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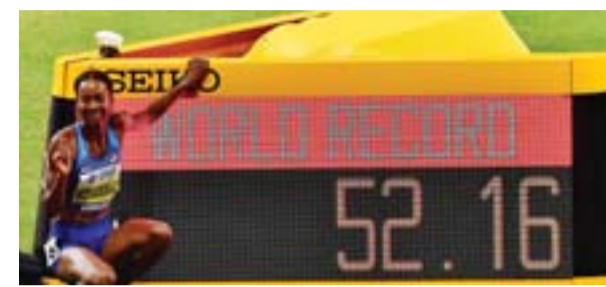
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28 Muhammad sets world record as Barshim soars for Qatar gold



Protesters flood Iraq streets anew as death toll nears 100

Authorities lift Baghdad curfew • Sadr bloc boycotts parliamentary session



BAGHDAD: Iraqi protesters take part in a demonstration against state corruption, failing public services and unemployment in the Iraqi capital's central Khellani Square on Friday. — AFP

BAGHDAD: Renewed protests took place under live fire in Iraq's capital and the country's south yesterday as the government struggled to agree a response to days of rallies that have left nearly 100 dead. The largely spontaneous gatherings of demonstrators - whose demands have evolved since they began on Tuesday from employment and better services to fundamental government change - have swelled despite an Internet blackout and overtures by the country's elite.

Among the 94 dead across the country since Tuesday, 55 were killed in Baghdad while 250 others in the capital were treated for sniper wounds, the Iraqi parliament's human rights commission said. Nearly 4,000 people have been wounded since the protests began in Baghdad and spread to cities across the south, it added. Yesterday, dozens gathered around the oil ministry in central Baghdad, facing live rounds fired in their direction, an AFP photographer said.

Thousands also descended on the governorate buildings in the southern cities of Diwaniyah - where gunfire was

unleashed into the air - and in Nasiriyah, AFP correspondents said. A curfew in Baghdad had been lifted yesterday morning. Parliament had been due to meet at 1:00 pm (1000 GMT) but could not reach quorum, after firebrand cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr's bloc of 54 lawmakers and other factions boycotted the session.

The former militia leader threw his weight behind the demonstrations on Friday with a call for the resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi. Sadr's movement has the power and organization to bring large numbers of supporters onto the streets, but at the risk of alienating many of those whose protests in recent days have been based on rejecting all of Iraq's feuding political factions. Parliamentary speaker Mohammad Al-Halbusi had extended a hand to protesters saying "Your voice is being heard", and he had been hoping to discuss job creation and social welfare schemes with lawmakers in the session.

But the mainly young, male protesters have insisted their movement is not linked to any party or religious establishment

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News in brief

Health insurance online only

KUWAIT: The interior ministry's PR and security media department said as part of the ministry's efforts to automate services provided to expats, it decided to automate health insurance services and make them available only online. Accordingly, effective today, Oct 6, 2019, all health insurance paperwork will be halted in favor of online payment at all residency affairs departments, it said, noting that paper slips will be accepted at various citizen service centers until Oct 28, when all health insurance transactions completely go online on the health ministry's website www.moh.gov.kw.

Foreigners can share Saudi hotel rooms

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia is allowing foreign men and women to rent hotel rooms together without proving they are related, after the kingdom launched a new tourist visa regime to attract holidaymakers. Women, including Saudis, are also permitted to rent hotel rooms by themselves. The Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage confirmed a report on Friday by Okaz newspaper, adding: "All Saudi nationals are asked to show family ID or proof of relationship on checking into hotels. This is not required of foreign tourists. All women, including Saudis, can book and stay in hotels alone, providing ID on check-in." — Reuters

No health insurance, no entry

WASHINGTON: The US will block the entry of immigrants without health insurance or the ability to pay for medical bills, President Donald Trump revealed Friday. Consular officers will only be allowed to issue visas to prospective immigrants who can prove they "will not impose a substantial burden" on the US healthcare system, according to a proclamation authored by Trump. "Lawful immigrants are about three times more likely than United States citizens to lack health insurance," Trump said in the proclamation. — AFP

Edible sensor helps TB patients

PARIS: An ingestible sensor that allows doctors to remotely monitor tuberculosis patients' intake of medication has the potential to save millions of lives and revolutionize treatment for the world's most deadly infectious disease, researchers said Friday. A randomized trial of 77 patients in California, published in the journal PLOS medicine, found that 93 percent of patients using the sensor were taking their daily treatment doses, compared with 63 percent who did not. The so-called Wirelessly Observed Therapy (WOT) involves a patient swallowing a small, pill-sized sensor and wearing a paired patch on their torso which transmits medication levels via Bluetooth. — AFP

Pompeo slams 'harassment' as Dems subpoena White House

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration complained yesterday of harassment by Democratic lawmakers who issued subpoenas for White House documents regarding President Donald Trump's alleged pressuring of Ukraine for political favors. And in a key development, a potential second whistleblower was reportedly weighing whether to come forward.

The latest explosive turns in the

impeachment investigation against Trump came as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Democratic-led congressional committees leading the inquiry of having "harassed and abused" State Department employees by contacting them directly for documents rather than going through department lawyers. "That's harassment," Pompeo said during a visit to Athens, "and I'm never going to let that happen to my team."

The House committees leading the probe issued their subpoenas as evidence mounted that Trump abused his powers by attempting to use US military aid to pressure Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to seek damaging information on 2020 Democratic rival Joe Biden. The investigations were touched off by reports that an original whistleblower - reportedly

Continued on Page 24

Aussies held in Iran return home in swap

SYDNEY: An Australian travel-blogging couple held in Iran on spying charges have been freed and returned home, authorities said yesterday, in a possible swap for an Iranian student wanted in the US. Perth-based Jolie King and Mark Firkin had been documenting their journey from Australia to Britain on social media for the past two years, but went silent after posting updates from Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan about three months ago. The pair, who have tens of

thousands of followers on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, were alleged to have used a drone to take pictures of "military sites and forbidden areas", an Iranian judiciary spokesman said last month.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said they were released after "very sensitive negotiations" and had been reunited with their family in Australia. "We are extremely happy and relieved to be safely back in Australia with those we love," the couple said in a statement issued by the foreign ministry in Canberra. "While the past few months have been very difficult, we know it has also been tough for those back home who have been worried for us."

Hours later, state media in Tehran said an Iranian student held in Australia for 13

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Families survive on one meal amid Zimbabwe drought

BUHERA, Zimbabwe: In eastern Zimbabwe's parched Buhera district, Omega Kufakunesu's family has been forced to scale down daily meals to just a portion of vegetables and sadza, a thick maize-meal porridge. In the morning only the children get the porridge, and everyone skips lunch. "During the day we have wild fruit collected by the children, and at night we have smaller portions of sadza with vegetables," harvested from the communal village garden, said Kufakunesu, sitting outside her thatched round hut.

A palmful of shumba, a drought-resistant wild fruit, is all she will eat during the day until dinnertime. "We have reduced our food portions so that it's enough for everyone," she said. But there are days when "my husband

and I don't eat at all" to make sure the children have some food, she said. Zimbabwe is experiencing one of the worst droughts in history, blamed on the effects of the El Nino weather cycle. In addition, the former regional breadbasket is in the throes of its worst economic crisis in a decade with inflation estimated to be over 900 percent.

Because of the combined effect of drought and an ailing economy, more than five million rural Zimbabweans, nearly a third of the population, are going to face food shortages before the next harvest in 2020. A disturbing feature of this year's food shortages is the increase in the number urban poor who are vulnerable. The government estimates that up to 2.2 million people in towns and cities are struggling to feed themselves.

WFP country representative Eddie Rowe said there are "more hungry people than ever before in Zimbabwe". In August, the United Nations extended its appeal for aid - from \$234 million in February to \$331 million to feed the combined total of over seven million Zimbabweans, roughly half the country's population.

Continued on Page 24



ATHENS: Communist-affiliated protesters hold placards as they take part in a demonstration to protest against the visit of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday. — AFP



TEHRAN: An image grab shows Reza Dehbashi, a PhD student at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, talking to relatives after arriving at Imam Khomeini International Airport yesterday. — AFP

PayPal abandons Facebook's Libra cryptocurrency

SAN FRANCISCO: Pioneering digital payments firm PayPal on Friday said it is abandoning an alliance intended to oversee the Facebook-backed Libra cryptocurrency, which has come under attack by regulators. "PayPal has made the decision to forgo further participation in the Libra Association at this time," the California-based company told AFP. "We remain supportive of Libra's aspirations and look forward to continued dialogue on ways to work together in the future."

International outcry is mounting over Libra - with central banks and governments railing against

Continued on Page 24

Local

Seven people injured in Jaber Causeway traffic accident

Three buses set ablaze in Fahaheel

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Seven people were injured in a traffic accident along Jaber Causeway, said security sources. Five of the injured were rushed to Sabah Hospital for treatment, including a 25-year-old Kuwaiti who had to be medevacked due to serious head injuries and need for intensive care, while two others were taken to Jahra Hospital. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to reveal the circumstances behind the accident.

Fahaheel fire

Three buses parked in an open yard in Fahaheel caught fire, said security sources, noting that firemen from Fahaheel fire station rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze without any casualties. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the fire.

Fire engine's insurance

Upon direct instructions from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, a tender was offered for public bidding to provide full insurance for all Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) vehicles and machinery against road accidents. KFSD's public relations and media department explained that in view of the dangers firemen face while reporting to duty and the need to

immediately respond to various calls, 468 vehicles had been insured against road accidents to cover all damages as well as 100 percent compensation for injuries to firemen.

Souq Mubarakiya inspection

Capital municipality inspectors, led by Hassan Al-Kandari, inspected various stores at Souq Mubarakiya



KFSD offers tender for full insurance

and filed 15 warning notices to remove violations. Kandari said that his team exerts huge efforts to execute a comprehensive plan to achieve full control over various stores and construction companies working at the site. Kandari added that inspection campaigns will continue to make sure store owners comply with the warnings and remove violations.



KUWAIT: Buses heavily damaged by a fire reported in Fahaheel.



Local Spotlight

No singles



By Muna Al-Fuzal

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

If you are married, then this article will not be of interest to you. It is about every person who is destined to be in Kuwait and his social status is that of a "bachelor". This bachelor might be divorced or married in his country or single, but he lives alone in Kuwait, or is a Kuwaiti who wants to live separately from the family. These are people of different social statuses, as not everyone has to be married with kids. But, what I think is not related, as a decision has been taken and implemented.

It is clear that the Municipality and all concerned parties agree that unmarried people in private areas are not wanted and a mechanism has been defined in coordination and cooperation between the Municipality, the environment police and the ministry of electricity and water to control this issue. Also, legal measures have been decided - to impose environmental fines for damage to the infrastructure of services and the breaching of security and social aspects.

One of the measures is to speed up the process of power cuts by the ministry of electricity and water after issuing an ultimatum to the landlord to evacuate bachelors from his property. Real estate owners have been warned against attempting to install mobile generators after the power cuts.

Now that the decision has been taken, I really wonder what the alternatives are for these people. If the state decides to expel and prevent any single person from renting in private housing because he is a moral hazard and a threat, what is the alternative? Labor cities, maybe?!

The Municipality has told the media about procedures taken in cooperation with other government bodies to evict "bachelors" from private and model residence areas. There were previous government recommendations to allocate land to build temporary residences for company workers. The Cabinet asked the Public Authority for Manpower to coordinate with all government authorities to allow contracted companies to provide suitable residences for their workers within the area allocated for the project, until the labor cities are ready.

I accept this, but how about waiting until these labor cities are ready to take all those workers, instead of kicking them out now? And where are the workers' cities? Are they ready to be the ideal alternative for single men? What are the conditions and specifications of these labor cities? Are they suitable for simple, low-income workers, or senior executives, for example? Is there a fee to rent there or is it free? Or the rent is paid by the companies that employ these workers?

Also, I suppose all services are available in these labor cities - a medical clinic, a pharmacy and public services, from public transport to taxis, because they may be far from the city. All these questions I consider as intuitive. Suitable alternative housing should be provided for singles expelled from their residences or unable to obtain housing even with the consent of the owner, who may see a person as respected and financially capable of renting, but the law prevents him because it sees this single person as a security risk even if he hasn't even committed a traffic violation all his life. But this is the reality.

I think images of single men sleeping on the street or in their cars are unacceptable. No one talks about the role of the companies where these men work, because they are supposed to provide accommodation for them before bringing them to Kuwait. This is an issue that needs to be resolved.

Power to be connected to West Abdullah Al-Mubarak homes

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is scheduled to start the first phase of connecting power to plots in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak by the

end of this month, with the second phase in Feb 2020 and the third in June 2020. In this regard, informed sources said Minister of State for Housing Affairs Jenan Bushehri is considering issuing a decision to put on hold the deduction of Kuwait Credit Bank installments from citizens residing in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak until power is connected to their houses and drainage systems are operational in the area.

Notably, a number of the area's residents had urged Bushehri to continue paying their rent allowances and postpone deducting the Credit Bank loan installments until power is connected to their houses. Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare stressed that the first phase of Mutlaa city (12,177 units) will be ready in December, while the second phase comprising of 16,111 plots will be completed by April 2020.

Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Award launches program's 2nd edition

KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award has launched its second session of the 'Fundamentals of Digital Manufacturing' program at Kuwait College of Science and Technology, said the Award's Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee Bassam Al-Shammari. In a press statement yesterday, Shammari said that the Award has achieved great successes in the implementation of its development goals, pointing out that the 19th session will launch within its activities program tomorrow evening at the faculty of science and technology to train 100 innovators between the ages of 9 and 16 years.

Shammari stressed the importance of human development in the field of informatics, especially that the New Kuwait Vision 2035 depends on seven pillars, the most important of which are human capital and

knowledge economy, pointing out that the program aims to promote the digital industry through a specialized training course that will continue over a month. The Academy of Informatics comes within the strategy of the award (2015-2020) aimed at supporting digital transitions in the fields of knowledge and economy and seeks through this program to qualify and develop the skills of young people from the national foresight to lead the desired digital transformation in Kuwait. He also stressed the importance of the IT Academy, which is concerned with education and technical training, which contributes to achieving the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial global center. — KUNA



His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award



KUWAIT: Kuwait National Guard (KNG) recently celebrated the graduation of KNG officers from a training course held jointly with the Chinese People's Armed Police Force. KNG Protection and Reinforcement Commander Staff Brigadier General Hamad Salem Ahmad, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Li Minggang and other officials attended the graduation ceremony.

News in brief

Amir congratulates Egypt on anniversary

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a congratulatory cable to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi on the 46th anniversary of the 6th of October war. In the cable, His Highness Sheikh Sabah noted the heroic Egyptian victory in the war, adding that the fight also represented the strong Kuwaiti-Egyptian ties as Kuwait's army stood side by side with Egypt's army in the war. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables to President Sisi. — KUNA

Amir receives call from UN chief

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a telephone call from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. During the call, the UN chief reassured about His Highness the Amir's health and medical check-ups, which were successful. He wished His Highness the Amir everlasting well-being and good health. The UN chief also expressed his great pride for the distinguished historical ties between Kuwait, and the UN and its different organizations. He appreciated His Highness the Amir's pioneering role towards all regional and international issues. Guterres also lauded His Highness the Amir's support for humanitarian action, and restoring and maintaining regional stability as well as seeking to achieve the common goals in advancing peace and security in the region and beyond. His Highness the Amir thanked the UN chief for these good sentiments and this initiative, wishing him good health. — KUNA

Kuwaitis urged to avoid Iraq

KUWAIT: An official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cautioned Kuwaiti nationals against travel to the sisterly Republic of Iraq at present due to the ongoing turmoil there. The official also called on the Kuwaitis living in Iraq to leave back home as early as possible or take the necessary precautions, including keeping away from sites of protests, until they are able to leave. In case of any emergency, the Kuwaiti nationals there are well advised to contact their embassy in Baghdad or the general consulate in Basra via the phone number: 009647828444666, the source added. — KUNA

Stranded Kuwaitis in Cyprus

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah discussed over the phone the issue of the Kuwaiti nationals held in Cyprus with his Cypriot counterpart Nikos Christodoulides. The Kuwaiti nationals were prevented from leaving Cyprus following a quarrel took place between them and others. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed his appreciations to the cooperation of Cypriot authorities to secure the release of the Kuwaitis. He wished the Cypriot authorities would facilitate their travel procedures after settling the case legally. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled voiced his respect to Cypriot judiciary. Christodoulides meanwhile expressed his readiness to follow up the issue with the concerned bodies and to allow the Kuwaiti nationals to depart Cyprus soon. — KUNA

Local

Migrant smuggling undermines peace, security in Libya: Kuwait

Kuwait concerned at issues in African Great Lakes region

NEW YORK: The continued smuggling of irregular migrants into, through and from Libyan territory contributes to undermining peace and stability in Libya, Kuwait's mission at the United Nations said on Friday. This came during a speech delivered by the First Secretary Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi at a Security Council session after the adoption of resolution 2491 on the inspection of ships off Libya's coasts, suspected of migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

Ajmi called on countries to support UN efforts by providing these migrants with safe shelter until their asylum applications are processed or to assist them until their return home. This would contribute to maintaining the security and stability of Libya and its territorial integrity and ensure non-interference in its internal affairs. He welcomed the resolution, mentioning that Kuwait voted in favor due to the "importance of addressing the challenges posed by the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking in the Mediterranean, off the Libyan coast." He also praised the efforts of the UK as the country responsible for the Libyan issue.

Meanwhile, Kuwait affirmed necessity of intensifying efforts for facing "challenges" in the Great Lakes region. The Gulf state

has also welcomed UN efforts aimed at involving regional countries to "boost implementation" of the framework agreement for peace and security in the republic of Congo. The Kuwaiti stand was expressed by Bader Al-Munaikh, Minister Plenipotentiary, also the State of Kuwait's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, during a UN Security Council's session on the Great Lakes issue, on Thursday.

Ambassador Munaikh noted significance of the existing coordination between the UN and regional organizations, namely the African Union, for maintaining stability in the Great Lakes area. He welcomed formation of a government in the Congo and the Congolese president efforts to communicate with many leaders of regional countries. Such an approach will bolster confidence and create an adequate atmosphere for greater regional cooperation. Moreover, he expressed satisfaction at the framework agreement reached at the Luanda conference, during which leaders of the regional countries resolved some issues.

Boosting development in the region is helpful for stability and averting strife, Munaikh said, also pinning high hopes on a



AL-KHOMS, LIBYA: This picture taken on October 1, 2019 shows rescued migrants sitting on a pier next to a Libyan coast guard ship in the town of Al-Khoms, a town 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of the capital. — AFP



Provide safe shelter to migrants

trade conference for the Great Lakes countries, due next year. However, the senior Kuwaiti diplomat voiced concern regarding lack of security in East Congo and prospected ramifications on regional security. Moreover, he called on regional countries to ensure success of the 10th summit

for the regional supervision, due in Kinshasa and expressed concern for armed groups' non-abdication by the peace accord for Central Africa.

Stable security in Burundi is a positive indication "which we hope will persist after the 2020 elections," he added. At the

humanitarian level, large numbers of the relocated and refugees add to the burden borne by the regional countries, he said and called for greater efforts to face such a challenge. In conclusion, he praised some regional countries' measures against the epidemic Ebola. — KUNA

Czech PM praises Kuwait's commitment to regional security

PRAGUE: The Czech Republic's Prime Minister Andrej Babis yesterday heaped praise on Kuwait for the Gulf state's immense contributions towards regional security and stability. The remarks by the Czech premier came amid talks with Kuwait's Ambassador in Prague Rashid Al-Hajri, which revolved around real estate investment opportunities that the European nation

has to offer, according to the Kuwaiti envoy. The Czech prime minister assured Kuwaitis of simplified business procedures in the country as part of a mutual desire to improve bilateral ties, he added. Some 450 Kuwaiti nationals own properties in the Czech Republic, in addition to scores of others undergoing medical treatment in the country. — KUNA



PRAGUE: The Czech Republic's Prime Minister Andrej Babis meets with Kuwait's Ambassador in Prague Rashid Al-Hajri. — KUNA

Kuwait aspires to more flights with India: Ambassador

NEW DELHI: Kuwait is looking forward to enhance cooperation with India by increasing number of flights between the two friendly countries, Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassim Al-Najem said on Friday. Najem made this statement after meeting with Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and delivering an official letter requesting to increase the number of seats between the two countries. The previous agreement at this level between the two countries is limited to 12,000 seats per week, the ambassador said. He stressed that the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2007 did not meet the ambitions, expressing Kuwait's aspiration to sign a new agreement aimed at allocating greater share of seats to the airlines of both the countries. Najem affirmed the keenness of the political leadership in both countries to enhance cooperation in various fields, praising the historic relations between the two friendly countries based on solid foundations of mutual respect.

Meanwhile, minister Puri affirmed his country's keenness to enhance trade exchange and cooperation with Kuwait in various fields, especially in the avia-



NEW DELHI: Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassim Al-Najem meets with Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri. — KUNA

tion sector. This sector is one of the main sources of national income, especially with the increase of Indian expatriate community in Kuwait, which currently stands at around one million people. On the increase in the number of Kuwaiti tourists coming to India and the number of Indian transit passengers to Kuwait, Puri said it was agreed to hold a new round of bilateral talks in the near future in the Indian capital New Delhi. The minister praised the historic and distinguished relations between India and Kuwait. A delegation from the General Directorate of Kuwaiti Civil Aviation headed by Director General Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah discussed in India earlier this year cooperation in the field of civil aviation and air transport during the World Aviation Summit held in Mumbai last January. — KUNA

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Sunset at Boulevard Park. — Photo by Nawaf Al-Hmoud (KUNA)

Kuwait's humanitarian action carries on throughout the week

'Kuwait by Your Side' campaign going on for 5th straight year



A medical camp set up in Aden, Yemen as part of the 'Kuwait by Your Side' campaign.



KUWAIT: Regional Director of WFP for East and Central Africa Erika Joergensen is seen during her meeting with Kuwait Red Crescent Society. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: Inspired by and stemming from directives of the 'Leader of Humanitarian Action' His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the State of Kuwait continues to help those in dire need all over the world. Last week, Kuwait was described as a "historic partner" to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). WFP Director-General for GCC office Abdulmajeed Yahya said that Kuwait had signed a \$24 million program last week to finance activities in Yemen. In 2018, Kuwait contributed \$50 million, not including Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) contributions, to WFP humanitarian action in Mozambique and Bangladesh, he added, pointing out that he had met with Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, who praised the program and its important role, especially in conflict areas.

Regional Director of WFP for East and Central Africa Erika Joergensen said that Kuwait has a big role in the region, noting that there is an agreement between Kuwait and the program to help those in need. Joergensen praised the influential role of humanitarian contributions and efforts of the KRCS worldwide, especially in Africa.

In Geneva, UNHCR Commissioner's Office Chief of Staff Salvatore Lombardo said Kuwait's "generous" \$12 million contribution would be allocated to the internally-displaced persons in Yemen. The aid will focus on providing shelter and care for Yemenis, as well as refugees pouring into it from Somalia and the Horn of Africa. Lombardo told KUNA after meeting Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN and international organizations Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim. All the projects are in cooperation with other

UN-affiliated bodies such as UNICEF, WFP and WHO, he pointed out. Ambassador Ghunaim said that the relationship between the State of Kuwait and the UNHCR is indeed "deep-seated and historic." He said the meeting also touched upon other aspects of cooperation, mainly in Syria, Libya and aiding the Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh ahead of the anticipated visit to Kuwait by UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi early next year.

In Aden, and as part of the 'Kuwait by Your Side' campaign, Society of the Revival of Islamic Heritage inaugurated a two-week medical camp to perform some 210 minor surgeries, including tonsillectomy, circumcision, hemorrhoidectomy and hernia repair in the war-torn country. The 'Kuwait by Your Side' campaign is in its fifth consecutive year. — KUNA



UNHCR Commissioner's Office Chief of Staff Salvatore Lombardo meets with Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN and international organizations Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim.

Kuwaiti medical team conducts surgeries on 200+ Syrian refugees

AMMAN: A Kuwaiti volunteer medical team comprising consultants in various specialties conducted surgeries on more than 200 Syrian refugees in Jordan over four days. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani after a meeting with the leader and members of the 'Hayat' medical team and in Amman said that Kuwait is a "forerunner" in terms of charity and relief work. Kuwaitis inspire their efforts in humanitarian work from the directives of the Leader of Humanitarian Action; His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, he added. Daihani also praised Jordan's hosting of the Kuwaiti team and the cooperation of medical centers and hospitals in the Hashemite Kingdom to ensure the success of this humanitarian mission. Meanwhile, team leader, urology and infertility consultant Dr Ahmad Al-Kanderi said that the purpose of the current mission is to conduct surgeries on Syrian refugees in the camps. He noted that the team includes 30 members ranging from consultants, doctors, nurses, technicians and



AMMAN: The Kuwaiti medical team. — KUNA photos

administrators, while the total sum of the surgeries amount to KD 200,000 (\$567,700). He pointed out that



Kuwaiti doctors perform surgery on a Syrian refugee.

team 'Hayat' had conducted about 250 operations in previous missions, stressing the importance of the role

of cumulative experience in dealing with humanitarian cases of refugees. — KUNA

Al-Moajil Group inaugurates its first hardware showroom in Kuwait

Company is authorized distributor of Yale, Valli and Valli, Union and Mab brands



KUWAIT: A group picture taken during the opening ceremony. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Hisham Ahmed Al-Shalafan, Board Member of Abdulaziz and Saad Al-Moajil Company.



Khalid Al-Jalal, Manager of Abdulaziz and Saad Al-Moajil branch in Kuwait.

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Abdulaziz and Saad Al-Moajil Building Materials Co opened its first branch in Kuwait for hardware products on Wednesday in Shuwaikh to meet the demands of the GCC market. Board Member and Representative of the Board of Directors Hisham Ahmed Al-Shalafan said Yale and Union products will be available in the Kuwaiti market for consumers.

"We are delighted to inaugurate today our first branch in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti market will benefit from the products that we are representing here. Finally, we have achieved the dream of opening our branch that can now provide all building materials," he said.

Shalafan explained that the opening of the first showroom of building materials in the Kuwaiti market reflects the company's keenness to expand in GCC countries and meet the requirements of indi-

vidual and corporate customers, in light of the high demand for projects. He added that the company aims to increase its presence in Kuwait in the coming period, as it aims to provide the finest products.

Shalafan said the company is the authorized distributor of Yale, Valli and Valli, Union and Mab brands, which meet various needs in the construction sector. He hoped to achieve great success in the Kuwaiti market, noting that the company is seeking to open more branches in Kuwait and other countries in the region.

Mohammad Muzaffar Khan, General Manager of the hardware business at Al-Moajil, stressed the company has been an agent for Yale in Saudi Arabia for more than 50 years, and later became the brand's agent and distributor in many GCC countries. "Today, Abdulaziz and Saad Al-Moajil is one of the leading commercial institutions with

extensive operational presence throughout Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. Al-Moajil's business started small at first, but today only the Yale business is worth more than \$18 million, Union more than \$10 million, and many other businesses," he noted.



Meeting GCC market's demands

"We are sorry to enter the Kuwaiti market late, but better late than never. We come today in Kuwait as a leader in hardware. This is the first branch but we

have plans to expand in other areas, and will contribute to the economy of Kuwait with the support of people," said Khan. "The company opened its branch in Kuwait because we believe that Kuwait is looking for quality in the market and we have quality to provide, where we are representing five of the most important brands in the hardware industry," he said, adding that the company now has 16 branches in GCC countries.

Abdulaziz and Saad Al-Moajil Co was established in 1928 as a collective partnership company between the two brothers - Abdulaziz and Saad, and started functioning as a foodstuff import company. During its century-long successful operation, the company diversified into various fields such as real estate, manufacturing, international manufacturers' representation, trading, furniture, foreign and domestic investments, etc. Besides, the company is a shareholder of many reputed Saudi joint-



Mohammad Muzaffar Khan, General Manager - Hardware business at Abdulaziz and Saad Al-Moajil Company.

stock companies in different fields such as industry, agriculture, services, banking and finance, trade and commerce, etc.

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Senate Republicans lay low as scandal rages

Thai judge shoots self in court after railing at justice system



OKUMA: In this file photo taken on January 31, 2018 shows (from left) unit 1 to unit 4 reactor buildings and storage tanks for contaminated water at the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. —AFP

At Fukushima plant - a million-ton headache

Tank after tank of water contaminated with radioactive elements

OKUMA: In the grounds of the ravaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant sits a million-ton headache for the plant's operators and Japan's government: tank after tank of water contaminated with radioactive elements. What to do with the enormous amount of water, which grows by around 150 tons a day, is a thorny question, with controversy surrounding a long-standing proposal to discharge it into the sea, after extensive decontamination.

The water comes from several different sources: some is used for cooling at the plant, which suffered a meltdown after it was hit by a tsunami triggered by a massive earthquake in March 2011. Groundwater that seeps into the plant daily, along with rainwater, add to the problem. A thousand, towering tanks have now replaced many of the cherry trees that once dotted the plant's ground. Each can hold 1,200 tons, and most of them are already full.

"We will build more on the site until the end of 2020, and we think all the tanks will be full by around the summer of 2022," said Junichi Matsumoto, an official with the unit of plant operator TEPCO in charge of dismantling the site. TEPCO has

been struggling with the problem for years, taking various measures to limit the amount of groundwater entering the site. There is also an extensive pumping and filtration system, that each day brings up tons of newly contaminated water and filters out as many of the radioactive elements as possible.

Highly radioactive

The hangar where the decontamination system runs is designated "Zone Y" — a danger zone requiring special protections. All those entering must wear elaborate protection: a full body suit, three layers of socks, three layers of gloves, a double cap topped by a helmet, a vest with a pocket carrying a dosimeter, a full-face respirator mask and special shoes. Most of the outfit has to be burned after use.

"The machinery filters contain radionuclides, so you have to be very protected here, just like with the buildings where the reactors are," explained TEPCO risk communicator Katsutoshi Oyama. TEPCO has been filtering newly contaminated water for years, but much of it needs to go through the process again because early versions of the filtration process did

not fully remove some dangerous radioactive elements, including strontium 90. The current process is more effective, removing or reducing around 60 radionuclides to levels accepted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for water being discharged. But there is one that remains, which cannot be removed with the current technology: tritium.

Tritium is naturally present in the environment, and has also been discharged in its artificial form into the environment by the nuclear industry around the world. There is little evidence that it causes harm to humans except in very high concentrations and the IAEA argues that properly filtered Fukushima water could be diluted with seawater and then safely released into the ocean without causing environmental problems.

