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Amir returns home after a successful medical checkup

His Highness expresses deep thanks for the warm welcome



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) waves as he arrives at Kuwait international airport. Sheikh Sabah returned home yesterday after undergoing medical tests in the United States. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Workers fix large portraits of the Amir of Kuwait HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on one of the main roads in Kuwait City to mark his return to the country after a medical trip in the US. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah returned home yesterday after undergoing medical tests in the United States, according to the official KUNA news agency. He was received by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, the President of the National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, President of the Court of the Cassation and President of the Constitutional Court Consultant Yosif Al-Mutawa' and

senior state officials.

During his trip, His Highness the Amir was accompanied by Deputy President of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Mubarak Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and President of protocols and honorary missions Sheikh Khaled Abdullah Al-Sabah.

His Highness was admitted in a hospital in the US just days before he was scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump on September 12. As a result, the meeting was postponed until a new date that is expected to be announced later, the Kuwaiti agency reported at the time.

His Highness the Amir has returned home "after completing medical examinations successfully and positively," KUNA said yesterday.

On August 18, the agency cited a palace statement saying that the Amir had "recovered from a setback and is in good health now", without elaborating. Prior to the KUNA report in August, there had been no word on the Amir's health in official media or Kuwait newspapers.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir expressed his deepest thanks to the people of Kuwait and expatriates for their sincere feelings, delight, and happiness they showed upon

his arrival to his homeland after the successful medical checkups. He expressed deep appreciation to the people of Kuwait for their concern and follow up on his condition throughout his trip, which reflected on Kuwait's unity and distinguished moral.

He also thanked leaders of Arab nations and other friendly countries for their constant check up on his health, sentiments, and genuine wishes they offered. His Highness prayed to Allah Almighty to perpetuate the blessings of security, safety and prosperity to our beloved country and guide its people to serve it at all times. — Agencies

Qatar rules out war between US and Iran

DOHA: Qatar's defense minister ruled out yesterday the possibility of a war between the United States and Iran amid rising tensions in the Gulf following attacks on oil tankers. Doha is an ally of Washington, but also has good relations with Tehran that has helped it overcome a political and economic boycott by Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies over accusations the tiny kingdom backs the Islamic republic and extremists.

"I don't see a war in the future between the United States and Iran," said Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah during the Global Security Forum in Doha. "A war will be in no one's interest," he said. Tensions have soared in the Gulf in recent months with a series of attacks on oil infrastructure and tankers which have raised fears of a war between the arch-rivals. Last month, two Saudi oil facilities were attacked, temporarily halving the kingdom's crude output and setting oil markets alight.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility, but US officials blamed Tehran and charged that the rebels did not have the range or sophistication to target the facilities. Tehran has denied involvement and warned of "total war" in the event of any attack on its territory. Tensions between Iran and the United States have soared since US President Donald Trump pulled out of a 2015 international nuclear deal that was meant to lift sanctions in exchange for a commitment from Tehran to curb its atomic program. — AFP

US officials rush to Turkey; Russia advances in Syria

ANKARA: The Trump administration dispatched its top officials to Turkey yesterday for emergency talks to try to persuade Ankara to halt an assault on northern Syria, while Russian troops swept into territory abandoned by Washington in a sudden retreat. Robert O'Brien, White House national security adviser since last month, arrived in Turkey aiming to meet Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu yesterday.

Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo are expecting to meet the following day with

President Tayyip Erdogan. The administration is trying to contain the fallout from Erdogan's decision to send forces last week to attack Syrian Kurdish militia that were Washington's close allies. Erdogan repeated his insistence there would be no ceasefire, and said he might call off a visit to the United States next month because of the "very big disrespect" shown by US politicians.

He also denounced the United States for taking the "unlawful, ugly step" of imposing criminal charges against a

Continued on Page 24

Nigerian town celebrates 'Twins Capital' of world

IGBO-ORA: The sign greeting visitors at the entrance of Igbo-Ora in southwest Nigeria welcomes people to a place unlike anywhere on the planet: "TWIN'S CAPITAL OF THE WORLD". The rather sleepy-looking town boasts of having the highest concentration of multiple births of any place on the globe.

To celebrate its self-proclaimed title the town hosts an annual festival, now in

its second year, that draws hundreds of sets of twins from around the country. Donning different traditional clothes and costumes, the twins - male and female, old, young and even newborns - sang and danced at the latest edition this weekend to the appreciation of an admiring audience.

"We feel elated that we are being honored today," Kehinde Durowoju, a 40-year-old twin said as he hugged his identical brother Taiwo. "With this event, the whole world will better appreciate the importance of Ibeji (twins) as special children and gifts from God." Around them, twins moved in procession to show off their colorful outfits as magic displays and masquerades also entertained the crowds — AFP (See Page 22)



TAL ABYAD: Kurdish Syrian civilians flee the town of Kobani on the Turkish border as Turkey and its allies continue their assault on Kurdish-held border towns in northeastern Syria. — AFP



IGBO-ORA, Nigeria: Identical twin sisters Kehinde Olofin (left) and Taye Olofin attend Igbo-Ora World Twins festival to celebrate the uniqueness in multiple births at Igbo-Ora Town in Oyo State, southwest Nigeria. — AFP

Kuwait's Amir receives congratulation from Crown Prince, senior state officials

National Guard chief 'ecstatic' over Sheikh Sabah's return



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is welcomed by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon his return to Kuwait yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen shortly after his arrival to Kuwait.



Chief of Kuwait's National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah welcomes His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a congratulatory cable yesterday from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah over his safe return from the US. In his cable, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf expressed gratitude and thanked Allah Almighty for His Highness the Amir's return after successful medical checkups. His Highness the Crown Prince expressed on behalf of Kuwaiti citizens and residents best wishes and congratulation to His Highness the Amir. In turn, His Highness the Amir sent a thank you letter to His Highness the Crown Prince for his kind words and sentiments.

His Highness the Amir also received a letter from the chief of Kuwait's National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, welcoming him back home after having underwent medical checkups in the US. The National Guard is ecstatic over His Highness the Amir's safe return to the country after his "successful medical checkups allayed all of our concerns over his well-being," he wrote in his letter. Replying to the National Guard chief, His Highness the Amir thanked him for his warm sentiments, wishing Kuwait continued prosperity and development.

Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received a letter of congratulations from National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and members of the parliament on the occasion of his return to Kuwait. In the letter, the Parliament Speaker greeted His Highness, on behalf of himself and all MPs, expressing sincere sentiments and happiness over the return of His Highness to the country after successfully completing his medical trip in the United States, asking Almighty Allah to grant him with everlasting health so he may continue with his wise leadership of Kuwait and loyal people. In reply, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad thanked the parliament, speaker and members, for their sincere emotions shown in the letter, hoping for more achievements and prosperity, and asked Almighty Allah to bless the Kuwaiti people with health and happiness.

In addition, His Highness the Amir received a message from His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who wished His Highness the Amir good health so he may carry on with "his blessed march of serving our beloved country and pushing forward the Process of development, progress and prosperity." Also in the cable, His Highness Sheikh Nasser said he was deeply proud of the noticeable development and progress in the country in various spheres, under "your sagacious leadership," renewing the allegiance and faithfulness to His Highness on his behalf and on behalf of the Kuwaiti people. In reply, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to His Highness Sheikh Nasser expressing gratitude for the good and sincere feelings on his return to the country. His Highness prayed to Allah Almighty to protect the dear

homeland and guide the people toward further progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister cables Amir

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir received a cable of congratulations from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah upon the safe arrival of His Highness the Amir after completing the medical checkups successfully. His Highness the Amir sent a response thanks cable to His Highness the Prime Minister, expressing His Highness's appreciation for the sincere and genuine feelings His Highness the Prime Minister and cabinet Ministers expresses. His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah Almighty to maintain the blessings of security and prosperity to our beloved nation and to help its people to serve Kuwait and achieve its developmental aims, and His Highness wished his people everlasting health and wellness.

Moreover, Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh voiced content and relief for safe return of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, following successful medical checkups in the US. Saleh, in a statement, congratulated His Highness the Amir on his safe return to continue his leadership of the nation. Saleh prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow His Highness the Amir with good health.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan described as 'a joyous occasion' the return home of His Highness the Amir following successful medical checkups in the US. "The joyful feelings that we see among Kuwaitis and expatriates show how much love they have for His Highness the Amir, the humanitarian leader," Roudhan, also Minister of State for Services, said in a statement. His Highness the Amir, he added, reassured Kuwait's philanthropy worldwide and has a major peace-making efforts.

Minister of Justice and Minister of State for parliament affairs Dr Mohammad Al-Afasi also welcomed the safe return home of His Highness the Amir. "The whole of Kuwait is extremely happy with the return of His Highness the Amir which reflects how citizens and expatriates have so much love for him," Afasi said in a statement. He said His Highness the Amir's generosity has reached people in need in many parts of the world, indeed granting him the 'Humanitarian Leader' title by the UN.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Shula congratulated His Highness the Amir for his safe return, saying that Kuwaitis and expatriates have showed so much affection to His Highness the Amir upon his return. Shula, also Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, said the return of His Highness the Amir mirrored solid relationship between the ruler and people. He prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow his blessing upon His Highness the Amir.

Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi meanwhile expressed content for the return home of His Highness the Amir, congratulating him on his return on behalf of the Ministry and Kuwait University. He prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow His Highness the Amir with good health. Kuwait University President Dr Hussain Al-Ansari congratulated His Highness the Amir on his safe return. He said Kuwaitis were awaiting for His Highness the Amir's return. Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr Jenan Bushehri said that His Highness the Amir has relentless contributions and is like "a father for all," adding that the Kuwaiti people were awaiting for the return of their leader. His Highness the Amir's vast political, diplomatic and economic experience and vision transformed Kuwait to new levels.

Policemen released


In the meantime, the Ministry of Interior announced a decision to release all of police members held for disciplinary cases, on the occasion of the safe return of His Highness the Amir to the country. In a statement to the press, the ministry said the decision was issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lieutenant General Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah on the occasion of His Highness the Amir's safe return to the homeland.

Also yesterday, His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award shared prizes with the public in Kuwait in celebration on the return of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Chairwoman of the Award Board of Trustees Sheikhha Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah said in a press statement Yesterday that she was happy about the safe return of His Highness the Amir and congratulating him on the successful medical checkups in US. Sheikhha Aida Al-Sabah congratulated citizens and residents over the good news, expressing gratitude for his successful humanitarian work and wise leadership that lead to safety and security of the country.

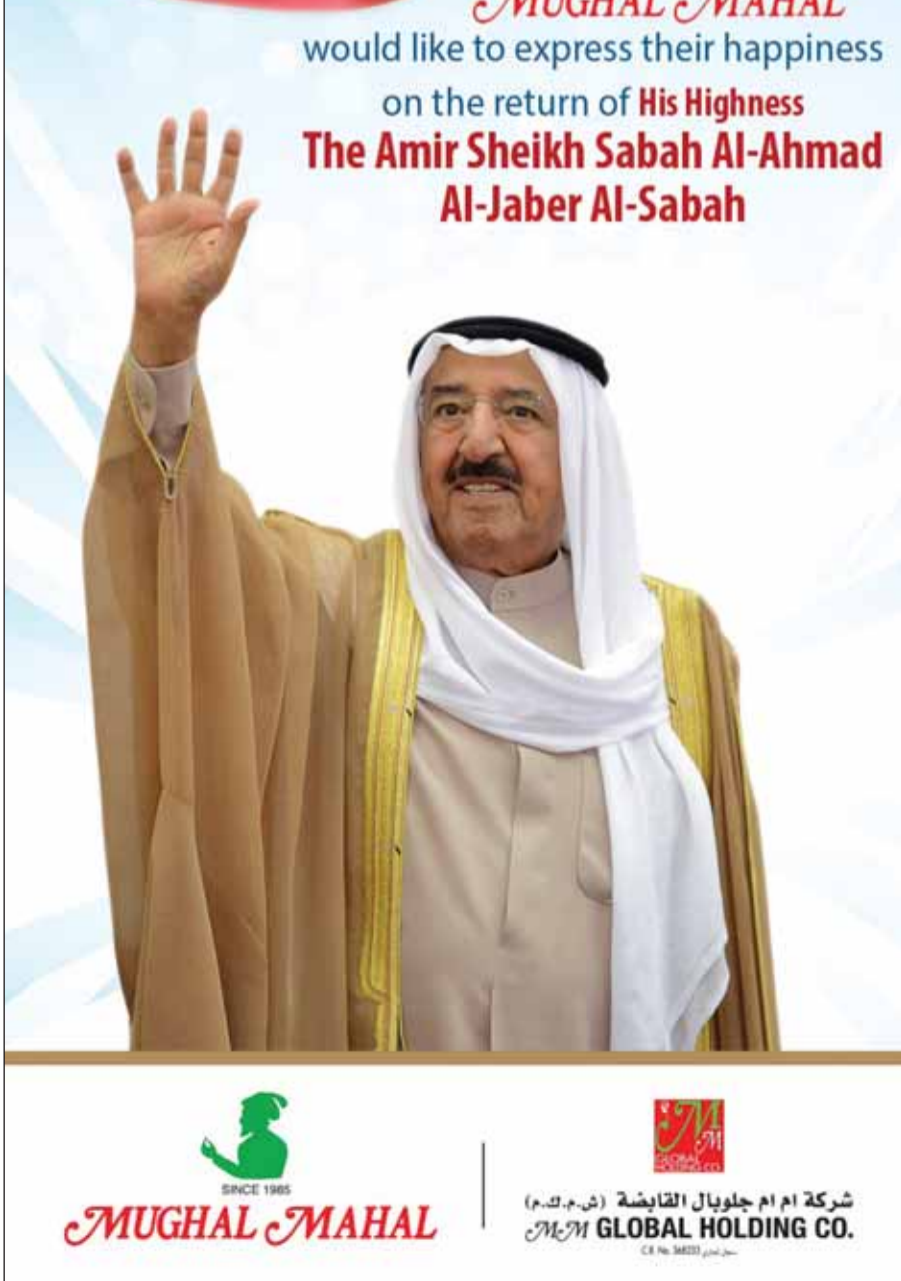
Also yesterday, the embassies of Guyana and Pakistan in Kuwait released statements congratulating His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on his safe return to the country. "The government of Guyana, South America and the Embassy of Guyana in Kuwait are thrilled, delighted and jubilant that the visionary Amir, United Nations' designated Humanitarian Leader, and World Bank awardee for Global Social and Economic Development, is safely back home in Kuwait after health tests in the US," reads a statement released by the Embassy of Guyana yesterday. Meanwhile, the Embassy of Pakistan expressed in a press statement happiness over the "successful health check-up" His Highness the Amir underwent in the US, and his safe return back home. —KUNA





His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen inside a vehicle upon his arrival to Kuwait.



