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MPs blast interior ministry for mistreating senior journalist

Adasani says he will file to grill multiple ministers



KUWAIT: Flamingoes feed by a beach yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday strongly criticized the interior ministry after detectives in plain-clothes mistakenly arrested Madhi Al-Khamees, a well-known senior journalist, and manhandled him before apologizing after realizing he was not the man they wanted. Khamees, the head of the Arab Media Forum, said he was arrested outside his home in Yarmouk immediately after he stepped out of his car. He said two people attacked him and threw him in the trunk of their car without even talking to him.

He said he tried in vain to let them know he was not wanted for anything, but they continued to detain him and took him to Yarmouk police station. He said that he was detained for several hours before a police officer apologized and told him that he was not wanted for anything and let him go.

The interior ministry denied the account, saying Khamees refused to cooperate with security men and declined to show his ID. The ministry said in a statement that he later showed his ID at the police station and was immediately allowed to leave after it was found he was not the citizen wanted to serve a nine-month jail sentence with labor for issuing a bounced cheque.

The ministry said criminal execution investigators were monitoring the places the suspect frequented and were waiting for him

in an open yard outside his house in Yarmouk, when they mistook Khamees for the suspect when he stepped out of his vehicle in the same place. The interior ministry also said an investigation has been launched.

Khamees however denied the interior ministry's statement and reiterated his story that he was mishandled and treated badly. He said he filed a complaint against the security men after obtaining a medical report detailing his injuries. MPs Mohammad Al-Dallal and Ahmad Al-Fadhli also criticized the ministry and asked why the security men behaved in a "savage" way when they only needed to call the man to come to the police station.

Meanwhile, Adasani said he will file to grill a number of ministers including the interior, commerce and finance ministers, and may also grill the prime minister. Adasani said he will file to grill Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan at the start of the new term later this month over a dispute regarding the appointment of a chairman of the Al-Durra Company set up to recruit domestic helpers at a reasonable cost. The lawmaker also said he will also file to grill the ministers of interior and finance over a raft of alleged financial and administrative violations, adding he may also file to grill the prime minister himself in the next term, which is the final legislative term in the current Assembly before general elections late next year.

News in brief

24,000 tourists in 10 days

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia welcomed 24,000 tourists in the 10 days after it issued tourism visas for the first time, state television reported yesterday. Saudi Arabia announced on Sept 27 it would start offering tourist visas, opening up the kingdom to holiday-makers as part of a push to diversify its economy away from oil. "In 10 days, some 24,000 foreigners entered Saudi Arabia on a tourist visa," the television reported, citing the Saudi foreign ministry. To encourage arrivals, authorities announced Sunday they would allow unmarried foreign couples to rent hotel rooms together. — AFP

South Asia Qaeda chief killed

KABUL: The leader of Al-Qaeda's South Asian branch was killed in a US-Afghan joint raid in southern Afghanistan last month, Afghan officials confirmed yesterday. Asim Umar, who led Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) from its inception in 2014, was killed during a raid Sept 23 on a Taliban compound in the Musa Qala district of Helmand province, Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security said that among the six other AQIS members killed in the raid was a man identified as "Raihan", a courier for Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri. — AFP

Giza zoo loses last elephant

CAIRO: The Egyptian capital's Giza zoo has announced the death of its last elephant, Naima, who spent around 36 of her 40 years in captivity. The African elephant, a star of the neglected zoo, died Sunday after suddenly falling ill, a day after having been active and playing with visitors. "Top veterinarians... gave her the required medications... but she did not respond," Mohammed Rajai, who heads the government's central authority for zoos, told AFP. — AFP

UK's biggest drugs racket busted

LONDON: Thirteen men were arrested yesterday on suspicion of involvement in the biggest drugs racket ever uncovered in Britain, police said. The suspects were allegedly part of an international organized crime group responsible for importing more than 50 tons of drugs, worth billions of pounds, into Britain from the Netherlands. The men, aged between 24 and 59, were arrested in dawn raids in London, Manchester, Leeds and five towns in northern England, the National Crime Agency said. — AFP

Turkey ready for Syria offensive

ISTANBUL: Turkey said yesterday it was ready for an offensive into northern Syria, while President Donald Trump insisted the United States had not abandoned its Kurdish allies who would be targeted in the assault. Trump has blown hot and cold since a surprise announcement on Sunday that Washington was pulling back 50 to 100 "special operators" from Syria's northern frontier.

The troops had served as a buffer preventing a long-planned attack by the Turkish military against Kurdish forces, who were crucial in the years-long campaign to defeat the Islamic State group but are viewed as "terrorists" by Ankara. After appearing to give a green light to

the Turkish invasion on Sunday, Trump later threatened to "obliterate" Turkey's economy if it went too far. "Any unforced or unnecessary fighting by Turkey will be devastating to their economy and to their very fragile currency," he tweeted.

But he also gave a warm account of Turkey in other tweets and announced that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would visit Washington on Nov 13. "So many people conveniently forget that Turkey is a big trading partner of the United States," he said. Ankara had already brushed aside Trump's warnings, with Vice-President Fuat Oktay saying: "Turkey is not a country that will act according to threats."

Turkey has always pushed hard against US support for Kurdish forces in Syria due to their links with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which has fought a bloody insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984. Its defense ministry tweeted that preparations for an

Continued on Page 24

Trio wins Nobel for dark matter, exoplanet finds

STOCKHOLM: Canadian-American cosmologist James Peebles and Swiss astronomer Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz yesterday won the Nobel Physics Prize for research that increases the understanding of our place in the Universe. Peebles won one-half of the prize "for theoretical discoveries that have contributed to our understanding of how the Universe evolved after the Big Bang", professor Goran Hansson, secretary gen-

eral of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, told a press conference.

Mayor and Queloz shared the other half for the first discovery, in Oct 1995, of a planet outside our solar system - an exoplanet - orbiting a solar-type star in the Milky Way. "Their discoveries have forever changed our conceptions of the world," the jury said. Developed over two decades since the mid-1960s, Peebles' theoretical framework is "the basis of our contemporary ideas about the Universe".

Peebles built upon Albert Einstein's work on the origins of the Universe by looking back to the millennia immediately after the Big Bang, when light rays started to shoot outwards into space.

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India takes first Rafale delivery

PARIS: India received yesterday the first of 36 Rafale fighter jets ordered from France in 2016 in a multibillion-dollar deal that Paris hopes will unlock more sales despite being tainted by suspicion of corruption. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh joined his French counterpart Florence Parly for a ceremony at the Dassault Aviation factory in Merignac, near the southwestern city of Bordeaux,

on the Indian Air Force's birthday. Standing next to the plane, decorated in the colors of the Indian flag, Singh hailed an "historic and landmark day for the Indian armed forces," noting the Rafale "will add to the strength of our air force".

India, which in February fought air battles with arch-rival Pakistan over their shared territory of Kashmir, is seeking to renew its ageing fleet of Jaguar, Mirage 2000, Sukhoi 30, and Mig 21 and 27 jets. It signed a deal in 2016 to buy 36 Rafales from France, but delivery has

Continued on Page 24



ALEPPO: Turkish-backed Syrian rebel fighters head to an area near the Syrian-Turkish border yesterday. — AFP



STOCKHOLM: A computer screen displays the portraits of the laureates of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics (from left) Canadian-American James Peebles, Swiss scientists Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences yesterday. — AFP



MERIGNAC, France: Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh (center), French Defense minister Florence Parly and Dassault aviation CEO Eric Trappier take part in a ceremony marking the delivery of the first of 36 Rafale fighter jets destined for India yesterday. — AFP

Local



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received the Chairman and General Director of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah. Separately, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received in his office Ambassador Reem Al-Khaled on the occasion of her being assigned as Kuwait's envoy to Canada. — KUNA

Kuwaiti FM meets Algeria, EU envoys



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing Ambassador of Algeria to Kuwait Abdulhamid Abdawi. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives credentials of newly appointed Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of the European Union in Kuwait Cristian Tudor.

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday the outgoing Ambassador of Algeria to Kuwait Abdulhamid Abdawi. During the meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled hailed the efforts of Abdawi to boost the Kuwait-Algeria ties on all levels, while he worked in the country. The meeting was attended by Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for the

Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani and a number of officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also received credentials of newly appointed Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of the European Union in Kuwait Cristian Tudor. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled wished the new diplomat best of luck and success in

carrying out his duty in Kuwait, as well as further progress and prosperity for the Kuwaiti-EU relationship. Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols' Affairs Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran and Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani attended the meeting. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation President Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah and US Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration David Pekoske sign the agreement. — KUNA

Kuwait, US sign aviation security deal

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the United States' Transportation Security Administration (TSA) signed yesterday a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to bolster aviation security. Speaking to the press after signing the agreement with US Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration David Pekoske, DGCA's President Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah said that the deal encouraged further cooperation between the two sides whether it was in the administrative, technical, or security levels. The current cooperation between the DGCA and the TSA led to vast improvement of security in Kuwait

International Airport (KIA), stated Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud who affirmed that KIA status improved immensely regionally and internationally because of such collaboration.

Meanwhile, Pekoske affirmed that the level of cooperation between Kuwait and the US was excellent and it "Really formalizes a strong partnership we already have." "We both have worked very closely to get into improving aviation security in our respective countries," he said. The US official lauded the level of cooperation between Kuwait and the US, saying it will better security for all travelers. "We are always moving into an advance system because the threat is always ever present and we need as governments to be ahead of that threat the whole time," he added. "We could be best equipped to protect our citizens if we cooperate together and that's the essence of this agreement," the TSA official said. "There has been a lot of advancement in aviation security around the world. Kuwait is key among that overall effort." — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with the US Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration David Pekoske. — KUNA

Interior Minister, US Security official discuss cooperation

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah met yesterday with visiting US Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration David Pekoske. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to boost cooperation in various fields, especially in the security field, the Interior ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Khaled also met with Kuwait Ambassador to China Samih Jowhar Hayat and tackled a number of common concern issues. A statement by the ministry said Sheikh Khaled praised Kuwait's Embassy in



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with President of the Municipal Council Osama Al-Otaibi and his Deputy Abdullah Al-Mahri.

China for their role in bolstering ties between the two countries. The minister also met with President of the Municipal Council Osama Al-Otaibi, accompanied by his Deputy Abdullah Al-Mahri, the statement added. The meeting

delved into a number of issues of common concerns. Furthermore, Sheikh Khaled met with the President of the Communication and Information Technology Regulator Authority Salem Al-Othaina. — KUNA

Kuwaiti Customs signs agreement with NSA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's General Administration of Customs signed with United States National Security Agency (NSA) yesterday a cooperation agreement to launch the environmental connectivity operations between both sides in order to exchange information and means of electronic customs transport. Director-General of Kuwait Public Administration of Customs Counselor Jamal Al-Jalawi said in a speech following the signing of the agreement that this comes in response to the Kuwaiti public policy aiming at developing the customs work. The agreement will contribute in the exchange, flow, and use of information as well as means of transport and bodies that would pose danger to the international world chain, including institutions that would be involved in customs crimes, Jalawi affirmed. This agreement will help

reduce the smuggling process of all prohibitions and high-risk shipments, he said, indicating that it offers authority for Kuwait customs to view the full shipment information including the source, importer, means of transport, and itinerary. In case any kind of danger is inspected in the shipment, this should be reported in order to be inspected accurately and check all its documents he said. This agreement is not the first of its kind between both sides, as a group of agreements were signed beforehand and contributed in the success of the customs work in the country, he added. The agreement was signed from the Kuwaiti side by Jalawi and from the US side by US Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration David Pekoske. — KUNA

Kuwaiti Deputy FM meets Saudi envoy, US official

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah held talks yesterday with the Saudi Foreign Ministry's undersecretary for consular affairs Tamim Al-Dosari. The discussions, attended by a number of Kuwaiti diplomats, revolved around ties between the two Gulf neighbors in addition to the latest happenings in the region. The Kuwaiti diplomat went on to meet Acting US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security David Pekoske, discussing with him matters of mutual concern. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the Saudi Foreign Ministry's undersecretary for consular affairs Tamim Al-Dosari. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Director-General of Kuwait Public Administration of Customs Counselor Jamal Al-Jalawi and US Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration David Pekoske shake hands after signing the agreement. — KUNA

Local

Kuwait's Cabinet concerned over Iraq's protests, hopes for peaceful solution

Ministers informed about authority's measures to collect debts



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti government followed with great concern the ongoing protests in Iraq which left many casualties, the Cabinet has stated. In a statement following its weekly meeting held Monday under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet expressed confidence in Iraqi people's ability to overcome this critical phase. It hoped that all Iraqi parties would unify their efforts to reach a peaceful solution that is acceptable to all to help restore security, stability and tranquility to Iraq. In the meantime, the Cabinet expressed sorrow over the heavy rains engulfed the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh that led to material and human losses. The cabinet congratulated Abdullah Abdullah on being elected as Afghanistan President, wishing him success and Afghanistan's people further development and progress. It condemned the deadly knife

attack, which targeted a security checkpoint in Paris last Saturday. It renewed Kuwait's rejection of all acts of violence and terrorism, whatever their motives and causes.

The Cabinet's meeting began with welcoming the return of His Highness the Prime Minister after partaking in the 74th session of the UN General Assembly which was held recently in New York, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said after the meeting. His Highness the Prime Minister represented His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the UNGA meetings. His Highness the Prime Minister briefed the cabinet on the meetings and talks he held with several heads of delegations of the friendly and sisterly countries on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN, Saleh added. The meetings and talks discussed means of developing and

promoting cooperation between Kuwait and the sisterly and friendly states for mutual benefits, and reviewed several issues of mutual concerns, he noted.

Meanwhile, the ministers were informed about the economic affairs committee's recommendation on the periodical report by the Public Authority for Civil Information on the uncollected debts from the first of April 2019 until the end of September 2019 as well as measures taken by the authority to collect those debts. They also studied the committee's recommendation regarding rebalancing the state's budget and relevant observations by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development's members. The Cabinet decided to refer recommendations by the council's economic development on the State's budget and the government's borrowing to the economic affairs committee to set an executive program in line with a timetable of the recommendations. — KUNA

No individual licenses for mobile trucks

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi stressed the Municipality has allocated general locations for mobile trucks and has not issued individual licenses per truck. Responding to an inquiry by Municipal Councilmember Hassan Kamal in this regard, Manfouhi explained nine locations had been set of 5,000 sq m each according to certain conditions, adding that trucks that do not comply with the set location will be fined by the Municipality and Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

Responding to another inquiry filed by Municipal Councilmember Meshaal Al-Hamadhan concerning fencing plots number 2,523 and 2,524 in Bnaird chalets area, Manfouhi stressed the area is government property and it is not the Municipality's duty to fence those plots.

In another municipal concern, the Municipality stressed that utilizing street billboards is done through public bidding and in case the investing company wishes to increase the number of billboards, an official request has to be made and reviewed by the Municipality's follow-up committee for further approvals.

Manfouhi also responded to an inquiry by Municipal Councilmember Maha Al-Baghli concerning disposal of electronic waste. He stressed such waste is not buried in the Municipality's landfill sites but is usually separated and sent to relevant bodies pending recycling or re-exporting them.

Tribes start preparations for 2020 elections

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Preparations for the 2020 parliamentary elections seem to have started early in the fourth and fifth constituencies, which are dominated by tribes. In this regard, informed sources said tribes have already started preparing for the elections due from mid-October to mid-December 2020. The sources said the Mutair tribe - the largest in the fourth constituency - has started coordination to avoid splitting of its votes like what happened in the previous elections, when 27 candidates from the tribe ran and only Mohammed Hayef won.

The sources added that the Ajmi tribe, Dahmash clan of Eneza tribe and Thafiri tribe agreed to hold by-elections, while Shammar tribe candidates are still arguing about holding by-elections, which also happened in the previous elections when three tribesmen ran and all lost. The sources said the Rasheed tribe, which is currently represented by four MPs, will not hold any by-elections. In addition, the sources explained that the Azmi tribe controls the fifth constituency and it agreed to field a limited number of candidates for the elections to make sure at least four of them win.

Unpaid allowances

A number of supervisors of social and psychological services, technological services and activities yesterday demonstrated demanding demoting them to go back and work in schools as librarians and social workers so they can get the allowances the Civil Service Commission (CSC) only approved for school staff members.

In a meeting with MoE assistant undersecretary for activities and educational development Faisal Maqseed, the demonstrating supervisors said their peers in other assistant educational jobs get allowances while they had even been deprived of excellent performance bonuses. "We cannot carry on working under such unfair circumstances," they stressed, requesting to go back to work in schools.

Maqseed stressed his full support to the demonstrators' demands and pointed out that Minister Hamed Al-Azmi and Undersecretary Saud Al-Harbi are looking into the matter and exerting utmost efforts to help them get the allowances like their peers. Maqseed also rejected the demonstrators' decision to stop working as supervisors and go back to schools, and asked them to wait for a while.

Three firemen hurt in Hawally building blaze



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Three firefighters suffered from heat exhaustion while battling a blaze reported yesterday morning in Hawally. The fire had started in a 10th floor apartment in a 12-storey building, which was evacuated before firemen extinguished the flames. No other injuries were reported. An investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the fire.



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Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Sunset at Shuwalkh Beach. — Photo by Hassan Mahmoud (KUNA)

Kuwait supports women empowerment globally: Diplomat

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,
management and staff convey their

deepest condolences to

**Al-Abdulkarim
and
Al-Duaij families**

on the sad
demise of

Omar Sulaiman Al-Abdulkarim
(Abu Adulaziz)

May Allah Almighty bestow his mercy on him

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait continues to work intensively to boost cooperation with international institutes and the UN to empower women and bolster their rights, a Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. The UN had played a great role in better women's representation at high-ranking jobs and position. Kuwaiti diplomatic Attache Hala Al-Garabally in a UN committee meeting dedicated to empowering women and supporting their rights. She commended the role played by the General Secretariat in achieving equality between genders by 2021. She added that her country had viewed UN data and reports regarding women empowerment and representation, stressing that the State of Kuwait will do its best to implement recommendations to enable more rights for women. Bolstering women's rights is an integral component of the New Kuwait Vision 2035 and it is an essential goal within the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), she said, affirming that Kuwait was willing to provide support to both strategies.

Preventive diplomacy

Separately, Kuwait called yesterday for the bolstering of UN Security Council's preventive diplomacy role in

armed conflicts, especially in Africa. During a UNSC meeting on 'Peace and Security in Africa: The Centrality of Preventive Diplomacy, Conflict Prevention,' Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN headquarters in New York Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that his country was keen on supporting the important role played by preventive diplomacy in areas of conflict. The State of Kuwait had highlighted the issue during its June presidency of the UNSC in the name of safekeeping international peace and security, indicated Otaibi. Mediation is a civilized means to bring on a resolution to any conflict of international proportion and this should be advocated by all countries, added the Kuwaiti diplomat who called on the UNSC to use articles within the UN statute to end conflicts peacefully.

He stressed that negotiations, talks and legal procedures were all better than war and therefore, all countries as well as regional and international entities should aspire for peace and security whether in Africa or elsewhere. Meanwhile, Ambassador Otaibi commended the role played by Ethiopia and the African Union in aiding parties in Sudan to reach a peaceful resolution to their dispute. — KUNA



Hala Al-Garabally



Mansour Al-Otaibi

Local

Air pollution behind 10 percent of deaths in Kuwait: US official

Kuwait University center hosts 'Clean Air for Global Health' panel discussion

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: "Air pollution is responsible for 10 percent of deaths in Kuwait," said Dr Sumi Mehta, a US Department of State speaker, during a panel discussion titled 'Clean Air for Global Health' held yesterday at Kuwait University's Health Sciences Center. She spoke about examples of pollution in the US in the past several decades. "In Kuwait, they have a better sense in reading and monitoring emissions and its sources. Providing information is one piece of this, but working together to accurately communicate risk is very important. We know there are solutions available but we should focus on the most effective ones," she added.

Prevention is always the best medicine. "In the short term, we can think of minimizing harm to individuals, but masks are not sustainable solutions for addressing the issue. For the longer term, more policy



Dr Sumi Mehta
—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Dr Mufareh Al-Rashidi



“ Accessible data provides multiple benefits ”

related solutions need to be developed and implemented. Journalists and other key influencers can also be helpful - this includes using data on pollution and its impacts. The data should be clear and easy to interpret. Open and accessible air pollution data provides multiple benefits," Mehta pointed out.

She also mentioned an example of communication that is confusing for the general public to interpret - reports about air quality shared by Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA) and the US embassy website are different. Mehta advised joining the global network of health practitioners. "This allows a group of clinicians to work together for clean air policies, access data, receive news, engage in peer-to-peer contacts and participate in training and workshops," she concluded.

Dr Mufareh Al-Rashidi from the Kuwait Institute

for Scientific Research (KISR) addressed a presentation on air pollution in Um Al-Haiman. "This area was rebuilt in 1991 and was renamed Ali Sabah Al-Salem. There are many industrial activities there including three refineries with high oil production, Burgan oilfield and a sewage station. It was panic for the people and the government," he stated.

"The study started in 2011 and we submitted the final report in 2014. During these three years, we studied this area and surrounding areas. It was our mandate as an institution and it was a part of our strategy. We collected 705 samples from 47 locations. We used three mobile laboratories to collect the data for 18 months," explained Rashidi.

The results of analyses of air quality in Ali Sabah Al-Salem done in eight years showed a decrease in pollution concentration in this area. "We insisted to shut down a cement factory in this area and the government did so as it was a source of pollution. Regarding inhalation, we found it is not a health problem," Rashidi concluded by mentioning recommendations. "These include stopping issuing licenses for new industrial activities in this area, do a complete emissions inventory, set a clear strategy for limitation of emissions and reduce emissions from cars through catalytic converters. We also need to move these industrial activities far from the residential area," he concluded.

VIVA launches breast cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT: VIVA, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and a subsidiary of STC Group, launched its Breast Cancer Awareness campaign under the 'Because We Care' umbrella to run during the month of October in line with the international health campaign.



Danah Al-Jasem

In support of this cause, VIVA has changed the profile picture of its social media platforms by adding the pink ribbon to its logo, representing the international symbol of breast cancer awareness month. In addition, tips from specialized consultants will be displayed during the month of October to raise awareness about the importance of prevention and early screening, and educate women about the risks of breast cancer by increasing their knowledge of its signs and symptoms and enabling them to maintain breast health also knowing that it could be treatable.

Danah Faisal Al-Jasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at VIVA commented: "We will take the extra mile and utilize our resources in providing our employees with valuable information and lifestyle tips that will encourage early detection and hopefully mitigate the likelihood of being diagnosed with the disease. Breast cancer awareness, as well as other health awareness events, fall in line with our corporate social responsibility agenda at VIVA that strives to support different initiatives in the fields of health, education, sports, environment and entrepreneurship, all in benefit of our society. We look forward to more informative and interactive events that will spread awareness and are highly beneficial to both our employees and the community."



KUWAIT: Speaking as part of the activities of the dermatology diseases conference held in Kuwait, consultant doctor Ghanima Al-Omar held a workshop on the latest developments in non-surgical eyelid lifting. Speaking at the workshop, Omar stressed that non-surgical solutions are safer and more accepted by patients, adding this depends on patients' age, case severity, and other factors. —By A Saleh



Kuwait middle schoolers set for robotics contest

KUWAIT: Middle school students from 35 schools across Kuwait will be competing in an annual robotics competition, an official said yesterday. This year's contest, which is the 14th installment of the event, revolves around the concept of assembling a self-powered robot capable of carrying out every-day tasks, said the director of Milsetasia in Kuwait, a body advocating increased use of technology on leisure time. He revealed that a series of workshops and lectures would precede the contest, which is scheduled to end in early December, saying the yearly event is part of efforts to encourage young students to spend their spare time more productively. — KUNA

Gathering in Kuwait to espouse moderation

KUWAIT: A forum extolling the virtues of moderation due in Kuwait on Monday is an opportunity to mold nascent minds to build responsible citizens, said an official yesterday. The talks, sponsored by Kuwait's Awqaf Minister and Minister of State for Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Shoula, were set in motion by the warm greetings His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah conveyed to his fellow compatriots while on a recent trip to the US, said Dr Abdullah Al-Sharika, who is in charge of a moderation center affiliated with the Awqaf Ministry. The festivities will mainly take place in schools nationwide, featuring a vast array of activities including an expo where young students will express their admiration for His Highness the Amir, added the official. — KUNA

KNG officially joins FIEP: Official

PARIS: Kuwait National Guard (KNG) has officially joined the International Association of Gendarmeries and Police Forces with Military Statutes (FIEP), senior military official announced yesterday. Kuwait's membership at FIEP, alongside 19 other nations from all around the world, is of great significance due for the benefits that come along with it, particularly exchange of expertise with countries such as France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Turkey in preserving security, combating terrorism, and managing crises, KNG's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifaie said. Rifaie made his remarks on the sidelines of his participation at FIEP's regular meeting in the Netherlands, and attending the announce-

ment ceremony of Kuwait's induction into the international body. Kuwait had applied for FIEP's membership more than five years ago, he noted, adding that his country's endeavors were ultimately successful due for strategic directions of KNG's Chief Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and his Deputy Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, Rifaie indicated that KNG's 2020 Strategic Plan includes enhancing all active sectors in the institution, particularly the human element, in addition to acquiring latest modern security systems, drawing professional operational schemes in managing any military or security crisis, and organizing procedures in fast response to natural and industrial disasters. —KUNA

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Social media outrage; Pakistan official buys burqas for students

UAE lifts Lebanon travel ban; Beirut seeks support for ailing economy

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LAHORE: A boy shows a placard supporting Kashmir as supporters and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan walk during a Kashmir Azadi ('Freedom for Kashmir') march in Lahore. —AFP

The transported: Kashmiri prisoners sent far away

Authorities moving hundreds of Kashmiri prisoners across India

SRINAGAR: One is a 19-year-old construction worker charged with aiding militants against Indian troops, the other is one of Kashmir's most prominent lawyers, accused of being "an incorrigible secessionist". Despite their different backgrounds, Uzair Maqbool Malik and Nazir Ahmad Ronga have something in common: they are among hundreds of people who have been detained without trial by Indian authorities following a crackdown in the disputed region of Kashmir and moved to jails far from home.

India's portion of the Kashmir Valley - a Muslim-majority territory also claimed by Pakistan - has been under lockdown since the region's statehood and autonomy were revoked on Aug. 5. Authorities have cut off mobile communications in the valley and detained nearly 4,000 people, many of whom have since been released, according to the government. At least 300 people have been arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA), which allows for detentions of up to two years without trial, the government said. Most have been sent to jails across the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Many are young men like Malik, a high-school dropout who works in construction. But there are others like Ronga, a former head of the bar association in Kashmir, and dozens of other lawyers, academics and leaders of political parties. Indian officials say the policy of transporting detainees, which started last year but has snowballed since August, is required to cut off militants from their networks.

The transportations are often conducted without warning, and families say they are allowed little contact with detainees once they find them. Proving innocence is difficult even for those with resources given the communications situation in Kashmir and the number of cases. Sanjay Dhar, the registrar general of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, said two judges in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar were handling around 300 appeals against PSA detentions filed since Aug 5.

Accused of aiding militants

Malik, 19, grew up in Shopian, a town of around 16,000. As a child, he was friends with two boys who joined a militant group fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, a rebellion that has claimed tens of thousands of lives. That childhood association forms the basis of the case against him, according to court documents. In the documents, Malik is accused of assisting the two militants "in letter and spirit" and giving them "logistic support". They also say he participated in protests and an operation against security forces, between February 2018 and July 2019. "You not only yourself indulge in stone pelting but instigate others," one document said.

Malik's family denies the charges and say he has not seen the boys who joined the militants since they left. They said he participated in protests in 2016 and was hit in the eye by a metal pellet fired by security forces, partially blinding him. Malik dropped out of school and his family had to sell land to pay for surgery. "He hasn't done anything since," his mother, Haseena Malik, said. "He has made no mistake."

Dilbag Singh, chief of police for Jammu and Kashmir, said people detained under the PSA had been involved in subversive and terrorist activities, or disturbing public order. "All required procedural requirements under law are followed while executing detentions under PSA," he said. Singh said some individuals had been moved due to lack of space in Kashmir's jails. He said authorities were "checking the specific details" regarding the detentions of Malik and Ronga but had no additional information on their cases.

Faraway jail

For almost two weeks after he was arrested, Malik's family visited him twice a day, and officers repeatedly told them he would be released soon. But he was abruptly moved to the central jail in Srinagar, 50 kilometers away. When his family went to check on him, they were told he had been moved to a jail in Agra, in Uttar Pradesh, with 84 other

Kashmiris. The jail is one of at least six facilities in Uttar Pradesh where Kashmiris have been moved, officials said.

Reuters followed several families, including the Malik, as they travelled to Agra last month to visit detained relatives. Around a dozen relatives and friends of four men held in Agra said they were not informed about the transfers, and that prohibitive travel costs and limited visiting hours meant they had little contact with those detained. On Sept 17, Malik's father, Mohammed, and his brother Danish managed to meet him after waiting for several hours. "He isn't scared," Danish said, adding that he was being treated well. "He was telling us not to worry, to take care of the family."

Legal wrangle

Even influential Kashmiris like Ronga, a 67-year-old criminal lawyer who once headed the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, have been targeted in the crackdown. He was detained in Srinagar on Aug 9. Ronga was detained to help prevent "violence, strikes, economic adversity and social indiscipline" according to court documents laying out his detention order. He was briefly detained at a local police station, before being transferred to Srinagar's central jail. It took his son Umair Ronga, who is also a lawyer, a week to find him. In the court documents, dated Aug 17, Ronga is described by magistrates as "an incorrigible secessionist".

His son denies the charges. His father once represented Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a prominent separatist, but has no political links with his organization, the Hurriyat Conference, he said. But he was involved in pursuing cases related to the region's status in India's Supreme Court, Umair Ronga said. "We were vocal in the Supreme Court of India, not on the roads," he said. "That is not a crime." On Sept 3, Umair returned to the Srinagar jail and found his father had been moved to a jail in Uttar Pradesh. "He has always advocated the rule of law and the supremacy of the judiciary," he said. "Now, the same system is being used against him." —Reuters

Bangladeshi shaved his wife's head after finding hair in food

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi who forcibly shaved his wife's head after finding a hair in his breakfast has been arrested, police said yesterday, as rights groups warned violence against women was rising in the conservative Muslim nation. Police raided a village in the northwestern district of Joypurhat and arrested Bablu Mondal, 35, after villagers told officers about the incident. "He found a human hair on the rice and milk breakfast his wife prepared for him," local police chief Shahrir Khan said. "He became angry seeing the hair and blamed the wife. He then took a blade and forcibly shaved the head of the wife," he said. Khan said Bablu was charged with "voluntarily causing grievous hurt", an offence that carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in jail, and also for "outraging the modesty" of his 23-year-old wife. Activists say the incident highlights growing repression of women in Bangladesh despite laws to protect them from abuse and sexual assault.

According to local rights group Ain o Salish Kendra, there were an average three rapes a day in the first six months of the year. The organization said of the 630 women raped between January and June, 37 were killed after the assault while seven others took their own life. There were also 105 instances of attempted rape. In April, massive protests broke out after a 19-year-old schoolgirl was burned to death on the orders of her headteacher after she reported him for sexually harassing her. —AFP

A paralyzed man walks again with exoskeleton

PARIS: A French man paralyzed in a night club accident can walk again thanks to a brain-controlled exoskeleton in what scientists say is a breakthrough providing hope to tetraplegics seeking to regain movement. The patient trained for months, harnessing his brain signals to control a computer-simulated avatar to perform basic movements before using the robot device to walk.

