

Friday Times

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Stop the waste



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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StopTheWaste is a global movement to fight food waste. You may wonder how desperately we need such initiatives. The answer is simple - because we produce enough food to feed everyone, yet one in nine people goes to sleep hungry every night and one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or goes to waste.

This is why this campaign to stop wastage of food by the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) is a call out of necessity, concern and fear of this human attitude that can and will eliminate the natural resources we need for survival on Planet Earth. This is why I believe such a move needs support and action.

When we were young at school, we were taught about the food chain, which represents a series in which food and energy are transferred from one organism in an ecosystem to another. The food chain clearly shows us how energy is passed from the sun to plants and animals and eventually to us humans.

I am not a scientist, but I believe that working to preserve the earth's natural resources must begin by changing human behavior and some misconceptions that are harmful to the environment. The reality is that the eye does not eat and the soul is greedy and not satiated. We do not have to listen to such gossip because it is wrong and reflects extravagance, as not everyone is rich and can provide large quantities of food for guests.

If we are invited to a party or a meeting of friends, we do not take food that was cooked yesterday even if it is edible, because we believe that if we want to visit anyone, we must take or buy something fresh.

There is enough food to feed the world's seven billion people. But, I believe that human behavior is a matter of concern. We are moving towards drying up our natural resources by our own misguided actions and thoughts. After all, it's not just about the food and energy, but money, labor, land, seeds and plenty of water that go into producing food.

The UN listed some tips on how to reduce food waste, and here are some examples:

When you go to a restaurant, ask for smaller portions - you can always ask for more!

Love your leftovers as you can use them for tomorrow's meal! I think this is part of being grateful and blessed for the food you have, as there are many people who cannot even afford a piece of bread, especially those who live in civil conflict and war zones.

I love such campaigns because their primary goal is to raise awareness among the public to be more conscious of food waste and have a better awareness of global hunger. The StopTheWaste campaign will run until the end of October, but I hope the end of the initiative wouldn't mean we go back to our bad old habits. This is why I hope such campaigns never stop.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Kuwait's sky is orange during sunset with a view of Liberation Tower in the background. — Photo by Mohammad Alotaibi/KUNA

The ghost addresses in salmiya

Renters cannot renew ID because address doesn't exist'

By Nawara Fattahova

Illegal constructions or negligence by the landlord can result in serious problems for tenants. Robin is one of hundreds if not thousands of tenants who have faced a problem registering their new addresses. "Two months after I moved from my old building in Salmiya to a new building - also in Salmiya - my residency was expiring. So during the renewal process, I took my new rental contract to the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) to change my address. When I handed the application form to the staff, after checking the system, she said that there is no fifth floor for this building. So I took back the application and said I will check the issue," Robin told Kuwait Times.

He then realized there was something wrong with his building. "I went to the haris to ask him what to do and what was wrong, but he simply suggested changing the number of my flat in the application to one on the first or second floors. He didn't explain anything, and gave an excuse about delayed paperwork. So I ended up keeping my old address although I live in a different place," Robin said.

The new building where Robin now lives also doesn't have a PACI number plate. As this address is registered at PACI for a building consisting of three floors, this either means that the new building was built in this place illegally or the landlord didn't bother to register it at the municipality. In both cases, tenants are facing a problem and can't resolve the situation.

According to Ahmad from the public relations department of PACI, the tenant has to provide a valid official rent contract signed by the landlord and the ID number of the building. "The tenant is not allowed to change their address without the identification number of the building. The correct procedure is that the landlord registers the building at the municipality immediately after completing construction works. PACI will then enter the data in the system including the exact address and the number of flats," explained Ahmad.

PACI is not responsible if the building is not registered by the landlord. "We don't have the legal authority to enforce the landlord to do so. We also can't register the address of any tenant of a building that doesn't have an identification number. We can only advise the tenant in such cases to complain at the municipality, as they are in charge of this matter," added Ahmad.

Renters, especially expatriate renters, have little recourse for resolving the matter. They rarely understand or can find out the legal requirements for a rental contract, especially if they don't speak Arabic or relatively new to Kuwait. Moreover, once the contract is signed and deposit and rent paid, they may not be in a position to move and most never meet the building landlord but deal only with the haris (caretaker).

The municipality didn't respond to Kuwait Times' queries regarding this matter.

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GETTING TO KNOW THE KUWAIT HARPS

‘Gaelic football combines skills of soccer, scores of basketball with rough and tumble of rugby.’

By Faten Omar

The suspense and skill of soccer, the high scoring of basketball and the impact of rugby can all be found in Gaelic football, a popular sport in Ireland. Kuwait Times spoke with Chelsea Ellis, Chairperson of Kuwait Harps, the only Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) club in Kuwait, to learn more about the sport. Ellis is originally from Michigan, USA, she moved to Kuwait in 2010. She joined the Kuwait Harps in 2013 having never even heard of the sport before and has been playing with them ever since. This is Chelsea's second year as club chairperson. She looks forward to the season ahead and the success of the Kuwait Harps in the Middle East league.



Kuwait Times: What is Gaelic football? Where did Gaelic football originate?

Chelsea Ellis: Gaelic football is a field sport with Irish heritage that combines the skill of traditional football with elements of basketball, volleyball and Australian football. Originating in Ireland, Gaelic football quickly gained in popularity in the last few years with competitions now held throughout the globe. Ladies' Gaelic football, in particular, is recognized as one of the fastest growing female sports in Europe.

KT: What is the difference between Gaelic football and regular football?

Ellis: The biggest difference is that you can use your hands in Gaelic football, and because of this, there are many differences in gameplay and scoring. Gaelic football does contain some familiar elements of soccer, such as the ability to kick the ball and scoring by getting the ball into the net. Another big difference is that Gaelic sports at all levels are considered amateur, meaning that all athletes, even those competing at the highest level, do not receive any payment for playing.

Local



The Kuwait Harps GAA club holds weekly training sessions for both men and women on Tuesdays from 6pm to 8 pm at American International School and Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon at Juventus Academy in West Mishref. Our season runs from September through May and we are always open to new players! Send a message to kuwaitharpsgaa@gmail.com for more info or check them out on Instagram @kuwait_harps_gaa — Photos courtesy of Kuwait Harps GAA

KT: How do you play it? What are the rules?

Ellis: There are many intricacies to the sport of Gaelic football, but the main rules are as follows:

1. In the Middle East league, the games consist of two seven-minute halves. The games are played nine-a-side (eight outfield and one goalkeeper).
2. The ball can be carried in the hand for a distance of four steps before the player must either pass the ball to another player, solo or bounce the ball.
3. The ball can be passed to another player by either kicking the ball or “hand-passing”, which is a striking motion with the hand or fist (no throwing the ball).
4. After every four steps the ball must either be bounced or “soloed”, an action of dropping the ball onto the foot and kicking it back into the hand.
5. You may not bounce the ball twice in a row.
6. Players in the men’s league may not lift the ball directly from the ground. The toe may be used to lift the ball from the ground into the hands. However, in ladies’ Gaelic football, the ball may be picked up directly.

**KT: What is the aim of Gaelic football?**

Ellis: The main aim is to score points and goals. Gaelic football is played with a goal (similar to football) that has goalposts (similar to rugby) fixed on either side. A point is scored by kicking or hand passing the ball between the posts and above the goal crossbar. A goal is scored by playing the ball between the posts and below the crossbar and is worth three points.

KT: What does a black card in Gaelic football mean?

Ellis: A black card in Gaelic football is similar to a red card in soccer; however, receiving a black card will result in a player being sent off and replaced by a substitute. A black card is given for “cynical behavior” fouls such as deliberately tripping another player or verbally abusing a match official.

KT: Is Gaelic football older than soccer?

Ellis: The Gaelic Athletic Association was founded in 1884, while contemporary football began in England in 1863. Although slightly younger than soccer, it is older than many sports such as American football and basketball.

KT: When did you start playing Gaelic football in Kuwait?

Ellis: The Kuwait Harps were originally founded in 1997, but the club was disbanded in the early 2000s. The club was reestablished in 2011 with a men’s team, and 2012 saw the addition of a women’s team for the first time.

KT: How many players are in your team?

Ellis: Club membership is at an all-time high, with more than 70 members in the club. It’s an even split with about half of the members on the men’s team and the other half on the women’s team.

KT: Is it open to the public? Does it include men, women or children?

Ellis: We are open to anyone 21 years and older and we are always welcoming new members regardless of experience or skill level. Our players come from all over the world, and for a lot of Kuwait Harps, when they joined the team it was their first time kicking a Gaelic football. The Kuwait Harps have both a women’s team and men’s team and offers separate training sessions for each team.

While we do not currently have a youth team, we offer youth days throughout the year to teach school-age children about the sport and hold tournaments for them to compete in. We also provide equipment and resources to various schools in Kuwait so they can teach Gaelic football in PE lessons, or offer after-school clubs. For more information regarding our youth development program, please contact ydkuwaitarps@gmail.com

KT: Do you have tournaments? Who do you play against?

Ellis: The Kuwait Harps are affiliated with the Middle East county board and participate in the Middle East Gaelic Football League, comprised of other teams from GCC countries. Tournaments attended by the Kuwait Harps include the Bahrain Irish Festival, the Dubai Duty Free Gaelic Games and tournaments

in Oman, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Al Ain and Qatar. We occasionally have the chance to travel to tournaments outside the Middle East, such as the Asian Gaelic Games in Malaysia and the World Games in Ireland. The Kuwait Harps have won several titles through the years and won in many divisions such as the Asian Gaelic Games, Men’s Intermediate Championships and Ladies’ Intermediate Division Champions, to name a few.

KT: What are the main benefits of playing?

Ellis: We are a club focused on providing superb training and skills in the field of Gaelic football. In conjunction to this, the Kuwait Harps Club is a social outlet for those new and old to Kuwait with social events, tournaments, training sessions and outings throughout the year. New players are always welcome and immediately feel at home within the club. Most of our current squads were new to Gaelic Games when they first came to our training sessions and have been welcomed with open arms.

While many clubs in the Gulf region can depend on a strong pool of Irish players, this is not the case in Kuwait. There are currently over 70 players in the club, with over 12 countries represented. Included on our player panel are several local Kuwaiti players as well as players from Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Spain, Egypt, India, Canada, USA, Australia, Sudan and Somalia. The wide diversity of player nationalities demonstrates the global appeal of this game in Kuwait, something that we as a club are very proud of.

The Kuwait Harps GAA club holds weekly training sessions for both men and women on Tuesdays from 6pm to 8 pm at American International School and Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon at Juventus Academy in West Mishref. Our season runs from September through May and we are always open to new players! Stop by one of our training sessions, or send a message to kuwaitharpsgaa@gmail.com for more info or check us out on Instagram @kuwait_harps_gaa



Caught in traffic flood ahead of rainy season

IN MY VIEW

By Rashed Abdullah

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KUWAIT: This file photo shows heavy traffic at a partially closed road in Kuwait. — KUNA

Commuters in Kuwait endured hours of excruciating traffic this past week, as road crews closed lanes in several main roads for much-needed, yet ill-timed maintenance.

The Interior Ministry announced the lane closures due to roadwork including on the Fourth Ring Road, which ran from 6:00 pm Wednesday night to 6:00 am yesterday morning. But as expected, the warnings did little to prevent major traffic jams with cars at nearly a standstill for hours, clogging several highways in the country's interconnected road network.

Motorists were left baffled as they searched navigation apps for alternate routes only to find that almost all possible roads were red or deep red - denoting heavy traffic and super heavy traffic, respectively. In short, drivers were left with no option but to sit on highways for hours of barely moving traffic.

The Fourth Ring Road (also known as Hassan bin Ali Al-Roumi Road) is one of the most important highways in Kuwait, running from Salmiya in the east all the way west to Sulaibikhat. It is used by commuters going to and from some of Kuwait's most heavily populated areas including

Salmiya, Hawally, Jabriya, and Shuwaikh. It is also connected to other important roads such as Airport Road, Ghazali Road that leads to Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and Jamal Abdunnasser Road (via Jahra Road) which leads to Al-Sabah Medical Zone.

Closing two or even one lane out of the road's already narrow three lanes - like what happened on Wednesday, especially during the evening rush hour - always results in lines of backed up cars. Kuwait's roads network is so interconnected that a slight disturbance in one main road triggers similar tailbacks on all other roads connected or remotely linked to it.

The Ministry of Public Works is rushing to complete roadworks before the start of the rainy season next month. Partial road closures began in two phases starting from April: from 6:00 pm till 6:00 am on weekdays and from midnight till noon on weekends. The roads involved include King Fahd Expressway (from the First Ring Road till Bayan Palace), First Ring Road, Fourth Ring Road, Sixth Ring Road and Doha Spur Motorway.

Daily maintenance has to be completed before 6:00 am to avoid works extending into the morning rush hour. But the ques-

tion that remains unanswered is why maintenance works could not have been completed during the summer when traffic flow sharply declined?

Delayed projects are nothing new in Kuwait - and that includes all kinds of projects: from major construction and maintenance deals, to simple school furnishing and catering services. Kuwait's government still follows a business model based on awarding tenders to run a majority of its contracts. The process of awarding tenders usually hits obstacles that force delays, which create a chain reaction that often makes a seemingly minor issue evolve into a major problem.

After last year's rainy season caused severe road damage, flooding and damage to homes and properties, the Ministry of Public Works moved quickly to prepare tenders for road maintenance works in order to avoid this problem from repeating again this year. But those tenders faced delay after delay, putting maintenance works on hold for the majority of the summer, and forcing authorities to take drastic measures such as conducting major road closures in Kuwait's busy

fourth quarter.

With the new parliamentary term just around the corner and National Assembly elections not too far behind, it is highly expected that road maintenance will be a hot topic of debate in Abdullah Al-Salem Hall. But in the meantime, what happens to the thousands of drivers sitting in their cars just trying to get home from work?

Not only are the public skeptical about authorities' ability to finish roadworks before the rainy season, but they remain largely doubtful that the much-awaited 'major road maintenance' works would yield positive results and protect streets from heavy damage. After all, they have seen it happen many times before in major projects heavily promoted by the government yet failed to live up to the hype.

Wednesday evening's mishap is only a small example of a glaring governmental mismanagement problem that Kuwait has suffered from for decades. People have lived long enough to see through all kinds of promises that authorities give, and it is high time the government faces the public's mounting frustration by showing actual results.

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Local

Kuwait to host 15th anniversary of NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative

BRUSSELS: Kuwait is poised to achieve a new milestone in its relations and cooperation with NATO by hosting the 15th anniversary celebrations of NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI). NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will lead the North Atlantic Council (NAC), which includes the permanent representatives of the 29-member Alliance, to Kuwait in December to celebrate the anniversary, according to Kuwait's ambassador to NATO, EU, Belgium and Luxembourg Jassem Al-Budaiwi. This emerged following a meeting of the ambassadors of the four Arab Gulf members of ICI, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE and the 29 NATO ambassadors at NATO headquarters Wednesday evening. "It was an annual meeting where the four ICI countries sit with the 29 NATO ambassadors led by the Secretary General to discuss issues that have been achieved till now and the goals and future plans and how to enhance our cooperation," Budaiwi said in an interview yesterday. "This meeting was special because we discussed about the celebrations that Kuwait will host in December to mark the 15th anniversary of the launch of the ICI. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will lead the 29 members of NAC to Kuwait for this historic event," he said. "We look forward for a fruitful meeting in December," he stated.

Kuwait had scored another history with NATO when on 24 January 2017 the NATO-ICI Regional Centre was opened in Kuwait city. NAC led by Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg had travelled to Kuwait for the inaugural ceremony of the Centre. "It is an honor for us that Kuwait is hosting this centre the only one of its kind outside the Euro-Atlantic area," noted Budaiwi. "Kuwait values its relations with NATO and looks forward to strengthen it further through its bilateral relationship, and through its ICI partnership with its brotherly countries Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE," he said. "We have excellent programs and the NATO-ICI Regional Center has been hosting personnel from the ICI member states, plus Oman and Saudi Arabia, in training courses, workshops, seminars etc.," said the Kuwaiti ambassador. "We are very proud of this and looking forward for the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the ICI in Kuwait," Budaiwi added. NAC has visited Kuwait twice, in 2006 and then in 2017, and this will be its third visit to Kuwait in December 2019. Kuwait's new Defiance Attache in Brussels, Major General Abdullah Dashti, also participated in the NAC-ICI meeting.

NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) was launched at the Alliance's Summit in the Turkish city in June 2004 with the

aim to contribute to long-term global and regional security by offering countries of the Arab Gulf region practical bilateral security cooperation with NATO. Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE are the current four members of the ICI. Kuwait and NATO had taken another significant step to strengthen bilateral relations when Kuwait inaugurated in November 2018 its first ever diplomatic mission to NATO in Brussels. The ribbon-cutting inauguration ceremony was attended by Kuwait Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah and NATO Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy, Ambassador Alejandro Alvargonzalez.

Jarallah had said at the inaugural ceremony that Kuwait was the first member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to join NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI). He also recalled the vital role played by NATO when Kuwait was invaded and occupied by Iraq and in the process of liberating Kuwait. Meanwhile, Alvargonzalez had said at the inaugural ceremony that "this is one more step that we have taken lately that coincides with all the efforts and all the splendid behavior of Kuwait with NATO for which we are very happy." The North Atlantic Council (NAC) is the principal political decision-making body within NATO. — KUNA

Kuwait optimistic about resuming oil production in divided zone

KUWAIT: Talks between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are ongoing regarding the energy resources in the divided border zone, a Kuwaiti government official said, expressing optimism about an early resumption of oil production in that area. Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel made that statement to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony hosted by the South Korean embassy to celebrate the country's national day.

On the oil prices, he said Kuwait is keen on stable prices that are fair for both consumers and producers. "The prices are determined by the supply and demand mechanism as well as geopolitical conditions," he said, noting that Kuwait is committed to its output quota specified by the OPEC. Regarding the border area between Kuwait and Iraq, he said both countries signed an agreement on the manipulation of the oil resources in this area and the selection of a global consultant to study this matter. "The study is underway and we are



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Oil Minister Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel takes part in the South Korean embassy's ceremony. — KUNA

in wait of its outcome and then we will hold technical meetings on how to share the production of the joint oilfields," the minister added.

Meanwhile, Fadhel expressed satisfaction with "the distinguished level" of the relations with South Korea. Congratulating South Korea on its national day, Fadhel told reporters at the embassy of the country, "this occasion coincides with the 40th anniversary of the special ties between both countries." "South Korean companies play an active role in the development of mega projects in Kuwait such as Saad Al-Abdullah City and the electricity and water projects," the minister pointed out. — KUNA

Roudhan, who doubles as minister of state for service affairs. He voiced hope for charting a clear-cut roadmap for industrial cooperation between Kuwait and Turkey in the near future.

Meanwhile, Varank said he held "very fruitful" talks with Roudhan and agreed to speed up the implementation of the signed agreements. The Turkish minister noted that Roudhan and his party aim to get acquainted with the extent of the advancement of the industrial infrastructure in his country. He added that Turkey has a lot to offer in cooperation with Kuwait in such areas as petrochemical, mining and investment sectors. Turkey's strategy for 2023, the centennial of the foundation of the Republic of Turkey, focuses primarily on industrialization and production, he added. During their tour of the industrial zone in Ankara, Roudhan and his party inspected the heavy industry sites, including plants producing buses, trains, military vehicles and plastics. — KUNA

Kuwait eyes Turkish industrial expertise

ANKARA: Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said on Wednesday his latest visit to Turkey aims to explore ways to transfer Turkey's industrial expertise to Kuwait. Both countries work for effective implementation of the previously signed agreements, he said at a joint press conference with Turkey's Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank after touring the industrial zone in Ankara. "There are huge potentials for cooperation in various fields but we focus now on the industrial one which is mutually beneficial," said

UN official lauds educational development in Kuwait



KUWAIT: A photo showing participating speakers in the UN-organized seminar. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait has taken strides on the path of overhauling its educational system however the United Nations wishes to see further steps forward, a UN official says. The UN Secretary General resident representative and coordinator, Tarek El-Sheikh, said yesterday during a UN-organized seminar on the international organization fourth goal for sustainable development (good teaching) that the UN 2030 scheme at this level is designed to develop education and qualify cadres to meet requirements of development and the labor market.

The United Nations aspires to see greater development of education in Kuwait, particularly with respect of teaching sciences and mathematics so that the country would have qualified cadres to accomplish development, he said. The seminar is part of a series of monthly gatherings, organized by the UN office in Kuwait to coordinate with local partners for exploring the UN potential role in boosting development. Salah Al-Majdi, the Education Ministry assistant for edu-

cational research, has indicated that the department strategy that focuses on "the human capital according to Kuwait Vision 2035" is largely inspired by the UN sustainable development plans. Dr Hiba Ahmad, supervisor of education at the World Bank in Kuwait, indicated that some of reforms in the sector had been done in coordination with the WB.

Future cooperation between Kuwait and the WB will be centered on "developing the human capital," not only in education but also in other sectors, such as health, as envisaged by the Kuwait Vision 2035, Dr Ahmad said. Dr Fatima Al-Hashem, from the Gulf University or Sciences and Technology, presented recommendations of a study prepared by Qatar Research Foundation regarding the first three levels of teaching in Kuwait. Among the recommendations is a proposal to enhance teachers' skills, she said, lauding the significant progress that has been made in the sector in Kuwait but recommending more efforts for further improvement. — KUNA

Kuwait Lawyers Society pushes authorities to solve bedoons' issue

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Lawyers Society is leading a public movement to apply pressure on authorities to solve the issue of bedoons (stateless), to go parallel with a proposed law that is reportedly being prepared by a team led by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents' Status President Saleh Al-Fadalah, and the Interior Ministry.

"The society's move comes out of discontentment towards the

slow government-parliament move in dealing with the issue, which has started to harm Kuwait's human rights record," said sources within the society. They added that the society feels concerned that the government-parliament preparations of the law might result in 'obsolete solutions' to deal with the issue that are 'unrealistic' and fail to address the humanitarian aspects, based on leaked reports regarding the ongoing preparations.

Meanwhile, the sources said that Kuwait Lawyers Society believes the current proposal to deal with the issue adopts the view of Central Agency and its chairman Fadhalah, noting that the

agency has failed to solve the problem for over nine years since it was established. "Instead, it has only been trying to prove that the bedoons have forged their documents to claim right for Kuwaiti citizenships undeservedly," the sources claimed.

The sources said the Central Agency claims it has thousands of document proving its allegations, "yet it did not present real documents as far as the law is concerned proving that [bedoons] hid their official documents and claimed they are stateless. This situation violates human rights and compromises Kuwait's position in international arenas."

GCC armies' chiefs affirm readiness of joint forces



RIYADH: GCC Chiefs of Staffs affirmed yesterday during the fourth extraordinary meeting the solidity of the armed forces and readiness to face any threats or attacks. Officials, in the meeting, considered any attack on any GCC country is an attack on all countries. The meeting discussed regional developments and its

effect on security, and also discussed recent rising attacks and threats. Chiefs of Staffs condemned the attacks on Saudi Arabia, and recent threats on maritime freedom in the area. They also agreed on joining efforts between GCC armed forces against any threat or attack. — KUNA

Adailiya station's water suitable for drinking: EPA

KUWAIT: The water produced by the Al-Adailiya station is drinkable and suitable for human consumption, said the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) yesterday, refuting online news claims of contamination. A press release by the EPA revealed that the source of the news in regards to contamination was based in outdated information from 1984. Since then, measures were undertaken to bring the quality level to international standards with latest data in 2017-2018 pointing to the opposite of the current online claims. The EPA commended the efforts by the Ministry of Water and Electricity, which always released transparent and trusted information to the public. — KUNA

Kuwait Foreign Ministry follows up on citizens' case in Cyprus

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs closely followed up on the case of a number of citizens who had gotten involved in an "incident" in Cyprus, a ministry official affirmed yesterday. Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Sami Al-Hamad, in a statement, was commenting on reports on information outlets and social media regarding condition of a number of Kuwaiti citizens in Cyprus who have been banned from returning home due to a "brawl case." The ministry has been closely following on the issue of the nationals since the very moment of the "incident occurrence," Hamad said. Upon instructions by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, housing was made available for the concerned Kuwaiti citizens and their families, according to their desire and wishes, in addition to assigning a law agency to follow up on the case since the start, he explained. Reacting to a video clip purporting that the Kuwaitis were deprived of housing, the assistant minister explained that the recording was done during their transfer from one residence to another and this situation lasted for only two hours. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will spare no effort to follow up on Kuwaitis' issues abroad, providing them with help and care. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department continued its visits to schools as part of its awareness campaign for to spread security and traffic awareness among students during the academic year 2019-2020. A ministry team visited Saqer Al-Shabeeb elementary school in Hawally where they gave a brief on security and traffic aspects as well as road safety. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



Darwin, Islam: Kosovo imam expelled for accepting both

India-Pakistan nuclear war could kill 100 million

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DZHEZKAZGAN: Russian Space Agency rescue team members and United Arab Emirates specialists carry United Arab Emirates astronaut Hazzaa Al-Mansoori shortly after the landing of the Russian Soyuz MS-12 space capsule about 150 km south-east of the Kazakh town of Dzhezkazgan yesterday. — AFP

First Arab on ISS returns to Earth

UAE - a newcomer to the world of space

ALMATY: A three-man crew including an Emirati who became the first Arab to reach the International Space Station returned to Earth safely yesterday and were in good shape, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said. Hazzaa Al-Mansoori of the United Arab Emirates touched down in the Kazakh steppes at 1059 GMT along with NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin, who both survived a failed launch to the ISS last year.

“The crew that returned to Earth is feeling well,” Roscosmos said immediately after the landing. Hague and Ovchinin completed a 203-day mission aboard the lab while Mansoori’s two crewmates from his September 25 launch—Russia’s Oleg Skripochka and NASA’s Jessica Meir—are staying on as part of a six-member team.

Although Mansoori’s mission was short -

eight days in total—it has been the source of great pride in the UAE, a newcomer to the world of space with ambitions to send an unmanned probe to orbit Mars by 2021. Mansoori has been active on Twitter where he shared photos of the UAE and Mecca—Islam’s holiest site—from the space station. Yesterday, he posted a view of space taken from the orbiting station’s Cupola panoramic observatory module and paid tribute to UAE founding father Sheikh Zayed.

“With fear and pride, I am returning with Zayed’s ambition achieved. We are not done yet, and we will never be. To bring back the golden era of Arab astronauts,” he wrote. Mansoori’s blast-off from the launchpad that sent Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin into space was roared on by a large crowd at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre in Dubai, where he has been feted as a hero.

Dubai’s Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest skyscraper, was lit up at the moment of the launch. The 35-year-old former military pilot’s whirlwind mission has had wall-to-wall coverage in Arab media.