Welcome Home
MUGHAL MAHAL
would like to express their happiness
on the return of His Highness
**The Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**



National Anthem echoes across Mubarakiya Market on Amir's comeback

KUWAIT: Kuwait's top bazaar Al-Mubarakiya Market, is witnessing a festival on return of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the homeland. The market, located in the heart of the capital and renowned for displayed handcraft products and genuine traditional industries, is ornamented with a huge portrait of His Highness the Amir. The grand portrait, placed at Al-Gharbally market within the spacious bazaar, is captioned, 'A message of faithfulness and love.' Organizers of the activity, "Nawaret," from Kuwait Municipality, are distributing photos of the Amir and unleashing a huge balloon decorated with his portrait, amid tunes of the National Anthem. — KUNA



Portraits of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah hanging at the Mubarakiya Market. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Local

Kuwait's Crown Prince receives Prime Minister, Thai ambassador



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak AL-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Thailand's Ambassador to Kuwait Dusit Manapan.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also

received Thailand's Ambassador to Kuwait Dusit Manapan. The meeting was attended by President of Protocols and Honorary Missions Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. —KUNA



Kuwait, Netherlands ink aviation deal

BRUSSELS: Kuwait and the Netherlands signed yesterday in the Hague an accord stipulating cooperation in aviation transports. The agreement was co-signed by Yousef Al-Fozan, Director General of Kuwaitis Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and Jan Hendrik, the Dutch Minister of Infrastructure. Fozan said in a press statement that the accord outlines regulations for operating national aviation companies in the two countries, exchanging transportation rights, facilities and privileges as well as boosting cooperation in aviation security and safety. It has been inked in line with the policy of civil aviation department for cementing relations with friendly countries, opening up new cooperation horizons and linking up Kuwait International Airport with the largest possible networks of international airports. — KUNA



Al-Harbi recognizing Al-Terkait

VIVA organizes breast cancer awareness session

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

The event embraced several activities that brought the employees together to learn more about the health cause. The awareness session conducted by Dr Faisal Al-Terkait, consultant medical oncologist and Head of the breast cancer unit at the Kuwait Cancer Control Center, MBBS, MRCP, CCT (UK), highlighted the importance of prevention and early screening which will in return reduce the probability of diagnosis and any required aggressive treatment. Terkait also discussed with VIVA's female employees the risks of the dis-

ease, its signs and symptoms and the given age and factors that play a main role in choosing the proper time of when one should start screening.

As part of the #because_we_care campaign, the Public Relations team at VIVA distributed pink roses as invitations to encourage all female employees to attend the session as well as ribbon pins that represent the international logo of breast cancer awareness. Accordingly, the turnout was beyond expected which helped spread awareness among the employees who have shown interest in the topic of discussion and were highly interactive with the doctor. This session falls in line with VIVA corporate social responsibility agenda that strives to support different initiatives all in benefit of the society and the employees. VIVA has concluded the session by recognizing Dr Terkait with a trophy for his efforts and participation in this special occasion.

Dasman Institute hosts 'healthy lifestyle' seminar

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute, founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, recently hosted 'Healthy Food, Healthy Lifestyle' seminar, in collaboration with the Netherlands Embassy in Kuwait. A group of local and international professionals delivered talks and held group work sessions during this seminar in attempts to increase awareness towards building a healthier next generation in Kuwait.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr Qais Al Duwairi, Director-General of the Institute who highlighted the importance of hosting health education seminars and fostering international collaborations. In addition, Frans Potuyt, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kuwait, presented an opening speech, followed by a keynote speech by Erik Smidt, Agricultural Counsellor GCC.

Furthermore, Dr Ebaa Al Ozairi, Chief Medical Officer of the Institute, presented a lecture as well as Dr Nicola Guess, Head of Nutrition at the Institute. Moreover, Maarten Smit, Director of GMBs Business Support presented a lecture, followed by a final presentation by Rutger Schilpzand, Expert Food Quality Labels and Executive Director Healthy Choices Program.

This is the second collaboration between the Embassy and Dasman Diabetes Institute. In 2017, the Institute hosted the 'Healthy Food, Healthy Lifestyle' as a joint initiative to develop and deliver awareness-raising programs for healthcare professionals, caregivers and the public. It is Dasman Diabetes Institute's mission to address the diabetes epidemic in Kuwait through focused diabetes, research, integrated prevention, training, education and treatment.



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Local

Commercial areas 'becoming cleaner' while piled up trash remains in residential parts

Kuwait Times' tour reveals that the problem remains



KUWAIT: Photos taken during Kuwait Times' tour in Salmiya, Salwa and Kuwait City showing empty garbage containers in commercial areas and full ones in residential parts. — Photos by Faten Omar and Ben Garcia

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Residents around Kuwait continue to complain about huge amounts of trash in front of their buildings. Photos showing piles of trash on sidewalks and garbage containers overflowing with trash are shared every day on social media in Kuwait.

Kuwait Times toured Salmiya (Blocks 2, 3, 6, and 7) and Salwa (Blocks 2, 5, and 6) and Kuwait City yesterday, and found out that most of the piled up garbage was in residential areas. Meanwhile, most bins and streets in commercial areas were noticeably clean. Kuwait Times has been receiving complaints about trash not being picked up for days in areas including Salwa, Salmiya, Khaitan, Mahboula, and Hawally. While Kuwait Municipality says that the problem is being resolved gradually, the issue remains until a new company it recently hired to handle waste removal takes over from the old company whose contract expired recently. A municipality employee told Kuwait Times earlier this week that the hand over process should finish 'within days.'



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Failed armed robbery at Salmiya money exchange

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: An unidentified person carried out a failed armed robbery at a money exchange shop in Salmiya, when employees refused to cooperate with him, prompting him to escape. The suspect reportedly pointed a firearm at the workers and asked them to hand over the money they had, but they refused to oblige and hid behind the counter. The suspect then escaped without stealing anything. Detectives are investigating.

In other news, a governmental committee tasked with the duty of finding solutions for the demographic structure's imbalance has asked state departments to provide their views within a month in order to discuss them during the committee's next meeting, according to informed sources.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the sources said that the committee is preparing its final report to be submitted to the Cabinet at the start of next year, noting that the report would include its final visions for comprehensive and wide ranging solutions that will help reduce the number of expatriates in Kuwait, eliminate marginal labor and concentrate on recruitment of skilled labor only.

Furthermore, the sources said that the committee mentioned the practical measures to implement a quota system for each community after discussing the issue with ministries, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and private sector representatives. The committee did not find any obstacles that would prevent Kuwait from implementing the quota system during those discussions, the sources added.

Lawyer files lawsuit to ban Twitter in Kuwait

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti lawyer filed a lawsuit yesterday asking to ban Twitter in Kuwait. She claimed that Twitter users' activity is "destroying the values of society," and argued that the government has failed in controlling the spread of fake accounts on the social media network. Meanwhile, acting prosecutor general Saad Al-Safran ordered a ruling family member jailed for 21 days pending investigations in a case in which he is accused of insulting traffic police officer Saleh Al-Rashid. The 'Sheikh' faces felony charges of threatening and blackmail.

In other news, Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Humoud Al-Sabah approved recommendations which call for closing some pharmacies at co-op societies for failure to obtain licenses in the name of Kuwaiti pharmacies - a violation of article 17 of pharmacy practice law 28/1996, and its amendment with article 2 of law 30/2016.

The recommendations were made by a committee formed last year to investigate violations of the aforementioned law. Committee Deputy Chairman, Assistant Undersecretary for Drug and Food Control Dr Abdallah Al-Bader also indicated that violating pharmacies that failed to correct their status will be referred to the public prosecution for legal action. The punishment for practicing pharmacy without a license is a maximum of two years in jail and/or a fine of a maximum of KD 3,000.

Local

Kuwait unveils incredible finds at UAE antique show



SHARJAH: A rare antique discovered in Kuwait, which dates back to pre-historic periods, left spectators in awe as an archaeology expo chronicling discoveries in the Gulf state kicked off in the UAE emirate of Sharjah yesterday. The Sharjah Museum's

Authority-hosted show, held in collaboration with Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), has a wide array of antique masterpieces on display, including hunting equipment and crockery. Kuwait makes it a point to attend

such gatherings as part of efforts for "greater cultural exchange" with its Gulf neighbors, NCCAL's Assistant Secretary General Dr Tahani Al-Adwani said. The Kuwaiti collection comprises of some 80 antique discoveries in the Gulf state over the

years, all of which will remain on display at Sharjah museum up until April of next year, she added. The rich history of the region is dotted with archaeological finds, Sharjah Museum's Authority's secretary general Manal Atiya said, describing the expo as an

attempt on UAE's part to preserve human civilization. The expo, which also includes seminars and discussions, gives visitors the opportunity to acquaint themselves with Kuwait's profound history through archeological discoveries. —KUNA

Kuwaiti artist showcases calligraphy art in Cairo

CAIRO: An artist from Kuwait has been showing his pieces of art in an exhibition in Egypt, paintings that displayed beauty of the Arabic calligraphy in new shape. Art has a key role in enlightening "human soul because it is an intellectual and healing message, which triggers positive energy," Mshebib Al-Otaibi, said. Otaibi, a professor of art at Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), said his paintings consisted of Arabic calligraphy "which has many lovers." Otaibi, who called his exhibition "Arabic Font, taste and spirituality," included phrases in his paintings in which he praised Allah Almighty. Otaibi said ancient Egyptians were using "art treatment," a method that could be used now to trigger positive energy and contribute to solving many problems related to drugs and family affairs. "This thing can be used for a better life," he added. He said he was looking forward to establishing a school to teach children the art of writing Arabic font. Otaibi said he was displaying some 35 paintings with different themes. — KUNA



Welcome Home

The students and staff at The British School of Kuwait and The Sunshine Kindergarten would like to express their happiness on the return of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Japan allocates millions in aid for typhoon-hit regions

Spain PM holds emergency talks over violent Catalan protests

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A woman stands along the side of a road on the outskirts of the town of Tal Tamr near the Syrian Kurdish town of Ras Al-Ain along the border with Turkey in the northeastern Hassakeh province yesterday, with the smoke plumes of tire fires billowing in the background to decrease visibility for Turkish warplanes that are part of operation "Peace Spring". — AFP

Turkey creates headaches for NATO

'NATO is limited by what it can do formally to punish Turkey'

BRUSSELS: Turkey's Syria offensive has created fresh divisions within NATO and, while there is no chance of Ankara being thrown out, the crisis adds to pressures on the alliance as it heads towards a crucial summit in December. Ankara's assault on Kurdish forces that played a key role in the fight against the Islamic State group has drawn widespread international criticism and prompted some NATO countries to suspend new arms sales.

President Donald Trump has authorized sanctions on Turkish leaders and re-imposed steel tariffs over the assault, which began last week after Washington said it would withdraw US forces from northern Syria. Coming amid growing Western unease at President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's strongman style of government, and after Ankara pressed ahead with the purchase of S-400 missile systems from Russia in the face of vehement protests from Washington and NATO, the current crisis adds to Turkey's increasing isolation within the alliance. The normally guarded NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has repeatedly voiced his "serious concerns" about the military operation, and the risk that it could pose to the fight against IS. Alliance defense min-

isters would be keen to discuss the matter when they meet in Brussels next week, he says.

No expulsion mechanism

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper has said he will use the meeting to press allies to take "collective and individual diplomatic and economic measures" to punish Turkey for its "egregious" actions. But calls from some quarters for Turkey to be suspended or even kicked out of NATO will lead nowhere, experts say, because no such mechanism exists in the alliance.

"NATO is limited by what it can do formally to punish Turkey because all NATO decisions have to be made unanimously, thus Turkey can block any decisions that criticize or sanction it," Jorge Benitez, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, told AFP. Even if it were practically possible, it is doubtful whether on balance NATO allies would want to eject Turkey, given its vital strategic location on the edge of the Middle East, bordering Iran and across the Black Sea from Russia — and given Erdogan's recent drift towards Moscow's orbit.

"But the other allies can still punish Turkey by indi-

vidually withholding information from Ankara and choosing to informally meet together without Turkey at the table," Benitez added. Off-the-book measures of this sort were taken privately against Portugal at NATO following a coup in 1974, Benitez said, while the US imposed a three-year arms embargo on Turkey following its intervention in Cyprus the same year.

European countries including Germany, France, Britain and the Netherlands have announced they will suspend new arms sales to Turkey in response to the Syria operation. But there are already doubts about how much practical effect this will have. Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn has pointed out that "Erdogan is not waiting for Europe to provide him with weapons". Some observers have suggested that if Europe is serious about putting pressure on Erdogan, a more effective tactic would be to tell citizens not to take holidays in Turkey, hitting the country's vital tourism industry.

Russian orbit

But with Erdogan already seemingly disengaging

with the West and drifting ever closer to Russian President Vladimir Putin, NATO countries will want to balance their desire to take a stand over Syria with Turkey's longer-term value to the alliance. "On balance it's still better to have Turkey as a nominal ally than as a potential adversary, probably teaming up with Russia — that's the unpalatable situation that NATO finds itself in now," Elisabeth Braw, a senior research fellow at the RUSI think tank in London, told AFP.

As a military alliance with a clear mission — the defense of its members' territory — rather than a political project like the EU, NATO can take a more pragmatic, hard-headed view of crises like the present one, Braw said. "Throughout its history NATO has had to put up with a lot of unattractive behavior by its different member states and has still remained this successful military alliance," she said. But with NATO already struggling with internal divisions — not least Trump's repeated goading of allies for not living up to defense spending commitments — the latest crisis sets the stage for a dramatic summit in London in December. — AFP

Impeachment probe claims 'dramatic progress'

WASHINGTON: The leader of the impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump said Tuesday that witnesses had provided substantial support for allegations that Trump illegally tried to force Ukraine to investigate his political rival Joe Biden. While the White House and Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani refused to turn over subpoenaed documents on the Ukraine affair to Congress, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said five witnesses had backed up allegations of misuse of power that could underpin formal impeachment charges.

Witnesses have supplied information showing that Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine leader Volodymyr Zelensky, in which Trump appeared to tie military aid to getting dirt on Biden from Kiev, was planned in advance and then followed up, Schiff said. "We've made dramatic progress in answering some of the questions surrounding that July phone call... in which the president of the United States sought to coerce a vulnerable ally into conducting what can best be described as sham investigations involving his opponent," Schiff told reporters. "We have learned that call was not in isolation. There was a great deal of preparatory work that was done before the call. There was a lot of follow-up work done after the call," he said.

Ukraine pressure like a 'drug deal'

Schiff spoke a day after former White House Russia expert Fiona Hill reportedly told Congressional investigators in closed-door testimony that several high-level aides reported the Trump-Zelensky phone call to a White House lawyer as possible wrongdoing by the president. Hill said her own boss, then-national security advisor John Bolton, characterized Trump's pressure on Zelensky together with Giuliani and White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney as akin to a narcotics transaction.

"I am not part of whatever drug deal Rudy and Mulvaney are cooking up," Bolton said, according to Hill's testimony as reported by the New York Times. Hill said Bolton also warned that Giuliani, who is reportedly under federal investigation over his Ukraine dealings, is "a hand grenade who's going to blow everyone up."

House Democrats on Tuesday interviewed a top State Department official responsible for Ukraine, George Kent, about his role between the White House, Giuliani and Kiev, and prepared to question three more diplomats this week. Kent told lawmakers that Mulvaney arranged for him to be cut out of decision making on Ukraine in favor of three officials close to Trump, The Washington Post reported, particularly his energy secretary, ambassador to the European Union and special envoy to Ukraine. Meanwhile on Twitter, Trump lashed out at lawmakers, saying "Democrats are allowing no transparency at the Witch Hunt hearings." Democrats are seeking to prove Trump sought foreign aid to boost his reelection next year, violating US election laws. Trump has admitted asking Zelensky for help to investigate Biden, but said it was for legitimate suspicions of corruption and not political reasons. — AFP

What next for Tunisia's new president?

TUNIS: Tunisia's president-elect Kais Saied has won a clear mandate to fight corruption and promote social justice, even though his role focuses on security and diplomacy. Here is an overview of key policy challenges facing the conservative newcomer:

Change in foreign policy?

A constitutional law professor by trade, Saied has no real experience in foreign policy. So far, he has proposed "principles more than a concrete road map", according to former diplomat Taoufik Ouanes. "While sticking to fundamentals, he will make adjustments to Tunisian diplomacy," he said.

Tunis, which currently chairs the Arab League, "could renew diplomatic ties with Syria (ceased in 2012) and play a role in the return" of the war-torn country to the bloc. Saied has made strong statements against Israel, considering any ties with the Jewish state to be "high treason" — an Arab nationalist position that earned him praise among supporters.

Tunis currently has no diplomatic relations with Israel. Ouanes added

that Saied could also "call for a revision of the rules concerning foreign investment in the country". Tunisia is currently negotiating a trade deal with the European Union. Ouanes said Saied could "ask that the negotiations take Tunisia's interests more into account". France, the former colonial power in Tunisia, called for an "expansion" of ties during a phone call between President Emmanuel Macron and Saied.