Doctors who conducted the trial cautioned that the device is years away from being publicly available but stressed that it had "the potential to improve patients' quality of life and autonomy". The man involved, identified only as Thibault, a 28-year-old from Lyon, said the technology had given him a new lease of life. Four years ago that life changed forever when he fell 12

meters from a balcony while on a night out, severing his spinal chord and leaving him paralyzed from the shoulders down.

"When you're in my position, when you can't do anything with your body... I wanted to do something with my brain," Thibault said on Thursday. Training on a video-game avatar system for months to acquire the skills needed to operate the exoskeleton, he said he had to "relearn" natural movements from scratch. "I can't go home tomorrow in my exoskeleton, but I've got to a point where I can walk. I walk when I want and I stop when I want."

Cervical spinal cord injury leaves around 20 percent of patients paralyzed in all four limbs and is the most severe injury of its kind. "The brain is still capable of generating commands that would normally move the arms and legs, there's just nothing to carry them out," said Alim-Louis Benabid, professor emeritus at Grenoble and lead author of the study published Friday in *The Lancet Neurology*.

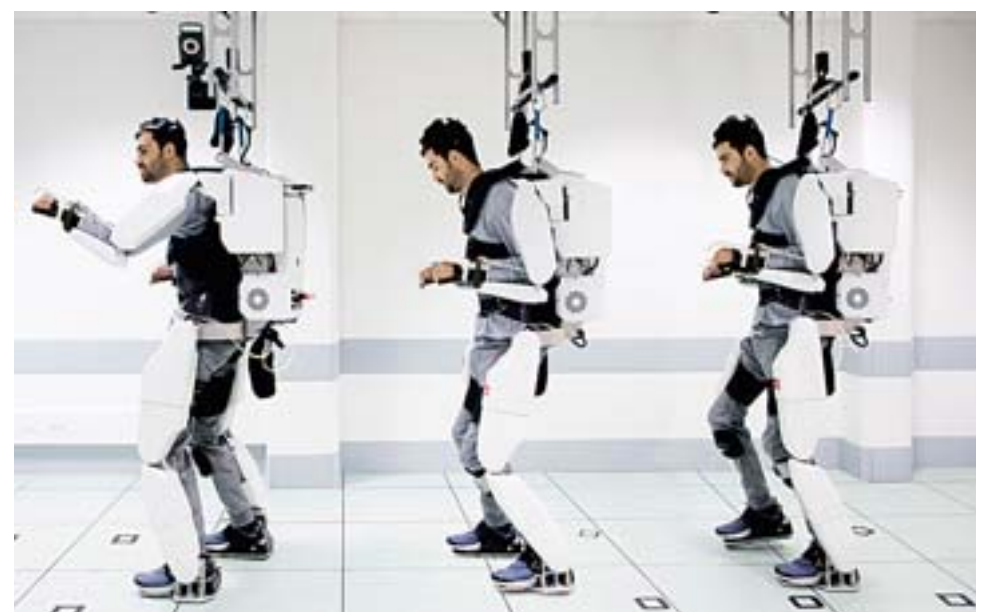
A team of experts from the Hospital of Grenoble Alpes, biomedical firm Cinatech and the CEA research centre started by implanting two recording devices either side of Thibault's head, between the brain and the skin. These read his sensorimotor

cortex - the area that controls motor function. Each decoder transmits the brain signals which are then translated by an algorithm into the movements the patient has thought about. It is this system that sends physical commands that the exoskeleton executes.

Thibault used the avatar and video game to think about performing basic physical tasks such as walking, and reaching out to touch objects. Using the avatar, video game and exoskeleton combined, he was able to cover the length of one and a half football pitches over the course of many sessions.

'Repaired not augmented man'

Several previous studies have used implants to stimulate muscles in patients' own bodies, but the Grenoble study is the first to use brain signals to control a robot exoskeleton. Experts involved in the research say it could potentially lead to brain-controlled wheelchairs for paralyzed patients. "This isn't about turning man into machine but about responding to a medical problem," said Benabid. "We're talking about 'repaired man', not 'augmented man'. In a comment piece on the study, Tom Shakespeare from the London School



GRENOBLE: This handout combination of photographs shows French tetraplegic 'Thibault' as he stands while wearing an exo-skeleton at The University of Grenoble in Grenoble. —AFP

of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said the exoskeleton system was "a long way from usable clinical possibility". But Thibault

said the trial offered a "message of hope to people like me". "This is possible, even with our handicap." —AFP

International

French leader vows 'unrelenting fight' against Islamist extremists

Macron pays tribute to four police staff stabbed to death

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron vowed an "unrelenting fight" against Islamist extremists yesterday as he paid tribute to the four Paris police staff stabbed to death last week by a radicalized colleague. Mickael Harpon, a 45-year-old computer expert in the police intelligence-gathering department, used a kitchen knife and an oyster shucker to kill three male and one female colleague in a 30-minute rampage that ended when an officer shot him in the head.

The attack in the police's inner sanctum caused shock in France, where the government is being pressed to answer how Harpon's radicalization went unnoticed, despite him having high-level security clearance. "We will wage an unrelenting fight in the face of Islamist terrorism," Macron vowed at a ceremony at the police headquarters near Notre-Dame cathedral where the attack took place.

Macron said it was "inconceivable and unacceptable" that Harpon, who had worked for the police since 2003, had managed to carry out an attack "in the very place where we pursue terrorists and criminals". He blamed the attack on "a distorted, deadly Islam" which he vowed to eradicate and vowed to build in France a "society in a state of vigilance".

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10 years ago and adopted increasingly radical beliefs. He had been in close contact with a hardline Salafist imam in the months before his rampage last week, according to investigators.

Propaganda videos

Le Parisien newspaper reported yesterday that a USB key containing details on dozens of his police colleagues had been found among his possessions. The paper, which citing unnamed sources close to the inquiry, said it was not clear if Harpon had gathered the data as part of his job or had surreptitiously extracted it, as well as whether he had shared it with others. The key also contained several propaganda videos from the Islamic State group, it added. The four victims of the attack - Damien Ernest, Anthony Lancelot, Aurelia Trifiro and Brice Le Mescam - were posthumously awarded the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian award, at the remembrance ceremony.

Their coffins, which were draped in French flags, were borne into the courtyard of the building by fellow officers. Interior Minister Christophe Castaner has faced opposition calls for his resignation after initially claiming that Harpon never gave the "slightest reason for alarm" before going on the rampage. Yesterday, the minister was subjected to a closed-door grilling by a parliamentary intelligence delegation ahead of questioning later by a parliamentary commission.

He will then be questioned by a Senate panel on Thursday as to why the red flags, including Harpon's



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron stands in front of coffins during a ceremony at the Prefecture of Police de Paris (Paris Police Headquarters), held to pay respects to the victims of an attack at the prefecture. —AFP

public approval of the 2015 massacre of 12 people at the Charlie Hebdo newspaper, were not included in Harpon's file. Castaner has attempted to fend off the criticism, saying that concerns expressed by Harpon's

colleagues over his behavior were never added to his file. In the wake of the attack the interior ministry set up a dedicated cell to track potential Islamic radicals within the ranks of the security forces.—AFP

Buckle up: US' Syria policy shift 'sign of Trump unchained'

WASHINGTON: Over the span of just a few hours, US President Donald Trump upended his own policy on Syria with a chaotic series of pronouncements, blindsiding foreign allies, catching senior Republican supporters off guard and sending aides scrambling to control the damage. Trump's decision on Sunday to remove some US forces from northeastern Syria, opening the door to a Turkish offensive against US-allied Kurdish fighters in the region, provides a vivid example of how, with traditional White House structures largely shunted aside and few aides willing to challenge him, he feels freer than ever to make foreign policy on impulse.

While Trump's erratic ways are nothing new, some people inside and outside of his administration worry that the risk of dangerous miscalculation from his seat-of-the-pants approach may only increase as he moves into re-election campaign mode facing a number of unresolved, volatile international issues, including Iran, North Korea and Afghanistan. He also made clear on Monday that he was determined to make good on his 2016 campaign promise to extract the United States from "these endless wars," although his plans for doing so are clouded by uncertainty.

It comes as Trump is under growing pressure from a Democratic-led impeachment inquiry over his efforts to get Ukraine to investigate one of his political oppo-

nents, former Vice President Joe Biden. "There's a real sense that nobody is going to stop Trump from being Trump at this stage, so everybody should buckle up," said one US national security official, who cited Trump's firing last month of national security adviser John Bolton as a sign of the president being less restrained than ever by his top advisers.

Trump's policy whiplash on Syria started shortly after a phone call with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday in which he sought U.S. support for Ankara's planned incursion. Afterward, the White House said that US forces "will no longer be in the immediate area," suggesting that Turkey could be given free rein to strike Kurdish forces long aligned with Washington in the fight against Islamic State.

Trump, in a series of Monday tweets, appeared at first to double down on plans for a U.S. troop drawdown, but later threatened to destroy the economy of NATO ally Turkey if it took its military operation too far. That seemed to be an attempt to placate criticism, including from Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, that he was abandoning the Syrian Kurds, who denounced it as a "stab in the back."

Confusion among Trump aides

The latest presidential pronouncements on Syria injected news confusion over US Syria policy. Last December, acting without any kind of formal policymaking process, Trump called for a complete US withdrawal from Syria. But he ultimately reversed himself after drawing strong pushback from the Pentagon, including the resignation of then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, and an uproar in Capitol Hill and among US allies in Europe and the Middle East.

Trump insisted to reporters on Monday



WASHINGTON: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army General Mark A. Milley (2nd left) and others listen as US President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with senior military leaders in the Cabinet Room of the White House. —AFP

that he "consulted with everybody" on his new Syria decision, although the announcement seemed to catch Congress as well as some within his administration by surprise. "He makes impulsive decisions with no knowledge or deliberation," tweeted Brett McGurk, who served as Trump's envoy for the international coalition to combat Islamic State and quit after the December Syria policy uproar.

Trump's abrupt decision on Syria came after learning in the phone call with Erdogan that the Turks planned to go ahead with a long-threatened incursion, a senior administration official said. "We were not asked to remove our troops. The president when he learned about the potential Turkish invasion, knowing that we have 50 special operations troops in the

region, made the decision to protect those troops" by pulling them back, the official said. The official underscored that Trump's decision did not constitute a US withdrawal from Syria.

Trump made clear to Erdogan that the United States did not support the Turkish military plan, which came as a surprise to the Turkish leader, a senior State Department official said. There was some confusion among senior officials to figure out what Trump had actually decided, a source familiar with the internal deliberations at the White House said. But the senior administration official, speaking on a conference call with reporters, denied that Pentagon officials were "blindsided," and Trump said he had consulted with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. —Reuters

Calm returns in Iraq but political crisis remains

BAGHDAD: Iraq woke up yesterday from its first quiet night after a week of anti-government protests that left dozens dead and sparked a crisis its president said required a "national dialogue". Morning traffic around the city was back to normal, most streets had reopened and an internet blackout in place for most of the past week appeared to ease just hours before parliament was expected to meet.

His voice sometimes breaking during a televised address, President Barham Saleh appealed for "sons of the same country" to put an end to the "discord" that has reigned since protests erupted one week ago. They began in Baghdad, with young demonstrators demanding an end to rampant corruption and chronic unemployment but then escalated with calls for a complete overhaul of the political system spreading to the Shiite-dominated south.

They were unprecedented because of their apparent spontaneity and independence in a deeply politicized society, but have also been exceptionally deadly - with more than 100 people killed and 6,000 wounded since yesterday. Saleh said those responsible for the violence were "enemies of the people" and proposed a cabinet reshuffle, more oversight to stamp out corruption, and a "national, all-encompassing and frank dialogue" without "foreign interference."

Saleh was not the first to suggest a

way out of the political crisis. Embattled Prime Minister Adil Abdul Mahdi and parliament speaker Mohammed Hal-Halbusi have both proposed a laundry list of reforms to address popular grievances. But protesters have repeatedly told AFP they had "nothing left to lose", and have scoffed at overtures by political and religious figures.

Lawmakers boycott

Parliament is scheduled to meet later on to discuss the protests, but expectations were slim as the body failed to reach a quorum three days ago. Those boycotting included its largest bloc, the 54 MPs led by populist cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr, who threw his weight behind the demonstrations last week. When the protest movement first erupted, young, mostly male Iraqis gathered in the emblematic Tahrir (Liberation) Square, but security forces began closing off roads to the traditional gathering place and squeezed the protests further east. They were eventually confined to the densely populated, chaotic district of Sadr City - Sadr's stronghold.

On Sunday night, rallies there left at least 13 people dead after they escalated into clashes with troops. The army acknowledged using "excessive force" and said they would hold commanding officers accountable. In videos distributed on social media, protesters could be seen ducking into streets littered with burning tyres as volleys of gunfire and suspected heavy weapons were heard. It was the first time security forces acknowledged using disproportionate force, a step cautiously welcomed by Amnesty International.



BAGHDAD: Iraqi police are seen deployed in Baghdad's predominantly Shiite Sadr City yesterday. —AFP

"The security forces' admission of using excessive force is a first step that must be translated on the ground, to rein in the behaviour of security forces and the army," it said on Monday. "The next step is accountability." The particularly chaotic scenes in Sadr City followed several days of witnesses reporting security forces unleashing tear gas and live rounds to disperse protests while authorities said "unidentified snipers" shoot at both protesters and police.

More footage is expected to emerge online once internet access fully returns across Iraq, where authorities have restricted access since Wednesday night. The internet has been briefly restored during official speeches broadcast on state television - including Saleh's address on

Monday night - but has been cut again afterwards. The tentative calm returning to Baghdad comes a few weeks ahead of Arbaceen, the massive pilgrimage that sees millions of Shiite Muslims walk to the holy city of Karbala, south of Baghdad.

Nearly two million came last year from neighboring Iran, which has urged citizens to delay their travel into Iraq in light of the protest violence. Its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Monday "enemies" were trying to drive a wedge between Tehran and Baghdad, in an apparent allusion to the protests. The sentiment was echoed hours later by the powerful Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force, which warned that those who sought to "defame Iraq will be punished". —AFP

End of statelessness in sight for Shona as Kenya issues birth certificates

NAIROBI: Happiness Kapota will remember forever the day when her children lined up in Nairobi to receive their birth certificates. Joyce, Caleb and Sidet Moyo were among the first children from Kenya's stateless Shona group to receive the government-issued certificates, which will give them opportunities and rights long denied to the Shona.

The day was particularly poignant for Kapota, 25, because she was barred from sitting a key school exam for lack of documents, forcing her to drop out at 15. "My teachers tried to help but there's nothing they could do, so I dropped out and became a housemaid since we were very poor," Kapota said, adding she hoped to return to school one day.

Kenya's move to end the plight of the Shona comes amid a global campaign to eradicate statelessness thought to affect an estimated 10 million people worldwide who are not recognized as nationals by any country. Kenya sent a high-level delegation to a major intergovernmental meeting in Geneva on Monday to discuss progress at the midpoint of the #IBelong campaign, ahead of a 2024 deadline. A person may be stateless as a result of discrimination based on ethnicity, religion or gender, the transfer of territory between states, or conflicting nationality laws.

Stateless people often lack documentation necessary to attend school, open a bank account, get a job, passport or mobile phone, or enter government buildings, according to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). The 3,500-strong stateless Shona community has been in Kenya for more than 50 years, many of them born and raised there, but they are not recognized as Kenyan nationals and have no official status in Zimbabwe from where they arrived in the 1960s.

Kapota's children were among 600 young Shona who received their birth certificates at a ceremony in August, said Wanjia Munaita, Kenya's UNHCR officer on statelessness. About 2,000 adults have also applied and are waiting for their documents to be processed, she added. Kenya set a precedent two years ago when it awarded citizenship to another stateless group, the Makonde, originally from Mozambique, ending 80 years of statelessness for its 8,000 people.

Discrimination

Oliver Muregerera, a community leader from the Shona's Gospel of God Church, said his people have faced widespread discrimination. "We have a lived a life of poverty and squalor since without documents (we) cannot secure a good job, own property or access critical government services," said Muregerera. Shumary Maleon, a government assistant director of registration, said all Shona would be issued with birth certificates. But while this is an important step it does not guarantee the Shona citizenship, a recognition President Uhuru Kenyatta promised in 2017. Kenya has an estimated 18,500 stateless people. George Kegoro of the Kenyan Human Rights Commission said the country could not say it was on course to meet social goals such as improved access to education and health while failing to recognize part of its population as citizens. Kegoro, the charity's executive director, said birth certificates were not enough and it was crucial to keep up pressure until the community received formal recognition.

Better data

Kenya hopes to get a clearer picture of its stateless population when the results of a national census conducted in August are made public next year. "We have been told that the national census has a provision to capture data on stateless people which is important, and UNHCR is appealing to all stateless people in Kenya to come out and identify themselves during the exercise," said the UNHCR's Munaita. African states have increasingly become aware that statelessness is a major problem. A 2017 declaration by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a grouping of 15 countries, highlighted the political will of its member states to tackle the issue. —Reuters

International

Stop playing 'stupid' Brexit blame game, EU warns UK prime minister

'A compromise or its no-deal Brexit'

LONDON: The European Union accused Britain of playing a "stupid blame game" over Brexit yesterday after a Downing Street source said a deal was essentially impossible because German Chancellor Angela Merkel had made unacceptable demands. With just 23 days before the United Kingdom is due to leave the bloc, the future of Brexit remains deeply uncertain and both London and Brussels are positioning themselves to avoid blame for a delay or a disorderly no-deal Brexit.

In a sign that Johnson's last-ditch proposals to bridge the impasse have failed, a Downing Street source said Merkel and Johnson spoke yesterday morning and she made clear that a deal was "overwhelmingly unlikely". The Downing Street source said that if Merkel's position on Northern Ireland remaining in the EU's customs union was the bloc's position, then a deal was impossible.

"If this represents a new established position then it means a deal is essentially impossible not just now but ever," the Downing Street source said. A spokesman for the German chancellor confirmed the call had taken place but declined to comment further. The EU was scathing. "Boris Johnson, what's at stake is not winning some stupid blame game," European Council President Tusk said on Twitter. "At stake is the future of Europe and the UK as well as the security and interests of our people. You don't want a deal, you don't want an extension, you don't want to revoke, quo vadis?"

Such abrupt remarks indicate the Brexit blame game has begun in earnest, and that now both London and European capitals are preparing for an acrimonious and potentially chaotic Brexit for which neither side wants to be held responsible. A disorderly Brexit could rip apart the United Kingdom, hurt global growth and shape the future of the European Union which was built on the World War Two ruins of

Europe. The pound fell 0.5% to a one-week low of \$1.2226, and weakened more than 0.7% against the euro, touching a low of 89.93 pence - its weakest level since Sept 9.

Brexit blame game

Merkel said that for a deal, Northern Ireland would have to stay in the EU's customs union and full alignment with the EU forever, the Downing Street source said. The leader of the small Northern Irish party that supports Johnson's government accused the EU and Ireland of trying to trap the British territory in a permanent customs union.

The opposition said Johnson was trying to apportion blame for the failure of the negotiating process. "This is yet another cynical attempt by Number 10 to sabotage the negotiations," said Keir Starmer, Brexit spokesman for the Labour Party, adding that the British parliament needed to unite to stop him. "Boris Johnson will never take responsibility for his own failure to put forward a credible deal. His strategy from day one has been for a no-deal Brexit."

A separate Downing Street source told Reuters that unless the European Union compromises and does a Brexit deal shortly, then the United Kingdom will leave without a deal. "If the EU doesn't do a deal shortly, then we leave without a deal," the source said. "We are leaving the European Union." Johnson has consistently said the United Kingdom will leave the EU on Oct 31 with or without a deal, though a law passed by parliament demands he write a letter to the EU asking for a delay if he cannot strike an exit deal by Oct 19.

He has said he would abide by the law but Britain would leave the EU by the end of the month, without explaining that contradiction. He has also repeatedly demanded an election but parliament has refused to



NEWRY: A lorry is seen passing a sign on a main road outside Newry, Northern Ireland, pointing towards an old customs and excise station near the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. —AFP

grant one. The Spectator magazine quoted an unidentified source in Downing Street as saying that Britain would take an aggressive stance towards the EU if Brexit talks break down, possibly even by withholding security cooperation.

"This government will not negotiate further so any delay would be totally pointless," the source was

quoted as saying. "We'll either leave with no deal on 31 October or there will be an election and then we will leave with no deal." However, Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Julian Smith said any threat on withdrawing security cooperation were not in the interests of Northern Ireland or the union of the United Kingdom. —Reuters

News in brief

US pastor arrested in Rwanda

KIGALI: Rwandan police have arrested an American pastor who was to hold a news conference in the capital and whose radio station in the country was shut down by authorities last year. Gregg Schoof was arrested for "disturbing public order," police spokesman John Bosco Kabera told Reuters. Rwandan authorities last year closed Schoof's radio station, Amazing Grace, after it aired a sermon that women's rights activists said "spread hate against women." The sermon described women as "evil." On Sunday, Schoof emailed Rwandan journalists inviting them to a news conference he said he wanted to host before leaving the country. "Pastor Gregg Schoof will have a final press conference to update all about the radio being closed, court cases, and other things," the email read. Police arrested him at the venue where the news conference was to occur. The police spokesman said Schoof was handed over to the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) "for further management." —Reuters

Doomed ferry crew 'drunk'

WELLINGTON: Crew members of an overloaded Kiribati ferry which sank in the Pacific claiming 95 lives were drunk, leaving passengers to die slow deaths from starvation and hypothermia, a damning report has found. The report gives the first official account of the loss of the ferry MV Butiraoi, which sank in January last year after setting off from Nonouti island bound for the capital Tarawa. It details a string of failures that led to the sinking and also gives a glimpse of the horrors endured by victims, who were missing in the vast ocean for eight days before the alarm was raised. "Most, if not all, victims died from hunger, dehydration and hypothermia," it found. "One died while giving birth in (these) most unhealthy and extreme conditions," it said. The deaths of 84 passengers and 11 crew was the worst maritime disaster ever in Kiribati, a collection of 33 atolls and reefs scattered over an area the size of the continental United States. —AFP

Thai zoo solves mystery

BANGKOK: When a celebrity giant panda died suddenly last month while on loan to Thailand's Chiang Mai Zoo, millions of social media users in China demanded to know "What killed Chuang Chuang?" Yesterday, they learned it was heart failure, according to a Chinese-assisted autopsy on the death of 19-year-old Chuang Chuang, who had been on loan from China since 2003 with his mate Lin Hui. They were celebrities in Thailand, with media extensively covering their love life - including a "wedding" ceremony in 2005. Chuang Chuang's relatively early demise sparked mourning among Thai fans and an outcry on Chinese social media, where a hashtag seeming to blame Thailand for the death was viewed 250 million times. Pandas generally live 14-20 years in the wild but can live up to 30 years in captivity. —Reuters

Iran opposes Syria military action

TEHRAN: Iran's top diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif told his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in a phone call that Tehran is opposed to military action in Syria, the foreign ministry said. "Zarif voiced opposition to military action" and "urged respect for Syria's territorial integrity and national sovereignty," Zarif was quoted as saying in a statement issued late Monday. The Iranian foreign minister also "stressed the need for the fight against terrorism and for the establishment of stability and security in Syria". President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that Turkey was poised to launch a military operation against Kurdish forces in northern Syria, after US President Donald Trump gave him the green light. —AFP

Democrats subpoena Pentagon docs in the impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON: Congressional Democrats slapped subpoenas Monday on the Pentagon and White House budget office as part of their advancing impeachment probe, demanding documents tied to President Donald Trump's withholding of military aid to Ukraine. The chairmen of three House panels leading the impeachment investigation are seeking information related to Trump pressing his Ukrainian counterpart to uncover dirt on 2020 US presidential contender Joe Biden - and the alleged conditioning of aid on that favor.

The chairmen ordered Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Office of Management and Budget acting director Russell Vought to hand over the documents by October 15. The materials are "necessary for the committees to examine... the reasons behind the White House's decision to withhold critical military assistance to Ukraine that was appropriated by Congress to counter Russian aggression," they said.

Failure to comply "shall constitute evidence of obstruction of the House's impeachment inquiry," wrote House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff, foreign affairs panel head Eliot Engel and oversight committee head Elijah Cummings. Pentagon officials last week "proactively" issued an internal directive to retain documents potentially related to the investiga-

EU urged to share refugees as boat tragedies mount

LUXEMBOURG: A nucleus of four EU countries was trying yesterday to coax more reluctant member states to take a share of rescued asylum-seekers, a day after another Mediterranean migrant boat tragedy. Germany, France, Italy and Malta were seeking support from colleagues in an EU interior ministers' meeting in Luxembourg for an agreement they worked out September 23 in

Venezuelans turn to alternative medicine amid shortages

CARACAS: The small waiting room at the home of self-styled healer "Brother Guayanes" in Caracas' rundown Petare district fills up quickly with patients-business has never been better. With Venezuela's chronic medicine shortages and hyperinflation, more and more people are turning to alternative medicine to treat common ailments in the crisis-ravaged South American country.

"We go to the hospital and there's nothing there. They don't have medicines, or they're too expensive, what are we to do?" said Rosa Saez, 77, who has come to get treatment for a painful arm. Carlos Rosales-he uses the more ceremonious "Brother Guayanes" for his business-is finishing up a "spiritual intervention" on a patient in what passes for his surgery.

Malta meant to serve as a six-month, stop-gap plan pending a long-delayed reform of the EU's asylum policy. The meeting came after a boat packed with around 50 migrants capsized Monday off Italy's island of Lampedusa, resulting in the drowning deaths of at least 13 women, some of them pregnant.

The aim of the so-called Malta declaration is to avoid such tragedies in the future, and to find a solution for NGO rescue ships filled with migrants often being refused entry to EU waters for weeks. "Listen to me, we cannot continue like this, with what is happening in the Mediterranean," the EU commissioner for migration, Dimitris Avramopoulos,

said as he arrived for the meeting in Luxembourg. He added, however: "We cannot try to find only ad hoc solutions, we need a permanent mechanism."

Risky crossings

The temporary agreement wants to ease the burden of first-call countries such as Italy and Malta which currently are required to host the migrants arriving by sea while their asylum cases are looked at. Under the deal, France and Germany have volunteered to host a share of the asylum-seekers. It also wants to find a way of breaking the business model of people-smugglers who push flimsy, overcrowded boats of

The patient lies, eyes closed, on a cot as, in a series of swishes and clicks, the healer waves five pairs of scissors one after another over his prone body. The healer says he performs 200 such interventions a week in a dim, candle-lit room that features two camp beds and an array of plaster statues that Rosales says represent "spiritual entities". A regular visitor to the spiritual center, Saez says she has faith in Rosales' methods: "He healed my kidneys."

Natural healing

All across Venezuela, but particularly in poor areas like Petare, patients cannot hope to afford the price of medicines that due to the economic crisis, have become exceedingly rare. Venezuela's pharmacists' federation say pharmacies and hospitals have on average only about 20 percent of the medicine stock needed. Rosales' clinic is muggy with the smell of tobacco. A crucifix suspended from a chain around his neck, he practices a seeming mixture of smoke-blowing shamanism, plant-based medicine and mainstream religion.

Posters hung near the entrance remind clients to arrive with a candle and tobacco and "Don't forget that payment is in cash".



WASHINGTON: Adam Schiff (D-CA), Chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence Committee arrives to a closed-door meeting regarding the ongoing impeachment inquiry against US President Donald Trump at the US Capitol yesterday. —AFP

Details of the call emerged last month in an explosive whistleblower complaint by an unidentified intelligence official. The complaint alleged that he or she learned about details of the call from other personnel, and that White House officials aware of the gravity of what had transpired on the call moved to "lock down" all records of it. Meanwhile a second whistleblower has come forward, one with first-hand information of the events that triggered the impeachment investigation, the informant's lawyer said Sunday. —AFP

migrants from North Africa headed towards Europe in the hope of rescue or landfall-a risky bid with sometimes fatal consequences.

Monday's capsizing off Lampedusa added to a litany of migrant boat tragedies. Since 2016, at least 19,000 migrants have drowned or gone missing while making the perilous Mediterranean crossing, according to the UN's International Organization for Migration. Yet some EU states are wary that the Malta declaration will act as a "pull" factor, encouraging more boat crossings. Others argue they are already taking on a disproportionate number of asylum seekers relative to their populations. —AFP



CARACAS: Venezuelan Esperanza Castillo (center) 74, is treated at the clinic of Venezuelan spiritual healer 'Guayanes' in Petare neighborhood, Caracas. —AFP

Much like a general practitioner, Rosales spends time consulting with his patients, examining them with a stethoscope, before offering a diagnosis. Often he prescribes

potions based on plants and fruit, such as pineapple and a type of local squash known as chayote. "We know medicines are necessary," he says. —AFP

International

UAE lifts Lebanon travel ban: Beirut seeks support for ailing economy

Hariri hoping for cash injection for central bank

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates lifted a ban on its citizens visiting Lebanon on Monday as the Beirut government sought UAE help in steering the heavily indebted economy out of deep crisis. Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri, leading a delegation to Abu Dhabi seeking support, had told Reuters he was hoping the UAE would inject cash into its central bank. Before the lifting of the travel ban was announced, Hariri said he was "optimistic" after visiting the UAE and meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. He said the UAE would announce any support initiative that may come. "The atmosphere is good," Hariri said on Twitter.

The UAE barred its citizens from travelling to Lebanon in 2016. The UAE and Saudi Arabia have both voiced frequent concern over the political situation in Lebanon, which is located next to war-torn Syria and is home to the heavily armed Hezbollah group backed by the two Gulf states' main adversary, Iran. Lebanon is now seeking a cash injection for its central bank and investments in food, infrastructure, oil and gas, and renewable energy.

Faced with one of the world's highest debt burdens, low growth and crumbling infrastructure, Beirut has vowed to implement long-delayed reforms. It is also seeking to reverse a sharp loss of confidence among foreign investors and depositors who are turning away from the Lebanese pound. While no deal was formally announced, Lebanese officials portrayed Monday's high-stakes talks as positive while Abu Dhabi stressed its support for Lebanon. In response, dollar bonds issued by heavily-indebted Lebanon rose.

A Lebanese government source said Hariri would remain in Abu Dhabi yesterday for follow-up meetings. Crown Prince Mohammed "stressed during the meeting

that the UAE...is keen on supporting its relationships with Lebanon on different levels, and stands by it in all that preserves its security and stability," the state news agency WAM reported. When asked earlier on Monday whether Lebanon would receive an injection of cash into its central bank from the UAE, Hariri said: "We are working on everything ... Yes we are hoping, we will work on it."

The bank has been drawing down its foreign exchange reserves to repay the state's maturing dollar-

Beirut seeks food, infrastructure and oil investments

denominated debt, and said last week it was prepared to do more. Central bank Governor Riad Salameh, also attending the conference, said it was continuing to provide dollars to local financial markets. He added that Lebanon has "numerous possibilities" as it looks for assistance, but it anticipates support from the UAE.