'Absolutely against it'

But those assurances are of little comfort to many in the region, particularly Fukushima's fishing industry which, like local farmers, has suffered from the outside perception that food from the region is unsafe. Kyoichi Kamiyama, director of the radioactiv-

ity research department at the regional government's Fisheries and Marine Science Research Centre, points out that local fishermen are still struggling eight years after the disaster. "Discharging into the ocean? I'm absolutely against it," he said.

At the national government level, the view is more sanguine. "We want to study how to minimize the damage (from a potential discharge) to the region's reputation and Fukushima products," an Industry Ministry official said. The government is sensitive to fears that people inside Japan and further afield will view any discharge as sending radioactive waste into the sea.

No decisions are likely in the near-term, with the country sensitive to the international spotlight that will fall on Japan as it hosts the Olympic Games next year. Environmentalists are also resolutely opposed to any discharge into the sea, and Greenpeace argues that TEPCO cannot be trusted to properly decontaminate the water. The solution, said Greenpeace senior nuclear specialist Shaun Burnie, "ultimately can only be long-term storage and processing." —AFP

Prince Harry sues UK tabloids over 'phone hacking'

LONDON: Prince Harry has launched legal action against two British tabloid newspaper publishers, they confirmed Friday, over alleged phone hacking — just days after he condemned the press for critical coverage of his wife, Harry, 35, extended his campaign against the tabloids with fresh action after suing another newspaper for alleged invasion of privacy. Reports said the new claims concerned phone hacking allegations.

"We can confirm that a claim has been issued by the Duke of Sussex," News Group Newspapers, which publishes The Sun daily and the now-defunct News of the World, said in a statement. "We have no further comment to make at the current time," it added. A source at the Daily Mirror newspaper's publishers Reach told AFP they were aware that proceedings had been issued but they had not yet received them. Britain's domestic Press Association (PA) news agency said a royal source confirmed the claims were "regarding the illegal interception of voicemail messages". Sky News television carried the same confirmation.

'Relentless propaganda'

The move comes three days after Harry, sixth in line to the throne, launched legal

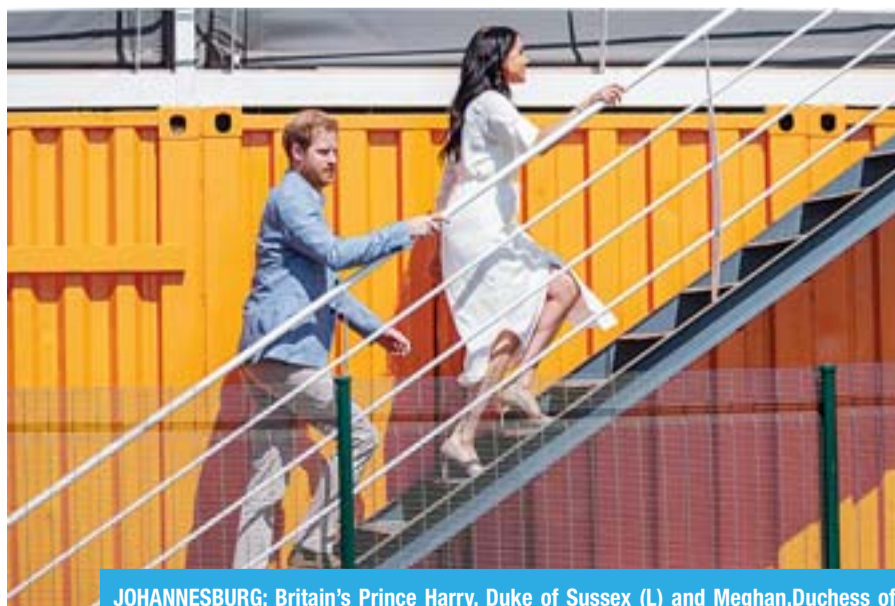
action for invasion of privacy against The Mail on Sunday after it published a letter from his wife Meghan to her father. It was accompanied by a stinging attack on the tabloid media over its coverage of Meghan — an exceptional move by a member of the royal family.

In it, Harry said the duchess was being hounded by the press in the same way as his mother, Diana, princess of Wales, was before her death in 1997. "My deepest fear is history repeating itself," he said. "My wife has become one of the latest victims of a British tabloid press that wages campaigns against individuals with no thought to the consequences — a ruthless campaign that has escalated over the past year. "There is a human cost to this relentless propaganda, specifically when it is knowingly false and malicious." It came as they wrapped up a tour of southern Africa on behalf of his grandmother Queen Elizabeth II — which was broadly well-received in the British press.

But Harry said positive coverage of the trip "exposes the double standards of this specific press pack that has vilified her almost daily." "I have been a silent witness to her private suffering for too long." Harry has previously criticized the "racial undertones of comment pieces" about Meghan, a mixed-race US actress whom he married last year.

'War on press unhinged'

Commentators have wondered whether Harry went solo or consulted



JOHANNESBURG: Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex (L) and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex (R) arrive at the Youth Employment Services Hub in Tembisa township. —AFP

with more senior royals such as Queen Elizabeth, and his father Prince Charles, before penning this week's outburst. Royal biographer Penny Junor claimed Harry's highly personal statement was "probably very ill-judged" and would make his relationship with the press "quite awkward" in future. While there have been some negative stories about the duchess, the author did not believe there had been a "ruthless campaign to do down Meghan".

She told PA that Harry "might

regret... poking the bear" with his "very over-emotional outburst". The Sun, in its editorial on Thursday, hit back at the prince and his "self-pitying petulance". "Harry's war on the press is unhinged. The Queen should have a word before he does the royals even more lasting damage," the paper said. "We will call out their hypocrisy when merited. And stories about Meghan's controversial family are justified. "Criticism is not 'bullying'. This precious pair simply need a thicker skin." —AFP

Mumbai police detain 40 activists protesting tree felling for metro

MUMBAI: Indian police detained 40 protesters demanding that the Mumbai Metro Rail Corp Ltd (MMRCL) not cut some 2,700 trees to build a train parking shed for an upcoming subway line, a spokesman for the Mumbai police said yesterday. Over 400 people gathered on Friday night and tried to hug the trees, located in the Aarey Colony suburb, in an attempt to stop officials from cutting them. Police eventually removed the protesters and shut entry to prevent further inflow of people, activists said.

"They have been charged with obstructing a government servant from doing his duty and unlawful assembly. Around 200 policemen have been deployed at the location," Pranaya Ashok, a spokesman for the Mumbai police, told Reuters. The Bombay High Court had dismissed on Friday all petitions opposing the cutting of the trees, clearing the way for authorities to build a parking shed for Line 3 of a broader train network that aims to reduce traffic congestion in one of the world's most densely populated cities.

Ashwini Bhide, the Managing Director of the MMRCL, accused the protesters of trying to bypass the law. "If you lose a battle in court, better to accept it honorably than to take it to street," Bhide said in a tweet. The MMRCL has said in the past that there is no other viable location for the shed, and authorities have stressed that Line 3, slated to open in December 2021, will do more to reduce pollution in Mumbai than the cluster of trees. —Reuters

International

Paris knife rampage probe handed to French anti-terrorist prosecutor

Stabbing spree sent shock waves through an embattled police force

PARIS: French detectives on Friday referred the investigation into a knife rampage by a staffer at Paris police headquarters that left four colleagues dead to anti-terrorist prosecutors, sources said. Three police officers and an administrative worker — three men and a woman — died in the frenzied 30-minute attack on Thursday at the police headquarters, a stone's throw from the Notre-Dame cathedral in the historic heart of Paris.

The assailant, a 45-year-old computer expert, was eventually shot dead by police. Two other people were injured in the Thursday lunchtime stabbing spree that sent shock waves through an embattled French police force already complaining of low morale. Sources at the Paris prosecutor's office, which had been handling the inquiry, said on Friday that the case had been passed to the anti-terrorist prosecutor's office (PNAT).

The attacker, named as Mickael H, was born on the French overseas territory of Martinique in the Caribbean. He was partially deaf. Preliminary enquiries suggest that the attacker, a convert to Islam, could have become radicalized, said sources, who added that he had worked in a section of the police service dedicated to collecting information on jihadist radicalization.

He had worked for the police since 2003 without ever arousing suspicion. But his wife, who is being questioned by police, claimed he had behaved in an "unusual and

agitated" manner the night before the attack, sources said. Investigators were examining text messages between him and his wife, whose detention was extended on Friday.

A 'quiet person'

A search of the couple's house in a low-income Paris suburb near Charles de Gaulle airport yielded no evidence that the man, who became a Muslim about 18 months ago, had been motivated by radical religious ideology, one source added. Computer equipment seized in the search was still being examined. AFP correspondents saw investigators — faces concealed by balaclavas — lead out from the house late Thursday a man and a woman who hid behind hoods.

One motive investigative sources mooted was a personal conflict at work. "He complained to me that his career had not evolved, due to his handicap," said Abdelaziz, the deputy head of a local Muslim organisation who attended the Gonesse mosque with the attacker. Locals said the man had two children aged three and nine. "He was a very quiet person. I used to see him going to the mosque but he practiced (his religion) in a normal way," a neighbor, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said Thursday the assailant had "never shown any behavioral prob-

lems" and never aroused the "slightest reason for alarm". The man used a kitchen knife to stab two policemen and a male administrative colleague in two offices on the first floor of the building before attacking two women on the staircase on his way to the courtyard outside. One was a police officer who died at the scene. The other, an administrative worker, was seriously injured. The assailant wounded another policeman in the courtyard before he was shot in the head by a colleague, sources told AFP.

'One of us'

Tension has been growing in police ranks, stretched to the limit after months of weekly "yellow vest" anti-government demonstrations and years of high alert following a string of terror attacks in France. Hundreds of police and headquarters staff observed a minute of silence in the courtyard of the building Friday in memory of their fallen comrades.

"This tragedy is all the more awful as it took place inside the police headquarters and it came from one of us," Paris's top policeman Didier Lallemand said. The killings came a day after thousands of police officers marched in Paris for better working conditions, a rare protest against the backdrop of a spike in police suicides — 52 so far this year.



PARIS: People leave Paris' prefecture de police (police headquarters) on October 3, 2019 after four officers were killed in a knife attack. —AFP

The police have also been a recurring target of jihadist groups, such as Islamic State, behind a wave of attacks since 2015 — from large synchronized assaults to isolated knife and gun attacks. In June, a parliamentary report on radicalization within the public services spoke of 30 suspected cases out of the 150,000 police officers and 130,000 gendarmes in France. —AFP

'Tinder K' support for Argentina's Kirchner

BUENOS AIRES: They say opposites attract but it doesn't seem so for many Argentine members of Tinder K, a closed Facebook dating group drawn together by a shared vision of the perfect romantic partner: single, Peronist and Kirchnerist. The K stands for Cristina Kirchner, the two-term former president who despite facing a slew of corruption trials, remains arguably the country's most popular politician as crisis-wracked Argentina heads into October 27 polls.

The feisty 66-year-old leftist is seen by many as a standard-bearer for Peronism, the political philosophy of former military leader Juan Peron, credited with upending Argentina's class structure and championing the downtrodden during three presidential terms that ended in the mid-1970s. "I couldn't have a partner who didn't share my political conviction," said Estefania, a 35-year-old who met her politically compatible partner on Tinder K.

She readily concedes that in Argentina, politics rule people's personal lives. "We are ravaged by politics!" True to form in Argentina's politically polarized society, the mostly left-leaning Tinder K group is united by their trenchant opposition to center-right President Mauricio Macri, whose election victory in 2015 put an end to 12 years of Peronist populism under both Kirchner and her husband, Nestor Kirchner.

Politically oriented dating sites and apps began in the United States with the likes of DonaldDaters and TrumpSingles, or for Democratic Party supporters, Liberal Hearts. Slowly the idea is taking hold elsewhere in South America. In Brazil, the Workers' Party is starting its own dating site for supporters of its jailed leader, ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Political niches

But experts are warning of the dangers of such "political niches" on social networks. "The exchange of ideas is essential for a democracy, but dating applications with an ideological bias limit the probability of meeting a partner who does not validate your ideas," said Chelsea Reynolds from California State University, Fullerton.

"Two decades ago you could fall in love with someone at university even though your political ideas were not the same, today that would be practically impossible," she said. According to experts, social networks' tendency to group like-minded people has contributed to the phenomenon. "All the technology is aimed at creating niches with common denominators in ideological terms," said Argentine political consultant Carlos Fara. "These niches encourage the most extreme positions," Fara said.

'Political partners'

"You don't choose your family, but a partner has to think the same politically," said Estefania, a shop assistant who lost her job a month ago to become one of the country's growing number of unemployed. A member of Campora, a Kirchnerist youth movement, she met her partner, who lives in Buenos Aires, on Tinder K, which boasts a total membership of 12,000 people.

Group membership is restricted to singles. Get-togethers include parties to raise money for charity, outings and debates on social issues. That's how "several couples" came to be. "Last year one of them got married," she said. The three affiliated Tinder K groups online were set up "to push back against the four years we've had of Macrismo," she said.

Barring a shock, Argentina will revert to Peronism in the October polls with Alberto Fernandez the likely winner, with Kirchner as his vice-president. Macri has stuttered through the final year of his presidency and is given little chance of re-election after suffering a drubbing in August primaries. Soaring inflation and rising poverty have stirred outrage at his government's belt-tightening policies.

Many Tinder K members are inspired by the model of Nestor and Cristina Kirchner who were married for 35 years until his death in 2010. "The love they had for each other is a reference point. I see the photos and video of how they looked at each other, how he admired her," said Estefania. But being a Kirchnerite is no guarantee of finding love within the group, says Omar San who created the oldest of the three groups, claiming 6,000 members. "We can find you a K partner, but afterwards we can't guarantee that it'll work out." —AFP

Press Release



HUAWEI



Huawei advances AI and gears up for 5G expansion at GITEX Technology Week 2019 in Dubai

Dubai, UAE – October 6, 2019: At this year's GITEX Technology Week, Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT), will focus on end-to-end solutions and global

case studies revolving in particular around 5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI), under the theme 'Building a Fully Connected, Intelligent World'.

Visitors can find Huawei at Stand Z2-A10 in Za'abeel Hall 2, where the company will be launching first-of-its-kind products and solutions, announcing strategic partnerships, and working with clients from around the region to develop custom approaches to their ICT needs.

In parallel to the main GITEX exhibition, Huawei will host its **Huawei Middle East Innovation Day 2019** on October 7th. The event will include three sessions: a 5G Ecosystem Conference under the title "5G, Gear Up"; an AI Conference under the theme "Advance Intelligence", and a "Huawei Developer Day Dubai 2019" session which is focused on building a better ecosystem.

Charles Yang, President of Huawei Middle East, said: "We are building a fully connected, intelligent world. When many people think of Huawei, they think connections. It's true we have been investing in connectivity for the past 30 years, but our work doesn't stop there. Both connections and computing are key – they're inseparable. Today this combination is delivering more advanced intelligence across every touchpoint of the digital economy, and is being accelerated with the launch of 5G networks. As leaders in both AI and 5G technologies, GITEX visitors will be able to see how Huawei is working to bring digital to every person, home and organization."



Huawei's participation at GITEX 2019 is supported by some of its key partners including GAPP and Redington as Diamond sponsors; Enterprise Systems and Octalpa as Gold sponsors.

For more information, please visit Huawei's GITEX 2019 microsite at <https://e.huawei.com/topic/gitex2019/ae/index.html>



International

The senate Republicans, vital for Trump, lay low as scandal rages

Constituent frustration appeared to catch some Republicans off guard

WASHINGTON: Most Republicans in the US Senate have taken the path of least resistance — staying silent — as they grapple with President Donald Trump's swirling impeachment firestorm. In a way they hold the key to Trump's political fortune: Should the president get impeached by the Democratic-led House of Representatives, he would then face a trial in the Senate, the Republican-held chamber he views as his firewall.

While Democrats unite in outrage over the US leader's latest brazen move, a public call for China to investigate his political rival Joe Biden and his son, outright condemnation by Republicans was rare. Republican senators' silence signaled to those in their home states that while many in Trump's party may be uncomfortable with his willingness to flout political norms and seek foreign help in the 2020 election, they were offering a form of quiet defense of the president.

Constituent frustration appeared to catch some Republicans off guard, including Senator Joni Ernst, who seeks re-election in 2020. "You still stand there silent and your silence is supporting him," one person told Ernst at a town hall Thursday in her state of Iowa. "Where is the line?" asked voter Amy Haskins. "When are you guys going to say, 'Enough?' 'I can't speak for him,'" parried Ernst. "But you can speak for yourself," Haskins interrupted.

Pressed for a reaction to Trump's bald suggestion Thursday that China, and earlier Ukraine, investigate his potential 2020 White House challenger, Ernst reverted to the unfounded White House talking point that the Bidens were involved in corruption in those countries. "Corruption, no matter where it happens, must be fought everywhere," she said. Senator Marco Rubio downplayed the controversy, suggesting Trump might have even made the China comments in jest. "I don't know if that's a real request or him just needing the press," Rubio said.

While neutral reactions or indirect support of Trump have been common this week, full-throated backing is more elusive. Loyal ally Senator Lindsey Graham hesitated to defend Trump's call for China to investigate the Bidens, but he sought to explain the request. "It's the president pushing back," Graham told The Washington Post. "He feels like everyone is coming after him all the time and he hasn't done anything wrong."

'Wrong and appalling'

The president issued a barely veiled warning Friday to those who hold the majority in the Senate, where he would be tried if impeached by the House. "We have a great relationship in the Senate," he said. "I have a 95 percent approval rating in the Republican Party," Trump added. While he has yet to speak to many sena-

tors on the issue, Trump said, "I believe the senators look at this as a hoax." Few Senate Republicans are openly castigating him, and election politics is likely a significant reason why. Twenty-three Republican Senate seats are in play in 2020, compared to just 12 for Democrats, and those in the GOP standing for re-election are loath to cross a president who enjoys an extremely loyal base. But some voices are rising up to challenge him.

Trump's "brazen and unprecedented appeal to China and to Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden is wrong and appalling," tweeted prominent Senator Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential nominee in 2012 and currently the party's most open critic of Trump. Fellow Republican Ben Sasse, at greater risk because he is up for re-election next year, issued some of the harshest language yet attacking Trump's China comments.

"Hold up: Americans don't look to Chinese commies for the truth," Sasse told the Omaha World-Herald. "If the Biden kid broke laws by selling his name to Beijing, that's a matter for American courts, not communist tyrants running torture camps." The fiery comments made headlines, but they may not move the needle. For Trump to be ousted by the Senate, a unified Democratic caucus will need to at least 20 Republicans to defect to their side, a target that currently appears unlikely to be met. — AFP



WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump speaks to the press as he departs the White House in Washington, DC, for his annual visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, on October 4, 2019. — AFP

Canada Tory leader slammed over dual US citizenship

OTTAWA: He was supposed to be touting his tough stance on crime but Canadian opposition leader Andrew Scheer found himself on the back foot Friday as his announcement was overshadowed by questions over his dual nationality. The Conservative, who is aiming to unseat Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals in the October 21 election, has been on the defensive since disclosing Thursday that he is part-American.

As he unveiled plans for a crackdown on gangs and illegal firearms, his audience at a Toronto news conference appeared much more interested in his heritage. "Everyone who knows me, or knows my family, knows that my father was born in the United States. I've been open with that. And so that's that," Scheer told reporters. But that, apparently, is far from that.

In cosmopolitan Canada, it is no impediment to high office to have roots in other countries — but Scheer has sparked anger by leaving it so late in the campaign to front up with the public. "It's not a big deal in Canada for people to have dual citizenship," Scheer said. "There's millions of Canadians who had one or more parent born in another country."

Scheer said he decided after becoming Conservative leader in 2017 to renounce his US citizenship. He only submitted the paperwork in August, however — just before the election campaign kicked off. Critics have also highlighted what they see as double-standards: in past elections, Conservatives have attacked leaders of the New Democratic Party and Liberal Party because of dual citizenship. Scheer himself in 2005 criticized the dual French-Canadian nationality of Canada's former governor general Michaëlle Jean.

"It should not disqualify you, but you must be honest when you're looking to become prime minister of a country of 37 million," said Trudeau, who was on his own campaign stop in Quebec City. "Andrew Scheer should tell the whole truth." The Liberal campaign, meanwhile, played up the controversy to attack Scheer's plan to address rising gun violence, accusing him of wanting to bring in "American-style gun laws for Canada." Scheer is proposing minimum five-year jail terms for possession of a smuggled firearm and said he would list gangs as criminal entities in much the same way terrorist groups are proscribed.

In the early evening, Scheer's party also announced it had expelled election candidate Heather Leung for homophobic remarks. "Recent media reports have brought to light offensive comments made by Ms Leung saying 'homosexuals recruit' children and describing the sexual orientation of the LGBTQ community as 'perverted,'" said a party statement. "There is no tolerance in the Conservative Party for those types of offensive comments." — AFP



MONTREAL: Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada Andrew Scheer addresses the press after the French debate for the 2019 federal election, the "Face-a-Face 2019+" presented in the TVA studios. — AFP

Chile's drought killing thousands of farm animals

PETORCA: For Erick Hurtado, the worst thing about the drought that has devastated his family farm in Chile is the dead animals. "Going out and seeing the animals dead on the ground is so horrible," Hurtado says as he gazes across the dusty paddocks of his farm in Petorca, near the coastal city of Valparaiso. Farmers are counting the cost of one of the driest austral winters in six decades, which has destroyed crops and left tens of thousands of farm animals dead in the fields of central Chile.

Hurtado's farm, owned by his grandfather, has lost half its 60 head of cattle. So far, 106,000 animals have died due to lack of water and fodder, mostly goats, cattle and sheep, according to the agriculture ministry. President Sebastian Pinera, who last month announced a \$5 billion plan to improve water distribution, this week set up a crisis group of government agencies to tackle the water crisis, which he said had become "more extensive and more intense."

In Colina, north of the capital Santiago, the drought has been hard on small farmers. Scrawny cattle pick at sprigs of strawy grass on pastures that have turned to dust. Cows, goats and horses roam hungry on hills have turned to a dry muddy brown. "The drought has been disastrous for us," said Sandra Aguilar. Her family owned about a hundred head of cattle.

Today, only half survive thanks to a trickle of water provided by a neighbor who still has some reserves. "The situation is complicated," said Javier Maldonado,



COLINA: A newborn goat is seen next to an empty trough to be filled with drinking water at a farm, in Colina some 35 km north of Santiago. — AFP

governor of the province of Chacabuco, where several agricultural areas have been hit particularly hard by the drought. "We have to be realistic, climate change is here to stay," he said.

Water shortages

Dominga Mondaca points out the deep fissures that run through the garden behind her house in the village of La Ligua near Valparaiso. The garden used to be full of strawberries and citrus trees; now it's cracked earth. "We have had many years with little water. But the last year, it didn't rain at all," said the 73-year-old, one of more than 600,000 people the government is supplying by tanker trucks as part of emergency measures.

She says she has had to give up raising chickens, in order to keep what little water she and her husband receive for their own consumption, washing and cleaning. Whatever is left, she uses to sprinkle on herbs in a small kitchen garden. The agriculture ministry says 37,000 family farms need assistance in the central Chile.



LOS ANGELES: Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren speaks at the SEIU Unions for All Summit. — AFP

Warren 2020 fundraising beats Biden

WASHINGTON: Democrat Elizabeth Warren raised a solid \$24.6 million in third-quarter contributions to her 2020 White House campaign, her office said Friday, easily out-raising frontrunner Joe Biden and rivaling fellow progressive Bernie Sanders. The July-to-September haul came from 943,000 donations with an average contribution of \$26, Senator Warren's presidential campaign said in a statement.

Warren, who has risen dramatically in the polls in recent months and is now battling Biden for the top spot in the Democratic nomination race, has prided herself on not accepting contributions from corporations or holding closed-door fundraisers with wealthy donors. "Instead, she got to spend her time traveling across the country, hosting town halls, taking tens of thousands of selfies, and hearing directly from people about what's on their minds — and people like you chipped in to help make it possible," Warren campaign manager Roger Lau said.

The numbers are in line with the massive haul claimed

by fellow Senator Sanders, who raked in \$25.3 million for the period, the most of any Democratic 2020 candidate. The 78-year-old Sanders put his White House bid on hold this week to be treated for a blocked artery — but his wife said Thursday he was recovering well and plans to participate in this month's Democratic debate. Sanders announced his fundraising figures earlier in the week but on Friday noted the historic nature of his candidacy, which his campaign said has had to fight the establishment "doubt" that he can win the White House.

"At this point in the campaign, Bernie has received more contributions from more individuals than any candidate in the history of American presidential politics," campaign manager Faiz Shakir said. But Republicans are quick to claim that they are leading the 2020 money race. The Republican National Committee said that it and Donald Trump's re-election campaign raised a stunning combined total of \$125 million in the third quarter, a presidential fundraising record.

Biden, whose campaign has struggled to retain pole position over the past month, announced Thursday that he had raised \$15.2 million for the quarter, behind Sanders, Warren and South Bend, Indiana's centrist Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who raised over \$19 million. Biden in recent weeks has been caught in the maelstrom as Trump faces an impeachment inquiry over accusations he pressed Ukraine for damaging information on the former vice president and his son. — AFP

Thirsty avocados?

In Petorca, some rivers have run dry, and the landscape has been left parched, but lush avocado and citrus plantations are nevertheless thriving. Locals in Petorca say the real, long-term problem is the mismanagement of water resources. "There is an excess of monoculture plantations that consume all the water," said Diego Soto of the Movement for the Defense of Access to Water, Land and Environmental Protection (MODATIMA) said.

Avocados need a lot of water to grow, said Soto. "An avocado tree needs 600 liters of water per week, whereas humans consume 50 liters a day, or 350 liters a week," he said. Producers refute these figures and say the real problem is a lack of infrastructure to store water, both above and below ground. "The avocado is not a crop that needs more water," insisted Francisco Contardo, chairman of the local producers' committee. Avocados are a key export for Chile, mostly to the US and China, but drought has reduced exports by 25 percent.

Less snow

For many though, the changes being wrought by climate change are overwhelmingly obvious. Snow in the highlands of central Chile was relatively scarce this year. Scientists predict an average decrease of between five and 10 percent snowfall every 10 years in almost the entire Andes mountains, one of the country's main sources of water. "The central zone of Chile is highly dependent on the summer melt season, its snow and glaciers, which means that if the snow cover is reduced, there is also a reduction in the availability of water resources," said Paul Cordero, climate change expert at the University of Santiago. Weak snowfall forced the country's main ski resorts to use artificial snow machines much earlier and more often this season than in previous years. "Chile has been living as if it were a country with an abundance of water," said Pinera. "Climate change and global warming have changed this situation probably forever." — AFP

UK urges US to return diplomat spouse involved in fatal accident

LONDON: Britain has urged the United States to "reconsider" allowing the wife of an American diplomat to leave the country after she became a police suspect in a fatal road crash. British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said he had raised the case directly with the US ambassador to London Woody Johnson, after American officials reportedly allowed the woman to flee to the US.

"I have called the US ambassador to express the UK's disappointment with their decision, and to urge the embassy to reconsider it," Raab said in a statement. Harry Dunn, 19, died on August 27 after his motorbike collided with a car near a Royal Air Force base in Northamptonshire used by the US military as a communications hub. His Kawasaki motorbike hit a Volvo SUV travelling in the opposite direction, according to local police. It confirmed that a 42-year-old American woman being treated as a suspect in their investigations had left Britain. Media reports suggested she had claimed diplomatic immunity. Northamptonshire Police Superintendent Sarah Johnson said her force had followed usual procedures in the case, including "liaising closely with the suspect".

"(She) engaged fully with us at the time and had previously confirmed to us that she had no plans to leave the country in the near future," Johnson said. "Due process was also followed in seeking the necessary documentation to allow for the arrest and formal interview of the suspect," she added. Johnson said the force was now "exploring all opportunities through diplomatic channels" to ensure that the investigation continued.

Britain's Sky News reported that Dunn's family had received a letter from Ambassador Johnson expressing "profound sadness" at the death. Harry Dunn's father, Tim Dunn, told the broadcaster the family were "disgusted" and "appalled" at the suspect's behavior. "I'm angry that someone could do this and then get on a plane and go," he said. "I can't believe she's living with herself." — AFP

International

N Korean, US officials at nuclear talks after latest missile test

Pyongyang tested what it called a 'super-large' rocket

STOCKHOLM: North Korean and US officials yesterday gathered for new nuclear talks in Stockholm after months of deadlock and Pyongyang's defiant test of a sea-launched ballistic missile this week. North Korea's Kim Myong Gil and Stephen Biegun, the special envoy of US President Donald Trump, are part of the teams at the talks. The two were to meet at a heavily guarded venue on an island off Stockholm, several hundred meters from the North Korean embassy, an AFP correspondent said.

The first cars with tinted windows started arriving just after 9:00 am (0700 GMT). "I am encouraged that US and (North Korean) working level delegations are currently in Sweden to hold talks," Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Lindh tweeted. "Dialogue needed to reach denuclearization and peaceful solution." Similar-level talks on North Korea's nuclear disarmament were held in Stockholm in March 2018 and then in January this year.

North Korea frequently couples diplomatic overtures with military moves as a way of maintaining pressure on negotiating partners, analysts say, and many believe this weapons system gives it added leverage. Pyongyang tested what it called a "super-large" rocket on Wednesday just hours after it said it was willing to resume working-level talks with Washington. Kim Myong Gil said he was "optimistic" about the talks, speaking in Beijing on his way to the Swedish capital.

Washington has been eagerly awaiting a resumption of the dialogue, which has virtually stalled after a Hanoi meeting in late February between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. North Korea claimed to have entered a new phase in its defence capability with Wednesday's test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile

— the most provocative since Pyongyang began a dialogue with Washington in 2018. The Pentagon said Thursday the missile seems to have been launched from a "sea-based platform" and not a submarine. Trump said he sees no problem with a string of short-range rocket tests conducted previously by North Korea, while insisting his personal ties with the North's leader remain good.

'New phase'

Photos carried by Pyongyang's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed a black and white missile emerging from the water and appearing to shoot into the sky. The images also showed a small towing vessel next to the missile, which analysts said indicates the test was conducted from a submersible barge rather than an actual submarine, and that the system was in its early stages.

"The new-type ballistic missile was fired in vertical mode" in the waters off Wonsan Bay, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, identifying the weapon as a Pukguksong-3 and saying it "ushered in a new phase in containing the outside forces' threat." The United Nations Security Council meanwhile is expected to hold closed-door talks early next week on the latest test, diplomats said. Those talks were requested by Britain, France and Germany, as the European powers push for the world body to keep up pressure on Pyongyang which is under heavy US and UN sanctions over its weapons program.