What are the security challenges?

While the security situation has significantly improved since a series of attacks in 2015, Tunisia has maintained a state of emergency for four years, with assaults against security forces persisting. On June 27, a suicide attack killed two people in the heart of the capital Tunis, reviving the specter of violence.

During a televised debate ahead of Sunday's runoff vote, Saied said a key to fighting terrorism was education, arguing that improving primary education would "immunize" youth against extremism. He also said he considers access to healthcare and water a part of national security, hinting that he would like to be involved directly in improving these. Another significant task is reforming the police, which was a cog in the dictatorship toppled by the 2011 revolt and which continues to be accused of human rights abuses.

Room to maneuver on the economy?

Under the constitution, it is the government's role to take the lead on the economy. But given his strong voter backing, Saied could intervene in negotiations to form a government, or even in devising its economic and social policies. Saied could also launch presidential initiatives — proposing bills to parliament or funds for youth employment, for example. Many Tunisians hope that their president-elect, a man who owes nothing to the country's economic elites, will bring more social justice.

Is radical decentralization possible?

Saied has advocated direct democracy via local councils to better reflect "what the people want" in place of the party system in force in parliament. But the assembly would likely look unfavorably on voting for its own dissolution. To an extent the decentralization of power, a key demand of the 2011 revolution, is already under way. But the process has so far been slow, given the lack of political will. A code for local authorities was adopted before the 2018 municipal elections, but less than a sixth of its decrees have been approved. "Elected officials and ministries were opposed to power-sharing," said Nessryne Jelalia, director of Tunisian NGO Al-Bawsala. "We now have a president and parties in parliament who have made it their campaign centerpiece," she said. — AFP

International

Rising star Warren weathers attacks at Democratic White House debate

The Ukraine scandal thrust Biden into the spotlight

WESTERVILLE: Surging White House hopeful Elizabeth Warren faced a barrage of attacks from fellow Democrats at the party's fourth 2020 debate Tuesday, cementing her status as a frontrunner in the race to challenge Donald Trump. The president himself loomed large as the dozen Democratic contenders trained their fire on him, calling for his impeachment and assailing a Syria troop pullout that Joe Biden slammed as "shameful."

"The impeachment must go forward," thundered Warren, the progressive senator who is neck and neck with former vice president Biden at the head of the 2020 nomination race — a stance loudly echoed by her fellow Democrats on stage. Washington's impeachment brawl has dominated US politics for weeks, centered on Trump's effort to press Ukraine to dig up dirt on Biden.

Dragged into the scandal, Biden made clear he believes Trump should be impeached — and pushed back hard on the president's charge he himself intervened in Ukraine to protect his son Hunter. "My son did nothing wrong. I did nothing wrong," Biden said, when asked about his son's employment with a Ukrainian company, which even some Democrats say held the appearance of a conflict of interest.

The Ukraine scandal thrust Biden into the spotlight, while 78-year-old liberal Senator Bernie Sanders — the other heavyweight in the race — was under pressure to project fortitude two weeks after being sidelined by a mild heart attack. But it was Warren who weathered the sharpest attacks from her fellow Democrats — on everything from kitchen-sink issues such as healthcare and taxation, to foreign policy and even business automation.

'Pipe dream'

On health — a flashpoint issue for American voters — Warren faced stiff blowback from moderates who chal-

lenged her to come clean on how much her "Medicare for All" plan would cost. "The difference between a plan and a pipe dream is something that you can actually get done," said Senator Amy Klobuchar, while Biden called Warren's health policy "vague."

Ex-congressman Beto O'Rourke accused Warren — who advocates a wealth tax on the biggest fortunes — of "punitive" policies, and "pitting some part of the country against the other." Warren stood out in calling for the United States to "get out of the Middle East" — while most of her rivals focused on assailing Trump's decision to pull US troops out of northern Syria, which critics say amounted to a green light for a Turkish assault on America's Kurdish allies there. "This is shameful, shameful what this man has done," Biden said of Trump's Syria pullout, while Senator Kamala Harris said she would "stop this madness" if elected. With the candidates in broad agreement on their opposition to Trump — as well as on such issues as the opioid crisis and income inequality — much of the back-and-forth was about performance rather than substance.

And South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, whose numbers are improving in early voting states like Iowa, repeatedly grabbed the limelight by clashing with rivals on everything from foreign policy, to health care to gun control. When O'Rourke told Buttigieg it was time to ignore polls and be bold about buying back millions of assault weapons, Buttigieg snapped back: "I don't need lessons from you on courage, political or personal."

With 12 candidates on stage, including billionaire activist Tom Steyer who was making his debate debut, each struggled to get heard. Entrepreneur Andrew Yang warned candidates must not forget the economic disillusionment that paved the way for Trump's 2016 victory.



WESTERVILLE: Former Vice President Joe Biden challenges Sen Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) during the Democratic Presidential Debate at Otterbein University. — AFP

"When we talk about him, we are losing," he said, noting the dramatic manufacturing job losses in battleground states like Ohio. "These are the problems that got Donald

Trump elected," Yang said. With the three frontrunners in their seventies, moderators confronted them directly on the sensitive subject of age. — AFP

Water woes bring out indigenous vote in Canada

CURVE LAKE: The stack of bottled water on Murray Whetung's kitchen floor is hard to miss, and emblematic of the lack of clean water in Canadian indigenous communities that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to fix. The 97-year-old resident of the Curve Lake First Nation can also drink tap water from a well, but it's run-

ning out and increasingly polluted by septic systems, making Curve Lake one of dozens of communities in Canada where the government has advised people to boil water before drinking.

Three decades ago, the federal government promised to build a new water treatment facility on the peninsula where Whetung lives hidden beneath an autumn canopy some 300 kilometers southwest of the capital Ottawa. That's yet to happen, and he views with resignation the government's latest plan to pump water to the community from a nearby lake. "We're hoping," Murray said, with a shrug and a chuckle.

Four years ago, indigenous people turned out in record numbers to vote Trudeau and his Liberal Party into office after he made addressing their concerns a pri-

ority. Trudeau now faces a tough re-election challenge from Conservative candidate Andrew Scheer on October 21, and the indigenous Canadians who make up 4.9 percent of the population are expected to play a key role in giving him a second term — or not.

Curve Lake residents say if the prime minister wants their support, he'll have to respond to the many inequities faced by indigenous reserves, chief among them shortages of clean water. "We are hoping to have some economic development. We are looking to build more houses, but all of those issues hinge on finding clean sustainable water that's in an amount sufficient to provide water to all of our community members," Emily Whetung-MacInnes, Whetung's granddaughter who was recently elected Curve Lake's chief, told AFP. Several locals need

dialysis, and the community lacks a laundromat, "but we can't have that sort of economic development because we don't have enough water to sustain those businesses," she explained.

The Assembly of First Nations believes indigenous turnout could impact 63 swing electoral districts out of 338 nationwide. At a town hall with the local candidates standing in the October 21 election, Curve Lake residents raised concerns over climate change, rundown housing, treaty rights, violence against indigenous women and a feud with non-indigenous weekenders over wild rice harvested from area lakes. But access to potable water was the top issue. "Water is life," commented Nicole Van Stone-Mascherin. Others at the meeting called the boil water advisories "a national disgrace." — AFP

Young progressive female lawmakers endorsing Sanders

WASHINGTON: Three progressive female Democrats in the US Congress are endorsing Bernie Sanders for president, making for an intriguing alliance between a group representing youth, change, and racial diversity and a 78-year-old white man seeking the White House. The endorsements comes after the party held its latest debate for the 12-plus pack of candidates seeking the Democratic nomination to take on President Donald Trump in November 2020.

Sanders, a senator from Vermont, is running third behind former vice president Joe Biden, seen as a moderate, and Senator Elizabeth Warren, who is on the progressive wing of the party, as is Sanders. These three women of color are Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a 30-year-old firebrand from New York; Ilhan Omar, born in Somalia; and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, who has Palestinian roots.

They are three quarters of what is popularly called the Squad — an outspoken, leftist grouping that Trump famously told last summer to go back to the "crime infested places from which they came." Except for Omar, they were all born in the US. Omar, the first black Muslim woman in Congress, said

Tuesday night she supports Sanders, a Jew who hails from Brooklyn, for president. "Bernie is leading a working-class movement to defeat Donald Trump that transcends generation, ethnicity and geography," Omar, 38, said in a statement.

During the debate Tuesday night in Ohio, Sanders sought to assure Americans that he is fit enough to run for president despite having suffered a mild heart attack recently. And he said he would be joined by a "special guest" at a big campaign rally Saturday in the New York borough of Queens. News reports say that guest is Ocasio-Cortez, the new face of the most leftist wing of the Democratic Party. The electoral district she represents includes part of Queens. AOC, as she is popularly known, calls herself a Democratic socialist like Sanders, who is nearly 50 years her senior and has held a seat in Congress since 1991. CNN reported that Tlaib, 43, is also expected to endorse Sanders. On Tuesday she retweeted a message from Omar noting her cooperation with Sanders in the House of Representatives. The endorsement plans of



WASHINGTON DC: Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (R), speaks alongside US Senator Bernie Sanders (2nd L) and Representative Ilhan Omar (L) during a press conference to introduce college affordability legislation. — AFP

the fourth member of the Squad, Ayanna Pressley, are not immediately known. The Sanders campaign is hoping for a boost from these shows of support as he battles to catch up in the polls with Warren. When he fought Hillary Clinton for the nomination in 2016, Sanders — who represents a state that is largely white and rural — was seen by some Americans as being out of touch on racial issues. Southern states with significant black populations voted for Clinton. — AFP

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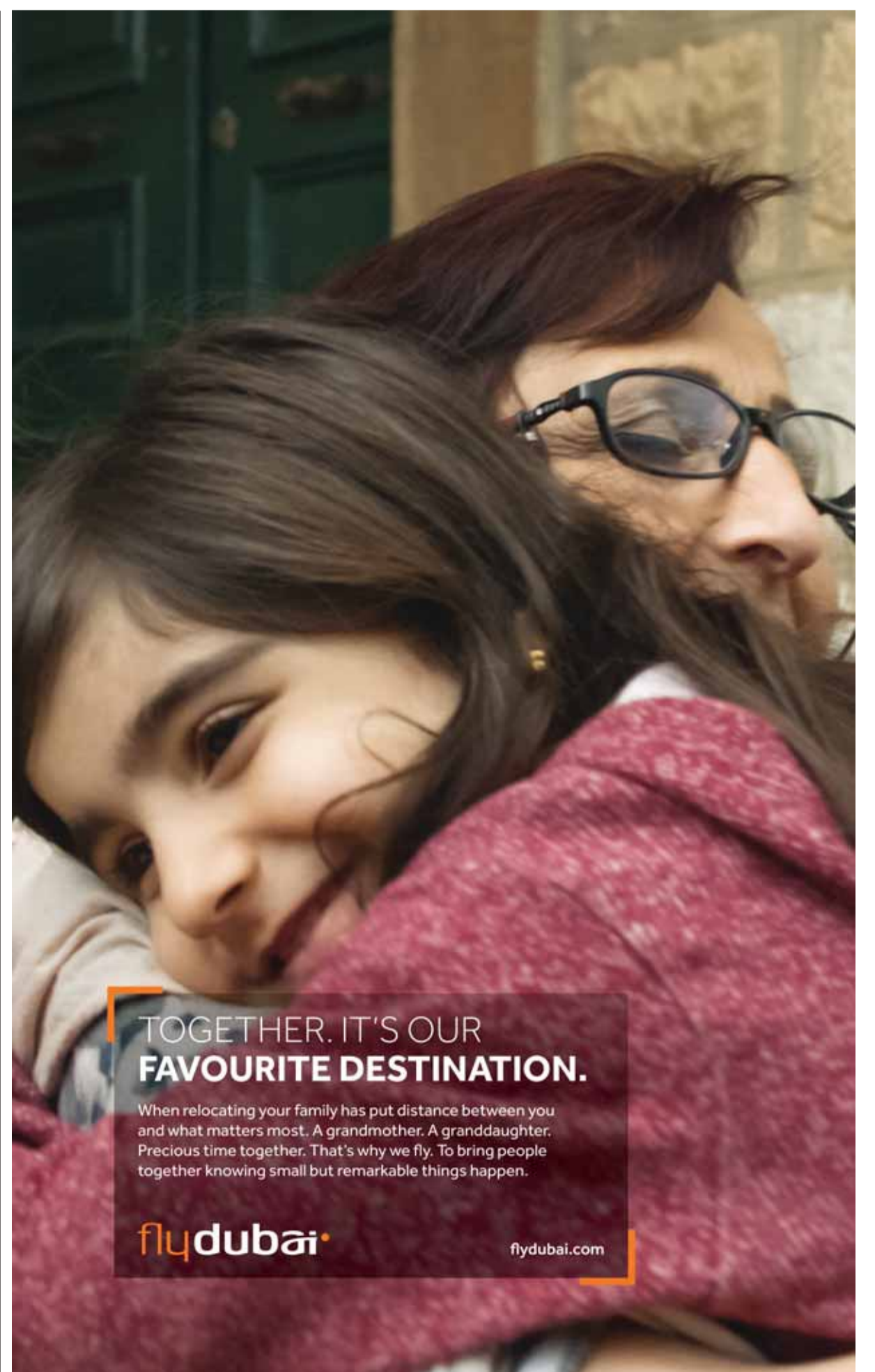
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(Kuwait Airways)

on 15th October 2019

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International

Spain PM holds emergency talks over violent Catalan protests

Protesters are furious at the jailing of nine separatist leaders

BARCELONA: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez held emergency talks with opposition leaders yesterday about violent protests by separatists in Catalonia. Scores of people have been hurt and dozens arrested in the past two nights of clashes between protesters and police in Barcelona and other Catalan cities.

Protesters are furious at the jailing of nine separatist leaders for their role in a failed 2017 independence bid that sparked a deep political crisis. The convictions on Monday revived tensions in the wealthy northeastern region, split between Catalans loyal to Madrid and those who want it to break away from Spain. In Barcelona on Tuesday night, police charged hundreds of masked demonstrators who threw projectiles at officers and set garbage bins and cardboard boxes on fire.

In a tweet, Sanchez said the government "firmly and resoundingly condemns the violence that seeks to break co-existence in Catalonia." Yesterday thousands of protesters departed on foot along highways from five Catalan towns towards Barcelona. They planned to gather there on Friday, when unions have called a general strike in the region. Sanchez received conservative opposition leader Pablo Casado of the Popular Party yesterday morning.

He was scheduled to meet later with the leaders of centre-right Ciudadanos and far-left Podemos. He said he would "convey the government's determination to guarantee security, with firmness, proportionality and unity." The separatist movement has said there will be no let-up in the protests. They erupted after the Supreme Court on Monday convicted 12 Catalan separatist leaders of sedition over the 2017 referendum and short-lived declaration of independence. The court handed prison sentences of between nine and 13 years to nine of them and fines to the other three. The ruling thrust the Catalan dispute to the heart of the political debate ahead of Spain's November 10 general

election, its fourth in as many years.

'No return'

Police arrested 29 people in the province of Barcelona, 14 in Tarragona province and eight in Lleida, Spain's interior ministry said. Officials said 125 people were injured in the protests, including 72 police officers, some with broken bones. Municipal cleaning crews used hoses to clear the streets of Barcelona of debris from the dozens of fires which were set overnight.

The violent protests marked a break with the mainly peaceful and festive pro-independence rallies which have been held in Catalonia since the separatist movement gained momentum nearly a decade ago. The separatist camp is frustrated over Catalan regional president Quim Torra's failure to deliver on his government's promise to achieve independence.

On the wall of a luxury watch shop in an upscale Barcelona neighborhood, someone had scrawled "Torra, traitor". "We have embarked on a road of no return," the Committees for the Defense of the Republic (CDR), a radical separatist movement, tweeted. It called on the separatist regional government to "take a step forward by breaking with the Spanish state."