Seeking public pledges

Lebanon's traditionally high reserves of foreign currency have been in decline because capital inflows into its banking system from Lebanese abroad have been slowing. Beirut, which has a debt-to-GDP ratio



BEIRUT: Lebanese protesters chant slogans during a demonstration in central Beirut's Martyr Square. Lebanese protested in the capital over increasingly difficult living conditions, amid fears of a dollar shortage and possible price hikes. — AFP

of around 150%, hopes its Gulf allies or regional sovereign wealth funds will offer support but no public pledges have so far been made. At Abu Dhabi's Sea Palace, the leaders "discussed the latest developments in Lebanon and the region and the bilateral relations between the two countries", Hariri's office said in a statement.

Financial markets have tightened significantly this

year, raising the costs for Lebanon of borrowing and insuring against default. Dollar-denominated bonds, which rose on Monday, remain down some 15% this year. UAE Economy Minister Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri told reporters at the conference that financing for Lebanon would be discussed in the meetings "and they'll make the right decision", adding Lebanon's investment climate is becoming more "settled." — Reuters

IS threat to spread if Turkey invades northern Syria

BEIRUT: A feared Turkish invasion of north-east Syria could spark a resurgence of the Islamic State group, analysts and Kurdish forces have warned, despite Ankara's pledge to prevent the jihadists' return. Ankara has threatened an offensive in Syria against Kurdish militias it considers terrorists and US forces on Monday pulled back from Turkish border areas, opening the way for an invasion President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said could come at any moment.

An open assault would reverse years of successful Kurdish-led operations to defeat IS and allow some of its surviving leaders to come out of hiding, said the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish militia that controls much of northeastern Syria. With little other leverage left in the regional game, Sam Heller of the International Crisis Group think tank, told AFP the SDF has an "interest" in warning of an IS threat if open conflict breaks out with rival Turkey.

"But the fact is that ISIS is still a threat, one that seems likely to metastasise if the SDF is forced to divert attention and resources... to a defensive battle against Turkey," he said, using another acronym for IS. While a Kurdish-led operation earlier this year saw the death of IS's territorial caliphate, the organization isn't dead and sleeper cells have been active in SDF-held areas and in Syria's vast desert where they continue to hit regime forces with deadly attacks and ambushes.

Charles Lister, director of the US-based Middle East Institute, said US President Donald Trump was "granting IS the gift of rebirth". The US military itself has warned that, short of sustained international pressure, IS would soon have the ability to regroup.



QAMISHLI: Fighters from the Kurdish women's protection units (YPJ) and the people's protection units (YPG) march in front of the UN headquarters in the northern Kurdish Syrian city of Qamishli during a protest against Turkish threats in the Kurdish region yesterday. — AFP

"The battle against IS is not over," Abdulkarim Omar, the top Kurdish foreign affairs official, told AFP Monday. "There are hundreds of sleeper cells in recently liberated areas," he said.

Camps and detention centers

The SDF, with backing from the US-led coalition, has scored major victories against IS near the Turkish border in Kobane and in the jihadists' former Syria capital of Raqa. This year, they declared the territorial defeat of the group after seizing Baghouz, the final IS bastion in eastern Syria. The SDF is now concerned that jihadists could replenish their ranks by freeing thousands of fighters and their families who are being held in detention centers and informal settlements in Syria's northeast. The Kurds consistently warned that they would be unable to guard IS fighters if their forces were busy fighting off a Turkish offensive.

On Monday, Omar said that detention centres are not heavily fortified. "They are only

buildings... in the event of any security vacuum, these criminals could have an opportunity to break free," he said. The official also said he was concerned about displacement camps, namely Al-Hol, the largest of the settlements, which he described as a "time bomb". Security incidents have been on the rise in the crowded camp, which houses more than 3,000 IS families among its more than 70,000 residents, according to the Kurdish administration in northeast Syria.

The thousands of foreign IS brides held in Al-Hol, are "as dangerous as the thousands of IS fighters being held in SDF detention centers", it said this week, noting daily stabbings, killings and attempts to break free. IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has urged followers to free detained jihadists and family members held at camps in Iraq and Syria, vowing "revenge" in an audio recording released on September 16. SDF spokesman Mustafa Bali last month said IS militants "have stepped up their regrouping efforts through women in the camp recently". —AFP

Daring to dream: Nobel winner's nervous night

WASHINGTON: When US scientist William Kaelin's phone began ringing at 5:00 am, he wasn't sure whether he was dreaming: Winning the Nobel Medicine Prize had long been a goal, but he also thought it was a long shot. He then noticed the caller ID was from Europe. "And at that point my heart started racing," the 61-year-old told AFP in an interview.

Kaelin, who runs a laboratory at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and is a professor at Harvard Medical School, was honored Monday along with fellow American Gregg Semenza and Britain's Peter Ratcliffe for their research on how cells sense and adapt to changing oxygen levels. Their pioneering work, carried out in the 1990s and early 2000s, has opened up new strategies to fight diseases from cancer to anemia.

Kaelin said it would be a lie to say he had never dreamt of winning the prize, but "you try not to let it distort your daily life significantly," and he went to bed at a normal time Sunday night, tempering his hopes, as he had done for many years on the eve of Nobel week. Semenza on the other hand missed the first pre-dawn call from the Swedish academy, and waited several anxious minutes by the phone, answering it second time around. "I was in a daze," he said, adding he had not been expecting the honor but had since celebrated with champagne.



BOSTON: Dr William G Kaelin, Jr MD, recipient of 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine speaks to the press at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. — AFP

Disease cures

At the heart of the trio's research is how the body registers and responds to oxygen, which supports life as we know it on Earth. Scientists have long known that climbing to high altitudes spurs production of the hormone erythropoietin (EPO), which in turn leads to more red blood cells, to help compensate for lower oxygen levels.

Semenza and Ratcliffe dug into how this gene worked on a cellular level, with the former publishing breakthrough work on the subject 1995. Kaelin came to the same subject from a different direction, through his investigations into von Hippel-Lindau's disease (VHL disease). Individuals who inherit this rare condition develop tumors that over produce the distress signal associated with hypoxia - making it a prime candidate to study the body's oxygen-regulation tools. — AFP

Social media outrage: Official buys burqas for students

PESHAWAR: Pakistani social media was fuming yesterday after pictures showing girls in burqas bought for them by local authorities went viral, igniting anger in a deeply patriarchal country where women have fought for their rights for decades. A district councillor in the small village of Cheena, in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, used some 90,000 rupees (\$570) of local government funds to buy around 90 burqas for students at the government-run middle school in the village.

The region is deeply conservative, and many women there traditionally wear burqas which cover them from head to foot - including their faces. The official, Muzafar Shah, said he had bought the garments at the request of parents who could not afford them as one of his final acts before stepping down from his four-year tenure. "Around 90 percent of the girls already wear burqas, so I thought these poor girls should have new burqas," he said, adding that previously he had used the funds to buy the school a solar panel, build a washroom, and purchase new fur-

niture. But he snapped two pictures - one showing a classroom full of girls wearing the burqas, and a second showing them piled on a desk - which swiftly ignited outrage on social media.

The garments were purchased "instead of focusing on improving quality of education, enforcing strict and exemplary punishments for: harassing, abusing and raping," tweeted one user, Fatima Wali. Gulalai Ismail, a Pakistani women's rights activist who fled the country recently for New York, cheered the outrage. "I'm glad to see time is changing and now more & more people are standing up against objectification of women in the garb of protection," she wrote.

Shah said he did not understand the criticism. "The people of the area are very happy with me... had I distributed jeans among the girls, the media and liberals would have praised me," he said. Provincial minister of education Zia Ullah Bangash said an inquiry has been launched in the matter, and stressed that the garment is not part of the school uniform. "Our dress code includes white trousers and a loose blue tunic, however it is up to girls if they want to dress a burqa over the uniform. We can't force them," he said.

The move came weeks after government was forced to scrap an order for female students to wear veils in two other conservative districts of the same province. Burqa-wearing was common for centuries in the ultraconservative ethnic Pashtun heartland that straddles the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. — AFP

Sri Lanka faces the costliest election, longest ballot paper

COLOMBO: A record number of candidates for Sri Lanka's presidential poll next month has led to the longest-ever ballot paper and the most expensive vote in the country's history, the Election Commission said yesterday. Thirty five candidates are running in the November 16 poll, the highest number in any single ballot, Elections Commission chief Mahinda Deshapriya told reporters in Colombo.

"The ballot paper will be the longest-ever we have had," he said. "It will be 26 inches long. "With the increase in the size of the ballot paper, we will have to import plastic ballot boxes because the wooden boxes we have with us will not be big enough." The cost of the election was originally estimated at some \$22 million, but it is now thought that will rise to \$28 million, officials said. Sri Lanka does not have electronic voting machines and ballots are counted manually, with the results expected the day after the polls.



COLOMBO: Supporters carry placards with a picture of Gotabhaya Rajapakse, former secretary to the ministry of defense and brother of Sri Lanka's opposition leader and former president Mahinda Rajapakse in Colombo. — AFP

The authorities allow each candidate to have two polling agents at each of the 11,000 voting booths across the nation. The minimum voting age is 18 and 16 million people are eligible to vote. There are two Buddhist monks and just one woman among the 35

people running for president of the nation of 21 million people. Former president Mahinda Rajapakse's younger brother Gotabhaya, 70, is the frontrunner while his main challenger is 52-year-old Housing Minister Sajith Premadasa. — AFP

Analysis

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Unfettered by advisers, Trump's presidency gets less predictable

On Monday, having effectively and unexpectedly given the green light to a Turkish military incursion against America's sometime Syrian Kurdish allies, US President Donald Trump took to Twitter once again. If Turkey took any action that he in his "great and unmatched wisdom", considered to be off-limits, he would "totally destroy and obliterate" its economy.

Even by Trump's standards, his approach to Turkey and Syria has been a rollercoaster. What would normally be heavily discussed and planned policy decisions have increasingly simply been blasted out on Twitter, to the clear alarm of America's allies. According to reports, some decisions have even come as surprises to America's own military, which finds itself racing to catch up with a president who appears to take pride in unpredictable decisions and disdains a thought-through strategy.

Where earlier in his presidency Trump was still sometimes constrained by those around him - particularly the trio of senior former and serving generals who held key roles - he now seems to be acting on his own. His senior officials, it seems, most often simply do what they can to catch up. That includes correcting themselves or deleting awkward statements when events catch them out. Defense Secretary Mark Esper erased a tweet in which he said the Pentagon did not endorse a Turkish operation in Syria after Trump appeared to say the opposite.

Given Trump's varied and contradictory statements, it is likely none of the key players - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, America's now abandoned Kurdish allies from the Syrian Democratic Forces, other Middle Eastern and European states, and anyone else - really know where he stands. But that may be the intent. What the president did make clear in an earlier Twitter storm, however, was that he felt America should not really care. It was 7,000 miles away, and he had been elected to end these "ridiculous, endless foreign wars".

Messy war

That's a message that may well resonate ahead of next year's US presidential election. By early evening, the president was himself re-tweeting others saying he was doing the right thing by keeping the United States out of a messy Turkish-Kurdish war.

What is equally clear, however, is that Trump's actions - both in this case and elsewhere - increasingly run contrary to the advice and instincts of an entire generation of US foreign policy and national security thinkers. Indeed, the cornerstone of America's approach to the world since 1945 has been standing by its allies, even though sometimes imperfectly. Trump's "America first" approach explicitly views them as expendable. Evidence suggests the US president views his most senior advisers and officials in much the same way. In the Atlantic this month, "Black Hawk Down" author Mark Bowden recounts mostly anonymous interviews with senior US military figures who have worked with Trump. Sometimes with wry amusement, sometimes with outright horror, they describe a president who disdains expertise, trusts only his own instincts and was "reflexively contrary".

That was explosive enough in the first half of his presidency, when he chafed against the advice of top officials such as former Marines White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Defense Secretary James Mattis. When National Security Advisor Lieutenant General H R McMaster delivered a multipage global strategy based on Trump's "America First" rhetoric, the president was effusive. But no one believes he read it. Now, he seemingly feels the need for advice less than ever.

Impeachment

For Trump, all diplomatic relationships are unambiguously transactional - and he sees no problem in including his own domestic and political priorities in those deals. That has alarmed officials and opened the door to impeachment proceedings after he apparently pushed Ukraine to investigate potential Democratic challenger Joe Biden and his family. But Trump knows he can almost certainly beat such proceedings given the Republican majority in the Senate, and there are no signs he cares what anybody else thinks.

Chinese officials were reportedly alarmed last week when Trump publicly suggested that Beijing should also investigate the Bidens. But the most revealing detail in Trump's dealings with President Xi Jinping comes from a reported telephone call, in which the US president clearly implied he would remain quiet about protests in Hong Kong provided progress was made towards a trade deal.

Those who want to influence Trump are always looking for ways to curry favour, from buying advertising on the Fox News shows he watches to doing business with his family firms. — Reuters

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Aerial view shows trucks queuing along the BR163 highway, in Moraes Almeida district, Itaituba, Para state, Brazil, in the Amazon rainforest, on Sept 11, 2019. — AFP

Highways drive Amazon development, destruction

Trucker Erik Fransuer spends months at a time driving back and forth on highways that cut through the Amazon in northern Brazil, delivering soy or corn to river ports. Fransuer is one of thousands of truckers plying the BR230 and BR163, major transport routes that have played a key role in the development and destruction of the world's largest rainforest, now being ravaged by fires. "I like the freedom of being on the road," Fransuer, 26, says as he and other drivers relax in hammocks strung up between trucks parked side by side at a gasoline station in the dust-blown town of Rurópolis.

Fransuer spends at least 12 hours a day sitting in his big rig listening to fast-paced music as he bounces along the highways constructed nearly 50 years ago - and somehow still not finished. Meter-wide potholes, bone-jarring corrugations, rickety wooden bridges and billowing red dust that wipes out visibility along dirt sections of the mostly two-lane roads make them hazardous to navigate at the best of times. "That way, there's no road," says Fransuer, gesturing in the direction of the BR163 connecting Rurópolis and Santarém, which until recently was a rough dirt track.

But it is changing. Eager to develop the Amazon to bolster Brazil's weak economy, President Jair Bolsonaro's government this year plans to finish asphaltting the 1,770-km BR163 stretching north from Cuiabá - the capital of the central-west state of Mato Grosso, Brazil's grain-growing powerhouse - to Santarém. Road workers are also paving sections of the more than 4,000-km BR230, known as the Trans-Amazonian highway, which cuts across the rainforest from the Atlantic coast city of Joao Pessoa to Labrea in the west. Single-lane wooden bridges, barely able to support trucks hauling trailers loaded with 30 tons of grain, are also being replaced with concrete spans. "There are a lot of accidents, a lot of deaths here," says Darlei da Silva, as he toils in intense heat to install a new bridge on the BR230. It is one of 18 being built along the highway, he says. "It's really going to improve things."

Deforestation

The highways were built by the military dictatorship in the early 1970s to populate the remote region, which it

Phone calls with Trump: More risky venture than boon

Arranging a phone call with the president of the United States used to be seen as a diplomatic win. But increasingly it comes with serious risks, from transcript leaks to domestic political blowback, and advisers are growing wary. The fallout from Trump's July 25th call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is still reverberating in Kiev and has led to the opening of an impeachment inquiry in Washington.

US lawmakers leading the inquiry now want access to Trump's calls with Russian President Vladimir Putin and some other world leaders, with the chairman of the US House Intelligence Committee citing concerns that Trump may have jeopardized national security. "People have to adjust to the fact that a phone call with Trump is not the same as a phone call with any normal leader," said Gerard Araud, the French ambassador in Washington until last June, who helped organize a number of calls between President Emmanuel Macron and the White House.

For any world leader who has spoken to Trump, the idea that verbatim transcripts could be released is a worrying prospect and likely to alter how such calls - a lifeblood of international diplomacy - play out in the future. Yet Araud suggested leaks were perhaps the least of leaders' concerns, citing Trump's tendency to veer into unexpected territory, destabilizing his interlocutor. "If you want to make progress on policy, that's a real problem. Every head of state and government has had to adjust to this non-dialogue," he said. "Everything has been blown out of the water."

Greater care

The warning signs were arguably there from the beginning. A few days after Trump took office in January 2017, he held a call with then Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. At one point in the testy exchange Trump told Turnbull "You're worse than I am", and complained that a US migration deal with Australia "shows me to be a dope". The transcript was leaked to the Washington Post and caused Turnbull, who stood up to Trump during the call, problems at home for his staunch anti-immigration line.

Last week, the US Justice Department confirmed Trump had held calls with leaders other than Zelenskyy to ask them to help Attorney General William Barr with his wide-ranging inquiry into the origins of Robert Mueller's investigation into Russia's role in the 2016 presidential election. The leaders were not named, but Prime Minister Scott Morrison confirmed he had spoken to Trump about it. The British government said

saw as deserted - notwithstanding the indigenous tribes and traditional communities living there - and vulnerable to foreign invasion. Deforestation followed as a wave of pioneers - rural poor enticed to the rainforest on the promise of land and a better future - began clearing jatoba, itauba, marupa and cedar for their crops. It accelerated in the following decades as cattle breeders, soy farmers and illegal loggers slashed their way deeper into the Amazon basin, where more than 20 million people now live.

During a recent trip to Para, where Rurópolis is located, an AFP team drove past swaths of land stripped of trees and ranches with names such as "My Dream" or "Good View". Where virgin forest once stood, herds of Brahman cattle graze on pasture or huge machines harvest grain. Newly deforested areas were scorched by recent blazes that singed the primary forest, despite a burning ban in the Amazon following an international outcry. The smell of smoke hung in the air until the rains finally came.

The highways, and dirt roads branching off them, have fueled illicit activities in the region, such as wildcat mining and land grabs. "In our research... in the Trans-Amazonian and BR163 areas, we found that the moment you open a road, you enable deforestation of around 100 kilometers along those roads, meaning 50 kilometers on one side and 50 kilometers on the other," Socorro Pena, a former researcher at the Amazon Environmental Research Institute, tells AFP. "Big roads and big infrastructure projects are causing a high rate of deforestation and environmental problems, and are really hurting the local population."

Slow going

The more than 2,000-km round trip from Sinop in Mato Grosso to ports in Miratuba or Santarém in neighboring Para should take truckers three days. But they often end up spending several days queued up at terminals on the Tapajós River waiting to unload, with port operators overwhelmed by China's insatiable demand for Brazilian soy. Travel times are even worse during the wet season from November to June, when sections of the highways turn into thick mud, or when hundreds of wild-

cat miners block a highway for days to demand legal status, like they did recently in Moraes Almeida, which straddles the BR163. Fransuer, who has been driving for six years, says he sees on average 10 truck accidents a day owing to the poor conditions. The number of trucks on the highways is expected to explode in the coming years as grain operators build more ports. As many as 6,000 trucks are expected to pull up daily at Miratuba ports in the next five years, once the number of terminals triples to 15, says the mayor of Itaituba, Valmir Climaco de Aguiar. That compares with the current 1,500 trucks a day.

Dirt and dust

Highway and port upgrades will cut transport costs for grain growers in Mato Grosso, who will be able to export more of their crops through terminals in the north instead of the south, which are further away from their farms. But not everyone in Para feels they are benefiting. Locals fear increased truck traffic will make the highways more dangerous and churn up more dust that already leaves a red stain on everything. "I do my washing at night when there are fewer cars on the road" to avoid the dust, says Dayana Rodrigues Melo, a mother of four in Rurópolis, where streets are unpaved.

Temperatures have risen in the region as a result of deforestation, locals say. Expanding farming has also driven up land and house prices, and replaced food crops that previously supplied the local market, says Sandro Leao, an economics professor at the Federal University of Western Para. Wages and employment, however, have not kept pace. And cell phone service is non-existent outside the big towns. "The economic model... which uses the northern logistical area for transport, favors mainly those involved in the export business," Leao says. "That means the ranchers, exporting firms, big traders and grain exporters." Better infrastructure is also good news for truckers like Fransuer. They get paid around 1,000 reais (\$240) for each load delivered to port. It could enable Fransuer to do more trips a month and better support his young family, who live elsewhere in the northeastern state of Paraíba. "It's hard," he says. — AFP

Life of misery for Brazil's Amazon pioneers

Maria Helena Locatelli was promised land and a better future in the Amazon rainforest, but all she got was misery when she arrived in northern Brazil in 1972 to start a new life. Locatelli was part of a wave of pioneers who moved to the fringes of the Trans-Amazonian highway, after it was constructed by the military dictatorship to populate a region the regime saw as vulnerable to foreign invasion. Under the slogan "Give land without men to men without land," the government promised the rural poor 100 hectares of land and a house if they moved to the rainforest.

Everyone believed the propaganda, recalls Locatelli - until they arrived in the Amazon, where they discovered "there was nothing". "It wasn't true, it was a big lie," says Locatelli, 71, who was living in Rio Grande do Sul when she and her ex-husband Orlando heard the government's call on the radio to occupy the Amazon, several thousand kilometers away. Locatelli was 25 and pregnant with twins when the couple arrived in Para state with their two young children.

Conditions were dire. But having sold their home and everything in it, Locatelli says they could not afford to go back. For months, they slept on a dirt floor in a shed with other new arrivals. "There were people from Bahia, there were people from Ceara, Fortaleza, there were people from Rio Grande do Sul," Locatelli recalls. Eventually they received a block of dense virgin forest near Rurópolis - a three-hour drive from Santarém, where she now lives - but the house and furniture promised by the government did not exist. There was no running water, malaria was rife, and their crops failed. "It was misery," says Locatelli. "There was a lot of suffering. A lot of people died."

Locatelli's ex-husband bought a chainsaw to cut down trees on the block allocated to them and earned money by clearing land for others. It was the start of widespread deforestation in the region that accelerated over the following decades as cattle breeders and grain growers pushed deeper into the rainforest. Within a few months, Orlando was seriously injured in a tree-felling accident that killed another man, forcing Locatelli to become the family's breadwinner.

Despite only having a few years of primary school education, Locatelli enrolled in a teacher training course and worked at the roadside community's school. Locatelli consoled herself that other families were worse off than hers. "I had to stand firm and confront life," she says. "I didn't let us starve." — AFP

Britain's relations with the United States are still affected by the leak to a British newspaper in July of a cable highly critical of Trump written by Kim Darroch, the former British ambassador to Washington. Trump responded by calling Darroch "wacky" and "very stupid" on Twitter. The ambassador resigned days later. "Diplomats can't really do their job if there is a significant risk of their honest, unfiltered judgments being leaked to the media," said Peter Westmacott, a former British ambassador to Washington and Paris. "Diplomats need to know that this has not become the new normal." — Reuters

Business

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WASHINGTON, DC: New IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, speaks about the key issues to be addressed at the upcoming IMF / World Bank Annual Meetings, at the International Monetary Fund headquarters yesterday in Washington, DC. — AFP

World suffering 'synchronized slowdown'

New IMF chief Georgieva says trade disputes are undermining global economy

WASHINGTON: Grinding trade disputes are undermining the global economy, which is set to see its slowest growth in nearly a decade, the new IMF chief said yesterday.

Research shows the impact of the trade conflict is widespread and countries must be ready to respond in unison with cash infusions, Kristalina Georgieva said in her first speech as managing director of the International Monetary Fund. She also called for a ramp-up in carbon taxes to address the other challenge facing the global economy: climate change.

"In 2019, we expect slower growth in nearly 90 percent of the world. The global economy is now in a synchronized slowdown," Georgieva said in a speech ahead of IMF-World Bank autumn meetings next week. "This widespread deceleration means that growth this year will fall to its lowest rate since the beginning of the decade."

She said the IMF is cutting its forecasts for growth this year and next. Previously, the world economy had been projected to expand by 3.2 percent in 2019 and 3.5 percent in 2020.

The fund is due to release details in its updated World Economic Outlook on October 15. While trade tensions had been talked about as a danger to the economy, "now, we see that they are actually taking a toll," she said.

"Global trade growth has come to a near standstill." For the global economy, the cumulative effect of trade conflicts could mean a loss of around \$700 billion by 2020, or about 0.8 percent of GDP, she said, which is far higher than the fund previously forecast as its worst case scenario.

Spend more

That is an amount "approximately the size of

Switzerland's entire economy," Georgieva said, citing IMF research showing the secondary effects—such as the loss of confidence and financial market reactions—are far greater than the direct economic impact of the tariffs.

"The results are clear. Everyone loses in a trade war." President Donald Trump's trade war with China involves steep tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars in two-way commerce but there are conflicts with other trading partners as well. And even if growth resurges next year, some of the "rifts" already caused by the trade conflicts could cause "changes that last a generation," such as shifting supply chains, she said.

To protect against a sharp global slowdown, Georgieva called on countries with funds available to deploy their "fiscal firepower." While some governments are burdened by high debt levels, "in places such as Germany, the Netherlands, and South Korea, an increase in spending—especially in infrastructure

and R&D—will help boost demand and growth potential," she said.

Many economies have been relying on central banks and low interest rates to support economic expansion, she warned that keeping rates low for too long can cause investors to engage in risky behavior. The IMF estimates that if there were a major economic downturn, "corporate debt at risk of default would rise to \$19 trillion, or nearly 40 percent of the total debt in eight major economies. This is above the levels seen during the financial crisis," she said.

Georgieva, who this month took over leadership at the IMF from Christine Lagarde amid rising concerns about the world economy, called on global leaders "to work together, now, and find a lasting solution on trade."

That includes resolving legitimate concerns over protection of proprietary technology, an issue at the center of Washington's dispute with Beijing. —AFP

Protect global trade against Trump 'policy delusions': Economist

GENEVA: A prominent US economist called yesterday on countries to save the multilateral global trading system which he said was facing deliberate attack by Washington as part of US President Donald Trump's "fantasy world". "The trading system is under stress right now for one overwhelming reason, and that is my country, the United States," Jeffrey Sachs told the opening of a large conference at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

"The problem is that we have the largest economy in the world that (is acting) in a very unstable manner," he said, speaking before around 1,000 people, including numerous decision makers and diplomats. He maintained that Washington's escalating trade war with China was linked to "the challenge that China's rise pose to the American psyche, especially the foreign policy establishment."

"We're seeing a deliberate attempt to break up the trading system in a very misguided way because of American foreign policy delusions," lamented Sachs, who heads the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University. The world's two biggest economies have been embroiled in a bruising year-and-a-half-long trade war, and Sachs's comments came ahead of a new round of punitive tariffs due to hit next week.

US and Chinese officials are meanwhile due to resume trade talks in Washington in a few days, but with little sign the two sides have made progress in bridging the distance between them. — AFP

Despite Saudi turmoil, new oil shock unlikely

NEW YORK: The past week's sudden surge in oil prices brought to mind the nightmare of shortages, but it's not too likely motorists will be queuing to fill up around the world, analysts say.

All it took was a September 14 strike on key oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia to abruptly leave the world's main supplier producing just half its normal amount.

That sent the price of Brent crude flying 15 percent higher in a single day. The price on a barrel of crude has come back down since then and by Friday was trading around \$65.

Given the slowdown in the global economy and the abundance of crude produced worldwide, the prospect of a \$100 barrel, for now, doesn't look too likely. "In essence, the world is far better equipped to handle oil shocks than it was in the '70s," explained Harry Tchilinguirian, the head of commodity research at BNP Paribas. In 1973, after an embargo by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) against Israel's allies in the midst of the Yom Kippur War, and in 1979, after the Iranian revolution, crude oil prices soared in just a few months, bringing developed economies to their knees.

Reduced dependence

"Currently, an oil shock would hardly have the same devastating effects" because countries grew accustomed to such events, economists at Commerzbank said in a note. On top of that, "central banks would not react to a supply shock with massive interest rate hikes to combat rising inflation," they said.

Most importantly, however, economies have reduced their dependence on oil. Consumption in the United States, for example, rose from 17.3 million barrels per day (mbd) in 1973 to 20.5 mbd in 2018, an increase of only 18 percent even as the country's real gross domestic product jumped 230 percent.

In Germany, households spent only 2.6 percent of their budget on fuel in 2018. Many economies have taken strides away from heavy oil consumption, thanks to transport and energy-efficient industries, and alternative sources such as natural gas or renewable energy.

When oil prices held well above \$100 a barrel between 2011 and 2014, it did not lead to economic collapse. The world has also now become less dependent on a few huge producers. The first oil crisis led to the creation in 1974 of the International Energy Agency, which requires OECD countries to keep in reserve the equivalent of at least 90 days of their net imports of crude. On top of that, oil production has branched far beyond the Middle East, said Tchilinguirian, referring to North Sea oil exploited since the 1980s, deep-sea exploitation off the coast of West Africa and Brazil, and the oil sands of Canada. —AFP

CBK's conditional approval for KFH acquisition of AUB



Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel

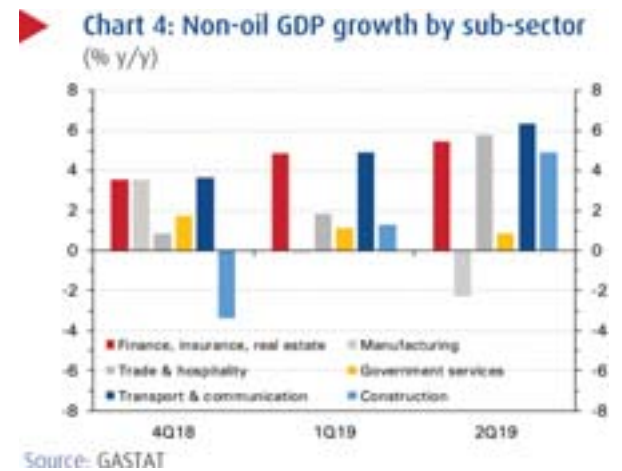
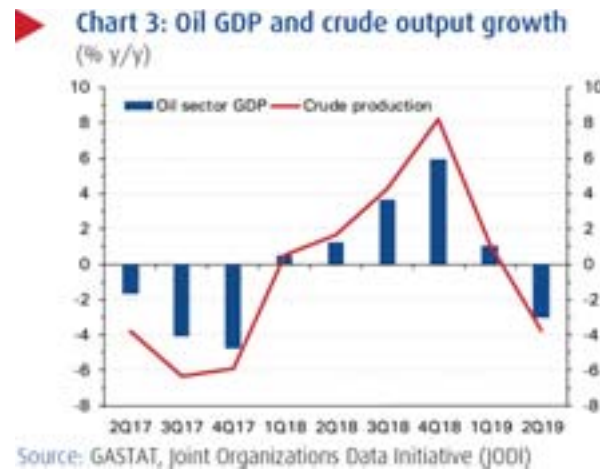
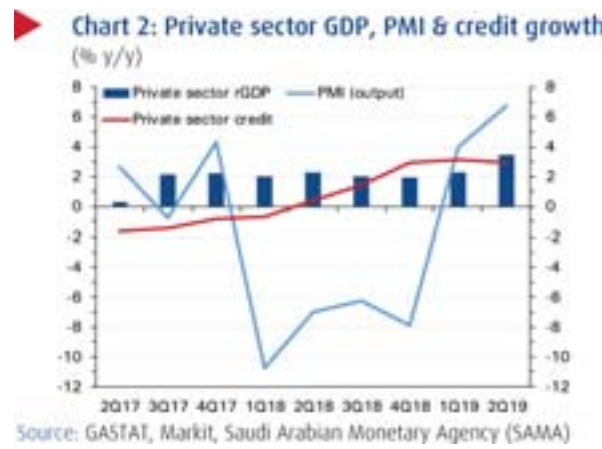
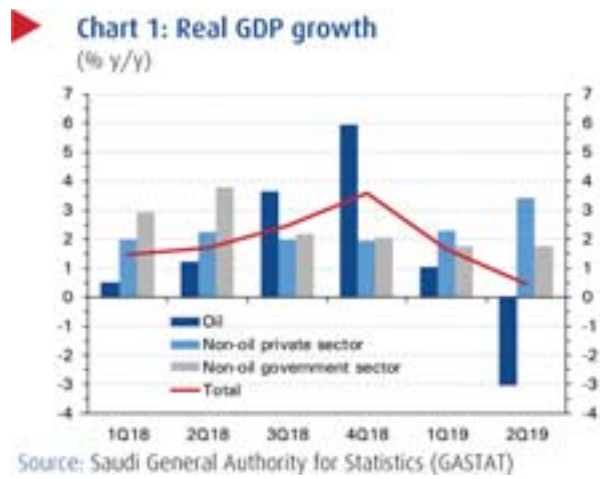
KUWAIT: Kuwait Central Bank has agreed with strings attached to Kuwait Finance House's acquisition of Bahrain's Al-Ahli United Bank, the country's top banker said yesterday. The agreement comes with a number of technical and legal provisos to ensure that the procedure is transparent and adheres to Islamic principles, Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel said in a statement. —KUNA

Business

NBK Economic Report

Saudi non-oil growth accelerates in Q2

Public and private sector activities boost growth in Q2 2019



KUWAIT: Recently released official data shows that in 2Q19 the Saudi non-oil economy expanded at the fastest rate (+2.9 percent y/y) since 2015, with growth driven by increased private (+3.4 percent y/y) and government sector activity (+1.8 percent y/y).