North Korea is banned from ballistic missile launches by Security Council resolutions. It is also under three sets of UN sanctions adopted in 2017 in an effort to force it to give up its nuclear and ballistic weapons programs. They limit North Korea's oil imports and impose bans linked to its exports of



LIDINGO: Cars carrying members of the North Korean delegation arrive to Villa Elfvik Strand conference center where US-North Korea talks are expected to take place. — AFP

coal, fish and textiles. Since the US-North Korea talks began, Russia and China have been calling for the UN to start lifting

sanctions so as to create momentum towards the North's denuclearisation. But the United States has refused. — AFP

Cameroon president drops prosecution on 'some' political rivals

YAOUNDE: Cameroon's President Paul Biya on Friday announced he had ordered prosecutions to be dropped against "some" opposition leaders, including a number from the main Movement for the Rebirth of Cameroon (MRC) led by his jailed rival Maurice Kamto. The move is the latest in a series of concessions from the 86-year-old leader, who is under intense international pressure over a sweeping crackdown on the opposition.

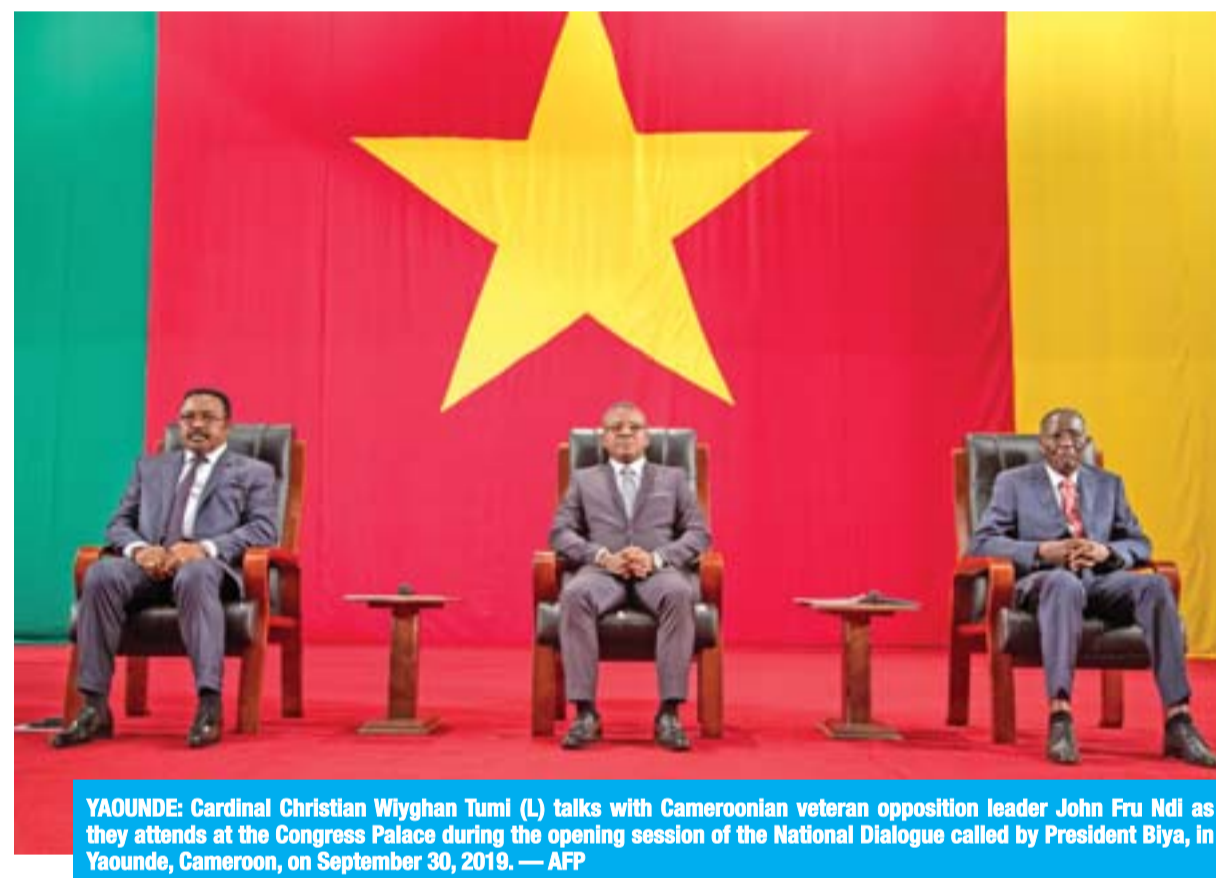
He is also attempting to ease surging tensions in separatist anglophone regions, with talks on the turmoil wrapping up Friday. "I have ordered the discontinuance of proceedings pending before Military Tribunals against some officials and militants of political parties in particular the (MRC)," he said on his official Twitter account in English. In French, he added that it affected those "arrested and detained for acts committed in contesting the results of the recent presidential elections".

He did not specify whether the decision would affect Kamto, Cameroon's main opposition leader who unsuccessfully claimed victory in elections last year. Kamto went on trial with 88 others in a military court in September on charges of insurrection, hostility to the motherland and rebellion — crimes which could carry the death penalty. Their next hearing was scheduled for October 8. His party also was not able to confirm details.

"I do not know if Maurice Kamto is involved or not," said senior MRC official Emmanuel Simh. Kamto was arrested in late January after months of peaceful opposition protests over the results of the October 2018 election won by Biya, who has been in power for 37 years. The crackdown on Kamto and the opposition has caused outrage among rights groups and many western governments.

Multiple crises

Biya's shock announcement came on the closing day of crunch talks aimed at easing a bloody crisis in



YAOUNDE: Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi (L) talks with Cameroonian veteran opposition leader John Fru Ndi as they attend at the Congress Palace during the opening session of the National Dialogue called by President Biya, in Yaounde, Cameroon, on September 30, 2019. — AFP

Cameroon's anglophone regions, which were shunned by the main separatist leaders. Two areas in western Cameroon — the Northwest Region and Southwest Region — are home to most of the country's anglophones, who account for about a fifth of a population that is overwhelmingly French-speaking.

Two years ago, decades of resentment at perceived discrimination boiled over into an armed campaign for independence that has met with a brutal crackdown. The president on Thursday announced the release of more

than 330 people detained in connection with the anglophone crisis. In a statement on Friday, the president's office said Biya "reaffirms his determination to tirelessly continue his efforts in the search for the ways and means for a peaceful resolution of the different crises that may confront our country".

Delegates at the talks on the anglophone crisis on Thursday adopted a resolution recommending "special status" for the English-speaking areas "aimed at strengthening the autonomy of administrative areas". — AFP

Thai judge shoots self in court after railing at justice system

BANGKOK: A Thai judge shot himself in the chest in front of a packed court after acquitting several murder suspects and decrying the kingdom's judicial system in an impassioned speech broadcast on Facebook Live. Critics say Thailand's courts often work in favor of the rich and powerful, while delivering swift and harsh sentences on ordinary people for minor offences. But it is virtually unheard of for judges to criticize the system.

Kanakorn Pianchana, a judge at Yala court in the heart of the insurgency-battered Thai south, was delivering the verdict for five Muslim suspects in a gun murder case on Friday afternoon. He acquitted the group, delivered a courtroom plea for a cleaner justice system, before pulling out a handgun and shooting himself in the chest.

"You need clear and credible evidence to punish someone. So if you're not sure, don't punish them," the judge said addressing the court and broadcasting his words on his phone on Facebook live. "I'm not saying that the five defendants didn't commit the crimes, they might have done so... But the judicial process needs to be transparent and credible... punishing wrong people makes them scapegoats."

The Facebook feed then cut, but witnesses said Kanakorn recited a legal oath in front of the former Thai king's portrait, before shooting himself in the chest. "He is being treated by the doctors and is out of danger," Suriyan Hongvilai, the spokesman of the Office of the Judiciary, told AFP yesterday. "He shot himself because of 'personal stress'. But the cause behind the stress is not clear and will be investigated," he said. No Thai judge has ever breached protocol by making similar statements on the wider justice system, he added. A lawyer working with the suspects said Judge Kanakorn had ruled the prosecutor's evidence was insufficient to convict. "Right now the five are still being detained and are waiting to see if the state prosecutor appeals their acquittal," Abdulloh Hayee-abu, of the Muslim Attorney Centre in Yala told AFP. Over 7,000 people have died in 15 years of conflict in the Malay-Muslim majority southern region. Thousands of suspects have been jailed for acts linked to the insurgency, many under emergency laws imposed on the restive region. Advocacy groups in the Thai south have long accused security forces of trumping up charges against Muslim suspects and using emergency laws to drive cases through the courts. — AFP

Seven Philippine ex-rebels killed by IS-linked gunmen

MANILA: Seven former Muslim rebels have been killed in the southern Philippines, military and police authorities said yesterday, in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. They said the dead were all members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), formerly the country's largest guerrilla group but which began decommissioning weapons last month under the terms of a 2014 peace treaty.

A pro-IS armed group called Dawlah Islamiyah attacked a MILF camp near the town of Shariff Saydona on Friday, sparking fighting lasting several hours, said Lieutenant-Colonel Ernesto Gener, commander of a local army battalion. IS claimed responsibility in a communique seen by SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist activity. The jihadists said eight MILF members were killed, but local police commander Lieutenant-Colonel Arnold Santiago told reporters the authorities were only aware of seven deaths.

Locals said they saw seven bodies being loaded onto a boat at a riverbank in Shariff Saydona, about 900 kilometers south of Manila. MILF spokesman Von al Haq declined to comment. The MILF peace pact ended decades of Muslim rebellion that had claimed 150,000 lives by government estimates in the Mindanao region, home to the Catholic nation's large Islamic minority. The MILF was put in charge of a Muslim autonomous region as part of the peace accord, but Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said IS is attempting to set up a Southeast Asian stronghold there.

Hundreds of pro-IS gunmen seized the Mindanao city of Marawi in May 2017, sparking a five-month battle that left more than 1,000 people dead. The MILF, sometimes with Philippine military help, has in recent years waged an armed campaign to flush out a number of pro-IS groups operating in the swampy farming region around Shariff Saydona. — AFP



HERAT: In this photo taken on October 1, 2019, an internally displaced Afghan girl looks on as she walks towards her temporary home at a refugee camp on the outskirts of Herat. — AFP

Violence against Afghan children up sharply: UN

UNITED NATIONS: Violence against children in Afghanistan has risen sharply over the past four years, a UN report says. From 2015 to 2018 a United Nations team studying the plight of children in war-torn Afghanistan documented 14,202 grave violations against them throughout the country, says the report published this week by the office of Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

"Of serious concern, the killing and maiming of 12,599 children was verified, representing almost a third of all civilian casualties and an increase of 82 per cent in child casualties compared with the previous four years," the report says. The extent of these violations is probably even

greater, adds the report. Civilians have long paid a disproportionate price in the 18 years since a US-led force invaded Afghanistan against the Taliban, and insurgency-linked violence claimed a record number of lives generally last year with more than 3,800, according to UN figures released previously.

The report documents 274 cases of children being recruited to fight, 17 of sexual violence committed against them, 231 child abductions, 832 attacks on schools and 249 cases of humanitarian aid being denied. Armed groups are mainly responsible for grave violations, except in the case of sexual violence, which is often blamed on security forces, says the report. "I am deeply disturbed by the scale, severity and recurrence of grave violations endured by the children in Afghanistan and by the fact that they continue to bear the brunt of the armed conflict," Guterres said. "I urge all parties to immediately cease all violations." "I am extremely concerned about the significant increase in the number of child casualties, including those resulting from aerial operations conducted by government and pro-government forces," he added. — AFP

African migrant child dies trying to reach Spain

MADRID: A young African child has died off the coast of Spain after being rescued from a packed boat carrying 66 migrants, the maritime rescue services said Friday. Aged about six, the child died on Thursday while being transported by helicopter to the southern coastal city of Almeria, said a spokeswoman, who was unable to say whether it was a girl or a boy, nor specify the nationality.

Rescuers located the boat in the Alboran Sea between Morocco and Spain in waters just off Motril, a town 100 kilometers east of Malaga, after being tipped off by the NGO Caminando Fronteras ("Walking Borders"). Among those on board were 20 children and 14 women, one of whom was pregnant, the spokeswoman said. They were rescued by a patrol vessel from the European Union's border agency Frontex, which called in urgent assistance for the child who "had a weak pulse and whose temperature was below 36 degrees Celsius (96.8 degrees Fahrenheit)."

The helicopter picked the child up with its mother and flew them to Almeria where they were met by an ambulance, by which point the child had died, she said. The other rescued migrants disembarked at Malaga on Friday morning. At least 1,041 men, women and children have died while trying to make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean this year, with 315 of them dying as they sought to reach Spain, according to figures from the International Organization of Migrants (IOM). — AFP

Analysis

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Washington Watch

On the edge?

By Dr James J Zogby

I don't know which metaphor to use to describe the current crisis in our politics because so many come to mind. Are we at a tipping point? The edge of a cliff? Or sitting on a volcano waiting for it to explode? You can choose one or all, because we are in a place we've never been before and it's dangerous.

The problem didn't start with the election of Donald Trump. Nor did it begin with the Democrats launching an impeachment inquiry against Trump. This is a developing crisis that has been growing like a cancer within our polity for at least the past 25 years. Its main symptoms are a lack of civility in our political discourse, a "take no prisoners" mindset, and a denial of the very legitimacy of "the other side." Trump didn't create this crisis; he was the result of it.

When Newt Gingrich took the helm of Congress in 1995, unlike previous Republican leaders, he embarked on a campaign not only to obstruct the efforts of then President Clinton, but to destroy him. Congress launched a series of investigations accusing Clinton of everything from corruption to obstruction of justice – with hints of even more nefarious plots to assassinate those who might pose a problem to his presidency.

They finally settled on Clinton's lying about an embarrassing sexual dalliance as the grounds for impeachment. What was most notable about this entire sordid affair was the total contempt demonstrated by this new breed of Republicans for Clinton. It wasn't political. It was personal. They weren't out to defeat his proposed legislation. They didn't see him as a legitimate president and sought to destroy him.

Later, during the months' long standoff that accompanied the 2000 election, culminating in the Supreme Court decision that George Bush should be the winner, my brother John Zogby conducted poll in which he asked Democratic and Republican voters whether or not, should the other side win, would they feel that new president be considered a "legitimate president."

The results were disturbing: despite the fact that Al Gore had won the popular vote and the outcome was still being decided, a significant majority of Republicans said they would not accept Gore as a legitimate president. A majority of Democrats, on the other hand, said that should Bush be declared the winner, they would respect the outcome.

Bush, unlike Clinton, did not face retribution from the Democratic controlled Senate. They passed his tax cuts, compromised on a series of domestic initiatives, and rallied behind him after 9/11, giving him the authorization to make war and unprecedented powers of intrusive domestic surveillance. It wasn't Democrats who sunk Bush's presidency, it was his failed war in Iraq, his disastrous mishandling of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and the 2008 economic collapse.

Within weeks of Barack Obama's inauguration, Republicans stepped up efforts to obstruct and delegitimize his presidency. The GOP's minority leadership in the House and Senate boldly declared that their intention was not to work with him but "to bring him down" by funding outside and organizing outside groups, like the Tea Party and the "birther movement."

Never before had leaders in one major party been engaged in such a campaign to question whether the president was even a legal US citizen. And their efforts took a toll. In polling conducted back then, well over 60 percent of Republicans stated that they believed the Obama was not born in the US – and therefore was not a legitimate president (the same number also said they believed that Obama was secretly a Muslim, therefore lying about being a Christian).

While Obama's presidency was above reproach in that he was never charged with any wrongdoing. His first Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, was hounded by Republican Congressional committees who accusing her of concealing and deleting her private email account hide it from investigators. She was subjected to hours of interrogated by Congressmen who charged that she failed to protect the US Ambassador to Libya, contributing to his death.

While one might say that the email inquiry was a legitimate concern – despite the fact that several of Clinton's predecessors also had such personal accounts – the contempt Congress demonstrated in charging her with contributing to the death of the Ambassador was clearly an effort to harass, humiliate, and degrade her service.

This lack of respect and civility brought us to the 2016 presidential campaign and the election of Donald Trump. During the primary, Trump demeaned his opponents, railed against the media, insulted the courts, preyed on xenophobic fears, and incited his supporters to use violence against protesters.

His behavior was so outrageous that pundits declared him to be "unpresidential" and unelectable. They failed to recognize that the political well had been so poisoned that what they found unacceptable was well received by many Republican voters were fed a steady diet of incivility and contempt for "the other" over two decades. The beast spawned by the GOP in the 1990s had come of age and was now devouring them.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

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



This photo taken on Aug 18, 2019 shows empty streets around the Software Technology Parks of India area in the Rangreth industrial estate in Srinagar. — AFP

India clampdown hits Kashmir's Silicon Valley

The coffee machines have been cold, computer screens blank and work stations empty for two months in Kashmir's Silicon Valley as an Indian communications blockade on the troubled region takes a growing toll on business. The dozen software development companies in the Rangreth industrial estate on the edge of Srinagar bring tens of millions of dollars of crucial revenue into the region each year.

But the cutting of Internet and mobile phone links on August 5, when the New Delhi government ended Kashmir's semi-autonomous status, has crippled business. Rangreth has become a ghost town, a symbol of suffering across the region. The government said the crackdown, backed by the presence of hundreds of thousands of security forces, was needed to head off trouble by militants in the Muslim-majority territory.

Pakistan also claims Kashmir which the two neighbors divided when they became independent in 1947 and have squabbled over ever since. Markets, banks, schools, clothes stores and the fledgling hi-tech industry have all been closed. Many locals say the shutdown is in protest at the government action. Authorities blame militant threats.

Rangreth's warehouse-style halls, normally packed with young T-shirted programmers, are empty. "It's a devastating blow to the software business in Kashmir. Internet is like oxygen to our business and it has been taken away,"

the owner of one company with clients all over the world told AFP on condition of anonymity.

No computers, no cars

The businessman said clients' patience was running out. "We're likely to lose them," Jahangir Rasool, chief executive of Internet provider STC, said he was detained by police for six days for keeping lines open for a few hours to help another company in his building that has clients in the United States. Rasool said his firm and others have the firewalls and protocols to block social media or "political propaganda" on the Internet. But he said Indian authorities would not listen.

"They sent police and intelligence agencies to inspect our systems. We told them that the IT sector will collapse (without the Internet). They said: 'Let it. We are not taking any risks,'" declared the director of another company with clients in the Middle East. Authorities have unblocked most landlines. But apart from 6,000 mobiles used by police and government officials, most of Kashmir's 880,000 mobile connections and Internet services remain suspended.

Some IT companies have already laid off workers, many are preparing to move their business away from Kashmir. Rasool at STC said his company had lost more than \$2.8 million in business since August 5 and has laid off two

thirds of its 370 employees. "We can't function in a total blackout," said STC's finance chief Abid Bhat who compared the shutdown to being "blind".

High-tech is not alone in its suffering. Not a single car or truck has been sold in two months by dealers across the Kashmir Valley, said Aawan Ahmad Narwaroo, head of one Srinagar car dealership. He reckoned about 5,000 vehicles and motorbikes were sold in the same two months last year. Official records show no new vehicles have been registered with the authorities since Aug 5. "It's a collapse of Kashmir's economy. It's not possible to calculate the snowballing losses," Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Nasir Hamid Khan told AFP. "About 1,200 trucks carrying Kashmiri produce used to ply daily on the main highway out. Today we hear not even 100 do," Khan said.

At least three top business leaders were among thousands arrested after the Aug 5 clampdown. The executives are still in detention. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a top police officer told AFP the decision to reopen mobile and Internet services would be taken by India's powerful Home Minister Amit Shah. "He (Shah) is asking for guarantees that no large scale protests will happen if the services are resumed. And there is no official here today confident enough to put his neck on the block," the police official said. — AFP

In northwest Spain, conservation efforts pay off as bears thrive

Daylight is only just breaking over Spain's Cantabrian Mountains and already a dozen enthusiasts are up and about in the hope of spotting a brown bear. Shy creatures which feature on the list of Spain's endangered species, Cantabrian brown bears have been growing in number in this mountainous northwestern region after almost disappearing. Fernando Garitagoita has rented a house in La Peral, a hamlet in the Somiedo nature reserve in the Asturias region, to be first in line in the morning to film them with his telephoto lens.

On holiday with his family, the house is just metres from a hill where dozens of passionate bear watchers set up camp every day, equipped with powerful telescopes and expensive photography equipment. Silently they wait for a bear to emerge from the forest and clamber up rocky scree slopes to eat buckthorn berries which grow on a shrub that fruits in late August, says Garitagoita. A stir of excitement runs through the group when a bear is spotted pawing at a bush to get hold of the glossy black berries. "It's emotional, you feel joy, happiness. You get an adrenaline rush," admits the 53-year-old professor. "For me, it's a unique moment."

Regaining ground

In the 1980s, it was very rare to see a bear in the Cantabrian Mountains, a range stretching more than 400 km along Spain's northern coast, from the Pyrenees in the east to Portugal's northernmost tip in the west. Not only was their habitat under threat from the construction of roads and other infrastructure but the bears were still seen as dangerous pests, with their numbers reduced by both illegal hunting and people leaving out poisoned bait.

Down to just 60 or 70 in number, they became critically endangered, says Guillermo Palomero, president of the Fundacion Oso Pardo (Brown Bear Foundation), an NGO founded in 1992 to promote the peaceful co-existence of humans and bears. But following a dedicated campaign by conservationists, the population has grown steadily and the area now counts between 330 and 350 brown bears, among them more than 40 females who produce cubs every year.

Unlike in the Pyrenees, where the creatures had to be reintroduced after being hunted to extinction, the brown bears of Cantabria are gradually repopulating their own native territory. Big fruit lovers, they can even be seen venturing into the orchards around northern towns like Oviedo and Leon. And a young adventurous male was spotted in northern Portugal in May where bears have not been seen since the 19th century.

Involving the public

The spectacular recovery is the result of efforts to protect the environment as well as to educate people

about the importance of bear populations, says Palomero. The entire mountain range is today a protected conservation zone, and a project to connect the area's two main populations has seen the creation of "bear corridors" that enable those living in the west to safely reconnect with those in the east.

For decades, bears living in the two territories had been separated by new roads. "Involving the public was key to shifting in a very short time between a negative image of bears to one which was neutral or even largely positive," Palomero says. Not only did that involve dispelling the myth that bears attack humans, but they also erected more than 1,500 electric fences to cordon off hives and orchards, ran an information campaign in schools and the media, and staged a crackdown on poaching. "Before, a poacher who killed was a local hero, but now if someone boasts in a bar about killing a bear, one of his neighbors will likely report him," he adds.

And any harm or damage caused by the bears, be it to livestock, beehives or fruit trees, is fully compensated, thanks to funding from the European Union as part of its efforts to protect threatened species. "It shouldn't cost anyone a single euro to live side-by-side with a bear," insists Palomero.

The bears have become a magnet for tourists in the Somiedo nature reserve, says local mayor Belarmino Fernandez. When he first became mayor 25 years ago, the area didn't attract any tourism, he says. Today, however, this community of 1,300 people boasts 90 tourist shops and hotels that count around 1,400 beds. — AFP

Scientists fight to save unique Guiana coral reef

Off the coast of Guiana, a French overseas department perched on the north coast of South America, scientists scour the choppy waters for signs of life. From the deck of a Greenpeace ship, they take photos and keep meticulous notes – compiling a catalogue of sea creatures sustained by a coral reef only recently discovered but already threatened, activists say, by mankind's hunger for oil. Near the mouth of the Amazon river in the Atlantic Ocean, the Amazon Reef is one of the world's largest but its existence became known only in 2016.

"We are talking about a unique ecosystem not seen anywhere else in the world and that we barely know, and it is already under threat from oil," says Thiago Almeida of Greenpeace Brazil, on board the Esperanza – a former Russian fire-fighting vessel-turned environmental ship. At the moment, the ship is home to experts from Greenpeace and France's CNRS research institute – participants in a special mission to document the wildlife in an uncharted region. Their goal: To make a case for keeping the area off-limits to fossil fuel hunters.

Just last year, Greenpeace revealed that the reef stretched into French Guiana waters. French Guiana's offshore area is off limits to prospectors under French law but campaigners say it would be threatened by any explo-

ration or drilling off neighboring Brazil. "A lot of oil would come to French Guiana" in the event of a leak, said Almeida. "If we look at the oil spill modelling done by the companies themselves, you can see that the threat is real."

Not only the water and reef, but also the land is at risk, with mangrove forests stretching all along Guiana's coast serving as crucial fish nurseries. British oil giant BP, French company Total and Brazil's Petrobras joined forces in 2013 to buy exploration blocks in the region in Brazilian waters. But they needed permission to search and last December, Brazil's Ibama environmental regulator denied Total a licence to drill citing "deep uncertainties" in emergency plans, "aggravated by the possibility of an oil spill that may affect the coral reef present in the region and by extension marine biodiversity." BP is still trying for a drilling license in the area, a move campaigners say could endanger the reef.

Not just passing through

Earlier this month, a team of six experts braved the muddy water and strong currents to scrutinize the reef's corals, sponges and calcified algae, taking photos and samples. So far, the mission has identified several species of dolphin, killer whales, sailfish and several marine birds. But Olivier Van Canneyt, a scientist with the CNRS-aligned Pelagis observatory, is quick to stress the reef represents "more than a migratory route."

"We also observed humpback whales with their young; their presence confirms that it is also a vital place of breeding and (nurturing). French Guiana waters are a crucial place for the survival of many cetacean species," he explained. For Edina Ifticene of Greenpeace's Protect the Oceans campaign, the discovery of these creatures



This picture taken on Sept 3, 2019 shows a dolphin with a remora on its back swimming with Esperanza, the environmentalist organization Greenpeace's boat sailing on the Amazon reef off the French Guiana coast. — AFP

showed "it doesn't make sense to drill for oil in such a critical environment; an oil spill could have irreversible consequences for the entire area." Not only that but exploiting oil deposits threatens to undermine the fight against climate change caused by planet-warming gases emitted as humanity burns fossil fuels for energy.

Brazil's ANP petroleum agency has estimated the area may hold as much as 14 billion barrels of oil – a quantity scientists say could release 5.2 gigatonnes (Gt) of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. According to the International Energy Agency, global energy-related CO2 emissions rose to a historic high of 33.1 Gt last year. Scientists say we need to leave at least 80 percent of the world's known remaining fossil fuel reserves in the ground to prevent runaway climate change. — AFP

Business

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Group picture of the management teams from Zain Drone and BHGE

Zain Drone enters MoU with Baker Hughes

Agreement aims to reduce safety risks, operator error and time in energy sector

ABU DHABI: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and North Africa, announces that its fully owned subsidiary Zain Drone, has entered a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Baker Hughes, a GE company (BHGE) to provide digital inspection services in the MENA and Turkey region. The agreement was penciled on the sidelines of the 24th World Energy Congress held in Abu Dhabi, UAE and will allow the two entities to explore ways in which they can offer full inspection capabilities for customers' assets and infrastructure in the energy sector.

Together, Zain Drone and BHGE would be able to support the growing demand to replace physical inspections with digital inspections, reducing physical inspection hours, costs, manual labor, human error and shut-down time for operators. Commenting on the MoU, Zain Group CEO of Operations, Scott Gegenheimer commented, "This agreement marks a significant step forward for Zain Drone with respect to addressing another key vertical sector - the energy sector - with our services. Partnering in this area with an established company with the reputa-

tion of BHGE is also extremely positive, and together I am confident we can offer the energy industry some of the most compelling and precise remote digital inspection services in the market." Rami Qasem, President & CEO, BHGE's Measurement & Controls, said: "Our collaboration with Zain Drone can have significant benefits for the energy industry. As a true innovator in the region, Zain Drone has developed impressive capabilities to use drones in industrial environments, and BHGE's advanced inspection services will help to usher in a new era of digital inspection for our customers."

Zain Drone as-a-Service (DaaS) offering unlocks opportunities in various industries to fast-track growth and exploit the Internet of Things (IoT) in an efficient, safer and faster way. The offering delivers state-of-the-art bespoke drone solutions and provides advanced analytics for governments and businesses. Zain DaaS facilitates the gathering of image data concerning work advancement through measurement of key parameters, assessing image data to evaluate compliance with original designs, and performing automated stock-taking.



Zain's Scott Gegenheimer and BHGE's Rami Qasem sign the MoU

US unemployment rate hits 3.5%; job growth cool

WASHINGTON: The US unemployment rate dropped to near a 50-year low of 3.5 percent in September, with job growth increasing moderately, suggesting the slowing economy could avoid a recession for now despite trade tensions that are hammering manufacturing.

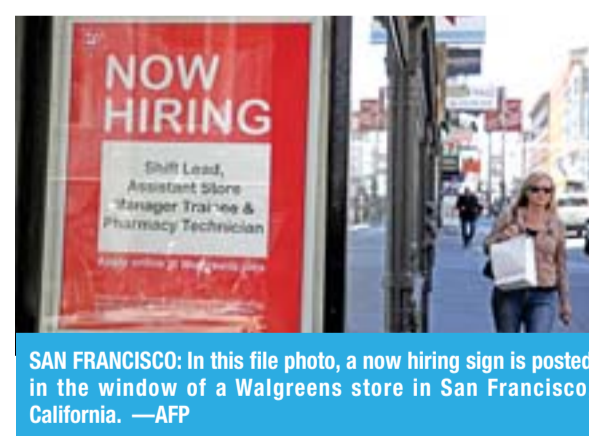
The Labor Department's closely watched monthly employment report on Friday, however, contained reminders that the risks to the longest economic expansion on record remained tilted to the downside. Wage growth stagnated and manufacturing payrolls declined for the first time in six months. The retail and utilities sectors also continued to shed jobs. The report followed a string of weak economic reports, including a plunge in manufacturing activity to more than a 10-year low in September and a sharp slowdown in services industry growth to levels last seen in 2016, that heightened fears the economy was flirting with a recession.

"The unemployment rate usually rises ahead of a recession, so a fresh decline pushes out the timeline for any potential recession into late 2020 at the earliest," said Josh Wright, chief economist at iCIMS in New York. The two-tenths of a percentage point drop in the unemployment rate from 3.7 percent in August pushed it to its lowest level since December 1969. The jobless rate, which had been stuck at 3.7 percent for three straight months, declined even as 117,000 people entered the labor force last month. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 136,000 jobs

last month, the government's survey of establishments showed. The economy created 45,000 more jobs in July and August than previously estimated. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls would increase by 145,000 jobs in September.

