled for the Ukrainians.

"The group stage is always tricky but the target was to qualify and we have done it," Guardiola said. City will finish top of the group while Shakhtar will join them by winning their final game against Atalanta.

The Italians are still in contention to qualify after beating Dinamo Zagreb 2-0 thanks to Luis Muriel's penalty and a cracking Alejandro 'Papu' Gomez goal. Atalanta remain bottom of the group but can still go through if they win their final game, provided Dinamo do not beat City. —AFP



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane (top) vies with Olympiakos' Tunisian defender Yassine Meriah during the UEFA Champions League Group B football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Olympiakos at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in north London. — AFP

PSG snatch dramatic point at Real Madrid

MADRID: Kylian Mbappe instigated a dramatic Champions League comeback on Tuesday as Paris Saint-Germain scored twice in two minutes to rescue a 2-2 draw against Real Madrid and secure first place in Group A.

Madrid dominated the majority of a pulsating contest at the Santiago Bernabeu and looked to have sewn up an impressive victory when Karim Benzema scored his second goal in the 79th minute. But PSG pulled off an unlikely turnaround as Mbappe capitalised on a defensive mix-up to pull one back in the 81st minute before Pablo Sarabia, once of Real, drove into the top corner second later.

"Real were better for long periods," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel. "We were lucky but that's not a crime." Gareth Bale, who came on as a substitute to a mixed reception from the home fans, almost won it in injury-time when his bending free-kick struck the post.

The draw means PSG will go through as group winners while Madrid are guaranteed to finish second after Club Brugge drew 1-1 at Galatasaray in the early kick-off. Madrid's late capitulation tarnished an excellent display that highlighted their transformation since the 3-0 thrashing at the Parc des Princes in September.

"It was a great performance," said Zinedine Zidane. "The players are not happy with the result but you have to be happy with what we have done for 80 minutes. I'd take that performance all day long." There was also the worrying sight of Eden Hazard hobbling off with what looked like an ankle injury in the second half, with the Clasic against Barcelona only three weeks away.

"It's more than just a knock but I hope the twist is a minor one," said Zidane. Neymar was also left on the bench by Tuchel despite recovering from a hamstring injury, only to be brought on at half-time. It was his dummy that led to Sarabia's equaliser. "I didn't want to risk him," said Tuchel. "I preferred to be sure he could finish the match." Zidane's press conference on Monday became another ode to Mbappe, who will reportedly be Madrid's number one target next summer.

The Frenchman, in his 100th game for PSG, looked like he wanted to put on a show, puffing out his chest after an early

foul by Sergio Ramos and squeezing Zidane's hand as he fetched a ball from behind his back.

The threat of Mbappe hung over the match but Madrid were much the better side, slicker in their passing, faster with the ball and more aggressive in winning it back. Their opening goal came in the 17th minute and Hazard started it, skipping between Thomas Meunier and Marquinhos before switching to the right. Isco struck Fede Valverde's pull-back against the post before Benzema showed a cool head to find the corner.

On the back foot for most of the half, PSG twice went close towards the end of it. Mbappe, slipped through by Angel Di Maria, opted to shoot when he might have squared for Mauro Icardi. Icardi was then brought down in the area after nipping around Thibaut Courtois. Referee Artur Dias pointed to the spot and showed the goalkeeper a red card but a VAR review showed Idrissa Gueye had pushed Marcelo in the build-up.

Madrid looked to have put the game to bed when Luka Modric ghosted clear and Marcelo's cross found the deadly Benzema free at the back post. But the celebrations had barely finished when Mbappe pulled one back, a gift as Courtois and Raphael Varane allowed Meunier's cross to slip between them, leaving the 21-year-old with an open goal. —AFP

Iraq stun Qatar in Gulf Cup opener

DOHA: Mohamed Qasim Majid scored two first-half goals to give Iraq a 2-1 win over Asian champions Qatar in the opening match of the Arabian Gulf Cup in Doha on Tuesday. Qasim Majid's attempted cross found the net 18 minutes into the Group A match, and the midfielder doubled their lead with a stunning shot from outside the box nine minutes later.

Substitute Abdul-Aziz Hatem pulled one back for the tournament hosts four minutes into the second half, but Iraq held on to avenge their defeat to Qatar in the Asian Cup's last 16 earlier this year.