Private sector growth was in line with improvements in other, higher frequency indicators of non-oil activity such as the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) and private sector credit growth.

Headline growth, however, slowed considerably in 2Q19 (to 0.5 percent y/y from 1.7 percent in 1Q19) due to a contraction in oil sector output (-3.0 percent y/y), related to OPEC+ production cuts; Saudi Arabia has cut crude production far more aggressively than required. Real oil sector output fell by less than crude output (-3.7 percent y/y to an average of 9.75 mb/d) only due to the contribution of higher natural gas production.

At the sub-sector level, non-oil growth was led by

output gains in the financial services (+5.4 percent y/y), transport & communications (+6.4 percent y/y), trade (+5.8 percent y/y) and construction (+4.9 percent y/y) sectors. Manufacturing, which includes refining, contracted (-2.3 percent y/y). Growth in government services, the largest contributor to non-oil GDP (23.5 percent), was weak (+0.8 percent y/y).

Note that the improvement in non-oil growth in 2Q19 is also perhaps overstated, since 2Q18 was a softer than usual quarter, with wholesale and retail

trade, government services, construction and manufacturing all weak over those three months.

Looking ahead, real GDP growth for full year 2019 is expected to be flat, a marked slowdown from 2.3 percent in 2018 and a downward revision compared to our forecast in July of 1.0 percent. While the oil sector is expected to contract by 3.8 percent y/y (from 2.9 percent in 2018), the non-oil sector should grow by 2.5 percent y/y (vs. 2.3 percent in 2018), in line with our July forecast.

Clashes at protests in Ecuador over fuel price hike, oil facilities seized

MACHACHI: Protesters clashed with Ecuadoran forces yesterday as they marched toward the capital to demonstrate against soaring fuel prices, with the government announcing three oil facilities had been seized, slashing production by 12 percent. Riot police and the military used tear gas to try to disperse marchers in the town of Machachi on the outskirts of Quito after they blocked roads with burning tires and barricades ahead of a protest set for today.

"More than 20,000 indigenous people will be arriving in Quito," said Jaime Vargas, leader of the umbrella indigenous organization CONAIE. In 2000, CONAIE was key to driving then-president Jamil Mahuad from office during another economic crisis.

Other protesters attempted to force their way into the National Legislative Assembly in the capital, and committed "acts of vandalism in the vicinity," the body said in a statement.

The clashes came as Ecuador's Ministry of Energy announced that activities in three oil fields in the Amazon region—one operated by private firm Petrobrill and the others by state company Petroamazonas—had been suspended "due to the seizure of the facilities by groups of people outside the operation." The seizures affected 12 percent of the country's oil production, or 63,250 barrels of crude per day, the ministry said in a statement that did not identify the groups responsible.

In a radio and television address, President Lenin Moreno accused his predecessor and ex-ally Rafael Correa and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro of an "attempted coup d'etat" and of "using some indigenous groups, taking

advantage of their mobilization to plunder and destroy."

He added that government business had temporarily moved to the port city of Guayaquil.

Protesters from southern Andean provinces, some armed with sticks and whips, were travelling to the capital in pick-up trucks and on foot, according to CONAIE, while other indigenous groups were set to arrive from the north. The protests—the largest in a decade in Ecuador—are being led by transport unions but include students and others.

The country has been rocked by days of demonstrations after increases of up to 120 percent in fuel prices came into force on October 3. They have so far left one civilian dead and 77 people injured, the majority of them security forces, the government said. A total of 477 people have been detained. The US, "is monitoring recent developments in Ecuador carefully. We reject violence as a form of political protest," acting assistant secretary for the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs Michael Kozak said in a tweet.

State of emergency

Moreno scrapped fuel subsidies as part of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to obtain loans despite Ecuador's high public debt. On Sunday, the president had called for dialogue with the indigenous groups. Nelson Erazo, the leader of the Popular Front of workers and students, has said "the people's actions will not stop here if the government does not change its policy." The subsidies were costing the government \$1.3 billion a year.

The IMF agreement, signed in March, allowed Ecuador to borrow \$4.2 billion. Moreno—who blames the deterioration in the country's finances on Correa—declared a state of emergency tomorrow. It allows the government to restrict movement, to use the armed forces to maintain order and to censor the press. "This is a very difficult situation, that could lead us into less stable situations, to governments that fall," said Simon Pachano, a political scientist at Quito's FLACSO university. CONAIE warned that security forces entering indigenous areas would be captured and held. Indigenous leaders claimed they were holding several dozen soldiers since Sunday. —AFP

Samsung Galaxy Fold available for pre-order in Kuwait starting today

KUWAIT: Don't miss your chance to be among the first in Kuwait to own the highly anticipated Galaxy Fold, which is available for pre-order starting today, October 8 from major retailer stores and Samsung brand stores. Galaxy Fold is designed to inspire new experiences: When closed, users can access their essentials on the cover display comfortably with one hand, and when opened, you can explore new ways to multitask, watch videos, play games, and more, on its immersive 7.3-inch Infinity Flex Display.

"We are thrilled today to offer consumers a new form factor of mobile device that is our most innovative yet, allowing users to do things they couldn't do with an ordinary smartphone. Transforming mobile experiences worldwide, Samsung has refined the Galaxy Fold to offer a powerful new way to multitask, watch videos, play games, and more - bringing to life new experiences and possibilities," said Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile (IM) Division at Samsung Electronics Gulf.

Galaxy Fold boasts innovative new features for those that want to experience what a premium foldable device can do:

- **Do More:** To ensure everything runs smoothly, even when running three apps simultaneously, Samsung equipped Galaxy Fold with a high-powered, next-generation AP chipset and 12GB of RAM with PC-like performance. The sophisticated dual battery system was specifically engineered to keep up with you. Galaxy Fold is also capable of charging itself and a second device simultaneously via Wireless PowerShare, while connected to a regular charger so you can leave your second charger at home.
- **Ultimate Multimedia Experience:** The Galaxy Fold is designed for entertainment. Thanks to immersive visuals on the Dynamic AMOLED display and crisp, clear sound by AKG with the stereo speakers, your favorite movies and games come to life in rich sound and color.
- **Samsung's Most Versatile Camera Yet:** No matter which way you hold-or fold-the device, a camera will be ready to capture the scene, so you never miss the moment. With six lenses—three in the back, two on the inside and one on the cover—the Galaxy Fold camera system has flexibility built in. Galaxy Fold introduces a new level of multitasking, allowing you to use other apps during a video call.
- **Multi-Active Window:** The possibilities are virtually endless with Galaxy Fold - designed for the ultimate multitasker. You can open up to three active apps simultaneously on the main display so you can surf, text, work, watch and share without losing a beat.



- **App Continuity:** Make intuitive, seamless transitions between the cover and the main displays. As Galaxy Fold opens and closes, apps will automatically show up where you left off. When you're ready to take a photo, make in-depth edits, or have a closer look at the feed, open the display for a big screen and fuller canvas.
- **New Display Materials:** The internal screen does not merely bend. It folds. Folding is a more intuitive motion, and a more difficult innovation to deliver. Samsung invented a new polymer layer and created a display around 50 percent thinner than the typical smartphone display. The new material makes Galaxy Fold flexible and tough, built to last.
- **New Hinging Mechanism:** Galaxy Fold opens smoothly and naturally, like a book, and closes flat and compact with a satisfying click. To achieve this, Samsung engineered a sophisticated hinge with multiple interlocking gears. This system is housed in a hidden enclosure for a seamless and elegant look.
- **New Design Elements:** From the screen to the housing, to every element you can see and touch - Samsung left no stone unturned. The fingerprint scanner is found on the side where the thumb naturally rests, so the device unlocks easily. Two batteries and the components are evenly distributed so Galaxy Fold feels balanced in your hands.



QUITO: Demonstrators clash with riot police in Quito on Monday following days of protests against the sharp rise in fuel prices sparked by authorities' decision to scrap subsidies. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.650
Euro	336.180
Sterling Pound	376.400
Canadian dollar	230.100
Turkish lira	53.920
Swiss Franc	307.880
US Dollar Buying	297.250
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.837
Indian Rupees	4.295
Pakistani Rupees	1.961
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.681
Nepali Rupees	2.681
Singapore Dollar	221.720
Hongkong Dollar	38.849
Bangladesh Taka	3.593
Philippine Peso	5.892
Thai Baht	10.066
Malaysian ringgit	77.916
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.294
Qatari Riyal	83.730
Omani Riyal	791.813
Bahraini Dinar	809.490
UAE Dirham	83.000
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.100

Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.731
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.224
Tunisian Dinar	110.780
Jordanian Dinar	430.140
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.341
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Rate for Transfer	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 Dirham	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

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
Europe			
British Pound	0.367267	0.381167	
Czech Korune	0.004948	0.014248	
Danish Krone	0.040670	0.045670	
Euro	0.326676	0.340376	
Georgian Lari	0.101997	0.101987	
Hungarian 0.000910	0.001100		
Norwegian Krone	0.029305	0.034505	
Romanian Leu	0.053427	0.070277	
Russian ruble	0.004679	0.004679	
Slovakia	0.009111	0.019111	
Slovenian Euro	0.026672	0.031672	
Swedish Krona	0.299493	0.310493	
Australasia			
Australian Dollar	0.197227	0.209227	
New Zealand Dollar	0.186066	0.195566	
America			
Canadian Dollar	0.223714	0.232714	
US Dollars	0.300550	0.305850	
US Dollars Mint	0.301050	0.305850	
Asia			
Bangladesh Taka	0.002919	0.003720	

Chinese Yuan	0.041250	0.044750
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036760	0.039500
Indian Rupee	0.003663	0.004435
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002750	0.002930
Korean Won	0.000244	0.000259
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069065	0.075065
Nepalese Rupee	0.002627	0.002967
Pakistan Rupee	0.001342	0.002112
Philippine Peso	0.005689	0.005989
Singapore Dollar	0.225230	0.225230
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001320	0.001900
Taiwan	0.009761	0.009941
Thai Baht	0.009661	0.010211
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.801938	0.809998
Egyptian Pound	0.018653	0.022013
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000214	0.000274
Jordanian Dinar	0.424785	0.433785
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021219	0.045219
Omani Riyal	0.786168	0.704069
Qatar Riyal	0.083024	0.083858
Saudi Riyal	0.080153	0.081453
Syrian Pound	0.001292	0.001512
Tunisian Dinar	0.102593	0.110593
Turkish Lira	0.045678	0.055523
UAE Dirhams	0.082311	0.083139
Yemeni Riyal	0.000990	0.001070

Business

Jazeera Airways introduces premium economy on flights to London Gatwick

40kg in baggage allowance, additional legroom with 31-inch seat pitch



KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, yesterday revealed its new Premium Economy class which provides passengers with more complimentary services at very competitive fares in addition to 40 kilograms in baggage allowance.

Premium Economy is part of the new cabin configuration of the airline's A320neo aircraft which will be serving its flights to London starting October 27, 2019. In addition to the high baggage allowance, the new

cabin class provides passengers additional legroom with a 31-inch seat pitch, a middle seat that is kept free for more room and privacy, dedicated check-in counters, priority boarding and a complimentary inflight hot meal. Premium Economy seats are located right behind the Business Class cabin.

The other two cabins are Jazeera Airways' signature Business Class and Economy Class. The Business Class offers passengers a 33-inch seat pitch, 50 kilograms in baggage allowance, priority boarding and a complimentary



inflight hot meal. The Economy Class offers a 29/30-inch seat pitch and a wide choice of meals from the Jazeera Café menu.

Jazeera Airways will land at London Gatwick Airport South Terminal where access to the Gatwick Express train connects passengers directly to central London. The airline has scheduled timings conveniently leaving early mornings from Kuwait and landing just in time for lunch in London, or mid-afternoon on Saturdays.

Bookings for the Kuwait-London flights are avail-

able at jazeeraairways.com, via the Jazeera App or by calling 177. Jazeera Terminal T5 provides passengers with the ease and comfort of traveling with 12 check-in counters, eight self-check-in kiosks, dedicated passport and security control procedures, duty free shops and restaurants, as well as free WiFi internet service available for passengers when boarding at the T5 gates. T5 also has a dedicated number at 176 and Help Team on-ground to respond to passengers' queries and guide them through the Terminal.

Ireland prepares for the worst with no-deal Brexit budget

DUBLIN: Ireland presented a no-deal Brexit budget for 2020 yesterday, pledging a 1.2 billion euro package to keep firms afloat by allowing the state's finances to return to deficit if Britain leaves the European Union without a transition period. With Britain's latest scheduled exit from the EU just three weeks away, Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe made the call last month to assume the worst, eschewing the tax cuts and spending hikes of recent years to set aside funds for exposed businesses.

Donohoe nevertheless gave the booming economy a 2.9 billion euro boost, mostly through pre-committed extra spending in areas such as infrastructure and public sector pay — a far cry from the savage austerity budgets required a decade ago after Ireland's financial crisis.

"This is a Budget without precedent ... A budget that has been developed in the shadow of Brexit," Donohoe told parliament in what could be his last budget. His Fine Gael party favors a May 2020 election.

"This does not mean that no-deal is inevitable. But equally we stand ready if it does happen. It is a challenge Ireland has the measure of." Ireland is considered the most vulnerable among remaining EU members to Brexit due to its close trade links and shared land border with the United Kingdom. The Irish government has warned economic growth could come to a near halt next year, putting up to 80,000 jobs at risk if Britain crashes out of the bloc.



DUBLIN: Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe gestures as he emerges from his office for a photo call prior to presenting his Budget 2020 to parliament, at Government Buildings in Dublin yesterday. —AFP

While some British lawmakers think the threat of such a hit will force Ireland into a last-minute concession in negotiations, Britain's smaller neighbor is approaching the Oct. 31 Brexit deadline with an economy that has grown faster than any other in the EU each year since 2014. Donohoe's main pitch was on how the government would seek to meet the demands of firms most impacted by a chaotic Brexit.

Just over half his package, which excludes any EU funds, will support the agriculture, enterprise and tourism sectors, with 220 million euros deployed immediately in a no deal Brexit to help vulnerable but viable firms adjust.

With his department forecasting that gross domestic product growth could tumble from 5.5 percent this year to just 0.7 percent in

2020 in a no-deal scenario, the budget package will lead to a deficit of 0.6 percent of GDP next year if Britain leaves without a deal, the lower end of an initial 0.5 to 1.5 percent estimate.

That marks a swift setback after Ireland recorded its first surplus in a decade in 2018 and will increase borrowing at a time when the national debt is still high — around 100 percent of gross national income — after the crisis of 10 years ago. Ireland's deficit hit double figures during that period.

With Donohoe acknowledging that the economy is poised between the twin risks of overheating and Brexit, many economists see the choice not to cut taxes and increase spending as much as in previous years as a wise one regardless of the Brexit outcome. —Reuters

Sterling sinks as Merkel downbeat on Brexit deal outlook

LONDON: The British pound dived yesterday after German Chancellor Angela Merkel reportedly warned that a Brexit deal was "overwhelmingly unlikely", further stoking fears of a disorderly and costly departure from the EU.

Merkel told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson that a deal was doomed to fail unless London agreed to keep British-run Northern Ireland that borders EU-member Ireland in the bloc's customs union, a Downing Street source said. The host of next week's European summit, EU Council president Donald Tusk, in turn accused British Prime Minister Boris Johnson of trying to shift blame for the failure of the Brexit talks. "Markets are having to focus on the various potential outcomes which are now imminent," Interactive Investor analyst Rebecca O'Keefe told AFP.

"A deal looks very unlikely unless the EU blinks first."

'Greater chance of no-deal'

She added: "For many, the word of the PM is government policy, hence the global market is moving towards pricing in an ever greater chance of a no-deal." Losses were exacerbated by official data showing that British productivity tumbled at its fastest rate in five years in the second quarter of 2019. Stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic meanwhile posted losses on growing investor doubts over chances of success in this week's China-US trade talks.

Losses for London stocks were limited thanks to the weak pound, which boosts multinationals earning in stronger currencies. Other European markets were nearly one percent lower in the mid-afternoon, while on Wall Street the Dow Jones index was also down at the opening bell. There had been a general feeling in recent weeks that a solution to the long-running US-China tariffs saga may be found, providing some much-needed support to equities in the face of worsening economic data. —AFP

UK debt burden to rocket under no-deal Brexit, says think-tank

LONDON: Britain's debt burden would jump to its highest level in 50 years if it leaves the EU without a deal, a leading think-tank warned yesterday. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said that due to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's public spending plans, government borrowing was set to top £50 billion (\$61 billion, 56 billion euros), equal to 2.3 percent of GDP, or total national economic output.

The figure is double what the Office for Budget Responsibility public body was forecasting in March, four months before Johnson took office pledging a public services spending boost.

It also breaks the government's self-imposed fiscal rule of keeping borrowing to below two percent of GDP in order to balance the books by the mid-2020s. The IFS economic research institute said that even a relatively benign no-deal Brexit would likely lead to borrowing approaching £100 billion or four percent of GDP.

As a result, accumulated national debt would climb to almost 90 percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) for the first time since the mid-1960s, the IFS said. Britain is due to leave the European Union on October 31, with or without a Brexit deal, according to Johnson. Without a deal, Johnson's planned mini-boom in public spending would likely be followed by another bust as the government struggled to deal with the consequences of a smaller economy and higher debt for funding public services, the IFS said. —AFP

Boursa Kuwait participates in 59th WEF meetings

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait attended the 59th General Assembly and annual meeting of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), the trade association of publicly regulated exchanges. The event, held in Singapore from October 8 to 10, 2019, marked Boursa Kuwait's first participation after receiving a unanimous vote to become a full-fledged member of the federation in October 2018.

Boursa Kuwait's Director of Marketing and Communication, Naser M Al-Sanousi, represented Boursa Kuwait in the General Assembly and annual meeting and contributed to the panel discussions with his peers and colleagues across the global investment community. Al-Sanousi participated in the election of the Board of Directors for the Americas and Asia Pacific region during the General Assembly meeting.

Speaking on behalf of Boursa Kuwait, Al-Sanousi said, "I am pleased to be representing Boursa Kuwait at the General Assembly and annual meeting of the World Federation of Exchanges. I am proud to be here after the unanimous decision of the exchange community to grant Boursa Kuwait a full-fledged membership, which is a testament to the hard work we have put in during the past two years to develop the exchange, ease access and increase transparency and efficiency. Our participation in these events proves that we



Naser M Al-Sanousi

enjoy a sterling reputation in the international community, and I have no doubt that this will reflect well on the Kuwaiti capital market."

Boursa Kuwait's representatives also visited the Singapore Exchange in an effort to exchange information and expertise, discuss the current global exchange scene, Boursa Kuwait's reforms and developments as well as recent upgrades that placed Boursa Kuwait on the global investment map.

This marks another milestone on the Kuwaiti exchange's path towards further strengthening integration with global financial markets and benefiting from knowledge exchange with its peers. Over the last two years, Boursa Kuwait has worked valiantly to improve the local capital market and develop a liquid, reliable and sound exchange that provides issuers with efficient access to capital and investors with diverse return opportunities. These efforts will further strengthen Boursa Kuwait's position both regionally and internationally. The recent achievements further demonstrate that Kuwait is developing into a safe haven in the region with imminent further upgrades.

Turkish lira trims losses but worries over Syria persist

ISTANBUL: Turkey's lira recovered yesterday after sinking to its weakest point in more than a month, helped by upbeat comments from President Donald Trump, but investors still worried about the fallout from Ankara's planned incursion in northeast Syria. Less than 24 hours after warning he could "obliterate" Turkey's economy if it went too far in its Syria operation, Trump tweeted on Tuesday that Ankara was a "big trading partner" of the United States and had been "good to deal with".

The lira, which lost over 2% of its value on Monday to close at 5.8370, firmed to 5.795 against the US dollar by 1249 GMT, after slipping to 5.8465 earlier in the day. Trump had said on Monday that he would "totally destroy and obliterate" Turkey's economy if it took action in Syria that he deemed "off limits," after his decision on Sunday to pull 50 American special forces troops from

northeastern Syria. The leader of the Turkish opposition Iyi Party, Meral Aksener, called Trump's threat a "diplomatic catastrophe."

Turkey's main share index, BIST100, was down 0.63 percent and the banking index declined 0.33 percent - both recovering from sharper losses earlier in the day. The shares of cement companies that have production plants close to Syrian border, such as Mardin Cimento and Adana Cimento, rose two days straight on expectations of reconstruction of the region.

The extensive area of Ankara's planned incursion into Syria could lead to months of military activity that raises concern in the markets, said one bank treasury trader. Trump's threats also kept the lira under pressure, he said.

Currency depreciation could lead to expectations of a less-aggressive interest rate cut when the central bank meets later this month, the trader added. Turkey's sovereign dollar bonds came under fresh pressure, with some longer-dated issues slipping to two-week lows. Bonds maturing in 2030 and beyond lost nearly 1 cent in a second day of decline. In a currency crisis last year, the lira lost nearly 30 percent of its value against the dollar, partly over concern about worsening relations between Ankara and Washington. —Reuters

Business

The new Peugeot 508 makes a debut at Kaico

Kaico celebrates 50 years of partnership with Peugeot



KUWAIT: Kuwait Automotive Imports Company, Kaico Al Shaya & Al Sagar, the authorized distributors of Peugeot cars in Kuwait celebrates its longtime partnership of 50 years by launching the brand new Peugeot 508 in its showroom.

The arrival of the new Peugeot 508, which offers top-end technological features for an intense driving experience, showcases invention in a new dimension. The radical sedan with a bold look makes no compromises on design. With its dynamic shape, aggressive front and muscular style, you can count on the new 508 to turn heads wherever you go. The new Peugeot 508 premium radical sedan heralds a new era of sportiness and elegance. Its sculpted lines, finely detailed grill and new light signature emphasize its sleek, bold and innovative spirit. With that being said, you most certainly don't need to worry about compromising style with efficiency, specifically with the new Peugeot 508 PureTech 1.6L Turbo engine. The PureTech 3-cylinder turbocharged engine reduces fuel consumption and emissions of CO2 by up to 21 percent compared to the

4 cylinder engine of the same power.

Inside the new Peugeot 508, the focus is on quality and originality. The premium instrument panel is centered around the latest version of the exemplary Peugeot i-Cockpit which is now in its third generation.

Peugeot i-Cockpit includes:

- A compact steering wheel
- 8-10-inch HD touch-screen
- Head-up display unit with a high-resolution 12.3-inch digital screen

The central touch-screen is perfectly positioned and accompanied by seven 'piano key' toggle switches which operate the main i-Cockpit features: radio, air conditioning, navigation, vehicle settings, telephone, phone mirroring, and, i-Cockpit Amplify on the GT-Line trim.

We cannot mention efficiency without mentioning high technology, especially when talking about the latest Peugeot models, so sit back and relax as the new 508 boasts the latest safety features and driving aids.

Moreover, feeling inspired while driving is what you should feel every time you start your engine, with precise driving, stimulating steering and exemplary road holding reinforced by controlled suspension, the new Peugeot 508 premium radical sedan enhances your driving pleasure and freedom of movement.

KAICO presents its dedication and commitment to their partnership with Peugeot by continuously striving to be the first to showcase the latest Peugeot cars. To elaborate on the successful partnership with Peugeot, the general manager of KAICO, Ashish Tandon stated, "We are and always will be honored to have had the opportunity to partner with Peugeot, considering the vision of KAICO is providing our customers delightful and exciting products, and Peugeot has done just that for us".

Furthermore, Sr. Divisional Manager - vehicles, Nader Salmeh articulated on the matter and has stated, "From the moment we have partnered with Peugeot to hitting the 50 year mark, it has always been an exciting journey to continuously receive and showcase the most



reliable and technology driven vehicles out there in the market. And the all new Peugeot 508 is the perfect definition of that".

The new Peugeot 508 is produced in the Mulhouse plant in France, and French sites of Tremery and Douvrin provide the powertrain. As such, the model wears the "Origine France Garantie" accreditation, certifying that it is made in France.

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 6th October 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 29 September - 3 October 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

Fatima Abdulkareem Mohammed Al-Saqer
Fatimah Haroun Rajabi
Mouna Saud Faleh Al-Rashedi
Imtiaz Ahmed Faiz Ahmed
Hussain Ali Shreef Atshan

Gulf Bank's final Al-Danah draw for KD 1,000,000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event. Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Burgan Bank announces first winner of new Al-Thuraya draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, announced yesterday Ammar Farzat Alhallaq as the first lucky winner of the new draw prize of Al-Thuraya Salary Accounts monthly draw.

The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win KD 10,000 every month. Each account holder has one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti Dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks which include Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Bank of Baghdad - BOB (Iraq & Lebanon), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and fully owned Burgan Bank - Turkey, (collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group"). Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office ("Burgan Financial Services Limited") which had helped the bank to participate in multiple financing opportunities in the UAE.

Huawei launches '3rd ICT skill competition in Kuwait'

KUWAIT: Huawei Technologies Kuwait, a leading global Information and Communication Technology solutions provider, has launched the 2019 edition of its annual Huawei Middle East ICT Competition in Kuwait. Held in strategic partnership with Public Authority of Manpower and Kuwait's Achievers for Future Opportunities, the latest local competition falls alongside the country's mission to fuel national ICT competitiveness and contribute to local communities.

Starting mid-October, students from local universities such like Australian College of Kuwait, Kuwait University, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait College of Science & Technology and American International College will participate in the upcoming contest. They will be required to study online and take the preliminary exam on October 17, 2019. Kuwait's three winners will be given the opportunity to travel to Huawei's Headquarter in Shenzhen, China, where

the final stage of the competition will take place in December this year.

Huawei recently held the opening ceremony of the national edition of its global ICT Skill Competition 2019 at its head office in Al-Hamra Business Tower. The program seeks to identify talented university students and develop their ICT skills as part of Huawei's aim to support Kuwait's 2035 vision to raise the country's digital capabilities and advance digitalization.

"We are delighted to spearhead yet another year of a fruitful platform that will enhance the quality of future ICT professionals, which is a key pillar in Kuwait's agenda of building a knowledge-based economy. As the 5G, AI, big data such ICT technology are booming around the world, ICT is not only a technical hot pot but an enabler for all industries' revolution. ICT infrastructure is as important as the national high way, port and airport: the country's data is as important as its natural resources like oil: one country's ability of ICT is strongly related to its international competitiveness," said Yu Peng, Huawei Technologies Kuwait deputy CEO.

"As the country embraces digital transformation, Huawei's ICT competitions and training through the Huawei academy is a step closer to achieving the country's economic growth. As the global leading ICT Company, who has



more than 50 5G contracts and most 5G patents, we seek to expand the capacity of ICT engineers in Kuwait and nurture future leaders of ICT to advance the country's digitalization and fuel growth of key sectors and industries. We wish all of the contestant's good luck and look forward to them fulfilling their role in achieving the national agenda," Yu added.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior officials from Public Authority of Manpower in Kuwait, Kuwait's Achievers for Future Opportunities,

Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority participating universities from Kuwait, media representatives and Huawei Technologies Kuwait senior management.

Huawei has received more than 220 registrations for the contest thus far. Winners of the Kuwait Finals will be granted a certification and a new 5G smart phone and watch from Huawei. The most exceptional achiever to be awarded as the final winner in China will receive a cash prize of \$30,000 and a Huawei Matebook.

VIVA platinum sponsor of 11th MEIRA annual conference

KUWAIT: VIVA, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and a subsidiary of STC Group, participated as a platinum sponsor at the 11th Middle East Investor Relations Association 'MEIRA' annual conference held recently in Dubai, where leading companies and individuals who demonstrated best practices in the investor relations (IR) field across the Middle East were honored.

Eng Maziad bin Naser Al-Harbi, VIVA's CEO stated: "VIVA is always eager, through its robust strategy, to play a leading role in applying best practices and professional standards across all VIVA sectors and departments that support its plans and activities. Reaping the second position as 'Best Corporate for IR' in Kuwait, reflects the efforts exerted by the executive management and Investor Relations Department at VIVA to enhance communication and transparency with the investment community and shareholders who proved their satisfaction with VIVA's performance in the field of investor relations where VIVA has successfully fulfilled all investor requirements such as meetings and inquiries about VIVA's developments agenda and its financial and operational performance". He added: "The role of the Investor Relations Department is an essential part of the corporate governance principles which aims to improve work environment, transparency

and flow of information with the shareholders. VIVA is keen to apply all rules and regulations that are in line with our principles, values and professional standards resulting in our shareholders' interests. Therefore, we always seek to concentrate our efforts in achieving the best results through an integrated professional team in an efficient and timely manner."

During the conference, VIVA was represented by Wassim El Hayek, General Manager of the Investor Relations and M&A, who commented on the results and the positive role of the MEIRA by promoting communication and transparency with the investment community. Regarding the results, VIVA has maintained a leading position over the last four years as one of the best companies in Kuwait and the Middle East as result of VIVA policies and the full support of the prudent executive management that applies the highest transparency and professionalism standards which have yielded a lot of confidence in the investment community, shareholders and financial analyst. In addition, VIVA has participated in various investor relations events during 2019 regionally and internationally with an aim to enhance communication methods with the investors.

Commenting on the awards, Andrew Tarbuck, MEIRA Chair, said: "The Middle East has seen a tremendous rise in efforts to implement best practice in IR and corporate governance to accommodate the current demands from regional and international investors. This year, we saw stiff competition between companies across the region, further demonstrating the commitment to the quality of IR in the Middle East. For the first time this year, we had banks that were not in the UAE dominate the award list, clearly illustrating the regional drive towards excellent IR. We would like to congratulate the winners and look forward to continuing to support all MEIRA members and IR professionals in raising the bar and promoting the development of the region's capital markets".