UAE sets sights on Mars

The first Arab in outer space was Saudi Arabia’s Sultan bin Salman Al-Saud, who flew on a US shuttle mission in 1985. Two years later, Syrian air force pilot Muhammed Faris spent a week aboard the Soviet Union’s Mir space station. As part of its space plans, the UAE has also announced its aim to become the first Arab country to send an unmanned probe to orbit Mars by 2021, naming it “Hope”. While on board, Mansoori donned Emirati dress, treated crew members to local snacks and participated in scientific experiments including a time-perception study that

saw him sport a blindfold.

In a question-and-answer session with Emirati schoolchildren, the father of four said a call to his mother would be his top priority when he landed back on Earth after a journey lasting just over three hours. The return from space of Ovchinin and Hague came a year after their rocket failed to launch in the first accident of its kind in Russia’s post-Soviet history.

The two men took off in a Soyuz rocket for the ISS in October 2018, but an accident minutes after blast-off sent them plunging back to Earth. The pair launched again—this time without hiccups—to begin Ovchinin’s second and Hague’s first mission aboard the ISS in February. The ISS—a rare example of cooperation between Russia and the West—has been orbiting Earth at about 28,000 kilometers an hour since 1998. —AFP

International

Death toll rises to 19 as Iraq protests spread across south

Iraqis rally against corruption and unemployment

BAGHDAD: The death toll from mass rallies in Iraq against corruption and unemployment rose to 19 yesterday, as the leaderless protest movement spread to virtually all of the south. Braving live fire, tear gas and local curfews, Iraqis flooded the streets for a third day in the biggest challenge yet to Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi.

The embattled premier ordered a ban on all movement across the capital starting at 5:00 am (0200 GMT), but dozens of protesters defied the order and gathered in Baghdad's emblematic Tahrir (Liberation) Square. "We slept here so the police don't take the place," one demonstrator told AFP before riot police fired into the air in a bid to disperse them.

The protests began in Baghdad on Tuesday but have since spread to cities across the mainly Shiite south. Yesterday, medics and security sources told AFP that four protesters were shot dead in the southern city of Amarah, another in the province of Dhi Qar and a sixth in Nasiriyah. The deaths bring the overall toll from three days of demonstrations to 19, including one police officer, a figure confirmed by Iraq's Human Rights Commission. Nearly 800 protesters and security personnel have been wounded.

Tensions have been exacerbated by a near-total internet blackout, the closure of government offices in Baghdad and calls by firebrand cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr for "a general strike." Before dawn twin explosions hit the Green Zone, where some ministries and embassies are located and which was struck by two rockets last week, a security source in the area said. The apparent attack came hours after security

Deadly civil unrest: What is happening in troubled Iraq?

BAGHDAD: At least 18 Iraqis have died in recent days in clashes between protesters and the security forces during street demonstrations that caught the authorities by surprise. They were the first major deadly protests for more than a year.

Why are people protesting?

Iraqis are fed up. Two years after the defeat of Islamic State much of the country's nearly 40 million population live in worsening conditions despite the country's oil wealth. Security is better than it has been in years, but wrecked infrastructure has not been rebuilt and jobs are scarce. Youth blame this squarely on what they see as corrupt leaders who do not represent them.

Why are conditions so bad?

After decades of war against its neighbors, UN sanctions, two US invasions, foreign occupation and sectarian civil war, the defeat of the Islamic State insurgency in 2017 means Iraq is now at peace and free to trade for the first extended period since the 1970s. Oil output is at record levels. But infrastructure is decrepit and deteriorating, war-damaged cities have yet to be

forces sealed off the compound "until further notice" just a few months after reopening it to the public, fearing angry protesters would overrun it.

Iraq 'largely offline'

In the city of Kut, two protesters were killed overnight after they tried to storm a local government office, medics and security sources said. Another two demonstrators died further south in Nasiriyah, scene of the deadliest violence so far. Riot police have used water cannons, tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds in an attempt to force protesters away from main squares or government buildings. The worst violence has taken place at night and Iraqis have braced themselves for larger gatherings once darkness falls yesterday. The previous evening in Baghdad, marches from different neighborhoods attempted to converge on Tahrir Square. But with internet access virtually shut off, demonstrators have struggled to communicate with each other or post footage of the latest clashes. Approximately 75 percent of Iraq is "offline" after major network operators "intentionally restricted" access, according to cybersecurity monitor NetBlocks. In the Shiite holy city of Najaf and in Nasiriyah on Wednesday, security forces fired on protesters and announced curfews.

The protests appear to be largely spontaneous so far, with angry crowds carrying Iraqi flags and shunning any involvement by the country's main political players. Many traditional figures have expressed their support for the movement, with Sadr urging "peaceful demonstrations." He was behind

rebuilt and armed groups still wield power on the streets. A culture of corruption has persisted since the era of dictator Saddam Hussein and has become entrenched under the rule of sectarian political parties that emerged after his fall.

What sparked the protests?

The protests do not appear to be coordinated by a particular political group. Social media calls for protests gathered pace early this week. The turnout appeared to take security forces by surprise. The inadequacy of state services and the lack of jobs are the principal reasons for public anger. A series of political moves by the government has contributed, especially the demotion of a popular wartime military officer for reasons that have not been fully explained. Some at the demonstrations were protesting over the commander's removal.

Are mass protests rare in Iraq?

Major protests took place mainly in the southern city of Basra in September last year. Nearly 30 people were killed. Since then, sporadic demonstrations have taken place but not on the scale of this week's events. These were the first large demonstrations against Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's government, which took office in October last year.

What are the risks?

It depends how the government and security services handle the protests. More deaths - so far 18 people including a policeman have been



BAGHDAD: Youths carry away a protester injured during clashes with riot police amidst demonstrations against state corruption, failing public services, and unemployment, in the Iraqi capital Baghdad's central Tahrir Square yesterday. —AFP

the last round of major protests in Baghdad in 2016, when his supporters stormed the Green Zone, but his involvement appears much more limited this time.

On Wednesday night, the top United Nations official in Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, met with some protesters in Baghdad to call for "direct dialogue" between them and government officials. "The ability to preserve the right to protest is a sign of political and democratic maturity. Moreover, the use of force only fuels the anger," she said in a statement. "De-escalation is urgently needed." —AFP

killed - will fuel anger. But a heavy-handed crackdown could also scare protesters into staying home. Many Iraqis believe powerful paramilitary groups backed by Iran were behind violent crackdowns in Basra last year. Turnout for protests since then has been small. If tribal or factional armed groups get involved the situation could deteriorate. Gunfights broke out in southern cities this week between unidentified gunmen and police.

Will government meet demands?

The government has promised better employment opportunities for Iraqis. This week Abdul Mahdi promised jobs for graduates and instructed the oil ministry and other government bodies to include a 50% quota for local workers in subsequent contracts with foreign companies. Similar promises and pledges to improve healthcare, electricity and services were made last year by the previous government.

Is the unrest sectarian?

No. Most Iraqis have sought to avoid sectarian rhetoric after the brutal experience of Sunni hardline Islamic State - although sectarian tension still exists. These protests are about worsening economic and living conditions and are taking place mostly in Baghdad and the Shiite Muslim-dominated south, but cut across ethnic and sectarian lines. Anger is directed at a political class, not a sect. That contrasts with protests in 2012 and 2013 that Islamic State exploited to rally support among Sunnis. —Reuters

Protest movements in Iraq since 2015

BAGHDAD: A snapshot of the main protest movements since 2015 in Iraq, where two days of popular protests by thousands against state corruption, failing public services and unemployment have turned deadly.

Anger

In August 2015, protests at the poor quality of water and electricity supply spread across the country. Thousands of people gather in central Baghdad and the south, accusing the government of corruption and incompetence in public services. Later in the month, powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr calls on his supporters to join the demonstrations. Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, backed by the top Shiite religious authority in Iraq, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, announces a series of reforms, which are slow in materializing.

Sit-in

On February 26, 2016, tens of thousands of Sadr's supporters rally in central Baghdad. He demands the government carry out serious reforms. On March 18, Sadr supporters launch a two-week sit-in at the main gates of Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, home to most key institutions, including the prime minister's office, parliament and embassies. On the 27th, Sadr enters the Zone to step up pressure on the government. In April, thousands of protesters break into the Green Zone and storm parliament for several hours. On May 20, Sadr supporters briefly storm the prime minister's office in the Zone. In mid-September, thousands of Sadr supporters again demonstrate in Baghdad to call for reforms. —AFP

International

As Libya's war drags on, Tripoli drowns in waste

Rubbish crisis adds to the daily ordeal for residents

TRIPOLI: Faraj Al-Doukali hastened to unload the dozens of rubbish bags from his van onto a sidewalk dump in Siyahiya, a residential district west of the Libyan capital. "Each weekend I collect the rubbish from my four brothers at the farm where we live and I look for somewhere to dump it. I have no choice but to leave it here on the footpath," he said. Across Tripoli, tons of waste overflows from bins and piles up on roadsides. The rubbish crisis adds to the daily ordeal for residents of the capital, where life is already punctuated by shortages of fuel, electricity and water. Fed up with the smell and the sight of rats and stray cats feasting in the garbage, some residents have taken to burning the rubbish.

But this only replaces the stench of rotting garbage with columns of nauseating smoke in the streets of the capital. Tripoli's trash turmoil isn't a new phenomenon but it has reached alarming proportions in recent months. Municipal rubbish trucks no longer collect waste because the city's main landfill is on a frontline. The dump is at Sidi al-Sayeh, 45 kilometers (28 miles) south of Tripoli, where forces loyal to the capital's UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) are battling those of eastern strongman Khalifa Haftar, who launched an offensive on April 4 to seize the city.

'Find a solution'

Doukali seems more angered by the rubbish

than the fighting. "Is it up to citizens to collect the garbage now? Why doesn't the government and the municipality provide skips in every neighborhood?" he asked. A furious passerby interjected: "I'm talking to the government of the east (which supports Haftar) and that of the west (the GNA): keep your ministerial portfolios and the money, but find a solution to this rubbish crisis because it's making us sick."

Without long-term solutions and as long as fighting continues, "the crisis will worsen", said Tarek al-Jadidi, director of environmental protection at the National Centre for the Prevention of Diseases in Tripoli. "In addition to the lack of environmental awareness among citizens, the state is unable to manage the rubbish in the streets, while ongoing conflict prevents the implementation of plans like in other countries," Jadidi said. In theory, waste management in Tripoli takes place in stages, with rubbish being taken first to collection points and then onwards to the main landfill. But with the landfill in a combat zone, collection points are overflowing. Rubbish sorting and recycling are out of the question. Glass, paper and plastic could be recycled, but specialized facilities "require a stable security situation", Jadidi said. Rouqaya Al-Hachemi, an environmental researcher, recently conducted a study on the rubbish crisis in Tripoli.

She found that respiratory illnesses and skin conditions have clearly increased among chil-



TRIPOLI: Photo shows a view of rubbish piling up along the side of a street in the Libyan capital Tripoli. — AFP

dren, the elderly and pregnant women. "People are aware of the environmental risks and dangers of garbage fires but they complain about a lack of skips," she said. To resolve this chronic crisis, Hachemi recommends "the creation of a

ministry of environment to manage the rubbish situation, and laws to punish offenders". Waste management may not seem like Libya's most pressing issue, but ultimately, Hachemi said, "it's about the health of citizens". — AFP

173 civilians killed by landmines in Syria this year

BEIRUT: At least 173 civilians, including 41 children, have been killed in Syria by landmines and explosive remnants of war since the start of the year, a monitor said yesterday. Syria's warring parties have all planted landmines in urban as well as rural areas since the conflict started in 2011. Across the country, more than 10 million people live in areas contaminated by explosive hazards, the United Nations says. "Since early 2019, 173 civilians, including 41 children, have been killed by landmines and explosive remnants of war," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Of the victims, at least 40 have been killed while digging for truffles, the Britain-based monitor said. "Every day civilians are losing their lives or being maimed for life due to landmines and unexploded ordnances," said the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). "It is estimated that 2 out of 3 survivors of an

explosive hazard incident in Syria will sustain a life-long impairment," it added on Twitter.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) says landmine contamination "hampers" attempts to clear rubble and cultivate agricultural land. It also poses a threat to children and obstructs the return of displaced Syrians to

their hometowns and villages, UNMAS told AFP in August. In July 2018, UNMAS signed a memorandum of understanding with the government to establish a permanent representation in Damascus. The war in Syria has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions since erupting in 2011 with the repression of anti-government protests. — AFP



AIN ISSA: A volunteer caretaker who looks after 24 orphaned children, reportedly linked with foreign fighters of the Islamic State (IS) group, covers her face as she carries a child at a camp in the northern Syrian village of Ain Issa. — AFP

US re-opens embassy in Somalia's capital

MOGADISHU: The United States said Wednesday it had re-opened an embassy in Somalia's capital, 28 years after it was shut as the country plunged into civil war, highlighting warming ties between the two nations. Washington closed its embassy during the 1991 overthrow of president Siad Barre's military regime which ushered in decades of chaos, however diplomatic relations have strengthened in recent years.

"Today we reaffirm the relations between the American people and the Somali people, and our two nations," said Ambassador Donald Yamamoto in a statement. "It is a significant and historic day that reflects Somalia's progress in recent years, and another step forward in regularizing US diplomatic engagement in Mogadishu since recognizing the federal government of Somalia in 2013." A permanent diplomatic presence was established in Mogadishu in December 2018, however was operated out of Nairobi.

The country continues to be wracked by an Islamist insurgency, and Al-Shabaab militants on Monday staged an attack on a military base that is a major launching site for US drone operations, as well as a European Union convoy. US strikes in Somalia surged in April 2017, after President Donald Trump declared the south of the country an "area of active hostilities". "The United States remains a strong partner to Somalia in its effort to build a stable, credible, and democratic country," said the statement. — AFP

International

Darwin, Islam: Kosovo imam expelled for accepting both

Evidence of the growing threat to Kosovo's 'moderate Islam'

PRISTINA: When not leading prayers in his village mosque in western Kosovo, imam Drilon Gashi was scribbling some unorthodox thoughts on social media - like his belief in the theory of evolution. Eventually, the embrace of both Islam and Darwinism cost him his job. The 31-year-old was unceremoniously expelled from his post by top clergy last month, in what he says is evidence of the growing threat to Kosovo's traditionally moderate brand of Islam.

"Living creatures are created by evolution, but this evolution is led by God," Gashi said of his theory of how Islam and science can work in tandem. "Science reveals natural phenomena as God created them," he added. The political future of Kosovo, a young and troubled democracy on the EU's fringe, will be decided in a general election this Sunday - the fourth since the former Serbian province declared independence in 2008.

But behind the headlines is a different battle for the soul of its dominant faith. Embracing the theory of evolution would not seem that unusual in Kosovo, whose population of 1.8 million has long been known for its moderate flavor of Islam. More than 90 percent of Kosovars identify as Muslim, according to the 2011 census. Yet alcohol flows freely and abundantly, the people are famous for an ardent love of all things American, and most do not wear religious dress.

This identity has shifted over the past two decades, however, with a religious revival in the late 1990s opening a schism between traditional practitioners and a new wave of imams trained abroad. After the 1998-99 independence war with Serbia, an influx of Gulf charity money built hun-

dreds of mosques in Kosovo, spread new teachings and gave imams scholarships to study abroad in places like Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

'Modern opinions'

Gashi was one of those beneficiaries, studying in Medina. But he didn't take to the ultra-conservative doctrine practiced there, and the religious establishment did not like his "modern opinions", he told AFP. Back in Kosovo, whose Muslim roots date back to Ottoman rule, he took up his mandate in a new, Dubai-funded mosque in Vitomirice, a village of around 5,000 people. On social media and in comments to the local press, he aired his controversial views. For the Islamic Community of Kosovo (BIK), the top clerical body, this constituted a "gross violation". "His principles are contrary to the principles of Islam and our internal regulations," Ahmet Sadriu, a BIK spokesperson, told AFP after his expulsion in September.

Globally, views vary on Darwin's theory in the Muslim world. Some scholars say the Koran is less explicit on creation than the Bible's book of Genesis. Xhabir Hamiti, a professor of Islamic studies, said Gashi's beliefs may be controversial but "it would be better and more useful if we had a debate" on the topic in Kosovo. For Gashi's fans, the sacking was the latest sign of a shrinking space for moderates. "Congratulations Drilon! You know far more than these ignorant and conservative religious representatives," one Facebook user wrote in support.

Radicalization

Visar Duriqi, a journalist who covers religious

latest plan includes several basic provisions - including a potential four-year time limit - that EU leaders have categorically rejected in the past.

After speaking by phone to Johnson, European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker pointed to "problematic points that will need further work in the coming days". Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said Johnson's proposals "do not fully meet the agreed objectives," although he promised to "study them in further detail". And the head of the European Parliament's Brexit steering group (BSG) Guy Verhofstadt suggested the UK offer was not a serious attempt at reaching a deal but an effort to shift blame for failure to Brussels. "The first assessment of nearly every member in the BSG was not positive at all," Verhofstadt said.

A leading voice in the "leave" campaign during the 2016 referendum on Brexit, Johnson rose to power in July on a promise to get Britain out of the EU come what may. He vowed to remove the most contentious part of the deal his predecessor Theresa May struck with the bloc in 2017: the so-called "backstop" solution for Northern Ireland. The stopgap arrangement is meant to keep the border open between EU member Ireland and British Northern Ireland after Brexit. The border issue is a delicate issue in Ireland, where sectarian violence killed thousands of people over the decades before the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Brexit supporters fear the backstop would leave Britain subject to EU rules. —AFP



PRISTINA: Kosovo Muslims attend prayers at the Grand Mosque in Pristina. —AFP

affairs, says he personally found the imam's views on evolution a step too far. But he drew a contrast between Gashi's treatment and support given by the Islamic Community to some radical imams accused of recruiting jihadists to Syria and Iraq. The Islamic Community "is not tough at all with imams who were investigated" on terrorism charges, and they continue to "keep the most radical imams in the most influential mosques", he said.

Kosovo's role as a breeding ground for extremism emerged several years ago, when it became Europe's highest per-capita contributor of jihadists to foreign conflicts. Of 400 Kosovar citizens who

went abroad, around 70 were killed and 200 are estimated to have returned. More than 50 people, including 10 well-known imams, have been prosecuted on terrorism-related charges in recent years.

While at least one was sentenced to 10 years in jail, others were acquitted, including the former imam of Pristina's Grand Mosque, who is now teaching Islamic law. As Kosovo authorities juggle how to crush the extremist fringe and de-radicalize returnees, a debate continues about the place of religion in society. The secular government has for instance held a ban on headscarves for civil servants and in schools, despite cries of Islamophobia. —AFP

Britain unveils new Brexit proposal with warning of a no deal

MANCHESTER: Prime Minister Boris Johnson has published his "final" Brexit proposals, warning EU leaders that Britain will walk out without a deal on October 31 if they do not accept his terms. Officials in Brussels and UK opponents of Brexit fear economic chaos if Britain ends its 46-year membership of the European Union without a formal divorce agreement. Johnson had earlier warned that this was his "final" offer. But his complex new solution met an initially cool response from Brussels. A senior MEP said the European Parliament's initial reaction to it was "not positive at all".

Johnson said the sides had until October 11 to hammer out the main outlines of a compromise so it could be included on the agenda of a EU leaders' summit in Brussels on October 17-18. "Let us be in no doubt... what the alternative is - the alternative is no deal," Johnson told his Conservative party conference in Manchester. "It is not an outcome we seek at all. But let me tell you my friends, it is an outcome for which we are ready." Johnson's

Mali army families demand answers after deadly raids

BAMAKO: Hundreds of wives and children of Malian soldiers demonstrated on Wednesday in the capital Bamako, demanding information from the government after at least 25 soldiers were killed and 60 went missing in attacks by suspected jihadists. The raids on Monday on two army camps in central Mali were among the deadliest this year against soldiers struggling to repel increasingly brazen attacks by militant groups, some with links to Al-Qaeda and Islamic State.

The roughly 300 protesters who gathered in front of a military base accused army chiefs of withholding needed resources from soldiers in the field. Some burned tyres, and one wore a t-shirt that read: "No to thieving generals." "We have

no news about our husbands," said one woman, who declined to be identified. "We learned that some are dead and others are missing, but we have received no clear information."

An army spokesman was not immediately available for comment. "We demand that our soldiers be equipped in accordance with the mission assigned to them," said Amadou Dembele, the son of a soldier in Boukessi, where one of Monday's attacks took place. "Otherwise we are going to resist any deployment of reinforcements." Protests over military losses have destabilized Mali before.

Renegade soldiers seized power in 2012 following protests over the government's handling of a Tuareg-led rebellion in the north. The resulting political chaos helped precipitate the fall of the northern two-thirds of Mali to the rebels and allied Islamist militants. France intervened in early 2013 to drive them back, but jihadist fighters have since regrouped and now use Mali as a launchpad for attacks across West Africa's Sahel region. —Reuters

International

Fear and uncertainty for migrants after S Africa xenophobic attacks

Nigerian leader urges protection for foreigners

JOHANNESBURG: Reeling from a terrifying surge of unrest that saw his shop wrecked and plundered, Nigerian-born Alvan Akujinwa toyed with the possibility of leaving his adopted home of South Africa for the first time in 10 years. His mobile-phone repair business in downtown Johannesburg was targeted when gangs armed with sticks and machetes attacked businesses in the financial capital last month during deadly xenophobic attacks.

Now his wife is too terrified to leave their apartment and Akujinwa is struggling to pick up the pieces. "They jumped in and destroyed all the things we have here, even our shop glass (display cabinet)," he said, glancing nervously through the metal gate between him and the street. "Now we are very, very scared to buy more stuff and put it in our shop." Akujinwa, 38, was among thousands affected by the violence, which left 10 South Africans and two foreigners dead last month.

Many of the attacks were directed at Nigerian-owned businesses and properties, sparking sharp exchanges between Africa's two superpowers. The issue threatens to dominate Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari's three-day official visit to South Africa starting Thursday and the presidency in Abuja has said he would use the state visit to discuss the "welfare of Nigerians". More than 500 Nigerians were repatriated by authorities last month following the violence. Akujinwa is one of many others who chose to stay.

'Wait and see'

Originally from Nigeria's southeastern Imo state, Akujinwa sees no future for his three-month-old baby daughter in a country where he himself has never been employed. "I am not equipped to go back," he told AFP. "Maybe the incidents are going to revolve back... Let me wait and (see if) it will be quiet." South Africa is a magnet for economic migrants searching for better job prospects in the region.

The continent's most industrialized economy attracts people from neighboring Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Others come from further afield including Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria and south Asia. Akujinwa left his home city of Owerri in 2009, one year after a similar spate of xenophobic violence left 62 dead. He remembered hearing the news but not thinking much about it. "They said South Africans were fighting," said Akujinwa. "We didn't even know that word, xenophobic."

With no qualifications, he sold fruit on the inner-city streets for three years before switching to phone repairs. "When I arrived here I improved," said Akujinwa, recalling his journey. "When you make a decision to go, job or no job, you find something." Johannesburg's crime-ridden business district is crammed with



PRETORIA: Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari (2nd right) and South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa (right) walk past the guard of honor during his official state visit at Union Buildings in Pretoria yesterday. —AFP

small foreign-owned stores like Akujinwa's, providing everything from household goods, electronic gadgets and tailor services.

Seen as competing with locals for jobs, they are often the first under fire when South Africa's chronic unemployment, inequality and poverty boils into xenophobic outlash. Akujinwa had so far remained unscathed. As busi-

ness picked up, he moved to an apartment in Hillbrow—one of Johannesburg's most dangerous and deprived areas—where he has maintained good relations with his South African neighbors. "We are like brothers and sisters. There is nothing like segregation or discrimination," he said. "Black, white or colored. I am with them there." —Agencies

Pope, Pompeo urge religious freedom in Mideast, elsewhere

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo agreed yesterday on the need to protect the rights of Christian minorities in the Middle East during a meeting at the Vatican, the US State Department said. Pompeo, whose trip this week to Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Greece has been overshadowed by an impeachment inquiry at home targeting President Donald Trump, met the pope for about a half an hour. "They reaffirmed the United States and Holy See commitment to advancing religious freedom around the world, and in particular, protecting Christian communities in the Middle East," State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortogus said.

Ancient Christian communities face persecution or harassment in some Middle Eastern countries, and many Christians have left to build new lives in the West. The Vatican did not issue a statement on the contents of the meeting. It usually does so only when the pope meets heads of state. On Wednesday Pompeo attended a Vatican conference on religious freedom where he blasted China over its treatment of Uighur Muslims.

Pompeo, the first Italian-American secretary of state, has already met Italian leaders on his trip and later on paid a visit to his ancestral home town of Pacentro in the rugged Abruzzo region to the east of Rome. According to a pool reporter travelling with him, Pompeo was greeted by a crowd of local residents and a scrum of journalists. A group of children started calling out, "Pompeo! Pompeo!" He greeted them back in English. —Reuters

Zimbabwean women struggle to shake off sex-for-land corruption

BULAWAYO: Catherine Mazorodze was overworked and tired when she quit her job as a farmworker in Zimbabwe's Manicaland province. No job meant she was also homeless, along with her grandmother with whom she had shared a small home provided by the farm's owners. Mazorodze jumped at the opportunity to get a small plot of land of her own — distributed by the leaders of Chisumbanje, her village — but soon realized there was a price to pay.

"The traditional leader of the area told me I was young and not entitled to allocated land, since it was meant to benefit the elderly," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview. "He blatantly said if I wanted a piece of land ... I had to have sex with him. Out of desperation and poverty, I agreed to his terms," the 37-year-old said.

Land is unevenly distributed in Zimbabwe and women, particularly in rural areas, are largely treated as dependants of men, not as landholders or farmers in their own right, according to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization. Mazorodze said she was not the only one to be forced to offer sex for land out of desperation, adding that most women she knows are too embarrassed to speak out about their experiences.

She is a victim of sextortion, a growing form of corruption that forces women to offer sexual services in exchange for land, employment or job opportunities, according to Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ), an anti-corruption charity. Sextortion is a global phenomenon that causes serious harm, robbing women of dignity and opportunity and undermining confidence in public institutions, rights groups say.

But legally it often falls between the cracks and does not get prosecuted as either a sexual crime or corruption, said Marilyn Sibanda, a legal officer at TIZ. "The moment you consent, the criminal element falls out," she said. "Of course, institutions or companies might have policies in places for people to report sexual offences. But villagers in secluded

rural parts of the country don't have measures to curb this form of corruption," she added. Her organization's research shows sextortion is becoming more common in Zimbabwe, she said, although there are no statistics available at a national level.

John Makamure, a commissioner in the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) said the organization was ready to investigate such cases. "It is crucial for people to bring forward evidence on this corruption, then ZACC can investigate. ZACC cannot just start investigations based on sentiments alone," he said. CORRUPTION RIFE AT 160th place, Zimbabwe ranks towards the bottom of Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, a tool which ranks 180 countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption.