'Raising tensions'

Catalonia's vice president Pere Aragonés urged demonstrators to avoid violence. He said that would give Spain's central government a pretext to intervene in the region — as it did when it suspended Catalonia's autonomy after the 2017 independence bid. "Do not give them what they want," he said. Spain's conservative parties have branded Sanchez a traitor for accepting the backing of Catalan separatist parties to help him secure power in 2018, and for his willingness to negotiate with them.

The conservative parties have urged him to take a



GIRONA: This handout picture released by the Generalitat de Catalunya shows Catalan regional president Quim Torra (C) marching with protesters near Girona yesterday, a day after police arrested 51 people across Catalonia overnight after violent protests over the jailing of nine separatist leaders for their role in a failed 2017 independence bid. —AFP

harder line against the protesters. "In the face of the violent unrest which is raising tensions in Catalonia, Sanchez must activate the national security law," Casado said. "It is urgent to guarantee security and public order." On Monday, some 10,000 people

blocked access to Barcelona airport, Spain's second busiest, for several hours on Monday. Demonstrators issued calls on social media to "Turn Catalonia into the new Hong Kong" — a reference to recent demonstrations against Chinese influence in that territory. —AFP

Tensions rise in Mozambique

MAPUTO: Mozambique counted ballots yesterday following its high-stakes election, as tensions spiked over claims of voting irregularities and concerns that results will not be revealed for days. President Filipe Nyusi's Frelimo party, which has ruled the southern African country since independence from Portugal in 1975, is widely expected to win the polls held on Tuesday. The vote has been seen as a key test of a peace deal sealed in August between Frelimo and Renamo, a former rebel group turned main opposition party.

While voting day appeared mostly calm, civil society groups said they found evidence of election rigging, including several attempts to stuff ballots and election observers being kicked out of polling stations. The spokesman for election watchdog Sala da Paz, Hermenegildo Mulhovo, said police fired tear gas and warning shots in the central province of Nampula — a Renamo stronghold — after opposition supporters refused to leave polling premises to "protect their vote".

"So far, from the issues that have been reported, we cannot say that the process has been 100 percent free and fair," Mulhovo said. He said that police had killed a voter in the eastern city of Nampula in circumstances that were still unclear. Government officials were not immediately able to confirm the incident. Mozambique's electoral commission meanwhile indicated it will not publish provisional tallies as it has previously, only committing to releasing the final results within the mandated 15-day period after the vote.

"The more they delay publishing the results, the more you create lack of trust and risks of tensions," Mulhovo said. "Most of the problems and irregularities happen after the vote, during the counting process." Renamo's presidential candidate Ossufo Momade issued a warning as he voted on Tuesday. "If these results are manipulated we will never accept them, we do not want a return to the problems of the past," he said.

Peace deal under pressure

Frelimo and Renamo fought a brutal civil war from 1975 to 1992, and an election campaign marred by violence raised fears that conflict could return to one of the world's poorest countries. The peace deal signed between the two groups has come under pressure after an armed breakaway faction of Renamo rejected the agreement, spurned Momade's candidacy and vowed to attack campaign events.

As part of the deal, Frelimo agreed to relinquish some control after 44 years in power, by allowing voters to elect governors of the country's 10 provinces for the first time. Renamo is expected to win control of at least three eastern provinces — Tete, Nampula and Zambezia. In all three provinces, Sala da Paz said there were instances of voters being caught with pre-marked ballots in favour of Frelimo on election day. Before the vote, civil society groups estimated there were hundreds of thousands of "ghost voters" — names not aligned with real, potential voters — on the electoral roll. —AFP

Europe must brace for new refugee wave: Greek PM

ATHENS: Europe must be ready for the possibility of a new refugee influx, Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said yesterday, as an unfolding Turkish offensive in Syria could see more people flee the conflict-ridden region. "Europe must be prepared for the eventuality of a new migratory and refugee wave coming through Greece," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told AFP in an exclusive interview 100 days after taking office.

With some 70,000 asylum-seekers on its soil, — including nearly 33,000 on islands near Turkey — Greece is concerned that the Turkish offensive against Kurdish-controlled areas will overwhelm already overcrowded camps. Turkey houses some 3.6 million Syrian refugees, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has already threatened to "open the gates" to allow more to leave for Western countries if his plans to resettle them in northern Syria fail.

UN ends Haiti peacekeeping operations, urges end to crisis

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council ended 15 years of peacekeeping operations in Haiti on Tuesday, voicing regret that the country is still saddled with huge economic, political and social woes. The United Nations first sent peacekeepers to Haiti after then-president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown by the army in 2004 under the pressure of a popular uprising.

In 2017 those soldiers were replaced by a UN police mission whose numbers dropped gradually from 1,300 to 600 and are now to be replaced by a scaled down political mission. Haiti today remains the poorest country in the Americas, plagued by political instability. Over the past year, it has sunk deeper into political crisis amid anti-corruption protests demanding

Mitsotakis, who has already met with Erdogan in New York, rejects this as blackmail. "The idea that Europe can be blackmailed by a threat of unleashing waves of refugees and migrants within Europe is not acceptable as a proposition," he said. He added the EU had been "generous" with Ankara, a fact he said was not fully acknowledged by the Turks. The UN refugee agency this week said Greece in 2019 had received over 46,000 people — more than Spain, Italy, Malta and Cyprus combined.

Though these numbers are a far cry from the near-million that arrived in 2015, Greece is struggling to accommodate the asylum-seekers already on its soil. "It's clear if you just look at the number that cross the Aegean sea this summer in comparison to last summer, we are facing a problem (of) acute proportion," Mitsotakis said.

Camps at breaking point

On the islands, many asylum-seekers sleep in tents or makeshift shacks as the camps have exceeded their capacity many times over. Aside from hygiene concerns, the migrants and refugees face hours-long queues for food and an even longer wait for their asylum applications to be processed, leading to additional mental strain.

This week, at least three people were

President Jovenel Moise's resignation — which he said on Tuesday he would not do.

"It would be irresponsible of me if today I got up, took out a letter of resignation, signed it and left, leaving the country like that," he said at press conference. On Tuesday the US ambassador to the UN, Kelly Craft, described Haiti as at a crossroads. "We urge Haiti's political, economic, and civil society stakeholders to work peacefully to address the most pressing economic and social challenges facing the country," she said.

Craft recalled that the United States is Haiti's main bilateral benefactor, providing \$5.2 billion in aid since a devastating earthquake hit the country in 2010. Since coming to power in February 2017, Moise has faced the anger of an opposition movement that refuses to recognize his victory in an election widely seen as dubious. Anger mounted in late August due to a national fuel shortage, and protests turned violent.

Haiti has just a caretaker government, and legislative elections that were supposed to be held this month have been postponed indefinitely. Moise is seeking dialogue with the opposition but the latter has refused so far. UN Secretary General



ATHENS: Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis gives an interview to AFP journalists. —AFP

Antonio Guterres sounded pessimistic about Haiti in a report released Tuesday. "The protracted multidimensional crisis with which it has been contending since July 2018 shows little sign of abatement or

resolution," Guterres wrote. "I urge all actors to set aside their differences and particular interests to work together to overcome the increasingly preoccupying situation," he added. —AFP



GONAIVES: In this file photo taken on September 8, 2008, an Argentine peacekeeper stands as a helicopter takes off from the flooded city of Gonaives some 200 kilometers north of Port-au-Prince. —AFP

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resolution," Guterres wrote. "I urge all actors to set aside their differences and particular interests to work together to overcome the increasingly preoccupying situation," he added. —AFP

Irish PM says 'many issues' unresolved in Brexit talks

DUBLIN: Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar yesterday said he remained hopeful Britain would secure a deal to leave the EU, but sticking points remained as the deadline for a deal loomed. "I am convinced that all parties are serious about getting an agreement by the end of this month," he said after a phone call

with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"There is a pathway to a possible deal but there are many issues that still need to be resolved." In London, a spokesman for Johnson said there had been progress in late-night talks in Brussels, which resumed yesterday morning, "but there is more work still to do". Britain is hoping to leave the European Union on October 31 but is still discussing its exit terms with the bloc, and is running out of time. If EU leaders do not approve a deal at a summit in Brussels on Thursday and Friday, Johnson is required by British law to ask to delay Brexit — some-

thing he has repeatedly vowed not to do.

The key stumbling block has long been how to manage the border between EU member Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland after Brexit. Both sides are keen to avoid the reintroduction of border infrastructure, which could risk reigniting violence between pro-Irish republicans and UK-supporting unionists after more than 20 years of peace. But London wants the entire UK — including Northern Ireland — to leave the EU's customs union, suggesting there must be customs checks somewhere on goods crossing between north and south.

Any deal agreed with the EU must pass the House of Commons, where Johnson's Conservatives do not have a majority. The premier was due to meet with his Northern Irish allies, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), for the third time in three days yesterday. Brexit minister Steve Barclay meanwhile confirmed the government would abide by a law requiring it to request a Brexit delay if no deal is reached by Saturday.

"The government will comply with the law," he told a committee of MPs, while adding that "it is important that we leave

on October 31". If a deal is agreed in Brussels, EU leaders would still need time to digest the contents of what will be an extremely complex legal text. MPs in London would then have to sign off on the plan in a special sitting on Saturday, to avoid triggering a delay. While some experts think there is support for a deal, few are optimistic it can be done in the next three days. "Getting an agreement through on Saturday is very, very difficult," said Meg Russell, a constitutional expert at University College London. "We're looking at an extension, come what may." —AFP

International

'Killing for no reason': Deaths in rural Ethiopia spark outcry

'They just go to the villages, and if you run they start shooting'

LOWER OMO VALLEY: For decades, herders in Ethiopia's Lower Omo Valley have relied on guns to fend off rivals as well as hyenas and lions roaming the forests and plains. But over the past month, security forces have embarked on a campaign of forced disarmament that pastoralist leaders say has been accompanied by shooting of civilians, mass detentions and beatings.

Witness accounts from the Lower Omo Valley bolster critics who contend that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed — named the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize — is presiding over a deteriorating security situation, worsened by the actions of the military and police. The violence is unfolding ahead of elections next year in one of the country's most volatile and ethnically diverse areas: the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region.

Elders from the Bodi community, the main group earmarked for disarmament in the Lower Omo Valley, told AFP nearly 40 people had been killed as of mid-October but the toll could be far higher. Officials deny this account and defend the disarmament campaign as crucial for peace in this sensitive region. "They are killing without any reason," said Shegedin, a Bodi elder who was detained for several days and asked that his full name not be used because he feared reprisals. "They just go to the villages, and if you run they start shooting."

Government and security officials in Jinka, the administrative centre for the South Omo zone, said the disarmament campaign was necessary to secure state development projects including sugar plantations in the area. But as reports of abuses multiply, human rights groups and researchers who work in the region are calling for investigations.

"The accounts I have seen are sufficiently shocking and come from sufficiently reliable sources to make it imperative that they are investigated by an internationally respected human rights organization," said David Turton, an anthropologist at the University of Oxford who has worked in the region for 50 years. Failure to investigate "will only add to suspicions that the accounts we've heard are in fact accurate", he said.

A major escalation

Tensions between the Bodi and the government are

long-running, fuelled by Bodi anger at what they describe as the loss of their land to Ethiopians resettled from other regions and to development projects like the Gibe III dam and sugar plantations. But the elders said the latest violence represents a major escalation.

They said Bodi men and women detained in the town of Hana had been deprived of food and forced to stand for hours in the sun. They accused security forces of digging up the buried remains of a Bodi spiritual leader and shooting them. And they said security forces shaved off the hair of one man who had grown it long following the death of his brother — a traditional Bodi mourning custom — and forced him to eat it. "We've never seen anything like this," said Shegedin, one of three Bodi elders who spoke with AFP.

Southern unrest

Federal security forces assumed control of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region back in July. The move followed weeks of unrest resulting from a bid by the Sidama ethnic group to form a new regional state. Ten other groups are pursuing similar statehood bids, and it is unclear how the government plans to respond to them.

Security in the ethnic patchwork of the Lower Omo Valley is crucial to the government in light of plans to install 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres) of sugar plantations there along with processing factories. Troops and federal police are among those participating in the disarmament operation, said Lore Kakuta, an adviser to the chief administrator in Jinka. Seized weapons include AK-47s assault rifles bought from traders shifting arms from conflict-ridden South Sudan. Lore said disarmament was the only option following unprovoked shootings by the Bodi targeting sugar plant workers — allegations that the Bodi elders denied. Lore said he could not comment on reports of human rights abuses. "We don't know what the security forces are doing," he said. "Actually, that's not our job." A senior police official in Jinka, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to discuss disarmament, disputed claims that Bodi people had been killed. "The allegations that dozens of Bodi have been killed is false," he said.



Members of the Mursi tribe, an agro-pastoralist tribe in southwestern Ethiopia are seen on October 4, 2019 in the Lower Omo Valley. — AFP

Other groups on edge

As of early October, the disarmament of the Bodi was "90-percent finished", Lore said. He added that the operation could be expanded to include the Mursi, another agro-pastoralist community based in the area. A Mursi leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity for safety reasons, said he was concerned that tactics used against the Bodi would be repeated against his people.

"Now the Mursi are all worried because maybe the

police will come and kill us," he said. Laetitia Bader of Human Rights Watch said the Ethiopian government had a history of using violence and intimidation to force vulnerable communities from their land. "The federal government should take measures to ensure that any disarmament efforts are not perceived as a continuation of this heavy-handed approach," she said. The authorities should also consult with local communities and ensure that alleged abuses by its forces "are immediately investigated," Bader said. — AFP

Kate, William visit melting glacier in Pakistan's north

BUMBURATE: Prince William and his wife Kate flew near the Afghan border to visit a remote Hindu Kush glacier yesterday, after a morning spent trying on feathered traditional caps and luxurious shawls in Pakistan's mountainous north. The British royals travelled by helicopter to a glacier in Broghil Valley National Park to see the effects of climate change in one of the most glaciated areas of the world.

Residents of the region have been sounding the alarm over its melting glaciers, which caused devastating floods in 2015 that left thousands of families camping in the open just as another cold winter approached. The Duke of Cambridge called the glacial melt an "impending catastrophe" in a speech delivered at a glittering reception in Islamabad late Tuesday. The couple met with environmental experts to discuss the melting before going on to spend

their afternoon with the Kalash — an ancient, polytheistic tribe who celebrate their gods with music and dance.

The verdant, plunging valleys of the northern Chitral district have long attracted tourists for their natural beauty and their brush with legend as the home of the Kalash, who claim ancestry from Alexander the Great. Activists have campaigned to preserve the traditions of the diminishing tribe, now estimated to number around only 3,000 people, making them Pakistan's smallest religious minority.

'Complex' tour

Earlier, during a refueling stop on the way to the glacier, the Duke and Duchess tried on a Chitrali cap given a touch of luxury with a peacock feather, which local media said was a gift to them from residents. The flat, woollen hats, also known as "pakols", are popular in northern Pakistan and throughout Afghanistan, though feather decorations are usually reserved for special occasions.

They also tried on chapans, long bulky embroidered coats popular in Central Asia; as well as a lush woollen shawl for Kate. Kensington Palace has called the five-day trip, which ends Friday, their "most complex" tour to date. The couple had lunch Tuesday with Prime Minister Imran Khan — an old



CHITRAL: Britain's Prince William (R), Duke of Cambridge watches a traditional Kalash dance as his wife Catherine (C), Duchess of Cambridge, talks with a member of the Kalash tribe during their visit to the Bumburate Valley in Pakistan northern Chitral District. — AFP

friend of William's mother, the late Princess Diana.