CEO Maziad Al-Harbi



Wassim El Hayek

MEIRA Annual Conference and Awards is the largest IR event in MENA. This benchmark event brings together participants from locally listed firms, international corporates, investors, research analysts and advisors, as well as representatives of the region's Regulatory bodies. The aim of the Conference is to provide delegates with a networking platform and to encourage dialogue around market challenges and best practice, while educating participants and stakeholders on the importance of Investor Relations, transparency and corporate governance.

MEIRA is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the role of investor relations and industry standards in corporate governance. Its mission is to enhance the reputation, efficiency and attractiveness of capital markets in the ME and seeks to foster increased dialogue among its members. MEIRA also encourages its members to exchange and adopt best practices in the field of IR and in partnership with financial markets, regulatory bodies and other market participants.

What's On

Sheraton Kuwait appoints Italian Chef at the Riccardo restaurant

Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel is pleased to announce the joining of Chef Pascal as the new Head Chef of the Riccardo Restaurant. With his vast knowledge and experience on the variety of traditional Italian cuisines, he will be bringing his new creations with his own creative twist to please the palates of both international and local guests mixing traditional with contemporary style.

Chef Pascal has always been passionate in creating quality in his food presentation and create flavors, using natural ingredients in achieving the highest standards required which has defined his career. With more than 18 years of experience in the hospitality and restaurant industries at various international hotels around the world, he brings with him his expertise on Italian cuisine together with a true passion for the culinary arts and new culinary ideas to bring the guest's dining experience to the next level.

"I'm looking forward to this new chapter in my culinary journey," adds Chef Pascal. "Happy that I can showcase my skills in such an iconic dining establishment and delighted about the opportunity to meet the patrons of the Riccardo Restaurant and help make their dining experience truly enjoyable."

The management and the family of Sheraton Kuwait, welcomes and wishes him a successful tenure. "We are confident that with his specializa-



tion in authentic Italian style dining, he will create culinary magic to delight our guests", states Fahed Abushaar, the Complex General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait.

Sheraton Kuwait's Riccardo Restaurant was first established in 1979 till this present day offering some of the finest Italian dishes. Since then, it has enjoyed an unrivalled reputation for providing a truly exceptional dining experience where delectable Italian cuisine, one of the finest in Kuwait, can be savored in the refined elegance of this most stylish and sophisticated restaurant.



'Friendship Tree Remains Fruitful' by Dr Suad Al-Sabah



Suad Al-Sabah

Following a 50-year career of literature, poetry, women, child and human causes during which Suad Al-Sabah never stopped writing, she is now looking back to recollect her best memories and highlight them in a new book titled "Friendship Tree Remains Fruitful", which is written in prose and is full of reminiscences about friends.

The new book published by Suad Al-Sabah Publishing and Distribution House includes articles, prefaces and letters she exchanged with family, friends and a number of political, media, literary and cultural figures. The book is dedicated to "the friends of the good old days", some of whom are like



genuine oud oil that smells better the older it gets, as she describes them.

The personalities referred to in the new book include Suad's late husband Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, late Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, late

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, late South African President Nelson Mandela and late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in addition to Abdul Aziz Hussein, Nizar Qabbani, Saleh Al-Ojairi, Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal and others.

DWC meets with UAE ambassador

The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates received Madam Narjis Al Shatti, Advisor of the Diplomatic Women Committee and Mrs Fauzia Abdul Basit, Public Relations Officer of the Committee at the UAE Embassy yesterday. The Ambassador was briefed on the Committee's objectives and activities and presented with an invitation to

attend the commencement ceremony of the Committee for its new cultural season 2019-2020 with the theme of "Kuwait on the Silk Road", which includes a trip to Abu Dhabi to visit the Louvre Museum and other institutions that highlight the cultural face of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The Ambassador welcomed and thanked the members of the committee for the visit and assured the support and assistance to organize an excursion to the public and private institutions. He praised the efforts of the DWC which aims to enhance cultural, social and tourism relations between the countries wishing more success and conciliation to the Women's Diplomatic Committee Kuwait.



GUST solidifies 3rd place at KCPC



GUST Computer Science team was ranked 3rd place in the seventh Kuwait Collegiate Programming Contest (KCPC), held at the Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) last week. Our students brilliantly solved 7 programming problems within five hours. The winning team members, Abdulwahab Alsaleh, Fawaz Alfalah, and Osama Kassem, have officially qualified to the Africa and Arab Collegiate Programming Championship which will be held in Sharm Elsheikh at the end of November 2019.

GUST was represented by 5 teams from the Computer Science Department among a total of 39 teams from different local educational institutions including: Kuwait University (KU), Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), Arab Open University (AOU), Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST), Kuwait Technical College (KTech), Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Algonquin College Kuwait (AC-Kuwait), American University of Kuwait (AUK), and Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST). GUST teams were able to compete and excel in problem solving and computational thinking. All teams were mentored by Dr FadiDeeb, a faculty member in the



Computer Science Department, and Ali Kelkawi, Teaching Assistant, and supported by student Abdulwahab Alsaleh.

KCPC is part of the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM-ICPC), the world's oldest and most prestigious programming contest for universities. It is a programming contest between university-level students where students compete in teams of three. It is a team-based, programming competition operating under the auspices of the Association for Computing Machinery,

ACM, and headquartered at the Arab Academy for Science and Technology. The contest involves a regional network of universities hosting national competitions with the national winners advance to the ACM-AACPC (Africa and Arab Collegiate Programming Contest). The purpose of the contest is to foster creativity, teamwork, and innovation in designing solutions for real-life problems and implementing efficient programs for solving them. It enables students to test their ability to perform under pressure.

Warba Insurance celebrates employees of over 40 years

Warba Insurance celebrates its employees who have completed long employment tenures at the Company as part of its commitment to providing a positive and rewarding work environment in which employees can perform, excel and innovate and ultimately add value to the company.

From this belief, Warba Insurance celebrated the retirement of Mrs. Vinita George who have completed 41 years at the Company. Having grown through positions in the Company, George retires from her last position as executive secretary to the Chief Executive Officer. George joined Warba Insurance in 1978, two years after its establishment. Meshari Al Nasheet (Head of Sales, Distribution and Operational Underwriting), said: "We thank Vinita

George for her lifelong contributions to our company. She is indeed an asset that we are proud of and many of our younger employees have learnt a lot from her. She has seen the industry grow in 41 years and can only appreciate and recognize the amount of valuable knowledge and expertise she has amassed and shared with each of us over the decades."

Warba Insurance was established in 1976, with Kuwait's heritage, values and traditions at heart. The company has since provided insurance services to individuals and companies in utmost integrity and security. With 40 years of experience, Warba Insurance continues to provide the highest standards and service quality in insurance policies that meet the needs of the segments it serves.



Meshari Al Nasheet, Head of Sales, Distribution and Operational Underwriting, awarding Vinita George.

Health

Venezuelans turn to alternative medicine amid severe shortages

CARACAS: The small waiting room at the home of self-styled healer "Brother Guayanes" in Caracas' rundown Petare district fills up quickly with patients — business has never been better.

With Venezuela's chronic medicine shortages and hyperinflation, more and more people are turning to alternative medicine to treat common ailments in the crisis-ravaged South American country. "We go to the hospital and there's nothing there. They don't have medicines, or they're too expensive, what are we to do?" said Rosa Saez, 77, who has come to get treatment for a painful arm.

Carlos Rosales — he uses the more ceremonious "Brother Guayanes" for his business — is finishing up a "spiritual intervention" on a patient in what passes for his surgery. The patient lies, eyes closed, on a cot as, in a series of swishes and clicks, the healer waves five pairs of scissors one after another over his prone body.

The healer says he performs 200 such interventions a week in a dim, candle-lit room that features two camp beds and an array of plaster statues that Rosales says represent "spiritual entities". A regular visitor to the spiritual center, Saez says she has faith in Rosales' methods: "He healed my kidneys."

Natural healing

All across Venezuela, but particularly in poor areas like Petare, patients cannot hope to afford the price of medicines that due to the economic crisis, have become exceedingly rare. Venezuela's pharmacists' federation say pharmacies and hospitals have on average only about 20 percent of the medicine stock needed.

Rosales' clinic is muggy with the smell of tobacco. A crucifix suspended from a chain around his neck, he practices a seeming mixture of smoke-blowing shamanism, plant-based medicine and mainstream religion.

Posters hung near the entrance remind clients to arrive with a candle and tobacco and "Don't forget that payment is in cash". Much like a general practitioner, Rosales spends time consulting with his patients, examining them with a stethoscope, before offering a diagnosis. Often he prescribes potions based on plants and fruit, such as pineapple and a type of local squash known as chayote. "We know medicines are necessary," he says. "I'm not against medicine, but my medicine is botany."

Plants replace drugs

At her stall in a downtown Caracas market, 72-year-old Lilia Reyes says she has

seen her trade in medicinal plants flourish. "I can't keep up with the demand," she said at her stall, bathed in the aroma of camomile, one of the 150 plants she sells.

Careless consumption of some herbs can be deadly, warns Grismery Morillo. A doctor at a Caracas public hospital, she says she has seen many cases of acute liver failure in people who have eaten certain roots. According to Venezuela's opposition parties, some 300,000 chronically ill people are in danger of dying from the shortages of medicines. But despite the risks, people like Carmen Teresa say they have no alternative.

In the kitchen of her restaurant which closed down three years ago as the economic crisis took hold, the 58-year-old Colombian prepares an infusion of fig leaves to treat "diabetic neuropathy". The painkillers needed for the condition are "too expensive" and prices are going up due to hyperinflation, so she is cutting back on the pills and supplementing her treatment with herbal infusions. She needs at least four tablets a day to keep her diabetes at bay. Her mother, bedridden since breaking a leg a year ago, suffers from Alzheimer's disease and needs five pills a day for hypertension.

"I'm still taking my pills, but I reduced the dose," says Teresa, who is also replacing cholesterol pills with lemon juice. — AFP



CARACAS: Colombian Carmen Teresa, a Venezuelan resident, explains how she prepares a fig leaf tea as an alternative medicine for diabetes during an interview in Caracas. Venezuelans turn to alternative treatments and the use of herbs to alleviate the disease conditions due to the lack or high cost of medicines. — AFP

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Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj
ENT Specialist

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

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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.

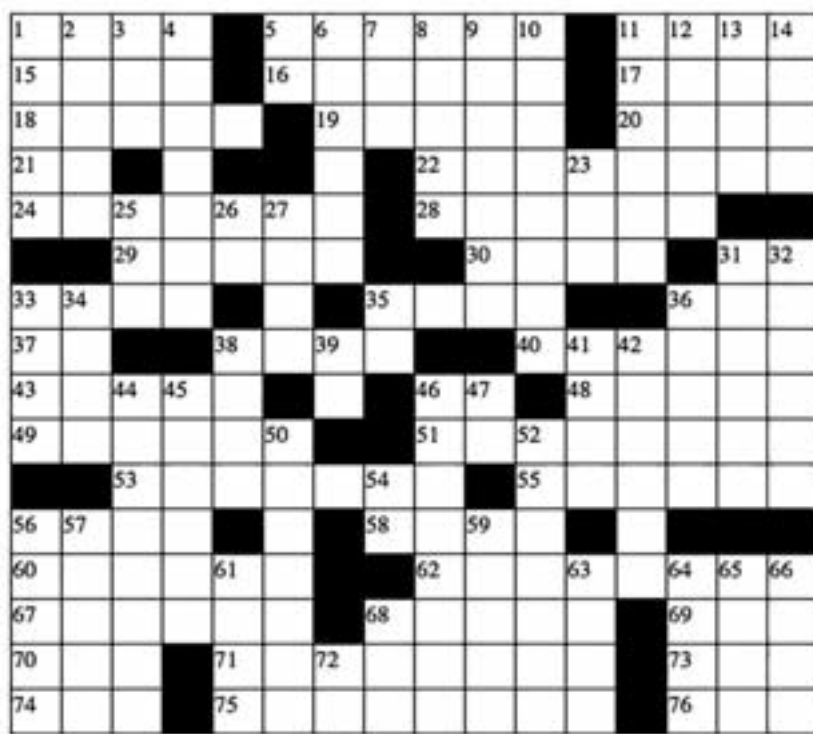
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2328



ACROSS

1. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
5. Any member of Athapaskan tribes that migrated to the southwestern desert (from Arizona to Texas and south into Mexico).
11. A native or inhabitant of Scotland.
15. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
16. Small tree of dry open parts of southern Africa having erect angled branches suggesting candelabra.
17. Queen of the Olympian gods in ancient Greek mythology.
18. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
19. Follower of Rastafarianism.
20. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
21. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
22. An act of scaling by the use of ladders (especially the walls of a fortification).
24. A republic in southwestern Africa on the south Atlantic coast (formerly called South West Africa).
28. Trousers made with chino cloth.
29. Lower in esteem.
30. Profane or obscene expression usually of surprise or anger.
33. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
37. A public promotion of some product or service.
40. A young eagle.
43. Greek mythology.
48. A strong belief in a supernatural power or powers that control human destiny.
49. Italian brandy made from residue of grapes after pressing.
51. I species.
53. Bridge consisting of a series of arches supported by piers used to carry a road (or railroad) over a valley.
55. Either of a pair of thick-walled tubes that carry urine from the kidney to the urinary bladder.
56. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
58. (Greek mythology) Goddess of discord.
60. Of or relating to the Gypsies or their language or culture.
62. Hypothetical universal solvent once sought by alchemists.
67. Spider monkeys.
69. The cry made by sheep.
70. A United States unit of weight equivalent to 2000 pounds.
71. Professional care for the feet and toenails.
73. European cave-dwelling aquatic salamander with permanent external gills.
74. Standard time in the 5th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 75th meridian.
75. Lack of strength or vigor esp from illness.
76. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.

DOWN

1. Large dark brown North American arboreal carnivorous mammal.
2. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
3. Top part of an apron.
4. Brazilian tree with handsomely marked wood.
5. An associate degree in nursing.
6. The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.
7. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
8. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
9. Someone who is dazzlingly skilled in any field.
10. Cause to grow thin or weak.
11. The second great battle of the American Civil War (1862).
12. One of the often brightly colored and branching homlike structures on the back of the nudibranch (and other related mollusks) that serve as gills.
13. Toward the mouth or oral region.
14. The income arising from land or other property.
23. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
25. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
26. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
27. A small island.
31. Be noisy with activity.
32. Male sheep especially a castrated one.
34. The sixth month of the civil year.
35. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
36. A bachelor's degree in literature.
38. An informal term for a father.
39. A bachelor's degree in religion.
41. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
42. God of wisdom or prophecy.
44. The paved surface of a thoroughfare.
45. Constituting or having to do with or suggestive of a literary epic.
46. An Italian poet famous for love lyrics (1304-1374).
47. Before noon.
50. Having the benefit of careful prior consideration or counsel.
52. Sometimes placed in family Hyacinthaceae.
54. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
57. A genus of Procyonidae.
59. The part of the small intestine between the jejunum and the cecum.
61. Type genus of the Nepidae.
63. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
64. Very dark black.
65. The general activity of selling.
66. Flat and uninspiring.
68. A loud harsh or strident noise.
72. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are willing to lend a helping hand to a friend today. Your psychological understanding of others is fine tuned and you are able to understand a situation or plea for help in short time. You have resources and can quickly access a situation and find avenues of help that will make a positive difference in this person's life. Feeling good about yourself this afternoon, you may take some time to browse through a bookstore or department store and enjoy the lights and activities around you. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much for now. You are happy to have friendly people around you this evening that basically have similar interests.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Legal issues are in the air. Just wave your hand above your head and you will pick a topic out of the air. Today, this strong inclination toward the legal, justice and balance type of issues may come to you through a volunteer situation that you see needs attention. This could be helping to do research for the pro bono projects that come about when the special-needs citizen needs counsel. Perhaps you could create a group of people that want to eventually work in the legal system and want to gain experience and to be helpful to those that cannot afford legal help. You feel a love of order and law—an appreciation for responsibility and duty.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are fulfilled by meeting challenges and overcoming obstacles today. You could be excited about working with someone new. Your directional abilities are in high focus. You find that you can think things through and really use your mind to make clear choices. Career decisions are straightforward and easy to make. A change in your environment is on the horizon. You could receive unexpected help from a senior or someone in command. A person or teacher could appear. Deep and penetrating analysis, particularly with a group or in relation to your situation, may be beneficial. Fun and sometimes mind-boggling conversations send you into some research hunting this evening. Perhaps you are fascinated by an awareness of some scientific discovery.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Challenges call for a check-up regarding your nutritional intake and your stamina capabilities. If these are not up to par, you could be left with a confused feeling and perhaps a headache. Before the day gets underway, make sure your nutrition is taken care of and your frame of mind is positive. You could be helping others learn how to live a less stressful life. Thinking things through, accounting for all the details, making careful measurements—these and similar experiences keep your mind active and involved. An interest in health and work may come into focus. You attract money today. This is a very good day for job-related events.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is a yearning to broaden your horizons and reach for the ultimate experience, although it is only a regular workday. Settle down and think about planning some adventure so that your day-to-day challenges will not seem so boring. Law, politics, education, travel and religion are some of the areas where an emotionally-charged drama will be played. This could be a difficult time to relax and remain calm as you may not appreciate the easy way or clear-cut option and may choose instead a more difficult path. Get out-of-doors and enjoy some fresh air this evening. Later, you will have time to be quiet and enjoy some relaxation time by yourself—regain some focus. Do a neighbor a favor this evening. Run an errand or fix a hinge.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Deep and penetrating analysis, particularly with a group or in relation to your situation, may be in order. Others could seek you out for your psychological insight and understanding. Consider making changes in your environment. Finding answers takes on a special significance now. This is another good day for requesting that someone return a loan. There is a heightened interest in getting things organized into a rational system. Partnerships, especially those involving business contacts, are agreeable for this next week—now is the time to get the presentation in order. There is an opportunity to attend a social event this evening. If you decide to go... You will be most elegant. Your caring attitude toward others attracts people to you.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

A young person may need your guidance and today is a good time to help this person think through some decisions. Helping those who cannot help themselves—and getting such help if you need it—is very important to you. A creative part of you is unleashed this afternoon and you spend a great deal of time with a hobby or invention that will sell very well if you decide to sell. You might consider getting a patent on your work so that only you can make a claim to your invention. There is a cornucopia of subjects in which you could delve into now that would help quench your need to escape. Take a day away from your daily work. Pump a little into this evening and get the body energized and refreshed. Consider a light meal for tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This day begins and ends with positive communication. Friends may seek you out for your guidance regarding some future event, perhaps issues surrounding a reunion or some other gathering like a charity ball. You will be able to handle any of the questions without any difficulties and quick results benefit many. Getting several different groups together for committees will help make the event be more organized and presentable. Although all of this attention may make you feel important, you will be very happy to be in a less demanding situation. You can relax tonight. A date night may not be a late night but it has the potential of being a delightful evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You will be able to dedicate more time to your loved ones this evening but for now, you may feel the push to complete tasks and get down to your day job. It is easy to reach burnout by stretching your physical energies—try to set a reasonable pace. Relationships—romantic, business, social—are the arena where this drama is played. Try a new approach with your loved one that would involve open communication... Plan a weekend getaway for the near future. In coming to know the other person, there is a better understanding of the individual self. Marriage is strongly indicated. Harmony is long lasting.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

With you, dreams and ideals have become a way of life. You seek to bring them down to earth and make them real. You will, as a song says, never let your dreams depart. Yours is a path leading to a career in music, mysticism or the arts. You understand the forest behind the trees and the unity beyond all separateness. You could discover yourself through creativity and self-expression, especially at this time. Increased confidence and a more outgoing manner may be the key that opens new doors in your career. A kind of romantic thinking characterizes your approach to life this evening. This could mean a longing for a soul mate or a yearning to save the world.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a need to be respected—it is an emotionally charged issue at this time. Watch yourself move throughout the day and make note of how you respond, progress, solve problems, laugh and perhaps just how you relate to others, and you will either gain a confirmation that will help you gain confidence or you will see positive ways to make yourself known. This is the time of recognition and it doesn't necessarily mean the recognition of others. This afternoon it is important to read the directions when it comes to a technical problem. A handbook or the nearby hardware store is packed with resources you need.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are willing to work hard, particularly when you know you are only moments away from achieving the results you desire. Get your ideas out there. Business travel or conferences provide an excellent forum for your plans. This business travel may also allow you to meet others who are on a path similar to yours. Today you will meet influential people that will help you advance in your career. Everything seems to be working to your advantage. Be willing to return the favor to a young co-worker this afternoon. Clear decisions are getting easier to find; thank goodness. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and for having a good time. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Halloween

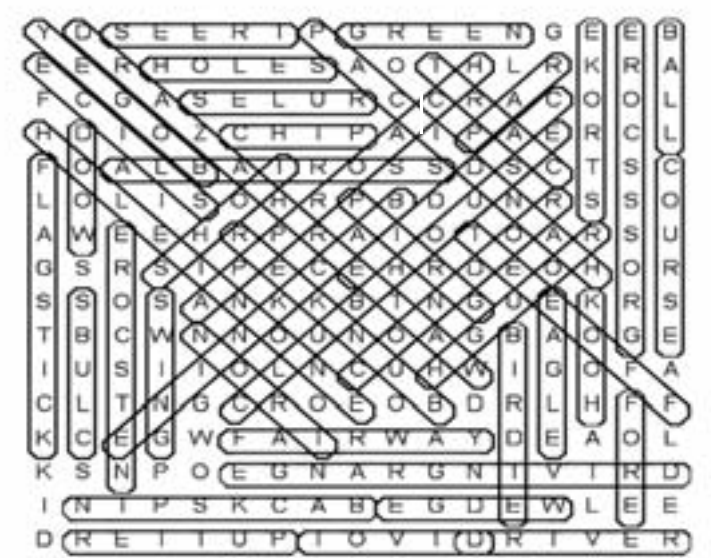
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an activity played on Halloween.



- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| APPLES | COSTUME | JACK O LANTERN | SKELETON |
| BATS | DRACULA | MASK | SKULL |
| BLACK CAT | FRIGHTENING | MUMMY | SPIDERS |
| BROOMSTICK | FULL MOON | NIGHT | TOMBSTONE |
| CANDLE | GHOSTS | PUMPKIN | VAMPIRE |
| CANDY | GHOULS | SCARECROW | WEREWOLF |
| CEMETERY | GOBLINS | SCARY | WITCHES |
| COFFIN | GRAVEYARD | SCREAM | ZOMBIE |

Yesterday's Solution

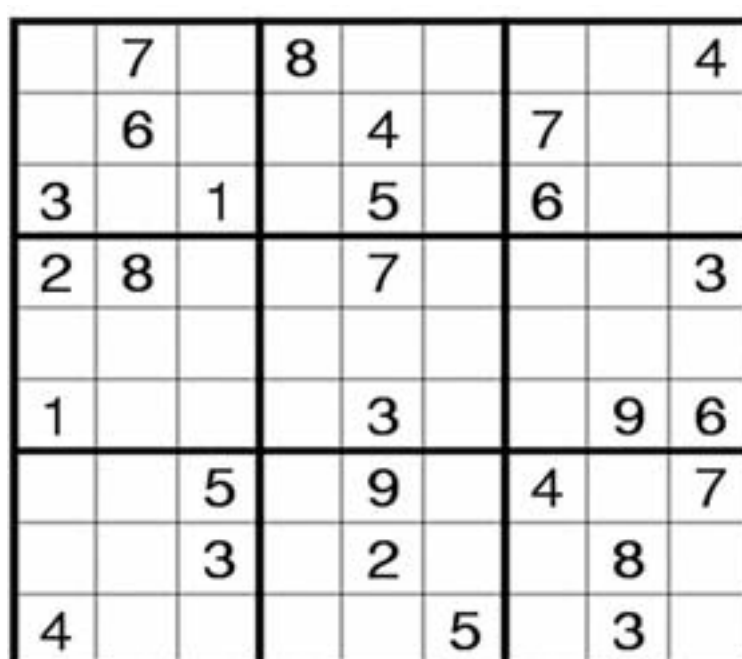
Golf



- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ALBATROSS | CLUBHOUSE | GREEN | ROUGH |
| APPROACH | CLUBS | GRIP | RULES |
| BACK NINE | CONDOR | GROSS SCORE | SHOT |
| BACKSPIN | COURSE | HANDICAP | SLICE |
| BALL | DIVOT | HOLE IN ONE | STROKE |
| BIRDIE | DRIVER | HOLES | SWING |
| BOGEY | DRIVING RANGE | HOOK | TEE OFF |
| BUNKER | EAGLE | IRON | TREES |
| CADDIE | FAIRWAY | NET SCORE | WATER HAZARD |
| CART | FLAGSTICK | PAR | WEDGE |
| CHIP | FORE | PUTTER | WOOD |

The hidden message is: GOLF IS A GOOD WALK SPOILED

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019



This photo taken from Via della Conciliazione in Rome on October 2, 2019 shows the Vatican's St Peter's Basilica reflected in a puddle following heavy rainfalls. — AFP

ESports a hard sell in grades-obsessed Singapore

In a country highly focused on academic achievement, Singaporean Galvin Kang Jian Wen did something almost unthinkable — he stopped studying as a teenager to spend more time playing computer games. He defied parental and social disapproval after his high school finals to pursue his dream of becoming an eSports champion, but believes the sacrifice has paid off as he heads with his national team to Southeast Asia's mini-Olympics.

Teenage gamers worldwide are shunning mainstream education in favor of spending hours tapping away on computers and phones, attracted by a booming eSports scene where prizes at major tournaments reach millions of dollars. But perhaps nowhere is the prospect of swapping textbooks for joysticks more daunting than in Singapore, which tops global education rankings and where striving for academic excellence is deeply ingrained in the national psyche.

strict education system, a focus on getting good exam results and where a growing number of students go on to university or another form of tertiary education. The pressure starts as early as primary school, and critics say it has contributed to the growing incidence of mental illness among the young, although the government is seeking to make things easier through steps like reducing exams.

The focus on education and a choice of well-paying jobs in the affluent country mean few are willing to pursue a career in the fledgling eSports scene — Singapore has only around 15 professional gamers. "Singapore is very focused on study," said the country's eSports association president Ng Chong Geng, recalling how when he gave a talk at a university, not a single student expressed an interest in becoming a professional player. "Now more or less everyone graduates with some sort of degree... If you try to be an eSports athlete you have to give up on a lot of other opportunities."

Players also complain the country's system of conscription — male citizens undergo two years of national service from the age of 18 — is a hindrance for promising gamers who need time to develop their skills.

But after retirement?

Kang is not alone among players heading to the SEA Games, taking place in the Philippines in November and December, in having chosen to focus on gaming rather than study. "The thing that most changed me was quitting school so I can play for the whole day, play full time," said 17-year-old Thai Dota2 gamer Nuengnara Teeramahanon, who quit school aged 16. "I just did not want to study any more, I just feel like it's so boring."

However, the lack of qualifications could be a disadvantage for players when they retire, which can come at a young age in eSports. In some games, players can be finished by 23 as their reactions slow. Players from nine countries will compete in six titles at the SEA Games — Mobile Legends, Arena of Valor, Dota 2, Starcraft II, Tekken 7, and Hearthstone. Supporters hope the tournament could be a step towards a spot at the Olympics although that seems unlikely any time soon, with the venerable institution so far unenthusiastic about the discipline.

Players who cut short their education and made a success of eSports say their families have, for the most part, accepted their choice — although they stress they are not encouraging other gamers to follow their lead. Kang used to be part of a team in the United States, where his accommodation was paid for and he received a salary and prize money. He currently plays for a Thailand-based team. "Eventually they (my parents) were convinced," he said. "I could pay for my own food, live on my own." — AFP



This photograph taken on September 2, 2019 shows participants from Southeast Asia attend an Esports bootcamp training session in Singapore. — AFP photos



Kang — who is his national side's coach and competes in multiplayer battle game Dota 2 under the moniker "Meracle" — said his belief in his own playing skills was so great he had the courage to do what most would not dare. "I stopped studying and went to pursue this passion of mine," the 23-year-old told AFP at a Southeast Asian Games boot camp in Singapore, which was organized by the tournament's eSports partner, gaming hardware company Razer. "Obviously (my parents) were not very happy about my decision because nobody wants their kids to stop studying."

Education pressure

He is the exception, however, in a country known for a

Lifestyle | Features



Canadian poet Anne Carson



Kenyan writer Ngugi Wa Thiong'o



Maryse Conde

POST-SCANDAL ACADEMY TO AWARD TWO NOBEL LITERATURE PRIZES

The Swedish Academy will crown two Nobel literature laureates this year, making up for lost time after it skipped last year's prize over a sexual harassment scandal. Experts say the academy will seek to avoid ruffling any feathers with this year's choice of laureates as it seeks to move on from the scandal that saw the husband of one of its members jailed for rape.

Some names creating a buzz ahead of this year's literature prize are Canadian poet Anne Carson, Kenyan writer Ngugi Wa Thiong'o and French Guadeloupean Maryse Conde, according to betting sites such as Unibet. Stockholm's literary circles have also speculated about Romanian poet and novelist Mircea Cartarescu and Polish writer and activist Olga Tokarczuk. The Swedish Academy, which dates back to 1786, is at pains to repair its reputation after the scandal exposed scheming, conflicts of interest, harassment and a culture of silence among its 18 members, long esteemed as the country's guardians of culture.

The revelations shook Sweden, a Lutheran nation that prides itself on transparency and consensual democracy, and is intolerant of inequality. Left in tatters by the debacle, the Academy, tasked with selecting the Nobel Literature laureate, postponed the 2018 prize until this

year — the first such delay in 70 years.

Nobel sex scandal

Now revamped with new members and statutes, the institution will announce two winners, one for 2018 and one for 2019, on Thursday, October 10 at 1:00 pm (11:00 GMT). It is widely expected to pick writers who won't spark further controversy, and at least one is almost certain to be a woman, literary critics interviewed by AFP predicted, as women represent only 14 of the 114 literature laureates since 1901.

The Academy does not release a shortlist. While speculation about possible winners is always a guessing game, it is even more so this year given the many changes within the institution. Among the many names cited as possible winners are Chinese fiction writer Can Xue, Japanese author Haruki Murakami, Russian novelist Lyudmila Ulitskaya, US novelist Joyce Carol Oates and Canada's Margaret Atwood.

The Academy's woes began in November 2017 when it disagreed about how to manage its close ties to Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, accused and later convicted of rape. Arnault is married to Katarina Frostenson, a member of the Academy who later resigned over the scandal at the height of the #MeToo movement against

harassment of women. The pair also ran a cultural club in Stockholm that received funding from the body. Ultimately, seven members quit the Academy, including then permanent secretary Sara Danius. "From having been associated with literature of the highest order, the Nobel Prize is for many now associated with #MeToo... and a dysfunctional organisation," Swedish literary critic Madelaine Levy told AFP.

Reputational damage

The empty seats have since been filled, and in June 2019 literature professor Mats Malm took over as permanent secretary. "The changes have been very productive and we are hopeful for the future," Malm told AFP in an interview just days before the prize announcement. He acknowledged the affair had tainted the institution and said improvements were still needed. "A lot of hard work remains, of that we are certain."

Retired publisher Svante Weyler said he thought the Academy's — and prize's — reputation could be repaired, "but only through wise choices of laureates." He expected the Academy would try hard to steer clear of controversy, and probably go for one author highly regarded in literary circles and one with broader appeal. "Absolutely no one that can cause a controversial politi-

cal discussion," he said. Meanwhile, Olivier Truc, who recently published a book on the scandal, noted the Academy had courted controversy before. "For instance when the award was given to two sitting members of the Academy," he said, referring to the 1974 decision to give the prize to Harry Martinsson and Eyvind Johnson. Giving the nod to US singer songwriter Bob Dylan in 2016 also led some to question the Academy's judgment.