Studies carried out by TIZ throughout Zimbabwe in 2016 showed women are vulnerable to sexual abuse when they try to access land for both residential, business and agricultural use. "TIZ has conducted mobile legal clinics in rural areas... where we asked women if they knew about 'sextortion'. The women concurred they know about the abuse and some confirmed they were victims of this corruption," Sibanda said.

Researchers also found evidence of sextortion in Zimbabwe's southwestern Matabeleland South province, where women said they were asked for sex in exchange for gold mining rights. "We realize that in mining, it is difficult for women to own a gold mining claim," said Scha Ndlovu, director for Community Youth Development Trust, a charity working with rural communities in the province. "Women are then forced to sleep with Mr So and So to gain mining rights in order fend for their families."

Sextortion in the city

Sextortion is not confined to rural areas, said Farai Mutondoro, head of programs at TIZ. "In urban localities, we gathered information that as a result of demolitions of illegal settlements and displacement, women bear the brunt of 'sextortion' as they need places to stay," he said. Mutondoro added that TIZ recorded cases of land corruption in the southwestern city of Bulawayo where women were excluded from a housing scheme and replaced with male candidates. "Data show widows are losing out on estates because relatives bribe officials at the deeds office and put a different name (on the deed)," he said. —Reuters

International

A family in limbo as US slashes refugee ceiling

Somali boys caught in refugee hold-up

NEW YORK: Somali refugee Ramlo Ali Noor will never be reunited with her 16-year-old son in her new home in Columbus, Ohio. She had been waiting since applying to the US government in 2015 to bring over her three boys from Uganda, but their cases faced hold-ups in refugee processing under the Trump administration. On Sept 22, the youngest of the three teenagers - Abdiiaziz - died suddenly from a brain infection. Now Noor, 37, fears the window for her two surviving sons to make it into the United States is shrinking. The US government plans to slash the refugee ceiling to 18,000, its lowest since the modern refugee program began in 1980.

More than half the places for refugees in the 2020 fiscal year are reserved for Iraqis, Central Americans and religious minorities, leaving only 7,500 for everyone else, according to a White House proposal. President Donald Trump has yet to finalize the refugee number for next year. At the same time - as of this summer - nearly 30,000 refugees had passed resettlement interviews abroad with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Of those, more than 8,800 had been approved for travel, according to a July 2, 2019 State Department report seen by Reuters.

Some of those approved in July have likely been resettled in recent months and the State Department said it could not comment on the current refugee admissions pipeline. But immi-

grant advocates and former officials said it will now be impossible for all of the cases already far-along in the approval process to make it into the country this year. Trump has made curbing legal and illegal immigration a priority. Shortly after taking office, he halved his predecessor Barack Obama's plans to resettle 110,000 refugees in 2017 and has been whittling down the numbers ever since.

Explaining its latest cut, the administration said it must shift resources to processing a backlog of hundreds of thousands of asylum cases, mostly filed by Central American migrants arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border. "The workload with the southern border has been immense in the last couple of years. And yet we are still getting to tens of thousands of asylum cases," Ken Cuccinelli, the Acting director of USCIS, told reporters at the White House on Friday, after the refugee ceiling was announced.

But Barbara Strack, former chief of the Refugee Affairs Division at USCIS, who left the administration in early 2018, said that the low cap "is a policy-driven decision, not a resource-based decision." "These refugees who have already been interviewed and approved could travel to the US over the next 12 months," said Strack, since most of the administrative work on their cases has been completed. "The real issue here is this Administration's desire for lower lev-

els of legal immigration, and their hostility to refugees as part of that flow," she said.

Long separations

Noor's sons are from a previous marriage and their father is not involved in their lives. She has been separated from them since 2010 when she left strife-torn Somalia for Malaysia, where she could apply for resettlement as a refugee with the United Nations. The United Nations refers most refugee cases to the United States and other countries around the world for resettlement, but that route to the United States could become more difficult under the new ceiling according to a presidential document seen by Reuters.

Noor could only afford to travel alone, so left her children with two of their aunts in the hopes of reuniting when she found a new home. Soon after Noor left, one of the aunts was killed and the other injured in a militant attack on a village south of Mogadishu, the boys said in an interview with Reuters and Noor swore in an affidavit to the US government.

Once she was resettled in Ohio in 2015, she applied for her sons to join her. With a job as a home health aide, she was able to pay for them to move to Kampala, Uganda. But since passing a DNA test in 2016 to prove they were her sons, their cases have been stuck. In 2019, she received two requests for additional evidence to clarify incon-

sistencies in their applications, according to documents seen by Reuters.

Two days after her son Abdiiaziz died, Noor received notice from USCIS that all three boys were found to be eligible for reunification pending further medical and security checks, and that their cases were being deferred, a USCIS document showed. "At present, it is impossible to estimate how long it will take to make a determination in your case," the notice said.

The State department declined to comment on specific cases due to privacy considerations. "I follow the news about what is happening," Noor said in an interview through a translator, "and sometimes I hear that Somalia is one of the countries that has been banned, but there is so much up and down that all I can do is pray that they can come." She has two daughters from another marriage now in Ohio, where she has rented a larger place in anticipation of her sons' arrival.

Trump has said stricter standards are needed to vet refugees who potentially pose a security threat from entering the country. In July, he highlighted the arrests of two Somali refugees in Arizona who had sought to travel to Egypt to join Islamic State. "Get smart people!" he said on Twitter after describing the case. Of the 15,600 Somalis in the refugee resettlement pipeline to the United States, only 91 had been approved for travel as of early July. —Reuters

US sizzles in a rare autumn heat wave

WASHINGTON: A freakish heat wave is making early autumn feel like the dog days of summer in much of the southern and eastern United States, with forecasters predicting that temperatures Wednesday could get close to triple digits. Washington hit 97 degrees Fahrenheit (36 Celsius) late in the afternoon, according to the National Weather Service (NWS), surpassing the city's previous monthly record of 96 degrees on October 5, 1941.

The mercury rose into the 90s across much of the south, the NWS said, with Montgomery, Alabama reaching 98 degrees, Little Rock, Arkansas hitting 94 and Atlanta seeing 95 degrees in the mid-afternoon. Temperature tracking in New York's Central Park recorded 92 degrees, just two degrees lower than the city's all-time October high in 1941. Temperatures in some places could be as many as 30 degrees higher than normal, the NWS said, while a quarter of the country will reportedly experience temperatures above 90 degrees.

It's been so bad this week that some schools with no air conditioning in states like Ohio and Maryland are sending children home early or closing altogether. In Tipp City, Ohio, teachers gave kids popsicles and held some classes in shady spots outdoors, NBC affiliate WDTN reported. Records were set or tied Tuesday in more than a dozen cities including Cleveland, Ohio, New Orleans, Louisiana and Syracuse, New York, the Weather Channel reported.

Atlanta could break its all-time October record high of



WASHINGTON: People walk near the World War II Memorial on the National Mall as temperatures are expected to soar into mid-90s in Washington DC. —AFP

95 degrees, it added. Relief is expected late in the week as a cold front rushes in, sending temperatures way down. Some in the Northeast could even see the first frost or freeze of the season. The United States has already experienced extreme weather at the other end of the scale this week, as the northern state of Montana was blanketed with record snowfall - four feet in the town of Browning. And at 8:00 am Wednesday in Billings, Montana's most populous town, it was a lowly 34 degrees. —AFP

Canada PM goes on attack, tries to revive campaign

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, trying to revive his electoral fortunes after the emergence of embarrassing photographs, used the first televised campaign debate on Wednesday to launch repeated attacks on his main rival. Polls suggest Trudeau's left-leaning Liberals could lose power to the opposition Conservatives of Andrew Scheer on Oct 21 amid voter unhappiness with images of Trudeau in blackface, as well as other scandals. Trudeau, variously interrupting and talking over Scheer, took the offensive from the start during the French-language debate in the politically important province of Quebec. He first suggested Scheer would be open to reviving the debate on abortion. "Do you - as a party leader, as a father and a husband - believe women should have a choice?" Trudeau asked Scheer. There are few restrictions on abortion in Canada and the Conservatives have traditionally steered clear of the topic, fearing they could alienate progressive voters. "Quebecers can be confident that a Conservative government led by me will not reopen this debate," Scheer responded.

Jagmeet Singh of the left-leaning New Democrats and Yves-Francois Blanchet of the separatist Bloc Quebecois - the other two leaders in the debate hosted by private channel TVA - also criticized Scheer on the issue. "We are seeing that three of us are aligned on values, the values of Quebecers, and we have a fourth, a Conservative party that is not aligned ... on the rights of women," said Trudeau. French is the predominant language in Quebec, Canada's second-most populous province that accounts for 78 of the 338 seats in the federal House of Commons. —Reuters

International

Supreme Court to tackle gay rights, guns, abortion, Trump

Trump's appointees have moved court to the right

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court's new term opens on Monday with the conservative majority in a position to take a more aggressive rightward turn on divisive issues including abortion, gay rights and gun control while also refereeing legal brawls involving President Donald Trump. The court has moved to the right since Trump took office, with a 5-4 conservative majority that includes two justices he appointed: Brett Kavanaugh in 2018 and Neil Gorsuch in 2017.

"We will likely see the court move further and faster in a rightward direction," said Irv Gornstein, executive director of Georgetown University Law Center's Supreme Court Institute. The justices are due to tackle a larger number of consequential cases than they did

in their previous term, and they could end up producing more 5-4 rulings along ideological lines with the conservative justices on the winning end and the four liberal justices in dissent, according to court experts.

There were few such rulings in the term that ended in June. In one of the biggest rulings of the last term, conservative Chief Justice John Roberts joined the four liberals in blocking Trump from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 U.S. census that opponents called an effort to intimidate immigrants into not taking part in the decennial population count. The nine justices on Tuesday will hear their first major case: on whether gay and transgender people are protected by a landmark federal civil rights law that bars em-

ployment discrimination. On Nov 12, they will weigh the legality of Trump's move to end a program created by his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama that protects from deportation hundreds of thousands of immigrants - mostly Hispanic young adults - who were brought into the United States illegally as children. The court has arguments scheduled for Dec 2 in the first major gun rights case in decade, although the justices potentially could dismiss it because the New York City law being challenged by gun rights advocates has been amended since the litigation began. Other gun-related cases wait in the wings for possible action by the justices.

The court could announce as soon as this week whether it will take up two appeals re-

garding Republican-backed abortion restrictions enacted in Louisiana and Indiana. If the court were to take either or both of those cases, it would raise the possibility of a ruling that curbs abortion rights, as hoped for by anti-abortion activists.

The Louisiana case concerns a challenge by an abortion clinic to state requirements that doctors who perform the procedure have a difficult-to-obtain arrangement known as "admitting privileges" with local hospitals. It is similar to a Texas law that the Supreme Court struck down in 2016, when conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy sided with the court's liberals. Kennedy, who defended abortion rights in some pivotal rulings, retired last year and was replaced by Kavanaugh.—Reuters

At least seven dead; WWII plane crashes

NEW YORK: At least seven people were killed when a World War II bomber carrying 13 passengers and crew crashed at an airport in the northeastern US state of Connecticut Wednesday, local media reported. The Boeing B-17 aircraft, which the US Air Force deployed against Germany and Japan, crashed at Bradley International Airport while trying to land around 10:00 am.

Ten passengers and three crew were on the aircraft, which was operated by the Collings Foundation, a group catering to aviation buffs who pay to experience vintage planes, officials said. James Rovella, a Connecticut state disaster emergency official, told a news conference that there had been fatalities but added it was too early to say the exact number. "Burn victims are very difficult to identify. We don't want to make a mistake," he said.

A maintenance officer working on the ground was also injured, Rovella added. Local media later cited officials as saying that the crash left at least seven dead and nine injured, including three people who were on the ground at the time. Ten minutes after the flight took off at 9:45 am, the pilots radioed the control tower to say they were experiencing problems, said Kevin Dillon, director of the state's airport authority.

"We could see they could not gain altitude. Upon touchdown they obviously lost control, struck our de-icing facility here as well as a maintenance facility," he told reporters. A spokesman for Hartford Hospital, situated 15 miles from the airport, told AFP the facility had received six patients, three of whom were critical. It was not immediately clear what caused the crash. According to excerpts of a cockpit conversation reported by several news outlets, the pilot had asked the control tower for permission to land urgently because of an engine problem.

Photos circulating on social media and carried by US media outlets showed a thick black plume of smoke billowing from the crash site. Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal said the plane was one of only 18 B-17s left in the country, and that the crash might have implications for the flying of vintage aircraft. "If there were defects or improper maintenance as a cause, it is a very strong red flashing light for others who are flying these planes," he said. The airport was closed for several hours before later reopening. — AFP

Trump unleashes furious attacks amid impeachment storm

WASHINGTON: A bellicose Donald Trump unleashed furious attacks Wednesday on the impeachment inquiry launched against him by Democrats, amid an intensifying standoff between the president and Congress. Trump - accused of leaning on Ukraine's president to dig up dirt on one of his main 2020 election rivals - resorted to coarse language in his broadsides against the investigation and his adversaries conducting it.

Democrats should be "focused on building up our Country, not wasting everyone's time and energy on BULLSHIT, which is what they have been doing ever since I got overwhelmingly elected in 2016," Trump tweeted. Adam Schiff, the impeachment probe's Democratic point man in the House of Representatives, told reporters there is a "real sense of urgency" to press forward. Trump has fought back in terms once inconceivable for a president, including his claim late Tuesday that this is "not an impeachment, it is a COUP."

He amplified the message Wednesday standing alongside Finnish President Sauli Niinisto in the White House, branding the impeachment process - announced by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi last week - as a "hoax." Trump assailed Schiff, declaring the House Intelligence Committee chairman "a low life" who should be arrested for "treason." But at the same time Trump acknowledged he may yet cooperate with the latest move by Democrats, who threatened to subpoena the White House for documents related to the president's efforts to get Ukraine to probe a political rival.

"We'll work together with 'shifty' Schiff and Pelosi and all of them and we'll see what happens," he said. Trump insists he did nothing wrong in a July phone call with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky and on Wednesday got support from Russia's President Vladimir Putin, who said he saw "nothing compromising" in the conversation. Given Trump's controversial history with Putin, it was unlikely that the Kremlin leader's backing would do much to calm waters in Washington.

'Not fooling around'

A White House summary of the call showed Trump pressed Zelensky several times to open a corruption investigation against leading Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and son



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Staff arrive at a closed door House Intelligence Committee meeting where former US Special Envoy for Ukraine Kurt Volker is being interviewed yesterday. Volker is the first official to testify on the whistleblowers charges that President Donald Trump tried to pressure Ukraine to investigate his Democratic rival Joe Biden. — AFP

Hunter, who did business in Ukraine when his father was vice president. Neither Biden has been credibly accused of any wrongdoing. "Biden and his son are stone-cold crooked," Trump said Wednesday. Trump is alleged to have suggested that US military aid Ukraine sought to beef up its defenses against Russia would be contingent on him getting that favor.

A whistleblower, so far only identified as someone from the intelligence services, went to authorities with concerns about the call, triggering the impeachment inquiry. Trump has likened the whistleblower to a spy and called for his or her identity to be made public, although by law whistleblowers are protected. Schiff on Wednesday called Trump's comments about the whistleblower a "blatant effort to intimidate witnesses." He also warned Trump and the White House to treat the pending subpoena with the utmost gravity.

"We're not fooling around here," Schiff said, adding that efforts to stonewall the collection of related data would be considered "evidence of obstruction of justice." Meanwhile, the State Department's independent watchdog met with a bipartisan group of staffers from House and Senate committees to discuss new wrinkles in the scandal. Inspector General Steve Linick showed staff, and some lawmakers who attended, documents sent mysteriously to State that included a rehash of conspiracy theories that appeared aimed at discrediting Trump's opponents.—AFP

International

India and Pakistan nuclear war could kill 100 million

Renewed tensions between two South Asian rivals

WASHINGTON: The year is 2025 and militants have attacked India's parliament, killing most of its leaders. New Delhi retaliates by sending tanks into the part of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan. Fearing it will be overrun, Islamabad hits the invading forces with its battlefield nuclear weapons, triggering the deadliest conflict in history—and catastrophic global cooling, with temperatures not seen since the last Ice Age.

This scenario was modeled by researchers in a new paper published on Wednesday, which envisaged more than 100 million immediate deaths, followed by global mass starvation after megatons of thick black soot block out sunlight for up to a decade. It comes at a time of renewed tensions between the two South Asian rivals, which have fought several wars over the Muslim-majority territory of Kashmir and are rapidly building up their atomic arsenals. They currently each have about 150 nuclear warheads at their disposal, with the number expected to climb to more than 200 by 2025.

"Unfortunately it's timely because India and Pakistan remain in conflict over Kashmir, and

every month or so you can read about people dying along the border," Alan Robock, a professor in environmental sciences at Rutgers University, who co-authored the paper in *Science Advances* said. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi scrapped the autonomy of the part of Kashmir controlled by New Delhi in August, with his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan warning the United Nations last week the dispute could escalate into nuclear war.

The two countries last fought a border conflict in February, but they pulled back from the brink after Pakistan returned a downed pilot to India. India has a "no first strike" policy, but reserves the right to mount a nuclear response to any hit by weapons of mass destruction. Pakistan has declared it would only use nuclear weapons if it could not stop an invasion by conventional means or were attacked first with nuclear weapons. The authors wrote that although their scenario had Pakistan pulling the trigger first, they did not mean to imply they believed this was more likely.

Based on their current populations and the

urban centers that would be likely targeted, the researchers estimated up to 125 million could be killed if both countries expended the bulk of their highest yield weapons. Around 75-80 million people were killed in World War II. This most extreme scenario would involve the use of 100 kiloton weapons, more than six times as powerful as the bombs dropped on Hiroshima. A single airburst from such a bomb could kill two million people and injure 1.5 million—but most of the deaths would occur from the raging firestorms that followed the blast.

"India would suffer two to three times more fatalities and casualties than Pakistan because, in our scenario, Pakistan uses more weapons than India and because India has a much larger population and more densely populated cities," the paper said. As a percentage of its urban population, though, Pakistan's losses would be about twice those of India. But nuclear Armageddon would be only the beginning. The research found that the firestorms could release 16 million to 36 million tons of soot (black carbon) into the upper atmosphere, spreading around

the world within weeks.

The soot in turn would absorb solar radiation, heating the air up and boosting the smoke's rise. Sunlight reaching the Earth would decline 20 to 35 percent, cooling the surface by 3.6 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit and reducing precipitation by 15 to 30 percent. Worldwide food shortages would follow, with the effects persisting up to 10 years. "I hope our work will make people realize you can't use nuclear weapons, they are weapons of mass genocide," Robock told AFP, adding the paper lent more evidence to support the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Johann Chacko, a columnist for Quartz India and doctoral student at SOAS in London, said the work "helps the global community evaluate the cost of nuclear war for everyone, not just the combatant nations," particularly its climatic impacts. But, he added: "There's very little in the history of Indo-Pakistan kinetic conflict to suggest that leadership on either side would continue escalating until they annihilated the other."—AFP

Kashmiri journalists stage protest against 'media gag'

SRINAGAR: Journalists in Indian Kashmir yesterday staged a small silent protest against what they say has been a "media gag" by Indian authorities that has badly affected their ability to work in the disputed region for the last 60 days. India stripped its portion of Muslim-majority Kashmir of autonomy on Aug. 5, shutting off phone networks and imposing curfew-like restrictions in some areas to dampen discontent.

Some of those curbs have been slowly relaxed, but mobile and internet communications in the Kashmir valley are largely still blocked, severely impacting the ability of journalists to report from the region. Carrying placards and wearing black badges, more than 100 Kashmiri journalists gathered inside the Kashmir Press Club premises in Srinagar to stage a protest, as street protests are still restricted. "End information clampdown", "Stop criminalizing journalists", "Journalism is not a crime", read placards held up during the silent protest.

The Indian government has provided an internet connection at a media centre set up for journalists, but reporters say this is insufficient and it lacks privacy. "There's no privacy. Some 300 journalists use that facility daily and it is crowded. It is also being monitored and we are under surveillance," said Ishfaq Tantray, general secretary of the Kashmir Press Club. A government spokesman in Kashmir was not immediately reachable for comment.

The president of the Kashmir Press Club, Shuja Thakur said that they had several times approached the Indian government in Kashmir for restoration of mobile and internet services for journalists. "They keep promising and say they are looking into it, but so far there has been no ac-



KASHMIR: Journalists hold signs during a protest against the ongoing restrictions of the Internet and mobile phone networks at the Kashmir Press Club during a lockdown in Srinagar on yesterday. —AFP

tion," he said. New Delhi said the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir state's special status was necessary to integrate it fully into the rest of India and spur development. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, who both claim the territory in full. More than 40,000 people have been killed in an insurgency in the Indian part of Kashmir since 1989.

Separately yesterday, local media reported that opposition leaders in Jammu - where restrictions have already been eased to a greater extent - were after almost two months allowed to move out of their homes on Wednesday and resume their political activities. The lifting of restrictions on movement of around a dozen top opposition leaders in Jammu comes ahead of local council elections in the state that are scheduled for Oct 24, the Indian Express reported. — Reuters

Hugs and smiles as Taliban meets Pakistani officials

ISLAMABAD: A group of senior Taliban were warmly welcomed by Pakistani officials as they arrived in Islamabad yesterday, where the foreign minister called for a resumption of talks with the US on the war in Afghanistan. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's co-founder who spent eight years in a Pakistani prison, was greeted with hugs and smiles by Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and spy chief Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, footage released by the ministry showed.

Pakistan was one of only three countries to recognize the Taliban regime and its shadowy military establishment, particularly the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) which Hameed heads, and is widely believed to back the bloody insurgency in Afghanistan. Islamabad denies the accusation.

Pakistan has helped facilitate talks between the Taliban and Washington in Qatar over the past year, seeking an agreement to pave the way for a US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in return for various security promises from the insurgents. The two sides were on the brink of a deal - with an announcement widely expected to be imminent - when US President Donald Trump abruptly declared the process "dead" last month, citing Taliban violence.

The Taliban threatened more attacks, but both the insurgents and the US left the door open for negotiations to resume - with most experts agreeing Washington will have to return to the table eventually. Islamabad wants the talks to resume "to smooth the path for a durable, long-lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan", Qureshi was quoted as saying in the statement. "War is not a solution to any problem. Talks are the only and positive solution to establish peace in Afghanistan," he continued.

The Taliban said that, along with the peace process, they had also discussed bilateral ties, politics, "education, health, travel and visa related issues to Afghan refugees in Pakistan". For decades, Pakistan has hosted refugees fleeing fighting in Afghanistan, including the Taliban insurgency.—AFP

International

Uzbek spies attacked dissidents with off-the-shelf hacking tools

Cybersecurity firm Kaspersky exposes secret Uzbek hacking unit

LONDON: Uzbek intelligence officers have used commercially-available computer spying tools to launch a series of cyber attacks against activists and dissidents, researchers at Moscow-based cybersecurity firm Kaspersky said yesterday. The findings show how governments around the world are able to buy sophisticated hacking tools and expertise from outside vendors to spy on activists, journalists and political rivals.

Kaspersky researcher Brian Bartholomew named Unit 02616 of Uzbekistan's National Security Service as the team behind the attacks. The service, also sometimes referred to by acronyms in Russian or Uzbek, changed its name to State Security Service last year but is still often referred to abroad as NSS. According to two people with knowledge of the attacks, the targets of the NSS have included regional news outlets Fergana News, Ektuz, Centre1 and the Palestine Chronicle, all of which report on the Uzbek government. The publishers did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Bartholomew, speaking at the Virus Bulletin cybersecurity conference in London, said he was able to attribute the activity directly because of mistakes the hackers made covering their tracks online. In some cases they tested their attacks on computers running Kaspersky's antivirus software. In one case, Kaspersky traced a cyber attack it was investigating to a domain listed in a public registry as belonging to a man named OT Khodzhabbarov. He had listed his organization in the directory as "Military Unit 02616".

Publicly-available Uzbek business records

show Military Unit 02616 is a state-owned entity. A person called Omonillakhon Tulkunovich Khodzhabbarov is named as an NSS officer in an Uzbek presidential decree awarding him a military honour in 2005. The NSS did not respond to questions submitted via the Uzbek Foreign Ministry and Uzbek embassy in London. Reuters was unable to reach Khodzhabbarov for comment and the Uzbek presidential administration did not respond to questions about his role at the NSS or the award he received.

Kaspersky said it had detected Unit 02616 carrying out attacks using software from German firm FinFisher. FinFisher did not respond to repeated requests for comment. Emails from an Italian spyware vendor, Hacking Team, posted on Wikileaks in 2015, showed that the NSS was a customer. After a merger this year, the company is now part of Swiss-Italian cyber intelligence firm Memento Labs, whose head, Paolo Lezzi, said the Uzbek government was not currently a customer and he had no knowledge of Hacking Team's former operations.

Homegrown hacking

Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic of 32 million people in Central Asia, has made efforts to improve its human rights record following the death of President Islam Karimov, who ruled the country from 1989 until he died in 2016. But the government is still regularly criticized by human rights groups over its actions against dissidents, including reports of torture and widespread surveillance of journalists and other activists. Claudio Guarnieri,

head of Amnesty International's Security Lab project, said Uzbek authorities were known to target "people who are outspoken and critical about the conduct of the government" with cyber attacks in an effort to discredit them with compromising material.

Kaspersky's Bartholomew declined to identify any specific targets of the NSS hacking but said the unit was attacking "human rights activists, journalists and other dissidents. We didn't see much outside the country, it was internally focused." As well as purchasing off-the-shelf hacking tools, Unit 02616 began developing its own framework called "Sharpa" in October 2018 to hack computers

and mobile phones, Bartholomew said. It is not clear whether the system has yet been used in any attacks. Bill Marczak, a senior research fellow at Canada's Citizen Lab research group, said it was common practice for customers of commercial spyware vendors to invest in efforts to develop their own in-house tools. "Uzbekistan's NSS has been on our radar for some time as an organization that's been interested in acquiring offensive hacking tools," he said. Countries like this want to "advance their hacking capabilities quickly so they turn to outside vendors," he added. "But the goal is always to eventually become more independent." — Reuters

9 killed as typhoon lashes South Korea

BUSAN: At least nine people were killed and several others missing after Typhoon Mitag lashed South Korea with heavy rain and strong winds, authorities said yesterday. The storm hit southern parts of the country on Wednesday night, prompting flood warnings and triggering landslides in affected areas. A total of nine people were killed across the country as of yesterday afternoon, the Ministry of Interior and Safety said, but the toll was expected to rise with several people missing.