September's job gains were below the monthly average of 161,000 this year, but still above the roughly 100,000 needed each month to keep up with growth in the working-age population. The smaller household survey from which the unemployment rate is derived showed a jump of 391,000 in employment in September. With signs that the Trump administration's 15-month trade war with China is spilling over to the broader economy, continued labor market strength is a critical buffer against an economic downturn. The trade war has eroded business confidence, sinking investment and manufacturing.

There is also political uncertainty in Washington after the Democratic-controlled US House of Representatives launched an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump over accusations he pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate former US Vice President Joe Biden, a leading candidate for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. These factors, together with benign wage inflation, are likely to prompt the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates at least one more time this year, economists said. The US central bank cut rates last month after reducing borrowing costs in July for the first time since 2008, to keep the economic expansion, now in its 11th year, on track. Fed Chair Jerome Powell reiterated on Friday that the economy was "in a good place," adding that "our job is to keep it there as long as possible." The dollar was little changed against a basket of currencies. Prices of US Treasuries rose marginally. Stocks on Wall Street were trading higher.



SAN FRANCISCO: In this file photo, a now hiring sign is posted in the window of a Walgreens store in San Francisco, California. —AFP

Strong gov't hiring

"We continue to expect the Fed to cut its target interest rate later this month," said Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan in New York. "We believe it would have taken a much stronger number to convince Fed leadership that they have already taken out enough insurance against downside risks." Economic growth estimates for the third quarter range from as low as a 1.3 percent annualized rate to as high as a 1.9 percent pace. The economy grew at a 2.0 percent pace in the second quarter, slowing from a 3.1 percent rate in the January-March period. Slower growth was reinforced by a report from the Commerce Department on Friday that showed the US trade deficit widened 1.6 percent to \$54.9 billion in August. A broader measure of unemployment, which includes people who want to work but have given up searching and those working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment, declined to 6.9 percent last month, the lowest level since December 2000, from 7.2 percent in August. —Reuters

US business groups oppose Trump on 'Dreamers'

WASHINGTON: The US Chamber of Commerce, other business groups and companies including Amazon.com Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google have filed a brief at the US Supreme Court opposing President Donald Trump's effort to end a program that protects from deportation hundreds of thousands of immigrants who were brought into the United States illegally as children.

The Supreme Court is set to hear arguments on Nov. 12 over Trump's 2017 plan to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program created by his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama in 2012. Trump's move to rescind DACA was blocked by lower courts. The immigrants protected under the program often are called "Dreamers."

In the brief filed on Thursday, the business groups said Trump's move would harm individual companies that employ DACA recipients and the US economy as a whole.

The program currently shields about 700,000 immigrants, mostly Hispanic young adults, from deportation and provides them work permits, though not a path to citizenship.

Apple CEO Tim Cook filed a similar brief earlier in the week. A Supreme Court decision is due by the end of June, in the thick of next year's presidential race in which Trump is seeking re-election. Democratic presidential candidates including Joe Biden have pledged actions to protect the Dreamers and offer them citizenship.

Trump, Republicans in Congress and Democratic lawmakers have been unable to hammer out a legislative deal to protect "Dreamers." The Trump administration has argued that Obama exceeded his constitutional powers when he bypassed Congress and created DACA.

The legal question before the Supreme Court is whether the administration properly followed a federal law called the Administrative Procedure Act in Trump's plan to end DACA. Under Trump's September 2017 decision to rescind DACA, protections for Dreamers were to have begun phasing out in March 2018. But lower courts directed the administration to continue processing renewals of existing DACA applications while the litigation was resolved. —Reuters

Business

Oil-rich Venezuela and Russia come to the aid of ally Cuba

Output issues and sanctions-related restrictions plague Venezuela

HAVANA/MEXICO CITY: A flotilla of shipments from Venezuela gave Cuba some respite this week from crippling fuel shortages in the wake of tougher US sanctions, while Russia's prime minister pledged during a visit to the island on Friday to help develop its energy sector.

But support from two of its closest allies looks unlikely to resolve Cuba's energy problems and the government has extended many of the energy-saving measures it had introduced over the past month.

Havana warned on Sept. 11 it had not secured sufficient shipments of refined fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, for the rest of the month due to sanctions imposed by the administration of US President Donald Trump in retaliation for its support for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

In response to the shortages, Cuba swiftly deepened austerity measures it had introduced since an economic meltdown in Venezuela, its principal supplier, choked off its energy imports. Cuban authorities cut public transport last month, decreased production at some factories, and encouraged the use of more animal-powered vehicles and wood-fired ovens. Venezuela responded by increasing oil shipments to its Caribbean ally, despite its own output issues and sanctions-related restrictions. Since late September, at least eight tankers carrying some 3.83 million barrels of crude and fuel have been shipped from Venezuela, according to Refinitiv Eikon data and internal data from Venezuela's state-run oil firm PDVSA. That represents a sharp increase from five vessels loaded with 1.98 million barrels during the first half of September.

Following the shipments, there are no longer multi-hour queues at Cuban gas stations for gasoline, although diesel remains elusive. Transport officials on Wednesday said they would be upping the frequency of train and bus departures, although not yet restoring "normality" following the drastic cuts last month. President Miguel Diaz-Canel celebrated that Cuba managed to avoid blackouts in September in an editorial in the Communist Party newspaper Granma entitled "No fear of the current juncture." The

two-day official visit of Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, which concluded on Friday, also sent a signal the island is not alone. Medvedev on Friday visited a horizontal oil well located in the Boca de Jaruco oil field in northern Cuba which is being developed by Russian and Cuban state-run companies Zarubezhneft and Cubapetroleo. Zarubezhneft plans to drill 30 wells in two years there at a cost of 100 million euros, Russian state-owned news agency Sputnik wrote on Friday. The two countries are working towards reducing Cuba's dependence on energy imports by improving its energy efficiency and collaborating on oil exploration, a senior Russian government official told TASS news agency. However, Medvedev did not announce any short-term measures to provide relief to the island during his visit.

More shortages likely

Cuba's oil production currently meets an estimated 40 percent of its needs. Nearly all the rest has been supplied by Venezuela for years under a barter agreement for Cuban medical services, with some imports from other allies like Algeria and Russia. However, analysts say Venezuela and Cuba will struggle to keep beating ever-tightening US sanctions.

To supply Cuba in recent days, PDVSA used a portion of an old fleet that had not left Venezuelan waters for years, likely due to difficulty leasing tankers from vessel operators. "It's getting tougher and tougher," said Francisco Monaldi, a Latin American energy expert at Rice University's Baker Institute. He said many companies in the industry were steering clear of any business with Venezuela in the wake of the sanctions.

Some analysts say one objective of Medvedev's visit was likely to discuss helping Cuba out of its energy crisis, perhaps in conjunction with Venezuela. There has been a flurry of visits between high-level Russian, Venezuelan and Cuban officials of late. Most recently, Venezuela's Executive Vice President Delcy Rodriguez was in Moscow



HAVANA: Car drivers line up to get their tanks filled at a gas station in Havana. — AFP

and then Havana. "But the degree to which Russia can provide that is questionable given their own economic situation," said Jason Marczak, Director at the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. TASS said Russian supplies of oil products to Cuba grew almost four-fold in the first half, citing the Russian government. It did not provide details, nor did it give shipment volumes for the second half, during which the Trump administration has upped the pressure. Cubans, meanwhile, are struggling. Niuris Higuera, owner of Havana restaurant Atelier, said authorities met a group of private business owners to ask them to slash their electricity usage by as much as half.

"I've mostly stopped using air conditioning and the electric oven," she said. State offices are turning off electricity for several hours at midday. With the computers off, employees turn to paperwork or leave the office to escape the Caribbean heat. Some state workers who were told to stay home without a cut in salary have not yet been recalled, while some Havana cinemas have only one screening a day instead of

two or three. "They ended the comedy shows at night due to the oil problems," said Yolanda Santana, a cleaner at the modernist Yara cinema. "I've no clue when the situation could improve." — Reuters

Bayt.com weekly report

Here's why you didn't land the job

Your CV was prepared by a professional, you did all the necessary groundwork before the interview and you thought the interview went extremely smoothly. So why aren't you celebrating an offer letter yet? Here, from the career experts at the Middle East's #1 job site Bayt.com, are the top potential reasons candidates often fail to secure the job of their dreams.

You did not tailor your CV to match job requirements

Many jobseekers make the mistake of using the same generic unfocused CV to apply for very different positions in different industries. Your CV should to the extent possible be tailored to the specific job you are targeting and should show in a very direct manner skills, qualifications and experiences that directly come to bear on the given job. If you are targeting a number of different jobs, have different CVs for each job type so that your CV can be customized to the unique requirements of each industry. Find out what skills and qualifications to showcase in each CV by looking at the job description, researching the position and industry and talking to people in the industry, then highlight the skills and expertise that make you a perfect match. Employers want to hire people who are focused and specifically interested in their industry and company, so having a generic unfocused CV with a very vague objective statement and skills inventory will fail to capture the employer's attention or convince them that you are the best fit for the job.

2. You forgot the weight a cover letter carries

Every CV should be accompanied by a cover letter to personalize your CV and communicate in a precise, specific manner your objectives and the specific value-added you will bring to the job. The cover letter should be short and specific and should leave the employer in no doubt as to your interest in the company and industry and your unique qualifications for the job you are targeting. Cover letters, like the CV, should be tailored to the company and industry and should communicate in no uncertain terms the suitability

of the experiences and qualifications listed on your CV to the job at hand as well as your enthusiasm to work for the specific company. A CV sent without a cover letter will lack the 'personal touch' and will likely be lost in the fray.

3. Your CV was buried

The average employer is inundated with CVs on an ongoing basis and is more likely than not to add your CV to the pile, pending possible future follow-up. To ensure your CV is acted on and does not get buried with the rest, you MUST follow up in a diligent manner. Remember, the purpose of the CV and cover letter is to get an interview so call each employer shortly after you send the CV and communicate you are calling to follow up, ensure receipt and arrange for a face-to-face interview. Prepare a very short 'soft sell' for the phone conversation to 'educate' the employer as to who you are and why you are uniquely suited to the job and 'excite' him to want to meet you in person in an interview situation to talk further details.

4. You did not practice, practice, practice

Many candidates make it to the interview stage and disappoint the employer with their obvious lack of preparation for the meeting. Poor preparation includes slovenliness in researching the company, not being up-to-date on industry news, not understanding what the job requirements are and not having answers to common interview questions. You must, must, enter the interview armed with the maximum amount of knowledge about the company, industry and specific job so you can then tailor your answers specifically and position your skills and past experience in a manner that demonstrates your unique suitability for the position in question and the valuable contributions you can make to the company.

5. You underestimated your outfit

First impressions go a long way and you may be hard-pressed undoing the damage if you send out a wrong message with your interview attire. Dressing too casually or completely inappropriately for the interview may communicate a lack of respect for professional norms of conduct as well as an unprofessional non-conformist attitude overall. Always aim to err on the conservative side in your attire with crisp, clean business attire and avoid tight, casual or loud clothes as well as unnecessary accessories and excess make-up for women.

6. You did not respect the professional setting

The interviewer is screening you during the course of the interview for suitability to the job at hand and is assessing you in terms of your ability to conform in a professional way to the requirements of the job and the company culture; any unprofessional conduct will reflect negatively on you and is likely to immediately take you out of the running. This includes any behavior that shows a lack of respect for the interviewer and professional norms of conduct such as arriving late, arriving unprepared, aggressive or unprofessional body language, being unfamiliar with your CV, treating the interviewer in a condescending or overly familiar manner, talking at length about your personal life and problems and/or obvious exaggerations or outright lies about your work history. It is very helpful to read some literature about body language and interview skills if you are relatively new to the interview scene and unfamiliar with the basics.

7. You weren't as enthusiastic

It is surprising how many jobseekers will make it to the interview stage and then demonstrate a total ambivalence and lack of interest in the company not to mention an obvious failure to research it in detail. Employers want to hire people who will be keen, enthusiastic members of the team and will carry the company banner with pride; the last thing they want are disgruntled employees who are less than enthusiastic about the company's products and bottom line and will negatively impact the company culture. You must show a familiarity with and interest in the company and ask intelligent, relevant questions, prepared beforehand, that demonstrate you have done your homework and are very excited about joining the team. Any reluctance you have about joining the company should be kept to yourself at this early stage of the process; concentrate your efforts during your interviews on securing the position.

8. Your value was blurry

If you are unconvinced about your value-added to the company, it is less than likely that you will be able to convince the employer. Make sure as you sit in the interview seat that you are intimately aware of the requirements of the position and can directly relate your past work history, aptitudes, qualifications and skills to the requirements of the position. Imagine yourself already on the job and com-

municate to the employer how you will contribute significantly and in record time to the company's bottom line and how you will excel in performance and exceed targets and expectations. Make sure to include every skillset and past success in bringing to bear how you will positively impact the company's performance. If you already see yourself on the job and can mentally apply your past successes and skills inventory to achieving your new targets you are more likely to convince the employer across the table from you of your unique and undisputed suitability for the position.

9. You did not care enough

Many candidates make the mistake of assuming the ball is outside their court following the interview stage and fail to follow-up, thereby losing what was a viable job opportunity. You must follow up! Oftentimes the interviewer has had to travel following an interview, is bogged down with a heavy workload and tight deadlines or is simply waiting for you to follow-up to determine your proactivity, energy level and interest in the job. Immediately after an interview while the questions and answers are fresh in your mind write a thank you letter to the employer which leaves him in no uncertain terms as to your interest in the company and your unique suitability for the job. Reiterate the qualifications and past successes that are immediately applicable to the position and emphasize any points that support your case and add gravitas to your application. If you would like to make up for any important facts that were missed out during the interview process or if you feel there are specific strengths you want to highlight following what you learned during the interview, this is your opportunity. Then follow up on the thank you letter with a phone conversation reiterating your interest in the position and enquiring what the next steps should be.

10. You did not choose the right recommendations

Before giving a prospective employer names of references make sure you are very familiar with their professional opinion of you and there will be no unpleasant surprises. Many a successful job application has ground to a halt because of unsatisfactory or outright negative feedback from references at or after the job offer stage. Wherever possible, get the references in writing so that you are intimately aware of the feedback your reference source has on you and there is no margin for error.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.900
Euro	335.240
Sterling Pound	376.550
Canadian dollar	231.860
Turkish lira	53.960
Swiss Franc	309.230
US Dollar Buying	297.600

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.830
Indian Rupees	4.295
Pakistani Rupees	1.963
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.670
Nepali Rupees	2.676
Singapore Dollar	221.260
Hongkong Dollar	38.885
Bangladesh Taka	3.596
Philippine Peso	5.870
Thai Baht	09.992
Malaysian ringgit	77.980

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.361
Qatari Riyal	83.798
Omani Riyal	792.463
Bahraini Dinar	810.150
UAE Dirham	83.068

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.100
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.705

Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.225
Tunisian Dinar	110.870
Jordanian Dinar	430.500
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.367

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.740
Canadian Dollar	230.725
Sterling Pound	375.885
Euro	333.495
Swiss Frank	307.075
Bahrain Dinar	810.415
UAE Dirhams	83.370
Qatari Riyals	84.610
Saudi Riyals	82.160
Jordanian Dinar	431.105
Egyptian Pound	18.729
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.672
Indian Rupees	4.308
Pakistani Rupees	1.949
Bangladesh Taka	3.609
Philippines Peso	5.872
Cyprus pound	18.130
Japanese Yen	3.815
Syrian Pound	1.595
Nepalese Rupees	2.697
Malaysian Ringgit	73.635
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	43.065

Thai Bhat	10.935
Turkish Lira	54.365
Singapore dollars	220.536

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY BUY SELL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
EUROPE		
British Pound	0.389458	0.383358
Czech Korune	0.004996	0.014296
Danish Krone	0.040790	0.045790
Euro	0.327607	0.341307
Georgian Lari	0.121620	0.121620
Hungarian	0.001149	0.001339
Norwegian Krone	0.029478	0.034678
Romanian Leu	0.065326	0.082176
Russian ruble	0.004583	0.004583
Slovakia	0.009116	0.019116
Swedish Krona	0.026933	0.031933
Swiss Franc	0.300101	0.311101
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.198450	0.210450
New Zealand Dollar	0.186768	0.196268
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.223695	0.232695
US Dollars	0.300650	0.305950
US Dollars Mint	0.301150	0.305950
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002935	0.003736

Chinese Yuan	0.041264	0.044764
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036981	0.039731
Indian Rupee	0.003649	0.004421
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002773	0.002953
Korean Won	0.000244	0.000259
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069089	0.075089
Nepalese Rupee	0.002628	0.002968
Pakistan Rupee	0.001342	0.002112
Philippine Peso	0.005691	0.005991
Singapore Dollar	0.215774	0.225774
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001321	0.001901
Taiwan	0.009708	0.009888
Thai Baht	0.009679	0.010229
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.802200	0.810266
Egyptian Pound	0.018659	0.022019
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000215	0.000275
Jordanian Dinar	0.424927	0.433927
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021230	0.045230
Omani Riyal	0.786425	0.794333
Qatar Riyal	0.083051	0.083887
Saudi Riyal	0.080180	0.081480
Syrian Pound	0.001292	0.001512
Tunisian Dinar	0.102628	0.110628
Turkish Lira	0.046530	0.056375
UAE Dirhams	0.082338	0.083166
Yemeni Riyal	0.000991	0.001071

Business



KUWAIT: Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO, Bengt Schultz COO, executives of the top management at Al-Sayer Holding, Scott McNicol General Manager Toyota Sales and other top officials during the launch of new Toyota Supra. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



The fifth-generation Toyota GR Supra

The legend is back: 2020 Supra ready for the road

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Co unveils new Toyota Supra

KUWAIT: Years of anticipation among the region's sports car enthusiasts came to an end yesterday with the launch of the fifth-generation Toyota GR Supra in the Middle East. The eagerly-awaited return of the iconic vehicle is set to delight Supra fans and inspire a new generation with its stunning design, high-octane performance, and exciting driving experience.

The launch press conference was attended by Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO, Bengt Schultz COO, executives of the Top Management at Al-Sayer Holding, Scott McNicol General Manager Toyota Sales, along with Sales consultants, representatives from the press and media in the presence of Tetsuya Tada, Chief Engineer of new Supra, Naoya Inoue Project Manager and Yoko Nawa Assistant Manager from Toyota Motor Corporation.

According to Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer "An ambitious journey for Toyota, with the passion for sports cars, design and performance has arrived at a new milestone. The legacy of this iconic masterpiece from Toyota goes back 40 years, since it started production in 1978. As we always say time rewards innovation, venture and boldness. The last Supra rolled out of production line in 2002, and after 17 years, the Supra is back."

The Supra name evokes the power, performance, and handling that defined a succession of world-class cars for a quarter of a century, which built a reputation both as formidable performers on the road and all-conquering machines on the racetrack. The all-new GR Supra is the first Toyota global model developed entirely by GAZOO Racing (GR). The team has been developing its cars and people through its participation in motorsports with the goal of making 'ever-better' cars ever since first competing in Germany's 24 Hours of Nurburgring endurance race in 2007. GR's years of knowledge and expertise have been channeled into bringing the Supra back to life in the form of the all-new Toyota GR Supra, an all-new expression of pure sports car performance that people the world over will find fun to drive.

'That feels amazing!'

Chief Engineer Tetsuya Tada, who headed the vehicle's development, said: "The history of Supra development is marked by the pursuit of driving pleasure created by the relationship between driver and car. The all-new GR Supra really reacts the way you want and feels good to drive. I can definitely say that the acceleration delivered by the GR Supra's straight-six turbocharged engine feels truly exhilarating. The solid torque it provides continuously elevates the acceleration feel to a sublime level. Once people have experienced that feeling, even those who don't know or who have forgotten about the fun of driving a car will think, 'That feels amazing!'"

Tada continued: "It's not about numbers, it's the sense of becoming one with the car; that is what we were pursuing and was the main consideration throughout the development process. We aimed to ensure that the car properly hugs the road surface and delivers excellent stability, offering supreme driving confidence regardless of road surface conditions."

"We know several Toyota customers and sports car enthusiasts have had one question in their minds - Is Supra coming back? Toyota believes in the principle of 'customer first' and in that spirit they decided 'Yes! The



legend is back". When the arrival of the new Supra was announced earlier this year, we could experience waves of excitement across the globe," commented Scott McNicol.

Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: "We are thrilled to launch the all-new Toyota GR Supra, which builds on more than 50 years of rich heritage to deliver our purest sports car experience yet. The Supra is one of Toyota's most iconic models, and we wanted to create a vehicle that honors its legendary reputation and carries its sporting legacy into the future. With an exhilarating blend of power, balance, and agility, it offers the ultimate expression of driving pleasure."



mission delivers speedy up and downshifts, and features paddle shifters for manual control when desired. Short ratios for the lower gears and a launch control function, which is not intended for use on public roads or repeated short interval use, enable powerful acceleration with maximum traction.

The 2020 Supra offers two driving modes, Normal and Sport. The Sport Mode sharpens throttle response, increases steering weight and improves transmission shift crispness. This mode also engages a more aggressive active differential tuning and amplifies the exhaust sound. Meanwhile, Traction Mode can be activated as part of the Vehicle Stability Control System to provide track-driving capability by reducing the interven-



Miyamoto added: "I'd like to thank the incredible team involved in bringing our vision for the all-new GR Supra to life. I also extend my gratitude to our customers for inspiring us on our continuing journey to develop 'ever-better' cars."

End of 17-year hiatus

The launch of the all-new GR Supra marks the end of a 17-year hiatus since the production of the previous generation concluded in 2002. As with all previous generations, the 2020 GR Supra is a front-engine, rear-wheel-drive vehicle powered by an inline six-cylinder engine. Extensive attention has also been paid to the fundamental elements of wheelbase, tread, and center of gravity, thus achieving superior handling performance befitting a pure sports car.

The 2020 GR Supra's 3.0-liter turbocharged engine produces up to 335 hp and 500 Nm of torque. The torque comes on strong even from very low engine speeds, thanks to a combination of a twin-scroll turbocharger, direct fuel injection, and continuously variable timing on both the intake and exhaust camshafts. Engine response is further enhanced thanks to the inline six's variable intake-valve lift system, which adjusts intake valve timing and duration for optimal performance. The 8-speed automatic trans-

tion of the traction and stability control functions. Launch Control is available only when the vehicle is in Sport and Traction modes.

For performance driving enthusiasts, the all-new GR Supra offers an active differential that uses an electric motor and multi-plate clutches to control lateral torque. The active differential precisely controls torque distribution between the rear wheels when cornering under both acceleration and braking, enabling greater momentum through a corner, with stepless variable locking from 0-100 percent. Excellent handling and stability and superior ride comfort are realized through the vehicle's optimized construction, which incorporates both front double-joint type MacPherson strut suspension and rear multi-link suspension. The 2020 GR Supra embodies Toyota's Condensed Extreme design theme, which was first previewed by Toyota in its dramatic FT-1 concept car at the 2014 International Auto Show in Detroit. Condensed Extreme refers directly to the vehicle's packaging, and comprises three principal elements: a short wheelbase, with large wheels and a wide stance; a taut, two-seat cabin; and a long bonnet with a compact body, which reflects the drivetrain combination of an in-line six-cylinder engine and rear-wheel drive. These elements combine to create a design that is visually appealing to



Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer

sports car enthusiasts.

The all-new GR Supra design achieves a 50:50 weight distribution while optimizing front-to-rear aerodynamic balance. The frontal design was inspired by the fourth-generation Supra, but has a more expressive look. The vehicle's low stance is emphasized by a prominent central grille flanked by large air intakes, which are essential for engine cooling. The distinctive headlight units feature a six-lens LED arrangement incorporating the indicators and Daytime Running Lights (DRL). The rear combination lamps feature a purposeful structure with the turn, tail, and stop functions integrated into the distinctive main ring shape. In side view, the low bonnet generates a dynamic line that flows rearwards from the car's low nose, while the back edge of the bonnet and rear spoiler are set at almost the same height, linked by a low beltline.

Exquisite exterior

The fifth-generation GR Supra's distinct personality is completed by its exquisite interior, which balances function with premium comfort and convenience features. Influenced by the layout of single-seater racing cars, the cockpit places the driver at the center of the action by neatly combining traditional Grand Tourer elements with ultra-modern functionality. The low, slim horizontal dashboard maximizes the forward view through the windscreen, while the main controls are tightly grouped for quick and easy operation. The instrument panel, center console, and door trim combine seamlessly to give the cockpit a strong, unified feel.

The 2020 GR Supra's gauge cluster features an 8.8-inch color Thin Film Transistor (TFT) LCD with an analog tachometer in the center and a digital speedometer on the left side, creating a sporty image that reflects the vehicle's racing heritage. A 1.8-inch full-color Head-Up Display (HUD) provides various

driver-focused information, while a further 8.8-inch widescreen touch display located on the dashboard features a navigation system, which can also be operated via remote control on the center console, enabling easy fingertip access without disturbing driving posture. Additional features include a back monitor with guidelines, dual-zone automatic air conditioning system, and a JBL 12-speaker HiFi Surround Sound system with a seven-channel amplifier.

As with all Toyota vehicles, safety is paramount. High-tensile and ultra-high-tensile strength steel have been used for the main body-part materials, realizing a lightweight yet highly rigid body that effectively absorbs impact energy. A four-point pop-up hood system is available as well to protect pedestrians in the event of a collision. In addition, the car features a comprehensive array of safety and convenience features, such as four SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Parking Brake (EPB), and Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS), among many others.

The all-new Toyota GR Supra is available in a range of eight exciting colors, including the newly developed Matte Storm Gray Metallic, a matte finish with a hint of blue that creates an impressive, finely honed image. Emotional color schemes and materials have been used to express sports car performance and suit the selective preferences of discerning owners. The interior comes with a choice of newly developed Ignition Red or classic Black color schemes, which can be offset with either Carbon Ornament or Dark Silver Paint Ornament detailing for the ornamentation to emphasize functionality and further add to the stylish interior. Contributing to the vehicle's outstanding handling and stability, high-performance tires are available with 19-inch forged aluminum wheels with black paint and a buffed finish.



Business

NBK introduces new enhancements to the NBK Mobile Banking App

Enhancements satisfy customer needs, offer them unique services

KUWAIT: Maintaining its leadership position in the sector, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues to offer advanced banking services. NBK has recently introduced new enhancements and services to the NBK Mobile Banking App, aimed at providing the latest digital solutions that enable customers to complete banking transactions quickly and easily.

With the new releases, customers can apply for loans and credit cards at their fingertips as per their convenience through the app, and are able to easily increase their credit card limit at any time. The NBK Mobile Banking App also enables customers to open Al-Jawhara Account, NBK Term Deposit, NBK Flexible Term Deposit and NBK Partial Withdrawal Deposit. Also, it is the first App in Kuwait that allows customers to activate dormant accounts instantly. Another enhancement is the NBK Swift Tracking through which customers can track their money transfers conveniently anytime, anywhere by simply logging in to the NBK Mobile Banking App and click-

ing on the account statement history to view the status of their transfer.

NBK offers the standing orders service that allows customers to establish a monthly standing order through the NBK Mobile Banking App to make automatic recurring transfers, in addition to making amendments or deleting these standing orders in a few simple steps.

The App also features the e-Payments service to make electronic payments for purchases at a large number of local and international companies such as telecoms, retail facilities and entertainment channels. As for the NBK Quick Pay feature, NBK provides its customers with an easy way to receive or transfer amounts from and to friends, or make payments for bills immediately even on weekends or public holidays.

Commenting on the new enhancements and services introduced to the NBK Mobile Banking App, Cigdem Iltimir Carino, Consumer Banking Group Head of Digital Transformation, said, "The new enhancements

and services introduced in the NBK Mobile Banking App have received great response from our customers as we continue to communicate with them to ensure we understand their needs and satisfy them by providing unique and exceptional services."

Carino added that NBK is committed to designing innovative services for its NBK Mobile Banking App, which comes as part of the Bank's digital transformation strategy to make customers' experience fast and easy when completing their banking transactions anytime, anywhere. Carino reaffirmed: "At NBK, we strive to provide customers with integrated and sophisticated banking solutions with lean experience. We continue to expand our services and products offering and provide easy payment solutions to satisfy our customers' needs."

The bank constantly updates the NBK Mobile Banking App to offer a safe and secure way for customers to conduct transactions such as managing their account and credit cards while travelling, checking their

NBK Miles and NBK Rewards Points, making payments to their NBK Credit Cards or other online bills for iTunes cards, Google Store, beIN SPORTS and Anghami, finding the nearest branch, ATM or CDM in Kuwait, in addition to requesting an account statement or new checkbook, and many more services.

The bank also offers convenient digital services for its customers through NBK Online Banking without the need to visit a branch. NBK was recently awarded "Best Consumer Digital Bank", the "Best in Mobile Banking" in Kuwait for 2019 by the Global Finance magazine.



Cigdem Iltimir Carino

AUB congratulates winners of Al-Hassad draw

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced on the 02nd of October 2019 the winners of its weekly draw of Al Hassad Islamic account which is the very first draw account in Islamic banking in Kuwait that has reshaped the lives of thousands lucky winners. Al-Hassad has have over 850 prizes, over a 12 month period. The weekly draw announced the grand prize winner of KD 10,000 as Mashael Mohammed Alqahtani.

20 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 each. They are: Ameen Majed Ameen, Nawal Mohammad Al-Enezi, Ahmad Omar Shaaban, Abdulla Hussain Al-Khanfar, Jadaan Abdullah Al-Mutairi, Mohammad Saqer Al-Rasheedi, Loulwah Jaber Alahmad, Fahad Mohamman Al-Azmi, Nawaf Mohammad Al-Mutairi, Khaled Fahad Alajmi, Ali Al-Mutairi, Eman Ghoulou Mohammad, Mohammed Khaled Alali, Jameelah Mubarak Al-Daihani, Georgette Eid Najeem, Fawaz Mohammed Al-Mannai, Haider Khamis Ahmed, Abdulhusain Ali Abbas, Arif Qarooni, Ebrahim A Hadi Al-Afoo.

On the occasion Ahli United Bank congratulate its winning customers, and commented that there are many chances to win waiting for our customers. Draws are held every Wednesday at AUB Kuwait or AUB Bahrain depending on the draw plan. On public holidays, the draw is postponed to the next business day. Al-Hassad Islamic Account presents also 4 quarterly mega prizes of KD 250,000 that will help the lucky winners achieve their dreams and aspirations in addition the monthly draw to win a prize of KD 100,000.