New procedure

The Academy used to be the sole arbiter of who gets the Nobel Literature Prize. But following demands of external oversight from the Nobel Foundation which manages the prize money, the selection committee has been altered to include five members from outside the body. Given the stain on the Academy's reputation, Levy raised the possibility "that those given the award won't accept it" — as French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre did in 1964. This year's laureate — especially if it's a male author — can expect their work and personal life to come under great scrutiny, in particular for expressions of misogyny, Levy added. — AFP

Five things to know about the Nobel Literature Prize

The Swedish Academy will tomorrow crown two Nobel literature laureates after postponing the 2018 prize for a year to deal with the fallout of a sexual harassment scandal that rocked the venerable institution. Here are five things to know about the Nobel Literature Prize.

Most prestigious award

Each year, the Swedish Academy awards 16 prizes, the most famous and prestigious being the Nobel Literature Prize. In his 1895 last will and testament, Swedish scientist and philanthropist Alfred Nobel tasked the institution with awarding the Nobel Literature Prize each year. Since 1901, four or five of the Academy's 18 members have been elected to serve on its Nobel Committee for a three-year term, designated to sort through the nominations and provide the rest of the Academy with a shortlist of possible winners.

The nominees' bodies of work are then studied and discussed by the entire Academy. The members hold a vote in October to choose the winner — the laureate must obtain more than half of the votes cast. Following last year's scandal, the Nobel Foundation that funds the Nobel Prizes insisted that five external people also join the Nobel Committee for at least 2019 and 2020.

350 nominees a year

The Academy's archives are bursting with letters from the world's most renowned literary figures nominating candidates. Each year, the institution receives around 350 nominations submitted by those eligible to do so: former Nobel literature laureates, members of other countries' equivalent academies, literature professors, and the heads of national writers' associations. Each one vaunts the talents of their candidate, some going so far as to slip in a little gift for Academy members... a gesture they typically frown upon. To be valid, nominations must be presented or renewed each year, and must be received by the Academy by January 31 at the latest. To qualify, nominees must still be alive, and, according to the strict rules laid out by Alfred Nobel, must have published a piece of work within the past year, though the Academy has occasionally strayed from that requirement.

Seven reserved years, two refusals

A total of 114 people have won the Nobel Literature Prize. The prize has been awarded on 110 occasions, with two people sharing the prize on four occasions. It has

also been declined twice: In 1958 Russian author Boris Pasternak accepted the prize but was later forced by Soviet authorities to decline it, and in 1964, French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre turned it down. The institution, founded in 1786, has on eight occasions chosen to reserve the prize: in 1915, 1919, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1936, 1949 and 2018. On six of those occasions, the prize was delayed then awarded at the same time as the following year's prize, as is the case on Thursday.

France tops list of laureates

France takes the gold medal for the most Nobel Literature Prizes with 15 laureates, including the first one ever awarded, to Sully Prudhomme in 1901. Tied in second place are the United States and Britain with 12 laureates each, including last year's winner, Japanese-born British author Kazuo Ishiguro, author of "Remains of the Day" and "Never Let Me Go". In terms of languages, however, laureates writing in Moliere's tongue find themselves outnumbered by those writing in Shakespeare's, with 29 anglophone authors honored since 1901.

Rocked by affairs

The Academy has been rocked by several affairs in modern times. In the name of the "independence of literature", the Swedish Academy refused to condemn a 1989 fatwa against British author Salman Rushdie following the publication of his novel, "The Satanic Verses". Academy members were divided about whether to stand as neutral guarantors of the arts, or as supporters of their fellow author. Three members angered by the Academy's chosen path of silence left their seats, though technically they were appointed for life and could not resign. It was not until 27 years later, in 2016, that the Academy finally condemned the fatwa against Rushdie. Then, in late 2017 and early 2018, it disagreed publicly about how to manage its close ties to Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, accused and later convicted of rape.

Arnault is married to Katarina Frostenson, a member of the Academy who later resigned over the scandal. The rift exposed scheming, conflicts of interest, harassment and a culture of silence among members, leaving the Academy in disarray and forcing it to postpone the 2018 prize. The Academy's statutes have since been revised to increase transparency and allow members to resign. Seven members quit the Academy in 2018 and have since been replaced. — AFP

Hidden Russian roots of France's Resistance anthem revealed

It is a song close to French hearts, the building power of its defiant march swelling chests and bringing a tear to the eye. But the "Song of the Partisans" — the hymn of the French Resistance which moves most French people more than their bellicose national anthem "La Marseillaise" — was in fact written over a pot of tea in London by a group of Russians.

For years the authorities were content to quietly perpetuate the myth that the song had sprung from the brave hearts of fighters who had taken to the "maquis" and the mountains to resist the German occupiers during World War II. Indeed the Free French forces of General Charles de Gaulle ordered that the names of its true authors be hushed up, a new exhibition on the song in Paris shows. "If people realized that it had been written in London over tea and sandwiches it wouldn't quite have had the same ring nor credibility," said curator Lionel Dardenne. In fact, the music was written by a young White Russian aristocrat named Anna Betoulinsky who worked in the Free French canteen in the British capital. She later became Anna Marly after plucking her stage name from a telephone directory.

BBC hit

It was only after her "Guerrilla Song" had aired on the BBC that Marly — who grew up on the French Riviera after fleeing Saint Petersburg when her father was murdered by the Bolsheviks — was persuaded to adapt it for her adopted homeland. In one of the many historical ironies that surround the stirring ballad, she actually wrote the original version in Russian to celebrate the sacrifice of Soviet partisans who had slowed Hitler's advance on Moscow.

But it was the French version that was later included in the repertoire of the Red Army Choir. Indeed, its lyrics were mostly written by another Russian, Joseph Kessel, whose family moved to France when he was also a child. A heroic pilot in both the world wars, the journalist went on to write "Belle de Jour" and the "Army of Shadows" — a bleak, unromantic portrait of the Resistance — both of which were made into classic films.

In a further irony, the song was taken up by Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh in their struggle to free Vietnam from its French and later American overlords. Supporters of French Algeria, whose armed wing tried to assassinate Marly and Kessel's hero De Gaulle on several occasions, also adopted it. It also very nearly became the national anthem of South Korea. Dardenne said a large part of the song's appeal rests on its "perceived authenticity... and on the belief



In this undated file photo Russian musician Anna Marly, who composed the music of "Le Chant des Partisans", anthem of French resistance during World War II, sings. — AFP

which still persists that it was written anonymously and came up from the depths of the Resistance."

Blurred origins

Even though it is a central part of many official French commemoration ceremonies, "most people don't really know where it comes from", he added. Such is its power and malleability that it exists simultaneously as an official anthem and a protest song, with the French "yellow vest" protest movement reclaiming it and changing the lyrics to urge President Emmanuel Macron to listen to the people.

Dardenne said it was the Resistance leader Emmanuel d'Astier de la Vigerie who, after rewriting parts of song himself, insisted on its real authorship being blurred. Neither Marly nor Kessel — who believed that "a people without songs is a people who cannot fight" — objected given there was a war to be won, the curator added. However, over time their roles became further eclipsed because "the 'Song of the Partisans' is deeply anchored in people's hearts because people think that it comes from the maquis."

Marly in particular suffered, Dardenne said, despite the fact that her companion song, "The Complaint of the Partisan" which she wrote with Astier de la Vigerie, was taken up and re-recorded by Leonard Cohen in 1969 as "The Partisan". "She never quite had the fame that she would have wanted," Dardenne said. She died in a Russian Orthodox monastery in Alaska in 2006. — AFP

Chalamet goes unto the breach with Henry V role

Hollywood A-lister Timothee Chalamet admits he was intimidated by the prospect of playing the title role in a new film version of Shakespeare's Henry V, but then he also likes a challenge. "To do Shakespeare and be an American playing an English king is properly intimidating," said Chalamet, in Korea to promote "The King" at the 24th Busan International Film Festival. "But I try to work on things that are challenging, things that are scary," he said.

The 23-year-old American was Oscar-nominated for his breakout turn in "Call Me by Your Name" (2017) and said in some ways he could relate to the tale of the English king who was thrown into the adult world at an early age. "Even right now there's a room full of adults and I'm the

young person here," said Chalamet. "It can feel some version of not normal to be young and to deal with adults in a professional manner."

Chalamet was joined on stage yesterday by "The King" director David Michod and fellow Australian and co-star Joel Edgerton. Also making the trip to South Korea were producers Dede Gardner and Jeremy Kleiner from the Oscar-winning production house Plan B, which is co-owned by Brad Pitt. "I have so far worked on material that is very different to this," Chalamet said, "but I leapt at this opportunity. "Travelling around the world with a film like this is the kind of thing that when you are a kid you dream about. It's a wild ride."

The visit has brought a touch of Tinseltown to Asia's largest film festival, with hundreds of fans camping outside the Busan Cinema Centre in preparation for a red carpet walk from the stars before an evening outdoor screening. "I did not expect this kind of welcome in Korea," said Chalamet. "It's deeply gratifying." Among those to have played King Henry V in the past are acclaimed British actors Laurence Olivier and Kenneth Branagh, while more recently Tom Hiddleston tackled the role in the BBC's award-winning "The Hollow Crown" series in 2012.

The New York-raised Chalamet said he had called up the services of an English speech coach in order to nail the accent, but had been more concerned with working "through the lens of the 15th century". "I went to a drama high school and one of the things the teachers there wanted us to learn was to choose the roles that are daunting rather than the roles that are in your wheel house, or that you are more comfortable with," said Chalamet.

He said Henry was "universally relatable" for youngsters who "don't have the skill set, mentally or socially, to deal with the circumstances". "I am excited that a new



(L-R) Producer Dede Gardner, producer Jeremy Kleiner, director David Michod, actor Timothee Chalamet and actor Joel Edgerton pose during a press conference of Gala Presentation "The King" for the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan yesterday. — AFP photos

generation can see his kind of material," he said. "It's just a great opportunity and I had to jump at it." Australian Michod, previously acclaimed for his gritty crime world drama "Animal Kingdom" (2010), said when writing the screenplay with Edgerton they had turned to the work of Shakespeare as a "starting point", but then had created a story of their own.

"Very early we decided to build a story of our own,

taking some pieces from Shakespeare, taking stuff from the deep research that we did, but also just making stuff up," said Michod. "But it is testament to the power of his writing that even though it is so old it still feels relevant today." — AFP



US actor Timothee Chalamet speaks during a press conference of Gala Presentation "The King" for the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan.



This picture taken on October 4, 2019 shows South Korean actress Kim Ji-mee (C) speaking during an open talk at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan. — AFP photos

Film fest highlights tumultuous life of 'South Korea's Liz Taylor'

One of the most prolific actresses of all time, Kim Ji-mee has been dubbed South Korea's Elizabeth Taylor for her looks, popularity, and a string of high-profile marriages which challenged social taboos. As an actress and producer she featured in more than 700 films before retiring in the 1990s, but her personal life was equally groundbreaking at a time when divorce in South Korea carried enormous stigma for women.

Now 79, her extraordinary life has been highlighted at this year's Busan film festival, Asia's largest, where six of her movies were shown and she gave a series of talks. In a sleek grey suit matching her silver pixie cut, Kim oozed elegance and poise in an interview with AFP. "I had to be strong... in order not to be suppressed," she said. "I had to be active in every aspect in my life. When I was busiest, I worked for 30 films all at the same time. I had my own children but I didn't have the time to raise them."

Despite its economic advances, South Korea remains a conservative society where until 2015 anyone indulging in extramarital sex risked a prison sentence. Kim married four times at a time when divorced women often faced enduring stigma and isolation. Her spouses include a famed filmmaker, a star singer, and top actor Choi Moo-ryong, who was married to another woman when he started dating Kim.



This picture taken on October 4, 2019 shows South Korean actress Kim Ji-mee posing during an interview with AFP as part of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan.

The two superstars were the highest-profile couple to be jailed for breaking the adultery law, spending about a week in prison in the early 1960s. They eventually married, but the union ended six years later. "Human beings have feelings, and therefore their minds can change," Kim told AFP. "And when things are bad and you know you can't bear it, I don't think you should simply endure. You should get out and better yourself. "At the time I caused an unprecedented social scandal, but I think I've taken responsibility for all of my actions," she added. "I've lived my life with a sense of dignity."

'Anything men can do...'

Kim was spotted aged 17 by late director Kim Ki-young, whose works continue to inspire many South Korean cineastes and their movies, including "Parasite" by Palme D'or winner Bong Joon-ho. "He was a bit of an oddball," the actress said of Kim. "He would often give no direction and guidance on acting. When he didn't like something, he would just walk away and scratch his head from afar."

"There were many instances where I didn't understand what was going on. But I understand things differently now. I think he was a genius." She moved into production to make more socially critical movies, starting with 1986's "Ticket" — in which she also starred as the madam of a coffee delivery service staffed by women made to provide sex services.

For the movie — one of those screened at the festival — Kim and renowned director Im Kwon-taek interviewed several women working in so-called "ticket cafes" in the port of Sokcho. "We would pay for their coffee delivery service so they can come to our hotel, and listen to their stories for days in tears," she told AFP.

"This was a period when the whole country was beyond excited because we were going to hold the Seoul Olympics (1988), but in reality impoverished women were being forced into such work in order to make ends meet. "I was shocked and as a woman I was extremely infuriated." Before the screening the film faced censorship from the then military government — which claimed the movie "couldn't possibly be based on true stories" — and a number of scenes had to be cut from the original version before it hit theatres.

A previous project, a tale about a traditional courtesan becoming a nun, was never completed because of strong opposition from the nation's Buddhist orders who thought the film's theme too provocative. "Kim reigned as the most beautiful woman in South Korea for the longest possible time," BIFF programmer Jung Mi told AFP. "But Kim also has been a self-reliant woman and a strong human being. "In the field of cinema — where sexism can be at its worst within South Korea's male-dominated society — Kim has always remained in the mainstream and never been an outsider." The actress headed a Korean cineastes' rights group in the 1990s, and her wide network of friends and acquaintances included the South's late president and Nobel laureate Kim Dae-jung. "I've been ambitious," she said. "Anything men can do, women can do too." — AFP

Sony's PlayStation 5 launch set for late 2020

Sony said yesterday its next-generation PlayStation 5 console, with new immersive features giving players the tactile experience of virtual worlds, would launch for the 2020 holiday season. The Japanese electronics firm, which had teased its new console earlier this year, said a major new feature of the updated console would be its immersive controller.

"One of our goals with the next generation is to deepen the feeling of immersion when you play games, and we had the opportunity with our new controller to re-imagine how the sense of touch can add to that immersion," said Jim Ryan, president and chief executive of Sony Interactive Entertainment. The new controller will offer "haptic feedback" that brings players closer to the action of games.

"With haptics, you truly feel a broader range of feedback, so crashing into a wall in a race car feels much different than making a tackle on the football field," Ryan said. "You can even get a sense for a variety of textures when running through fields of grass or plodding through mud." Another feature will be "adaptive triggers" incorporated into controls "so that you feel the tactile sensation of drawing a bow and arrow or accelerating an off-road vehicle through rocky terrain," he added.

Sony, which leads the console segment, announced the move as more gamers move away from these boxes to streaming games powered by the internet cloud on a variety of devices. Google, Apple and others have launched game subscriptions which compete with Sony's PlayStation Now cloud video game service. According to NPD Group, a market research firm, 73 percent of Americans ages two and older play video games, an increase of six percentage points since June 2018. Mobile remains the most popular gaming platform, with mobile gaming appealing to gamers across all consumer segments, the NPD survey showed. — AFP



In this file photo taken on September 12, 2019 the Sony Playstation logo is seen during the Tokyo Game Show in Makuuhari, Chiba Prefecture. — AFP



In this file photo taken on March 19, 2017 French director Luc Besson poses on arrival for the Three Empire awards in London. — AFP

'I've never raped a woman,' says French director Besson

French film director Luc Besson on Monday denied raping or drugging a young actress — the first time the maker of "The Fifth Element" has spoken publicly about the sex allegations against him. A judge reopened a rape investigation into the movie mogul on Friday, eight months after Paris prosecutors had dropped a case brought by the Dutch-Belgian actress Sand Van Roy, who claimed that Besson had repeatedly raped her over a two-year period.

She is one of nine women who have said they were assaulted or harassed by the powerful director and producer. Van Roy, 28, had minor roles in his "Taxi 5" and "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets". Besson has admitted having a relationship with Van Roy but dismissed her as a "fantasist". "This case is a lie from A to Z. I did not rape that woman, I have never raped a woman in my life," he told BFM TV. "I have never lifted a hand to a woman, I have never threatened a woman... I never drugged this woman as has been said. That is a lie," he said in extracts from the interview, which will be broadcast in full on Tuesday.

'I made some mistakes'

The maker of hits such as "Nikita", whose legal problems have coincided with a run of box office failures, also denied ever harassing women or holding them against their will. However, Besson, 60, said that he had a relationship with Van Roy and had made "some mistakes". "I betrayed my wife and my children. It did not only happen once, it happened several times during our 20 years of marriage," he added. Van Roy first went to the police in May 2018 after spending the night with Besson in a luxury Paris hotel. — AFP

'South Park' creators issue mock apology over China censorship

The creators of "South Park" have issued a mock apology to China after censors scrubbed their popular animation from the Chinese web. The tongue-in-cheek statement, skewering Beijing's demands that western brands conform to its world view, came with officials apparently annoyed about an episode that crossed several of the Communist Party's red lines.

The episode — called "Band in China" — depicted forced labor at a Chinese prison, and parodied companies that cave-in to censorship for commercial gain. "I can't sell my soul like this," says one character, who was under pressure from Chinese censors to rewrite his music. "It's not worth living in a world where China controls my country's art," he added.

The incident comes as the NBA and its Houston Rockets franchise are facing fierce criticism and financial punishment in China over a tweet supporting Hong Kong's democracy protesters. Both the league and the team have scrambled to apologise over the tweet by Rockets' general manager Daryl Morey, as calls for a boycott gather steam in one of the NBA's most lucrative markets. But the apologies have sparked derision in the United States, where critics said the league was sacrificing morals for money.

Writing on Twitter, "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone offered spoof contrition over any offence

they had caused in China with their satirical show. "Like the NBA, we welcome the Chinese censors into our homes and into our hearts," they wrote. "We too love money more than freedom and democracy. Xi doesn't look just like Winnie the Pooh at all," the statement added, a reference to banned memes comparing Chinese President Xi Jinping with AA Milne's portly bear. "Long live the Great Communist Party of China! May this autumn's sorghum harvest be bountiful! We good now China?" the statement read.

On Tuesday, searches for "South Park" on China's Twitter-like social media platform Weibo and popular film review site Douban did not return any results. And while information on South Park was still available on a few video streaming sites, episodes could not be played. Parker and Stone's response to China stands in stark contrast to that of major Western brands who have quickly beaten a retreat when faced with potential losses in China's huge — and fiercely nationalistic — consumer market. Companies ranging from airlines to fashion houses have issued fulsome apologies, often after being charged with "hurting the feelings of the Chinese people". — AFP

Lifestyle | Gossip



Billy Bob Thornton's mother predicted he'd win an Oscar

The ' Fargo ' star claimed his mom was psychic and although he didn't believe any of her predictions when he was a young musician, they have come true over the years. Speaking on ' People Now ', he said: "She said a lot of really interesting stuff to me over the years but when I look back in the old days, this is back when I was playing music. She told me one time that one of these days I was going to get close to Burt Reynolds, I'd be really close to him and he'd help me out in my career. "And she told me I'd win an Academy Award before I ever became an actor, which was wild. "When she said those things to me, I was like, I didn't believe her, maybe mom has gotten a little [crazy] when she's 30 but my mom was a really smart and wonderful per-

son, very intuitive." The 64-year-old actor - who won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for his 1996 movie ' Sling Blade ', for which he was also nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role - previously appeared in Burt's TV show ' Evening Shade '. And the ' Bad Santa ' star has shared advice given to him by the acting legend in the past. He previously said: "I hate flying. I've never been a good flyer. There was a time when you couldn't get me on a plane. Now my schedule is so demanding that I have to fly. "I still remember what Burt Reynolds told me, 'Never fly with anyone more famous than you, because if the plane crashes they're going to get the big headline.'"

Brown doesn't think fame will ever be 'normal' to her



The 15-year-old actress - who shot to fame playing Eleven in Netflix drama series ' Stranger Things ' - doesn't think she'll ever fully grasp the fact people recognise her wherever she goes and admitted she doesn't always look "presentable". She told E! News: "I don't think it will ever be a normal thing. "Some days I go out and I make sure I look somewhat presentable and some days, I look like an absolute hot mess." While Millie thinks she's always been confident, she insisted it is "OK" for people to take time to figure out who they are and to be comfortable with themselves. Asked where her confidence came from, she replied: "I think I came out the womb... singing Lizzo. "It's good to be confident and to know who you are but it's okay to also not know who you are. It's a fun journey." Meanwhile, the British star also harbors dreams of stepping behind the camera and joked she'll be hiring some handsome leading men when she does start directing. She laughed: "If I could direct anyone, I would want to direct Leonardo DiCaprio just so I can look at his face all day. Or Timothee Chalamet, just kidding!" Millie previously revealed she wants to make social media a "happy place". She said: "Social media is one of the best places in the world and one of the worst - it counteracts itself. It sends such amazing messages: it raises awareness of situations that need to be heard. Nobody should say it isn't a platform for positivity and change. "But then there are some really heart-breaking things to happen on social media and I have dealt with a lot of bullying online. I want to make it a happy place."



Amanda Seyfried has become a Lancome Global Ambassador

The ' Mean Girls ' star will work with the beauty brand, appearing in advertising campaigns for the luxury beauty company from early 2020. She said in a statement: "It's hugely exciting to be welcomed to this incredible family of women ambassadors, all so different and yet all so united in their mission to represent Lancome, while also embodying the positive virtues and values that empower and bring happiness and self-fulfillment to women around the world." Whilst Francoise Lehmann, Lancome International president, added: "As a true Lancome woman, Amanda brings her immense talent as an actress

and singer, her natural beauty and unequalled zest for life to our world. She perfectly represents our values, and we look forward to an exciting time together." Amanda is an open book and previously insisted she was prepared to risk her career by talking about her anxiety, going against the advice of her publicist. She shared: "At first, my publicist said, 'Don't talk about your anxiety.' And I thought, [f**k you, actually. I want kids who are having weird thoughts to share them without stigma. And if that affects my career, so be it."

Kanye was warned dating Kim Kardashian would 'sink' his career

The ' Stronger ' hitmaker defied his advisers when he struck up a romance with the ' Keeping Up With the Kardashians ' star in 2012 because they told him being with a reality star would damage his image. Kim - who married Kanye in 2014 - said: "I mean, everyone would tell him 'You can't be with her, she's a reality star. She's going to sink your career!' And he was just like 'But I love her. Like, I don't care.'" The couple - who have kids North, six, Saint, three, Chicago, 20 months, and Psalm, four months, together - first met in 2002 when Kim was married to Damon Thomas but she claims he was always attracted to her, and when they did finally get together, she couldn't believe they hadn't hooked up before because it felt so "right". Speaking in a preview of ' True Hollywood Story ', which analyses Kim's rise to fame, she said: "I met Kanye in 2002. He would ask everyone who I was, and they always said like 'Oh, she has a boyfriend'. "We just always kept on connecting and coming into each other's lives. Then, he invited me to Paris to his fashion show, and that's when it happened. "That's when we started our relationship. And I was like 'S**t, why didn't this happen sooner?' It was just right." The 42-year-old rapper recalled his "magnetic attraction" to Kim and hailed the "pure" star a "force of energy". He gushed in the preview: "Any time I was around her and I saw her, it was magnetic attraction to this force of energy. She was good, pure, happy, loving, brave, courageous, strong." As well as Kanye, the likes of 38-year-old Kim's sisters Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian have also given interviews for Sunday's (13.10.19) show, as well as her best friend Jonathan Cheban.



Hailey Bieber's wedding dress was designed by Virgil Abloh

The model drafted in the artistic director of Louis Vuitton's menswear collection to help her create her "dream dress", which featured unique embroidery. She wrote on Instagram: "@virgilabloh thank you for making my vision come to life and creating my dream dress. You and your @off__white team are incredible and I'm forever grateful I got to wear your beautiful creation (sic)" Hailey posted a picture of her and Justin, her beautiful dress on fully display including the words "til death do us part" embroidered at the end of the train. Virgil also shared a picture of the gown, captioning it: "when @haileybieber asks if you want to design a wedding dress... that's a "yes" too. love you guys since time, for time (sic)" Justin and Hailey exchanged vows front of around 150 guests - including Ed Sheeran, Kendall and Kylie Jenner, Travis Scott, Usher and

Jaden Smith - in the Somerset Chapel within the grounds of the Montage Palmetto Bluff hotel. It's believed the ceremony was conducted by Justin's pastor Judah Smith, while Hailey's sister Alaia Baldwin and cousin Ireland Baldwin were her bridesmaids. Guests had been served cocktails before the wedding and trays of champagne were on hand as they made their way to the Wilson Ballroom for dinner. The night before their wedding, the couple gathered their loved ones together for a pre-wedding sleepover, where they hosted a screening of ' The Notebook '. As well as the film, Justin and Hailey, 22, hosted fun and games at their carnival themed pre-wedding party, and put on a whole spread of ice cream and candy, along with a giant dance bash, bowling, and a big game of capture the flag.

Witherspoon still figuring out how to balance work and home life

The ' Big Little Lies ' star admits it can be tough focusing on both her career and her home life with husband Jim Toth and her kids - Ava, 20, Deacon, 15, and Tennessee, seven. Speaking to Natalie Portman for Harper's Bazaar magazine, she said: "Let's be real. Every working mother is still figuring these things out. "But, honestly, I think

women who are incredibly busy are the most productive people in the world. If I ever needed something done, I would ask the busiest woman I know." Meanwhile, Reese previously confessed she is glad she had her children "kind of young." She said: "I've been a mom since 1999. I got pregnant [with Ava] when I was 22 and delivered when I was 23. To be totally honest, it was scary. I was scared. I didn't know what it was going to do to my job or my career. Your entire life will change. Everything you believe, every piece of food you eat, every piece of independence you have. You can't go out without thinking of another person. These are all the things that happen in the beginning, and then it just evolves from there. I find that having little kids is more physical and it's just really hard on your body, so I am glad that I had kids kind of young. I had one at 23, one at 27 and then again at 37. And oh my god, having a baby at 37 was so much harder. This is just me being real."



Sir Elton John once tried to give Bob Dylan a makeover

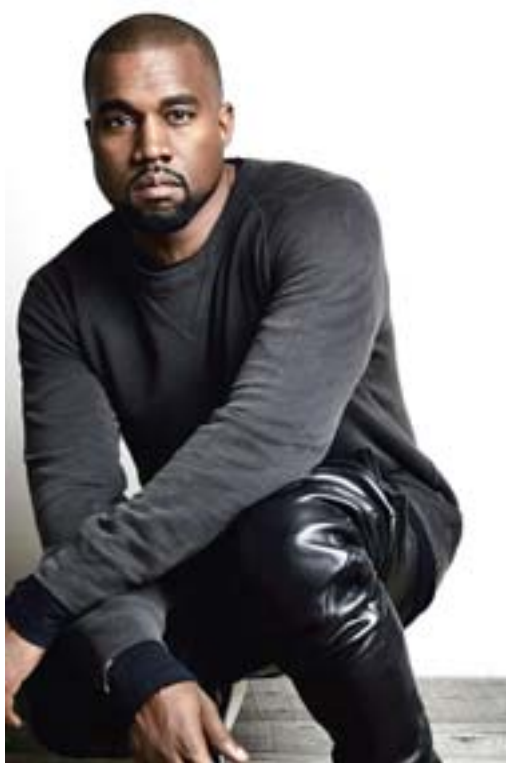
The 72-year-old star - who is known for his flamboyant wardrobe - mistook the ' Blowin' in the Wind ' hitmaker for his gardener when he arrived as a guest to one of Elton's parties so tried to "make amends" for his gaffe by offering the singer a chance to change out of his "terrible" clothes. Elton recalled: "Towards the end of the Eighties, I held an insane party in LA, and invited everyone I knew. By mid-evening, I was flying, absolutely out of my mind, when a scruffy-looking guy I didn't recognise wandered into the lit-up garden. "Who the hell was he? Must be one of the staff, a gardener. I loudly demanded to know what the gardener was doing helping himself to a drink. "There was a moment's shocked silence, broken by my PA saying, 'Elton, that's not the gardener. It's Bob Dylan.' "Coked out of my brain and keen to make amends, I rushed over, grabbed him and started steering him towards the house. 'Bob! Bob! We can't have you in those terrible clothes, darling. Come upstairs and I'll fit you out with some of mine at once. Come on, dear!' "Dylan stared at me, horrified. His expression suggested he was trying hard to think of something he wanted to do less than get dressed up like Elton John, and drawing a blank."



Kunis says Kutcher 'would kill' her if she joined 'Real Housewives of Beverly Hills'



The ' Bad Moms ' star has revealed she asked her husband what he'd think if in the next two or three decades she signed up to star in the Bravo reality TV series - and he was less than impressed. Appearing on comedy actress Andrea Savage's podcast, ' A Grown-Up Woman ', Mila shared: "I'm a big ' Real Housewives of Beverly Hills ' fan. "I did ask my husband once: 'Listen, later in like 20, 30 years, what do you think of me going on ' Real Housewives of Beverly Hills '? Just for like a year.' He goes, 'I would kill you.'" Despite a love of reality shows, the 36-year-old actress admitted that she rarely gets to watch TV and is always playing catch-up. She said: "I don't watch TV. I can honestly say I don't watch television. "I watch one show a week, because I keep falling asleep. "Or maybe two. I watch ' Bachelor in Paradise ' or ' 90210 ' and both of those shows last me an entire week. I'm very delayed." Ashton - who has daughter Wyatt, five, and two-year-old son Dimitri with Mila - previously shared how he and his spouse are obsessed with ' The Bachelor ' and ' The Bachelorette '. The Hollywood couple try to never miss an episode of the program and admitted that they love nothing more than cuddling up together on the sofa with a drink to watch it. The 41-year-old actor said: "The show is our guilty pleasure. "Monday nights for us are... White wine, vodka tonic and turn on ' The Bachelor ' or ' The Bachelorette '. "Ever since there was some guy named Jared, who apparently looked like me, we've been watching the show." And the super-fans even made an appearance on an episode of ' The Bachelorette ' in 2017, when they helped Rachel Lindsay in her quest to find the perfect man. - Bangshowbiz



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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Partly cloudy and Relatively humid with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 35 km/h with a chance for drizzle at times.