A woman in her 60s was found dead after her home was buried in a landslide in

the southern port city of Busan and around 600 rescue workers were trying to locate three others believed to be trapped beneath the rubble. Park Young-hak was inside his tool shed—later buried in the landslide—and said he escaped after hearing a loud "roar". "When I ran out to see what it was the house next to me had already disappeared," Park told AFP. More than 1,000 homes were damaged and over 1,500 people evacuated their houses in advance, the ministry said. Mitag is the 18th typhoon this year and seventh to hit the Korean peninsula.—AFP

Unkempt? Panelo tells critics Duterte smells 'refreshing'

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman defended him against critics who described him as looking unkempt when he met with Russia's prime minister, saying he is "very hygienic" and that "his body emits a refreshing scent". Salvador Panelo, who is traveling with Duterte in Russia, challenged "kibitzers" to try to be close to the president to find out how he smells.

"That's what ladies tell me when they kiss PRRD, that he smells good", Panelo said, referring to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, who is in Russia for a working visit. Pavel Vondra, an editor at CRO Plus radio, on Thursday posted on Twitter a photo of Duterte shaking hands with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev as he called out the Philippine leader for showing up "a bit unkempt".

Photos and video of the meeting showed

Duterte in a ill-fitting suit with his necktie hanging loose. Vondra, in his tweet, said "The Russian internet is having a blast: 'Did he drink all night?', 'Did he just leave the pub?', 'Do Filipinos know what a (state visit) protocol is?' people ask." Coming to Duterte's defence, Panelo said the president merely loosened his tie because "he feels suffocated and very uncomfortable".

"PRRD dresses up for comfort, he is not particular on unsettling other people", Panelo said. Duterte, 74, once said he had never owned a suit and does not wear socks. The firebrand leader typically wears a polo shirt, jeans and slip-on loafers, and on formal occasions has dressed in a barong, a traditional long-sleeved Filipino shirt, and suits. Filipinos are drawn to Duterte's no-nonsense, man-of-the-people style, which sits oddly with the pomp and protocol he encounters in the international political arena.—Reuters



MOSCOW: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (center) attends a meeting with Russian Prime Minister in Moscow. — AFP

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Eiffel Tower in Paris at night. The tower is illuminated with a vibrant pink light. From the top of the tower, several powerful blue spotlights beam downwards, creating a dramatic, starburst effect against the dark night sky. The overall mood is celebratory and significant.

Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2019

www.kuwaittimes.net

A picture shows the Eiffel tower illuminated in pink to mark the start of 'Octobre Rose' (Pink October) or Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Paris. —AFP

**Real-life politics blurs lines
with satire: 'Veep' creator**

See Page 20

Real-life politics blurs lines with satire: 'Veep' creator

British satirist Armando Iannucci didn't have to look too far for an example to prove his point about the surreal nature of modern-day politics. At the annual gathering of Britain's Conservative party, two of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's aides were this week caught on camera battling over whether he should be seen holding a disposable coffee cup. The scene, widely shared on social media, was reminiscent of Iannucci's hugely popular TV satire "The Thick of It", which caricatured British politicians and their advisers as largely inept, hapless and image-obsessed.

"It's almost like now is sort of a parody... they've taken the storylines but then decided to muck about with them," the 55-year-old filmmaker added. Iannucci, who also created the multiple Emmy-winning US TV show "Veep" and the 2009 big-screen satire "In the Loop", said the rise of controversial leaders like Johnson meant "nothing feels real anymore". "I don't quite believe that Boris Johnson is the prime minister—I don't think anyone quite believes it," Iannucci told AFP in an interview on Wednesday.

Iannucci, who spent more than two decades creating hit comedy TV before moving on to cinema, said today's politics is changing how satirists like himself approach their craft. "The comedians who are most effective are the ones who then turn into kind of journalists," he said, citing John Oliver, the British comic who hosts a popular weekly show in the US. "It's not just about jokes, but it's about if the politicians aren't going to deal with the facts, then it's left to the comics to deal with it."

Positive celebration

Iannucci spoke before his latest movie, a quirky adaptation of Charles Dickens' 1850 novel "The Personal History of David Copperfield", opened the London Film Festival on Wednesday. He opted to adapt the semi-autobiographical story of a young man's colourful exploits and interactions in Victorian-era Britain out of love for the book and an eagerness to do something different from his 2018 historical comedy "The Death of Stalin".

But Iannucci concedes that the country's current Brexit-dominated politics

probably played a "subconscious" part in the choice—and his light-hearted, highly satirical approach to the 170-year-old story. "The debate in the last two or three years here has been quite negative and toxic," he said. "I wanted to make something that was actually a positive celebration of what defines Britain today."

"It's not just that kind of negative isolationist quality, it's that sense of vibrancy, life and creativity and fun," Iannucci added, noting that adapting the novel highlighted the country's rich comedic and literary heritage. The movie also showcases an array of British acting talent, with colour-blind casting seeing a number of non-white actors play white characters in the book, including Dev Patel ("Slumdog Millionaire") cast as David Copperfield.

London's annual film festival will this year showcase 229 feature films from 79 countries over 12 days, closing with a screening of Martin Scorsese's new film "The Irishman" starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino.—AFP



British film director Armando Iannucci poses upon arrival for the European Premiere of the film 'The Personal History of David Copperfield' during the opening night gala event for the BFI London Film Festival in London. —AFP

Three men indicted in connection with rapper Miller's death

Three men were indicted Wednesday in connection with the death of rapper Mac Miller who overdosed on counterfeit fentanyl-laced pills at his home in California last year. Cameron Pettit, 28, Stephen Walter, 46 and Ryan Reavis, 36, were charged with conspiring to distribute controlled substances resulting in death and distribution of fentanyl resulting in death, according to the indictment. Walter was also charged with being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The 26-year-old singer born Malcolm McCormick died on September 7, 2018 after ingesting a lethal combination of fentanyl, cocaine and alcohol, according to the Los Angeles medical examiner. Authorities said that three days before Miller died, Pettit had agreed to supply him with 10 "blues"—a street term for oxycodone pills—as well as cocaine and the sedative Xanax. But instead of providing Miller with genuine oxycodone, Pettit allegedly sold the singer counterfeit oxycodone pills that contained fentanyl—a powerful synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin.

The indictment alleges that Pettit ordered the fentanyl-laced pills from Walter, and then Reavis delivered the narcotics to Pettit. "It has become increasingly common for us to see drug dealers peddling counterfeit pharmaceuticals made with fentanyl," United States Attorney Nick Hanna said in a statement. "As a consequence, fentanyl is now the number one cause of overdose deaths in the United States," he added.

Hanna said that all three defendants charged had allegedly continued to sell narcotics after Miller's death despite the deadly effects of their products. The three men each face up to life in prison without



In this file photo Mac Miller performs on Camp Stage during day 1 of Camp Flog Gnaw Carnival 2017 at Exposition Park in Los Angeles, California. —AFP

parole if convicted. Walter also faces up to 10 years in prison on the charge of being a felon in possession of ammunition. Fentanyl has become the deadliest drug in the United States, killing more than 18,000 Americans in 2016, the latest year for which full data is available, according to federal health officials. The opioid, which acts on the brain like morphine or heroin, was blamed in the high-profile deaths of icon Prince and rocker Tom Petty, both of whom died of overdoses.—AFP

French soprano steps up to save Handel concert

The show must go on, and in Paris this week that meant convincing a mezzo-soprano who came to enjoy Handel's "Messiah" to hastily take the stage after a soloist bowed out halfway through the concert. Adele Charvet, who had never before sung the famed choral work, was in the audience at the Radio France Auditorium on Tuesday night for the concert being led by her friend, the conductor Valentin Tournet.

All was going well until the intermission, when the South Korean countertenor David DQ Lee informed Tournet that he was done for the night. "During the break I ran into the stage manager, who told me the countertenor couldn't sing another note and asked me to go backstage," Charvet told AFP on Wednesday.

Stretching out the intermission by 15 minutes gave her time to run through her parts, but hardly any time to warm up her vocal chords and no time to dress up—she sang in her jeans. "It went better than I thought... the audience was incredibly encouraging and happy," Charvet said. The concert will be broadcast on France Musique radio on November 5. —AFP

A Minute With: 'The King' cast on Shakespeare and role models

Actor Timothee Chalamet plays an unwilling heir who inherits the throne in "The King", a mediaeval coming-of-age tale loosely based on William Shakespeare's plays about Prince Hal and his transformation into England's King Henry V. The 23-year-old "Call Me by Your Name" and "Beautiful Boy" actor stars alongside Joel Edgerton, who plays Hal's hard-drinking friend and mentor Sir John Falstaff, Lily-Rose Depp, who portrays Catherine, daughter of France's King Charles, and Ben Mendelsohn, who features as Hal's father, Henry IV.

The Netflix film premiered at the Venice Film Festival last month, where Reuters spoke to the cast members and director David Michod about the drama, which also features a recreation of the 1415 Battle of Agincourt. Below are edited excerpts of the interviews.

Q: This was a very different part from your previous leading roles, what were the biggest learning lessons making this movie?

Chalamet: "I felt less interested and less naturally drawn to anything that had to do with power but more to do with helplessness and being human and a young human at that - when you're still figuring out who you are, who you want to be and having to navigate world affairs basically or governments or the snake-like nature of a royal court."

Q: You, like your character, are a young woman in a position of power, how do you cope with the pressures of being someone many look up to or scrutinize?

Depp: "You do feel that responsibility whether you want it or not. But I think it's also ... important to remember that it's hard to consider yourself a role model ... when you're still kind of figuring out who you want be yourself."

Q: You wore many hats on this project - you co-wrote it, produced it and star in it. Why was this a film you felt so passionate about?

Edgerton: "Quite often when you see this story, and there's been so many wonderful versions of it, you never really see a super young person playing Henry, and Henry was 25 or 26 when he became king. So this was our chance to not only tell our story for other purposes, political purposes, and extract our own essence out of that story but to put youth in the seat of power."

Q: What was it like making this film? The battle scenes in particular must have been hard work.

Michod: "They almost killed me... That sounds like an exaggeration but it's only a little bit... It was something about the heat and the mud and the stress of it. I mean, it's so huge."

"We shot that battle in two weeks. Normally I think (in) a movie of this ambition, you would maybe have five weeks to do it ... I remember driving away from that battlefield when we'd finished it, just feeling like I'd survived something and feeling traumatized ... Anyway it looks good in the movie, I think, now."

Q: Is there a hope the film will help modernize Shakespeare for younger generations, especially given it's a Netflix movie?

Mendelsohn: "When you have Timothee Chalamet playing King Henry, you're opening doors... to an audience that most probably isn't familiar with the Shakespeare stuff ... Timmy's a movie star. Timmy's got bang."—Reuters



US actor Timothee Chalamet attends the premiere of Netflix's 'The King' at SVA Theater in New York City. — AFP



In this file photo Swedish environment activist Greta Thunberg speaks at a climate protest outside the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP photos



In this file photo a bust of Alfred Nobel is pictured prior to the awardings of the Nobel Prizes in medicine, economics, physics and chemistry in Stockholm, Sweden.

Nobel buzz for Greta and literature duo

Experts are cautious, but bookies are tipping teenage climate campaigner Greta Thunberg for the Nobel Peace Prize next week, while two literature laureates will be crowned after last year's award was postponed over a sex harassment scandal. Odds from bookmakers such as Ladbrokes indicate the 16-year-old activist is the one to beat for the Nobel Peace Prize after she launched a school strike that inspired millions to join her "Fridays for Future" movement.

However any prediction carries a great deal of uncertainty, since the list of candidates considered by the Nobel Committee isn't made public, and experts are still divided over whether there is a direct link between climate and violent conflicts. A day before the Peace Prize announcement on October 11 in Oslo, the Swedish Academy, which awards the Literature Prize, will reveal its choices in Stockholm.

The literary body is at pains to restore its honor after a scandal exposed members' scheming, conflicts of interest, and a culture of

silence and harassment. Long held up as Sweden's bearers of culture, Academy members traded barbs in the media and seven of the 18 members resigned. For the first time in 70 years, the 2018 prize was postponed, as the institution found itself without a quorum to make key decisions. This year, there will be one Literature Prize announced for 2018 and one for 2019, each accompanied by a gold medal and nine million kronor.

Unless "the winner or winners refuse it" because they think the prize has been tarnished, warned Madelaine Levy, literary critic for Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet. Each year since the prizes were first awarded in 1901, literary circles are abuzz with speculation—often more a reflection of their own wishes than any real insight into the Academy's leanings. Among those mentioned are Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk, Kenyan author Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, Albania's Ismail Kadare, US novelist Joyce Carol Oates and Haruki Murakami of Japan.

The Academy is widely expected to try to steer clear of controversy this year, and is therefore seen making conservative picks. The laureates are expected to include at least one woman. The unorthodox decision to honor US singer-songwriter Bob Dylan in 2016 outraged traditionalists. The subsequent 2017 nod to "Remains of the Day" author Kazuo Ishiguro, a British novelist of Japanese origin, was seen as a consensual choice aimed at making amends.—AFP

Feuding children reach truce on funeral for Mexican superstar Jose

After days of drama involving a missing corpse, a family feud and a soundtrack of heartbroken love songs, late Latin singing sensation Jose Jose's children have set aside their differences and agreed on plans for his funeral, the Mexican government said Wednesday. Moreover, his "missing" body has now been found, at a funeral home in Miami, said his son, Jose Joel. Jose Jose, known as "The Prince of Song," one of the most famous Mexican singers of all time, died Saturday in Miami at age 71. His death set off a bitter battle between his youngest child and her two half-siblings, who accused her of hiding his body, seeking to get rich off his death and "putting on make-up" and "straightening her hair" amid the family's mourning. But the Mexican foreign ministry, whose consulate in Miami brought the three siblings together Tuesday night to mediate the dispute, announced the family had reached an agreement.

Jose Jose will be given a funeral Friday in Miami, the ministry said in a statement. Then his body will be flown to Mexico City next week for a series of public tributes, tentatively including events at the capital's Palace of Fine Arts and National Auditorium. "Jose Jose's family agreed to first pay tribute to him in Miami, and then again in Mexico City," the statement said. It did not say where he would be laid to rest. However, one key mystery did get cleared up: his body is at a funeral home in Miami. "He's here, we're certain now," Jose Joel told journalists outside the establishment. "They're preparing him, embalming him." "We're united as a family to give our father, our prince, the tribute and burial he deserves, with all our love," he added.

Mourning and mystery

Jose Jose's death unleashed an outpouring of emotion in Mexico, where fans belted out his hits through tears in public and flocked to mourn at a statue of him in his native Mexico City neighborhood. But the tears had not even finished flowing when the loss took a telenovela-like turn. Jose Joel and Marysol, his eldest children, said their half-sister, Sarita, would not let them see his body. They called for an autopsy, filed a police report, hired a lawyer and insisted they would not believe he was dead until they saw him with their own eyes.—AFP

Lifestyle | Feature



Members of the fado duo band 'Fado Bicha' (Fado Queer) perform live at Festival Iminente in Lisbon. — AFP photos

Portuguese duo brings fado music out of the closet

Wearing a long black wig, fishnet stockings and a miniskirt, "Lila Fadista" wafts a fan in front of his beard as he sings about the gay community's pain and revolt in lyrics not heard before in fado, Portugal's traditional style of folk song. Tiago Lila, his real name, is performing alongside band mate Joao Cacador, who also breaks fado tradition by strumming an electric guitar rather than a 12-string acoustic one.

Hiding under a large felt hat, only Cacador's leopard print trousers and stiletto shoes are plainly in view. Together, the duo makes up the band "Fado Bicha", which translates from Portuguese as "Fado Queer". Although not widely known among the general public, they have toured Portugal, Spain, France and Belgium, performing around 150 concerts since 2017.

But they like to make regular appearances in Lisbon, home to many dimly-lit bars featuring live fado music. The melancholy genre about the struggles of daily life, sung in soulful tones, was born on the margins of Portuguese society at the end of the 18th century. Since 2011, it has been inscribed by UNESCO as part of Portugal's cultural heritage.

Breaking tradition

In Lisbon, the duo performs at The Late Birds hotel, an urban resort catering for gay men in the capital's trendy Bairro Alto neighborhood. The audience listens intently. Rather than sticking to classic fado themes of general malaise, the pair, who are themselves both gay, take the traditional style but turn the lyrics to LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) stories.

Their playlist features songs about a fisherman's love for a fishmonger, the desperation of a gay dancer locked up in a psy-



Members of the fado duo band 'Fado Bicha' (Fado Queer) pose for a picture in Lisbon.

chiatric hospital and the pride of a transsexual woman who became a figurehead for LGBTI activists. French tourist Guillaume Bellon, 31, a guest at the hotel, is new to the genre but already a fan of Fado Bicha's style and objectives. "It's the first time I've been listening to fado and it's very moving," he says. "Artists should get involved like that, it's great what they do for our community," he adds.

Soul and guts

"When I sing fado, I feel a feminine energy," says 34-year-old Lila. "I quickly realized that there was no place for me in the middle of traditional fado," adds the singer, who abandoned the fado school he attended to create his cross-dressing alter ego. "It's the solution I found to live my dreams without having to give up my identity", Lila, a psychologist by training, says. Lila also takes historic, well-known fado songs and rewrites their lyrics, including those by the famous fado diva Amalia Rodrigues, who died 20 years ago and is still regularly played on the radio.

Another method of "liberation and subversion" is playing the songs with an electric guitar, says Cacador, 30, who studied jazz and also plays in the traditional fado bars. At another gig during a music and arts festival in Lisbon, audience member Ana Pereira is also taken with the duo's performance. "I do not make a distinction if it's gay culture or not, he sings with his soul, with his guts," she says.



Members of the fado duo band 'Fado Bicha' (Fado Queer) gets ready before a photo session in Lisbon.

Out of dictatorship shadow

It may have a long history but fado's past is not squeaky clean. Maria Severa, a singer who lived in the mid-19th century, is considered the first fado singer to have shot to fame, says Lila. "But she was a gypsy and sex worker," he adds, with a mischievous smile. Today, conventional fado performers say artists such as "Fado Bicha" are disrespecting tradition, says Carlos Sanches Ruivo, owner of The Late Birds hotel and co-founder of Variacoes, a LGBTI chamber of trade and tourism in Portugal.

"We want to get out of this status quo that remains linked to a dark period in our history," he says, referring to the dictatorship of the late Antonio de Oliveira Salazar until 1968 whose cultural policy hinged on the three Fs: football, fado and Fatima—a Catholic pilgrimage site in the centre of Portugal. Still today, he says, even if legislation has evolved to permit, for example, gay marriage, Portuguese society remains conservative.

As part of the effort to take fado in a different direction, "Fado Bicha" has begun recording its first album, which is being produced by Luis Clara Gomes, a Portuguese musician known for his electronic pop under the name "Moulinex". Fado Bicha's style of fado is a truer form than classic fado, he said, describing the duo's as roaming, of the street and a "fado of the forgotten". "What attracted me to Fado Bicha is their ability to pay tribute to the legacy of fado, while transposing it into an aesthetic and philosophical universe which I identify with," he says.—AFP





Dancers get ready for the 'Re' set in the review 'Feerie' at the Moulin Rouge in Paris, France. — Reuters photos

Backstage at the Moulin Rouge: Keeping the show on track for 130 years

The Moulin Rouge, the French cabaret famous for its high-kicking cancan dancers and flesh-exposing ostrich feather costumes, this week marks 130 years since it first opened its doors to audiences. For two performances every evening, 60 performers from 14 different countries twirl, kick and dance their way through the "Feerie" show, the review that is now the mainstay of the Moulin Rouge's repertoire.

But backstage - unseen by the 600,000 audience members who watch the show each year and quaff their way through nearly a quarter of a million bottles of champagne - is a different kind of choreography; the sophisticated machinery of costume changes and scenery-pulling needed to make the show happen.

"The whole team including dancers, aides and technicians need to be very organized," said Claudine Van Den Bergh, a 27-year-old Irish dancer who has been dancing at the Moulin Rouge for seven years and has been principal for three years. "A little mistake or a little delay and you can miss your entrance. You really need to be at the right time at the right place."

Each show requires 1,000 outfits, all crafted in the workshops that have been supplying the Moulin Rouge for decades. Each dancer has to make between 10 and 15 costume changes per show, with about 90 seconds to complete each one before they have to be back out on stage. Every time a number finishes out on stage, the same scenario is repeated. The troupe of dancers rushes backstage. There, the multicolored costumes, many encrusted in rhinestones, have been laid out in order by an army of assistants. Rows of pink feather boas hang from rails.

Pink and black thigh-high leather boots, with sequin decoration, hang from racks. Elaborate constructions which go over the dancer's shoulders and create the illusion they have sparkling butterfly wings and ostrich feathers sprouting from their backs, sit in rows on tables. Each dancer heads to the costume they require. While they change, technicians shift the scenery in time for the next number.

The dancers are changed in an instant. Then, the troupe rush back out onstage into the glare of the footlights. Without a pause,

the costume assistants backstage put away the outfits that the dancers removed, then lay out a new set of outfits so they are ready for the next costume change and the next number.

A magical place

"At the moment I rush out to the backstage, I know exactly where to go, what to do, where my next costume is for the next part," said Claudine Van Den Bergh, one of the principals. The performances at the Moulin Rouge still hold true to the traditions established at the cabaret's founding on Oct 6, 1889, when women who made a living washing linen by day transformed themselves into dancers at night. One of them, La Goulue (gluttonous), flanked by her partner Valentin-le-desosse (boneless Valentin), were among dancers painted by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec on Moulin Rouge advertising posters at the end of the 19th century.

The shows featured dancers with stage names such as Nini Pattes en l'air (Nini legs in-the-air), Rayon d'or (golden ray) and La Sauterelle (Grasshopper). Nowadays, Olga, Jasmine, Claudine or Esmeralda shine on stage. Critics say some aspects of the performance - especially the fact that many of the female dancers are topless or wear see-through costumes - is a sexist objectification that is out of step with modern times.

To mark the Moulin Rouge's 125th anniversary, in 2014, two activists from feminist group Femen climbed onto the theatre's roof and shouted that women's bodies should not be for sale. For Olga Khokhlova, a dancer from ex-Soviet Kazakhstan who performs a cancan solo and has been at the Moulin Rouge for 12 years, the spirit of the cabaret is timeless. "I love the adrenaline of the stage. The Moulin is a magical place where I live out my passion," she said. "When I'm on stage, I know that I am the inheritor of famous dancers who for 130 years have made the Moulin Rouge."—Reuters





A waitress is silhouetted through a doorway at the Lowell Cafe in West Hollywood, California. A server brings food from the indoor to outdoor setting. — AFP photos

America's first cannabis cafe opens in Hollywood



Executive Chef and partner, Andrea Drummer, poses at the Lowell Cafe.

America's first cannabis restaurant has opened in West Hollywood, offering diners an array of weed products and hoping to rival Amsterdam's famed coffee shops. Called Lowell Farms: A Cannabis Cafe, the much-hyped 240-seat establishment is open to people 21 and over, who can order from a cannabis menu just like they would a wine bottle. "Flower Hosts," or "budtenders," help patrons navigate the menu, giving advice to connoisseurs or novices on what strain of cannabis to order with their meal and the potency and flavor of each product.

On offer are pre-rolled joints starting at \$18 dollars apiece, highly potent concentrates, some edibles, and accessories such as bongos, pipes and dabbing devices. "It's amazing to be a part of making history, I never thought I would have been," said executive chef Andrea Drummer as she surveyed diners at the soft opening of the eatery on Monday. "It's important to have a safe space to consume in a very communal setting," she added. "The only other place that I know that to be the case is Amsterdam."

She said customers were flying in from different parts of the

country, and one couple was even traveling from Britain, to take part in the grand opening on Tuesday. The cafe's launch comes as more and more states across America have legalized marijuana in recent years, both for medicinal and recreational purposes. The drug, however, remains illegal at the federal level.

Largest legal marijuana market

In California, which has the world's largest legal marijuana market, recreational pot became legal in 2018, setting off a mad rush by entrepreneurs to cash in on the multi-billion-dollar industry. Seven other eateries similar to "Lowell Farms" are expected to open in the near future in West Hollywood, one of the first cities in the country to embrace the concept. "This is a great idea and I do think that normalizing cannabis is something that we should do," said Derek Bollella, 22, a business student who drove 45 minutes on Monday to be part of the happy few who managed to secure a reservation at Lowell's.

"If you go to Amsterdam, they have one of these every 10 feet,"



People dine at the Lowell Cafe.



Lifestyle | Feature

Friday, October 4, 2019



People smoke a joint at the Lowell Cafe.



Boxes of matches for patrons are seen at the Lowell Cafe.



he added as he smoked a joint while munching on nachos topped with avocado. "They tried that over there and it seems to work." Antonela Balaguer, 23, another patron sitting nearby with a friend, said it was only fitting to finally have a cannabis cafe where customers could get high while enjoying some "nice stoner food." "I could probably come here every day," she said. "I would consume cannabis every day if I could." Drummer said the restaurant's 40 "Flower Hosts" have been trained to keep an eye on guests to make sure they are able to tolerate the cannabis they order and that nothing gets out of hand.

"Our bud hosts are very proficient in enquiring and asking

guest where they are at in their consumption level," she said. "You go to a bar and you know the cut-off point for the person who has ordered five whiskeys. So you have a conversation if that is the case." For Matt Kirschner, the new eatery is long overdue and marks a major milestone for the country. "This is the greatest thing that the United States has implemented into its culture in a while," said the 22-year-old law student as he smoked a joint and nibbled on mac and cheese bites and a chicken sandwich with a friend at Lowell's. "We're pretty stoned right now," he added, grinning. "We're enjoying the day, the music's good, the weather's good and we're in California. "Life can't get better." —AFP





Devotees of a Chinese shrine with a sharp object pierced through their cheeks take part in a procession during the annual Vegetarian Festival in Phuket.—AFP photos

Mouthwatering? Thai island hosts cheek-piercing veg festival



Sticking samurai swords, steak knives and even the sharpened handles of badminton racquets through their cheeks, devotees of Thailand's vegetarian festival go all out during an annual event that is both gleeful and gory. Held on the tourist island of Phuket, the nine-day Taoist "Nine Emperor Gods" festival was in full swing Thursday after kicking off at the end of September.

As firecrackers exploded and traditional music blared from speakers, hundreds of participants marched down streets showcasing a dizzying variety of piercings. One man managed to put almost a dozen knife blades through his right

cheek, while another held a pole with a diety that went through his lower lip. Skewers connected to model ships, a bouquet of orchids and pieces of fruit were also put to use.