They also signaled their support for women's education by visiting a girls school in Islamabad, and helped local children set a leopard camera trap in the Margalla Hills, the Himalayan foothills just outside Islamabad. Later, they arrived in a brightly painted rickshaw —

usually banned in Islamabad — for the evening reception at the Pakistan National Monument. Security is extremely tight for the trip, during which the couple is also set to visit Pakistan's second-largest city Lahore, once the capital of the Mughal Empire, as well as the region near the border with Afghanistan in the west. — AFP

Singapore jails drunk NZ Zealander for biting policewoman

SINGAPORE: A New Zealand woman has been jailed in Singapore for six and half months for biting a policewoman's arm after a drunken night out while visiting her sister. Katie Christina Rakich arrived in Singapore one evening in June, already slightly drunk, and headed for dinner with her younger sister and her sister's boyfriend, court documents showed. The 27-year-old drank beer during the meal and the group later headed to another bar where she had more drinks. They returned to the sister's apartment in the early hours.

But Rakich became rowdy and started yelling and causing a mess, prompting her sister — who reportedly works in Singapore as a teacher — to call the police. Rakich was arrested and driven to a police station. As she was being brought out of the vehicle, she bit the left arm of a female police officer accompanying her. "The bite was very forceful and caused the victim great pain," prosecutor Benedict Teong told the court, adding that she only let go after another officer intervened. "When she released her bite, the (accused's) mouth was observed to have blood on it."

Later Rakich punched another female officer in the ear at the police station. The policewoman who suffered the bite was treated at hospital and given tetanus and hepatitis shots and as a precaution drugs that reduce the likelihood of being infected with HIV. — AFP



NAGANO: A car sits next to a badly damaged home in Nagano on October 15, 2019, after Typhoon Hagibis hit Japan on October 12 unleashing high winds, torrential rain and triggered landslides and catastrophic flooding. — AFP

Japan allocates millions in aid for typhoon-hit regions

TOKYO: Japan's government said yesterday it would set aside millions of dollars to help areas devastated by Typhoon Hagibis, which killed more than 70 people across the country. Hagibis slammed into Japan on Saturday, unleashing fierce winds and unprecedented rain that triggered landslides and caused dozens of rivers to burst their banks. By midday yesterday, the government put the toll at 74, with more than a dozen people still missing.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said his government would offer 710 million yen (\$6.5 million) to help areas affected by the storm. The money will come from some a 500 billion yen emergency reserve, he said. Tokyo will also fast-track the disbursement of

subsidies to more than 300 disaster-hit municipalities. "The government will stand united to tackle the issue of supporting victims, so that they will be able to return to normal life as quickly as possible," Abe said. As of Wednesday morning, more than 10,000 households were still suffering from electricity blackouts, while more than 110,000 households are without running water, top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

"Today, too, rescue workers are making their utmost efforts in search and rescue work," he said. "Due to the heavy rains we've experienced, the level of water is rising in rivers and there are spots where the ground is getting muddy." "We call on people to keep vigilant about landslides and floods," he added.

Television footage showed devastated residents returning to homes filled with brown mud, and rescuers searching a hillside for a family missing after a landslide. The country's northeast was particularly hard hit by the typhoon — with a death toll of 26 in Fukushima prefecture, the highest among the 36 of Japan's 47 prefectures that were affected. — AFP

Kim's horseback ride spurs policy shift speculation

SEOUL: New pictures of Kim Jong Un riding a white horse through a winter landscape to the summit of Mount Paektu, a sacred peak for North Koreans, have fuelled speculation that the young leader may be set for a major policy announcement. The images released by the official KCNA news agency were accompanied by a gushing text, that noted the "noble glitters" in Kim's eyes, and labeled his snowy, horseback ride "a great event of weighty importance" for the nation.

Accompanying officials were left convinced that "there will be a great operation to strike the world with wonder again and make a step forward in the Korean revolution," the agency said. Analysts said the hike may signal a new policy direction for the nuclear-armed North. "In the past, Kim has climbed Mount Paektu ahead of major political decisions," said Shin Beom-chul, an analyst at the Asan Institute of Policy Studies.

Kim hiked to the peak in December 2017 before launching diplomatic overtures that led to his first ever summit with US President Donald Trump. But negotiations have been gridlocked since a second summit between Kim and Trump collapsed in February and the North has been raising tensions through a series of missile tests. The sight of North Korean leaders riding white horses across snow-capped peaks — and in particular Mount Paektu — have been a dominant theme of past photos, posters and portraits of Kim's father Kim Jong Il and grandfather Kim Il Sung. According to BR Myers, a professor at Dongseo University in South Korea who specialises in North Korean propaganda, the images present an imperial motif of a leader protecting the cultural and ideological purity of the nation from corrupt, outside forces. Kim also visited the site of a giant construction project in nearby Samjiyon county, KCNA reported, and blamed US-led international sanctions for his country's hardships. — AFP



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Bans, censors, jail: Perfect storm for gay arts in Singapore?

Homosexuality is banned in Singapore and arts are strictly censored - yet performers say the tough line helps foment a thriving, LGBT+ cultural scene in this conservative city state. Drag artists stage sellout shows at upmarket bars, gay performance poets are in demand and singers use rap to come out. Gay sex remains illegal - even in private - but LGBT+ artists feel they now have a firm foothold in popular culture.

The tiny island plays host to three LGBT+ arts festivals a year and performers say their work stands in resistance to the government as they weave past censors to reach a wider audience. "It is our way of pointing at the world we live in and saying it's ridiculous and wrong," said drag queen Becca D'Bus, whose shows attract a young, prosperous and professional crowd in some of the city's busiest downtown bars.

LGBT+ artists - creating everything from movies to music - say state censorship, far from a deterrent, acts as a muse. "The harshness of the government ... increases the ingenuity of artists in staging events without actually using words like 'queer' or 'gay'," said poet and author Cyril Wong. "A word such as 'gender' is used instead." Gay sex between men - though not women - is a crime in the Southeast Asian city state, a state governed on strict lines and conservative values.

"In terms of laws, our rights for gay and bi men are bad. Gay sex is still a jailable offence. This is worse than many other neighboring countries where gay sex is not illegal," said writer Ng Yi-Sheng. "But again, we haven't had crackdowns on gay men such as in Malaysia and Indonesia." Lawmakers are cautious on social reform, citing the rich ethnic and religious mix in Singapore's 5.6 million inhabitants. Activists are increasingly pushing back against the ban on gay sex, aiming for change in the courts and an end to discrimination across their young and modern society.

"From theatre to performance and visual art exhibitions, LGBT+ artists in Singapore have slowly carved out space and pushed the comfort zone for dialogue around gay counter-culture," said Tristan Cai, a Singaporean, who teaches art and Asian studies at St. Mary's College of Maryland in the United States. LGBT+ festivals such as Pink Dot, Queer Zinefest and Love and Pride Film Festival have sprung up as a form of resistance against state restrictions on LGBT+ art and culture. In July, popular musician Joshua Su came out to his parents by releasing a new track on which he raps: "G-A-Y-B-O-Y OK."

Academics say the high-profile arts scene helps the wider push for LGBT+ rights. "The LGBTQ community has been working hard for inclusion and against discrimination over the past decade... Their efforts have contributed to a level of greater acceptance in Singapore society," says Ian Chong, associate professor in the department of political science at National University of Singapore. The National Arts Council, a government funding body, said art had "the power to bring people in our diverse, multicultural society together" and reflected the many voices of Singapore.

Queerness

"I talk a lot about queerness in my comedy, trying to debunk myths and stereotypes people may have about me." 32-year-old bisexual poet and stand-up comedian Stephanie Chan told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Film-makers have learnt to use the internet to get round the state censors of their LGBT+ output. "If we were to make a film to show in cinemas, we will have to get a classification rating and some scenes may get cut," said filmmaker Leon Cheo.

"Queer festivals make us feel less alone since social discrimination never goes away," said 42-year-old poet and author Cyril Wong, a winner of the Singapore Literature Prize. Yet Singapore has liberal credentials compared to some countries in the region. Brunei sparked outcry this year over plans to impose the death penalty for gay sex, then backtracked after intense global criticism. In neighboring Malaysia, the authorities caned two women last year after they were convicted of same-sex relations.

Popular opinion in Singapore appears divided. Last year, an Ipsos survey revealed 55% of Singaporeans support the ban on gay sex. Yet a study by the Singapore-based Institute of Policy Studies found six in 10 people aged 18-25 believe same-sex marriage is not wrong. Singapore's prime minister Lee Hsien Loong says his country occupies a middle ground on LGBT+ rights. "We are not like San Francisco, neither are we like certain countries in the Middle East," Lee told a conference in June. "It's something in between. It's the way this society is."

All plays and public performances - including poetry readings - must be screened and approved by the government's Info-communications Media Development Authority (IMDA). There are no official statistics on how much content is banned each year and the IMDA declined to comment. — Reuters

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Mexican authorities detain a migrant in Tapachula, Chiapas state. A caravan of 2,000 migrants, among Central Americans, Caribbean and Africans, began to march this Saturday from Tapachula, in southern Mexico, heading to the capital of the country, to demand President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador help to get out of their legal limbo. — AFP

Asylum seekers cling to hope in camp at US-Mexico border

Even after he was kidnapped and robbed outside the makeshift migrant camp where he had slept for two weeks, Luis Osorto decided his only chance for eventual asylum in the United States was to stay put along the border just inside Mexico. But the 37-year-old Honduran made a pact with himself: not to leave the enclave of tents at the end of a bridge between Matamoros and Brownsville, Texas - not even to buy a bottle of water or to collect money transfers from his family back home.

The cramped camp, in a partly fenced-in plaza abutting administrative buildings just feet from the Rio Grande, is home to approximately 1,000 migrants, many of them sent back to Mexico to await US immigration hearings under a policy called the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) begun this year.

After what is commonly known as an "express kidnapping" last month by men waiting in a van for him outside a convenience store where he was collecting a \$100 transfer from relatives, Osorto promised himself he would only leave the camp to cross the bridge to Texas for his December court date with US immigration authorities. "I just wait here and trust someone else ... to get me 70 pesos (\$3.50) or so when I need it," he said. MPP, sometimes called Remain in Mexico, is among various overlapping US policies aimed at severely reducing asylum claims.

President Donald Trump, whose hardline stance on immigration was a mainstay of his 2016 campaign, has said lax US asylum laws encourage people to show up at the

border with their children. Before MPP, it was common practice to release arriving families into the United States to wait out their US court hearings - something Trump and others said allowed many migrants to disappear into the country to live illegally. Studies by legal aid groups, such as the Urban Justice Center, have shown that most asylum seekers show up for their hearings, however.

More than 51,000 people, mainly from Central America, have been sent to Mexico since the MPP program started in January, according to US Customs and Border Protection. But reports of kidnapping and extortion have increased since the program was expanded to Matamoros and nearby Nuevo Laredo in crime-wracked Tamaulipas state. Human Rights First, a US-based rights group, in August documented 110 publicly reported cases of rape, kidnapping, sexual exploitation and other violence against MPP returnees. In Matamoros, violence and abuse targeting migrants means many in the MPP program refuse to move to a shelter in the city during their long waits for a US court hearing. Since July, Matamoros has received more than 12,000 asylum seekers under MPP, said Enrique Maciel, of the Tamaulipas Institute for Migrants, a state agency.

Matamoros Mayor Mario Lopez described the city as calmer than neighboring towns, because of a truce between two rival drug cartels. Elsewhere in the state, gangs regularly fight pitched battles for turf. Reuters spoke to six asylum seekers at Osorto's camp who said they had been kidnapped or extorted, and several more who had brushes with suspected criminals near the border or elsewhere

within Mexico. Oscar Ramirez, a 30-year-old Honduran waiting for a US court date on Dec 2, said three Mexican men surrounded him around midnight last month, and began interrogating him on his plans and his paperwork, he said. "I was terrified," said Ramirez, who said he ran away from the men when a crowd of people arrived. "The rumors circulating are that at any moment unknown people will kidnap you." Reuters was unable to independently corroborate the migrants' stories. Osorto said he did not report the attack on him to police. Kristin Clarens, a US attorney who advises asylum-seekers at the border, said she had come across five cases of migrants in Matamoros awaiting MPP hearings who were kidnapped briefly. They were taken to an ATM to clear out their accounts or forced to phone relatives to send cash transfers to a nearby convenience store.

A spokesman for Mexico's National Institute for Migration said it had no data on such complaints. Mexico's national rights ombudsman said it was checking for data. The Tamaulipas state Attorney General's Office and the federal Attorney General's Office declined to comment. The US Department of Homeland Security did not respond to requests for comment about the dangers in Tamaulipas.

In Osorto's camp, asylum seekers use water from the Rio Grande to wash, despite outbreaks of rashes. Women pay a small fee to use a nearby toilet. For food, tents, and the occasional yoga mat to lie on they depend on volunteers from across the border. At night, couples take turns keeping watch over their children, fearful criminals will snatch them if they both sleep. — Reuters

Urban humans: Cities high-tech to combat rising threats

Driverless transport, underground shops, heated bike paths, armed street patrols - this is not the setting for a dystopian novel but it could soon be the city where you live. As the world sees the biggest wave of urban growth in history - with almost 70% of its population expected to be living in urban areas by 2050, up from 56% today - the task of making cities greener and safer is becoming more urgent. That cities are attracting more people is nothing new, noted urban specialist Philipp Rode, who runs London-based research centre LSE Cities.

"People move to cities to live and work because they're a solution: they significantly reduce the amount of movement and space required to do anything," he said. "But the absolute increase in population, the millions coming into cities - that's unprecedented." The shift is creating significant challenges for many cities already at risk from worsening climate change and rising inequality, with the race on to house swelling populations and tackle homelessness. To cope with these modern-day pressures, cities around the world are trying to become "smarter" - from moving storage and retail facilities underground, to

using data and technology to improve security, healthcare and mobility. Many cities, particularly in poorer nations, are also facing large and expanding slum populations which lack basic services, fueling inequality, and, in some cases, violence. Mandy Pienaar, a 43-year-old media executive from Johannesburg, knows this only too well.

One winter evening, as she and her boyfriend drove home from the movies in the South African city, two armed assailants hijacked their car, stripped them of their clothing and stole their bank cards before the couple managed to escape. "It was quite shocking because there were a lot of people walking past who kind of looked at me as if this was an everyday occurrence, to see a stripped woman sitting in a slum area in the cold," Pienaar recalled.

Their ordeal illustrates the "false sense of security" that comes with living as they do in a gated community, she said. "We have bars on every window, huge dogs, electric fencing ... to us that's normal. We've become desensitized." Community-led projects like "vuvuzela patrols" aim to tackle such violence, with groups of men armed with plastic trumpets escorting women on their daily commutes in Johannesburg.

But security is not the only worry on urban planners' minds. From the small US city of Duluth to the metropolis of Hong Kong, cities are thrashing out ways to reinvent themselves and revamp how their residents live, move and consume. "Mobility, water, waste: the world's greatest challenges are solved in cities," said Tiina Kahlo, head of the Helsinki Metropolitan Smart & Clean Foundation, a coalition of businesses, researchers and state officials.

Yet as the world transforms rapidly, "cities will have to innovate like never before", she said.

Going underground

From Singapore to sub-Saharan Africa, cities are running out of space to house swelling populations. "It's a scarce resource," said Rode. "Using that space in the most efficient way possible is crucial." Historically cities have tended to grow outwards rather than upwards, according to a report published by the World Resources Institute and Yale University in January. But, if uncontrolled, such expansion can make it challenging to deliver basic services, with trips to school or the doctor becoming longer, for example. At the same time, it eats into farmland and can threaten green areas and biodiversity.