BY NIGHT: Humid weather specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 08/10/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	36 °C	31 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	38 °C	27 °C			
ABDALY	38 °C	25 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	39 °C	28 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	36 °C	31 °C			
AHMADI	34 °C	29 °C			
NUWAISIB	36 °C	28 °C			
WAFRA	38 °C	25 °C			
SALMY	39 °C	25 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	10/09	Hot	41 °C	27 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 38 km/h
Thursday	10/10	Hot	42 °C	27 °C	NW-VRB	12 - 35 km/h
Friday	10/11	Hot	41 °C	27 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Saturday	10/12	Hot	41 °C	26 °C	VRB-SW	06 - 26 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:26
Sunrise	05:45
Zuhr	11:35
Asr	14:55
Sunset	17:25
Isha	18:42

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	37 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	78 %
MIN. RH	24 %
MAX. Wind	SE 32 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
Salmya	25746401

CHANGE OF NAME

The embassy of India, Kuwait has no objection to KAMAL SHERWANI to new ABDULLAH KAMAL SHERWANI in his Kuwait birth card. (C 5451).

Old name: D COSTA FILIPE ROCHA FULIPINA, new name: FELIPE DA COSTA FILIPA ROCHA, Passport No: K7034936, ID 271121603451. (C 5452) 8-10-2019

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

Airlines

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

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 9/10/2019				Departure Flights on Wednesday 9/10/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	NIA	1504	Asyut	12:30
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	KIS	6033	Mashhad	12:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	TBZ	6606	Mashhad	12:55
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	IAW	158	Dubai	13:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	SAW	702	Dammam	13:30
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	CLX	7912	Hanoi	14:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	RBG	218	Asyut	14:35
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	673	Kuwait	15:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	UAE	878	Dubai	15:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
JZR	502	Lahore	02:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:55	JZR	125	Dubai	15:50
MSR	784	Amman	03:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	105	London	15:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
NIA	1604	Luxor	03:10	JZR	405	Kochi	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	128	Sharjah	16:15
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
RBG	1153	Asyut	04:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
ETH	3424	Bahrain	04:15	FEG	242	Alexandria	16:55
KAC	796	Madinah	04:25	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	SVA	505	Madinah	17:00
JZR	1738	Cairo	04:45	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	KAC	1073	Bahrain	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:35
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10	KAC	503	Beirut	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	OMS	226	Muscat	17:50
RBG	215	Sohag	05:35	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	SAW	706	Dammam	18:00
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	615	Bahrain	18:10
JZR	708	Luxor	06:15	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
JZR	724	Alexandria	07:50	KAC	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	351	Kochi	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:15	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	DLH	624	Dammam	21:05
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	NIA	1406	Sohag	21:10
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
QTR	112	Dammam	10:00	RBG	214	Cairo	21:35
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	114	Doha	11:10	THY	1413	Trabzon	22:25
IGO	1755	CNN	11:30	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
NIA	1405	Sohag	11:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	JZR	407	Ahmedabad	22:40
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	6605	Mashhad	11:55	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
SAW	701	Dammam	12:30	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	JAV	622	Doha	23:20
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:25
				SVA	515	Riyadh	23:25
				SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45

India on the frontline of fight against tuberculosis

NEW DELHI: All the symptoms were there but it still took four doctors and several months of waiting before Bharti Kapar's cough and stomach pains were diagnosed as tuberculosis. Hailing from a poor town outside the smog-choked capital of New Delhi, Bharti, 24, was one of the 2.7 million new cases of tuberculosis last year in India - home to more than a quarter of the world's cases of the deadly disease. After five months of rigorous medical treatment and taking several pills a day, she was declared cured in April but still has to force herself to venture out of the small home she shares with her mother, two brothers and a sister-in-law.

"Sometimes I feel that my breathing is difficult, it's not normal. I do not have any energy, I do not want to go out, I do not want to do anything," she said. A major killer in the West until the mid-twentieth century, tuberculosis remains a menace in developing countries and killed 421,000 in India in 2017 according to the World Health Organization - more than AIDS and malaria combined. The Global Fund will meet in France on 9-10 October hoping to raise \$14 billion for the worldwide fight against TB, malaria and AIDS.

For its part, the government of Narendra Modi, which came to power promising development for India's 1.3 billion people, has set an ambitious target of overcoming India's TB "epidemic" - the world's largest - by 2025. It has created new patient monitoring systems and recently enlisted artificial intelligence to help screen for the disease. The government's call to arms "is not just rhetoric," said Dr Jamhoi Tonsing of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, noting that the budget for TB in India has doubled between 2016 and 2018.

But its timetable may be too ambitious. TB incidence in India is currently declining by about two percent each year, Tonsing said. "To reach the 2025 target, we need to make this decline at least 10 per cent per year. A big jump has to happen." Transmitted



NEW DELHI: In this photograph taken on Sept 26, 2019, a tuberculosis patient consumes his daily dose of medicine at a DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) center. — AFP

by droplets of saliva when a contaminated person speaks or coughs, TB spreads easily in India's crowded cities, where immune systems are often already weakened by air pollution or poor sanitary conditions.

The bacterium mainly attacks the young and middle-aged men who make up much of the workforce, with the death or incapacitation of a breadwinner piling additional misery on families. "TB continues to be predominantly a poor man's disease," said Shibu Vijayan, Global TB Technical Director

at PATH, an NGO. "In that sense, an investment there (in fighting it) will probably uplift the economy, uplift the poverty part of it, uplift the overall health of the household."

In a modest neighborhood crisscrossed by congested lanes south of New Delhi, TB patients come to take their daily medication in a tiny clinic run by the NGO Operation ASHA. Some visitors wear masks or wrap scarves over their mouths to avoid contaminating others. A digital tablet displays the names and phone numbers of those sched-

uled to come in that day to take their medication, in an effort to ensure patients' programs are scrupulously followed.

Poorly administered anti-TB drugs or treatments interrupted before their term are a major worry for health workers, and responsible for the spread of multidrug-resistant strains of the disease. The WHO has noticed a form of TB resistant to traditional medicines that has a mortality rate of 50 percent - comparable to that of Ebola, highlighting the challenges that remain even

after the progress made against TB in recent decades.

With an estimated 600,000 multidrug resistant TB cases worldwide - and 135,000 in India - "we created a monster," says Sandeep Ahuja, co-founder of Operation ASHA. But, the renewed campaign in India is a cause for optimism. "We have created the demon, let's go out and cap it," he says. "The numbers are still manageable... We have enough equipment in our arsenal." — AFP

For Iran, Iraq unrest is plot to undo ties

TEHRAN: Since they erupted a week ago, deadly protests in Iraq have been tracked closely in Iran where they are seen as a plot to undermine ties between the neighbors. Tehran has close but complicated relations with Baghdad, holding significant clout among its dominant Shiite political groups. The two countries fought a devastating war from 1980 to 1988 and Iran's influence in Iraq grew after the US-led inva-

sion toppled longtime dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Clashes that broke out in Iraq last week between protesters and security forces have claimed more than 100 lives, most of them demonstrators struck by bullets. The rallies began yesterday with calls to reduce corruption and unemployment but have spiralled into demands for the fall of the government and overhaul of the political system. The headquarters of some pro-Iranian political parties have been among those attacked during the violence, AFP correspondents in Iraq reported.

Chants of "Free Iraq, Iran out" have also been heard in social media videos said to be of the protests. A

(BJP) party. Modi and the government deny any misconduct, and in December, India's top court dismissed calls for an investigation into the deal, saying it saw no evidence of "commercial favoritism".

Mandated to be able to deal with two conflicts at once - with China and Pakistan - the Indian Air Force is meant to have 42 squadrons but struggles to put together 33, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "Combat aviation for them is... a strategic asset," said Jean-Paul Palomeros, former chief of staff of the French Air Force and an expert at the CEIS strategic intelligence firm. "As such, its renovation is both political and a high military priority."

As part of Modi's "Make in India" program to encourage local manufacturing, the Rafale contract provides for domestic "offset" deals. "Nearly 60 French companies are already established in India... and in the future more companies will come," said Parly, the French defense minister. The Rafale has been used by the French army since 2004 but struggled for several years to land foreign clients.

France finally secured contracts with Egypt and Qatar in 2015, for 24 jets each, on top of the Indian deal. In 2017, Doha took out an option on 12 more. The 36 Indian Rafales will be based in Ambala, near Kashmir and the Pakistani border, and at Hasimara in West Bengal state near the border with Bhutan. — AFP

Javad Zarif urging "respect for Syria's territorial integrity" in a call to Ankara.

Turkey says it wants to establish a "safe zone" on the Syrian side of the border where it could send back some of the 3.6 million refugees from the eight-year civil war. Erdogan said Monday that the operation into Syria could "come any night without warning". Kurds argue that Ankara's goal is to dilute their dominance in the region with an influx of mostly Sunni Arab refugees now living in Turkey.

Trump has faced a barrage of criticism, including from close allies in Washington, for appearing to leave the Kurds to their fate. Many officials were caught off-guard, with Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman warning Turkey of destabilizing blowback to the region if it invades. "The Department of Defense made clear to Turkey - as did the president - that we do not endorse a Turkish operation in Northern Syria," he said on Monday.

A Turkish attack also raises the specter of what will happen to some 10,000 Islamic State fighters currently being held in Kurdish detention centers. Around 2,000 of them are IS "foreign fighters", and Trump assailed US allies in Europe for not taking back their nationals. If they escape or are released, they could reconstitute the Islamic State, less than one year after it was defeated and its "caliphate" disintegrated. Trump declared that it would be the responsibility of Turkey and other countries to deal with the IS prisoners. — AFP

string of Iranian officials have come out since yesterday with statements accusing their country's arch-foes of being behind the unrest. "Enemies seek to sow discord but they've failed & their conspiracy won't be effective," supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said, quoted on his office's Twitter account. "Iran and #Iraq are two nations whose hearts & souls are tied together... This bond will grow stronger day by day."

State news agency IRNA said the supreme leader was reacting to the violence in Iraq. The news agency also weighed in with its own commentary, accusing the US, Saudi Arabia and Israel of fomenting the Iraq protests in order to spoil Iran's ties with Iraq and Syria. "Unprecedented protests in Iraqi cities... show that some forces inside and outside of the region are seriously concerned about the closeness and cooperation" of Baghdad, Damascus and Tehran, it said.

Iran's government spokesman Ali Rabiei opened his weekly news conference on Monday with a statement on the Iraqi crisis. He said there "are ill-wishers who seek to sabotage any opening between us and those neighbors who've had differences of opinions in recent years". The spokesman called on "the great people of Iraq to show more self-restraint and seek democratic and legal means to achieve their demands". "As always, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its readiness to stand beside Iraqi brothers and sisters and help them," he said. "No form of propaganda can sever the people of Iran and Iraq."

Iran has accused its foes of deliberately stirring

trouble in Iraq at a time when vast numbers of pilgrims are heading there for one of the world's largest religious events. A top military adviser to Khamenei said those behind the unrest would be unable to deter the faithful, however. "They want to scare people into not going to Arbaeen, but even if it rains arrows and stones, Hussein's lovers will not be afraid," Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency.

Arbaeen marks the end of the 40-day mourning period for the seventh-century killing of Imam Hussein by the forces of the caliph Yazid. Last week, Iran urged citizens who were planning to head to Iraq to delay their travel for the pilgrimage that culminates on Oct 17. IRNA said the fact that the "provocations" came ahead of Arbaeen showed Iran's enemies were "scared".

Judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi said those responsible for the unrest in Iraq aimed to undermine Arbaeen. "The seditionists intend to undermine and sap enthusiasm for this great event," he said, quoted by state television's website. "The vigilant people of Iraq exposed this sedition. But everyone must be careful. The seditionists are seeking new tricks at any moment to overshadow the Arbaeen ceremony and to undermine it." The headline Kyberan newspaper said "evidence" pointed to the Americans, Saudis and Israelis being involved. A columnist in the reformist Shargh daily also suggested the Americans, Israelis and Saudis might be the "hidden hands" behind the Iraq protests. — AFP

India takes first Rafale delivery...

Continued from Page 1

been held up by corruption allegations leveled by the opposition Congress party. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accused Congress of undermining the country's security, saying the Kashmir skirmishes would have ended "better" for India if it had had the Rafales.

French plane-maker Dassault in 2012 won a contract negotiated under a Congress-led government in 2012 to supply 126 jets to India, with some built in France and the rest in India by state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). But on a visit to France in 2015, Modi scrapped the deal, replacing it with an order for 36 jets - all to be built in France. The deal was estimated to be worth \$9.4 billion at the time.

The new agreement, signed the following year, named Reliance group, a conglomerate owned by billionaire Anil Ambani that has little experience in aviation, as Dassault's local partner. Ambani is reported to be close to India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party

Turkey ready for Syria...

Continued from Page 1

offensive in northern Syria have been "completed". Meanwhile, the Syrian government has welcomed the upheaval, spying an opportunity to bring the country's Kurds back into its fold. The Kurds have been "tossed aside" by Washington, Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad told the pro-government Al-Watan newspaper. Trump rejected that interpretation, tweeting: "We may be in the process of leaving Syria, but in no way have we abandoned the Kurds, who are special people and wonderful fighters."

Britain said it was "deeply concerned" by Turkey's plans to attack Kurdish fighters, who lead the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and say they lost some 11,000 fighters as the main frontline force against the Islamic State group. A spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said London had been "consistently clear with Turkey that unilateral military action must be avoided as it would destabilize the region". Iran, a key backer of the Syrian government, also opposed a Turkish incursion, with Foreign Minister Mohammad

Trio wins Nobel for dark matter...

Continued from Page 1

Using theoretical tools and calculations, he drew a link between the temperature of the radiation emitted after the Big Bang and the amount of matter it created. His work showed that the matter known to us - such as stars, planets, and ourselves - only make up five percent, while the other 95 percent are made up of "unknown dark matter and dark energy".

In a telephone interview at the press conference, Peebles said that what those elements actually are is still an open question. "Although the theory is very thoroughly tested, we still must admit that the dark matter and dark energy are mysterious," Peebles said. He also advised young people contemplating a career in science that, while awards were "charming" and "very much appreciated, they should do it for the love of it". "You should enter science because you are fascinated by it. That's what I did."

Peebles, 84, is Albert Einstein Professor of Science at Princeton University in the United States, while Mayor, 77, and Queloz, 53, are both professors at the University of Geneva. Queloz also works at the University of Cambridge in Britain. Using custom-made instruments at their observatory in southern France in October 1995, Mayor and Queloz were able to detect a gaseous ball similar in size to Jupiter, orbiting a star 50 light years from our own Sun.

Harnessing a phenomenon known as the Doppler effect, which changes the color of light depending on whether an object is approaching or retreating from Earth, the pair proved the planet, known as 51 Pegasus b, was orbiting its star. The Nobel jury noted that the discovery "started a revolution in astronomy" and since then over 4,000 exoplanets have been found in

our home galaxy. "Strange new worlds are still being discovered," challenging our preconceived ideas about planetary systems and "forcing scientists to revise their theories of the physical processes behind the origins of planets".

In a statement, the two astronomers hailed their win as "simply extraordinary", saying the discovery was "the most exciting of our careers". Professor Martin Rees of the University of Cambridge said this year's awards also seemed to show a "welcome broadening of the Nobel criteria". "In the past, astronomy has been included primarily when the discovery involves some new physics," Rees said.

The prize consists of a gold medal, a diploma and the sum of nine million Swedish kronor (about \$914,000). The trio will receive the prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on Dec 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament. In 2018, the honor went to Arthur Ashkin of the US, Gerard Mourou of France and Donna Strickland of the US for laser inventions used for advanced precision instruments in corrective eye surgery and in industry.

This year's Nobel prize season kicked off on Monday with the Medicine Prize awarded to Americans William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza, and Britain's Peter Ratcliffe. They were honored for research into how human cells sense and adapt to changing oxygen levels, which opens up new strategies to fight such diseases as cancer and anemia. The winners of this year's Chemistry Prize will be announced today.

The Literature Prize will follow tomorrow, with two laureates to be crowned after a sexual harassment scandal forced the Swedish Academy to postpone the 2018 award, for the first time in 70 years. On Friday the action moves to Norway where the Peace Prize is awarded, with bookies such as Ladbrokes backing Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg. The Economics Prize wraps up the Nobel season on Monday, Oct 14. — AFP

Sports

Unbeaten San Francisco 49ers crush turnover-prone Browns

49ers DT Jones proposes on-field pregame

CALIFORNIA: Matt Breida set the tone with a long run as part of his 114-yard night, and the San Francisco 49ers dominated the visiting Cleveland Browns in a 31-3 victory Monday in Santa Clara, Calif.

Teammate Tevin Coleman added 97 yards on the ground. San Francisco quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo completed 20 of 29 passes for 181 yards and two touchdowns.

The 49ers (4-0), the only unbeaten team in the NFC, held Cleveland to 180 total yards. San Francisco defensive end Nick Bosa recorded two sacks.

Quarterback Baker Mayfield threw for 100 yards, completing just 8 of 22 throws for the Browns (2-3), who committed four turnovers. For Mayfield, a second-year pro, it marked his first career start without a passing touchdown. He was intercepted twice.

Breida ripped off an 83-yard touchdown run on the 49ers' first offensive snap on the first of his 11 carries. He also scored on a 5-yard pass from Garoppolo later in the first quarter.

The 49ers went 90 yards on the first possession of the second half, with Garoppolo throwing 22 yards to George Kittle for a touchdown and a 28-3 advantage.

San Francisco rushed for 185 first-half yards, so it didn't matter that Garoppolo had thrown for only 46 yards.

Mayfield was intercepted and lost a fumble in the first 11 1/2 minutes before he completed a pass.

The 49ers failed to convert after the second of those

turnovers when Robbie Gould's 47-yard field-goal attempt drifted wide right.

Cleveland broke through early in the second quarter, with a 10-play drive resulting in Austin Seibert's 30-yard field goal.

The Browns moved into scoring position on their next possession, but Antonio Callaway failed to make a catch at the goal line and the batted ball was picked off by K'Vaun Williams and returned 49 yards.

The 49ers made the most of the turnover on Coleman's 19-yard touchdown run. He finished with 16 carries.

Mayfield had 80 passing yards in the first half. A San Francisco 49ers player took a knee on the sideline pregame Monday night, but this time the act was greeted with nothing but happiness.

Defensive tackle D.J. Jones proposed marriage to girlfriend Kayla Fannin, who said yes on the field at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., ahead of the 49ers' game against the Cleveland Browns.

The couple were surrounded by friends and family, but Fannin was taken by surprise.

The 49ers later posted video of the proposal on their Twitter feed. Jones, 24, is in his third NFL season, all with the 49ers, who selected him in the sixth round of the 2017 draft out of Ole Miss. Before Monday, he had 31 career tackles and one pass defended in 22 games (seven starts). He had started all three games this season, notching four tackles. — AFP



SANTA CLARA: Odell Beckham Jr. #13 of the Cleveland Browns returns a punt against the San Francisco 49ers during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. — AFP

Eighth title for Tissot ambassador Marc Marquez

LE LOCLE: Marc Marquez won on Sunday October 6th his sixth MotoGP World Championship and eighth World title in all categories. Tissot Ambassador since 2018, Marc Marquez continues to surprise with his performances: indeed, he is the youngest world champion in history and holds the record of inclination angle.

Often referred to as the ant, a symbol of small size and robustness, he has always managed to sneak among the first to win many races and become world champion.

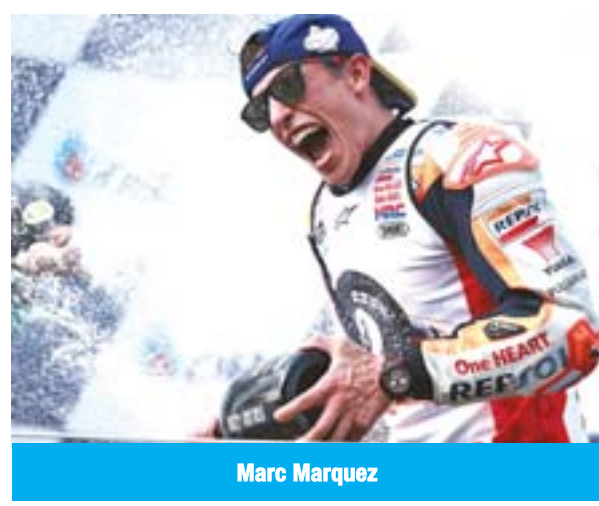
The Tissot T-Race Marc Marquez pays tribute to the talented driver and his impressive career. The red of the pushers and hands is reminiscent of the rubber bracelet, a

real nod to Marc Marquez's fervor during his races. The refinement of the watch illustrates the way Marc elegantly smashes all records. Each feature reflects the talent and passion of Marc Marquez for his discipline.

The plus sign in the Swiss Flag within the Tissot logo symbolises the Swiss quality and reliability Tissot has shown since 1853. The watches, sold all over the world, enable Tissot to be the leader in the traditional Swiss watch industry, exporting more than 4 million watches every year. Tissot stands by its signature, Innovators by Tradition. The high quality of the brand with every component is recognised worldwide.

Tissot has been named Official Timekeeper and Partner of many global events such as basketball with the NBA and FIBA; cycling with the Tour de France and the UCI World Cycling Championships; motorsports with MotoGP and the FIM World Superbike Championship and many more besides in the sports of ice hockey, fencing and rugby.

Key leading products include: Tissot T-Touch (The first tactile watch in 1999), Tissot Le Locle, a timeless, classic,



Marc Marquez

automatic watch with 80 hours of power reserve. Tissot T-Race, "the sporty design".

season continues." Mike Conway, Driver of the No. 7 TS050 HEV, said: "It's great to win my home race here at Silverstone. I've been trying to win this race for a while now; it took me long enough! Big thanks to my teammates, who did a really solid job in tricky conditions. It was a very tight race, so it feels great to come away with the win. Thanks as well to the team for giving us the vehicle to achieve this. This win is for those guys."

Kazuki Nakajima, Driver of the No. 8 TS050 HEV, added: "Congratulations to all the team, and especially to vehicle No. 7 for the win; also compliments to Hartley and Kobayashi, who raced in extremely difficult conditions and did a really good job to keep the vehicle on the track. That was very impressive. Now we look forward to our home race in Japan and aim to get back on the middle step of the podium there."

The challenge of winning again on home ground will be even tougher for GR this year, due to new rules that impose performance penalties on cars depending on championship position. The TS050 HEVs will be further slowed compared to their non-hybrid rivals, with the No. 7's top speed reduced more than its sister vehicle on account of its victory at Silverstone.

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

The result means that the GR team carries an early World Championship lead going into the second round of the season. This will take place at their home circuit of Fuji Speedway on 6 October, where the race length reverts to the more traditional six-hour format.



took soon after as half-distance approached. The race entered its final two hours under a safety car, which brought the top three vehicles close together. When racing resumed after a 23-minute safety car period, the two TS050 HEVs led the way and soon their margin over the third-placed vehicle was increased to almost a minute.

This left the two GR drivers to fight it out for victory. The pair swapped places several times before handing over to Lopez and Kazuki Nakajima for the final hour. The two vehicles competed for first place through the challenging Silverstone circuit, with Lopez holding the advantage to eventually take the chequered flag in the No. 7 TS050 HEV, just 1.901 seconds ahead of Nakajima in the No. 8 TS050 HEV.

Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: "We are thrilled to have achieved this perfect start to the new season. The entire team can be proud of their performance in this exciting race, which further extends GR's winning streak from last season. Participating and excelling in competitive racing lays the foundations in our journey towards building 'ever-better' cars that bring greater satisfaction and put a smile on our customers' faces. I'd like to thank all of Toyota's loyal fans for their constant support - we look forward to giving them even more reasons to cheer as the

HH the Crown Prince shooting tournament

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Tournament of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will start today at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex with official training of the 10m air pistol and rifle for men. The tournament will continue until Saturday when the closing ceremony will be held and caps and prizes will be distributed.

Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Assistant Secretary Eng Mohammad Al-Ghurba said that board members and shooters must express their gratitude to HH the Crown Prince for his care of the sport, enabling the shooters to make achievements and maintain them.

Meanwhile, International referee Hamad Al-Ruwaisan who heads the shotgun referees committee said the committee has been getting ready according to plan through meetings and refresher courses, in preparation for the first tournament of the season. Head of the pistol and rifle referees committee Khalid Al-Jurayyed said it is always important to get ready early for tournaments such as the tournament of HH the Crown Prince. He said the committee reviewed the amendments on the international rules made by ISSF, and also reviewed the tournament's events schedule.



Mohammad Al-Ghurba

GAZOO racing kicks off the season with one-two victory at 4 hours of Silverstone

SILVERSTONE: GAZOO Racing (GR) started the 2019 - 2020 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season in perfect style recently, with a one-two victory during an eventful 4 Hours of Silverstone in the United Kingdom. Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi, and Jose Maria Lopez took victory in the No. 7 TS050 Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) to register the sixth consecutive win for reigning world champions, GR.

The impressive opening result was achieved despite recent changes to the FIA's Equivalence of Technology (EoT) rules, which are designed to ensure a level playing field in the LMP1 class. This season, GR's TS050 HEVs will carry 99kg more weight than their nearest rivals. In addition, refueling time for the HEVs has been increased to one second longer than non-HEVs in order to compensate for the speed advantage of restarting in electric mode. The vehicles' fuel tank capacities have also been reduced to ensure an equal number of laps per race for both HEVs and non-HEVs.

A weekend crowd of 49,600 enjoyed an action-packed race in changeable weather conditions. Home favorite Mike Conway started from pole position in the No. 7 TS050 HEV, and maintained this advantage throughout the early stages. As the race approached the 90-minute mark, an intense rain shower hit Silverstone. The GR cars initially attempted to avoid a costly unplanned pit stop, but track conditions deteriorated rapidly and both eventually changed to wet weather tires. Pit stops proved to be an influential factor throughout the race, with the GR team's vehicles earning precious seconds during tire changes.

With the third hour approaching, Brendon Hartley took the lead in the No. 8 TS050 HEV. However, Kobayashi was directly behind in the No. 7 TS050 HEV and over-



Smith, Warner make T20 return, Australia eye World Cup

SYDNEY: Steve Smith and David Warner completed their return from the wilderness yesterday when Australia recalled them to a 14-man Twenty20 squad to play Sri Lanka and Pakistan with a firm eye on next year's World Cup. The star batsmen were both banned for a year for their roles in a ball-tampering scandal but have returned to Australia's Test, one-day and now Twenty20 sides. "We are delighted to welcome Steve Smith and David Warner back into the T20 international fold," chief selector Trevor Hohns said.

"Steve is a world-class batsman in all formats, while Warner is Australia's highest ever T20I runs scorer. He was also the leading runs scorer at this year's Indian Premier League with Sunrisers Hyderabad."

The Twenty20 squad named Tuesday will face Sri Lanka and Pakistan in coming weeks but Hohns said the focus was firmly on next year's World Cup, which will be held in Australia. "It is almost a year to the day until Australia hosts the men's Twenty20 World Cup and we have selected this squad with that in mind," he said. "We have looked to put a squad together that we think can take us through to that tournament."

Despite their success in other formats, Australia have never won a Twenty20 World Cup, with an appearance in the 2010 final their best showing. They are currently ranked fifth in the world but will be desperate to succeed on home soil in October-November next year.

Aaron Finch retains the skipper's armband, with wicket-keeper Alex Carey and paceman Pat Cummins sharing vice-captain duties. Ashton Turner returns from a finger injury to bolster the batting, while Adam Zampa edged out Nathan Lyon as the preferred spinner. Cummins and Mitchell Starc will likely open the bowling attack, backed up by Andrew Tye, Kane Richardson and Billy Stanlake. The three-match series against Sri Lanka will begin in Adelaide on October 27, followed by another three Twenty20s against Pakistan opening on November 3 in Sydney.

Australia:

Aaron Finch (capt), Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Ben McDermott, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Billy Stanlake, Mitchell Starc, Ashton Turner, Andrew Tye, David Warner, Adam Zampa. — AFP

Sports

Reinach sets World Cup hat-trick record as Springboks thrash Canada

It's a game we've really targeted: Ardron

KOBE: South Africa's Cobus Reinach scored the fastest hat-trick in Rugby World Cup history as the Springboks all but assured themselves of a place in the quarter-finals with a 66-7 hammering of Canada in Kobe yesterday.

The Springboks ran in 10 tries, including seven in a first-half that featured scrum-half Reinach's 11-minute treble. That was quicker than Australia fullback Chris Latham's 25-minute hat-trick in a 142-0 thrashing of Namibia at Adelaide during the 2003 World Cup.

South Africa led 47-0 at the break against an out-classed Canada, who had to play more than half the match a man down after replacement lock Josh Larsen was sent off. But Canada, just six days on from a 63-0 loss to reigning champions New Zealand, avoided a whitewash thanks to flanker Matt Heaton's try.

This bonus-point victory should see two-time world champions South Africa into the last eight after an opening Pool B defeat by the All Blacks, with hosts Japan — who stunned the Springboks 34-32 at the 2015 World Cup in England — now looming as possible opponents.

"It was scrappy in stages but I can't moan about 10 tries," said Springbok coach Rassie Erasmus. "Obviously they got a red card that made it a little bit easier for us. So overall, not too bad." Canada, who have appeared in every World Cup, have one more chance for a win at this edition when they face fellow minnows Namibia in Kamaishi on Sunday, a game captain Tyler Ardron described as "hugely important."

"It's a game we've really targeted. We want to put our best performance out and we really want to get a result out of that," said Ardron.

BONUS-POINT SCORE

Erasmus made 13 changes to the side that overwhelmed Italy 49-3 last time out. But they still proved far too strong for Canada, with the Springboks opening the scoring in just the third minute under the closed roof

of the Kobe Misaki Stadium. Quick ball saw them across the gainline, with RG Snyman bursting through on a pass from fly-half Elton Jantjies. The lock was hauled down short of the line but the ball came back to outside centre Damian de Allende, one of two Springboks to keep his place in addition to captain Siya Kolisi, for a try under the posts.

Jantjies then kicked the first of eight successful conversions. More good handling saw flanker Kwagga Smith send in left wing S'busiso Nkosi at the corner. Then came Reinach's hat-trick, spanning the 10th-21st minutes. It started with a superb solo effort, the scrum-half breaking from a ruck inside his own 22, chipping over the last defender and regathering before sprinting clear. Snyman and fellow lock Franco Mostert then combined to send in Reinach, capitalising on some weak tackling, for the bonus-point score.

And with Canada reeling, Reinach had his third try. Jantjies's cross-kick was pulled down by Warrick Gelant, the wing finding de Allende who in turn released the onrushing Reinach.

Gelant himself went over in the corner after a fine pass from Jantjies. A spirited Canada, roared on by a sporting crowd, then came close to a try. But South Africa-born left wing DTH van der Merwe, making a Canada record 15th World Cup appearance in his first Test against the Springboks, knocked on fly-half Peter Nelson's cross-kick just metres out.

ROLLING MAUL

Canada's night went from bad to worse when English referee Luke Pearce showed Larsen a red card for a shoulder charge to the neck of Springbok prop Thomas du Toit. And on the stroke of half-time, Frans Steyn scored his first Test try in seven years.

But the biggest cheer of the night came when Canada prevented a whitewash in the 46th minute. Canada captain Tyler Ardron won a line-out and set up a rolling

three games," said Jones after England's 39-10 victory over Argentina.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Springboks gave a decent account of themselves in their 23-13 defeat by New Zealand, and a solid pack built around foraging prop Steven Kitshoff, hard-hitting lock Eben Etzebeth and barn-storming number eight Duane Vermeulen will pose problems for any team.