Qatar were also hit with the injury of Iraqi-born defender Bassam Al-Rawi who suffered a broken leg, the Qatar Football Association (QFA) said. "Our national team player @basam_97 suffered a foot injury during the game against Iraq, which will require him to undergo surgery. He will miss the remainder of the #GulfCup," the QFA said in a statement on Twitter.

In the group's other match on Tuesday, striker Ali Mabkhout scored a hat-trick to give the United Arab Emirates an easy 3-0 win over Yemen, who have never won a match in the Gulf Cup. The UAE will face Iraq, while Qatar meet Yemen on Friday. — Reuters

Dybala stunner seals top-spot for Juventus

TURIN: Paulo Dybala's ferocious curled free-kick earned Juventus a 1-0 home win over Atletico Madrid and top spot in Champions League Group D. The Italian champions had already booked their place for the last 16 with two games to spare but made sure of top spot with an impressive win on Tuesday.

Dybala struck two minutes into first-half injury time. His left-footed effort whipped into the net from a seemingly impossible angle leaving goalkeeper Jan Oblak with no chance. Diego Simeone's Atletico will need to win their final group game against Lokomotiv Moscow in Madrid to be sure of advancing to the knockout rounds.

"I think Dybala scored a goal that we can't recommend," said his coach Maricao Sarri. "The first thing a coach says when he sees someone trying to shoot from that position is 'but why the hell are you shooting from there!' "He did something extraordinary, he deserved the applause," said Sarri. "It was an extraordinary piece of skill." Cristiano Ronaldo returned to the side and played for the entire match after missing last weekend's game against Atalanta and was substituted in their previous two games because of a slight knee problem. "I haven't spoken to him yet about the pain in his knee, but he looked to be in good shape," added Sarri.

Juventus have 13 points from five games, with Atletico still on seven, one point ahead of third-placed Bayer Leverkusen who beat Lokomotiv 2-0. "We had a good match against a great rival," said Simeone. "We had chances but we lacked a little efficiency."

"We didn't score ourselves, which is the most important thing in football, but we were always in the match." Ronaldo was partnered up front by Dybala as in-form Gonzalo Higuain started on the bench.

Ronaldo had another injury scare in the first half, grimacing in pain and limping after colliding with the corner flag, but he played on. Atletico had their chances in a balanced first half. Thomas Partey sent a long-range volley wide after 13 minutes. Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny got down low to smother a goal-bound Saul Niguez effort.

The 26-year-old Dybala was the standout player. He made the breakthrough just before the break when he curled in a superb strike from a tight angle to leave Atletico goalkeeper Oblak completely beaten.

Dybala's celebrations included a military-style salute to Turkish international teammate Merih Demiral. "It was just a joke between us in the dressing room, there was no message in that," said the Argentine. "It was a good goal from a tight angle, there were a lot of players on front of me," he added.

Ronaldo threatened after an hour, racing towards goal only to shoot wide. Then Federico Bernardeschi rattled the post after coming on for Welsh international Aaron Ramsey. Dybala went off to a standing ovation and was replaced by Higuain for the last quarter of an hour. —AFP



LONDON: Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola reacts during the UEFA Champions League football Group C match between Manchester City and Shakhtar Donetsk at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England. — AFP

City want to keep Guardiola for years to come

LONDON: Manchester City want to keep Pep Guardiola at the helm for many years to come, says the English champions chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak. Guardiola — who stayed for four seasons with Barcelona and three terms with Bayern Munich — took over at City in 2016 and is under contract till 2021.

The Spaniard — who has guided City to successive league titles and an unprecedented domestic treble last term — nipped speculation in the bud that he would leave at the end of this campaign by saying last week he wanted to stay longer.

This season has been a testing one for him in the title race, though, with Liverpool holding a nine point lead over City with just over a third of the campaign gone. Whilst they reached the knockout stages of the Champions League on Tuesday they still have hanging over them a possible ban from the competition next season over allegedly breaching UEFA's financial fair play rules.

Al Mubarak said Guardiola was much more than just a great manager and he would like him to remain at the club for a long time to come. "Pep has been an incredible asset to this organisation," Al Mubarak told Sky Sports.

"We can speak about his managerial accomplishments for hours but I think as a person, as an individual, as a friend, he's been a core part of what we've accomplished here over the last three years. He's very committed, we're committed to him."