Many work themselves into a trance before piercing, which is said to numb the pain. Along the way residents offered food, water and sweets to the participants whose rituals are meant to ward off bad luck and cleanse sins. The celebration dates back to 1825, according to local folklore, when a visiting Chinese opera troupe fell ill. They are believed to have adopted a vegetarian diet and carried out Taoist rituals in an effort to improve their health. The festival is expected to

draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to the southern Thai island, according to Kanokkittika Kritwutikon, the Phuket tourism authority director. The influx is a temporary boon for local hoteliers and businesses who are wrestling with a rare slump in Thailand's booming tourism industry. Participants in Phuket—which has a sizeable Chinese population—also have a bounty of vegetarian food options to choose from, as many vendors switch out meat offerings.—AFP



Kuwaiti artist redefines his artwork at exhibition

“Civilizations are measured through cultural achievements such as literature, art, theater and architecture,” said Kuwaiti formative artist Mahmoud Ashkanani during the opening of his “Conversations in Color” exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Platform. He said fine arts are one of such pillars that are highly valued and respected adding that throughout the course of his career, by way of local and international ventures, he has sought to evolve his work. Ashkanani said that as the development of his ongoing practice, his focus of the current artistic process is the result of continuous experimentation in techniques that have led him today to total abstraction. The colors in his work are used as a form of language, each with its own history and insight, shaped through fifty years of experience and understanding. “Interpreting my work isn’t as vague as it may seem at first. As the viewer stands in front of my paintings, they can

move into their depth with open contemplation. They can be read as a while and as a collection of reductive worlds through which revelations of color are formed,” he added. The observer can find themselves in the position of deciphering and reconstructing the colors on the canvas, drawing connotations inherent in the depths of the work and interpreting it through their own sensibility. The distinction of color at times helps increase the tension and contrasts within the piece, applied by way of smaller fragments and in their interaction throughout the composition as a whole. This allows for different visualizations within the same paintings, a perpetual shift in perspective harmonized by the eye and mind. Constantly interacting with all these elements individually and as a whole inherently generates an aesthetic formula. Through this process, the painting reveals its artistic truth, explained Ashkanani.





Brazil's sumo wrestlers attend a practice session in Sao Paulo, Brazil.—AFP photos

In Brazil, sumo looks to break through

Every two weeks, Rui Junior drives eight hours from his hometown of Londrina to Sao Paulo for a training session in sumo, which is trying to get its due in Brazil. Even though the South American country is home to the largest Japanese community outside Japan, the ancient form of wrestling is still a fledgling sport here, and training is not always all that easy. “I’ve been going to Sao Paulo for years to practice,” says Junior, who is 25 years and weighs in at 160 kilograms.

“It’s an eight-hour drive to get there, and another eight hours to get home. It costs me a fair bit of money, but it’s worth it. It makes me really happy,” he tells AFP. Junior is a 10-time Brazil heavyweight champion and a three-time winner in

all of South America. He is the main attraction at weekly training sessions at the Mie Nishi gym in Sao Paulo, which claims it is the only public ring outside Japan solely for sumo wrestling. Inside, about 10 men and women in different weight classes—none of them of Asian descent—train together.

In their mawashis, the sport’s trademark groin-girdling belts, they warm up in a circle around the dohyo, or dirt ring where the fighters battle each other. But these amateur sumos are far from achieving the level of the pros in Japan. With his thick beard and round stomach, Junior stands out from his fellow gym mates, who are mostly rather slim. Without a viable sparring partner in Londrina, Junior started playing American football to stay in shape. “I have to train on my own, because it’s





technically rather difficult. Even if I know the right techniques, I need someone to train me, show me what I'm doing wrong," he says.

Strength and agility

Several of the men and women who practice sumo in Sao Paulo, including Junior, are getting ready for the World Sumo Championships, which will take place later this month in Osaka. Among the women, the best known is 40-year-old Fernanda Rojas, who will represent Brazil for the "sixth or seventh" time at worlds. Rojas says sumo among women got more popular in Brazil "when sumo was battling to be recognized as an Olympic sport."

"Nowadays, there are a fair number of female sumos in the country, and that number is growing every day, as there are school programs in place," she explains. Mixed-gender training sessions help the women be more competitive, she adds. "Sumo is not just a question of strength; it's also about agility," Rojas says. To help spread sumo across Brazil, the Japanese government sent a coach under the auspices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

'Some think it's weird'

Guilherme Vaz, a 17-year-old who will head to the world championships for the first time in the middleweight division, is a promising prospect. "I'm very motivated. I could come back with a medal. My main rivals come from Japan and Mongolia," says Vaz, who says his passion for sumo is part of a family tradition. Vaz also trains at Mie Nishi in Sao Paulo as he has no viable training partners in his hometown in the suburbs of the Brazilian mega-city.

The teen explains that he tried to convince his friends to do sumo, but that he couldn't because "it's a sport that falls victim to a lot of preconceived notions." "Some think it's weird to fight bare-chested, to grapple with another man... I try to tell them that it's not like that, to change their view of things, but it's complicated," Vaz admits.—AFP





Models present creation by Shiatzy Chen during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris.—AFP photos

Paris Fashion Week



Taiwanese designer Wang Chen Tsai-Hsia acknowledges the audience.



Comic

Word Search

Songs With Girls' Names

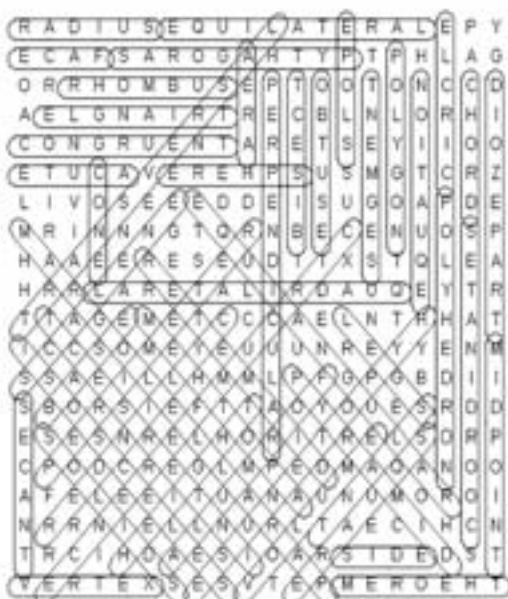
Find and circle all of these songs that have a girls name in the title. The remaining letters spell an additional song title.

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

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| ADIA | DIANA | MY SHARONA |
| ALISON | ELEANOR RIGBY | NIKITA |
| AMANDA | ELVIRA | OH SHERRIE |
| ANGIE | GLORIA | PEGGY SUE |
| BARBARA ANN | JOANNA | RHIANNON |
| BETH | JOLENE | ROSANNA |
| BILLIE JEAN | KYRIE | ROXANNE |
| BRANDY | LAYLA | RUBY TUESDAY |
| CANDIDA | LITTLE JEANNIE | SARA |
| CARRIE ANNE | LUCILLE | SHERRY |
| CECILIA | MAGGIE MAY | SUSIE Q |
| CLAIR | MANDY | SUZANNE |
| DELLAH | MICHELLE | SWEET CAROLINE |
| DELTA DAWN | | |

Yesterday's Solution

Geometry



Hidden sentence: PYTHAGORAS LIVED DURING THE SIXTH CENTURY BEFORE CHRIST

Crossword 2324



ACROSS

1. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
4. Relating to or bordering the Atlantic Ocean.
12. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
15. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
16. A substance derived from amygdalin.
17. Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.
18. A durable fabric formerly loomed by hand in China from natural cotton having a yellowish color.
20. In ancient Semitic folklore.
22. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
23. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
24. Capable of being corrupted.
26. In the area or vicinity.
29. Affect with wonder.
30. A small digital computer based on a microprocessor and designed to be used by one person at a time.
32. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur.
33. An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.
37. A Japanese martial art employing principles similar to judo.
39. Underworld organizations.
41. Satisfy (thirst).
42. Tall evergreen of Japan and China yielding valuable soft wood.
43. Extremely robust.
44. An alliance made up of states that had been Soviet Socialist Republics in the Soviet Union prior to its dissolution in Dec 1991.

46. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
48. A member of a North American people formerly living in the Colorado river valley in Arizona.
51. The act of remitting (especially the referral of a law case to another court).
52. Type genus of the Amiidae.
53. A mountain in the Andes in Argentina (22,047 feet high).
56. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
57. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
60. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
63. French sculptor of monumental female nudes (1861-1944).
66. Crustaceans characteristically having five pairs of locomotor appendages each joined to a segment of the thorax.
70. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
71. True firs.
74. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
75. Nonresinous wood of a fir tree.
76. The slender spear of the Bantu-speaking people of Africa.
78. Bound or secured closely.
79. An interest followed with exaggerated zeal.
80. New Guinea echidnas.
81. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

DOWN

1. Have supper.
2. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
3. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
4. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
5. A city in southeastern South Korea.
6. Russian founder of the Bolsheviks and leader of the Russian Revolution and first head of the USSR (1870-1924).
7. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
8. Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
9. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
10. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,201 feet high).
11. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
12. Payment made to a person in a position of trust to corrupt his judgment.
13. A unit of weight used in some Moslem countries near the Mediterranean.
14. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
19. The eighth month of the Hindu calendar.
21. A light shade of blue.
25. (usually plural) A destructive action.
27. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
28. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.
31. Hairlike projection from the surface of a cell.
34. A fit of shivering.
35. Trade name for an oral contraceptive containing mestranol and norethynodrel.
36. (biology) Of unlike parts or organs.
38. A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
40. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
45. A movement back from an impact.
47. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
49. A spoon-shaped vessel with a long handle.
50. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
54. Of or relating to or characteristic of Hades or Tartarus.
55. Deciduous round-headed Asiatic tree widely grown in mild climates as an ornamental for its heart-shaped leaves and fragrant yellow-green flowers followed by hanging clusters of fleshy orange-red berries.
58. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
59. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
61. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
62. A blanket that is used as a cloak or shawl.
64. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
65. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
67. A roughly cylindrical that is vessel open at the top.
68. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
69. An informal term for a father.
72. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
73. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
77. A white trivalent metallic element.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



TV Listings



00:00 Killers
02:20 Happy Hunting
04:00 Valerian
06:20 Iron Man 3
08:45 Valerian
11:10 Last Action Hero
13:35 Iron Man 3
16:00 12 Rounds
17:55 Bad Boys
20:00 Con Air
22:00 The Hitman's Bodyguard

13:45 Live PD: Police Patrol
14:10 It Takes A Killer
14:40 It Takes A Killer
15:05 Homicide Hunter
16:00 The First 48
17:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 It Takes A Killer
21:30 It Takes A Killer
22:00 60 Days In: Narcoland
23:00 Hero Ink
23:30 Hero Ink



00:45 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
01:40 After The Attack
02:35 Project Grizzly
03:25 Lone Star Law
04:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
05:02 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
05:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees
06:36 Animal Battlegrounds
07:00 Animal Battlegrounds
07:25 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
10:05 Wildest Middle East
12:50 Project Grizzly
13:45 The Vet Life
14:40 Nature's Strangest Mysteries: Solved
15:05 Nature's Strangest Mysteries: Solved
15:35 Monster Island
16:30 Whale Wars
17:25 Animal Cops Houston
18:20 Project Grizzly
19:15 The Vet Life
20:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
21:05 Wild Australia
22:00 After The Attack
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
23:50 The Vet Life

00:25 Roast Battle South Africa
00:50 Roast Battle South Africa
01:15 Tosh.0
01:40 Friends
02:03 Friends
02:25 South Park
02:50 Comedy Central Presents: Menna W FINA
03:20 Tosh.0
03:45 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
04:10 Roast Battle South Africa
04:35 Roast Battle South Africa
05:00 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
07:10 Lip Sync Battle
07:35 Lip Sync Battle
08:00 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
10:15 Friends
12:20 Key And Peele
14:30 Lip Sync Battle
15:00 Lip Sync Battle
15:25 Tattoo Disasters
16:15 Tattoo Disasters
17:10 Friends
19:30 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
21:30 Comedy Central Presents: Menna W FINA
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
22:30 Amy Schumer-Mark Normand: Don't Be Yourself
23:30 Comedy Central Presents: Menna W FINA



00:15 EastEnders
00:45 The ABC Murders
01:45 Holby City
02:40 Hold The Sunset
03:10 Bad Move
03:35 The Coroner
04:20 Father Brown
05:05 Death In Paradise
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Holby City
07:55 Father Brown
08:40 Death In Paradise
09:35 The Coroner
10:20 Holby City
11:15 Hold The Sunset
11:45 Bad Move
12:10 The Coroner
12:55 Father Brown
13:40 Hold The Sunset
14:10 Bad Move
14:35 Holby City
15:30 Doctors
18:30 Agatha Raisin
20:10 The Woman In White
21:05 Line Of Duty
22:00 The Good Karma Hospital
22:50 Blood
23:40 Doctors

00:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:30 Bizarre Foods With Andrew Zimmern
01:20 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
02:10 My Cat From Hell
03:00 Dirty Jobs
03:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
04:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:30 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
06:15 My Cat From Hell
07:00 Dirty Jobs
07:50 Dirty Jobs
08:40 Man v The Universe
09:30 Secret Space Escapes
10:20 Mighty Cruise Ships
11:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
11:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
12:00 Salvage Hunters
12:50 Unchained Reaction
13:40 Powering The Future
14:30 UFOs: The Lost Evidence
15:20 Dirty Jobs
16:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
16:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
17:50 My Cat From Hell
18:40 Dirty Jobs
19:30 Chopped Junior
20:20 The Next Great Magician
21:10 Breaking Magic
21:35 Breaking Magic
22:00 Sci-Jinks
22:50 Keeping Up With The Kruger
23:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things



00:00 Homicide Hunter
01:00 Secrets Of The Morgue
01:55 Homicide: Hours To Kill
02:50 It Takes A Killer
03:20 It Takes A Killer
03:45 Live PD: Police Patrol
04:10 Live PD: Police Patrol
04:30 The First 48
05:15 Homicide Hunter
06:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
07:00 Live PD: Police Patrol
07:20 The First 48
08:05 The First 48
08:50 Homicide Hunter
09:35 Homicide Hunter
10:30 Homicide: Hours To Kill
11:25 Homicide: Hours To Kill
12:20 Crimes That Shook Australia
13:15 Live PD: Police Patrol

00:00 True Nightmares
01:00 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
02:00 Impact Of Murder
03:00 Impact Of Murder

03:45 True Nightmares
04:30 Murder Chose Me
05:20 Murder Comes To Town
06:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
07:00 Someone You Thought You Knew
07:55 Six Degrees Of Murder
08:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
09:45 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
10:40 Murder Comes To Town
11:35 Murder Chose Me
12:30 Murder Chose Me
13:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
14:20 Nightmare Next Door
15:15 Nightmare Next Door
16:10 Murder Comes To Town
17:05 The Perfect Murder
18:00 The Perfect Murder
19:00 Disappeared
20:00 Disappeared
21:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love
23:00 The Shadows Of Death



00:00 Alex & Co.
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Evermoor Chronicles
01:40 Alex & Co.
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Evermoor Chronicles
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:35 Violetta
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Penny On M.A.R.S
07:40 Freaky Friday
09:20 Raven's Home
10:10 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
11:00 Jessie
11:50 Fast Layne
12:40 A.N.T. Farm
13:05 A.N.T. Farm
13:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:20 Stuck In The Middle
15:10 Shake It Up
15:35 Shake It Up
16:00 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Raven's Home
17:40 Wizards Of Waverly Place
18:30 Jessie
19:20 Descendants Wicked World
19:25 Liv And Maddie
20:15 Bizaardvark
21:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:10 101 Dalmatian Street
21:35 101 Dalmatian Street
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Evermoor Chronicles
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Sofia The First S3
00:25 Disney Junior Music Nursery Rhymes S2
00:30 Gigantosaurus S1
01:00 PJ Masks
01:25 PJ Masks
01:50 The Hive
02:00 Zou
02:15 Zou
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 The Hive
03:30 The Hive S2
03:40 Zou
04:25 The Hive
04:35 The Hive
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:10 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 The Hive
05:45 PJ Masks
06:30 Gigantosaurus S1
06:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons S3
07:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Y2
07:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:00 PJ Masks

08:30 Vampirina S2
09:00 Sofia The First S3
09:30 Elena Of Avalor
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 PJ Masks
11:00 Vampirina S2
11:30 Vampirina S2
12:00 Gigantosaurus S1
12:30 Gigantosaurus S1
13:00 Puppy Dog Pals
13:30 Puppy Dog Pals
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 PJ Masks
15:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers S2
15:30 Vampirina
16:00 Sofia The First S4
16:30 Elena Of Avalor
17:00 PJ Masks
17:25 PJ Masks Music Videos S1
17:30 T.O.T.S S1 Splits
17:45 T.O.T.S S1 Splits
18:00 Fancy Nancy S1
18:30 Vampirina S2
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Sofia The First S3
20:25 Vampirina Ghoul Girls Rock!
20:30 Doc McStuffins
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 T.O.T.S S1 Splits
21:45 T.O.T.S S1 Splits
22:00 Fancy Nancy S1
22:30 Vampirina S2
23:00 Paprika
23:30 The Lion Guard



00:15 Dual Survival
01:05 Savage Builds
01:50 Mythbusters
02:35 Salvage Hunters: The Restorers
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Fast N' Loud
04:50 How Do They Do It?
05:15 How Do They Do It?
05:35 Property Wars
06:00 Storage Hunters UK
06:20 Property Wars
06:45 Dual Survival
07:35 Deadliest Catch
08:20 Gold Rush
09:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
09:55 Salvage Hunters
10:45 How Do They Do It?
11:10 How Do They Do It?
11:30 Fast N' Loud
12:20 Fast N' Loud
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 Property Wars
13:55 Salvage Hunters
14:40 Into Alaska
15:30 Wildest Islands
16:15 Aaron Needs A Job
17:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier
17:50 Gold Rush
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:25 Fast N' Loud
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Speed Is The New Black
21:50 Aaron Needs A Job
22:40 Twin Turbos
23:30 Deadliest Catch



00:00 Very Cavallari
01:00 Very Cavallari
02:00 E! News
03:00 WAGs Miami
04:00 WAGs Atlanta
05:00 WAGs Atlanta
06:00 WAGs
07:00 WAGs
08:00 E! News: Daily Pop
08:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
09:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:40 E! News
12:35 Very Cavallari
15:20 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 Very Cavallari
21:00 Very Cavallari
22:00 Very Cavallari

23:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



00:15 Dogfights
01:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
01:45 Cities Of The Underworld
02:30 Jurassic Fight Club
03:15 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
04:00 Ancient Aliens
04:45 Deep Sea Salvage
05:30 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
06:15 What Really Happened
07:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
07:45 Cities Of The Underworld
08:30 Jurassic Fight Club
09:15 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
10:00 Ancient Aliens
10:45 Deep Sea Salvage
11:30 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
12:15 What Really Happened
13:00 Cities Of The Underworld
13:45 Jurassic Fight Club
14:30 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
15:15 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Deep Sea Salvage
16:45 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
17:30 What Really Happened
18:15 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
19:00 Cities Of The Underworld
19:45 Jurassic Fight Club
20:30 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
21:15 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Cowboys & Outlaws
22:45 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
23:30 What Really Happened



00:20 Hunting Hitler
01:05 Storage Wars
01:25 Storage Wars
01:50 American Pickers
02:35 Pawn Stars
03:00 Pawn Stars
03:25 The Lost Evidence
04:15 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
05:05 Forged In Fire
06:00 Counting Cars
06:45 Hunting Hitler
07:30 Storage Wars
07:50 Storage Wars
08:15 American Pickers
09:00 Pawn Stars
09:20 Pawn Stars
09:45 The Lost Evidence
10:30 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
11:15 Forged In Fire
12:00 American Pickers
15:00 Hot Wheels 50th Anniversary Special
15:45 Truck Wars
17:15 Hot Rods And Muscle Cars
18:45 Mountain Men
21:00 The Curse Of Civil War Gold
21:50 The Curse Of Civil War Gold
22:40 American Pickers
23:30 American Pickers



00:00 Fish Tank Kings
01:00 48 Hrs Destination
01:30 48 Hrs Destination
02:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
02:55 Log Cabin Fever
03:50 Living Free With Kimi Werner
04:45 Confucius Was A Foodie
05:40 Chasing The Sun
06:35 World's Best Beaches
07:30 Exploring Malaysia
08:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
09:20 Fish Of The Day
10:15 Fearless Chef
11:10 Chasing The Sun
12:05 World's Best Beaches
13:00 Exploring Malaysia
13:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
14:50 Fish Of The Day
15:45 Fearless Chef
16:40 Chasing The Sun
17:35 Island Hunter

18:30 Confucius Was A Foodie
19:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
20:20 Fish Of The Day
21:15 Fearless Chef
22:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
23:05 Chasing The Sun
23:30 Chasing The Sun



00:00 Buried Secrets Of WWII
00:50 Primal Survivor
01:40 Border Wars
02:30 Genius By Stephen Hawking
03:20 Living Free With Kimi Werner
04:10 Buried Secrets Of WWII
05:00 Primal Survivor
06:00 Border Wars
07:00 Genius By Stephen Hawking
08:00 Buried Secrets Of WWII
09:00 Activate: The Global Citizen Movement
10:00 Scrapyard Supercar
11:00 Man vs Viral
12:00 India's Mega Kitchens
13:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
14:00 Locked Up Abroad
15:00 Activate: The Global Citizen Movement
16:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska
17:00 Scrapyard Supercar
18:00 India's Mega Kitchens
19:00 Man vs Viral
20:00 Activate: The Global Citizen Movement
21:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska
22:00 Locked Up Abroad
23:00 Man vs Viral



00:30 Animal ER
01:30 Born In Africa
02:30 Dog: Impossible
03:30 Borneo's Secret Kingdom
04:30 Shark Men
05:30 Hunter Hunted
06:30 Animal ER
07:30 Shark Men
08:30 World's Deadliest Animals
09:30 Cave Crocs Of Gabon
10:30 Snakes In The City
11:30 Shark Men
12:30 World's Deadliest Animals
13:30 Cave Crocs Of Gabon
14:30 Snakes In The City
15:30 Borneo's Secret Kingdom: Weird And Wild
16:30 Tree Climbing Lions
17:30 Shark Men
18:30 Hunter Hunted
19:30 The Flood
20:30 Snakes In The City
21:30 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
22:30 Little Giant
23:30 Hunter Hunted



00:12 Breadwinners
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
03:00 Regal Academy
03:48 Rabbids Invasion
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Welcome To The Wayne
05:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
05:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
06:12 The Loud House
06:36 Motu Patlu
07:00 Rise Of The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Chop Chop Ninja
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 Regal Academy
08:36 I Am Frankie
09:00 Henry Danger
09:24 The Bureau Of Magical Things
09:48 Game Shakers
10:12 School Of Rock
10:36 The Thundermans
11:00 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards Abu Dhabi 2019
12:20 The Loud House
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have a fine sense of appreciation and are very attentive to your loved ones. You love to help and take care of others, expressing a first-rate sense of compassion. You possess an almost infinite ability to respond to the needs and demands of others. Fragile and refined, you are perhaps too reserved. Your love of truth makes philosophy and religious ideas a life-long habit. You appreciate things of a global or universal level and could learn to love travel. Appearances mean little to you and you value honesty and candor in your partner and friends. Lovely words and a flair for description entertain neighbors and friends in a social scene this afternoon. You are artistic in all its many forms. There is an inner sense of warmth and goodness today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The world is a sacred place to you and you have an absolute commitment to spiritual ideas. You could be enjoying a luncheon with people that are within your spiritual association. Although you may not recognize that you have intuition, it is strong and you use it in helping others. You are sensitive, kind and gentle. You are a romantic too, with a tender heart. You always work for a real future, doing what has to be done. You love all that is musical and artistic. You have a sensitivity to all that is psychic or spiritual. You have real faith. There is a natural appreciation for the past that stands out today as you demonstrate trends or point out tendencies and the possibilities of change. You will enjoy music, young people and being with loved ones.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Sympathy and understanding come into play this Friday as you interact with friends and family. It's wisdom, not knowledge, that counts now. Coming to grips with the past or getting in touch with the spiritual gives you a sense of completeness. If it makes sense you love it, and if it does not, you feel guilty about it—that's what it's like now. A loving attention to details and a sense of satisfaction in doing what is right are some of the qualities that come into play now—especially with respect to your health. You may find yourself at a nearby fruit and vegetable market this afternoon, mentally planning next week's menus. Your energies appear to be in the planning area this evening. You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may be very forceful in what you say and think today. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well. You have much mental drive to accomplish whatever you set out to do today. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into your self-image or into your ideals and dreams. This is a time to reshape and renew your philosophy or religion during which your imagination is at full tilt. There are breakthroughs in compassion and communion. The new and unexpected may figure in your living situation or surroundings. An insight about your support system, your mother, or other females may be important. You could discover a difficult student or a difficult young person opens to you now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized this day. Being appreciated and admired for your creative offerings are powerful needs. Taking chances can bring big rewards. Watch those judgments... They will keep you from joy and your expectations will make you unhappy. The best technique for now is to clear the mind and go-with-the-flow. You may enjoy getting away from your usual routine to do something different for a change. Your desires are strong and you will want to enjoy yourself. Romance is very possible. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life. Travel to a friend's new home may bring about an opportunity to talk about old times and laugh a lot! Take a simple housewarming gift.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are some of the focal points in your life. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have a special appeal for you now; transmitting ideas on a broader scale brings gain. You could decide you want to be a broadcaster on the airwaves. There is much energy and drive, perfect for starting something out or taking care of personal business. Very physical too—exercise is in order. A team effort will pay off, big time. Your emotions and the emotions of those around you are quite clear. This evening is a good time to catch up on family matters and, if needed, improve communications.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may want to organize or rearrange your living situation. You may find ways that will help make it easier to help you remember to put things in their proper place. Marking containers, organizing the garage or utility room may take up most of your day. Later this afternoon you may decide to create a place to have "me time." This would be a nice chair, magazine rack, lamp or a desk where you can write or read or use your computer. Later today you will look for family or friends to join together for a little visiting time. A drive into the country with one of your friends or family members will find you at a garage sale, country vegetable stand or movie. This is a great time to share your time with another person and enjoy discussing all sorts of subjects.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Social connections are on your mind—on a more intellectual level than in the past, most likely. Powerful changes within you are demanding recognition and this may mean a new artistic interest or talent. Recognition will come in time—patience. A friend may want you to ride a motorcycle with him or her, or enter into some other situation that your participation might be worrisome. You may find that you have a problem with saying no. Today you learn to rise above the imagined guilt to state your thoughts. You are surprised at your progress and pleased with yourself. You may decide to look for another challenge so you can try out your new mind-set all over again. You may realize that you have discovered positive new things about you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation this day or feel especially kind toward a friend or neighbor. Someone may compliment you on your belongings. You could find that you are in the mood to share and plans may develop to create a garden between neighbors. There is time today to have new thoughts and sudden insights and to get an unexpected boost in your ideas. Communications are simplified; connections of all kinds, news and so on, are furthered, which could mean the purchase of a camera, new phone, computer or some other form of communication. There is a time later to enjoy some special time with someone you love. General good feeling and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

If there is something that needs to be said on the home front today—speak up now. Others lend their support to whatever you want to accomplish. Move forward instead of backward and keep your thinking in a forward-moving mode. Everything comes together to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions or inventions. Communicating with others in clear, intelligent conversations is important just now. Your timing should be perfect and others will find you most spontaneous. Enjoy a walk after the evening meal, perhaps with a friend or loved one. There are many stars to see.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

If you are a female, you may find yourself hiding from someone today because you forgot to complete your makeup or do not have on the right clothes. Careful, you could knock something over, or run into someone, by running in the opposite direction. If you are a male, you may turn your head to someone's flattery that is not sincere. Look beyond the flattery to what this person is really saying. This is a busy day and one might find you huffing and puffing often. You can get more done than the average person and some things you have been putting off are included in your rush to ready yourself for the week ahead. Do be careful not to break some prized possession. This evening you will be able to relax with friends or loved ones.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is much to do today—fortunately you have the energy to match your goals. You can expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. Free your mind while you work or tend to your projects and find your sense of humor—laugh. Laughter is contagious and will put everyone in a good mood. A family member brings you good news this afternoon. There is much communication surrounding this subject. Phone calls and letters are underway. Your extra confidence may make you a bit outspoken so take care with your words while surrounded by so many people. Pamper yourself this evening, set some of those serious thoughts to the side and enjoy a loved one's attention or pour your own attention onto a loved one.