To be sustainable, cities will need to temper their sprawl with efforts to increase density, researchers said. In Britain, for example, the government announced plans to build hundreds of thousands of new rural homes along its 'Green Belt' - protected areas in the English countryside. For other cities, increasing density will mean putting more facilities below ground - not just subway networks and utilities but commercial, retail and storage facilities too. In Hong Kong, known for its towering skyscrapers and wooded hills, there is a particular urgency to maximize use of underground space, with home and land prices among the world's highest. The government has vowed to free more space for housing through measures like building artificial islands. It is also looking to use underground spaces for waste treatment, data centers, water reservoirs, power stations, crematoriums and sports facilities. — Reuters

IS prisoners in northeast Syria: What we know

The prospect that thousands of the world's most fanatic jihadists could break out in the chaos caused by Turkey's invasion of northeastern Syria is causing widespread alarm. The Kurdish administration guarding those suspected members of the Islamic State group is crumbling and their fate has never seemed more uncertain. This is what we know about the detainees, whose fate has been a security and diplomatic hot potato for months:

How many

According to the Kurdish administration, there are around 12,000 suspected IS fighters in the custody of Kurdish security forces across northeastern Syria. At least 2,500 of them are non-Iraqi foreigners of more than 50 different nationalities. Tunisia is thought to have the biggest contingent. Officials in Paris say 60 to 70 French nationals are among those held. The rest are around 4,000 Syrians and roughly the same number of Iraqis.

Where

The fighters, who were detained mostly in the course of



This picture taken from the Turkish side of the border at Ceylanpinar district in Sanliurfa shows smoke rising from the Syrian town of Ras Al-Ain on the first week of Turkey's military operation against Kurdish forces. The United States is not aware of any 'major' escape of Islamic State extremists since Turkey launched its assault on Syrian Kurdish fighters holding the prisoners, an official said yesterday. — AFP

operations led by Kurdish forces and backed by the US-led coalition against IS, are detained in at least seven facilities. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces do not reveal the exact locations but some of them are known, including in Roj, in Dashisha, Jerkin, Navkur and Derik. Given the high value of some of the detainees, the security

levels at these facilities is poor. "They are only buildings" and not heavily fortified, said one top official.

Breakout risks

The SDF warned its erstwhile coalition allies for months that if they needed to mobilize against a Turkish threat, guarding foreign prisoners would become "a second priority". With the US pulling out of the area, jailbreaks - a signature component of resurgence drives by IS's earlier iterations - have become a real possibility. The Kurds said five IS suspects escaped from Navkur last week but Washington stressed that no "major breakout" had yet been reported. France also said Wednesday that Turkey's assault was not yet a threat to the detention facilities' security.

Transfers

Turkey's invasion has lent some added urgency, however, to the search for a future solution for these prisoners, whom the Kurds warn they cannot keep, let alone prosecute. Western governments such as France have been reluctant to take them back, for lack of a clear legal framework and fears of a public backlash. France and other governments have sought instead to transfer some of them to neighboring Iraq, an option French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian was expected to discuss in Baghdad this week. Apparently anticipating the risk of jailbreaks, the United States took control of two of the most high-profile IS detainees in the early hours of the Turkish offensive and spirited them out of the country. — AFP

Business

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12 US charges represent 'unprecedented overreach,' says Turkey's Halkbank**13** EU moves against chipmaker Broadcom in latest tech salvo**14** Huawei generates CNY610.8bn in revenue for third quarter of 2019

NEW YORK CITY: In this file photo, customers shop at Apple's flagship 5th Avenue store in New York City. American consumers tightened their purse strings unexpectedly last month, breaking a seven-month winning streak, government data showed yesterday. — AFP

Sales fall as US consumers hit the brakes

Weak US retail sales ignite fresh fears over economy

WASHINGTON: US retail sales fell for the first time in seven months in September, suggesting that manufacturing-led weakness could be spreading to the broader economy, keeping the door open for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates again later this month.

Consumers tightened their purse strings unexpectedly last month, breaking a seven-month winning streak, government data showed yesterday. Shoppers took home fewer autos and spent less on gasoline, groceries and building supplies while buying less online as well, according to the Commerce Department.

The September slump meant momentum waned at the end of the third quarter and could be a worrying development for the world's largest economy. The American consumer is almost single-handedly sustaining the US expansion as the economy in the rest of the world slows and President Donald Trump's trade wars eat into US exports, business investment, manufacturing and agriculture.

The September dip in sales looked bigger after August's numbers were revised upward, however.

The signs of a deceleration in consumer spending reported by the Commerce Department on Wednesday came on the heels of reports this month showing a moderation in job growth and services sector activity in September. The economy is being hamstrung by a 15-month trade war between the United States and China, which has soured business sentiment, leading to a

decline in capital expenditure and a recession in manufacturing.

"Weaker retail numbers provide further evidence that weakness in the manufacturing sector is spilling over into other areas of the economy," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer at Plante Moran Financial Advisors in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Retail sales dropped 0.3 percent last month as households cut back spending on motor vehicles, building materials, hobbies and online purchases. That was the first drop since February.

Data for August was revised up to show retail sales gaining 0.6 percent instead of 0.4 percent as previously reported. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast retail sales would climb 0.3 percent in September. Compared to September last year, retail sales increased 4.1 percent.

Excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services, retail sales were unchanged last month after advancing by an unrevised 0.3 percent in August. These so-called core retail sales correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product.

Last month's drop and August's unrevised gain in core retail sales suggested a much more significant slowdown in consumer spending in the third quarter than economists had been anticipating after a surge in the prior quarter.

Consumer spending, which accounts for more than

two-thirds of the economy, increased at a 4.6 percent annualized rate in the second quarter, the most in 1-1/2 years. After the release of the data, economists cut their third-quarter consumer spending growth estimates to around a 2.5 percent rate from a 3.0 percent pace. Signs the economy's growth engine was sputtering could further stoke financial market fears of a sharper slowdown in economic growth. Some economists speculated the cooling in hiring was probably making Americans more cautious about spending.

"The slowdown in job growth is perhaps starting to influence spending habits, but we'll need more data to confirm that thought," said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets in Toronto. Major US stock indexes were trading lower while prices of US Treasuries were mostly higher. The dollar was slightly weaker against a basket of currencies.

Broad weakness

Though President Donald Trump announced a truce in the trade war with China last Friday, which delayed additional tariffs that were due this month, economists say the longest economic expansion on record remained in danger without all import duties being rolled back.

The International Monetary Fund warned on Tuesday that the US-China trade war would cut 2019 global growth to its slowest pace since the 2008-2009 financial crisis, and expressed caution over Trump's so-

called Phase 1 trade deal, saying more details were needed. Growth is also being restricted by the fading stimulus from last year's \$1.5 trillion tax cut package.

With consumer spending slowing, a full trade deal still elusive and the likelihood of a disorderly exit from the European Union by Britain, many economists expect the Fed to cut interest rates at its Oct. 29-30 policy meeting to keep the expansion, now in its 11th year, on track. The US central bank cut rates in September after reducing borrowing costs in July for the first time since 2008.

"The weakness noted in the retail sales report will be seen by policymakers at the Federal Reserve as a cautionary note and will be yet another reason for the Fed to ease monetary policy again at its October meeting," said David Berson, chief economist at Nationwide in Columbus, Ohio.

Sales at electronics and appliance stores were unchanged, getting no boost from the launch of Apple's new iPhone model. Sales at building material stores fell 1.0 percent. Online and mail-order retail sales dropped 0.3 percent, the most since December 2018. That followed a 1.2 percent increase in August. Spending at hobby, musical instrument and book stores dipped 0.1 percent.

But receipts at clothing stores rebounded 1.3 percent last month after falling 0.7 percent in August. Sales at furniture stores increased 0.6 percent. Sales at restaurants and bars gained 0.2 percent. — Agencies

Google says no India launch for radar-enabled Pixel 4 smartphone

MUMBAI: Google will not launch its newest Pixel 4 smartphone in India, the company has said, disappointing consumers with a decision reportedly based on its refusal to disable a feature that uses a radar frequency barred in the South Asian nation. Hours after the Alphabet-owned internet giant unveiled its latest handsets featuring motion-sensing capabilities and a ramped-up camera, the firm told an Indian Twitter user the phone would not be sold in the country.

"We decided not to make Pixel 4 available in India," Google tweeted late Tuesday from an official company account, without giving a reason for the decision.

"We remain committed to our current Pixel 3a phones and look forward to bringing future Pixel and other hardware products to India." The move sparked speculation that the new phone's motion-sensing radar technology called "Soli"—which operates on a frequency not allowed for civilian use in India—was responsible for the decision.

Google has touted "Motion Sense" as a key feature of the Pixel 4, which will allow users to skip songs, turn off alarms, and silence phone calls simply by waving their hands.

Google's Brian Rakowski said in a statement that the feature is enabled in all the markets where



NEW YORK: Sabrina Ellis, Google vice president of product management speaks about the new Google Pixel 4 phone during a Google product launch event called Made by Google 19 in New York City on Tuesday. — AFP

the Pixel 4 will be sold, "except in Japan where it's coming soon". The statement did not say why the function will not be enabled at launch in Japan. Japan's Kyodo news agency reported that Motion

Sense will not be available in the country "until next spring".

No such indication was given for the Indian market, fuelling frustration among Pixel fans in the country. — AFP

UAE to launch new low-cost airline

SHARJAH: Abu Dhabi's giant Etihad Airways and Sharjah's low-cost carrier Air Arabia announced yesterday an agreement to launch a new low-cost airline based in the United Arab Emirates capital. Etihad Airways posted a loss in 2018 for the third year running, it said earlier this year, blaming investment losses and challenging market conditions.

The new Air Arabia Abu Dhabi will be launched in "due course", Tony Douglas, CEO of Etihad Aviation Group, said in a statement issued by the two Emirati carriers. "This exciting partnership supports our transformation program and will offer our guests a new option for low-cost travel to and from Abu Dhabi, supplementing our own services," he added.

Etihad, which has been undergoing restructuring since late 2017, said it had narrowed its losses in 2018 to \$1.28 billion, from \$1.52 billion the previous year. Along with its 2016 losses, that adds up to total losses of \$4.67 billion over three years, prompting the company to scrap dozens of orders on aircraft.

Established in 2003 by the oil-rich Gulf emirate's government, the airline has faced stiff competition from regional rivals Dubai aviation giant Emirates and Doha-based Qatar Airways.

Etihad invested heavily in carriers around the world including Alitalia, airberlin, Air Seychelles, Virgin Australia and India's Jet Airways, some of which have faced financial difficulties, causing Etihad heavy losses. In late 2017, the company appointed Douglas, a former British defense official, as its chief executive officer and launched a five-year restructuring process. Airlines in the Gulf have faced a double hit from oil price fluctuations and regional political tensions. — AFP

Business

US charges represent 'unprecedented overreach,' says Turkey's Halkbank

Shares drop despite ban on short selling

ISTANBUL: Turkey's Halkbank said yesterday that US charges against it are part of sanctions Washington slapped on Ankara over its military incursion in Syria and represent an "unprecedented legal overreach."

US prosecutors on Tuesday charged the state-owned lender with taking part in a multibillion-dollar scheme to evade US sanctions on Iran. In response, Halkbank's shares plunged as much as 7 percent yesterday despite a ban on short selling. The indictment came a day after Washington imposed sanctions on Turkish officials, hiked tariffs and halted trade talks in an effort to persuade Ankara to stop attacks against the Kurdish YPG militia in northeastern Syria.

The charges in a US district court in New York, which further strains ties between the NATO allies, alleges Turkey's second-largest state bank conducted fraud, money laundering, and other sanctions offences.

"These were filed as part of the sanctions introduced against our country by the US government in response to Operation Peace Spring, heroically launched by the Turkish army to secure our borders and establish peace in the region," Halkbank said of the incursion now in its eighth day. Turkey's second-largest state bank said it did not engage in sanctions violations as alleged and falls outside of the US Justice Department's jurisdiction since it has no branches or employees in the United States. "Therefore the decision to indict is an unprecedented legal overreach," it said.

The case against Halkbank follows from a previous criminal case that came to light in 2016 against Turkish-Iranian gold trader Reza Zarrab, who was accused of playing a central role in the sanctions evasion scheme. Mehmet Hakan Atilla, a former Halkbank deputy general manager, was arrested in New York the following year and was later sentenced to 32 months in prison. He returned to Turkey in July after serving out his sentence.

Zarrab pleaded guilty and testified for US prosecutors. He said Iran, with the help of Halkbank and Turkish government officials including President Tayyip Erdogan, used a web of shell companies and sham transactions in gold, food and medicine to sidestep US sanctions.

Turkey cast that case as a political plot against

Erdogan's government and said it was an extension of a 2013 domestic corruption investigation, which Ankara says was launched by the network of Fethullah Gulen, a US-based Muslim cleric. "The Halkbank case has always been on the table as political leverage," said a banking analyst who declined to be named.

Markets on edge

Before Turkish markets opened, authorities banned short selling on seven large Turkish bank stocks including Halkbank. Selling shares in the banks only to buy them later in the session was also banned, authorities said. State banks - which have sold dollars to defend the lira since the Syria incursion began last week - were yesterday squeezing funding in an offshore FX swaps market to cushion the blow from the Halkbank indictment, a bond trader said.

Halkbank stock nonetheless fell as much as 7.2 percent at the open and was down 4.8 percent at 0939 GMT. The main banking index, which has fallen more than 16 percent this month on fears of US repercussions, was down 2.4 percent while Turkey's broader stock index was off 1.3 percent. Turkey's incursion into northeast Syria has tested its ties with the United States and could imperil its economy's recovery from last year's currency crisis. It came after President Donald Trump's abrupt decision to withdraw US troops from the area.

The Kurdish YPG, which spearheaded the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, was a main US ally in the fight against Islamic State. Turkey's lira has declined some 10 percent against the dollar this year, due largely to worries that Washington would sanction Ankara over its purchase of Russian missile defence systems. But the currency has firmed this week since the US sanctions were announced and deemed lighter than expected. After the Halkbank indictment, the lira was up 0.3 percent at 5.9015 against the dollar.

Interventions

Following the Halkbank charges, the Borsa Istanbul said its CEO temporarily banned short selling in banking shares within the top BIST-30 Index. The Capital



ISTANBUL: In this file photo, people walk by as a street vendor stands in front of a branch of the Turkish bank Halkbank in Istanbul. —AFP

Markets Board said it would protect investors and promote market stability. The banking analyst called it "a sort of intervention on the free market" and said authorities were motivated not only by Halkbank but the 8 percent fall in bank stocks on Monday.

Sadrettin Bagci, another bank analyst, at Deniz Yatirim, said Halkbank had the ability to absorb a possible fine of between \$1.3-2.3 billion, depending on the capital measurement. "We think that a possible direct fine has been largely priced in the share price," he said.

The US sanctions and increased tariffs risk slowing Turkey's recovery from recession after last year's crisis

chopped nearly 30 percent off the value of the lira. The crisis was set off by concerns over deteriorating US-Turkey ties and political interference in monetary policy.

State banks stepped in to sell dollars in March when the lira briefly tumbled, and traders said they intervened again in the last two weeks. The bond trader said they turned attention on Wednesday to the one-week FX swap market, where rates jumped to 20.25 percent and tested a 2-1/2 month high hit earlier this week. The Turkish stocks covered by the short selling ban are: Akbank, Garanti Bank, Halkbank, Is Bank, TSKB, VAK-IFBANK and Yapi Kredi Bank. —Reuters

South Africa's latest power cuts highlight Eskom challenge

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa was hit by power cuts yesterday after a number of Eskom generating units broke down, highlighting the challenge facing President Cyril Ramaphosa in rescuing the state power firm. Eskom said it would cut 2,000 megawatts (MW) of power from 9 a.m. local time (0700 GMT) until 11 pm (2100 GMT) on a rotational basis across the country, the first power cuts in around seven months. The rand fell as much as 1 percent against the dollar at one stage after Eskom's comments, which will put more pressure on the country's weak economy ahead of a review by Moody's, the last of the big three credit rating agencies to have an investment grade rating on South Africa.

Eskom produces more than 90 percent of South Africa's electricity but has been hobbled by technical faults at its fleet of mainly coal-fired power stations. Johannesburg residents, who have grown used to frequent power outages over the past decade, expressed renewed frustration about the impact on their lives.