Flanker Pieter-Steph du Toit more than lived up to his billing as one of the world's best current crop of players by going toe-to-toe with an All Black back-row featuring the touted Ardie Savea and Kieran Read. A second-string team saw off African neighbours Namibia 57-3 before a convincing 49-3 win over 14-man Italy, their potential rivals for the Pool B runners-up spot. Coach Rassie Erasmus has been able to alternate two teams, keeping his troops fresh for a quarter-final likely to be against the winner of Pool A, either Ireland, Scotland or Japan.

WALES

The Six Nations champions opened their account with an emphatic 43-14 victory over Georgia, a team that has never beaten a Tier One nation. Warren Gatland's team then fronted up in what looks set to be the Pool D decider, edging Australia 29-25 in a Tokyo thriller.

The Welsh were outscored three tries to two, but raced to a 23-8 half-time lead and resisted a strong second-half fightback from the Wallabies. Ultimately, a drop-goal apiece from Dan Biggar and his replacement Rhys Patchell were the difference in a result that set up Wales as likely pool winners.

Gatland's squad are currently enjoying a nine-day break before taking on Fiji, who are all but eliminated, today. They will take on Uruguay in their final match after a four-day turnaround from Fiji.

AUSTRALIA

Even coach Michael Cheika has admitted that discipline is a problem for Australia after two yellow cards and 12 penalties against Uruguay. The Wallabies have also been struggling to retain the ball, suggesting they are not yet title material. But for all their faults there is enough to like about the Wallabies to say they are capable of going deep into the play-offs.

They have scored 16 tries in three matches, six by wingers, three by centres and one from fullback, showing they are capable of striking out wide.

FRANCE

France have already won a play-off place but even

Moriarty admitted it would be a "tough" encounter against the Pacific islanders. "We've watched the Fiji games and done our analysis on what we have to do — defence, close them down, and we know what to do on attack to get points on the board." McBryde, who ends a lengthy tenure as Wales assistant coach to move to Leinster after the World Cup, said the 10-day break since the tense 29-25 win over Australia had given the team a chance to recharge.

'LOT OF PATIENCE'

There were no injury concerns after fly-half Dan Biggar was fully cleared of any lingering issues after failing a head injury assessment in the Wallabies match. The calmness now in the Wales camp contrasts with the turmoil five days before their first match when attack coach Rob Howley was sent home amid gambling allegations.

Head coach Warren Gatland said then it was "tough" but they had to move on, with Stephen Jones — who played in the shock loss to Fiji that ended Wales' 2007 campaign — rushed in as Howley's replacement.

"We're in a better place than we have been," McBryde, the forwards coach said, as he singled out the Fiji scrum as an area to be targeted. "They're big men. Collectively, we have to work well and match them. We're not taking anything lightly and that's an area we've been focusing on after the first two games.

"When you look back to 2007, we know if we give them any opportunities, they are good enough to take them." Fiji coach John McKee said the hard and fast surface would suit his free-running Pacific islanders "but they will have to play with a lot of patience" to break down Wales.

Should Fiji repeat their heroic effort of 12 years ago, McKee was in no doubt it would "bring the nation to a halt



KOBE: South Africa's scrum-half Cobus Reinach runs to score a try during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool B match between South Africa and Canada at the Kobe Misaki Stadium in Kobe yesterday. — AFP

maul, with wing Jeff Hassler just short. But openside flanker Heaton eventually forced his way over for a try converted by Nelson. There was still time, however for

coach Jacques Brunel has admitted their three-from-three record in Pool C has been far from impressive, and they will need a big improvement when they face also-unbeaten England for first and second place next weekend.

The famous Gallic flair has produced some scintillating tries with the outside backs running incisive angles and producing precision offloads, but there have also been long periods filled with unforced errors and an inadequate set piece. From 20-3 up against Argentina they hung on to win 23-21. Against Tonga, they led 17-0 and again scraped home 23-21. Between these two games, they showed they could finish strongly with three late tries against the USA to go from 12-9 to 33-9 in the last 14 minutes.

If they cannot up their consistency, it is difficult to see Les Bleus going much past the quarter-finals.

IRELAND

Ireland arrived in Japan top of the World Rugby rankings and launched their Pool A campaign with a resounding 27-3 win over old rivals Scotland. But a shock 19-12 defeat by hosts Japan left Ireland needing to make history if they were to be crowned world champions for the first time, as no side has lifted the Webb Ellis Cup after losing a pool match.

A lacklustre and injury-hit Irish side then beat Russia 35-0 but only secured a four-try bonus point in the final quarter. They now need a bonus-point win over Samoa in their final pool match on Saturday to be sure of a quarter-final place.

JAPAN

Hosts Japan set themselves the bold target of reaching the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time. Though few would have put big money on the Brave Blossoms actually getting there, they find themselves on the brink of doing just that.

After overpowering Russia 30-10 in their Pool A opener, Jamie Joseph's side pulled off the shock of the tournament by stunning Ireland 19-12. A 38-19 victory over Samoa last weekend sets up the biggest game in Japanese rugby history against Scotland in Yokohama on Sunday.

The Scots will not relish facing a home side who attack with such dizzying speed and defend with the sort of tenacity they showed against a shell-shocked Ireland. Japan's 'Miracle of Brighton' — a breathless 34-32 win over South Africa four years ago — was the biggest upset in World Cup history.

Beating Ireland and Scotland to achieve a quarter-final spot would top even that. But who would bet against Japan now? — AFP



OITA: Fiji's scrum-half Nikola Matawalu takes part in a captain's run training session at the Oita Stadium in Oita yesterday, on the eve of their Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool D match against Wales. — AFP

for two or three day" similar to the lengthy celebrations of the rugby-mad islanders when Fiji won the 2016 sevens Olympic gold medal. — AFP

How they rate: Top teams' progress at the Rugby World Cup

TOKYO: As the Rugby World Cup nears the end of the pool stage, AFP looks at the leading contenders to lift the Webb Ellis Cup on November 2.

NEW ZEALAND

With wins over South Africa, Canada and Namibia, defending champions New Zealand remain the team to beat as they head towards the knockouts.

They are not yet the complete package and struggled with their handling during a high-paced game against Canada in the clammy atmosphere under the roof in Oita. They were also off-key in the opening half-hour against the amateurs of Namibia.

But they remain dangerous in all areas, with a wide variation in their attacking options: scoring through the middle and out wide, and with tries coming from delicately placed kicks, set-piece moves and turnover ball.

They have also been scoring in bursts, seizing control against South Africa with 17 points in five minutes midway through the first half and putting 14 points on Canada within the first seven minutes.

ENGLAND

England's path through the Rugby World Cup has been compared to a game of Donkey Kong — each match is a level up, starting with the United States and Tonga, then Argentina, France and next the quarter-finals. So far, Eddie Jones's men have negotiated all the barrels and fireballs that have come their way, without really hitting top gear but underscoring their status as second favourites after the All Blacks.

England have an embarrassment of riches in the back three, a crashing outside centre in Manu Tuilagi and the effective "dual playmaker" system with Owen Farrell and George Ford at 12 and 10. Up front, England have nimble flankers and a rampaging number eight in Billy Vunipola, a strong second-row and a powerful scrum. The question is: how high can they try?

It's already a better showing than their woeful first-round exit on home soil at the 2015 World Cup, a showing that saw Australian coach Jones put in charge. "We're exactly where we wanted to be — we're 15 points after

Wales talk bubble trouble for Fiji

OITA: Wales have withdrawn into their own bubble ahead of today's must-win Rugby World Cup match against Fiji, saying they have done their homework on their dangerous opponent. As a powerful typhoon charts course for Japan, Wales are in calm seas, claimed forwards coach Robin McBryde.

Wins over the unpredictable Fiji and minnows Uruguay would see the Six Nations champions qualify top of Pool D and set up a quarter-final with France or England. "We've created a bubble again," McBryde said Tuesday as Wales shut out distractions on the eve of the match in the southern Japanese city of Oita.

"Historically, we always get stronger the more time we spend with each other in that bubble. The environment we're able to create allows individuals to improve their game. "We're aware of Fiji's individual threats but we have had a collectiveness about our preparation. Hopefully that will be reflected in the performance." Number eight Ross Moriarty, promoted to the starting XV after featuring on the bench in the first two games, said they had undertaken close analysis of Fiji.

Wales suffered the consequences of taking Fiji lightly at the 2007 World Cup, losing their pool match which cost them a place in the quarter-finals. But in Japan they have named near-enough their top line up after noting how Fiji ran Australia close in their first match.

After a shock loss to Uruguay with a short turnaround, Fiji returned to their explosive best against Georgia and

three more Springbok tries, including a first in Tests for Damian Willemse, only recently arrived in Japan as a replacement for the injured Jesse Kriel. — AFP

All Blacks preparing for desperate Italy in 'do-or-die' game

TOKYO: The All Blacks face a desperate Italian side with quarter-final ambitions in their final Pool B match in Toyota City on Saturday, assistant coach Ian Foster said yesterday. The All Blacks are expected to beat Italy to advance to the quarter-finals alongside South Africa, although the Italians could still make the knockout phase if they score four tries and beat New Zealand by more than seven points.

That scenario would give Italian coach Conor O'Shea's team 15 points and leave the All Blacks on 14. "They can still reach the quarter-finals," Foster told reporters at the team hotel in Tokyo. "We're expecting an Italian team to bring everything they've got because it's a do-or-die game for them.

"And if we don't respect that, and don't understand that degree of desperation and intensity that will come, then we'll get smacked." Adding to Italy's desperation is the fact they have a crisis in their front row.

Andrea Lovotti and Nicola Quaglio were both suspended for three weeks following an ugly tip tackle on South Africa's Duane Vermeulen on Friday, while Simone Ferrari (hamstring) and Marco Riccioni (concussion) were both injured in their 49-3 loss. "There's no doubt that they will feel a little bit wounded," Foster said. "They've had a lot of disruptions and probably had a pretty tricky week, balancing players coming in and out."

Foster refused to address any speculation on the composition of New Zealand's side for the clash, with the team having mixed and matched players against Canada and Namibia. They are, however, forecast to field their strongest possible selection against Italy, and Foster said he believed the team would lift a level after they were given a dressing-down by coach Steve Hansen at half-time against Namibia on Sunday. — Reuters

Scots eye Russian springboard to Japan showdown at WCup

HAMAMATSU: Scotland are targeting a bonus-point victory, and nothing less, over Russia today to set up a Pool A showdown with hosts Japan for a spot in the quarter-finals. Coach Gregor Townsend made wholesale changes to the team that beat Samoa 34-0 last week, bringing in 14 players as he attempts to manage his 31-strong squad with only a four-day turnover before the game against Japan, in Yokohama on Sunday.

"We've got two big games coming up," said Townsend. "We've had a long rest into this game." Russia, ranked 20th in the world, have suffered three defeats in their three pool games, going down to Japan (30-10), Samoa (34-9) and Ireland (35-0) to end any slim hopes they had of progressing to the last eight.

But Townsend warned that they were expecting a tough battle in Shizuoka, highlighting Russia's strengths as their improved defence and fitness, solid scrum and territorial kicking game. "It's their last game, they'll throw everything into this," said the ex-Scotland and British and Irish Lions fly-half. "We're expecting as good a performance as they gave against Ireland, or better." Scotland capitulated 27-3 in their campaign opener against Ireland but rebounded to beat Samoa 34-0 to set up these two games crucial to escaping from the pool. And an injury-time fourth try that gifted Japan, shock 19-12 victors over Ireland, a bonus point against Samoa set up the do-or-die showdown against the Scots, should the latter not mess up against Russia. "We have to win our next two games to qualify," was Townsend's blunt assessment. — AFP

Sports

Illness, injury hinder Germany for Messi-less Argentina

Angel Di Maria, Sergio Aguero left out of Argentina squad

DORTMUND: Germany are set to hand out several debuts with Joachim Loew missing a host of first-choice names for today's friendly against an Argentina without Lionel Messi.

Like the Germans, Argentina must do without some big names in Dortmund, where only two thirds of tickets have been sold for the friendly. The match is a repeat of the 2014 World Cup final, but Argentina's Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo is set to be the only survivor.

Angel Di Maria and Sergio Aguero have been left out of the Argentina squad while playmaker and captain Lionel Messi is suspended. The 32-year-old superstar is serving a three-month ban after accusing governing body CONMEBOL of "corruption" at the Copa America, where his team finished third.

The German camp has been forced into a reshuffle with 13 players dropping out for illness or injury. "It will be difficult to expect great things when it comes to the line-up, but you can expect seriousness and commitment," assured Loew.

Loew admitted wanting to use the Argentina match to test out combinations with an eye on Euro 2020, "but we won't be able to do that now". Key midfielders Toni Kroos of Real Madrid and Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan are both injured, while a knee knock means there is a question mark over Dortmund captain Marco Reus.

As a result, Loew has called up defender Robin Koch

from Freiburg and midfielder Sebastian Rudy, who played a key role in Hoffenheim's shock win at Bayern Munich on Saturday.

With defenders Matthias Ginter, out with a shoulder injury, and Jonathan Tah, who has a cold, also missing, Loew will test new players. Hertha Berlin defender Niklas Stark will start, as will Freiburg forward Luca Waldschmidt, in for first-choice striker Timo Werner, who has a cold.

There will be much attention on Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who will start with German captain Manuel Neuer on the bench. Loew has said Neuer will return for Sunday's Euro 2020 qualifier at minnows Estonia, but there are calls for Ter Stegen, 27, to usurp Neuer, 33, as first choice.

"I don't feel under any more pressure than usual," said Ter Stegen in Dortmund. "I want to do my best, as always, just like everyone else in the team. I think that despite the withdrawals, we're still bringing a lot of quality."

In the Argentinian camp, coach Lionel Scaloni will be without River Plate and Boca Juniors players involved in the semi-finals of the Copa Libertadores. Rising talents Nicolas Tagliafico (Ajax), Matias Vargas (Espanyol Barcelona) and Lautaro Martinez (Inter Milan) are set to get their chance.

Experience will come from Man City's Nicolas Otamendi (Manchester City), Angel Correa of Atletico Madrid or Paulo Dybala of Juventus. — AFP



BARCELONA: File photo shows Barcelona's Argentine forward Lionel Messi celebrates his goal during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Sevilla FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on October 6, 2019. — AFP

Mane faces Brazil after starring for Liverpool

PARIS: Sadio Mane goes into Senegal's friendly against Brazil in Singapore tomorrow after playing a pivotal role for Liverpool in a dramatic 2-1 Premier League win over Leicester. The Senegalese was the star African performer in the major European leagues, putting the Reds ahead, before a foul on him also led to James Milner converting a stoppage-time penalty. Fellow Liverpool star Egyptian Mohamed Salah limped off after a foul that angered manager Jurgen Klopp, who fumed: "It was done to slow Mo down and that is not okay."

ENGLAND SADIO MANE (Liverpool)

The Senegal winger was Liverpool's star as they made it 17 successive Premier League victories with a dramatic 2-1 win against Leicester at Anfield. Mane put Liverpool ahead in the 40th minute with a fine finish. It was his eighth goal of the season and 50th in the league for the Reds. Then, after Leicester equalised, it was Mane who won a penalty when he was fouled by Marc Albrighton and Milner converted the spot-kick.

MOHAMED SALAH (Liverpool)

The Egypt forward suffered an ankle injury that forced him to limp off during Liverpool's win against Leicester. Salah was hurt in the last minute after Leicester midfielder Hamza Choudhury trapped the Liverpool star's ankle under his body with a crude lunge. Reds boss Jurgen Klopp didn't confirm the extent of Salah's injury.

JORDAN AYEW (Crystal Palace)

The Ghana striker scored his third goal of the season to give Palace a VAR-assisted 2-1 win at West Ham. Ayew slotted home from close range in the 87th minute, but it took a long VAR review before Martin Kelly was confirmed as onside when he headed down for the Palace forward to finish.

ITALY KWADWO ASAMOAH (Inter Milan)

Ghana defender Asamoah struggled to contain his former club Juventus as Inter Milan lost 2-1 to suffer their first Serie A defeat this season. The 30-year-old — who won six league titles with Juventus before moving to Inter in 2018 — got his sixth start this season.

AMADOU DIAWARA (Roma)

Guinean midfielder Diawara, playing just his third game for Roma, suffered a knee injury after half an hour in their 1-1 home draw against Cagliari. The 22-year-old, who arrived at the capital side from Napoli this season, has reportedly suffered a torn meniscus and could be out for up to two months.

FRANCK KESSIE (AC Milan)

Kessie scored the winner from the penalty spot to get AC Milan back on the winning trail with a 2-1 victory in Genoa after three consecutive defeats. It was the Ivorian's first goal this season and extended his impressive record from the spot, converting nine of the 10 Serie A penalties he has taken, including the last four.

CHRISTIAN KOUAME (Genoa)

Ivorian Kouame earned a late penalty for Genoa when he was brought down by AC Milan goalkeeper Pepe Reina. But Reina, a 2010 World Cup winner with Spain, denied Lasse Schone from the spot as a winless Genoa run stretched to five games.

GERMANY

ACHRAF HAKIMI (Dortmund)

Morocco international Hakimi got on the scoresheet when his fierce cross cannoned off Freiburg defender Lukas Kuebler to put Dortmund 2-1 up in the second half of their 2-2 draw. Hakimi, who scored two goals in Dortmund's midweek Champions League win at Slavia Prague, was a consistent threat.

SALIF SANE (Schalke)

Senegal centre-back Sane helped Schalke take a late lead at home to Cologne when his towering header was nodded home by midfielder Suat Serdar. However, his side blew the chance to usurp Bayern Munich in top spot when they conceded a 91st-minute goal to draw 1-1 in Gelsenkirchen.

IHLAS BEBOU (Hoffenheim)

Togolese forward Bebou played a crucial role in his side's surprise 2-1 win at previously unbeaten Bayern Munich. After forcing a save from Manuel Neuer midway through the first half, Bebou's jinking runs asked questions of a disjointed Munich backline, allowing strike partner Sargis Adamyan to capitalise, scoring twice.

FRANCE

VICTOR OSIMHEN (Lille)

The 20-year-old Nigerian forward grabbed his league-best seventh goal of the season to salvage a 2-2 draw against Nimes. Osimhen lashed home an equaliser from close range on 79 minutes after a goalmouth scramble. He has scored in all six home games for Lille in all competitions.

MOSES SIMON (Nantes)

Nantes head into the international break as the closest challengers to Paris Saint-Germain in Ligue 1 after Simon's 86th-minute header secured a 1-0 win over Nice. The on-loan Nigerian headed in a cross from Kader Bamba for his second match-winning goal since arriving from Spanish club Levante. — AFP

Youth pushing England, Italy to brink of Euro 2020 qualification

PARIS: England and Italy are closing in on qualification for Euro 2020 as the two countries' talented young squads search for the single win that would guarantee them a place at a landmark tournament with matches to spare. The pair are two of five teams that can qualify for next summer's tournament in the coming round of matches, held over October 10-12. Spain and Group I rivals Belgium and Russia can also lock up an early place. With two teams qualifying from each of the 10 groups, England need just a win at the Czech Republic on Friday to ensure qualification from the five-team Group A after a perfect run of four victories from four that has put Gareth Southgate's side four points clear of third-placed Kosovo, who have played a game more.

Southgate has built on taking England to the semi-finals of the 2018 World Cup, with his side crashing home 19 goals in a dominant qualification campaign. The England manager has been helped by the blossoming, at 24, of Raheem Sterling who after scoring four goals in his first 47 England appearances has scored six in his last six.

Southgate has also capitalised on the emergence of young players such as West Ham's Declan Rice, 20, and 19-year-old Jadon Sancho, who bagged his first England goals in the 5-3 win over Kosovo last time and is a mainstay for Borussia Dortmund.

Young Chelsea trio Mason Mount, Fikayo Tomori and Tammy Abraham are the latest players to be rewarded by Southgate for their impressive club displays, with Mount and the Premier League's joint-leading scorer Abraham among the revelations of the early-season fixtures.

Roberto Mancini meanwhile has continued his rebuilding of Italy while collecting six wins from six in Group J. His youthful Azzurri have a chance of booking their ticket against Greece on Saturday.

They need to beat the Greeks at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome and hope that third-placed Armenia fail to beat rock-bottom Liechtenstein, who have conceded 19 goals so far. Regardless, Italy are almost guaranteed a place in the Euros as they are nine points ahead of Armenia with four matches remaining. If they fail this time, they will have a second chance later in this international break, when they visit Liechtenstein on October 15 on matchday eight. Former Inter Milan and Manchester City boss Mancini has taken the broom to the side that failed to qualify for the World Cup and thrown his trust behind young talent like Inter Milan midfielder Nicolò Barella, highly-rated Roma attacker Nicolò Zaniolo and AC Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma. Zaniolo, 20, is back in contention after being put on an enforced exile with Moise Kean for bad behaviour during the Under-21 Euros on home turf. Inter's other young midfielder dynamo Stefano Sensi is out after suffering a thigh injury in the 2-1 Serie A defeat by Juventus on Sunday.

Also in contention to qualify on matchday seven are Spain, who have rattled off six straight wins in a tough Group F despite the turmoil that followed the death of former coach Luis Enrique's daughter.

Robert Moreno has taken over and his group leaders are eight points ahead of Romania in third. Spain need a win at Norway and the Faroe Islands to nick a result over the Romanians to book their place.

Belgium and Russia meanwhile both want a draw between Kazakhstan and Cyprus early on Thursday before they search for wins over San Marino and Scotland that would seal their qualification. The Netherlands, another team packed with young talent, will try to make their game in hand count in Group C on Thursday when they host second-placed Northern Ireland looking to join their opponents and leaders Germany on 12 points. Ronald Koeman's side, which includes Juventus defender Matthijs de Ligt and Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong and their former Ajax teammate Donny van de Beek, have bounced back in style from failing to qualify for the last World Cup and Euros and would go top of the group with a victory in Rotterdam. — AFP

US women's team fights back against governing body's pay claims

NEW YORK: US women's national soccer team players pushed back in a court filing on Monday against claims by the US Soccer Federation that some members earn more than their male counterparts, as they argued for class action status in the latest chapter of their closely-watched legal fight.

All 28 members of the US women's national soccer team sued the US Soccer Federation for gender discrimination in March in a lawsuit that included complaints about wages and working conditions.

Mediation between the two parties broke down in August, weeks after US Soccer's President Carlos Cordeiro said in an open letter that the organization has paid more to the women's team than the men's in recent years.

A week ago, the organization said it opposed the women's players bid for class action status in their suit. "Over the class period, the (Women's National Team) has played far more games than the (Men's National Team) and amassed a far higher win percentage, including earning two World Cup championships," the suit's plaintiffs said in Monday's court filing. "This is the only reason why the four (Women's National Team) class representatives were able to earn more total compensation than members of the (Men's National Team)."

Those four players — Megan Rapinoe, Carli Lloyd, Alex Morgan and Becky Sauerbrunn — would have earned far more under the men's team's pay rate policy, the plaintiffs argued in the filing.

A spokesman for US Soccer said members of the men's national team have the chance to earn larger bonuses, but they do not receive guaranteed money in their "pay-for-play contract structure."

"Our men and women's national teams have different pay structures, not because of gender, but because each team chose to negotiate a different compensation package with US Soccer," the spokesman said.—Reuters

Three years on, Southgate's stock still rising

LONDON: It is three years to the day that Gareth Southgate took charge of his first England game and few of the 81,000 crowd who watched his side labour to a 2-0 win over Malta at Wembley would have staked too much on him enjoying a long reign.

The job had rather fallen into the hands of the former Under 21s coach after Sam Allardyce was sacked after 67 days in charge after being embroiled in an under-cover newspaper sting.

Southgate was initially installed as caretaker manager — a "safe pair of hands" to guide England through choppy waters following a humiliating exit to Iceland under former manager Roy Hodgson at the 2016 European Championship in France.

Fast forward three years and Southgate has transformed England from laughing stock to a vibrant, free-scoring side tipped as one of the favourites to win next year's European Championship.

In 37 games in charge he has won 21, drawn nine and lost seven. More importantly he trusts young players, has encouraged an eye-pleasing and pacy style and has acted with dignity in victory and defeat. He has made England likeable again.

A man many said was "too nice" to be a success has become the most popular England manager since Terry Venables guided the national team to the semi-finals of Euro 1996 on home soil.

England have scored 19 goals in four Euro 2020 qualifiers and face the Czech Republic on Friday and Bulgaria three days later when few would expect anything other than two more emphatic wins to virtually assure their place in the finals.

A run to the World Cup semi-finals was a welcome over-achievement but the buzz that engendered has been sustained and England's fans are fully switched back on to the national team.

NATIONAL PRIDE

Where once it attracted derision and scorn, Southgate's side has become a source of pride. "The fact the team have connected back with our fans is the



Gareth Southgate

most pleasing aspect of the last few years," he said as he prepared his players at St. George's Park.

"It was important to me that we played with a style that our supporters enjoy watching. We knew there were some good young players coming through, which we've blooded and we've been ranked fourth or fifth in the world for the last 12 months because of consistently good performances."

Under Southgate the likes of Trent Alexander-Arnold, Jadon Sancho and Declan Rice have all been fast-tracked into the first team, while Chelsea's Mason Mount made his full debut against Bulgaria last month and team mate Tammy Abraham is in line to earn his first senior cap after being called up.

With the climax of next year's tournament being staged in England there is genuine belief that Southgate's men can surpass their performance in Russia last year, but the manager knows that there could still be bumps in the road.

"We've got a much bigger emphasis on youth so there's still a lot for us to do," Southgate said.

"The challenges never stop. Every month we go back through the games we've played and review what could be better and the areas we can improve on to be considered the best team in the world. There's a lot of work to do in that regard. "But we feel we're still improving. I don't think there's been any regression, we've got to make sure we continue that." — Reuters

25 Unbeaten San Francisco 49ers crush turnover-prone Browns

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27 Three years on, Southgate's stock still rising



Torres lead Yankees past Twins

Cardinals edge Braves, Tampa Bay's Kiermaier smashes three-run homer



MINNEAPOLIS: Gleyber Torres #25 of the New York Yankees slides in safe on a double against the Minnesota Twins in the ninth inning in game three of the American League Division Series at Target Field in Minneapolis, Minnesota. — AFP

WASHINGTON: Gleyber Torres clubbed a second-inning home run and made a couple of clutch defensive plays as the New York Yankees punched their ticket to the American League Championship Series by sweeping the Minnesota Twins in three games.

Torres, of Venezuela, started things off with a homer in the second and belted two doubles as the Yankees sent the Twins crashing out of the Major League Baseball playoffs with a dominant 5-1 win on Monday night.

"I compete everytime, it doesn't matter who is pitching," the 22-year-old Torres said. "I just try to focus and do my job, going to home plate, getting a really good at bat, and keeping it simple."

The Yankees advanced to the ALCS for the second time in three years as they outscored the Twins 23-7 in the best-of-five series. Didi Gregorius hit two RBI singles for the Yankees, who extended their playoff winning streak over the Twins to 13 consecutive games.

"Our pitching did a great job," said Yankees outfielder Brett Gardner, who added an RBI single. "Anytime we get a little lead and turn it over to our bullpen we feel good about our chances."

"It is just a lot of fun. We got a young team they are pumped up about moving on." New York starts the AL Championship Series on Saturday, at home against the Tampa Bay Rays or at the Houston Astros.

Earlier on Monday, Tampa Bay's Kevin Kiermaier smashes a three-run homer to help power the Rays over Houston 10-3 to sustain their title hopes.

The host Rays pulled within 2-1 in the series and will host game four on Tuesday, when Houston's Justin Verlander will pitch on short rest to seek a series-winning victory.

Houston's Jose Altuve opened the scoring on Monday with a first-inning solo homer but Kiermaier's blast in the second inning put the Rays ahead to stay.

"Running around the bases not feeling my feet hit the ground was a great feeling," Kiermaier said.

Tampa Bay pitcher Charlie Morton, a 35-year-old American right-hander who

played with Houston the past two seasons, struck out nine batters while issuing only three hits and two walks over five innings. Morton improved to 4-0 in career playoff elimination games.

"Nothing ever bothers him. He's so composed," Kiermaier said.

In St. Louis, catcher Yadier Molina drove in the tying and winning runs to rally the Cardinals past Atlanta 5-4 in 10 innings and force a one-game showdown to advance in the playoffs.

The Cardinals pulled level at 2-2 in the series with the final game on Wednesday in Atlanta, the winner advancing to the National League Championship Series.

St. Louis second baseman Kolten Wong doubled down the left-field line off Atlanta

reliever Julio Teheran in the 10th and Marcell Ozuna, who hit two home runs, reached on a fielder's choice that moved Wong to third.

Molina, who had singled in the tying run in the eighth inning, then blasted a sacrifice fly to left field, sending Wong to home plate for the winning run.

"I was ready to hit the fastball and he gave it to me right down the middle," said Molina, in his 93rd career playoff start. "We put some good at-bats together in the last inning and we got the win."

Elsewhere, Max Scherzer pitched seven quality innings on a short rest and the Washington Nationals routed the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-1 to even their series 2-2. — AFP

Angry Murray accuses Fognini after bitter Shanghai exit

SHANGHAI: A fuming Andy Murray accused Fabio Fognini of shouting during a critical point as the Briton went down fighting in three bitter sets at the Shanghai Masters yesterday.

The two players confronted one another

in a lengthy exchange by the net near the end of a bad-tempered match that stretched past three hours.

The 12th-ranked Fognini plays the unseeded American Taylor Fritz or Russian seventh seed Karen Khachanov in the last 16 after a contentious 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 7-6 (7/2) victory.

But Murray, 32, on the comeback from career-saving hip surgery in January, said: "Someone made a noise, I didn't know who made the noise, I looked in the direction of where the noise came from."

"He then told me, 'Stop looking at me, what are you looking at me for?'"

"I was like, 'I was just about to hit a shot and someone made a noise'. He then told me to stop looking at him," Murray added.

"The sound came from him, which you're not allowed to do, it's against the rules, it's hindrance, you shouldn't do it."

The three-time Grand Slam winner was frustrated the chair umpire failed to intervene as the match turned increasingly sour.

Yesterday should have been a day for minor celebration after the Australian Open said that Murray will make his return to Grand Slam tennis there in January, a year after surgery.

"Fabio wanted to engage with me, I probably shouldn't have done, but I am not having him talk to me like that on court," said Murray of their exchange.

The former number one was also annoyed he repeatedly served for the match but failed to win.

"I want to say that's the first time ever in my career that that's happened," Murray said. "I think it's the first time I served for a match twice and not won."

Ruthless Roger Federer claimed victory in his opener with a straight-sets win over Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

The 38-year-old Swiss won 6-2, 7-6 (7/5) and plays Belgium's 13th seed David Goffin or Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan in the last 16.

The third-ranked Federer is looking to end the season on a high with a fourth title of the year — although he failed to win a 21st Grand Slam this season.

The 46th-ranked Ramos-Vinolas put up a better fight in the second set, forcing the tie break and taking a 2-0 and then 4-1

lead. But cheered on by his band of local supporters, who held aloft banners proclaiming their hero "superhuman", Federer won the tie break — and the match — with a forehand smash.

Federer said a loss to the Spaniard in 2015 in Shanghai had driven him on. "The truth, yeah, I was thinking about it, watched highlights," said the Swiss maestro.

"Remember how it felt, I had my chances. I won many more points than time than I lost, so I should have actually won that match."

Red-hot Daniil Medvedev, the US Open finalist, got his tournament off to a flying start with a 6-3, 6-1 demolition of Britain's Cameron Norrie. — AFP