NY Fed to extend operations to pump money into markets

NEW YORK: The New York Federal Reserve Bank said Friday it will continue to inject billions into the US financial plumbing on a daily basis through November 4, extending the operations by three weeks.

The effort, begun in mid-September, is aimed at preventing a spike in short-term interest rates, the New York Fed said in a statement. Rates spiked last month as banks struggled to find the cash needed to meet reserve requirements, prompting the Fed to pump billions into US money markets.

It announced daily operations which were due to end October 10, but even then demand exceeded supply on some days. In Friday's announcement, the New York Fed said it will continue to offer up to \$75 billion a day in repurchase agreements-exchanging secure assets for cash for very short periods-as well as 14-day "repo" operations twice a week of at least \$35 billion each.

Economists say an array of conditions converged to dry up liquidity in the banking system-including quarterly corporate tax payments and a surge in government debt sold to investors, which drained cash out of banks. Banks borrow regularly in markets for very short periods, usually overnight, to make sure their daily cash reserves do not fall below the required level. But interest rates increase with demand.

The New York Fed adds or removes liquidity to keep interest rates in line with the desired target, but the cash shortage last month prompted it to pump funds into the short-term repo market as rates threatened to break out of the target range set by the Fed's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee. The central bank cut benchmark lending rates last month and many expect another rate cut on October 31 at the next FOMC meeting.

"The operation schedule and parameters are subject to change if market conditions warrant or should the FOMC alter its guidance to the desk," the New York Fed said Friday. —AFP

KFH announces winner of 'Your KFH Visa card' campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announces Waleed Khaled Al-Bastaki as the winner of the third and last draw of "Your 'KFH' Visa card, the key to your house in Europe" Campaign. The draw took place under the supervision of the representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Abdulaziz Ashkanani. This unprecedented campaign aimed at differentiating KFH customers by offering them unique experience, where spending 1KD using "KFH" Visa cards could make their dreams of owning a property of their choice in any European countries come true.

The winner is eligible to get financial

funds to purchase a property of their choice only in any European country. In addition, business class tickets to Europe with a companion and stay in a 5-star hotel for 5 nights will be provided to finalize the deal, with KD 1,000 pocket money to be used."

Customers earn one chance for every KD 1 spend locally, and 2 chances for every KD 1 spend internationally to enter the draw. Customers eligible for the draw are "KFH" Visa cardholders.

Getting chances to enter draw of winning a property in any of European countries encourages the usage of cards, revitalizes the market and boosts merchants' sales. KFH continues its efforts to enhance collaboration with Visa to launch and carry out several exciting campaigns as this increases customers' satisfaction and expands the market share of the bank in the field of banking cards.

This campaign is part of KFH's innovation strategy and plays a role in maintaining the leadership position of the bank in the field of banking cards in Kuwait. The campaign is an episode of



KFH team with representative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry

the success series especially after the successful launch of the first-of-its-kind in Kuwait "Metal Card" for the private

banking customers, and the winning of Visa Global award of the Fastest Growing Debit Portfolio in Kuwait.

Collateral damage from Haiti crisis: Ruined businesses

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Tens of thousands of dollars of work reduced to ash: a devastating fire at a handicrafts company in Port-au-Prince illustrates the struggles faced by Haiti's private sector as the country's political crisis has spiralled into social unrest.

Caribbean Craft produces home decor items, many of them in papier mache: brightly colored animals, vases, end tables. It has supplied items to large US chains such as West Elm, HomeGoods and Restoration Hardware. The origin of last week's blaze is still unknown but is certainly suspicious. It started on the property next door, a parking lot for the car rental company Avis. Several cars went up in flames before Caribbean Craft's factory was hit. Much of its stock was ruined.

"We couldn't save anything: orders, materials, even the building," said Mario Denestant, the 35-year-old production manager who has worked at the company since 2010.

"It's like my life went up in flames," he added, dissolving into tears. "We had orders that should have been shipped out more than three weeks ago, but because of the country's problems, the containers were not here." Those "problems" include a fuel shortage that led to the total paralysis of the country's economic activities from mid-August to mid-September.

Haiti, which subsidizes the cost of fuel, was unable to pay several million dollars in debt to oil companies, which then did not have the cash to supply the nation's gas stations. The shortage angered the public, already up in arms for more than a year about alleged government corruption, as numerous scandals have rocked Haitian political life. Haiti's roads, deserted because of the fuel shortage, were overrun by sometimes violent protests. Opposition activists demanding the resignation of President Jovenel Moise set up barricades at will.

'Harder than the earthquake'

Along with the protests, looting and fires mounted. Business owners were left without recourse-and sometimes, without their livelihood. Very few are insured: losses due to political unrest are generally not covered, and many couldn't afford policies even if it were.

Caribbean Craft, founded in 2006, employs 150 people year-round, plus another 50 seasonal workers, and main-



PORT-AU-PRINCE: Workers of the Caribbean Craft factory sit outside the burned factory in Port-au-Prince. —AFP

tains a network of 250 artisans. The facility has even welcomed famous visitors over the years, including American TV stars Oprah Winfrey and Conan O'Brien.

After the fire, dozens of employees gathered in the courtyard in front of the blackened shell of their company's headquarters, dark circles under their eyes and full of concern about the future. "We're in a country where there really aren't jobs," said Mona Surpris, calling her work her "stability in an unstable country." Surpris recalls the year when Haiti was struck by a massive earthquake that left more than 200,000 people dead and damaged the business.

"In 2010, we weren't even hit so badly," she said. "We had to change buildings, yes, but this is harder than the earthquake because we have truly lost everything."

Adverse business climate

Magalie Dresse, who owns Caribbean Craft, feels close to her employees and wants them to know that they won't be abandoned-but she doesn't want to sugarcoat the reality of the situation. "It's a failed Christmas season, our biggest season for orders, especially since we just renewed the contract with HomeGoods," Dresse lamented. "We had

worked on our first order for them in six years, for 561 stores, and it's all up in smoke," the 44-year-old said.

"A \$89,000 order... the numbers hurt." Dresse refuses to give in, though-she has already called suppliers and is trying to figure out how to salvage what she can from the ashes. She says she hopes the plight that she and other business owners are facing will draw authorities' attention to the need to improve the economic climate. "For years, we've talked about the country being 'open for business,' we've talked about foreign investments, but as long as we don't have our own house in order, nobody is going to sell here," she chided.

"I'm going to stay hopeful: I know how to sell my country. I know how to sell the work of talented people, Haitian artisans... It's unfortunate that my government does not know what that represents," Dresse said. It is unclear how much the disaster will cost Caribbean Craft in the long run, or if the company can recoup any money over the damage.

"It is normal to complain," Bocchit Edmond, Haiti's foreign minister and also the tourism minister, said this week, referring to protesters. "It is not normal to destroy businesses that promote the image of the country." —AFP

Global stocks mostly rise as US unemployment hits 50-year low

NEW YORK: European and US equities enjoyed strong gains Friday following American jobs data that eased recession fears even as investors continued to expect more Federal Reserve interest rate cuts to boost the economy. The report said the US added 136,000 jobs

in September, while the unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent, a 50-year low. But the pace of job creation slowed and wages fell.

Analysts described the report as a mixed bag. "The unemployment rate may have dropped to its lowest level in 50 years but the labor market is weakening and not improving," said BK Asset Management's Kathy Lien. "The job market is still the strongest in decades, but there's no question that it is in the midst of a slowdown."

The jobs data came on the heels of weak reports on the manufacturing and services sectors that had amplified worries over the US economy. Analysts said the employment report was strong

enough to mitigate talk of a possible recession but probably not good enough to deter the Federal Reserve from cutting interest rates again as soon as this month.

"I think that there is enough uncertainty and we had enough comments from Fed governors today that suggested that they don't want to wait until the last minute if there's a problem," said Maris Ogg of Tower Bridge Advisors. "We'll probably get that cut in October."

Futures markets are betting the Fed will cut interest rates later this month. But Lien said the central bank's next step was still an open question, adding "we don't believe US policymakers share the market's eagerness for easing and data

over the next month will dictate whether the market or the Fed changes their views." Major US indices gained more than one percent, leaving the Dow and S&P 500 narrowly in the red for the week, while the Nasdaq eked out a gain.

Earlier, bourses in Paris, London and Frankfurt also advanced. But stock markets in Asia finished mostly lower, with Hong Kong marking the heaviest drop, shedding 1.1 percent as the city's government announced the face mask ban as it looks to quell the demonstrations that have rocked the economy.

There are worries that the rarely-used colonial-era emergency power could lead to further confrontations or more, stricter laws later. —Reuters

What's On



Ali Al-Masoudi gives the winners their prizes



Opening of Suad Al-Sabah Hall



A part of the lectures at the conference



Suad Al-Sabah's Hall opens at University of Calicut

The Department of Masters and Research in Arabic Language and Literature at Al-Farooq College in cooperation with Al-Ansar College in the Indian city of Calicut held an international workshop entitled: Arabic Language and Literature as a Functional Approach. Dozens of students competed and the prizes were distributed to the winners. The ceremony was held in the presence of Indian Member of Parliament Dr Abdul Wahab, Dean of Al-Farooq College Dr Naseer and University Leaders Dr Mariam Al-Shinasi, and Deans of Al-Ansar. Attendees praised Dr Suad Al-Sabah's initiative in promoting and developing the Arabic language in India. Abdul Wahab, a member of the Indian Parliament, delivered a speech in which he praised the college's efforts in encouraging Arabic language and motivating students through competitions and activities. The Dean of Al-Farooq College praised the competition and thanked the sponsors. Dr Ali Nofal said that a delegation from the college had the honor of meeting Dr Suad Al-Sabah in Kuwait, a meeting that resulted in this cooperation

between the publishing house of Suad Al-Sabah and the college, wishing it to continue annually. Dr Abbas KB, a professor of Arabic and supervisor of the competition, said that the competition was intense among the students, where they presented their best desire to win, and before that out of love for the Arabic language. On his part, Director of the House Ali Al-Masoudi delivered a speech in which he stressed the pride of the poet Dr Souad Al-Sabah in Arabic and her bias among the languages of the world and her keenness to encourage her wherever she was, expressing her happiness with the great efforts of the college in teaching the language according to a serious and profound curriculum. On the following day, Al-Masoudi gave a lecture titled: Suad Al-Sabah, a lighthouse on the Gulf, in which he reviewed Dr Suad Al-Sabah's march from childhood till date, recalling some historical events and variables in the region and the Ottoman-British competition that brought about some political issues affecting the people,

the migration of the people of Kuwait and Najd to the city of Zubair. Reviewing the rule of the sixth ruler of Kuwait Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah grandfather of the poet, and then the story of the marriage of Sheikh Suad Al-Sabah cousin Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak and how he resigned from all positions in the state and his departure and his family to Beirut and then Cairo and London. Dr Suad Al-Sabah got her master's and doctorate, and the lecturer spread some personal events that affected the psychological and intellectual approach of Dr Suad's work, including the early loss of her father and mother in one year and then the death of her eldest son Mubarak. Al-Masoudi explained the great impact of the presence of Abdullah Al-Mubarak in the poet's poetry. On the third day of the conference, Suad Al-Sabah Hall was opened for educational purposes at Al-Farooq College, which was established to facilitate the teaching of Arabic language to the college students according to the requirements of the electronic age. Dr Ali Bin Hanifa, a

member of the Consultative Council in Sharjah, delivered a speech commending Dr Suad Al-Sabah for his efforts. Kuwait has always been a leader in giving and serving science and learners in the Islamic world, recalling its support for the development of the educational process in the early days of the UAE. The Dean of the College also delivered a speech in which he expressed his happiness at the opening of the hall, which will make a qualitative leap in the college. The Head of Arabic Department said that the department will be more effective in such initiatives. On the last day, Al-Ansar College in Calicut hosted the conference guests who presented a number of research papers, including the work of Dr Suad Al-Sabah's poetic march, and Dr Mariam Al-Shinasi presented a cultural competition for students, where her questions focused on Dr. Suad Al-Sabah's literary career. The delegation also visited the Al-Ansar College Library, which includes a section called Suad Al-Sabah, where it donated a large number of publications to the college.



Crowne Plaza relaunches 'BBQ by the pool' extravaganza night

With surroundings of excitement, Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Kuwait hosted a special event on a vibrant night, where important invitees from Kuwait's leading media, loyal clients and hotel guests had the opportunity to indulge in a variety of offerings for the ultimate experience in a perfect and casual atmosphere by the poolside. Starting 7 pm, guests arrived to the breathtaking poolside where a lively view and live entertainment awaited.

With a warm welcome and a smile; staff offered arriving guests signature welcome drinks and succulent pass around lite-bites enabling diners to mingle and share their food experience. Guests indulged in a full variety of unlimited authentic flame-grilled marinated steak, a selection of seafood delicacies and salads completed with delectable traditional desserts, which can only be enhanced by adding infused mocktails with a modern twist. Warm, intuitive assistance added to the atmosphere, providing discerning diners a fun retreat with unparalleled service. Al Thuraya City Kuwait is deeply rich in international history, yet instills in dining innovations. It continues to evolve with nine restaurants offering new takes on classic dishes, your favorite comfort and international flavors; all unparalleled in the industry. BBQ nights by the pool is the newest addition, welcoming guests every Tuesday night from 7 - 11 pm with its unmatched elegant ambience of refinement soothed by the calming water body making it hard to resist, and making the hotel a pacesetter in its space.



Health & Science

Commonwealth tackling climate change with regeneration projects

LONDON: The Commonwealth on Friday launched an ideas-sharing network to tackle the effects of climate change through replicable regeneration projects. The 53-country bloc held a two-day brainstorming of indigenous groups, environmentalists, scientists and climate change experts at its headquarters in London.

The Common Earth initiative will be a network of projects that can be copied and adapted to suit communities around the world. While the Commonwealth contains G20 industrial powers like Britain, Canada and Australia and emerging forces like India and Nigeria, many of its members are developing island microstates which feel exceptionally vulnerable to climate change.

Ideas that can hold sway in the diverse Commonwealth tend to be taken up more widely, such as its climate change accords which were instrumental in the Paris COP21 UN climate conference deal in 2015. "This about looking at practical, existing strategies to clean streams, restore forests and damaged ecosystems, protect marine health, educate our populations and challenge the economic and development approaches that led to the decline of our planet," said Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland.

Planning for hurricanes

Nichie Abo, a farmer from the indigenous Kalinago territory in Dominica who grows man-

gos and avocados, said 95 percent of the homes in his community were destroyed by Hurricane Maria in September 2017. The electricity network—all above ground on poles—was vulnerable to hurricanes and the area was left without power for more than a year.

The community wants to make its electricity network independent of the national grid, with each home having its own power source such as solar panels or a wind turbine. They also want to construct a central building that can withstand hurricanes for use during emergencies and act as a community center at other times. "We're looking for funding," Abo said. "It is going to happen again, so we need to be prepared."

"This idea could be replicated across the Caribbean," he added, citing the Bahamas, hit last month by the devastating Hurricane Dorian. The gathering also heard from contributors on developing more sustainable economic models. "We're in a time of crisis. Emergencies, historically, are a time of great innovation and often bring out the best in us," said Stuart Cowan, regenerative development director at Capital Institute, a US-based finance think-tank.

"We need to start from scratch. We need to design economies that allow people to flourish within the limits of a finite planet," he told AFP.

With an eye on funding, Secretary-General Scotland is to take forward the meeting's initiatives to upcoming summits of Commonwealth trade and finance ministers. — AFP



In this file photo, demonstrators take part in a climate march in Hendaye, southwest France to protest against the annual G7 Summit. — AFP

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- Surgery for reflux disease
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

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DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
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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
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

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

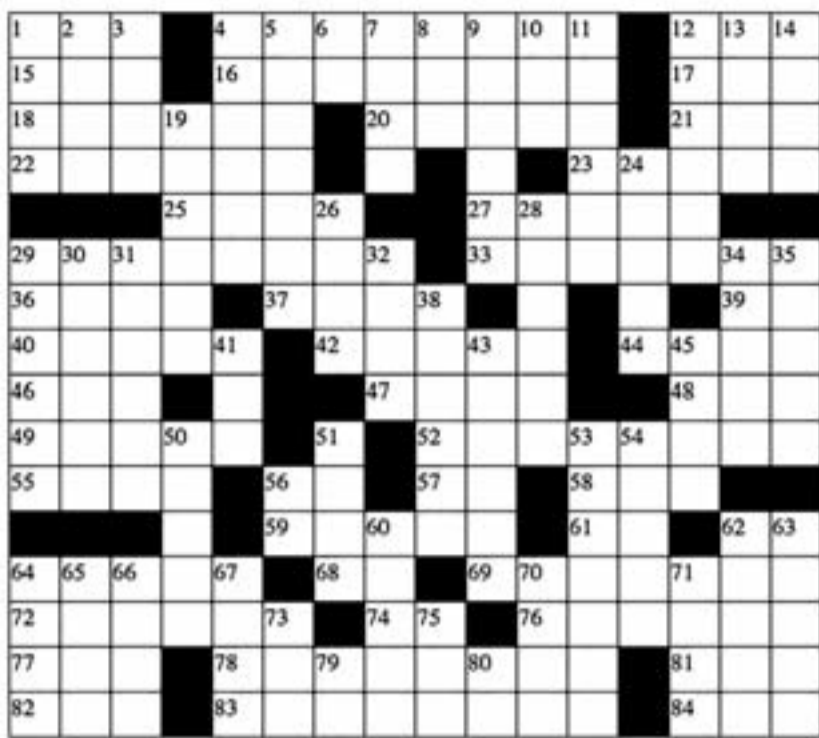
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com
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Stars

CROSSWORD 2325



ACROSS

1. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
4. The use of an archaic expression.
12. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
15. The number that is represented as a one followed by 6 zeros.
16. A republic in northwestern South America.
17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
18. Made of bamboo.
20. Remote and separate physically or socially.
21. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
22. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
23. A shot in billiards made by hitting the cue ball with the cue held nearly vertically.
25. English writer and a central member of the Fabian Society (1858-1943).
27. Jordan's port.
29. Undergo resorption.
33. (Sumerian and Babylonian) A solar deity.
36. American novelist (1909-1955).
37. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
39. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
40. A religious doctrine that is proclaimed as true without proof.
42. United States film actress (born in Sweden) known for her reclusiveness (1905-1990).
44. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.
46. A strong emotion.
47. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
48. Headdress that protects the head from bad weather.
49. A crown-like jewelled headress worn by women on formal occasions.
52. A small loosely aggregated mass of flocculent material suspended in or precipitated from a liquid.
55. Freedom from difficulty or hardship or effort.
57. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
58. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
59. A Bantu language spoken by the Kamba people in Kenya.
61. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
64. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
68. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
69. Hamed or injured or spoiled.
72. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
74. (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
76. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
77. The state of matter distinguished from the solid and liquid states by.
78. A region of northern France on the English Channel.
81. A decree that prohibits something.
82. The residue that remains when something is burned.
83. The Palestinian uprising (beginning in 1987) against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
84. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
2. (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true.
3. (computer science) A standardized language for the descriptive markup of documents.
4. Islands in the Atlantic Ocean belonging to Portugal.
5. South African shrub having flat acuminate leaves and yellow flowers.
6. Being ten more than one hundred forty.
7. Showing characteristics of age, especially having gray or white hair.
8. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
9. A large Yoruba city in southwestern Nigeria.
10. Term of address for a man.
11. Combatant who tries to throw opponent to the ground.
12. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
13. Having or denoting a low vocal or instrumental range.
14. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
19. An old Scottish coin of little value.
24. Capital of Nigeria in the center of the country.
26. (informal) Exceptionally good.
28. A loose robe.
30. Small genus of dioecious tropical aquatic plants.
31. A mythical Greek warrior who was a leader on the Trojan side of the Trojan War.
32. Divulge information or secrets.
34. Employing variations in pitch to distinguish meanings of otherwise similar words.
35. A sharp narrow ridge found in rugged mountains.
38. Manufactured in standard sizes to be shipped and assembled elsewhere.
41. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
43. A narrative song with a recurrent refrain.
45. The dull explosive noise made by an engine.
50. Belonging to or befitting a supreme ruler.
51. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
53. A genus of Paridae.
54. A clique that seeks power usually through intrigue.
56. A state in northwestern North America.
60. New Zealand conifer.
62. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
63. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
65. Type genus of the Anatidae.
66. A vigorous blow.
67. A member of the Shoshonean people of northeastern Arizona.
70. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
71. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
73. Strong liquor flavored with juniper berries.
75. Hormone released by the hypothalamus that controls the release of thyroid-stimulating hormone from the anterior pituitary.
79. A New England state.
80. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There is a feeling that time is slipping away before you even get up this morning. There may not be enough hours in the day to accomplish all you want to do. Be fair to yourself and make a list with the most important chores at the top of the list. Set a stop time for additional projects and give up the rest of your list if family members need your attention. When your friends call, consider trading lists: laughter can then be enjoyed. Make a fun project out of your chores. There may be some painting or repair of some sort. You find yourself talkative and quick-witted. While working through your list, you may find the time good for thinking over your own affairs.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your attention is drawn to lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart. Being appreciated and admired for the way you share and give of yourself is a powerful need and you enjoy returning the same appreciation to others. Your appreciation of others and the beauty in your life as well as the love of those around you are where you will be refreshed and relaxed. This afternoon there is time to bust out of your thoughts and try something fresh: perhaps you have never been to a flea market or a farmer's market. There is also much communication between friends. Philosophical disagreements can become overblown, however—careful.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Meditation and planning can only be productive if you write down your ideas, let them develop and begin to plan. Perhaps you have an art you would like to display. Anytime is a good time to begin the process of expressing your art. This may mean landscaping, music, drawing, photography, lighting, pottery, etc. You can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from some new observer. Through your own ability to follow through and be expressive, you will be helping others. You could find that you are admired for your talents and for how quickly you show the results of your effort.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Sometimes you enjoy the feeling that anything is possible. Many days, like this one, encourage productive efforts, and you busy yourself unintentionally impressing the people around you. Through your work you encourage others to rise above the demands of the day and achieve your reach. There is a kind of restlessness for great emotional or physical experiences. Others cheer you on and wish they had your attitude for most any challenge. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential and develop what is most essential in your environment. You encourage better support because you are flexible, agreeable, security conscious and reliable.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Memories come to the forefront of your mind as you work through some of your chores today. An old picture album or some school autograph book may come to your attention. You may be preparing your place for company or for the possibility of providing a place to freshen up before a reunion or a special social event. Meeting at your place before an event is a good thing as it renews a closeness from long ago. Whatever the case, you enjoy having people in your home and providing the necessities for their comfort—people enjoy your hospitality. You have done all this preparation work because you enjoy doing it, and if you really enjoy providing basic needs and special items for your guests, you might think of investing in a bed and breakfast.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You will be pleased at the progress you have made today—just take a look! This is a gratifying day. This may mean an art project or perhaps you are refurbishing the old family homestead. Support and praise should be coming, not only from family but also from neighbors and the general public as well. Some civic duty may be in order—your ideas are not challenged. You are right where you need to be at this time. You could have insight into your own feelings and inner, spiritual nature. A little playtime is in order this afternoon, perhaps a dinner with friends later this evening. Someone may suggest a camping trip or a group get-together: whatever you are in the mood to do, others will follow. You feel healthy and natural.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Be open to those around you—listen to their words. Someone could challenge you on a very sensitive issue but this is the opportunity you have been waiting for as it gives you the opening to try out some new communication techniques. You have some insights that will help others as well as yourself today. Your friends are very pleased with the attitude changes you have developed over the last few months. New tools for communication, especially with a disagreeable person, are proving quite successful. Harmonious ties to others are what you yearn for: refinement and elegance are what you seek. The ideal partnership, the perfect balance, the highest standards of truth and beauty—these are some of the things that quicken your pulse.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Like wheat or grass blowing and bending in the wind, you can and will create ways to make projects and circumstances bend to your will: things have a way of working out smoothly. Here is a real opportunity to complete any personal projects and work out difficulties. You should be able to get your ideas across to family or friends with ease. Today and tomorrow are wonderful times to enjoy a short trip or begin a vacation. Good feelings and a sense of support make this a happy time: you are flexible as well as witty and people laugh and are merry in your presence. There are makings for a bright and witty day.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There is a loan in the works today, whether it is for you or you see fit to loan money to another person, make sure an iou is dated and signed. In choosing whether to take or to give this loan, you consider the person and his or her past. You might admit or advise that rainy days and celebrations are good reasons to begin a savings account. You have a lot of optimism for whatever goals you set before yourself at this time. A new hobby may have your attention the remainder of the day. After you get really good at this hobby, it is possible that you could use this hobby to make a little extra income from time to time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Professional advice this Sunday is advised. Financial savvy and a practical turn of mind are qualities that take on greater importance now. This could be a real-estate situation or an auction of some sort. You are a wheeler-dealer and seem to have a knack for knowing when to purchase the best buys. You also play the role of a facilitator and this can be a rewarding day. You value fairness in all things and go out of your way to be just. You appreciate others who have been successful and may surround yourself with those in power—be they politicians, officials, etc. Your sense of quality and discrimination may amount to some sort of livelihood for you.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Beginning a diet is favored. Also on the list of things to do are the holiday list-making opportunities. Now is a great time to shop and find just the right thing for the right person on your list. It is also a good time to stock up on the canned goods that you won't have to purchase all at one time when those special dates approach. Any money or timesaving plan is a good one. Loved ones and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized at this time in your life. Later today is for you and if you know of a massage therapist or health food store, this would be a good time to see what they have to offer.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A desire for the stimulation of new ideas and ideals is emphasized now. You may appear very at-ease today. Everything seems to be working together; you may find yourself expressive and outgoing. New friends and an involvement in fun activities make you hopeful that you can meet again. You can agree to regular meetings with these friends. You and your friends enjoy all the same activities and the grand thing about it all is that you are easygoing with each other. There are golf, tennis, bicycle tours, educational treks, etc. You may find that at this time of the year, some of you like to make things to send to a senior home or some other place where people need blankets or gloves to keep warm. The best part of today is that feeling of being useful to others.

Wordsearch Puzzle

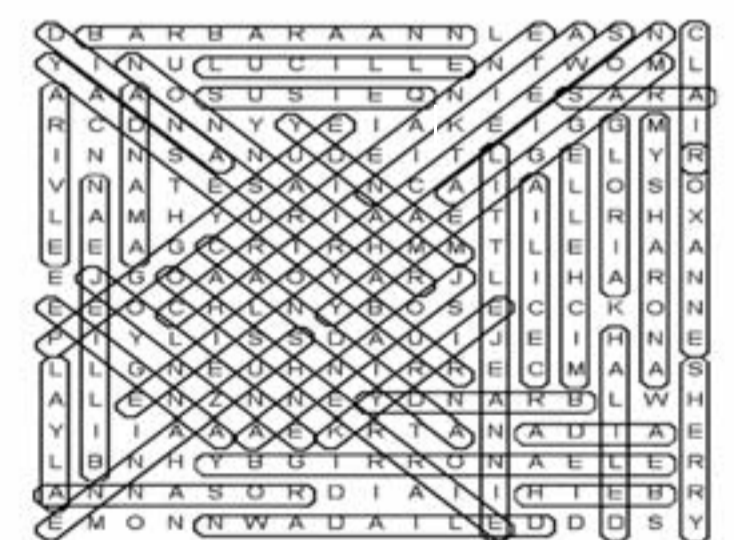
The Golden Girls

Find and circle all of the words and names from *The Golden Girls* TV show. The remaining letters spell the name of a spinoff of *The Golden Girls*.

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

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| BEA ARTHUR | COMEDY | RUE MCCLANAHAN |
| BETTY WHITE | DOROTHY | RUSTY ANCHOR |
| BIG DADDY | ESTELLE GETTY | SHADY PINES |
| BLANCHE | FRIENDSHIP | SITCOM |
| CHARLEY | MIAMI | SOPHIA |
| CHEESECAKE | MILES | SOUTHERN BELLE |
| CLAYTON | RELATIONSHIPS | ST OLAF |
| COCO | ROSE | STAN |

Songs With Girls' Names



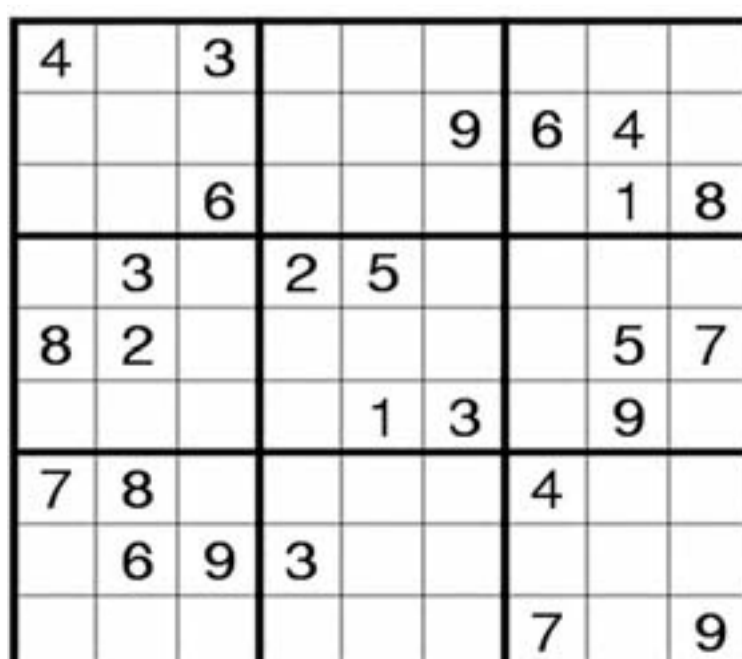
- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| ADJA | DIANA | MY SHARONA |
| ALISON | ELEANOR RIGBY | NIKIITA |
| AMANDA | ELVIRA | OH SHERRIE |
| ANGIE | GLORIA | PEGGY SUE |
| BARBARA ANN | JOANNA | RHIANNON |
| BETH | JOLENE | ROSANNA |
| BILLIE JEAN | KYRIE | ROXANNE |
| BRANDY | LAYLA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

The hidden song title is: LUCY IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS

Friday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Friday's Solution



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019



.....
Spectators attend the unveiling of the 'Bouquet of Tulips' sculpture by US artist Jeff Koons near The Petit Palais Museum in Paris. — AFP
.....