"It's almost year-end and this is when we make money," said Bridgette Moyo, 29, a hair stylist. "We make money out of this business through electricity; if it's not there then we are going down."

Eric Gyimah, 26, a media consultant, said the power cuts were a "huge inconvenience". Eskom said close to a quarter of its roughly 45,000 MW capacity was offline on Wednesday because of unplanned breakdowns and faults including boiler tube leaks and broken a conveyor belt for coal. —Reuters

South Korea cuts interest rate again as Japan trade row rumbles

SEOUL: South Korea's central bank yesterday cut its key interest rate to the lowest point in two years in an effort to prop up its slowing economy as it is hit by a trade spat with Japan.

The move comes as President Moon Jae-in battles to kickstart inflation-after prices fell for the first time last month-and boost the stuttering economy, with parliamentary elections due in six months.

It also makes the Bank of Korea the latest central bank to slash rates around the world as officials try to prop up their economies in the face of a global slowdown. The BoK lowered its key rate to 1.25 percent from 1.5 percent, citing contraction of global trade and "sluggishness in exports and facilities investment".

Borrowing costs are now level with their previous record low, which was seen between June 2016 and November 2017. The won fell 0.2 percent against the dollar in afternoon trade.

"As it is expected that domestic economic growth will be moderate and it is forecast that inflationary pressures on the demand side will remain at a low level, the Board will maintain its accommodative monetary policy stance," said the central bank in a statement. The rate cut comes as the World's 11th largest economy struggles from a prolonged trade row between the US and China as well as Seoul's standoff with Tokyo originating from historical dispute. The two neighbors have been embroiled in a dispute since July, when Japan tightened export controls on three chemicals essential to key products of South Korean tech companies such as Samsung.

While both are key US allies in the region, relations between the two remain heavily affected by Japan's expansionism in the first half of the 20th century, including its colonization of the peninsula.

Consumer price inflation is expected to hover around zero "for some time" before



SEOUL: Bank of Korea Governor Lee Ju-yeol speaks during a press conference on its key interest rate at the central bank in Seoul yesterday. —AFP

rising to the one percent range from next year, the central bank said, far short of its target of two percent. Analysts warn that South Korea may be entering deflation territory after prices dropped 0.4 percent on-year in September, the first negative read-

ing on record. The BoK said economic growth is expected to "fall below" the 2.2 percent projection made in July-the downgrade from an earlier projection of 2.5 percent. GDP grew 2.7 percent in 2018, the weakest pace in six years. —AFP

US dollar makes a comeback in Cuba to fight capital flight

HAVANA: Cuba said on Tuesday it plans to allow some stores to sell domestic appliances and other goods in US dollars, as the country struggles to get to grips with a black market of so-called mules who purchase goods abroad to sell

door-to-door. Vice President Salvador Valdes Mesa said 77 stores across the country would begin selling appliances and other goods for dollars at the end of the month.

"We hope to increase the offer of domestic appliances most in demand: electric motorcycles, flatscreen TVs, air conditioners and spare parts for cars," Valdes Mesa said during a nationally televised round table with various ministers. Cuba's inefficient state-run economy is facing a crisis due to the implosion of ally Venezuela's economy and the tightening of the decades-old US trade embargo under President Donald Trump. The government granted pay raises to many state employees and pensioners in July to stimulate demand. It also slapped price controls on many products and said it would work to increase local production to meet increased demand. There are currently two currencies, the peso and the

convertible peso, which is valued at 24 pesos, circulating in Cuba. Possession of the dollar and other tradable currencies is legal, but they have previously not been deemed legal tender for purchases.

Cubans who want to buy from the specialist stores will need to use a dollar-denominated bank card from an account opened with tradable currencies, such as the dollar or euro. People may obtain those tradable currencies through offshore remittances or by other means such as exchanging local pesos on the street, the government said. The government claims the convertible peso is equal to the dollar, but imported appliances and other goods, when available, have huge markups as they are purchased in tradable currencies while the peso and convertible peso have no value abroad. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.550
Euro	338.050
Sterling Pound	390.890
Canadian dollar	231.690
Turkish lira	52.970
Swiss Franc	307.320
US Dollar Buying	297.150
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.802
Indian Rupees	4.265
Pakistani Rupees	1.964
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.680
Nepali Rupees	2.651
Singapore Dollar	222.950
Hongkong Dollar	38.818
Bangladesh Taka	3.592
Philippine Peso	5.910
Thai Baht	10.033
Malaysian ringgit	77.890
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.268
Qatari Riyal	83.702
Omani Riyal	791.553
Bahraini Dinar	809.220
UAE Dirham	82.972
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.900

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.771
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.223
Tunisian Dinar	110.750
Jordanian Dinar	430.000
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.024
Rate for Transfer	
US Dollar	304.740
Canadian Dollar	230.725
Sterling Pound	375.885
Euro	333.495
Swiss Frank	307.075
Bahrain Dinar	810.415
UAE Dirhams	83.370
Qatari Riyals	84.610
Saudi Riyals	82.160
Jordanian Dinar	431.105
Egyptian Pound	18.729
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.672
Indian Rupees	4.308
Pakistani Rupees	1.949
Bangladesh Taka	3.609
Philippines Peso	5.872
Cyprus pound	18.130
Japanese Yen	3.815
Syrian Pound	1.595
Nepalese Rupees	2.697
Malaysian Ringgit	73.635

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.381152	0.396052
Czech Korune	0.004996	0.014296
Danish Krone	0.040867	0.045887
Euro	0.328207	0.341907
Georgian Lari	0.101963	0.101963
Hungarian 0.000919	0.001109	
Norwegian Krone	0.029237	0.034437
Romanian Leu	0.053658	0.070508
Russian ruble	0.004723	0.004723
Slovakia	0.009106	0.019106
Swedish Krona	0.026958	0.031958
Swiss Franc	0.298535	0.309535
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.196643	0.208643
New Zealand Dollar	0.184544	0.194044
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.225050	0.234050
US Dollars	0.300450	0.305750
US Dollars Mint	0.300950	0.305750
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002963	0.003764

Chinese Yuan	0.041569	0.045069
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036731	0.039481
Indian Rupee	0.003692	0.004464
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002716	0.002896
Korean Won	0.000245	0.000261
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069217	0.075217
Nepalese Rupee	0.002626	0.002966
Pakistan Rupee	0.001349	0.001349
Philippine Peso	0.005710	0.006010
Singapore Dollar	0.216441	0.226441
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001319	0.001899
Taiwan	0.009806	0.009986
Thai Baht	0.009657	0.010207
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.801674	0.809732
Egyptian Pound	0.018646	0.021387
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000214	0.000274
Jordanian Dinar	0.424644	0.433644
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020849	0.044849
Omani Riyal	0.785909	0.793808
Qatar Riyal	0.082996	0.083830
Saudi Riyal	0.080127	0.081427
Syrian Pound	0.001291	0.001511
Tunisian Dinar	0.103038	0.110306
Turkish Lira	0.044940	0.054785
UAE Dirhams	0.082285	0.083113
Yemeni Riyal	0.000990	0.001070

Business

EU moves against chipmaker Broadcom in latest tech salvo

US chipmaker ordered to halt 'uncompetitive sales practices'

BRUSSELS: The EU's powerful anti-trust authority yesterday ordered US chipmaker Broadcom to immediately halt uncompetitive sales practices, using an unprecedented weapon against US big tech.

The European Commission took the extremely rare move of ordering interim changes from one of Silicon Valley's pioneer companies while the EU investigation is still under way, citing "irreparable" threats to competition. The move comes at a delicate time in transatlantic relations and risks raising the hackles of US President Donald Trump, who has accused the EU repeatedly of unfairly targeting US giants. It also falls two days before \$7.5 billion worth of European goods will be slapped with US tariffs in retaliation for illegal EU subsidies to Airbus, the planemaker.

EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager warned that Broadcom's behaviour "is likely, in the absence of intervention, to create serious and irreversible harm to competition".

"We have strong indications that Broadcom, the world's leading supplier of chipsets used for TV set-top boxes and modems, is engaging in anticompetitive

practices," she said.

Comply then appeal

Broadcom in a brief statement said it intended to appeal the decision in the European courts "and in the meantime comply with the commission's order". With the order, Vestager significantly stepped up her scrutiny of US tech giants. Investigations typically drag on for years before companies are fined or ordered into compliance. A landmark case against Microsoft played out for close to a decade while a case against Google on its shopping service took seven years to reach the penalty phase.

Vestager is considered a scourge of US big tech, after launching cases against Google, Apple and Amazon. She will begin a five-year term at the European Commission later this year with even more powers to regulate. The ongoing investigation centers on Broadcom's highly popular TV and modem chipsets, devices that offer television and internet access to customers at home or work.

The commission said it has obtained information that Broadcom might be requir-

ing firms to buy only its components, or granting them rebates and other advantages if they buy in high volume.

The commission said it had also heard Broadcom might be bundling products or deliberately undermining the "interoperability" between Broadcom products and other products. The commission in June sent a "statement of objections on interim measures" to Broadcom requiring it to swiftly stop such alleged practices and the company now has just 30 days to implement the changes.

Big fines

Meanwhile the anti-trust investigation against Broadcom will continue, with the company at risk of major fines that can technically go as high as 10 percent of annual sales. In 2009, Intel was fined one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in a similar case. Other tech giants have also had to fork out to the European Union: Google accumulated eight billion euros in fines, while Qualcomm was recently fined one billion euros. The affair takes place as European nations prepare to respond to new US tariffs on EU goods after Washington got the



EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager warned that Broadcom's behaviour "is likely, in the absence of intervention, to create serious and irreversible harm to competition".

go-ahead from the World Trade Organization to strike back over state subsidies for Airbus.

The Europeans are expected to retaliate

with their own tariffs next year in a parallel case involving Boeing, further escalating a feud that began when Trump imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium imports in 2017. — AFP

Sterling bounces on Brexit uncertainty

LONDON: Sterling bobbed up and down yesterday as Brexit-related reports that kept traders guessing about how the situation was developing, dealers said. In what has already been a topsy-turvy week, the pound was catapulted on Tuesday to the highest levels against the dollar and euro since May, propelled by Brexit deal hopes that subsequently appeared to be fading somewhat.

Following early losses yesterday, sterling bounced back and was still trading at elevated levels later in the day. "The pound is once again finding support, reaching new five-month highs this Wednesday when it touched \$1.2840, as currency markets move to price in increased chances of a deal being reached between the UK and the EU," said Ricardo Evangelista a senior analyst at ActivTrades.

The European Union's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier nonetheless warned senior officials that "significant issues" remain in the way of efforts to agree a deal with London on the eve of a key summit. London stocks lapsed into the red in initial trading and remained there in afternoon exchanges. Asian and other European stock markets experienced mixed fortunes as traders eyed signs of China-US tensions over Hong Kong.

In the US, stocks were slightly lower in opening trade after data showed that consumers spent less in September, breaking a seven-month increase.

'Hopes dashed' of deal

"Fresh uncertainty in relation to Brexit has



LONDON: A journalist poses while looking at a computer screen with the Bloomberg display showing a rise in the value of the pound sterling against the US dollar in London on Tuesday. — AFP

hit sentiment" in Britain remarked analyst David Madden at CMC Markets UK. "It was reported the EU said a deal was impossible unless the UK moves, which has dashed hopes for the possibility of an agreement being reached soon.

"Much of the major gains that were made yesterday were driven by the prospect of a deal being achieved, so now some dealers are reversing their positions," Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, speaking before leaders of the bloc's member states meet today and tomorrow, said he remained hopeful that Britain would secure a deal. Officials said talks could always resume next week and a special summit be called just in time for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to fulfil his pledge to take Britain out of the EU on October 31.

and startup founders who acknowledged that security concerns were widespread in the tech community and had even pushed some entrepreneurs abroad.

Illustrating the concern, most declined to speak on the record. Without publicity, entrepreneurs struggle to recruit the best, bring in money and inspire the next generation, said Daniel Green, a partner at Silicon Valley law firm Gunderson Dettmer who advises startups across Latin America.

"It certainly stunts the growth," he said.

"Living at risk"

To be sure, violence is rampant elsewhere in Latin America, from drug-torn Colombia to crime-ridden Brazil. But the issue is especially acute in Mexico due to an escalation of violence from over a decade ago when the government sent armed forces into the streets to crack down on the cartels. Around the same time, drug gangs began branching into extortion. A string of high-profile kidnappings and murders, including the death of an executive at broadcaster Televisa killed on his bike during a shootout in 2017, rattled the elite. That has generated business for executive protection firms, who provide bullet-proof vehicles, GPS trackers, armed bodyguards and real-time monitoring.

For startups, the fears may be more perception than reality: there are no known cases of tech entrepreneurs being attacked after sharing their company's success.

And some do still announce their deals. Bismarck Lepe, chief executive of software company Wizeline, believes his peers are being over-cautious, despite the horrors Mexico has suffered.

"Communicating more about your success helps the community, helps the company, helps the investors," said Lepe, who divides his time between Silicon Valley and Mexico.

Hong Kong's stock market climbed after suffering a brief mid-session drop after the city's leader Carrie Lam was forced to abandon a State of the Union-style policy speech owing to heckling by opposition lawmakers.

If approved by the Senate, the law would end the Hong Kong-US special trading status unless the State Department certifies annually that city authorities are respecting human rights and the rule of law. Adding to unease was a report saying China wanted the US to remove the threat of new tariffs slated for December before it could ramp up its purchase of agricultural goods, which was part of last Friday's agreement.

The Bloomberg News story cited sources as saying Beijing would not buy the \$40-\$50 billion of products Donald Trump claimed it would unless the levies were lifted. — AFP

"As long as you are not involved in the drug trade, nothing is going to happen to you," Mexican entrepreneur Domingo Guerra, who founded cybersecurity startup Appthority in California, said he is not generally worried about safety when he returns home. But he did feel uncomfortable after announcing a funding round. "Folks were asking how I was going to spend the money, what I was going to buy first," said Guerra, now a senior director at cybersecurity giant Symantec after the acquisition of his company in 2018. "I spent a lot of time explaining that really none of that money was for the founders." One startup founder, assigned a US Army veteran trained in anti-kidnapping maneuvers by a firm acquiring his company, became fed up of having to take a different route home every day and eventually relocated with his family to the United States.

Another who founded his startup in the San Francisco area said American colleagues were frustrated by his quiet approach due to fears for his relatives back in Mexico.

"There's an unofficial tax for operating and living in Mexico - and that tax is living at risk," he said.

From scooter to SUV

Some entrepreneurs have simply faded from public view. Adolfo Babatz, the chief executive of Mexican payments company Clip, was once a staple of the local business press. In 2018, he gave at least five published interviews and graced the cover of business magazine Expansion beside the headline: "Think big." He took a different tack this year after SoftBank pumped about \$20 million into his company, making him among the first Mexican entrepreneurs to win the Japanese conglomerate's stamp of approval. Babatz did not announce the deal and appears to have given few interviews so far in 2019. — Reuters

Europe Inc's recession expected to deepen

LONDON: Europe's corporate recession is expected to deepen, the latest forecasts show, as companies struggle with uncertainties from Brexit, the protracted US-China trade spat and Germany's manufacturing recession. Companies listed on the STOXX 600 regional index are now expected to report a drop of as much as 3.7 percent in third-quarter earnings, worse than the 3 percent fall expected a week ago, I/B/E/S data from Refinitiv showed.

Earnings that grew by 14.4 percent in the same quarter a year earlier are seen posting their worst EPS since Q3 2016 when earnings fell 5 percent. Consensus



LONDON: Europe's corporate recession is expected to deepen, the latest forecasts show, as companies struggle with uncertainties from Brexit, the protracted US-China trade spat and Germany's manufacturing recession. — AFP

Eurozone inflation drops more than foreseen

BRUSSELS: Eurozone inflation dropped to its slowest pace in nearly three years in September, more than previously estimated, the European Union statistics agency said on Wednesday. The drop is likely to raise new concerns on the state of the eurozone economy and may reignite a debate within the European Central Bank on how to pursue its goal of keeping inflation close to but below 2 percent over the medium term.