Country Codes

Afghanistan	0093	Jordan	00962
Albania	00355	Kazakhstan	007
Algeria	00213	Kenya	00254
Andorra	00376	Kiribati	00686
Angola	00244	Kuwait	00965
Anguilla	001264	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Antigua	001268	Laos	00856
Argentina	0054	Latvia	00371
Armenia	00374	Lebanon	00961
Australia	0061	Liberia	00231
Austria	0043	Libya	00218
Bahamas	001242	Lithuania	00370
Bahrain	00973	Luxembourg	00352
Bangladesh	00880	Macau	00853
Barbados	001246	Macedonia	00389
Belarus	00375	Madagascar	00261
Belgium	0032	Majorca	0034
Belize	00501	Malawi	00265
Benin	00229	Malaysia	0060
Bermuda	001441	Maldives	00960
Bhutan	00975	Mali	00223
Bolivia	00591	Malta	00356
Bosnia	00387	Marshall Islands	00692
Botswana	00267	Martinique	00596
Brazil	0055	Mauritania	00222
Brunei	00673	Mauritius	00230
Bulgaria	00359	Mayotte	00269
Burkina Faso	00226	Mexico	0052
Burundi	00257	Micronesia	00691
Cambodia	00855	Moldova	00373
Cameroon	00237	Monaco	00377
Canada	001	Mongolia	00976
Cape Verde	00238	Montserrat	001664
Cayman Islands	001345	Morocco	00212
Central African Republic	00236	Mozambique	00258
Chad	00235	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Chile	0056	Namibia	00264
China	0086	Nepal	00977
Colombia	0057	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Comoros	00269	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Congo	00242	New Caledonia	00687
Cook Islands	00682	New Zealand	0064
Costa Rica	00506	Nicaragua	00505
Croatia	00385	Niger	00227
Cuba	0053	Nigeria	00234
Cyprus	00357	Niue	00683
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Norfolk Island	00672
Czech Republic	00420	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Denmark	0045	North Korea	00850
Diego Garcia	00246	Norway	0047
Djibouti	00253	Oman	00968
Dominica	001767	Pakistan	0092
Dominican Republic	001809	Palau	00680
Ecuador	00593	Panama	00507
Egypt	0020	Papua New Guinea	00675
El Salvador	00503	Paraguay	00595
England (UK)	0044	Peru	0051
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Philippines	0063
Eritrea	00291	Poland	0048
Estonia	00372	Portugal	00351
Ethiopia	00251	Puerto Rico	001787
Falkland Islands	00500	Qatar	00974
Faroe Islands	00298	Romania	0040
Fiji	00679	Russian Federation	007
Finland	00358	Rwanda	00250
France	0033	Saint Helena	00290
French Guiana	00594	Saint Kitts	001869
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Lucia	001758
Gabon	00241	Saint Pierre	00508
Gambia	00220	Saint Vincent	001784
Georgia	00995	Samoa US	00684
Germany	0049	Samoa West	00685
Ghana	00233	San Marino	00378
Gibraltar	00350	Sao Tome	00239
Greece	0030	Saudi Arabia	00966
Greenland	00299	Scotland (UK)	0044
Grenada	001473	Senegal	00221
Guadeloupe	00590	Seychelles	00284
Guam	001671	Sierra Leone	00232
Guatemala	00502	Singapore	0065
Guinea	00224	Slovakia	00421
Guyana	00592	Slovenia	00386
Haiti	00509	Solomon Islands	00677
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Somalia	00252
Honduras	00504	South Africa	0027
Hong Kong	00852	South Korea	0082
Hungary	0036	Spain	0034
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sri Lanka	0094
Iceland	00354	Sudan	00249
India	0091	Suriname	00597
Indian Ocean	00873	Swaziland	00268
Indonesia	0062	Sweden	0046
Iran	0098	Switzerland	0041
Iraq	00964	Syria	00963
Ireland	00353	Taiwan	00886
Italy	0039	Tanzania	00255
Ivory Coast	00225	Thailand	0066
Jamaica	001876	Toga	00228
Japan	0081	Tonga	00676

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

Friday, October 4, 2019

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

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- 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.

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Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES:

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@DrFahadS, @DrFahadS, @DrFahadS
Email: dr.fahad@beautybeyond.com.kw
www.beautybeyond.com.kw

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.
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- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures: echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24-hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

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ENT Specialist

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- Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
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Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm

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

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

Academic Certificates – Training

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

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- Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- G.I. surgeries.
- Thyroid and para - lthyroid surgeries.
- Anal surgeries.

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

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUSANNA MAVELI**, holder of Indian Passport No. H9588802 at present residing in Kuwait hereby change my name to **SUSANNA MAVELI VARGHESE**. (C 5598) 3-10-2019

I have changed my old name **LALITH REDDY** (Indian Passport No. M4640321, issued in Kuwait) to new name **SIDDA LALITH REDDY** with **SIDDA** as surname and **LALITH REDDY** as given name for all purpose. (C 5597) 29-9-2019

I, **Ali Abdul Jamal Mohamed**, holder of Indian Passport No. N9723698

having permanent address **Kannachan Kandy (H) Atholi, Calicut**, residing in Kuwait, hereby change my name to **Abdul Jamal Mohamed Ali (Given Name)**. (C 5680)

I, **SHAHUL HAMEED PUTHUR MOHAMED** holder of Indian Passport No. N8635952 having permanent address **Abrar Manzil, Mogral Puthur, Kasaragod, Kerala, India, Pin Code 671 128**, presently residing in Kuwait hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: **SHAHUL HAMEED** and surname: **PUTHUR MOHAMED**. (C 5681) 27-9-2019

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Fair and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

EMERGENCY

112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

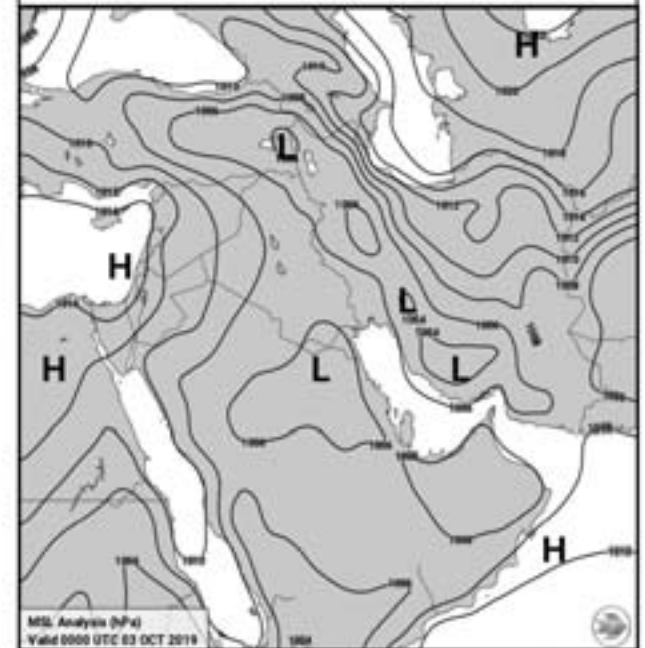
WEATHER WARNING

No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	41 °C	33 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	44 °C	26 °C
ABDALY	43 °C	29 °C
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C
JAHRA	44 °C	29 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C
SALMIYAH	37 °C	34 °C
AHMADI	37 °C	32 °C
NUWAISIB	39 °C	27 °C
WAFRA	44 °C	25 °C
SALMY	45 °C	28 °C

SFC. CHART

03/10/2019 0000 UTC



4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	10/04	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	43 °C	25 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Saturday	10/05	Hot	41 °C	26 °C	NW	12 - 40 km/h
Sunday	10/06	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	41 °C	24 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Monday	10/07	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	38 °C	26 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	04:23
Sunrise	05:42
Zuhr	11:37
Asr	15:00
Sunset	17:32
Isha	18:49

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	43 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	60 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	SE 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Business

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2019

39 US weekly jobless claims rise slightly, but layoffs still low



40 Facebook suffers legal blow in EU court over hate speech



41 EU girds for trade riposte after US ups ante on tariffs



SUNDERLAND: In this file photo, newly manufactured cars are pictured parked in a lot at the company's Sunderland production plant in north east England. Britain's economy appears to have slipped into recession as firms brace for the risk of a disruptive Brexit in just a few weeks' time, according to a survey yesterday. —AFP

British economy flirting with recession

Services shrink unexpectedly as firms brace for a disruptive Brexit

LONDON: Britain's economy appears to have slipped into recession as firms brace for the risk of a disruptive Brexit in just a few weeks' time, according to a survey which showed the dominant services sector took an unexpectedly sharp downturn last month.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised to take Britain out of the European Union by Oct. 31 come what may, despite parliament passing a law ordering him to seek a delay if he cannot secure a new transition deal to soften the economic blow. September's IHS Markit/CIPS services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell by more than any economist predicted in a Reuters poll, tumbling to a six-month low of 49.5, below the 50 level that divides growth from contraction.

It was also the worst reading for service PMIs among major advanced economies in September.

Combined with even weaker manufacturing and construction surveys this week, September's all-sector PMI sank to 48.8 from 49.7, its lowest

since the month after the referendum decision to leave the EU in June 2016, and before that 2009. IHS Markit said the figures suggested Britain's economy shrank by 0.1 percent in the three months to September.

"Coming on the heels of a decline in the second quarter, (this) would mean the UK is facing a heightened risk of recession," IHS Markit economist Chris Williamson said.

British government bond yields fell slightly on the news, which added to speculation that the Bank of England might cut interest rates. But sterling was little changed, and several economists said they believed the PMIs overstated the slowdown. Ruth Gregory at Capital Economics said the PMI surveys did not cover Britain's relatively resilient retail sector nor a recent increase in spending on public services. She stuck to her forecast for 0.3 percent growth in the third quarter.

"Nonetheless, the surveys are probably giving us a reasonable steer on the underlying strength

of economic activity, and the risks to our Q4/Q1 GDP growth forecasts appear to be firmly to the downside," she said in an email to clients. Britain's economy shrank by 0.2 percent in the three months to June - the first decline since 2012 - and a second quarterly contraction would meet the recession definition used in Europe.

On Wednesday, Johnson sent new Brexit proposals to the EU and said that unless the bloc compromised, Britain would leave without a deal at the end of this month. The proposals received a cold reception in Brussels. Leaving the EU without a deal risks causing major disruption to trade, at least in the short term, due to the immediate imposition of new tariffs and regulatory checks at ports.

Britain's economy is also slowing due to global trade tensions. On Wednesday the United States imposed 10 percent tariffs on Airbus planes partly made in Britain and 25 percent duties on whisky and cheese as punishment for EU aircraft subsidies.

'Insidious weakening'

The PMI data are not a fail-safe guide to the outlook for the economy. They overstated economic weakness just before Britain was originally due to leave the EU in March and immediately after the 2016 Brexit referendum. But longer-term trends in the all-sector PMI generally match up well with official quarterly growth numbers.

"September's decline is all the more ominous, being the result of an insidious weakening of demand over the past year rather than a sudden shock," Williamson said. Firms said foreign customers were switching business away from Britain due to fears of a no-deal Brexit and new export orders fell at the sharpest rate since March. Solid consumer demand has so far cushioned Britain's economy from some of the impact of Brexit uncertainty. But the latest survey added to signs from consumer sentiment surveys that jobs could be becoming less secure. Taken as a whole, this week's PMIs pointed to the sharpest fall in employment since December 2009. —Reuters

Business

Trade angst, growth scares haunt global stocks, Wall St falls sharply

US tariffs on EU goods hit already weak sentiment

LONDON: World stocks hovered near four-week lows yesterday and yields on major benchmark bonds slipped after Washington moved to impose new tariffs on European goods, fuelling fears about global growth and dousing risk appetite. US stocks fell sharply yesterday after data showed business activity slowed in September to its lowest level in three years, the latest economic indicator to point to a sharp downturn in the United States.

At 10:02 am ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 232.00 points, or 0.89 percent, at 25,846.62, the S&P 500 was down 21.15 points, or 0.73 percent, at 2,866.46. The Nasdaq Composite was down 62.66 points, or 0.80 percent, at 7,722.59.

Moments before the data, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 17.16 points, or 0.07 percent, at 26,061.46, the S&P 500 was up 2.79 points, or 0.10 percent, at 2,890.40. The Nasdaq Composite was up 6.57 points, or 0.08 percent, at 7,791.82.

MSCI's index of world stocks slipped 0.2 percent. The eurozone benchmark index eked out small gains after suffering their worst day since the early August selloff on Wednesday, when the US got the go-ahead to impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion of European goods.

Washington will enact 10 percent tariffs on Airbus planes and 25 percent duties on French wine, Scotch and Irish whiskies and cheese from across the continent as punishment for illegal EU subsidies to Airbus. But a reduction in the initial list propped up some sectors. Food and beverage stocks and industrial goods enjoyed healthy gains. France's CAC index rose 0.3 percent. German markets—a weather vane for exports—were closed for a national holiday.

Meanwhile, fresh data showed UK services activity unexpectedly contracted, suggesting country was flirting with recession. The FTSE 100, already in the grip of Brexit uncertainties, extend losses to 0.8 percent.

The latest US-European trade tensions added to fears over the standoff between Washington and Beijing, which has cast a shadow over global growth prospects. Earlier in the week, disappointing data on US manufacturing and the jobs market suggested the trade war with China had damaged the world's largest economy.

"The big question for a lot of folks is whether this is the third slowdown since the financial crisis or are we now heading for a global recession," said Anujee Sareen, a fixed income portfolio manager and global macro strategist for Brandywine Global, adding his base case scenario was for a slowdown.

"The wild card in the pack is always Donald Trump and whatever he tweets next." Asian shares had racked up losses earlier in the day. Japan's Nikkei stock index closed down 2 percent, its biggest one-day decline since Aug. 26. US stock futures indicated a flat opening after shares fell the most in nearly six weeks on Wednesday. All three major New York share indexes lost more than 1.5 percent.

"Risk aversion is broadly on the rise and that has been triggered by the weakness in US manufacturing ISM data earlier this week," said Manuel Oliveri, an FX strategist at Credit Agricole in London. "The outperformance of the US economy compared to other major economies has held the dollar and other risky assets up but that has changed this week."

In currency markets, the dollar rebounded



TOKYO: Pedestrians walk in front of an electric quotation board displaying the numbers on the Nikkei 225 index at the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

from against the Japanese yen to trade at 107.12 yen. It at \$1.0955 per euro. The dollar index traded unchanged. Sterling was unfazed at \$1.2306 despite a surprise contraction as investors waited for a European Union response to Britain's latest Brexit offer.

So far, the last-ditch Brexit proposal offered by Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday

has received a cool reception. One senior EU official said it "can't fly" because it was an unworkable move backwards that left Britain and the EU far apart. Brent crude prices slipped 0.3 percent to \$57.44 per barrel. Energy traders are worried about a slowing global economy, an over-supplied market and geopolitical friction in the Middle East. — Reuters

Mauritius launches first phase of light rail system

PORT LOUIS: Mauritius launched the first phase of a \$525 million light rail system yesterday, hoping to cut traffic jams with the Indian Ocean island's biggest infrastructure project. Mauritius has long relied on tourism for public revenue and employment, but the authorities are trying to woo investors in other sectors including finance to diversify the economy and make it more resilient.

The railway's first stage of 13 km inaugurated by Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth will connect Rose Hill, a town in the central part of the island, to the capital Port Louis. When completed, the 26 km (16-mile) route will connect Curepipe, a town in central Mauritius, to the capital Port Louis. It is expected to have 19 stations and four interchanges. "This is the biggest project ever undertaken in our country," Jugnauth said at the launch ceremony, which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended via video conference.

The network is being built by Indian firm Larsen and Toubro and funded by an Indian government grant of \$275 million and a \$250 million line of credit. Metro Express Ltd, the Mauritian firm supervising the construction of the line, says it expects it to be profitable by 2022. It is expected that the light rail system will be used by some 55,000 people daily when it is fully operational. — Reuters

Italy to unblock frozen funds, pushing up 2019 deficit

ROME: Italy has lifted a block on 2019 spending that was agreed by the previous government with the European Commission, in a surprise move that will result in a higher deficit this year but which means the budget gap will not widen in 2020. The cabinet will formally approve 1.5 billion euros (\$1.64 billion) of spending for this year at a meeting, three government sources told Reuters this week. Most of it will be allocated to the economic ministry, but it is not known how it will be spent. The prime minister's office yesterday confirmed that unblocking the funds would be discussed at the meeting. The anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and the right-wing League agreed in July to freeze the money as part of a deal to convince Brussels to sign off on its 2019 budget and avoid disciplinary action.

Under that deal, Rome agreed to lower this year's deficit to 2.04 percent of gross domestic product, down from a previous target of 2.4 percent and down from a ratio of 2.2 percent in 2018. The new coalition of 5-Star and the center-left

Democratic Party (PD) on Monday set a deficit target of 2.2 percent for next year, as expected, but many analysts were surprised when it also announced this year's goal was hiked to 2.2 percent from 2.04 percent. The move means Rome will definitely miss its deficit target agreed with the European Commission, but it also means the deficit will remain stable in 2020, rather than rise.

It remains to be seen how this will be viewed by the Commission, which has yet to sign off on Italy's budget plans. The new government is widely considered more pro-Europe than the previous one, contributing to improved relations with Brussels. A senior official who asked not to be named told Reuters the upward revision for this year was due to a slowdown in growth, lower than forecast revenues and unexpected problems in a plan to sell off public real estate.

Nevertheless, if the freeze on spending had been maintained, the deficit would have remained much closer to the target agreed with Brussels. Under the government's latest plans, the 2020 headline deficit will remain at 2.2 percent of GDP for a third consecutive year. The "structural" deficit, which is stripped of the effect of growth fluctuations and is the measure most closely watched by Brussels, will rise to 1.4 percent from 1.2 percent in 2019. Economy Minister Roberto Gualtieri told Reuters the increase in the 2019 deficit was justified because the structural deficit would still fall by 0.3 percent of GDP this year. Next year, however, it is targeted to rise by 0.1 points, in defiance of a commitment to Brussels in July that it should fall by 0.6 points. — Reuters

US weekly jobless claims rise slightly, but layoffs still low

Weekly jobless claims increase 4,000 to 219,000

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits rose marginally last week, suggesting the labor market remains strong even as employers are becoming more cautious about hiring workers.

Labor market strength was reinforced by other data yesterday showing a sharp drop in layoffs announced by US-based employers in September. The lowest unemployment rate in nearly 50 years is supporting consumer spending, keeping the economy on a moderate growth path despite a slump in manufacturing. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 219,000 for the week ended Sept. 28, the Labor Department said.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast claims would increase to 215,000 in the latest week. The Labor Department said no states were estimated last week. Claims have now increased for three straight weeks. Some of the rise in claims could be the result of an ongoing strike by workers at General Motors. While striking workers are not eligible for unemployment benefits, the work stoppage has affected production, impacting non-striking employees at suppliers. There was a jump in manufacturing claims in Michigan during the week ended Sept. 21.

In a separate report yesterday, global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas

said job cuts announced by US-based employers fell 22.3 percent to a five-month low of 41,557 in September. US stock index futures were flat while prices of US Treasuries were slightly higher. The dollar was largely unchanged against a basket of currencies.

Hiring slowdown

Though layoffs remain low, there are signs a 15-month trade war between the United States and China, which has weighed on business confidence and pushed manufacturing into recession, is making companies hesitant to hire workers. An Institute for Supply Management survey on Tuesday showed a measure of manufacturing employment dropped to more than a 3-1/2-year low in September. That was followed by a report on Wednesday showing private employers added only 135,000 jobs to their payrolls last month. The reports bolstered expectations that the government's closely watched employment report on Friday would show another month of moderate job growth in September.

According to a Reuters survey of economists, nonfarm payrolls probably increased by 145,000 jobs in September after rising by 130,000 in August. Job gains have averaged 158,000 per month this year, still above the roughly 100,000 needed each month to keep up with growth in the working-age population.



WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits rose marginally last week, suggesting the labor market remains strong even as employers are becoming more cautious about hiring workers. —AFP

The unemployment rate is forecast to be unchanged at 3.7 percent for a fourth straight month in September. Economists say it is unclear whether the loss of momentum in hiring is due to ebbing demand for labor or a shortage of qualified workers. Slowing job growth could curb consumer spending, which has been the economy's main growth engine.

The four-week moving average of initial

claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, was unchanged at 212,500 last week. The number of people receiving benefits after an initial week of aid fell 5,000 to 1.65 million for the week ended Sept. 21, the lowest level since October 2018. The four-week moving average of the so-called continuing claims declined 5,750 to 1.66 million. — Reuters

In austerity-scarred Portugal, fiscal discipline is a vote winner

LISBON: Portugal's Socialist Prime Minister Antonio Costa aims to retain power at Sunday's parliamentary election with a pledge that looks like an unlikely vote-winner for western Europe's poorest country - no backtracking on tight spending controls.

As populist governments across the rest of Europe look to ramp up spending amid fears of recession, Costa has campaigned for fiscal discipline to preserve the hard-won results of austerity imposed in the wake of Portugal's 2011 debt crisis. And the strategy appears to be working. The centre-left Socialists are well ahead in opinion polls after recording the lowest budget deficit in the 45 years of Portugal's democratic history. And the economy is on course to grow 1.9% this year, above the EU average.

"Perhaps it's best for the austerity not to end completely, or we run the risk of going overboard as happened before the crisis," said Nuno Almeida, 31, a karate teacher in the town of Barreiro, south of Lisbon. Almeida, who has a second job in a publishing house, said he plans to vote for the Socialists because they "balance out discipline and progress".

"People don't want to go through the suffering again and are now much more lucid about deficits and the budget," said Almeida, whose livelihood was hit when he lost many of his fee-paying pupils during the 2011-14 crisis. While Costa's government declared in 2016 that it had "turned the page on austerity" by reversing some pay cuts and tax hikes imposed by the previous administration, it has since become more frugal. It has refused to raise salaries for teachers and civil servants, while the total tax burden reached a record high 35.4 percent of GDP in 2018.

Even with wages largely stuck at pre-crisis levels of almost a

decade ago, ordinary people say they have felt improvements lately. "During the crisis, a lot was taken from us," said Pedro Campos, a tram driver on Lisbon's Route 28 which is popular with tourists. "Our wage returned to what it was before the crisis ... I believe the country will continue to evolve." Tourism is Portugal's major source of revenue and has helped its recovery.

Finance minister Mario Centeno, who is also chairman of the Eurogroup of euro zone finance ministers, now promises a small budget surplus next year, but so does the main opposition centre-right party PSD, which could make potential post-election agreements easier. The Socialists are still unlikely to win an outright majority but are expected to increase their number of seats in parliament.

In a sign that Centeno's tenure has become a standard for sound fiscal and economic policies, PSD leader Rui Rio told Costa in a recent debate: "I also have my own Mario Centeno". Any deviation from the deficit-busting course is politically risky, as Rio knows from the European elections in May, when PSD suffered its worst-ever result, capturing just 22 percent of the vote.

Just ahead of those elections, Costa had accused PSD of compromising fiscal stability when PSD briefly sided with the far-left in backing a bill that would have raised teachers' wages. The bill was never approved. "The big irony of this election ... and the big difficulty for the right is that they have lost the banner of budget balance and the Socialists have raised it," said political analyst Antonio Costa Pinto. "The centre-right and the centre-left appreciate these values, and that's the bulk of the electorate."

Even the far-left parties have contributed to the deficit-cutting policies, helping to approve all four annual budgets despite blaming underfunded public healthcare and education on Centeno's "obsession with the deficit".

Centeno rejects such claims, arguing that public spending is increasing, if at a pace well below that of revenues, but is disciplined. "Portugal's back-and-forth erratic public investment policy is a thing of the past now," Centeno said this week, as the government now only proceeds with viable investment projects that have guaranteed financing. — Reuters

Spar Nord becomes third Danish bank to adopt negative interest on deposits

COPENHAGEN: Danish lender Spar Nord said yesterday it will impose negative rates on large deposits by private clients, making it the third Danish bank to do so, in a move that could send wealthy clients running. European banks say they are struggling under negative rates imposed by central banks but few have imposed negative rates on private clients so far.

"It is now clear, that negative rates are not a passing phenomenon," CEO Lars Moller said in a statement. Spar Nord, Denmark's sixth biggest bank, will introduce a minus 0.75 percent interest rate on deposits by private individuals holding more than \$110,000 in their accounts, while lowering the already negative rate for corporate clients to 0.75 percent as well.

"We believe it is both natural and in line with the monetary policy intentions of the ECB and Denmark's Central Bank that negative rates to a larger degree also materialize on the deposit side," Moller said.

Denmark, which was among the first countries to introduce negative rates in 2012, cut its key deposit rate to minus 0.75 percent last month, a record low among developed economies. The second largest bank in Denmark, Jyske Bank, said in September it had to pass on part of the costs of negative interest rate to customers, when it announced a similar move. — Reuters

Business

Facebook suffers legal blow in EU court over hate speech

Decision a victory for EU regulators

LUXEMBOURG: Facebook on Wednesday was dealt a major blow in the EU's top court, which ruled that national courts in Europe can order online platforms to remove defamatory content worldwide.

The decision will be seen as a victory for EU regulators, who are ambitious to see US tech giants meet tightened European standards over hate speech and offensive content.

Last week, the same court decided that Google was not legally compelled to apply the EU's strict "right to be forgotten" rules globally, in a victory for the search giant.

In a closely watched judgment, the European Court of Justice said EU law "does not preclude" courts from ordering "the removal of information or to block access worldwide," a statement said.

The latest case was brought originally to an Austrian court by Greens party politician Eva Glawischnig-Piesczek, who requested the removal of Facebook posts that the judges found defamed her and could be seen by users of the social network around the world. The complaint also concerned messages from fictitious accounts, which according to the Greens, had called Glawischnig-Piesczek a "corrupt" person and which the social network refused to delete.