Jeff Koons' controversial 'Bouquet of Tulips' unveiled in Paris

A controversial work by American pop artist Jeff Koons, aiming to symbolize US solidarity with France in the wake of the 2015 jihadist attacks, was unveiled in Paris Friday after becoming mired in years of controversy. Onlookers cheered and applauded as a white sheet was lifted to reveal a massive "Bouquet of Tulips"—a sculpture of a human hand grasping a multicolored bunch of flowers. Koons created the monumental work after being asked to come up with something to rep-

resent America's solidarity with France after the 2015 Paris attacks carried out by Islamic State jihadists, which left 130 people dead.

But the proposed site for the 12-metre work—outside the Palais de Tokyo contemporary art museum, on an esplanade facing the Eiffel Tower—quickly ran into resistance. A site was finally chosen in a green space near the Petit Palais museum in the city centre that is partly obscured from view by trees, ending a four-year row over

its location. Speaking after the ceremony attended by Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo and former US ambassador to France Jane Hartley, who commissioned the work, Koons expressed pleasure that the situation had been resolved.

"When some controversy came about, the city offered this location, and I have to say I think everything really worked out very, very well. "I'm very happy just to have the piece be with Parisian citizens and with the French people. And the work... feels at home." "It's a beautiful

location," he added. He said 80 percent of revenues from the copyright of the work will go to the victims' families and the remaining 20 percent will go to the city for maintenance of the sculpture. Koons, seen as the king of kitsch contemporary art, told Le Figaro earlier this week he was "saddened" by the row, which he claimed was triggered by "a lot of misunderstandings and misinformation".—AFP

Kim Kardashian's Paris robbery to be made into movie

The dramatic Paris gems heist in which Kim Kardashian was tied up and robbed of jewellery worth some nine million euros is to be made into a movie. "Fashion Week" will be adapted from a 130-page graphic novel that cult French writer and director Joann Sfar has written but which has yet to be published, the producers said Thursday. The American reality television star was threatened with a gun, tied up and gagged in the bathroom of a luxury residence in the French capital where she was staying during fashion week in October 2016.

Eleven people have since been charged in connection with the robbery, the biggest heist of one individual in France in two decades. Despite the wave of arrests of mostly well-known and ageing French career gangsters, only one piece of jewelry has been recovered. A total of 9 million euros worth of jewelry was taken.

One of the team of five robbers who forced their way into Kardashian's apartment dropped a diamond-encrusted cross worth 30,000 euros while he was fleeing the scene on a bicycle. It was found by a passer-by a few hours later. The suspected ringleader, 61-year-old Aomar

Ait Khedache, told investigators he had struggled to find a buyer for Kardashian's 18.88-carat ring, which she had flaunted on Instagram.

Old school crooks

The huge gem was given to her by her husband, the rapper Kanye West. Ait Khedache said it was "too recognisable" and that he had given it to an unidentified third party. Sfar is one of France's best known comic and graphic novel authors, and also made "Gainsbourg", the acclaimed 2010 biopic about the hard-living French singer and songwriter of "Je t'aime". He said that like the graphic novel, the movie would be about "a group of old school crooks who eye up the jewelry of a influential celebrity and find themselves swept up in the whirlwind of the fashion world."

Sfar admitted it was "liberally based on the raid on Kim Kardashian". "It is going to be a popular comedy inspired by the real events... about the dying days of the patriarchy. The 'Museum of the Man', to put it briefly," he added. The producers said the film, which will be co-written by "Moloch" screenwriter Marion Festraets, has been "in development since the beginning of the year" and talks were going on with distributors.

French police are still trying to track down the missing jewelry, and believe part of the loot was sold in Belgium. Last year Kardashian's insurance company launched a \$6.1 million lawsuit in the US against her former bodyguard Pascal Duvier and the company he worked for, ProtectSecurity, for breach of contract.—AFP

Trailblazing performer Diahann Carroll dies at 84



In this file photo actress Diahann Carroll arrives at the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Funds annual dinner at the Sheraton New York Hotel in New York City. — AFP

Diahann Carroll, the first black woman to star in her own primetime show and who later gained international acclaim for her role in the 1980s series "Dynasty," died Friday. She was 84 years old. The performer died at her Los Angeles residence after a years-long battle against breast cancer, according to her publicist. The Oscar-nominated actress—who won a Tony Award for her star turn in Broadway's "No Strings" in 1962 — was known for her chic elegance as well as her trailblazing performance in 1968's "Julia."

Born July 17, 1935 in New York's Bronx borough, Carroll proved a gifted singer from a young age, and worked as a model as well as in musical theater before being cast in the 1959 screen adaptation of "Porgy and Bess." It was "Julia" that catapulted her to celebrity—nabbing her a Golden Globe award and an Emmy nomination—as she portrayed a professional black woman in an era when black actresses generally played stereotypical secondary roles.

But while "Julia" was seen as groundbreaking it also fell under sharp criticism for allegedly white-washing the black experience in a tumultuous 1960s America plagued by racial inequality. In films she starred opposite performers like Sidney Poitier, Paul Newman and Michael Caine. The primetime soap opera "Dynasty" saw Carroll establish herself on the global stage, playing a glamorous schemer—and the antagonist to Joan Collins' character in the series about a well-heeled Colorado family.

"I wanted to be the first black bitch on television," Carroll said in an interview on her first day on the "Dynasty" set. "I've never played a role quite this unlikeable," she said. "I like that very much because I think very often, particularly minorities, it's almost required of them that they are nice people." "And I don't want to play a nice person."—AFP

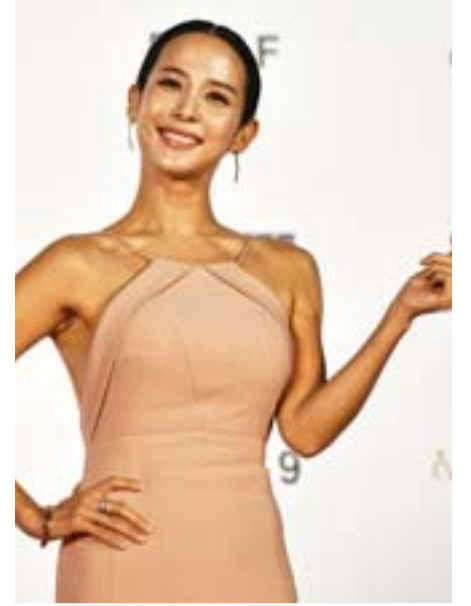
Lifestyle | Film Festival



South Korean actress Lee Haneui, left, and actor Jung Woo-sung pose on the red carpet during the opening ceremony of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) at the Busan Cinema Center in Busan. — AFP photos



(Left to right) Jay Jeon, director of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), Karel Och, artistic director of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Kazakhstan actress Samal Yesilyamova, British film director Mike Figgis, Chinese-Malaysian actress Sinje Lee and South Korean producer Suh Young-joo, CEO of Finecut Co., pose for photographs during a press conference for the New Currents Jury for BIFF in Busan.



South Korean actress Cho Yeo-jeong

Stars arrive in **Busan** for Asia's largest film festival

The night sky cleared over Busan Thursday after days of rain and wind as the city prepared to host Asia's largest film festival and to welcome a glittering array of stars from across the movie world. Local A-listers Jung Woo-sung and Lee Haneui took to the stage as hosts and welcomed international cinema heavyweights including Philippine screen queen Judy Ann Santos, who arrived in Busan for the world premiere of "Mindanao" with director Brillante Mendoza.

British Oscar nominee Mike Figgis ("Leaving Las Vegas") was in town to head the jury for the festival's main New Currents award, and said he was "excited by the journey ahead of us" over the next 10 days. Host Lee

urged guests—and the tens of thousands of fans who flock to the festival each year—to celebrate the "diversity on offer and discover unknown films".

Other stars gracing this year's festival across its run include Oscar-nominated "Call Me By Your Name" star Timothee Chalamet, Indian Oscar winner A.R. Rahman of "Slumdog Millionaire", and France's Ariane Ascaride, fresh from her best actress award at Venice for "Gloria Mundi". The southern port city was hit hard by Typhoon Mitag overnight Wednesday, with local media reporting a search was continuing for a family of four feared lost under rubble after landslides caused the collapse of a factory, restaurants and other buildings.

The government said nine people were killed across the country as of Thursday afternoon, and that more casualties were expected. Festival organizers had cancelled a traditional public lunch Wednesday-citing safety concerns—and delayed the setting up of outdoor facilities along the city's main Haeundae beach as the typhoon was expected to bring strong wind and heavy rain. But conditions cleared by mid-morning and workers were seen urgently preparing the Busan Cinema Centre for the opening night.

Ahead are 299 films from 85 countries, and VIP guests were joined Thursday by around 2,000 moviegoers for the world premiere of acclaimed Kazakhstani director Yerlan Nurmukhambetov's drama "The Horse Thieves. Roads of Time", the festival opener co-directed by Japan's Lisa Takeba. Nurmukhambetov returns to Busan having previously had his debut feature "Walnut Tree" win the main New Currents award in 2015. He said that success was the "engine" that has run his career ever since.

"I was 40 at the time I won and the acknowledgement of this particular number of people gave me a feeling of deep relief and it brought opportunities," Nurmukhambetov revealed before Thursday's screening.



South Korean actor Jung Hae-in



South Korean actress Kim Gyu-ri

Korean cinema is also celebrating its centenary in 2019 and there were huge cheers to greet the red carpet arrival of some local industry greats Thursday—many who feature in the festival's retrospectives and will meet with fans for Q&A sessions.

Those sharing the spotlight Thursday included director Im Kwon-taek, a veteran of 102 films and named best director at Cannes in 2002 for his sprawling drama

"Chihwaseon". Another is actress Kim Ji-mee, who chucked up around 700 films before calling it quits in the late 1990s. Kim was famed also for a string of romances that saw her dubbed Korea's Elizabeth Taylor by the local media.—AFP

Kore-eda urges 'solidarity' as Japan-South Korea trade war rumbles on

Cannes Palme d'Or-winning Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda says he has come to South Korea to show "solidarity" with his fans and fellow filmmakers as governments in Seoul and Tokyo fight out a bitter trade war. "Through showing support for each other we can solve and overcome these political problems," Kore-eda said Saturday as he formally accepted the Asian Filmmaker of the Year of Award from South Korea's Busan International Film Festival (BIFF). "I believe in solidarity."

Although the 10-day BIFF features Japanese films throughout its program, eyebrows were raised at the end of September when it was revealed that the upcoming Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) had not selected any

Korean productions for its main award. The trade war between the two countries was ignited after a South Korean court ordered that Japan pay compensation to the relatives of those affected by its colonization of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

Japan refused to acknowledge the ruling and first placed trade restrictions on tech exports to South Korea before downgrading the country's trading status. South Koreans have since mounted a widespread boycott of Japanese goods, including beer, cosmetic products and cars, among others. Kore-eda pointed to BIFF's own history with problematic politics as an "inspiration" to filmmakers and to the world.

The Korean festival had come under intense governmental pressure in 2014 when it screened a controversial documentary about the Sewol ferry disaster that claimed the lives of more than 300 people, many of them children. The documentary highlighted what it saw as misconduct by the then-government of Park Geun-hye. The festival was told to withdraw the film but kept it on the programme and then faced budget cuts and criminal charges filed against senior management. The matter was only really resolved with the arrival of the government of Moon Jae-in in 2017.—AFP



This handout photo shows Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda during a ceremony for the Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award by BIFF in Busan. — AFP

Ferry disaster, politics and cinema intermingle at BIFF

A new film about the Sewol ferry sinking, a disaster that killed more than 300 people—most of them children, will premiere at Asia's biggest film festival, five years after director Lee Sang-ho caused controversy with his first documentary on the topic. "Diving Bell", which screened at the 2014 Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), criticized then leader Park Geun-hye's administration on its handling of the sinking. In response, angry officials cut BIFF's \$1.3 million funding by 50 percent, with Busan's mayor at the time criticizing the movie as "too political" for such an event.

The city's action echoed the national government's approach—more than 10,000 artists who criticized Park or simply expressed support for the Sewol victims' families were blacklisted. Now, Lee's new film, "President's 7 Hours", revisits the day the Sewol sank and tries to clarify the mystery surrounding Park's seven-hour absence after news of the tragedy broke. There was wild media speculation on what she was doing, but investigators concluded she was at her residence for the first few critical hours after the disaster.

Park, who was later impeached and is currently serving a 25 year jail term for bribery, extortion, abuse of power and other charges, has never given a clear reason for her lack of public response as the tragedy unfolded. Tickets for "President's 7 Hours" BIFF screenings sold out in just 10 minutes, according to the movie's producers. "I hope the fire (for justice) spreads to all corners of the country for BIFF just like it did with 'Diving Bell' five years ago," Lee said. The Sewol disaster remains a national trauma, having exposed a bitter political divide where families of the victims—mostly from a working class suburb—were accused by right wing groups of being North Korea sympathizers because they criticized the conservative politicians in power.

Truth never sinks

The Sewol's captain Lee Joon-seok—one of the first people to leave the sinking ship, abandoning hundreds of children trapped inside—was sentenced to life in prison for negligence and murder. Other crew members were jailed for terms ranging from 18 months to 12 years. But families of the victims are demanding those in government at the time should be held to account, and have called for fresh investigations into key figures of the Park administration, including Hwang Kyo-ahn, who was justice minister and is now leader of the main opposition Liberty Korea Party.

Lee, who is also a journalist, has demanded all those culpable be brought to justice, accusing prosecutors of selective law enforcement. He pointed to the speed with which South Korean justice minister Cho Kuk's home was raided in a corruption probe involving his daughter's admission to a medical school, compared to the investigations into the role of key political figures in the Sewol incident.—AFP

Thai cave film makes world premiere at Busan festival

The first movie centered around the cave rescue of 12 Thai schoolboy footballers and their coach made its world premiere on Saturday and there was one man in the audience for whom the experience proved as thrilling as it was nerve-shredding. "You can't help but relive the tension and the fear we were feeling, but also there was that sense of excitement and relief when it was all over," rescuer Jim Wamy told AFP.

The Ireland-based Belgian was among the crew of international cave rescue divers who plucked the "Wild Boars" and their coach from the Tham Luang Nang Non

caves last year and he has travelled to the 24th Busan International Film Festival for the world premiere of the fittingly titled "The Cave". Wamy plays himself in the film and said the experience—his first in film—had been therapeutic.

"For me it's not about making a profit it's been about inspiring other people to show that great things can be achieved, against the odds," said Wamy. "Physically, I was back at work on Tuesday after I returned on Sunday. But it took six months to come to terms with it and I worked through a lot of it during filming too."

Directed by Irish-Thai filmmaker Tom Waller, the film is the first in what is expected to be a rollout of big- and small-screen treatments of the story that gripped the world for the 18 days the group was trapped underground. Wamy had only just gone back to Ireland, to his partner and his day job as an electrician, when the calls started coming from filmmakers, TV producers and journalists. "I'd returned home after completing the rescue and the pressure suddenly changed," he said. "It was almost like more pressure than the actual event. But it's worked out OK in the end."

Waller's film puts its focus more on the rescue effort than on the kids and the teacher who were trapped—more by necessity than design after those rescued signed deals tying them to a Netflix series in the works. Reports say they were paid around \$100,000 each and there is also a National Geographic documentary in the works from the team behind the Oscar-winning film Free Solo. "There was a lot of detail of the rescue that the world hadn't really been told about, like the sedation of the kids and the background to the rescuers," said Waller.

"Once I got in touch with Jim and met him all this started to be revealed and I saw how much more there was to the story that hadn't been told. Sure there was the rescue, but how? I wanted to tell the story of the people who weren't on YouTube." That was impossible in Wamy's case because once he came to Thailand he spent much of the time in the cave, under water. He'd come to cave rescue diving after being drawn to the "technicalities of it all." —AFP



This undated handout photo obtained from the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan shows a scene from 'The Cave,' the first big-screen retelling of the Thai rescue operation. — AFP

Lifestyle | Music & Music



US-German actress Zazie Beetz



US actor Josh Pais



US actress Frances Conroy



British actor Leigh Gill

Security stepped up as 'JOKER' opens in US movie theaters

Police in major US cities were on alert on Thursday as "Joker" opened in movie theaters after weeks of publicity surrounding its disturbing portrait of a bullied loner raised fears it might spark violence. "Joker," an origin story about Batman's comic-book arch nemesis, stars Joaquin Phoenix in what movie reviewers have called a brilliant but terrifying performance as a mentally unhinged outcast who unwittingly finds fame through an act of violence.

The DC Comics villain is associated with a 2012 mass shooting at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, a suburb of Denver, during a screening of a different Batman film, "The Dark Knight Rises." Families of some of the victims expressed concern about the new film, and it will not be shown in the Aurora multiplex. Officers wearing helmets and armed with assault rifles stood outside a screening of "Joker" at the New York Film Festival on Wednesday night, where audiences had their bags searched and K9 officers were on duty, video footage showed.

Police in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago said in statements that, while they knew of no specific threats, they were deploying additional officers or closely monitoring movie theaters where the "Joker" is playing. Hollywood website Deadline cited an unidentified New York law enforcement official as saying that plainclothes officers would be stationed inside some movie theaters in the city. The NYPD could not confirm the report. Charles Kiwacz, 31, described the Aurora shooting as "an isolated incident."

"I don't think there's any fear at all. I think it's the exact opposite - people wanting to go out and show that this movie can be just that, just a movie," the podcast host and producer said as he bought a ticket for "Joker" near New York's Times Square. Tyson Sheehan, 32, a Los Angeles-area music student from Australia, said he was keen to see the film after "looking at all the trailers and everything," but jitters about its subject matter, coupled with what he sees as "lax" US gun laws, gave him pause.

"It's definitely deterred me from going into the theater and seeing it ... at least for the first week or two," he said as he strolled along Hollywood Boulevard on Thursday evening. Costumes and face masks have been banned for moviegoers at two US theater chains - AMC and Landmark - while the Alamo Drafthouse cinema group warned parents not to bring their children. The Parents Television Council (PTC), a media watchdog, issued a similar warning on Thursday. "Parents may believe that this film is appropriate for kids given that it is an extension of the popular Batman franchise," the PTC said in a statement.

Movie studio Warner Bros. said last week the film was not an endorsement of real-world violence. "It is not the intention of the film, the filmmakers or the studio to hold this character up as a hero," Warner Bros. said in a statement. Despite the controversy, the movie is expected to take in a bumper \$80 million or more on its opening weekend in North America, according to box-office analysts.

"Joker" director Todd Phillips criticized people who have attacked the film without seeing it. "I didn't imagine the level of discourse that it's reached in the world, honestly," Variety quoted him as saying at the New York Film Festival on Wednesday. "I think it's OK that it sparks conversations and there are debates around it. The film is the statement, and it's great to talk about it, but it's much more helpful if you've seen it."



From campy clown to terrifying madman, **Joker** no longer a laughing matter

There are no capes, no special powers and no battles between good and evil in the new "Joker" movie, whose portrayal of the most famous villain in comic book history is the most chilling twist on the character in 50 years. The Joker has been depicted on television and in movies since 1966 and has undergone a series of ever darker transformations from his early days as a campy clown with a mirthless laugh. "It's barely the same character," said Matthew Belloni, editorial director of the Hollywood Reporter. "I think the Joker has reflected the times in which he is portrayed."

him because of the sexual harassment allegations.

Domingo is accused by 20 women of forcibly kissing, grabbing or fondling them, in incidents going back at least to the 1980s. The "King of Opera" has responded that "all my interactions and relationships were always welcomed and consensual." Highlighting international fault lines in the #MeToo scandal, Domingo's career has continued to thrive in Europe even as it is imperiled in the United States.

He performed to a chorus of bravos this summer in Austria and Hungary, and has upcoming concerts in Zurich and Moscow. The Batuta, which organizers hope to make an annual prize, will be awarded to 16 honorees including British composer Michael Nyman, Mexican soprano Maria Luisa Tamez and Mexican conductor Enrique Batiz, who is himself facing sexual assault allegations.—AFP



Spanish tenor Placido Domingo gestures as he performs during his concert in the newly inaugurated sports and culture centre 'St Gellert Forum' in Szeged, southern Hungary. — AFP

"Joker," starring Joaquin Phoenix and opening in movie theaters worldwide this week after winning the top prize at the Venice film festival last month, is the first film where the Joker is the lead character but there is no Batman. Set in 1980s New York, the Warner Bros film is a standalone origin story that depicts the man who becomes Batman's arch-nemesis as an isolated, bullied, delusional, mentally-ill loser who unwittingly inspires a populist rebellion manned by other outcasts adopting red noses and clown masks.

"The new Joker is a plunge into nihilism. There is no redemption at all. It is a lot grimmer to watch than even Heath Ledger's Joker in "The Dark Knight," said David Crow, an associate editor at pop culture website Den of Geek. Phoenix, 44, whose performance is seen by awards watchers as a likely contender for a best actor Oscar next year, told reporters in Venice in August, "I didn't refer to any past creations of this character."

Largely a prankster

Phoenix's take on the Joker is far removed from Cesar Romero, who was the first actor to play the role in the 1960s "Batman" television series, which was mainly aimed at children. "Romero didn't even shave his mustache for the role. He put the make-up on top of the mustache. He

had a lot of fun with it," said Crow. In 1989, Jack Nicholson brought his edgy, maniacal touch to the character in the "Batman" movie but was still largely a prankster.

Ledger reinvented him as unsettling and unhinged in 2008 in "The Dark Knight" in 2008, when the Joker became a terrorist in a post-Sept. 11 2001 era beset by fears of anarchy and chaos. Yet Ledger, who won a posthumous supporting actor Oscar for the role, "still played it a bit like a rock star, there was a bit of grunge glamour," said Crow. "Batman gets to stop him in the end. He does blow up a hospital but he never took it to a truly irredeemable place," added Crow.

Phoenix, by contrast, turns in a performance so nerve-racking that it is difficult to watch at times, said Belloni. "If this was not a comic book character it would be among the most chilling characters I have ever seen in film. It's really disturbing," Belloni said. The film has an R rating in the United States, meaning those under 17 need to be accompanied by a parent. "It's not for kids, and they won't like it anyway," the Alamo Drafthouse movie theater chain said in a warning on its website ahead of the opening weekend.—Reuters

In reversal, Placido Domingo to receive Mexico music prize

Opera superstar Placido Domingo will receive Mexico's Batuta prize in classical music after all, organizers said Friday, a day after stating it would be withheld over a flood of sexual harassment accusations. Domingo was chosen in May to receive the first edition of the prize in Mexico City during a ceremony this Saturday, along with 15 other honorees. However, organizers said Thursday they had decided to put his award on hold "until all this has been clarified."

Changing course again Friday, they decided Domingo would in fact receive the award, but said he would not attend the ceremony in person, instead addressing the gala by video. "We wish to clarify that the organizing committee has not withdrawn Maestro Domingo's award. On the contrary, the classical music community celebrates the Spanish tenor's six decades of absolute dedication to the arts," they said in a statement. Domingo "will personally address a special message to the ceremony," they added.

"We are still going to give him the prize. We just hope for better times ahead and that everything gets better for him," the head of the organizing committee, Rene Platini, told AFP. The latest drama comes after Domingo, 78, resigned Wednesday as general director of the Los Angeles Opera, effectively ending his career in the United States. He also withdrew last week from all performances at New York's Metropolitan Opera. Several other US opera houses have cancelled concerts featuring

Late INXS singer remembered in intimate film 'Mystify'

A new documentary seeks to move away from "rumors and tabloid headlines" to paint an intimate portrait of late INXS frontman Michael Hutchence, charting his rise to global stardom and personal troubles. "Mystify: Michael Hutchence" features interviews with family members, colleagues and former partners - includ-

ing singer Kylie Minogue and model Helena Christensen - about the rock singer, who was found dead in a Sydney hotel room in 1997 aged 37. A coroner ruled he had committed suicide.

Hutchence found fame as the charismatic singer and lyricist of Australian rock band INXS, which formed in the late 1970s and is known for songs like "Need You Tonight", "Never Tear Us Apart", "Mystify" and "Suicide Blonde". Director Richard Lowenstein, who knew Hutchence on a professional and personal level, said he wanted to provide "a compassionate and authentic record left behind of a very important part of the history of popular music". — Reuters

Beatles classic 'Abbey Road' tops charts again after 50 years

Classic Beatles album "Abbey Road" is back at number one in Britain half a century after its first release, with the band breaking their own record for the longest gap between stints at the top of the charts. The band's final studio album with its instantly recognizable zebra-crossing cover came out in September 1969, six days after John Lennon told his bandmates he was leaving the group. It was the UK's best-selling album for 17 weeks, and on Friday a special 50th-anniversary edition featuring unheard material took the top spot once again.

"It's hard to believe that Abbey Road still holds up after all these years. But then again it's a bloody cool album," tweeted band member Paul McCartney. With 49 years and 252 days since its last reign, the album has had the longest gap between UK number ones-a record previously held by the Fab Four's "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band".

Two years ago a 50th-anniversary edition of "Sgt. Pepper", which Rolling Stone magazine has named the greatest album of all time, topped the charts again after 49 years and 125 days.

Last month, hundreds of Beatles fans mobbed the street outside Abbey Road Studios in northwest London to celebrate five decades since the band were snapped at the pedestrian crossing there. The photograph of Lennon leading Ringo Starr, McCartney and George Harrison over the road in single file became an all-time classic when it appeared on the "Abbey Road" sleeve, which unusually did not feature the name of the band or the record. The album, which features songs including "Come Together" and "Here Comes the Sun", was also the week's best-selling vinyl, shifting around 9,000 physical copies.—AFP

Lifestyle | Features



In this file photo French-born artist JR poses for pictures prior to the opening of his exhibition 'JR: Chronicles' at the Brooklyn Museum in New York City. — AFP photos



These file photos show a view of 'The Chronicles of New York City' at the 'JR: Chronicles' exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum in New York City.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM DEBUTS IMMERSIVE RETROSPECTIVE OF FRENCH ARTIST JR

An urban artist whose snapshots of anonymous individuals have made him a global celebrity, French photographer JR presents a retrospective of his grand vision on Friday in New York, his first major show in North America. The selection of his pieces spanning two decades, by no means encompasses the entirety of his vast oeuvre—but it offers an invaluable insight into his unique perspective on the impermanent, transitory nature of existence.

"From the beginning, as someone who works in the ephemeral, outside, I've always tried to document in order to preserve a trace," JR told AFP ahead of the launch of "JR: Chronicles," on display at the Brooklyn Museum for the next seven months. The exhibition shows

cases some of his black-and-white photographs alongside color images of the photos in-situ, being enjoyed by the public on the streets.

"These traces, gradually, have become sometimes more interesting than the outdoor projects because they show how people have reacted to the installations," JR said. "It gives the temperature of a place, almost like a sociological study of different contexts in which I can install these works." An enigmatic master of spectacle whose work delights Instagram, JR demonstrates in his retrospective that he is an artist with genuine depth beneath the shiny surfaces.

From photos plastered on walls around Paris to an enormous fresco representing more than 1,000 New

Yorkers, "all of these projects are linked to each other," said the artist, sporting his signature hat and black sunglasses. "The best thing about my street art is that it encourages people to meet," added the 36-year-old, who has been working at his craft for 20 years.

Since the beginning of his career, when he photographed youths in the tough Parisian suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois, JR has been inclined to remain in the shadows, allowing his subjects the limelight that many artists crave for themselves. In projects such as "Women are Heroes," "The Wrinkles of the City" and "Inside Out," he showcases "the invisible"—often giving voice to the voiceless, and shining a light on those who walk through life largely unnoticed.

Sociological study

"I've been living in New York for nine years and presenting my work for the first time like this is an incredible blessing," he said. The show, which bears a similarity to a recent exhibit at Paris's Maison Européenne de la Photographie, belies the wider public's perception of JR's oeuvre. In addition to photography it features videos, montages and animations, and visitors can download a smartphone app with video explanations of his projects.

"We decided to create an exhibition that focuses very specifically on his collaborations with communities and picturing communities," said Drew Sawyer, who curated the show with Sharon Matt Atkins. "By focusing on his community collaborations, it really gets that point across."

JR's flirtation with different media has made it possible to take his street art—he recently showed a giant photo of a child looking over a wall at the US-Mexican border—into museums and galleries. From Rio to the Louvre, JR thinks big, with concepts that take considerable preparation.

Though he's far from his days as a teenage graffiti artist, the multimedia boundary-pusher says the way he works "hasn't really changed." JR has already started to work on other projects, including one in an American prison that came together just a few days ago. He says a frenetic workflow, made possible by efficient printmaking techniques and relying on a small team, is the reason he has been so prolific for so long. "It permits me to continue to work like I'm 16 years old," he said. "To decide on a whim to go work on one street or another."—AFP



Art to the rescue: Old US police, fire boxes get breath of life

Decades after they helped save lives in the US capital, police and fire department call boxes still stand on city corners, relics of a time when firefighters used horse-drawn wagons and cops walked the beat. Now, more than 40 years since they were last used as a fire alert and police communication system, the cast iron curiosities in downtown Washington are coming back to life as street art. To honor prominent women from Washington's history, local artist Charles Bergen is jazzing up eight call boxes in the city's bustling heart.

Downtown property owners wanted their streets "to be more interesting, to be more active," said Ellen Jones, deputy executive director of the DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID). "We think public art is one way to do that," Jones told AFP. They also really like the

idea of turning eyesores "into an asset through art." The city call boxes are designated historic, said Jones—"so you can't take them out" of the ground even though some have started to fall apart, missing doors and panels.

The refurbishment is jointly funded by BID and Washington's Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Art on Call, a city-funded restoration effort that ended in 2009, identified 1,100 abandoned boxes in Washington and restored 145 to reflect the identity of various neighborhoods. The boxes were first installed in the 19th century and contained a lever that citizens could pull in the event of a fire. It sent a telegraph signal with the box number to firefighters, who then knew where to respond.

Police boxes were slightly different, allowing an officer patrolling on foot to call his precinct house. "A rule of the job was never to call twice from the same box, for that told the sergeant that the beat was not being walked," says a plaque on one of the Art on Call boxes. Police radios and the city's 911 system made call boxes obsolete by the 1970s, but for an artist they remain a unique canvas. "You can't move these call boxes," Bergen, 56, tells AFP, so "you get the opportunity as an artist to put artwork in some great locations."—AFP



This combination of pictures in Washington, DC, shows old call boxes filled with art as part of the Sheridan-Kalorama Call Box Restoration Project (first row, left to right) by artists Peter Waddell, Cecilia Beaux, Peter Waddell and Peter Waddell, (second row) by artists Peter Waddell, Peter Waddell, Michael Knud Ross and Michael Knud Ross, (third row) by artists Charles Codman, Michael Knud Ross, Peter Waddell and Supon Phornirunlit. — AFP

Textiles get their moment in the art world spotlight

From weaving to embroidery, the world of textiles—often largely ignored at Western contemporary art showcases—is taking centre stage this weekend at the "Frieze London" art fair. The prestigious annual showcase, held this year in Regents Park from Thursday to Sunday, has organized a new section called "Woven" devoted entirely to textile fibers. It features eight solo artists of different generations from a host of countries, including Brazil, the Philippines, China, India and Madagascar, who tackle perhaps surprisingly topical themes.