"We have a great relationship, we have a great environment here. The people around him, the team we have in place today, the relationships I have with them, this is really an environment that's conducive to success for both him and everyone involved in this organisation."

"So I'm very satisfied with his commitment and our commitment to him and I'm looking forward to the continuity of this for years to come." Al Mubarak is also confident that Guardiola can turn the tables on Liverpool in the title race.

"I think in Pep we have a leader who has shown time and time again his ability to continuously evolve and continuously challenge," said Al Mubarak. "We've been in this position not once but many times before, and we've shown the character always consistently to come back. We're up for it and there's still a long way to go, (we're) still in November and we'll see where we end up in May, but certainly we're up for it." — AFP

Live		Matches on TV	
		(Local Timings)	
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE			
FK Krasnodar v FC Basel 1893	beIN Sports		18:50
Trabzonspor v Getafe CF	beIN Sports		18:50
FC Astana v Manchester United	beIN Sports		18:50
Medipol Basaksehir FK v AS Roma	beIN Sports		20:55
Wolfsberger AC v Borussia Monchengladbach	beIN Sports		20:55
AZ Alkmaar v FK Partizan Belgrad	beIN Sports		20:55
Besiktas v Slovan Bratislava	beIN Sports		20:55
Sporting Braga v Wolverhampton Wanderers FC	beIN Sports		20:55
Saint Etienne v KAA Gent	beIN Sports		20:55
FK Oleksandria v VfL Wolfsburg	beIN Sports		20:55
CSKA Moscow v Ludogorets Razgrad	beIN Sports		20:55
Ferencvárosi TC v RCD Espanyol	beIN Sports		20:55
BSC Young Boys v FC Porto	beIN Sports		20:55
Feyenoord Rotterdam v Glasgow Rangers FC	beIN Sports		20:55
Sevilla FC v Qarabag Agdam FK	beIN Sports		23:00
F91 Dudelange v Apoel Nicosia	beIN Sports		23:00
SS Lazio v CFR Cluj	beIN Sports		23:00
Celtic v Stade Rennais	beIN Sports		23:00
Arsenal FC v Eintracht Frankfurt	beIN Sports HD 1		23:00
Malmo FF v Dynamo Kyiv	beIN Sports		23:00
FC Lugano v FC Kobenhavn	beIN Sports		23:00
Sporting CP v PSV Eindhoven	beIN Sports HD 5		23:00
Rosenborg BK v Lask Linz	beIN Sports		23:00
Vitoria Guimaraes v Standard de Liege	beIN Sports		23:00

25 Bolivia's women wrestlers back in the ring after unrest



26 Archer 'over' racism shock as England regroup for second Test



27 Tottenham win on Mourinho home debut, Lewandowski hits four for Bayern



Kuwait beat Saudi Arabia 3-1

Oman, Bahrain goalless in Gulf Cup



DOHA: Saudi's Ziyad al-Sahaf (L) vies for the ball with Kuwait's Ahmed Al Dhafeeri (C) during the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup Group B football match between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at the Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium in the Qatari capital Doha yesterday. — AFP

DOHA: Kuwait outmatched Saudi Arabia to end the opener of the Gulf football Cup 3-1 in a clash held in the Qatari capital, Doha, yesterday. Saudi Arabia were controlling the pitch and attempted to penetrate from within the Kuwaiti defense. The Kuwaitis were relying on counter-attacks. However, Kuwait's Ahmad Al-Dhfeeri scored the opener by capitalizing on a

cross-over from team captain Bader Al-Mutawwa. Sami Al-Sane, in an assist by Al-Mutawwa in minute 46 of the first half, added a second goal.

Kuwait looked different in the second half, turning more to the offensive and attempting to create chances to score. Mubarak Al-Feneini scored the team's third goal in the last minute of the clash.

But, Feras Al-Buraikan scored Saudi Arabia's lone goal in the 96th minute. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, who was watching from the stands, said the Gulf championship has succeeded even before it started as it united the GCC. He hoped success continues to smile on the Kuwaiti team, adding the Kuwait team loves the Gulf

championship and the real win is in the gathering of all the Gulf countries.