A higher Austrian court referred the case to

the EU's top court for an opinion and the judgment, which cannot be appealed, will now be used as a reference Europe-wide.

With the decision, Facebook and similar platforms such as Twitter, face a greater obligation to monitor their content and take down content found to be offensive or hateful, even from fake accounts.

Facebook slammed the EU court's decision, saying "it undermines the long-standing principle that one country does not have the right to impose its laws on speech on another country."

It also deplored the obligation to track down "equivalent" content that duplicates offensives or hateful language.

'Chilling effect'

"In order to get this right, national courts will have to set out very clear definitions on what 'identical' and 'equivalent' means in practice," a Facebook statement said "We hope the courts take a proportionate and measured approach, to avoid having a chilling effect on freedom of expression," it said. Glawischnig-Piesczek, the victim of the hate speech, hailed the decision as "a historic success for human rights against web giants".

"It in no way infringes freedom of opinion,"



This file photo in Nantes shows the logo of the US online social media and social networking service, Facebook. — AFP

Glawischnig-Piesczek told the Austrian news agency APA.

EU-wide rules on hate speech are limited. So far, online giants including Google's Youtube, have agreed to voluntarily take down hateful or

dangerous content, including those linked to terrorism, within 24 hours. However, the EU is expected to propose tougher Europe-wide measures including fines if Facebook and others fail to comply with orders. — AFP

German bond yields fall as US warns of tariffs on EU

LONDON: Government bond yields in safe-haven Germany fell for the first time in over a week yesterday, after the United States said it would impose tariffs on the European Union, heightening the region's recession risks.

A eurozone bond rally stalled this week — while US Treasury prices shot up and yields tumbled — as concern grew that the European Central Bank had limited room to boost growth and inflation. But as stock markets came under pressure, jittery investors turned back to safe-haven government bonds.

The United States on Wednesday said it would impose 10 percent tariffs on European-made Airbus planes and 25 percent duties on European products such as French wine as punishment for illegal EU aircraft subsidies. Ten-year bond yields across the euro area fell 3 to 4 basis points on the day. The drop accelerated after bond auctions in France and Spain. Germany's 10-year Bund yield fell to -0.58 percent, falling for the first time in over a week. It was down 3 bps, set for its biggest one-day fall in a week and a half.

"We have been surprised by the uptick in bond yields in the past week, but the trend has been for lower rates given the package from the ECB," said Benjamin Schroeder, senior rates strategist at ING, referring to the ECB decision last month to cut rates and resume asset purchases. "What has helped now from across the Atlantic was the weak data," he added. On Tuesday, the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said its U.S. manufacturing activity index fell in September to its lowest in a decade, fuelling expectations the Federal Reserve would cut rates this month. — Reuters

South Africa, Nigeria mend relations and agree trade deals

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa and Nigeria signed 30 trade and cooperation agreements yesterday, weeks after a wave of violence against Nigerian nationals in Johannesburg and Pretoria had strained relations between Africa's top two economies.

In September, mobs armed with makeshift weapons attacked businesses and homes owned by foreigners, leading to at least 10 deaths, dozens of injuries and up to 400 arrests.

In response Nigeria repatriated around 600 of its citizens living in South Africa. Presidents Cyril Ramaphosa and Muhammadu Buhari, at the conclusion of a two-day visit by the Nigerian leader, said they regretted the violence and subsequent retaliation in Nigeria against South African businesses, pledging instead to deepen trade ties.

The local units of South African telecoms company MTN and supermarket chain Shoprite closed all stores and service centers in Nigeria after their premises were attacked by Nigerians protesting against attacks on their compatriots in South Africa. "As the government of South Africa, we have expressed our deep regret



JOHANNESBURG: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari. South Africa and Nigeria signed 30 trade and cooperation agreements yesterday.

at the attacks directed at foreign nationals and our condemnation of all forms of intolerance and acts of violence," Ramaphosa told journalists.

Ramaphosa said the two countries had sealed 32 bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding covering trade and industry, science and technology, defense, agriculture and energy.

Nigeria accounts for 64 percent of

South Africa's total trade with the West African Region and is one of its largest trading partners on the continent. Buhari said beyond the economic partnership the anti-foreigner violence had to be addressed quickly.

"We decided to take concrete measures to prevent the recurrence of such unacceptable incidents in the future," Buhari said. — Reuters

Business

EU girds for trade riposte after US ups ante on tariffs

Washington gets WTO nod to act on Airbus subsidies

PARIS: European nations scrambled yesterday to prepare a response to new US tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of EU goods after Washington got the go-ahead from the World Trade Organization to strike back over state subsidies for planemaker Airbus. But officials also indicated they still hoped to find common ground to avoid escalating trade tensions that risk battering economies across the globe.

"We've been arguing for a trade deal for months. Our hand is extended," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said. "I hope the United States will listen to this voice, which to my mind is the voice of reason." Le Maire told journalists in Paris, calling Washington's move to tax \$7.5 billion of EU imports a "serious economic mistake."

US President Donald Trump has already imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, saying America has gotten a raw trade deal from its partners. The Airbus ruling on Wednesday marked the first time the WTO has cleared the United States to impose countermeasures on EU products under international trade law.

"A nice victory!" Trump wrote on Twitter, saying the EU "has for many years treated the USA very badly on Trade due to Tariffs, Trade Barriers, and more." However, the EU has also filed a WTO suit claiming illegal aid for Airbus's US rival Boeing, with a decision expected in the coming months.

In the meantime, the bloc has warned it will retaliate in kind. "If the American administration refuses to accept the hand extended by France and the EU, we are ready to respond with sanctions approved within the WTO framework," Le Maire said.

'Hit US consumers'

In the immediate line of fire are civilian air-



In this file photo, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer testifies during a Senate Finance Committee hearing in Washington, DC.

craft from Britain, France, Germany and Spain—the countries which formed Airbus—which will cost 10 percent more when imported to the US from October 18. According to US data, the country imported about \$3.5 billion in aircraft from the EU in 2018. But the tariffs also target consumer products like French wine, which Trump had vowed to take aim at in recent months. Bottles from France, Spain and Germany will now face 25 percent tariffs.

Cheeses from across Europe will also cost 25 percent more for American consumers, as will "Made in England" suits, cashmere

(Swiss) franc mortgages will be able to claim their rights in courts," Kwiecinski said, adding that the finance ministry was monitoring the situation in the banking sector.

Around 700,000 Polish households took out mortgages in Swiss francs more than a decade ago, attracted by low interest rates. They were hit hard when the zloty depreciated sharply against the franc, nearly doubling the costs of their loans.

The CJEU ruling will serve as a precedent for further litigation in the Polish courts, a lengthy process which experts say will give banks time to build up buffers.

Swiss franc mortgage holder Barbara Husiew accused banks of "greed" and acting in "bad faith" at a special press conference in Warsaw yesterday organized by fellow borrowers to watch a live broadcast of the CJEU ruling. "Banksters, prepare to be whipped in courts rooms," she said, adding that a "tsunami (of litigation) will flood courts."

There are currently around 500,000 Swiss franc mortgages worth some 100 billion zloty. They account for around 20 percent of all housing loans in Poland. Melina Skouridou, a senior analyst with global ratings agency Moody's, has described the performance of the Swiss franc mortgages as "relatively good", despite the fact the value of the currency has nearly doubled against the zloty. —AFP



PARIS: Washington got the go-ahead from the World Trade Organization to strike back over state subsidies for planemaker Airbus. —AFP photos

sweaters and pyjamas. Italian farmers breathed a sigh of relief, since Italian favorites such as tomatoes, olive oil and wine will not be taxed.

The Coldiretti agriculture body said Thursday the US tariffs would impact 500 million euros' (almost \$550 million's) worth of the roughly four billion euros of Italian food exports to the United States. The EU meanwhile warned yesterday the tariffs would only end up hurting Americans' wallets.

"This is a move that will first and foremost hit

US consumers and companies, and will make efforts towards a negotiated settlement more complicated," Commission spokesman Daniel Rosario said in Brussels. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said Wednesday he expected to begin talks with Brussels soon to try and resolve the dispute. The EU and United States have reached such settlements in the past. But European officials had already offered in July to call a truce on subsidies for airplane makers, in which both sides would admit fault and agree to curtail state aid—to no avail. —AFP

Polish banks brace for lawsuits after EU court ruling

WARSAW: Polish banks braced for a slew of lawsuits yesterday after the EU's top court ruled Poles holding crippling foreign-currency mortgages could renegotiate them, a potentially costly move for both banks and the Polish economy. Estimates of the potential losses for lenders vary, with experts indicating the banks concerned could reach from one to six times of their 2018 earnings.

The Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the European Union ruled yesterday in favor of Polish mortgage holders, affirming their right to petition domestic courts to restructure loans containing abusive clauses. "Some banks used illegal, abusive, terms that were prohibited," Polish Finance Minister Jerzy Kwiecinski told reporters in Warsaw, reacting to the CJEU's ruling.

"This means that the owners of this type of

US tariffs grate on Italy's Parmesan cheesemakers

MILAN: US consumers will pay around \$5 a kilogram more for Italian Parmesan cheese because of duties announced by Washington on a range of European goods, a cheesemaking consortium said yesterday, complaining it was set to take an unfair hit in the trade spat.

According to Consorzio Parmigiano Reggiano the duties on Parmesan products will go from \$2.15 per kilogram to around \$6 per kilo, meaning the US consumer will have to pay more than \$45 per kilo as of Oct. 18 from around \$40 per kilo at present. Nicola Bertinelli, president of the con-

sortium, said he was dismayed at the move, adding it would unjustly impact one of the strongest sectors of Italy's economy.

"Italy, which has got nothing to do with the Airbus consortium, finds itself having to foot a bill that is quite frankly meaningless," he said. The United States announced on Wednesday it would slap 10 percent tariffs on European-made Airbus planes and 25 percent duties on French wine, Scotch and Irish whiskies, and cheese from across the continent as punishment for illegal EU aircraft subsidies.

Last year the Parmesan Consortium sold around 2.4 billion euros worth of cheese to consumers, with more than 40 percent of production earmarked for export. The United States is its second-biggest export market receiving around 10,000 tons of the cheese per year from a total export production of 54,000 tons. Bertinelli called for the European Union to take extraordinary measures to make sure the tariffs did not have a traumatic impact on the industry. — AFP

Sports

Diaz strikes quickly, leads Rays to wild-card win over Oakland

OAKLAND: Who bats their first baseman lead-off? The Tampa Bay Rays did Wednesday night, and largely because of it, they'll get at least three more chances to do it this postseason. Yandy Diaz hit two home runs, one on Sean Manaea's fifth pitch of the game, as the Rays overpowered the host Oakland Athletics 5-1 in the American League wild-card game.

By hitting four homers to win the single-elimination affair, the Rays advance to a best-of-five AL Division Series against the AL West champion Astros. Game 1 is Friday in Houston. The wild-card loss was the second straight for the A's, who dropped their ninth straight winner-take-all playoff game dating to 1973. Oakland lost 7-2 to the New York Yankees in last year's AL wild-card game.

Diaz, who returned Sunday from a two-month layoff caused by a fractured left foot, worked Manaea to a 3-1 count as the game's first batter before driving a fastball over the wall in right field. After the A's left the bases loaded against Rays starter Charlie Morton (1-0) in the bottom of the first, Avisail Garcia followed a second-inning infield single by Matt Duffy with a two-run homer, increasing the Tampa Bay advantage to 3-0.

Diaz made it 4-0 when he belted a carbon-copy homer to right off Manaea leading off the third, ending the Oakland left-hander's night. "I'm probably the happiest guy on the team right now," Diaz said on the field immediately after the win. "I was just trying to get good pitches to hit,

and luckily they went out." With homers in each of his first two postseason plate appearances, Diaz became just the fourth player to accomplish that feat.

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The two-homer game was his second of the year. He also went deep twice against the Yankees in May. Manaea (0-1) was charged with four runs on four hits in two-plus innings. He struck out five and did not issue a walk. "It looked to me like same pitch three times," A's manager Bob Melvin told reporters afterward. "To get four hits off him and three of them are homers, you have to give them credit."

The A's used a three-base throwing error by Rays third baseman Michael Brosseau to score their only run in the last of the third. After Marcus Semien reached third on the miscue, Ramon Laureano drove him home with a sacrifice fly. Tommy Pham completed the Tampa Bay scoring with a homer off Yusmeiro Petit in the fifth. Morton worked through a high pitch count to go five innings, allowing just one unearned run on five hits. He walked three and struck out four. The veteran threw 94 pitches.

"They were putting pressure on me all night," Morton told ESPN during an in-game interview. "They never really had that one big moment. A lot of that is luck. Sometimes the ball will find a hole; tonight it didn't." Diego Castillo (two innings), Nick Anderson (1 1/3) and Emilio Pagan (two-thirds) blanked the A's the rest of the way.



OAKLAND: Yandy Diaz #2 of the Tampa Bay Rays hits a solo home run off Sean Manaea #55 of the Oakland Athletics in the third inning of the American League Wild Card Game at RingCentral Coliseum. — AFP

Diaz finished 3-for-4 and Pham 2-for-4 for the Rays, who also won their previous trip to the AL wild-card game, eliminating the Cleveland Indians 4-0 in 2013.

Jurickson Profar and Robbie Grossman had two hits each for the A's, whose eight hits in the

game were all singles. The A's outhit the Rays 8-7. "They kinda beat us at our game," Melvin said. "We're usually a home-run-hitting team, and we couldn't do much. And they hit the ball out of our ballpark, which at night can be tough to do." — Reuters

NHL champion Blues fall in overtime to Caps

LOS ANGELES: The St. Louis Blues raised their NHL championship banner and raced to a 2-0 lead on Wednesday before the Washington Capitals roared back to capture their season-opener 3-2 in overtime. Jakub Vrana scored the game-winner for the Caps in the duel of the last two Stanley Cup champions. Washington had tied the game with 7:32 remaining in the second period with a power play goal by Dmitry Orlov.

The Blues opened the evening at Enterprise Center in St. Louis celebrating their run to a first Stanley Cup championship last season. Blues players filed past the Stanley Cup during player introductions, and Ryan O'Reilly carried on the Conn Smythe Trophy, which he won voted as Most Valuable Player of the playoffs. He was followed by captain Alex Pietrangolo, who took the Stanley Cup on a procession around the ice to commemorate the Blues' seven-game victory over the Boston Bruins in last season's Stanley Cup finals.

An energized St. Louis scored just 53 seconds into the contest against the 2018 Stanley Cup champion Capitals as Sammy Blais finished off a pass from David Perron. Alex Pietrangolo made it 2-0 on a power-play goal, firing in a one-timer off a defensive pass from Justin Faulk. Alex Ovechkin scored with 4:23 remaining in the period to put the Capitals on the board. Washington knotted the score with 7:32 left in the second on a power-play goal by Dmitry Orlov. The contest was one of four opening night games. Ottawa's Brady Tkachuk scored the first goal of the season 24 seconds into the Senators' game against the Toronto Maple Leafs. But Auston Matthews' opening night magic continued, the Maple Leafs center scoring twice in a 5-3 victory over the Sens. — AFP

Salazar makes brutal 40-year run from legend to disgrace

LOS ANGELES: Alberto Salazar pushed himself to the brink and beyond as an athlete, and preached the same philosophy as a coach to distance running stars. But the 61-year-old Cuban-born American's will to win finally went too far, according to the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), which has banned him for four years for multiple doping violations. Salazar has been a major figure in American athletics for four decades.

He won the 1980, 1981 and 1982 New York Marathons and the 1982 Boston Marathon, and later coached such stars as Britain's Mo Farah, the 2012 and 2016 Olympic champion at 5,000 and 10,000 meters. Salazar arrived in the United States as a toddler. His father was a friend of Fidel Castro who fought alongside him in the revolution but later opposed the Communist government.

The family moved to suburban Boston, where Salazar won a state cross country crown in 1975. He helped the University of Oregon capture the US collegiate cross country title in 1977, taking national college individual honors the following year. In 1980, Salazar qualified for the US Olympic team at 10,000m, but the Americans boycotted the Moscow Games and Salazar tackled a new challenge: the marathon. He quickly conquered the 26.2-mile (42.195km) event.

At 22, Salazar won his marathon debut in New York, then set a career-best of 2hrs 8mins 13secs to defend his title. In 1982, he took New York and claimed his only Boston Marathon title in what was dubbed the "Duel in the Sun" with Dick Beardsley. After besting Beardsley in a sprint finish, a dehydrated Salazar collapsed and had to be treated in hospital with intravenous fluids.

Salazar finished 15th in the marathon at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, then trained and competed until retiring in the mid-

1990s, when he began moving into coaching, joining with Nike to form the Oregon Project in 2001 to train distance runners. The program includes Donovan Brazier — who won the 800m world title Monday as news of Salazar's ban exploded into the athletics scene — and Sifan Hassan, who won the women's 10,000m world crown two days earlier.

Stripped of his credentials at the World Championships in Doha, Salazar has vowed to fight the ban, which was handed down for violations including trafficking testosterone, tampering with the athlete doping control process and using banned infusion techniques. A four-year ban was also issued to Dr. Jeffrey Brown, who was a physician for numerous Nike Oregon athletes, and a paid consultant on performance enhancement for the Project, part of a scheme to manipulate testosterone levels without testing positive. "While acting in connection with the Nike Oregon Project, Mr. Salazar and Dr. Brown demonstrated that winning was more important than the health and wellbeing of the athletes they were sworn to protect," USADA chief executive Travis T. Tygart said.

Salazar said he was "shocked by the outcome" of USADA's years-long investigation. Farah won the first Olympic gold for the Nike Oregon Project in 2012 in London in the 10,000m event. Longtime Salazar pupil Galen Rupp took the silver just behind him, and Farah went on to claim the 5,000m gold. But Steve Magness, who spent 18 months as Salazar's assistant coach in the project before leaving shortly before the London Olympics, spoke out as a whistleblower when BBC's Panorama and ProPublica investigated doping allegations around Salazar in 2015.

Testimonies from various figures alleged microdosing of testosterone, among other suspicious actions. Salazar denied wrongdoing. Farah stuck with him and won another golden double at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016. Rupp took marathon bronze and Nike Oregon's Matt Centrowitz won the 1,500m. But doping allegations nagged. Farah left Salazar in October 2017.

The USADA case against Salazar and Brown went to the American Arbitration Association, with hearings conducted in May and June 2018 setting the stage for the arbitration rulings handed down Monday. — AFP

Sports

Indian women's cricket sensation needed boy's haircut to play

NEW DELHI: India's 15-year-old women's cricket sensation Shafali Verma had to get her hair cut like a boy so that she could get into the local academy to train, her father said. Now India's cricket establishment is relying on Verma, who made her Twenty20 debut for the national team against South Africa last month and will soon go on a tour of the West Indies. The teenager has become known for her aggressive batting. But her father Sanjeev Verma told of the struggle to get her daughter accepted in games.

"I introduced her to cricket when she was eight or nine. I used to take her to play neighborhood teams on Sundays," he said. "Most teams refused to play against her. They said that she could get hurt and that I would complain if that happened. "Even when I insisted she was my daughter and I was okay, most didn't agree," said Verma, who makes jewelry in Rohtak near New Delhi. That is when he decided to give her a "boy's haircut" to trick opponents. "At eight or nine, all kids look the same. After the haircut, most didn't even notice she was a girl and she started playing regularly at weekends," he said.

The father said he was never worried about

seeing her play against male teams, believing it would improve her skills. But when he tried to get professional training, he hit a new equality obstacle when academies refused to take Shafali. "Most in town refused to take a girl. I eventually found one which took boys and girls. It was eight kilometers from our house and she used to cycle there for training each day," the proud parent added.

Father and daughter are "diehard fans" of Sachin Tendulkar, holder of many scoring records and a legend in Indian cricket. "I have always been a Sachin fan and I made sure that I introduced her to his batting very early. We watched so many Sachin innings together," he said. With Shafali already in the national team, at least two other members of the Verma family hope to find cricket success. Shafali's 17-year-old brother, Sahil, also hopes to rise through the ranks. "Even my youngest daughter Nancy, 6, has started playing cricket. Both of them are inspired by their sister. I just hope she plays for national team for a long time and is part of the first Indian women's team to win the World Cup," he said. — AFP



SURAT: In this photo taken on September 28, 2019 cricketer Shafali Verma trains during an Indian cricket team practice session in Surat, ahead of a Twenty20 match between India and South Africa. — AFP

Asher-Smith delivers historic 200m gold for Britain

DOHA: Dina Asher-Smith became the first British woman to win a short sprint world title on Wednesday with a dominant performance in the 200 meters. The 23-year-old — silver medalist in the 100m — led from the start to time a national record 21.88 seconds at the Khalifa Stadium. Asher-Smith — winning only Britain's second medal over 100/200m in the championships with Kathy Smallwood-Cook taking a bronze in the 200m in 1983 — said she was still in shock.

"I don't know what to say. I don't think it's properly sunk in," an emotional Asher-Smith told the BBC. "Jon (Blackie) and I knew I could do it, it means so much. "I woke up today thinking 'this is it. This is the moment you did all your work for'. The tiredness disappeared. "All the support means so much. For my mum, my dad and his wife to be here, it means so much. "I'm lost for words. I dreamt of this and now it's real."

Brittany Brown of the United States took silver in 22.22sec and Mujinga Kambundji of Switzerland was third in 22.51sec. Asher-Smith showed no signs of nerves at being title favorite bursting from the blocks to round the bend in control of the race. Brown gave chase down the straight but the Briton never faltered crossing the line clear of the field and put her hands to her face when she realized she had also set a new British record and added the world title to the Euro-



DOHA: Britain's Dina Asher-Smith celebrates after winning the Women's 200m final at the 2019 IAAF Athletics World Championships at the Khalifa International stadium. — AFP

pean one she won last year. Asher-Smith had been propelled into favoritism when a whole swathe of major contenders dropped out. The 100m world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce was advised by her coach not to attempt the double. Two-time defending champion Dafne Schippers was injured and Olympic gold medalist Elaine Thompson failed to show for her semi-final. Asher-Smith — who carried the athletes kit at the Olympics in London in 2012 and was inspired by Jessica Ennis-Hill's title in the heptathlon — said it was a relief to have justified her favorite's tag. — AFP

dropped a set in three matches in the Chinese capital and also did not lose a set on the way to winning her home Pan Pacific Open last month. It is in contrast to the stuttering form the world number four endured after winning the Australian Open at the start of the year.

"I'm relaxed, but I'm a little bit angry, it's an angry relaxed," said Osaka, asked what was behind her recent success in Japan and now China. "I know after Australia I was like, 'I'm going to have fun'. It was not fun, I did not have fun." The Japanese said she took a week off after her last 16 defeat at the US Open, where teenager Andreescu went on to triumph over Serena Williams in the final. "I was sorting out my thoughts," said Osaka, adding that she has "self-diagnosed ADHD" because "if I tell myself to relax, I play three-set matches. "Out here, if you see, I'm kind of 'angry' right now, I can get through straight-set wins." — AFP

Osaka 'angry relaxed' after reaching quarters

BEIJING: Naomi Osaka said yesterday that she was "angry relaxed" after the Japanese tennis player set up a potential first meeting with US Open champion Bianca Andreescu in Beijing. The 21-year-old, the reigning Australian Open champion, won the last 10 games against unseeded American Alison Riske to surge into the last eight at the China Open, 6-4, 6-0. Osaka and Andreescu, two young stars of women's tennis, will meet if the 19-year-old Canadian wins her match later Thursday against American qualifier Jennifer Brady. Osaka has not

Ben Stokes wins players' award after World Cup heroics

LONDON: Ben Stokes has been voted the Professional Cricketers' Association players' player of the year after starring in England's maiden World Cup win and repeating his heroics during the Ashes series. Somerset's Tom Banton picked up the PCA young player of the year award, while England bowler Sophie Ecclestone collected the women's prize.

Highlights of the English cricket season for Stokes included an unbeaten 84 in the World Cup final and a sensational 135 not out to win the third Test against Australia at Headingley. All-rounder Stokes, 28, was England's top run-scorer in the Ashes, which ended in a 2-2 draw. Speaking at the PCA awards ceremony in London on Wednesday, Stokes told the Press Association: "In terms of reflection, I think there will come a time where I will be able to take it all in but I don't think that will come until I retire really because it all comes so thick and fast.

"This will definitely be a summer that I will be able to look back on forever." He added: "Winning the World Cup was an amazing feeling to be a part of — seven weeks of hard toil to then walk away with the World Cup was brilliant, and then a great Ashes series to be part of." England Test skipper Joe Root paid tribute to his "awesome" team-mate, who is the Test vice-captain. "He's a massive driving force of this team, one of the senior players across the board," Root said. Young player of the year Banton has been included in England's Twenty20 squad for the winter tour to New Zealand after amassing more than 1,000 runs across the two domestic limited-overs competitions. — AFP

Sports

Unconvincing Ireland too strong for Russia at Rugby World Cup

KOBE: Ireland returned to winning ways at the Rugby World Cup but were far from impressive in a 35-0 victory over Russia in Kobe yesterday. For all Ireland, the victims of a shock 19-12 defeat by hosts Japan last weekend, had made 11 changes, the fact it took them more an hour to secure a bonus point against a gutsy but limited Russia side would have been a cause for concern. Victory also came at a cost.

Fly-half Joey Carbery withdrew from his bench role shortly before kick-off with an a long-standing ankle problem, while an injury-hit Ireland saw number eight Jordi Murphy, who only arrived a few days ago after Jack Conan was ruled out, go off before half-time. "We're delighted to get back on the horse after last week and to pick up the bonus point was exactly what we're looking for tonight," said Ireland captain Jonathan Sexton.

The result was rarely in doubt, with Rob Kearney scoring the first of Ireland's five tries 90 seconds into the match. Peter O'Mahony and Rhys Ruddock also crossed Russia's line in the opening period with star fly-half Sexton, captaining Ireland for the first time after he missed the Japan loss with a thigh injury, converting all three tries before he departed at half-time. But Ireland's display was not akin to their 62-12 thrashing of Russia at the 2011 World Cup or indeed reigning champions New Zealand's 63-0 rout of Canada on Wednesday.

Instead this performance suggested Ireland, who could face either the All Blacks or South Africa in the quarter-finals should they beat Samoa in their concluding Pool A game on October 12, have work to do if they are to capture a maiden world title and become the first side

to lift the Webb Ellis Cup after losing a group-stage match. Being 'nilled' was tough on Russia, who again posed problems as they had done in 30-10 and 34-9 defeats by Japan and Samoa respectively. "I'm just so proud of our players. They absolutely gave everything," said Russia coach Lyn Jones. "We were organized. Our tactics worked well. Unfortunately we didn't score any points which was something but Russia's players gave everything they had and they were shattered at the end."