"(Weaving) had always been a central part of artistic practice everywhere in the world," curator Cosmin Costinas told AFP, explaining the exhibition's name. "But indeed it was marginalized because it was associated with women," he added, noting "eurocentric" perspectives that the craft was largely non-Western had also fueled its sidelining.

For Cosmin, it was a chance to celebrate textile arts while weaving issues like Britain's "unsolved colonial legacy", with other contemporary matters such as sexism and ethnocentrism. "There was a strong intention to do something that responds to the current moment, the current mess the UK finds itself," he said, referring to the political turmoil engulfing Britain over Brexit.

It's been changing

"Woven" brings together artists like Mrinalini Mukherjee (1949-2015), an Indian sculptor who used dyed and woven hemp, and Pacita Abad (1946-2004), an American-Filipino artist renowned for merging traditional textiles with contemporary painting. Abad's "Trapunto" canvases, festooned with sequins, shells and swatches of precious textiles, among other things, take on a three-dimensional quality.

"For many people it was considered craft versus art," said Amrita Jhaveri, owner of the Jhaveri Contemporary gallery in Mumbai, which presents the weavings of Monika Correa at the Frieze. "But it's been changing for some time now. "The art world is looking outside the kind of formal art practice to other areas for instance ceramics, or textiles," she added. Their increasing recognition on the international art stage has also coincided with ongoing reinvention.

Chitra Ganesh, a 44-year-old Indian-American visual artist, noted "a larger conceptual approach to bringing together disparate iconographies, histories, looking for way to connect the very old and the very new." Her feminist works are full of mythological connotations while incorporating "mass produced materials" such as industrial bags of potatoes, fur falls and animal skins.

A form of protest

Angela Su, a Hong Kong artist known for her scientific drawings and performance works, showcases a series of works inspired by the months of pro-democracy protests sweeping her home city and former British colony. The



Chinese artist Ai Weiwei poses with his artworks at the Lisson Gallery in London as part of the Frieze Art week.



Filipino artist Cian Dayrit poses with his artworks at the Frieze Art Fair.



People view artworks at Frieze Art Fair in London.

central painting depicts a brain to evoke "the schizophrenic identity of Hong Kong". "We don't know if we're Chinese or Hong Kong or British, we're this mix of everything," Su said. The artists was also eager to show that sewing could be modern and "a form of protest" as well as a traditional craft. One of her pieces exhibits lips sewn together with hair to show "the suppression of freedom of speech". —AFP

Classifieds

Sunday, October 6, 2019

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 42 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 05/10/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	40 °C	30 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	42 °C	28 °C			
ABDALY	43 °C	23 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	43 °C	28 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	37 °C	30 °C			
AHMADI	36 °C	30 °C			
NUWAISIB	40 °C	26 °C			
WAFRA	41 °C	24 °C			
SALMY	41 °C	24 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	10/06	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	41 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Monday	10/07	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas and some high clouds will appear	40 °C	23 °C	SE	10 - 35 km/h
Tuesday	10/08	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for mist forming at night	40 °C	22 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	10/09	Hot	44 °C	23 °C	NW	12 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:25
Sunrise	05:44
Zuhr	11:37
Asr	14:59
Sunset	17:30
Isha	18:46

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	42 °C
MIN. Temp.	30 °C
MAX. RH	59 %
MIN. RH	18 %
MAX. Wind	N 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
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

Opportunities for Teachers at Private American School for the 2019-20 Academic Year

Positions include:

Department	Positions
Middle and High School	English Teacher*
Middle and High School	Social Studies Teacher*
Middle and High School	Drama Teacher*

* Native English Speakers Only

To apply for these positions, submit your resume, cover letter and recent photograph to recruitment@abs.edu.kw

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CONCEICAO FRANCISCA, Passport No: K7034936, Civil ID No: 271121603451, have change my name to CONCEICAO FRANCISCA DA COSTA hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5600)

I, SHAIKH YUSUF SHAIKH KARIM QURESHI, holder of Indian Passport No. L6661740,

Civil ID No. 279010502291, have changed my name from ABDUL YUSUF ABDUL KARIM to SHAIKH YUSUF SHAIKH KARIM QURESHI, hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5599) 6-10-2019

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

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DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 6/10/2019				Departure Flights on Sunday 6/10/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	243	Alexandria	00:05	JZR	221	Riyadh	11:20
IFEG	441	Asyut	00:05	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
JZR	746	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:30	AHY	120	Baku	13:05
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	ETH	3621	Addis Ababa	13:30
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	KAC	541	Cairo	13:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
PGT8	40	Istanbul	01:50	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	UAE	878	Dubai	15:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:45
PGT	856	Istanbul	03:10	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	405	Kochi	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	FEG	442	Asyut	16:55
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	KAC	503	Beirut	17:40
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	OMS	226	Muscat	17:50
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	KAC	621	Doha	17:50
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
JZR	708	Luxor	06:15	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
FEG	444	Asyut	06:15	KAC	726	Alexandria	18:15
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	GFA	211	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	02	Mumbai	07:05	JZR	501	Cairo	18:35
IGO	766	Mumbai	07:10	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
QTR	511	Doha	07:10	QTR	253	Amman	19:10
KAC	58	Kochi	07:25	KAC	1081	Doha	19:10
FDB	53	Dubai	07:50	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
QTR	084	Doha	08:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	IRA	664	Shiraz	19:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	351	Kochi	20:45
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	KAC	333	Trivandrum	21:05
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
AHY	119	Baku	12:05	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
ETH	3620	Addis Ababa	12:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:30	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
				KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
				ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				JZR	701	Asyut	23:45



Kashmiri men fish in a boat on Dal Lake after rainfall during a lockdown in Srinagar on Friday. — AFP

Families survive on one meal amid...

Continued from Page 1

Buhera is home to around 300,000 people and experiences dry spells even during good rainy seasons. It is one of the areas hardest hit by the drought. To make matters worse, it was in the path of Cyclone Idai which devastated Mozambique and parts of eastern Zimbabwe earlier this year.

According to the UN, most of Zimbabwe's 60 districts will have exhausted their staple maize stocks by October. The Kufakunesu family and neighboring villagers have been lucky to have boreholes to draw water for drinking, washing and watering the garden - but the water is drying up due to the heat and scanty rain. The

UN's World Food Program has been handing out food parcels - cooking oil and porridge for children under five - and US\$8 in cash per month for every family member. But the payouts are only restricted to the so-called lean months.

At Joni, a neighboring village, 49-year-old Fungai Mugombe, one of three wives and a mother of seven, used the money set up a simple wire mesh making project. "People buy the mesh wire for fencing, and we make a small profit. I sometimes exchange the fences with food," Mugombe said outside a cluster of huts where a red bougainvillea adds color to a bleak dusty landscape.

Freeman Mavhiza, the district administrator, said the government was providing villagers with irrigation facilities and seed for drought resistant crops such as millet and sorghum. President Emmerson Mnangagwa has said the government had budgeted \$120 million for the production of "strategic crops, such as maize, soya beans and cotton". — AFP

PayPal abandons Facebook's Libra...

Continued from Page 1

Facebook's upstart cryptocurrency and questions over how it would be regulated. "It requires a certain boldness and fortitude to take on an endeavor as ambitious as Libra - a generational opportunity to get things right and improve financial inclusion," association head of policy Dante Disparte said in response to an AFP inquiry. "The journey will be long and challenging. We're better off knowing about this lack of commitment now, rather than later."

Facebook unveiled plans in June for Libra - which will roll out in 2020 - to be backed by a basket of currency assets to avoid the wild swings of bitcoin and other virtual units. The non-profit Libra Association, based in Geneva, will oversee the blockchain-based coin. Facebook envisions Libra as a new global cryptocurrency, pledging to deliver a stable virtual money that lives on smartphones and could bring over a billion "unbanked" people into the financial system.

"The type of change that will reconfigure the financial system to be tilted towards people, not the institutions serving them, will be hard," Disparte said. "Commitment to that mission is more important to us than anything else." Mastercard, Visa and other financial partners enlisted to oversee Libra are reportedly having second thoughts as regulators unleash ire on the project and dig for information from members of the association. Other Libra backers include ride-hailing apps Lyft and Uber.

Pompeo slams 'harassment' as...

Continued from Page 1

a CIA analyst - had filed a formal complaint to the intelligence community inspector general about Trump's alleged pressuring of Zelensky.

Trump and his supporters have aggressively attacked that still-anonymous whistleblower - Trump denounced the person as "close to a spy" and a Democrat operating with second-hand information. In a tweet early yesterday, Trump said that "the so-called Whistleblower's account of my perfect phone call is 'way off,' not even close... This is a fraud against the American people!"

But if a second whistleblower emerges, and if that person in fact has more direct information about the events in question, as the New York Times reported late Friday, the allegations would become more difficult to shrug off. The Times said the second official was among those interviewed by inspector general Michael Atkinson about the allegations lodged by the original whistleblower. The newspaper, citing two people briefed on the matter, said the second official was still pondering whether to lodge a formal complaint.

Congressional investigators led by House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff have promised a quick and expeditious inquiry, but said Friday that the White House was not cooperating. "The White House has refused to engage with - or even respond to - multiple requests for documents," said a letter signed by the Democratic chairmen of the House oversight, intelligence and foreign affairs committees. "His actions have left us with no choice but to issue this subpoena."

In their letter to acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, the committees demanded that he turn over the requested files by Oct 18. The subpoena fol-

The head of the association said last week that the project's leaders aimed to "reassure" regulators worried about the virtual money. In leaked comments from a meeting of Facebook employees in July, Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said he remained optimistic about Libra despite harsh comments from public officials in several countries. "The public things, I think, tend to be a little more dramatic," he said. "But a bigger part of it is private engagement with regulators around the world, and those, I think, often, are more substantive and less dramatic... That's where a lot of the discussions and details get hashed out on things."

In an interview published Friday in French newspaper Les Echos, Apple chief executive Tim Cook said he was uncomfortable with the idea of a company taking over roles typically reserved for governments. Without specifically naming Facebook, Cook said issuing currency, like national defense, is best left to states. Facebook and some two dozen partners released a prototype of Libra as an open source code for developers interested in weaving it into apps, services or businesses.

Martin Chorzempa, a research fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, questioned whether Libra would be able to fulfill its vision. In particular, Libra will need to comply with regulations that require collecting personal information about customers in order to expose crimes such as money laundering or fraud. "It is not clear to me that Libra is anywhere near being able to perform those know-your-customer requirements that would allow them to legally serve these communities," Chorzempa said. "Libra would have to work with governments to make sure they are compliant or get those rules changed, and that is a difficult process." — AFP

lowed a demand earlier Friday for documents from Vice President Mike Pence. Pompeo - who recently acknowledged having listened in on the key Trump-Zelensky phone call - failed to meet a Friday subpoena deadline to turn over Ukraine-related documents, CNN reported, citing a House Foreign Affairs committee aide.

Meanwhile, a series of text messages between US diplomats dealing with Ukraine, made public by the congressional investigators, supported Democratic accusations that Trump had illegally sought foreign help for his reelection effort. Trump pushed back hard, saying there was no quid pro quo and, in an effort to recast the entire saga, insisting it was his responsibility to investigate "corruption". "I don't care about Biden's campaign but I care about corruption," he told reporters.

Biden, the former US vice president, responded by calling Trump "the most corrupt president we've had in modern history". "I am not going to stand for it," Biden said at a campaign event in Los Angeles. "He has indicted himself by his own statements." Biden added, one day after Trump openly called for both Beijing and Kiev to investigate the Democrat for corruption.

Trump has alleged that Biden's son Hunter earned "millions" from sitting on the board of directors of a Ukraine tycoon's gas company. But no evidence has surfaced showing wrongdoing by either Biden. The diplomats' text messages showed that some had doubts about Trump's pressure on Zelensky, including allegedly freezing a \$400 million military aid package.

The release last week of the complaint and a summary of Trump's July 25 call with Zelensky, in which he asked for a "favor" and referred to investigating Biden, ignited the Democrats' impeachment inquiry. As Democrats raised their attacks on Trump, many Republicans remained quietly supportive of the president. Breaking with the pack, Senator Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential nominee in 2012, blasted Trump's comments that Beijing and Kiev should investigate Biden, calling the remarks "wrong and appalling". — AFP

Aussies held in Iran return...

Continued from Page 1

months on accusations of circumventing US sanctions on military equipment had also been released and returned home. Australia's attorney general Christian Porter confirmed in a statement that he had stopped the extradition of Reza Dehbashi to the United States.

But he dismissed "speculation" over the case, amid media reports including in the Sydney Morning Herald that it could be part of a prisoner swap involving the bloggers.

Porter declined to comment further "particularly when any such response from me may diminish our government's capacity to deal with future matters of this type in Australia's best interests". State media in Tehran said Dehbashi, a PhD student at the University of Queensland, had been detained on allegations of "attempting to purchase and transfer advanced American military radar equipment via Dubai to Iran". It said Dehbashi had dismissed the charges as "a misunderstanding".

An Iranian state channel showed footage of what it said was Dehbashi arriving at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport and hugging a tearful woman apparently from his family. The Australian couple sought privacy, however. They said in their statement that intense media coverage "may not be helpful" in the negotiations for the release of a third Australian detained in Iran in an unrelated case.

Melbourne University Academic Kylie Moore-Gilbert, who specializes in Middle East politics with a focus on Gulf states, had been detained for "some months" before King

and Firkin were arrested. Her case also came to light last month. Moore-Gilbert is accused by Iranian authorities of "spying for another country". Negotiations over the fate of the university lecturer are "very long term", Payne said.

"She has been detained for some considerable time and has faced the Iranian legal system and has been convicted and sentenced," the minister said. "We don't accept the charges on which she was convicted and we would seek to have her returned to Australia," Payne added, declining to comment further on the case. Payne has maintained the cases of those detained were not related to diplomatic tensions. Australia said in August it would join a US-led naval coalition to escort commercial ships in the Gulf, after a spate of attacks blamed on Iran but that Tehran denied. However, that announcement is believed to have come after the arrests.

News of the release of the King and Firkin comes just weeks after an Iranian woman arrested in Australia and sentenced in the United States was returned home. Negar Ghodskani was sentenced last month in Minneapolis to 27 months in prison for violating sanctions against Tehran, but was released following time served in custody in Australia and the United States.

After her extradition to the US, she confessed to participation in a conspiracy to illegally export technology to Iran in breach of sanctions, according to the US Justice Department. She was pregnant when she was arrested in 2017 in Australia where she was a legal resident. She gave birth while in Australian custody and her son was sent to Iran to live with his father.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in April floated a potential prisoner swap with a British-Iranian mother being held in Tehran. He suggested exchanging Ghodskani for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, in jail in Tehran for alleged sedition. Zaghari-Ratcliffe has also been separated from her daughter while in custody — AFP

of corruption," said Iraqi analyst Sarmad Al-Bayati.

Political and religious rifts run deep in Iraq, and protests are typically called for by party or sect - making the last five days exceptional, said Fanar Haddad an expert at Singapore University's Middle East Institute. "This is the first time we hear people saying they want the downfall of the regime," Haddad said.

Sadr, a former militia leader turned nationalist politician, demanded on Friday that the government resign to clear the way for a fresh election supervised by the United Nations. His bloc is the largest in parliament, and his intervention sets the scene for a possible showdown with the speaker, who has made his own bid to make political capital out of the protests. Calling yesterday's parliamentary session, Halbusi pledged he would "take off his suit jacket and be the first among the protesters", if he did not see the government improve living conditions.

Abdel Mahdi appealed on Friday for more time to implement his reform agenda in a country plagued by corruption and unemployment after decades of conflict. "There are no magic solutions." — AFP

Protesters flood Iraq streets...

Continued from Page 1

and have scoffed at the recent overtures by politicians. "These men don't represent us. We don't want parties anymore. We don't want anyone to speak in our name," said one protester late Friday. Abu Salah, a 70-year-old resident of Baghdad with wispy white hair and a matching beard, said the streets would be full until Iraqis saw real change. "If living conditions don't improve, the protests will come back even worse," he told AFP.

The protests have presented the biggest challenge yet to the Iraqi premier, who came to power a year ago as a consensus candidate promising reforms but whose response to the demonstrations has been seen as tepid. "Abdel Mahdi should have come forward with decisive changes, like the sacking of leading politicians accused

Sports

Rohit Sharma's ton helps India set South Africa 395 to win

Ashwin completes haul of seven wickets

SCOREBOARD

VISAKHAPATNAM: Scoreboard at stumps on day four of the first Test between India and South Africa in Visakhapatnam yesterday: India 1st innings 502-7 dec (M. Agarwal 215, R. Sharma 176; K. Maharaj 3-189)

South Africa 1st innings (overnight 385-8)

D. Elgar c Pujara b Jadeja	160
A. Markram b Ashwin	5
T. de Bruyn c Saha b Ashwin	4
D. Piedt b Jadeja	0
T. Bavuma lbw I. Sharma	18
F. du Plessis c Pujara b Ashwin	55
Q. de Kock b Ashwin	111
S. Muthusamy not out	33
V. Philander b Ashwin	0
K. Maharaj c Agarwal b Ashwin	9
K. Rabada lbw Ashwin	15
Extras (b12, lb4, nb5)	21
Total (all out, 131.2 overs)	431
Fall of wickets: 1-14 (Markram), 2-31 (de Bruyn), 3-34 (Piedt), 4-63 (Bavuma), 5-178 (du Plessis), 6-342 (Elgar), 7-370 (de Kock), 8-376 (Philander), 9-396 (Maharaj), 10-431 (Rabada)	
Bowling: I. Sharma 16-2-54-1 (nb1), Shami 18-4-47-0 (nb1), Ashwin 46.2-11-145-7, Jadeja 40-5-124-2 (nb1), Vihari 9-1-38-0 (nb2), R. Sharma 2-1-7-0.	

India 2nd innings

M. Agarwal c du Plessis b Maharaj	7
R. Sharma st de Kock b Maharaj	127
C. Pujara lbw Philander	81
R. Jadeja b Rabada	40
V. Kohli not out	31
A. Rahane not out	27
Extras (b8, lb2)	10
Total (4 wickets dec, 67 overs)	323
Fall of wickets: 1-21 (Agarwal), 2-190 (Pujara), 3-239 (R. Sharma), 4-286 (Jadeja)	
Did not bat: G. Vihari, W. Saha, R. Ashwin, I. Sharma, M. Shami	
Bowling: Philander 12-5-21-1, Maharaj 22-0-129-2, Rabada 13-3-41-1, Piedt 17-3-102-0, Muthusamy 3-0-20-0.	

South Africa 2nd innings (target 395)

A. Markram not out	3
D. Elgar lbw b Jadeja	2
T. de Bruyn not out	5
Extras (b1)	1
Total (1 wicket, nine overs)	11
To bat: T. Bavuma, F. du Plessis, Q. de Kock, V. Philander, S. Muthusamy, K. Maharaj, D. Piedt, K. Rabada	
Fall of wicket: 1-4 (Elgar)	
Bowling: Ashwin 5-2-7-0, Jadeja 4-2-3-1.	

VISAKHAPATNAM: Rohit Sharma yesterday struck a second hundred in his debut as Test opener to help India set South Africa a daunting 395 to win the opening match of their series. The hosts declared their second innings on 323 for four in the final session of day four in Visakhapatnam.

South Africa were 11 for one at stumps with Aiden Markram, on three, and Theunis de Bruyn, on five, at the crease. The visitors need another 384 runs and India nine wickets on the final day to get ahead in the three-match series.

"We picked up a crucial wicket, so as a team we are happy with the way things went today and hope to start off well (tomorrow)," Indian batsman Cheteshwar Pujara, who made 81 in India's second innings, told reporters.

"It will not be easy to bat on this pitch on day five, with a little more assistance for the spinners. And with variable bounce, even the fast bowlers will come into play," Ravindra Jadeja struck early after trapping first-innings centurion Dean Elgar for two in the fourth over of the innings.

The left-handed Elgar, who made 160 in the first innings, was given not out by the on-field umpire only for India to get the decision overturned with a TV review. Markram and de Bruyn then played out the remaining overs from spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Jadeja until bad light forced the extended play — to make up for lost time due to thunderstorm on day one — to be called off.

Sharma, who made 176 in India's first innings of 502 for seven declared, is the first batsman to hit two tons in his first match as a Test opener. He also hit 13 sixes, the most in a Test match, breaking Wasim Akram's record of 12.

Sharma put on 169 with Pujara to frustrate South Africa after the loss of opener Mayank Agarwal for seven. "The way Rohit was playing allowed me to settle down. Only he can play such shots on this track," said Pujara.

"Our partnership between lunch and tea was crucial. Our communication was good as we have batted together a lot in Under-19 cricket. It was enjoyable to watch his batting from the non-striker's end."



VISAKHAPATNAM: Indian cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara (R) plays a shot during the fourth day's play of the first Test match between India and South Africa at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday. —AFP

PROTEAS IN GOOD SPIRIT

Pujara was trapped lbw by Vernon Philander after he completed his 21st Test half-century. Sharma survived a reprieve on 50 when he was caught at the boundary off Dane Piedt. Replays indicated that fielder Senuran Muthusamy's foot had touched the rope. He was finally stumped off Keshav Maharaj as he attempted a big hit. Jadeja hit a 32-ball 40 before being bowled by pacerman Kagiso Rabada. Maharaj struck before lunch, grabbing the key wicket of Agarwal, who hit 215 in the first innings, but the bowlers then struggled.

Earlier, Ashwin completed a haul of seven wickets as South Africa were bowled out for 431 in the morning session. Ashwin got overnight batsman Maharaj out for

nine and then trapped Rabada, leaving the Proteas 71 runs behind. Philander said South Africa are confident of a good show come today. "We have had a really good first innings with the bat. The guys are in good spirits. It is going to be a challenge but one we look forward to," said the fast bowler.

"There is no game that is a safe game. The batters are looking in good form and hopefully we can get a good start tomorrow." Elgar was the hero of the South African innings with his 12th century that revived the tourists' batting after they had slipped to 63 for four.

His century partnerships with skipper Faf du Plessis, who made 55, and Quinton de Kock, who hit 111, were key to the Proteas fightback. —AFP

HH the Crown Prince tournament to begin on Thursday

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait shooting sport local season will start on Thursday with the annual tournament of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with the participation of shooting club shooters as well as shooters from the National Guard, army and police sports associations in the Olympic skeet, trap, 10m pistol and rifle, 50m pistol and rifle and Olympic archery.

President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi expressed appreciation to HH the Crown Prince, on behalf of the shooting sport community for his continued support and encouragement for athletes of Kuwait including shooting.

He said HH the Crown Prince care of the shooting sport is a strong motivation for the development of the sport at all levels local and abroad.

Al-Otaibi said this tournament has a special status for the shooting community and all shooters with love to participate in it, adding that the board of directors welcomes shooters from GCC countries to participate in it.

He said that the organizing committee is carrying out preparations to hold the tournament and bring it out the best way possible, through readying ranges of



Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex and all other facilities.

Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi said the board of directors already approved local tournaments scheduled (2019-

2020), as the tournaments carry the names of personalities who served Kuwait and support shooting.

Eng Al-Otaibi thanked HH the Crown Prince and wished all participating shooters success.

Biles eyes gymnastics history

STUTTGART: USA gymnastics queen Simone Biles is set to be the undisputed star of the world championships, enhancing her status as the sport's greatest athlete — even if she does not feel it.

"I never really feel like I'm a big name," she told reporters in Stuttgart. "Everyone puts that on me, I don't really put it on myself." The

10-day event, which started Friday with qualifiers, will be the 22-year-old's fifth worlds.

She seems destined to add to her record tally of 14 gold medals, but is quick to avoid putting pressure on herself. "I never go into a competition trying to win — I just go into a competition trying to compete like I train," she replied when asked how many golds she expects. Yet she is the name to watch in Tuesday's team final, the women's all-around final on Thursday and the apparatus finals on the final weekend. Her overall tally of 20 worlds medals ties Biles with Russia's Svetlana Khorkina for the most won by a woman.

Another four in Stuttgart would put her past the all-time record of 23 held by Vitaly Scherbo, a men's gymnastics star in the 1990s. Biles is the clear favorite to win all-around world gold for the fifth time, extending her own record, yet she has endured testing times away from the sport in the last two years.

In January 2018, she admitted to being among the victims of Larry Nassar, the disgraced former doctor of the US women's Olympic team, who was jailed for sexually abusing hundreds of girls and women.

In August, her brother was arrested and charged with a shooting which left three people dead last December.

Biles must put all that aside in Stuttgart to seemingly defy gravity as one of the best gymnasts the world has even seen. She could also leave southwest Germany with four skills named after her. She is to gymnastics what Usain Bolt was to athletics and Michael Phelps was to swimming, yet while she admires the pair, she rejects the notion of being classed GOAT — greatest of all time — for her own protection.

"I feel like if I were to label myself as a superstar, it would bring more expectations on me," she says. "I would feel pressure. Every year I just try to be better than I was the year before. "I go into a competition trying to compete like I train." —AFP

Caps' Samsonov beats Isles in debut

UNIONDALE: Goaltender Ilya Samsonov made 25 saves to win his NHL debut as the Washington Capitals spoiled the New York Islanders' season opener with a 2-1 victory Friday night in Uniondale, N.Y. T.J. Oshie and Jakub Vrana scored for the Capitals, who won their second straight road game. Devon Toews tallied the lone goal for the Islanders. Veteran goaltender Semyon Varlamov, making his New York debut, stopped 26 of 28 shots. The only goal allowed by Samsonov, a 22-year-old Russian who was Washington's first-round pick in the 2015 NHL draft, was a fluke. With New York trailing 1-0 in the first period, Toews' shot ricocheted off the skates of three Capitals players before deflecting over Samsonov's left shoulder.

JETS 5, DEVILS 4 (SO)

Blake Wheeler scored the winner in the fourth round of a shootout as Winnipeg rallied from a four-goal deficit to stun New Jersey in the Devils' season opener in Newark, N.J. Neal Pionk and Mathieu Perreault each added a goal and an assist, and Laurent Brossoit made 35 saves as Winnipeg recorded a stunning victory. The Jets, coming off a 6-4 season-opening loss to the New York Rangers on Thursday, scored three times in the third period to force overtime and ultimately the shootout. Devils forward Jack Hughes, the 18-year-old No. 1 overall draft pick of 2019, played 15:12 and missed a shootout attempt in his NHL debut. New Jersey's Nikita Gusev and Winnipeg's Kyle Connor scored in the first round of the shootout, and neither team converted again until Wheeler's winner.

FLYERS 4, BLACKHAWKS 3

Travis Konecny scored twice and Carter Hart made 28 saves as Philadelphia skated past Chicago in Prague,

Czech Republic. Oskar Lindblom had a power-play goal and Michael Raffl also tallied for the Flyers, who presented new coach Alain Vigneault with a victory in their season opener. Patrick Kane had a goal and two assists, Alexander Nylander and Alex DeBrincat also tallied, and Corey Crawford turned aside 34 shots for the Blackhawks.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, BLUE JACKETS 1

Mitch Marner had two goals and an assist, Morgan Rielly added three assists, and visiting Toronto defeated Columbus. Cody Ceci and Auston Matthews also scored for the Maple Leafs, who have won their first two games of the season. John Tavares added two assists. Cam Atkinson scored for the Blue Jackets in their season opener, tying the NHL record by scoring in a sixth straight opening-day game. He now shares the mark with Mud Bruneteau of the Detroit Red Wings (1940-45) and Yvan Cournoyer of the Montreal Canadiens (1973-78). —Reuters

Strasburg, Scherzer lead Nationals past Dodgers

LOS ANGELES: Stephen Strasburg and Max Scherzer led the charge on just two days of rest as the Washington Nationals got even in the National League Division Series with a 4-2 victory over the host Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday night. Strasburg (1-0) gave up one run over six strong innings, and Scherzer struck out all three batters he faced in the eighth as the Nationals leveled the best-of-five series 1-1. Strasburg retired the first 14 batters he faced after pitching three scoreless innings of relief Tuesday in Washington's NL wild-card victory over Milwaukee. Scherzer threw 14 pitches in his perfect inning after he went five innings against the Brewers. The Nationals jumped on Clayton Kershaw (0-1) for three runs in the first two innings, getting an RBI single from Howie Kendrick in the first, and a run-scoring single from Adam Eaton followed by an RBI double by Anthony Rendon in the second. Kershaw is now 9-11 with a 4.33 ERA for his career in the playoffs.

BRAVES 3, CARDINALS 0

Mike Foltynewicz, banished to the minor leagues earlier this year, fired seven shutout innings as Atlanta beat visiting St. Louis and even their NLDS at one game apiece, as well. Foltynewicz (1-0) allowed three hits and no walks while striking out seven in earning his first career postseason win. He outdueled Jack Flaherty (0-1), who gave up three runs on eight hits and a walk with eight strikeouts in seven innings. Josh Donaldson hit an RBI single in the first inning, and pinch hitter Adam Duvall added a two-out, two-run homer in the seventh. Max Fried pitched the eighth inning for Atlanta, and Mark Melancon worked around two hits in the ninth for the save. A day earlier, Melancon blew a late lead and took the loss.

YANKEES 10, TWINS 4

Gleyber Torres and DJ LeMahieu hit bases-loaded doubles, and New York beat visiting Minnesota in Game 1 of the American League Division Series. The Yankees beat the Twins for the 11th straight time in the postseason, dating back to Game 1 of the 2004 ALDS, by overcoming three Minnesota homers and an early two-run deficit. Torres snapped a 3-3 tie with one out in the fifth inning off Tyler Duffey, and LeMahieu hit a three-run double in the seventh. LeMahieu and Brett Gardner hit solo homers for the Yankees while Jorge Polanco, Nelson Cruz and Miguel Sano belted solo drives for the Twins.