Earlier, Oman and Bahrain ended their Gulf Cup opener yesterday goalless with both teams trying very hard to snatch a goal. Both teams were cautious in the first half but the Omanis had advantage in the second half but all bids were fruitless. — KUNA

Risking doping ban, Russia pledges 'cooperation'

MOSCOW: The Kremlin yesterday said it regrets a proposed four-year ban for the country's athletes over doping but Russia is still open to cooperation to resolve the scandal. "This is definitely concerning information. We regret this," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Anti-doping watchdog WADA's compliance review committee on Monday recommended a four-year sporting ban over falsified lab data it received from Russia. If WADA chiefs adopt the review committee's recommendations, Russia faces exclusion from key sporting events including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

In the Kremlin's first reaction, Peskov stressed that Moscow was still open to cooperation with international authorities. "You know the Russian sporting authorities have been, are and will remain as open as possible to cooperation and collaboration with the international sporting community and also with WADA," he said.

The doping scandal has tainted Russia's sporting reputation for the last five years, after revelations of large-scale state-sponsored doping aimed at improving Russia's medal performance at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Monday's call from the World Anti-Doping Agency's review panel came after Russian authorities were

accused of falsifying laboratory data related to the country's doping scandal, which were handed over to investigators in January.

WADA was not convinced by Russia's explanations of why evidence of some positive tests handed over by a whistleblower did not show up in the thousands of files it handed over. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has said it backs "the toughest sanctions against all those responsible for this manipulation," while cautioning against blanket sanctions that would punish the innocent.

The head of the United States anti-doping agency Travis Tygart however called for Russian athletes to face the maximum restrictions on participation in Tokyo. Lawyers for the Russian whistleblower, Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of the Russian anti-doping laboratory, also urged the IOC not to give Russia "yet another free pass."

Peskov said news of the possible ban was "far from joyful for us," but Moscow would await the final decision on the proposed ban by WADA's executive committee on December 9 before making an assessment.

"Let's remain sober in our judgements," he urged. Concerning the tainted data, Peskov insisted Russia had provided "detailed explanations" to WADA of the inconsistencies it found. Putin said last month that Russia was complying with all of WADA's demands.

The head of Russia's anti-doping laboratory, RUSADA, Yuriy Ganus, appointed in a bid to restore confidence, has blamed unnamed officials for interfering with the data, which was being held by criminal investigators, not RUSADA.

He told AFP on Tuesday that he expected WADA to uphold the recommended ban. But Russia's sports min-



MOSCOW: A man walks in front of the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) headquarters in Moscow. Russia's anti-doping chief said he expected the country to be barred from all sporting competition for four years. — AFP

ister Pavel Kolobkov said in a television interview that "we carried out our duty honestly" and he expected a "sensible decision."

If Russia challenges an eventual suspension by WADA the case will go to the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport, whose decision will be binding on sports bodies including the International Olympic Committee.

During its suspension by WADA, Russia was allowed by the International Olympic Committee to take part in the 2016 Rio Olympics, but Russian competitors at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games had to take part under a neutral flag. — AFP

At-risk Emery looking for Europa League salvation

PARIS: Unai Emery has the chance to relieve some of the pressure surrounding his position at Arsenal today by securing qualification for the knockout rounds of the Europa League with a match to spare.

Speculation over Emery's job has ramped up after his Gunners side were booed off at the end of their 2-2 draw with lowly Southampton at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday, gained only thanks to a 96th-minute leveller from Alexandre Lacazette. However he can remove some of the gloom hovering over North London by booking their place in the last 32 with a win over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Group F leaders Arsenal are four points ahead of both third-placed Eintracht and Standard Liege with two matches remaining, and will also qualify if Standard don't win at bottom side Vitoria Guimaraes. Emery was publicly backed by the Arsenal hierarchy at the start of the international break but the pressure has continued to grow following a run of just two wins in their last 11 Premier League games, with bookmakers in the United Kingdom placing him among the favourites to be the next manager ousted. The Spaniard said he was "disappointed and frustrated" after the draw, which denied the Saints a first win at Arsenal since 1997.

"I understand the supporters, we didn't deserve any more today, we lost a big opportunity to connect with our supporters," he said. "We had the chance to take confidence from today but we didn't do that." They face an Eintracht side that have lost their last three in all competitions and come into Thursday's clash in London having lost at home to Wolfsburg despite their opponents having to play the entire second half with 10 men. However they will have their captain David Abraham available for a match that could be crucial to the European hopes of last season's semi-finalists after he was banned until 2020 in the Bundesliga for barging over Freiburg coach Christian Streich earlier this month. — AFP