HUGE DEFENSIVE EFFORT

It looked as if Ireland might be eyeing a rout when Kearney scored under the closed roof of the Kobe Misaki Stadium before two minutes were on the clock. Second row Jean Kleyn's clever inside pass released Kearney and, with centre Bundee Aki running a decoy line, the veteran fullback carved his way round Russia left wing Denis Simlikevich from 40 meters out.

Sexton, one of the world's leading goal-kickers when fully fit, made light of a difficult conversion. But Russia, led by Dublin-educated fullback Vasily Artyemyev, harried Ireland with good use of the Garryowen — the name given to high kicks in rugby union in honor of the Irish club that pioneered the tactic. When Ireland, who started this tournament as the world's top-ranked side, returned to Russia's 22, however, they had their second try in the 13th minute with Sexton's clever grubber kick through the defense allowing onrushing flanker O'Mahony to score by the posts.

To make matters worse for Russia, centre Kirill Golosnitskiy, desperately trying to cover,



KOBE: Ireland's hooker Sean Cronin (C-L) is tackled by Russia's scrum-half Dmitry Perov (C-R) during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool A match between Ireland and Russia at the Kobe Misaki Stadium. — AFP

slammed into a post protector and was carried off on a stretcher. Russia were forced into a huge defensive effort in near their own line and lost lock Bogdan Fedotko to a yellow card in the 34th minute. Moments later, Ireland's pressure told when blindside flanker Ruddock powered over for a try. Yet Ireland failed to make the most of their man advantage either side of half-time, although Russia fly-half Ramil Gaisin was unable to reward good work by his for-

wards when he pushed a long-range penalty wide. Ireland eventually raised their game in the 62nd minute with a rare backline move. Replacement Jack Carty's chip ahead was regathered by Keith Earls and he sent in fellow wing Andrew Conway, whose uncle Mark McDermott is a member of Russia's coaching staff, from near half-way. And four minutes from time Ringrose went in for a fifth try that flattered Ireland. — AFP

Leitch returns for Japan's World Cup clash with Samoa

TOYATO CITY: Japan coach Jamie Joseph yesterday made three changes to the starting side who stunned Ireland for this weekend's Rugby World Cup Pool A clash with Samoa. The hosts, who topped the Irish last week, have recalled talismanic leader Michael Leitch as they look to make it three wins out of three against the Pacific islanders on Saturday in Toyota.

Despite Leitch's return, openside flanker Pieter Labuschagne retains the captaincy after an impressive first run-out as skipper against Ireland. "Lappies has kept it — we want to minimise Michael's responsibilities so he can focus on his own game," explained Joseph, referring to Labuschagne. "It worked well last week and we want to continue that. Lappies has done a very good job leading the team on the field, Michael is still our team captain."

Atsushi Sakate comes in as starting hooker for the Brave Blossoms and Wimpie van der Walt at lock, while veteran Luke Thompson has been left out of the match 23. Shota Horie drops to the bench after his man of the match display against Ireland when Japan produced the shock of the tournament by winning 19-12. Winger Kenki Fukuoka, who came on to score Japan's only try of the match in Shizuoka, is again named among Japan's replacements. Leitch, who inspired the jaw-dropping 34-32 upset of South Africa at the 2015 World Cup that put Japanese rugby on the map, returns at blindside flanker to win his 66th cap in red and white. — AFP

Italy's Polledri, from Bristol sandwich shop to WC star

SHIZUOKA: Jake Polledri's heady rise from working at a sandwich shop in western England to turning out for Italy at the World Cup continues unabated after his man-of-the-match performance against Canada bagged him a starting spot against South Africa. The 23-year-old Bristol-born flanker put in an eye-catching shift in Italy's 48-7 win over the Canadians, beating 14 defenders during the Pool B game in Fukuoka, more than any other forward in a single game since the tournament first began in 1987.

He also ran 106 metres from 16 carries, with three clean breaks and four offloads. Polledri admitted he still had to pinch himself over his journey from making sandwiches to playing for Hartpury in the English National One (third division) just two years ago, before being picked up by Premiership outfit Gloucester. "It's pretty amazing, playing in the World Cup is unbelievable," he said. "I haven't played South Africa before... It's a hell of an experience to be playing them, let alone in a World Cup."

Polledri, whose father Peter was a Bristol stalwart back in the 1980s, qualifies for Italy through his paternal grandmother, a fully fledged "old school" Italian who still struggles with her English. Her grandson is still learning Italian, though he credits a raft of English speakers in the Italy squad as making life much easier as he cracks on with language lessons.

'Dedication, determination, desire'

Former Hartpury director of rugby Alan Martinovic was full of praise after the Canada game for the "dedication, determination and desire to get to the top" of not just Polledri but also Seb Negri, another former player at the club who was named on the bench for the Springbok game. Polledri, who even made a decisive pass which set up a try for Negri against Canada, said the team had been "very positive" about that game.

"The first game was very scrappy for us in terms of structure," he said in reference to their opening 47-22 victory over Namibia. "The second game against Canada we looked a lot better and played a lot more how we wanted to play." With a maximum 10 points in the bag thanks to try-scoring bonuses, Polledri said: "There's nothing more really you can ask for." As for South Africa, he said the Boks were "looking strong. It's going to be a good test, but that's why we're here, to play against the best sides and the best players in the world". "It's going to be a tough battle. I imagine it's going to be a forwards game otherwise you wouldn't go for that 6/2 forwards/back split on the bench," Polledri said. "They're playing well, they're on a bit of a streak at the moment. It's going to be hard for us but we've just got to go out there and do what we do."

Competition in the back row, he added, had been fierce. "Everyone's hat was in the ring for selection," he said, with skipper Sergio Parisse and Abraham Steyn set to start alongside him in the back row. Asked whether he might have picked up some Afrikaans at Gloucester — where he is coached by Johan Ackermann and has a handful of South African teammates, including current Bok lock Franco Mostert — that might help to decipher South Africa's moves, Polledri was blunt. "I'll concentrate on learning Italian first!" — AFP

Zain strategic partner of Jet Ski World Champions

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its strategic partnership of the Kuwait Sea Sport Club's National Jet Ski team for the ninth consecutive year. The company's support to the team extends during their participation at the upcoming World Jet Ski Championship 2019 held in October at the United States of America.

Zain's support to the World Champions for nine consecutive years falls under its solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards supporting the youth and sports sectors as well as supporting outstanding Kuwaiti athletes. The company expressed its utmost confidence in the talents of Kuwait's youth, and wishes the team all the best of luck on their upcoming participation in the World Jet Ski Championship 2019, as it is keen on encouraging Kuwaiti athletes to represent Kuwait in the various internationally renowned championships.

The National Jet Ski team is authorized by the Kuwait Sea Sport Club to officially represent Kuwait in regional and international Jet Ski

championships. The team champions won a number of prominent titles during their past participations, most notably last year's IJSBA World Championship title with total points, as well as many category titles in the UAE Jet Ski Championship, the Jet Ski King's Cup in Thailand, and many first-place titles in the World Jet Ski Championship over the years.

Zain expressed its pride in all National teams that raise the Kuwaiti flag high by achieving top international titles, and it further confirms its commitment towards Kuwaiti champions, which resembles the company's endless confidence of the competencies of these young athletes and their capabilities in excelling in different fields.

As a leading digital service provider in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The company will continue to put Kuwaiti National teams and individual athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to continue motivating them to achieve all the recognition they deserve.



Medal winning shooting team returns home

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The Kuwait shooting team returned home after participating in the 9th Asian Clay Target Tournament in Almati, Kazakhstan where they won 2 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals. Kuwait Olympic Committee Member Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah said the committee gives full support to all sports federations to elevate sports activities in Kuwait and make achievements locally and abroad.

He said achievement of Kuwait's shooters are important milestones Kuwait shooting at the continental level, adding that this due to shoot-



ers and Kuwait shooting federation officials' efforts. Public Authority for Sports Deputy Director General for competitive sports Dr Saqer Al-Mulla lauded the shooters achievement during the Asian tournament adding that Kuwait shoot-

ing has many talented shooters. He said there will be special support and care for Olympic shooters in cooperation with Kuwait Olympic Committee for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations President Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi said the appearance of young talent among Kuwait shooters and them achieving distinguished results, is one of its important gains, as they are considered the



future of this sport. He said the focus will next be on preparing Kuwait national team for the 14 Asian comprehensive tournament to be held in Qatar in November. Kuwait shooters are seeking even more qualifications after Abdelrahman Al-Faihan and Mansour Al-Rashidi have already qualified. Gold medalist in the trap event Nasser Al-Miqled said he is proud

to win the individuals gold and the teams silver medals.

He said competition was very strong as many prominent Asian shooters were present, adding that despite his recent return to the sport, he was able to match the world record during the finals. Kuwait's winnings were through shooters Sarah Al-Hawal who won the gold women trap, while

the trap team of Nasser Al-Moqlad, Khalid Al-Mudhaf and Abdelrahman Al-Faihan won the silver medal in the teams trap. Jarrah Al-Shuwaier won the double trap silver, as Abdallah Al-Torqi, Mansour Al-Rashidi and Abdelaziz Al-Saad won the teams skeet bronze, and the juniors trap team of Salah Al-Rashidi, Yousuf Al-Rashidi and Bader Al-Adwani won the bronze medal.

Sports

Liverpool front three ride to the rescue of an unsettled defense

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool had to do the job twice over on Champions League upstarts Salzburg to get their defense of the competition back on track, but again relied on a prolific front three to cover over the cracks of an unsettled defense. Mohamed Salah finally secured a thrilling 4-3 victory with his second of the night at Anfield after the holders had let an early 3-0 lead slip to the free-scoring Austrian champions.

However, the Egyptian's strike partners were just as impressive as Sadio Mane opened the scoring against his former club and Roberto Firmino played a huge part in three of Liverpool's four goals. "It was far away from being a perfect game, but it was a typical Liverpool game, very exciting," surmised the Reds' manager Jurgen Klopp. There was plenty to concern Klopp, who insisted the whole world now knows what he already did — that a side crowned champions of Europe in June and on a 16-match winning streak in the Premier League remains a work in progress.

Salzburg have scored 51 goals this season and while few teams may match the fearless attacking prowess of Jesse Marsch's young side, Liverpool's defensive frailties were too easily exposed. Joe Gomez endured a torrid night deputizing for the injured Joel Matip, stand-in goalkeeper Adrian nearly had another horror moment as an attempted pass out from the back was charged down, and even the normally flawless Virgil van Dijk was left floundering on the floor by Hwang Hee-Chan for Salzburg's first goal. "Everyone wants to panic and stress

and maybe look for all the negatives but we shouldn't," said Van Dijk. "There's no reason for panic at all, we just need to relax, have a look at what can be better."

Reliable strikeforce

Klopp will hope to have Brazilian number one Alisson Becker and Matip back for the rest of the group stages to restore the solidity to a defense that kept five clean sheets in six Champions League games at Anfield last season. But with their team in need, after a 2-0 defeat to Napoli on matchday one, the ever-reliable trio of Salah, Mane and Firmino stepped forward to ensure a nervy night for the hosts did not turn into a nightmare.

Mane made his name in European football at Salzburg and did not celebrate his goal in front of the travelling fans, but that was the only sign of grace he showed his former employers. The opener owed just as much to Firmino's cushioned pass into the Senegalese's path and after Andy Robertson finished off a flowing move to make it 2-0, all of the front three combined seemingly to kill the game off.

Mane's cross was headed goalwards by Firmino and after Cican Stankovic parried his effort, Salah gratefully slotted home the rebound. "That was some of the best football we played so far (this season)," added Klopp on Liverpool's opening blitz. Perhaps even more impressively, Liverpool steadied themselves with half an hour to go when all the momentum was in Salzburg's favor. Salah's speed of movement and thought to anticipate a headed knock-



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah (L) vies with Salzburg's Japanese forward Takumi Minamino (R) during the UEFA Champions League Group E football match between Liverpool and Salzburg at Anfield. —AFP

down from Firmino put him through on goal and he smashed past Stankovic to Anfield's relief.

"It's a little bit tough because the human mind thinks a little bit 'OK, we're going to win and score again and again,'" said Salah of how Liverpool lost control. "When we were winning 3-0 we needed to score a fourth and fifth and

number six also." Liverpool have yet to lose a two-legged European tie under Klopp, reaching three finals in the past four seasons. Should they sort their defensive issues out to see off Napoli and Salzburg for a place in the last 16, the holders will back their firepower to take them all the way again to Istanbul next May. —AFP

Pogba out of France squad as Mbappe, Kante return

PARIS: Paul Pogba was left out of the France squad named yesterday for their upcoming Euro 2020 qualifiers against Iceland and Turkey, but N'Golo Kante and Kylian Mbappe both return. Pogba is currently struggling with a foot problem and was not named in Manchester United's squad to play AZ Alkmaar in the Europa League yesterday, although he did play in Monday's 1-1 draw with Arsenal.

Kante has had an injury-hit start to the season and did not feature in France's home wins over Albania and Andorra last month, while Mbappe has only just returned from a hamstring injury. Elsewhere, Mbappe's PSG teammate Presnel Kimpembe returns with fellow defenders Samuel Umtiti and Aymeric Laporte sidelined. Tottenham Hotspur's Tanguy Ndombele makes his comeback as Arsenal's Matteo Guendouzi drops down to the under-21 squad, and there is a recall for

back-up goalkeeper Steve Mandanda of Marseille. The World Cup holders face Iceland in Reykjavik on Friday, October 11 before entertaining Turkey at the Stade de France on Monday, October 14. Les Bleus are level atop Group H with Turkey on 15 points from six games, with Iceland three points back and the top two qualifying for the final tournament.

France squad

Goalkeepers: Alphonse Areola (Real Madrid/ESP), Hugo Lloris (Tottenham Hotspur/ENG), Steve Mandanda (Marseille)

Defenders: Lucas Digne (Everton/ENG), Leo Dubois (Lyon), Lucas Hernandez (Bayern Munich/GER), Presnel Kimpembe (Paris Saint-Germain), Clement Lenglet (Barcelona/ESP), Benjamin Pavard (Bayern Munich/GER), Raphael Varane (Real Madrid/ESP), Kurt Zouma (Chelsea/ENG)

Midfielders: N'Golo Kante (Chelsea/ENG), Blaise Matuidi (Juventus/ITA), Tanguy Ndombele, Moussa Sissoko (both Tottenham Hotspur/ENG), Corentin Tolisso (Bayern Munich/GER)

Forwards: Wissam Ben Yedder (Monaco), Kingsley Coman (Bayern Munich/GER), Olivier Giroud (Chelsea/ENG), Antoine Griezmann (Barcelona/ESP), Jonathan Ikone (Lille), Thomas Lemar (Atletico Madrid/ESP), Kylian Mbappe (Paris Saint-Germain)

Willian grabs winner as Lampard hails his young stars

LILLE: Willian's brilliant late strike gave Chelsea a precious 2-1 win away to Lille on Wednesday that they will hope kickstarts their Champions League campaign, but it was the young stars in Frank Lampard's side who stole the show again. The Brazilian volleyed home in the 78th minute to decide the game under the roof at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy on what was his 300th appearance for the club.

Tammy Abraham had earlier put Chelsea in front on his 22nd birthday with his eighth goal already this season, only for Victor Osimhen to equalize for Lille. Chelsea are now off the mark in Group H after losing at home to Valencia a fortnight ago, although it is Ajax who continue to top the section with a maximum six points. "Overall it was a good game. It's never an easy place to play. Give it to the team, what a fantastic performance," Abraham told BT Sport. Lampard's team face Ajax next and will do so with renewed belief after this victory.

"It is such a tough place — the roof was

on, the crowd were up for it, the speed in their team and on the counter-attack especially was very evident, so we had to be ready for it and I thought our performance was really good," said Lampard. It was a game decided by one of the most experienced players on the pitch but which was bristling with exciting young talent as these clubs adjust to seeing their standout players — Eden Hazard on one side, Nicolas Pepe on the other — depart in the close season.

Lampard fielded two 24-year-olds as well as four more players aged 22 or under in his line-up here, as teenager Reece James started as a right wing-back in a 3-4-1-2 system. James only made his top-team debut for the club a week ago in a League Cup tie against fourth-tier Grimsby Town. His second-half replacement, Callum Hudson-Odoi, set up the winner. "This isn't a game for niceties, we have to go and win these matches and improve all the time and there were loads of signs of team improvement tonight, and individuals," Lampard added.

"The young players are responding and they have to keep doing it because the Champions League level is something else." Much has been made of Lampard's promotion of youth this season in response to Chelsea's transfer ban, although their team here also featured N'Golo Kante, with the France midfielder returning from his latest spell out. Indeed, the average age of Chelsea's team at kick-off was actually a year older than that of Lille. —AFP

Sports

Suarez at the double as Barca break down impressive Inter

BARCELONA: Luis Suarez scored a scintillating double and the returning Lionel Messi set up the winner as Barcelona came from behind to beat Inter Milan in a thrilling contest at Camp Nou on Wednesday. Lautaro Martinez fired Inter ahead after just two minutes and Antonio Conte's side, mean in defense and ruthless on the break, looked capable of pulling off an historic victory in Group F. But Suarez broke down the Italians' determined back-line with a stunning volley just before the hour and then finished off a weaving Messi run in the 84th minute to complete a pulsating 2-1 win.

Inter had never beaten Barcelona away from home in the Champions League but were the better side for long spells, particularly in the first half when they should have added to their one-goal lead. Instead, Barca's deadly duo came up trumps again, Suarez breaking through just as the hosts looked to be running out of ideas before Messi, back from injury, teed up his partner for the decisive second. Inter play Juventus at home on Sunday, sitting top of Serie A after winning all of their six games so far and on this evidence, they could go far in Europe too.

Barcelona will be wary of the return fixture at the San Siro in December, which could yet decide who wins this group. "Those are a big three points," said Suarez. "When you're the number nine, you always try to help the team with goals and assists. Sometimes it doesn't work, but I always work hard. Don't give up in difficult times."

Conte added: "This leaves a bitter taste because we deserved a lot more than we got. But congratulations to Barça, their stars (Suarez and Messi) changed the face of the match." For

Ernesto Valverde's team, a hard-fought victory, combined with Messi's return, will come as a welcome boost to morale and momentum after consecutive victories in La Liga steadied the ship following a bumpy start. While they had their star striker back for only his second start of the season, Inter were without theirs, Romelu Lukaku ruled out with a thigh strain.

The first half was an engrossing battle of control against counter-attack as Barcelona had 67 per cent of the ball but Inter more of the clear-cut chances. The pattern was set by Inter scoring early, after 122 seconds, as Gerard Pique was pulled out of position and Martinez sprinted into the gap, holding off Clement Lenglet before finishing inside the far post. For half an hour, Barcelona played well, switching the ball from one side to the other in an attempt to dislodge the dogged Inter defense. But the threat of their opponents on the break was always lurking and as the half wore on, Inter looked increasingly likely to grab a second. Antonio Candreva scored but was ruled offside, Nicolo Barella would have but Nelson Semedo made a last-ditch block while Martinez and Alexis Sanchez both went close, the former drawing an excellent save from Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

WHISTLES IN STANDS

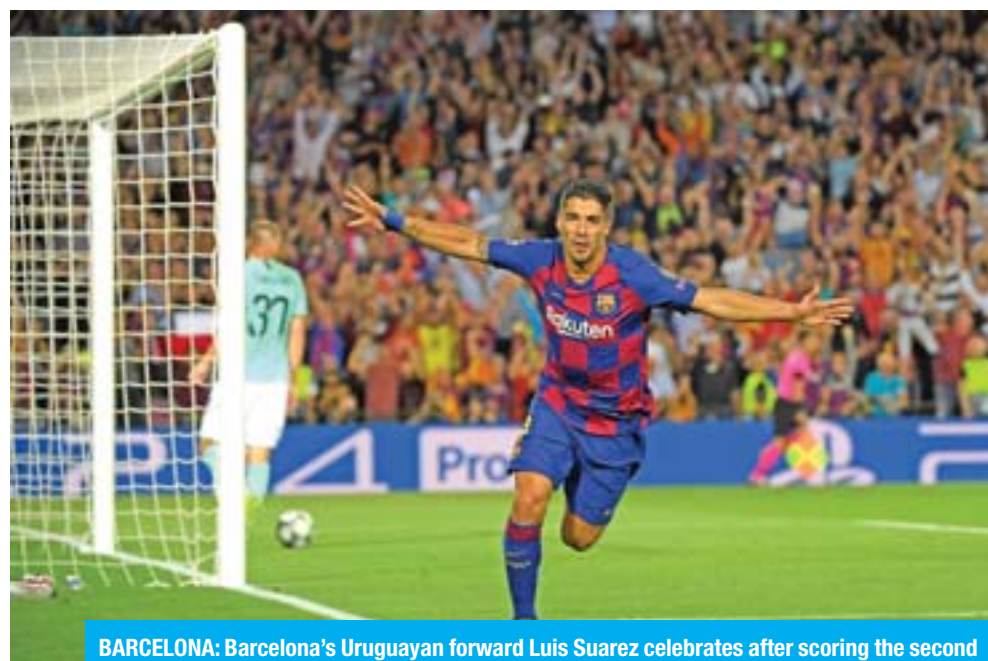
By the end, Barca were relieved to reach half-time, even if the whistle on the pitch was greeted by a scattering of whistles in the stands too. Arturo Vidal replaced Sergio Busquets before the hour and made a difference, meeting an Antoine Griezmann cut-back before feeding Suarez for

played well, but we made two mistakes. "For the first, we ran into each other. For the second, we are not awake enough. Lyon had hardly any chances."

The visitors were virtually handed an early lead after a horrible mistake from the home defense. Lyon midfielder Houssem Aouar nicked the ball from Leipzig's Ibrahima Konate, beat defender Dayot Upamecano and sprinted into the area. He generously let the ball roll for winger Depay to fire home and silence the home crowd. The Dutchman had the ball in the net again after he got in behind the Leipzig defense just before half-time, but was ruled offside.

Leipzig striker Timo Werner squandered two great chances and forward Yussuf Poulsen had an effort cleared off the line as Lyon stayed in front at the break. Both Nagelsmann and Lyon coach Sylvinho were shown yellow cards early in the second half after a touchline dispute. "You'll have to ask him. I have no idea," fumed Nagelsmann when asked what his yellow card was for.

Leipzig's second calamity came when a poor pass across the back fell to substitute defender Nordi Mukiele. The 21-year-old watched in horror as he lost control and the ball was snapped up by Terrier, who rounded Leipzig keeper Peter Gulacsi to make it two on 65 minutes. Nagelsmann reacted by dragging off Upamecano moments later and despite a few half-chances, Leipzig could not claw their way back. — AFP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring the second goal during the UEFA Champions League Group F football match between Barcelona and Inter Milan at the Camp Nou stadium. — AFP

the equalizer. Suarez still had a lot to do when the clipped ball came over to him on the edge of the box but the Uruguayan caught it perfectly in the air with his right foot and sent it flying into the net. Barca wanted a winner. Vidal found Messi, who slid in Griezmann but he could only find the side-netting. Griezmann was replaced

by Ousmane Dembele, who fired over. The game looked to be drifting towards a draw until Messi intervened. Collecting the ball on the right, he span around one defender, then jinked inside another before passing to Suarez, whose first touch pushed the ball perfectly into the area. From there, the finish was simple. — AFP

Depay makes Leipzig pay as Lyon find form

LEIPZIG: Lyon ended their poor recent run on Wednesday as Memphis Depay scored in a 2-0 Champions League win at RB Leipzig that condemned the Germans to a second home defeat in four days. Goals by ex-Manchester United forward Depay and Martin Terrier sealed a deserved victory for the French side which put them level on four points with Group G leaders Zenit Saint Petersburg and a point clear of third-placed Leipzig.

"We deserved it. We've had a difficult time and we're not through that yet but we're doing everything to turn things around," Lyon captain Leo Dubois told RMC Sport. Lyon arrived in Germany on a seven-match winless streak which had seen them plummet to 11th in the Ligue 1 table, while Leipzig were leading the Bundesliga as recently as Saturday before falling to a 3-1 defeat at home by Schalke. Coach Julian Nagelsmann had insisted the Schalke defeat was just a blip, but Lyon again exposed Leipzig's lack of composure at the back on a sobering night for the hosts. "In my eyes, that was an undeserved defeat," said Nagelsmann. "We actually

'Dangerous' Hakimi brace gives Dortmund the win

PRAGUE: Achraf Hakimi scored twice to hand Borussia Dortmund their first victory in Champions League Group F as the Bundesliga side won 2-0 at reigning Czech champions Slavia Prague on Wednesday. With 10 minutes remaining in the first half, Hakimi — on loan from Real Madrid — sprinted down the right flank, wove his way through the Slavia defence into the box, fooled keeper Ondrej Kolar and blasted home left-footed.

A minute before the final whistle, the 20-year-old Moroccan struck following another strong run and clinical finish with a low shot across goal to end Slavia's 24-game unbeaten streak in competitive games. "He played very well although he's not used to the position," Dortmund coach Lucien Favre said of Hakimi, who is a right-back by trade but started on the left wing. "He is very dangerous up front and we are happy with his performance, the two goals say it all. "We had drawn the last three games against Barcelona, (Eintracht) Frankfurt and (Werder) Bremen, so we're happy with the victory today, it was very important for us."

Dortmund now top Group F with four points from two games, leading Barcelona on goal difference after the Catalans beat Inter Milan 2-1 at the Camp Nou on Wednesday owing to a Luis Suarez brace. With prolific striker Paco Alcacer ruled out with an Achilles tendon injury,

Dortmund, who had drawn 0-0 with Barcelona at home in their opening game, started without a fully-fledged striker, relying on counter-attacks rather than constant pressure. Captain Marco Reus started up front alongside Julian Brandt and English teenager Jadon Sancho, who went close with the first shot on goal in the second minute. Sancho then set up the tireless Hakimi who fired wide, before playing a pass which a sliding Reus narrowly shot past a gaping Slavia goal.

Having reached the Champions League group stage for the first time in 12 years, Slavia, who held Inter Milan to a 1-1 draw at the San Siro in their opener, had a great chance on 20 minutes. Lukas Masopust collected a pass that left him one-on-one with Roman Buerki, but the Swiss keeper saved his poorly-placed effort. Slavia's Romanian midfielder Nicolae Stanciu then saw his free-kick kept out by a diving Buerki and centre-back Ondrej Kudela had an effort blocked by the visiting defense. "Slavia were a threat throughout the game, they were very athletic, they attacked us well," said Favre. Sancho went clean through against Kolar early in the second half, but was denied by the Slavia goalkeeper. Minutes later, striker Stanislav Tecl squandered a similarly clear opportunity for Slavia, firing wide as the hosts kept Dortmund under pressure. — AFP



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah runs with the ball during the UEFA Champions league Group E football match between Liverpool and Salzburg at Anfield. — AFP

Salah rescues Liverpool from Salzburg comeback

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