ASTROS 6, RAYS 2

Jose Altuve slugged his ninth career postseason home run, and Justin Verlander allowed one hit over seven scoreless innings as host Houston recorded a 6-2 win over Tampa Bay in the opener of their ALDS. Altuve snapped a scoreless tie and keyed a four-run fifth inning with his two-run shot to left field off Tyler Glasnow (0-1). Yuli Gurriel and Michael Brantley had two hits apiece for the Astros, and Alex Bregman reached base three times and scored twice. Verlander (1-0) struck out eight and walked three. Glasnow allowed two runs on four hits in 4 2/3 innings. —Reuters

Sports

England first into World Cup quarter finals as Japan extend dream run

Petaia, Australia's youngest ever WCup player, scores one try and made another

TOKYO: England barged past 14-man Argentina and into the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals yesterday, as Japan extended their dream run and Australian teen sensation Jordan Petaia announced himself on the big stage. Japan's Brave Blossoms sent home fans into ecstasy with their third straight win, a 38-19 victory over Samoa — including Kotaro Matsushima's last-gasp fourth try to grab the all-important bonus point.

The result primes Japan, the one-time tournament whipping boys, for a shot at reaching the quarter-finals for the first time when they face Six Nations side Scotland next week in Yokohama.

"I'm really proud of our team, especially at the end there — it was a never-say-die attitude," said Japan coach Jamie Joseph. "At the end of the day the belief in our team has grown and I guess we will need it going into next week." Japan's win came after Eddie Jones's England became the first team into the last eight with a bonus-point, 39-10 victory over Argentina, aided by Tomas Lavani's 17th-minute red card for a high tackle on Owen Farrell.

And in Oita, Petaia, 19, crowned his international debut with a dazzling try as Australia's youngest ever World Cup player helped the Wallabies overcome two yellow cards to beat Uruguay 45-10.

England's qualification shows the progress of the 2003 champions since 2015, when they suffered the embarrassment of becoming the only World Cup hosts to fail to reach the knock-outs. The game was over as a contest when Tomas Lavini saw red for a high tackle on Owen Farrell after only 17 minutes, clearing England's path to a six-tries-to-one, bonus-point win.

Jonny May, Elliot Daly and Ben Youngs ran in tries in the first half, before George Ford, Jack Nowell — cele-

brating his return from injury — and Luke Cowan-Dickie crossed in the second period.

But between the tries it was a stop-start affair as England struggled to find their rhythm against a brave but outgunned Argentina.

KICKING WOES

"(It was) scrappy at times," said England captain Owen Farrell. "I thought it was a decent rate of control from ourselves but we let the game get frantic a couple of times, forced a couple of things and let Argentina into the game at times."

Farrell, who missed all four place kicks in the first half, before slotting four from four in the second, said he would do some extra practice before next week's game against France. "I fixed it up a little bit after half-time but I'll do some work this week," he said.

Earlier Petaia, Australia's youngest ever World Cup player, scored one try and made another, while Tevita Kuridrani and Dane Haylett-Petty bagged two each in the Wallabies' haul of seven against Uruguay.

Petaia had to wait 23 minutes for his first touch of the ball, but he was on the scoresheet one minute later when he burst through two defenders and spun past another on the line. At 19 years and 204 days, it made him the second youngest try-scorer at a Rugby World Cup behind George North, who was 19 years and 165 days old when he dotted down for Wales in 2011.

Shortly afterwards, Petaia broke open the defence as he gracefully stepped and swerved inside to release man-of-the-match Tevita Kuridrani for the first of his two tries. "He (Petaia) scored a try, had a big part in another and just did little things like he ran down the edge and bounced back in from touch kept the ball



TOKYO: England's centre Manu Tuilagi (C) runs with the ball during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool C match between England and Argentina at the Tokyo Stadium in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

alive," said Australia coach Michael Cheika. "(He) played physical, got up and caught a few balls."

Prop James Slipper also scored his first try — in his

94th Test. But Australia were left to ponder continuing disciplinary problems as they had two players sin-binned for high tackles. —AFP

Wallabies boss concerned over indiscipline, slow starts

OITA: Wallabies coach Michael Cheika said his side's ill-discipline and slow starts were becoming a problem after two yellow cards in their 45-10 win over Uruguay yesterday. With a likely quarter-final looming against England, captain Michael Hooper also said the Wallabies were making it hard for themselves with their high infringement rate.

They spent half the first spell against Uruguay down to 14 men with Adam Coleman and Lukhan Salakaia-Loto sin-binned for head-high tackles, while Hooper and Kurtley Beale were also penalised for high shots.

In the Pool D match in Oita, which the Australians were expected to win comfortably, they gave away 12 penalties to take their total to 35 from three matches. "Discipline in general," Hooper said, when questioned about key issues facing his side as they move closer to the knock-out stages.

"A bit of high-tackle stuff, it's a bit of offside line. Giving away as many penalties as we did today made it hard for ourselves, particularly having 14 men on the field for 20 minutes. "It's hard, it makes life hard, it takes a lot of energy out of the tank."

Discipline has been an ongoing concern for the Wallabies in Japan, with Cheika initially defending his side by saying he was "embarrassed" by the confusion around officiating high tackles, the subject of a new referees' framework to guide punishments.

"We don't need the framework to teach us where to tackle because they are all taught to tackle middle," he said, after Reece Hodge received a three-match suspension for a dangerous tackle in their opening match against Fiji.

But after the high shots against Uruguay, Cheika refused to discuss tackle technique. "I think it's pretty clear why not, just steer clear of it and everyone will be good," he said.

He said the bigger problem was the total penalty count, linking it to the slow starts which also troubled the Wallabies in their first two matches when they beat Fiji 39-21 and lost to Wales 29-25. "We're just giving away too many penalties, full stop, no matter what it's for," Cheika said.

"You can't be winning the game by 45 and still losing the penalty count. We've got to stop giving away penalties." He suggested a possible link between infringements and a lack of playing cohesion at the start of the game.

The Wallabies were only 19-3 ahead at half-time after spending much of the first half defending, before producing a more complete performance after the break. "The one thing we need to be mindful of is we haven't started games well, not that we haven't played well, we've just been a little less consistent in the first 20 minutes," he said. "It gets you off on the wrong foot and it's definitely something we need to address. When we get our flow going we give away less penalties."

Coleman received his yellow card for in the 14th minute and Salakaia-Loto was sent off 15 minutes later. —AFP

Djokovic eases past Goffin to set up Tokyo final with Millman

TOKYO: World number one Novak Djokovic eased past Belgian third seed David Goffin 6-3 6-4 at the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday to book his place in today's final against John Millman. Djokovic beat Goffin in one hour and 29 minutes, extending his head-to-head

record against the 2017 champion to seven wins, and will now face Australia's Millman who beat American Reilly Opelka in the other semi-final.

Top seeded Djokovic hit seven aces and won 87% of his first-service points against Goffin in the Serb's first tournament since withdrawing from the US Open fourth round with a shoulder injury.

"I'm very satisfied with the way I've been playing the whole week," Djokovic said. "It's been a very positive week on the court, off the week as well. Hopefully I'll be able to crown it tomorrow with a trophy."

"Obviously he was in good form and

played really well against Chung yesterday in the quarters. "The conditions are playing quick here. The surface doesn't bounce that much, so you've got to be very low and quick on return as well. It definitely was not easy when both of us were serving well."

Djokovic has dominated opponents in Tokyo and is yet to drop a set in the tournament and the 16-times Grand Slam champion needed only two breaks of serve to win in straight sets and reach his fifth final of the season.

Earlier, Millman took down Opelka 6-3 7-6(4) to reach his first ever ATP 500 final. Big-serving Opelka fired 13 aces but could not convert either of his two

break points while Millman needed only one break of serve in the opening set before winning the second in the tiebreak.

"That was a pretty good match, it's always difficult playing against someone like Reilly who has got such a massive serve," Millman said. "I was really happy to take the few little chances I had and took care of my own service games pretty well."

"I get to play a final of an ATP 500 in such a special place like Tokyo. For me, that's why you play. That's why you go through the graft and some of the tougher times, to give yourself an opportunity like this. It's pretty special." —Reuters

Osaka sweeps into China Open final on just two hours' sleep

BEIJING: Naomi Osaka said that she had just two hours' sleep before crushing title-holder Caroline Wozniacki to sweep into the China Open final yesterday. The 21-year-old Japanese will play world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia in today's championship match in Beijing — and will hope to have had a bit more rest.

The Australian Open champion said that she was so hyped up after defeating Bianca Andreescu in three thrilling sets on Friday night that she barely slept. "I went to sleep at 4:00am, I woke up at 6:00am, so solid two hours, I can't really sleep after my matches," said Osaka.

"I just feel like my adrenaline's up more during the tougher matches so it makes it harder to sleep." "It's definitely been a bit crazy time-wise," she added, having returned to the court to face Wozniacki less than 24 hours after defeating Andreescu.

But if the two-time Grand Slam champion was exhausted, it did not show in a 6-4, 6-2 victory in 84 minutes against the Dane. Osaka held off all seven break points she faced against Wozniacki.

The world number four showed flashes of irritation as she let Wozniacki off the hook at 3-3 in the first set, tossing her racquet on the floor. But in the ninth game, the pressure on the 19th-ranked Wozniacki told, Osaka grabbing the break of service with an arrowing forehand.

Osaka, like Wozniacki a former number one, broke her opponent at the start of the second set to underline her superiority, before racing to a thumping win.

The Japanese insisted that she was the underdog against Barty. They have played each other three times before with the 23-year-old Australian winning twice. Barty said that she has "never been happier" on and off the court after she saved match point against Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands in their semi-final.

The French Open champion committed 52 unforced

Gatland wants 'psychological boost' of topping World Cup pool

OTSU: Wales coach Warren Gatland reckons it will be "a big psychological boost" if his side finish top of their World Cup group. The Six Nations champions are currently unbeaten at Japan 2019 following wins over Georgia and Australia, albeit they had to withstand a fightback before seeing off the

Wallabies 29-25. A victory over Fiji in Oita on Wednesday would guarantee Wales a place in the quarter-finals and if they then beat Uruguay four days later they will finish the group stage on top of Pool D.

Should that happen, Wales will be up against the runners-up in a Pool C featuring England, France and Argentina in the last eight. "If you win the group, it's a big psychological boost because you are playing a quarter-final against a team who would have lost a game in their pool," Gatland told WRU (Welsh Rugby Union) TV.

"I think psychologically it's quite important for us to win this group, win the next two games, and then to start

thinking about our quarter-final opponent. "We are pretty happy with two from two. The next two matches are very important," added the New Zealander, who will stand down as Wales coach after the World Cup.

Fiji come into the match on the back of a 45-10 rout of Georgia and Gatland said: "Fiji are going to be tough for us. They had a great performance against Georgia. They are very much a confidence side, so we will have to be on top of our game and be defensively strong at the set-piece. "We've got a short turnaround of four days, so a lot of the players who haven't had any rugby will get an opportunity then," explained Gatland, looking to lead Wales to their

first World Cup title.

"They will be chomping at the bit to play against Uruguay." Fiji famously knocked Wales out of the 2007 World Cup in the group stage and assistant coach Stephen Jones, the Welsh fly-half in the side beaten 38-34 in Nantes, said: "From a personal perspective, I am fully aware of how good they are."

"We have got to make sure from an attacking element that when we have got the ball we keep the ball. "It (2007) highlighted what Fijian rugby is all about. "Give them space and time and they move the ball well, have an off-loading game and put you under pressure. "They did that day and scored some wonderful tries." —AFP



BEIJING: Ashleigh Barty of Australia hits a return during her women's singles semi-final match against Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing yesterday. —AFP

errors but still just about emerged victorious in a nail-biting 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (9/7) triumph.

Barty, who surged to the top of the rankings in June, said there had been "massive growth" in her mental fortitude when she faces crunch points.

"That's gone hand-in-hand with adding some new people to my team, trying to work with them behind the scenes," Barty, who five years ago took a break from tennis and played cricket, said.

"Not just for my tennis — it's for my life, my health and well being, as well, which has been the best thing. "I have never been happier off the court, never been happier on the court."

THIEM VS TSITSIPAS

Top seed Dominic Thiem fought back from a set

down to reach the final in the men's draw — and also book his place at the season-ending ATP Finals. The Austrian will play Stefanos Tsitsipas after beating Russia's Karen Khachanov 2-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 in two hours and 41 minutes.

The 21-year-old Tsitsipas triumphed 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 in a battle of the rising stars against 22-year-old Alexander Zverev. Thiem, who has now reached the ATP Finals for a fourth time in a row, said: "For me personally, it was one big goal when I started into the season, I'm very, very happy that I made it (the London Finals) again."

"But it's not because of today's win, it's because of all the season." Also already qualified for London are Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Daniil Medvedev. —AFP

Sports

Eden Hazard off mark but Real Madrid make hard work of Granada

Bale, Kroos forced off with minor injuries

MADRID: Eden Hazard ended the wait for his first Real Madrid goal but his team had to resist a spirited second-half comeback from Granada to seal a thrilling 4-2 victory in La Liga yesterday. Karim Benzema put Real ahead in the second minute at the Santiago Bernabeu before Hazard opened his account with a delightful lifted finish towards the end of the first half.

Luka Modric's bending long-range effort on the hour looked to have confirmed the win but Granada scored twice in quick succession through Darwin Machis and Domingos Duarte, the first from the penalty spot, to set up a tense last 12 minutes.

James Rodriguez, on as a substitute, ended the rally by scoring his first goal since May 2017 in injury-time to wrap up an unexpectedly dramatic contest between the league's top two. Granada stay second, for now, after suffering only their second defeat of the season.

Madrid had been in complete control, their fluency and tempo contributing to arguably the best hour of football they have played this season. Yet a hectic 20-minute period in the second half took some of the gloss off a performance that at least gets Zinedine Zidane's side back to winning ways following their 2-2 draw at home to Club Brugge in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Hazard had become a growing concern after five underwhelming matches, the patience granted to him after his injury in pre-season beginning to run out after his 100 million euros (\$109 million) move from Chelsea.

The Belgian still looks some way short of his best but his goal here was timely, not just for him but also Real, who will go into international break top of the table, despite their own bumpy start to the season.

KROOS INJURED, BALE BACK

Toni Kroos walked off injured in the first half to be replaced by Modric, which will be a worry for Germany, who play Argentina in a friendly on Wednesday. Gareth Bale returned after being rested against Brugge while Alphonse Areola came in for the ill Thibaut Courtois in goal. Areola's mistake gave away the penalty, and perhaps any hopes he had of keeping Courtois out longer-term.

Madrid conceded after 122 seconds on Tuesday but needed only 102 to take the lead here. Playing on the right, Bale often makes use of the outside of his left foot and the bend he created to bypass two Granada defenders and find Benzema at the backpost was superb. Benzema could not miss.

Madrid created several early chances. A slick move down the left between Bale, Benzema and Dani Carvajal saw the latter go clear while Benzema and the impressive Fede Valverde both went close too.

Bale was first to congratulate Hazard when he scored shortly before half-time but Valverde created it, driving past two Granada midfielders before intercepting Duarte's header and poking the ball through. Hazard finished just in time, lifting it coolly into the net. The second half grew increasingly bad-tempered, broken up by late tackles and complaints to the referee. Yet when Modric collected Hazard's pass on the hour, after another Valverde chase, and found the top corner, the game looked finished.

Instead, Granada were given a lifeline. Areola had just failed to claim a cross when moments later he daltied in his box and caught Carlos Fernandez in a rushed attempt to clear. Darwin Machis scored the penalty and with 12 minutes left, they made it 3-2, Victor Diaz head-



MADRID: Real Madrid's Uruguayan midfielder Federico Valverde (L) falls down beside Granada's Venezuelan midfielder Yangel Herrera during the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and Granada FC at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid yesterday. — AFP

ing to the back post where Duarte prodded in. Madrid were suddenly alive to the unexpected threat and Benzema should have made it four in the

86th minute but his shot was saved. James did, a quick break ending with Alvaro Odriozola finding him with the pull-back. The relief was palpable. — AFP

S Lanka upset Pakistan in first Twenty20

LAHORE: Inexperienced Sri Lanka stunned Pakistan by 64 runs in the first Twenty20 international in Lahore yesterday, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Sri Lanka scored 165-5 in their 20 overs with Danushka Gunathilaka scoring 57 off 38 balls including a six and eight boundaries. Teenage Pakistan paceman Mohammad Hसनain took a hat-trick, finishing with 3-37.

Pakistan were bowled out for 101 in 17.4 overs with Nuwan Pradeep and Isuru Udana taking three wickets apiece. The second match will be played on Monday and the third on Wednesday — all in Lahore. — AFP



LAHORE: Sri Lanka's Danushka Gunathilaka (L) plays a shot during the first Twenty20 International cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Gaddafi stadium in Lahore yesterday. — AFP

Mahrez revival provides fresh impetus for City

MANCHESTER: Riyad Mahrez is finally back to his best after a frustrating debut season with Manchester City and the Premier League champions are reaping the rewards as they fight to keep pace with title rivals Liverpool.

When Pep Guardiola's side host Wolves today without the injured Kevin De Bruyne, Algeria winger Mahrez will be ready to shoulder the burden of driving City towards another priceless victory. It is a far cry from Mahrez's first few months at the Etihad Stadium, when his then club-record £60 million (\$74 million) switch from Leicester was in danger of becoming a nightmare. Unable to recapture the form that won him the PFA player of the year award for his instrumental role in Leicester's 2016 Premier League title triumph, Mahrez cut a miserable figure. It did not help that the superb form of Raheem Sterling and Bernardo Silva stopped Mahrez from garnering enough playing time to recover his rhythm.

Guardiola has since hinted that Mahrez became unhappy at his lack of action and let it affect his performances. "He's quality. Perhaps the only thing he has

to improve is to be more relaxed when he doesn't play. Only that. The rest is top," Guardiola said. Mahrez's nadir came at Liverpool last October when he blazed a late penalty high over the bar to rob City of a win over their main challengers. But Guardiola remained confident Mahrez would eventually turn the tide.

A defining moment came on the final day of the Premier League season when he was included in the starting line-up for the must-win clash at Brighton. Guardiola's faith in Mahrez was rewarded when his blistering second-half strike opened up a 3-1 lead that eased City's nerves as they went on to lift the trophy.

Mahrez started again a week later when City thrashed Watford in the FA Cup final to complete the domestic treble and he has not looked back since.

With his morale on the mend, the 28-year-old captained Algeria to glory in the Africa Cup of Nations in July and has carried that form into this season. When the Cup of Nations ended, City were already one game into their pre-season tour of Asia, meaning Mahrez had little respite from competitive action before the Premier League resumed. But he was determined to stay in Guardiola's plans and impressed his boss by refusing the option of an extended summer break. "I didn't have much holidays but that is what I wanted, because I wanted to be ready straight away. I am happy but I have to keep going," Mahrez said.

While he was already a believer in Mahrez's quality, Guardiola pinpoints the winger's uplifting experience with Algeria as a transformative moment. — AFP

since 2016. But their spirited fightback will give under-fire boss Jones hope of a revival after former Swansea midfielder Sam Clucas equalised midway through the first half.

It looked like Stoke were going to miss the chance to end their 10-game winless run until Hogan found the back of the net in the 90th minute. Nottingham Forest stretched their unbeaten league run to 10 games with a 1-0 win over Brentford.

Ben Watson, deputising as skipper with Michael Dawson sidelined, had not scored for three-and-a-half years prior to his strike that beat Barnsley a fortnight ago. The former Crystal Palace midfielder was again the difference against the Bees, scoring a stunning 12-yard volley in the 56th minute to lift Forest up to second in the table, level on points with West Brom.

Millwall began life after Neil Harris by ending their eight-game wait for a league victory with a 2-1 win against 10-man Leeds at The Den. The Lions, who had first-team coach Adam Barrett in charge following Harris' decision to stand down as manager earlier this week, went in front thanks to Jed Wallace's early penalty, which saw Gaetano Berardi dismissed. — AFP

West Brom back on top as Swansea stunned by Stoke

LONDON: West Brom surged back to the top of the Championship with a 4-2 win against Cardiff, while previous leaders Swansea crashed to a shock defeat against Stoke yesterday. Albion raced into a three-goal lead at the Hawthorns as Charlie Austin scored his first league goal for Slaven Bilic's side after first-half strikes from Matheus Pereira and Grady Diangana.

Danny Ward's late double for Cardiff made things nervy for Albion until Romaine Sawyers scored the hosts' fourth goal deep into stoppage-time. Scott Hogan's 90th-minute winner gave Stoke their first victory of the season in dramatic fashion with a 2-1 triumph at Swansea.

Nathan Jones watched Stoke fall behind in the opening minute to Andre Ayew's first Liberty Stadium goal

Platini free to return to football but Qatar probe goes on

DOHA: Former UEFA president Michel Platini is finally free to return to football next week when his four-year ban for ethics violations ends, although he remains linked to a corruption investigation in his home country relating to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The former France captain and national coach went on to become one of the game's most prominent administrators when he was elected president of European football's governing body in 2007. A triple Ballon d'Or winner, Platini was expected to succeed Sepp Blatter as FIFA president in 2016 but fell spectacularly from grace a few months earlier.

He was banned from football for receiving a two-million Swiss franc (1.8 million euros, \$2 million) payment from the head of the world game, with Blatter banned for eight years, later reduced to six, for his part.

The payment, made in 2011 when Blatter was seeking re-election as president, was related to work carried out by Platini between 1999 and 2002. The pair were found guilty of "abusive execution" of their powers and a conflict of interests.

Platini, now 64, has been battling to clear his name ever since, although his ban was reduced to four years from an initial six, leaving him free to work in football again when the suspension expires on Monday.

With the former Saint-Etienne and Juventus midfielder sidelined, he watched on as Gianni Infantino, once his right-hand man at UEFA, became FIFA president in February 2016. The Swiss-Italian was re-elected in June this year.

Approached by AFP on Friday, Infantino declined to comment on Platini, who made his determination, and bitterness towards FIFA, clear in an interview with Swiss television channel RTS last month. "I will be back. I don't know where, I don't know how. I can't go out of the game on the back of a ban, even if it's a ban made by idiots," he said. Speaking to French daily Le Monde about what the future holds, he added: "I have had lots of offers and requests to become a pundit, to do the Euros, the World Cup."

In an interview with French sports daily L'Equipe, he played down talk of a return to the top levels of football administration, although he has been linked with the role of president of the French Football Federation when that position opens up in 2021.

"My wife taught me never to go back, to not experience the same love affair twice. So yes, that closes doors for me, notably those at UEFA," he said. "My suspension ends in October, while the last elections for the FIFA presidency took place in May and the next ones will be in four years," he added. "They arranged that well in Zurich."

One source close to UEFA said the organisation's current president, Aleksander Ceferin, "could support Platini" as a candidate for the FIFA presidency in 2023 as the Slovenian "cannot stand" Infantino. By then, the Qatar World Cup will have come and gone, but Platini has been dogged by his connections to the controversial awarding of that tournament. In June this year he was held and questioned by French anti-corruption police investigating the 2010 vote to award the tournament to the Gulf state. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE			
Southampton FC v Chelsea FC	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Arsenal FC v Bournemouth FC	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Manchester City v Wolverhampton Wanderers FC	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Newcastle United FC v Manchester United	beIN SPORTS	18:30	
SPANISH LEAGUE			
Real Mallorca v RCD Espanyol	beIN SPORTS	13:00	
Celta de Vigo v Athletic de Bilbao	beIN SPORTS	15:00	
Real Valladolid v Atletico de Madrid	beIN SPORTS HD 3	17:00	
Real Sociedad v Getafe CF	beIN SPORTS	19:30	
FC Barcelona v Sevilla FC	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:00	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE			
ACF Fiorentina v Udinese Calcio	beIN SPORTS	13:30	
Atalanta v US Lecce	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Bologna FC v SS Lazio	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
AS Roma v Cagliari Calcio	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Torino FC v SSC Napoli	beIN SPORTS	19:00	
Internazionale Milano v Juventus FC	beIN SPORTS	21:45	
Brescia v US Sassuolo Calcio	beIN SPORTS	22:45	
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA			
Borussia Monchengladbach v FC Augsburg	beIN SPORTS	14:30	
VfL Wolfsburg v FC Union Berlin	beIN SPORTS	16:30	
Eintracht Frankfurt v SV Werder Bremen	beIN SPORTS	19:00	
FRENCH LEAGUE			
LOSC Lille v Nimes Olympique	beIN SPORTS	16:00	
Stade Rennais v Stade Reims	beIN SPORTS	18:00	
Saint Etienne v Olympique Lyonnais	beIN SPORTS	22:00	

25 Rohit Sharma's ton helps India set South Africa 395 to win



26 England first into World Cup quarter finals as Japan extend dream run



27 Eden Hazard off mark but Real Madrid make hard work of Granada



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Croatian defender Dejan Lovren (C) rises for the ball during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Leicester City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. —AFP

Milner sends Liverpool eight points clear

Brighton pile pain on miserable Tottenham

LONDON: James Milner scored a stoppage-time winner as Liverpool moved eight points clear at the top of the Premier League with a thrilling 2-1 victory over Leicester, while Mauricio Pochettino's problems mounted after Tottenham's 3-0 loss at Brighton yesterday.

Liverpool won for the 17th consecutive league game thanks to Milner's dramatic contribution to a thrilling clash at Anfield. Jurgen Klopp's side ruined Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers' first return to Liverpool since being replaced by the German in 2015.

By extending their remarkable winning streak, Liverpool have piled pressure on second-placed Manchester City ahead of their home game against Wolves today. "It was a super game. We upped the tempo. The football we played was so important," Klopp said.

"Without luck we cannot win the amount of games we have won, but over the 90 minutes we deserved it. James Milner held his nerve and that was superb." Liverpool took the lead in the 40th minute when Milner's long ball was misjudged by Leicester defender

Jonny Evans and Sadio Mane clinically slotted in his eighth goal of the season.

Mane has scored exactly 50 goals in 100 Premier League games for Liverpool, making the Senegal winger the 10th player to reach that milestone for the Reds. James Maddison snatched third-placed Leicester's equaliser in the 80th minute when he collected Ayoze Perez's pass and drove his shot under Adrian's weak attempted save.

But five minutes into stoppage time, Marc Albrighton took the ball away from his own goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel and then clipped Mane, with Milner converting the penalty after a VAR review. At the Amex Stadium, Tottenham's crisis deepened as they turned in a desperate performance, while Hugo Lloris suffered a serious arm injury after another howler. Tottenham keeper Lloris dropped the ball on the goal line and hurt himself in the process in only the third minute, allowing Neal Maupay to open the scoring.

It only got worse after that as Aaron Connolly's double gave the impressive Seagulls a deserved three

points. It ranked as one of the worst performances of Pochettino's reign and, following on from Tuesday's 7-2 Champions League humiliation to Bayern Munich, the dark clouds are mounting over the club.

Pochettino was forced to emphasise his commitment to Tottenham this week amid speculation he has grown distant from a squad distracted by several players who have been linked with moves.

"We have to keep going. I have to say thank you for the fans. I feel sorry for them," Pochettino said. "Now you cannot find any words to console them and our players because I think we are living a tough moment."

Last season's Champions League finalists have won just three of their opening 11 games of the campaign and five of their last 19 dating back to when these sides last met in April. An 11th defeat in 2019 left Tottenham without an away league win in 10 games dating back to January.

Everton manager Marco Silva is also under increasing pressure following a 1-0 defeat at Burnley that left his team fourth from bottom. Jeff Hendrick got Burnley's

72nd-minute winner after Everton had right-back Seamus Coleman sent off early in the second half for a crude lunge on Dwight McNeil.

Aston Villa's 5-1 demolition of Norwich was given a royal seal of approval with Villa fan Prince William in attendance with wife Kate and his young family at Carrow Road.

Dean Smith's side took a 14th-minute lead through Wesley and the Brazilian forward struck again for his fourth goal of the season in the 30th minute. Wesley wasted a chance to complete his hat-trick when his penalty was saved by Michael McGovern.

It didn't prove a problem for Villa as Jack Grealish got their third goal in the 49th minute and Conor Hourihane made it four. Douglas Luiz's 83rd-minute goal completed Villa's biggest away Premier League win for 11 years despite Josip Drmic's reply for Norwich. "I will put a call in to see if we can get them on the coach next game," Smith joked of the royal visitors. Watford remain bottom after a goalless draw with Sheffield United. — AFP

Barshim delivers royal command performance for Qatar's Amir

DOHA: Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim received the personal congratulations of the country's Amir after he sent the crowd wild on Friday by retaining his high jump title at the World Athletics Championships.

The 28-year-old, who had got himself out of trouble by succeeding on his third and final attempt at 2.33 metres, took gold with a jump of 2.37m in front of a raucous and packed Khalifa Stadium.

Barshim revealed he had chatted with the country's ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani after his triumph. "I felt that (support) a lot from the crowd, from the emir himself to everyone who came out tonight," said Barshim.

"I was with him (the Amir) just now. I can't tell you (what he said) — it's top secret." When pressed, he did give some insight into his conversation with the ruler of the energy-rich state. "He (the Amir) was very excited and very happy. He said well done, he is really happy and proud because I delivered on what he wanted."

For Barshim, it confirmed his return to the top after a serious ankle injury in July last year when he tore a ligament when attempting to break the world record. "My injury last year could have been career ending," said Barshim, who only returned to training in April this year.

"You start posing questions like am I ever going to jump again and you start having questions about yourself. "Now I am just thinking about the future and I am really happy where I am." Barshim made light of the botched medals ceremony which saw him and his fellow medallists appear into an empty stadium before they were hurriedly ushered off again and told to return.

"It is always great standing on a world championship podium," he said grinning. "But yes it is better to do it again." Barshim, who will bid to make it a full house of Olympic medals next year having won silver and bronze, said he had revelled in the pressure of per-

forming in front of his compatriots.

"Of course there was a lot of pressure, but I need pressure to jump," he said. "I love competing on a high ground with a strong field so that was my thing to push myself to the maximum."

"It means everything to me I'm really happy to do it here at home. "To everybody who came out here to support and believed in me I just wanted to do this for them." Barshim said the packed stadium — the early part of the championships was marked by largely empty spaces — was great but he added it provided hope for the future of the sport in Qatar.

"I did not ask them to come tonight," he said. "I could see it in their eyes how enthusiastic they were and how much enjoyment they were getting from it." Barshim said the elusive Olympics gold was on his mind but he had other priorities in the immediate future.

"Tokyo is the target of course," he said. "However, first I need to be fat, to eat as much as I can and to have a vacation!" The minor medals went to two athletes competing under the Authorised Neutral Athlete banner. Mikhail Akimenko took silver on countback with 2.35m and Ilya Ivanyuk won the bronze with 2.35m. — AFP



DOHA: Gold medalist Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim poses on the podium during the medal ceremony for the Men's High Jump at the 2019 IAAF Athletics World Championships at the Khalifa International stadium in Doha yesterday. — AFP