Eurostat said prices in the 19-country eurozone rose 0.8 percent on the year, down from its earlier estimate of 0.9 percent and lower than the market consensus of 0.9 percent. Eurostat also said the bloc's trade surplus with the rest of the world rose to 14.7 billion euros (\$16.2 billion) in August, from 11.9 billion the previous year, as imports fell more than exports.

The revised inflation reading marked a more pronounced slowdown than August's 1.0 percent. It was the lowest rate since November 2016, when prices rose 0.6 percent. However, a narrower inflation indicator, which strips out volatile energy and unprocessed food

for revenue improved slightly with forecasts for flat growth, compared with a fall of 0.3 percent seen last week. Revenue rose 5.9 percent a year ago and grew by 3.3 percent in Q2.

Excluding the energy sector, Q3 earnings are expected to fall just 0.3 percent with revenue increasing 3.1 percent, the data showed. As the global economy falters, investors have braced for a tough earnings season, which kicks off in earnest next week and will test the stock market's stellar rally this year. The pan European STOXX 600 index is up 16.6 percent this year.

Companies in the region have been in an earnings recession since the second quarter when earnings fell 2.1 percent, posting their second straight quarterly fall. About 80 companies are due to report next week. Q4 forecasts were reined in, I/B/E/S data from Refinitiv showed, with EPS expected to grow 9.1 percent, down from 9.6 percent last week, and revenue seen growing by 3.2 percent, down from 3.4 percent last week. — Reuters

prices and is monitored closely by the ECB, rose to 1.2 percent in September from 1.1 percent in August, in line with earlier Eurostat estimates on Oct. 1.

Excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, inflation grew 1.0 percent in September, Eurostat said, confirming earlier figures. The revision of the headline figure was caused by lower-than-expected inflation for industrial products, another worrying sign for euro zone manufacturers, who are facing drops in output and in confidence. Prices for industrial goods, excluding energy, went up 0.2 percent on the year in September, Eurostat said, revising its earlier 0.3 percent estimate. Energy prices were confirmed falling by 1.8 percent.

Inflation for services, the largest segment of the euro zone economy, rose 1.5 percent, in line with previous estimates. The trade data also released on Wednesday confirmed manufacturing's difficulties. Exports of goods to the rest of the world fell by 2.2 percent on the year in August. Imports dropped even more, 4.1 percent, as global trade tensions seemed to take their toll. Trade among euro zone states also fell 5.6 percent on the year.

Despite US threats and sanctions against global partners, the latest data showed widening gaps. The EU trade surplus with the United States grew to 102.7 billion euros in the period from January to August, from 90.6 billion the year before. The EU's trade deficit with China grew to 127.4 billion euros over the same period, from 116.3 billion a year earlier. — Reuters

Fearful Mexican tech startups shun spotlight

MEXICO CITY: In Mexico's burgeoning startup scene, publicity is the last thing many entrepreneurs want. Unlike plenty of their P.R.-hungry counterparts in Silicon Valley, Mexican startup founders often decline media interviews, avoid public announcements and suppress details of financial success.

One big reason: they do not want to attract criminals. "You are getting yourself in a position where you could be subject to ransom," entrepreneur Ulises Vazquez said of the drug-fueled violence and kidnappings that have scarred society. "You want to have a low profile to be able to continue with your freedom," he added. Vazquez twice kept quiet on major startup milestones: when he sold a stake in his advertising agency Ergos in 2010, and when the acquiring firm, Matomy, went public in 2014.

Though understandable, the low-profile approach is holding back Mexico's technology industry, investors and experts say, making it harder to attract talent and money, especially from abroad.

Mexico's tech sector last year drew only \$175 million in venture capital, according to the Association for Private Capital Investment in Latin America. That was dwarfed by Brazil, the region's powerhouse, which received \$1.3 billion, but also trailed Colombia, which drew \$334 million in venture capital though its economy is worth about a quarter of Mexico's.

Reuters spoke with two dozen investors

Business

Huawei generates CNY610.8bn in revenue for third quarter of 2019

Company's net profit margin 8.7% in Q3 2019

KUWAIT: Huawei yesterday announced its business results for the third quarter of 2019. During the first three quarters of this year, Huawei generated CNY610.8 billion in revenue, an increase of 24.4 percent year-on-year. The company's net profit margin in this period was 8.7 percent.

Huawei has maintained its focus on ICT infrastructure and smart devices, and continued to boost the efficiency and quality of its operations. This contributed to increased operational and organizational stability and solidified the company's performance in the first three quarters of 2019.

In the carrier business, commercial deployment of 5G networks around the world has sped up. Huawei has continued to launch innovative solutions with leading carriers like 5G Super Uplink, smart & simplified transport networks. The company has also worked with industry partners to establish an industry alliance and an industry innovation base for 5G deterministic networking to enable the innovation and growth of carriers.

To date, Huawei has signed more than 60 commercial contracts for 5G with leading global carriers and shipped more than 400,000 5G Massive MIMO active antenna units (AAUs) to global markets. The production and supply of Huawei's optical transmission, data communications, and IT products grew steadily. In the enterprise business, the company launched the Huawei Horizon Digital Platform. This converged, open, and efficient platform was built on Huawei's extensive technological experience. With it, Huawei aims to work with customers and partners to build a foundation for the digital world, creating a digital transformation industry worth trillions of US dollars. This platform will also help various sectors like government, public utilities, finance,

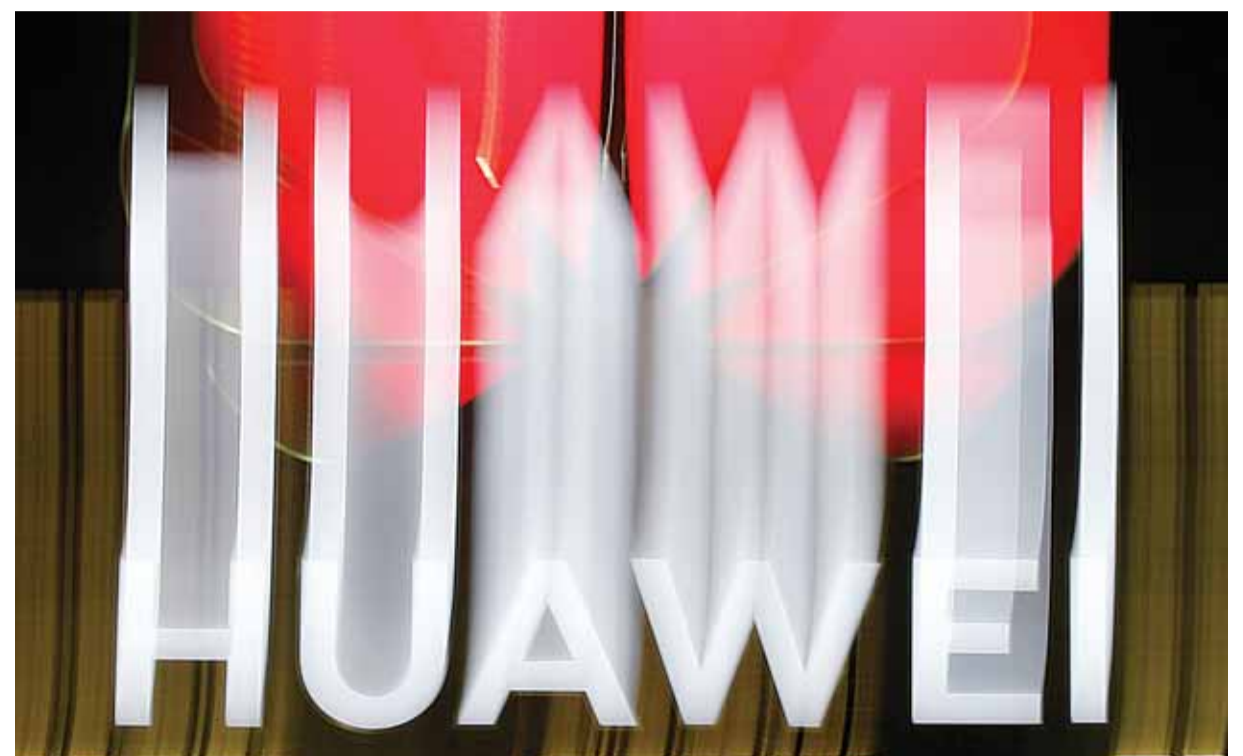
transportation, and electricity to speed up their digital transformation.

By the end of Q3 2019, more than 700 cities, 228 Fortune Global 500 companies, and 58 Fortune Global 100 companies had selected Huawei as their partner for digital transformation.

Huawei's cloud service development has been accelerating. In Q3, Huawei announced its computing strategy and released Atlas 900, the world's fastest AI training cluster. Other innovative products the company has launched include the Huawei Cloud Ascend AI cluster services, 112 new services powered by Kunpeng and Ascend processors, and Industrial Intelligent Twins. These products achieved major breakthroughs in government, Internet service provider (ISP), automotive, finance, and many other industries. Three million enterprise users and developers have used Huawei Cloud to develop products and solutions.

In the consumer business, Huawei's smartphone business has grown steadily. Huawei's smartphone shipments in the first three quarters of 2019 exceeded 185 million units, representing a year-on-year increase of 26 percent. The company also saw rapid growth in other new businesses like PCs, tablets, wearables, and smart audio products. The Vision smart screen, featuring unique innovations in software and hardware, was also launched in Q3, gaining high acclaim from the industry and consumers. A more robust ecosystem that focuses on consumers and delivers a more seamless intelligent experience across all major user scenarios is now taking shape.

The Huawei Mobile Services ecosystem has also developed rapidly, covering more than 170 countries and regions. It has attracted over 1.07 million regis-



ZURICH: An illuminated Huawei sign is on display during the 10th Global mobile broadband forum hosted by Huawei in Zurich on Tuesday.—AFP

tered developers worldwide. The financial data disclosed here are unaudited figures compiled in compliance with the International Financial Reporting

Standard. Converted into United States dollars ("USD") using the market rate at the end of September 2019, USD1.00 = CNY7.1292.

Advisory fees, lending power BoA beat

NEW YORK: Bank of America Corp beat Wall Street estimates for quarterly profit as it earned more in advisory fees and grew its loan book, easing concerns that lower interest rates would crimp growth at the second-largest US bank. The lender's shares rose 1.6 percent in premarket trading as consumer banking - its biggest business - showed strength in the face of uncertainties in global financial markets and reinforced optimism about the financial health of individuals.

"In a moderately growing economy, we focused on driving those things that are controllable," Chief Executive Brian Moynihan said in a statement.

Since 2015, Wall Street's marquee banks have benefited from higher interest rates, as they could afford to charge more interest on loans, without having to significantly raise payouts on deposits. However, this year, markets have been buffeted by lower interest rates as macroeconomic conditions have worsened.

Bank of America is the most vulnerable among the big US banks to fluctuations in interest rates because of its large deposit stock and rate-sensitive mortgage securities. The Federal Reserve has already cut rates twice this quarter. BoA took a small hit on its spread and reported a 4 basis-point decrease in its interest margin to 2.41 percent for the third quarter. But a 5 percent growth in overall loans helped it overcome the impact of lower rates.—Reuters

Zimbabwe bread price jumps 60%, shortages persist

HARARE: The price of bread, Zimbabwe's second most-consumed staple, jumped 60 percent overnight due to escalating costs of production, the national bakers' association said yesterday, adding more woes to consumers grappling with triple-digit inflation. Zimbabweans are experiencing severe economic hardship that has evoked memories of the hyperinflation horrors during late President Robert Mugabe's rule, when citizens lost pensions and savings and businesses were forced to shut down.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who took over from Mugabe after an army coup in 2017, has called for patience as his government struggles to convince Zimbabweans that its policies will revive an economy stricken by shortages of electricity, fuel and medicines and a drought that hit farm output.

National Bakers Association of Zimbabwe president Denis Wala said the price of fuel and electricity, as well as rolling power cuts that forced producers to use diesel generators, had pushed up the cost of producing bread. "Bakers cannot continue to absorb all these costs: that is why we have had to increase the price," Wala told Reuters.

Bread now costs 15 Zimbabwe dollars (\$0.97) a loaf, up from 9.45 Zimbabwe dollars on Tuesday. But shortages still persisted yesterday, with many shops saying they had not received supplies.

Zimbabwe imports most of its annual requirement of 400,000 tons of wheat, but acute shortages of dollars have constrained imports. Although farmers have started harvesting wheat, production is expected to fall below the 160,600 metric tons last year, farmers groups say.

Zimbabwe has suspended the publication of official annual inflation data since Aug. 1, following the introduction of a new currency. In its last official figures, inflation hit more than 175 percent in June, its highest level since hyperinflation under Mugabe wiped out the economy in 2009.—Reuters

NBK announces 20 winners in its 'Double Your Child's Eidiya' campaign

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait continues to offer every member of the family campaigns that suit their needs, and has concluded one of its many campaigns targeting the Zeina Package customers. "Double Your Child's Eidiya" campaign which was launched in June and announced 20 winners in its draw.

The draw was held live on FM 88.8 Kuwait Pulse, under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and representatives from NBK.

NBK launched the "Double Your Child's Eidiya" campaign for Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha, enabling Zeina Customers to enter the draw to double their "Eidiya" when their parents deposit cash in their child's account between 4th June 2019 and 12th September 2019. Winners in the draw won up to KD 300 based on the Eidiya amount deposited in the period specified by the campaign.

Commenting on the draw, Bedoor Al-Adsani,

Boubyan Bank launches 'Click Twice' campaign

KUWAIT: As a part of its pursuit to meet the needs of its youth customers, Boubyan Bank has announced the launch of "Click Twice" campaign for existing and new youth customers, which aims at providing added value to Click segment - designed especially for the youth - with several benefits that match this segment and cope with their aspirations and daily needs.

"We, at Boubyan Bank, always focus on keeping up to date with all disciplines of interest to today's youth

Argentines struggle with housing crisis

Buenos Aires: Silvia Gauna is struggling to make the rent on the one-room Buenos Aires apartment she shares with her teenage daughter. High inflation has driven up rents, with salaries and employment hit by recession. Gauna herself lost her long-term job in August. Now the 49-year-old risks losing her home, one of a growing number of Argentines straining under rental payments as an economic crisis and popular anger tips South America's No. 2 economy back toward populism ahead of presidential elections this month.

Gauna's plight reflects a broader housing crisis. In the wealthy capital alone, two-fifths of people have difficulty making rent as prices have outstripped salaries, according to the city's independent ombudsman office, double the level in March last year. Homelessness has risen and many houses stand empty. "I hope the economic situation improves because inflation is killing us, it's emptying our pockets. Either we eat, or we pay our bills, or we pay the rent," Gauna said in her apartment, where the shared bedroom doubles as a dining and living room.

Gauna, who works as a hotel receptionist, lost her long-term position two months ago, just as President Mauricio Macri was dealt an unexpected landslide defeat in primary elections. The rental crisis underscores broader dynamics in Argentina ahead of elections likely to oust Macri. The center-rightist, a former Buenos Aires mayor, came to power promising to spur investment and eradicate poverty, but now looks set to leave office with millions more in hardship.

Peronist Alberto Fernandez is heavily favored to win the Oct. 27 vote. He is running alongside Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who served as Argentina's president from 2007 to 2015 and won strong support among many Argentines with public subsidies to reduce living costs, especially among the poor. Gervasio Muñoz, president of a local tenants' organization, said Macri's market-oriented reforms and the country's economic crisis had combined to put a squeeze on housing costs and renters.

"With rent increases across the board, people can't cope because of delayed salaries and tough market rules," he said. "It's been a long time, since I think (the economic crisis of) 2001-2002, that we've seen a situation where so many families in Argentina don't know where they will live because they can no longer pay rent."

How do I get out?

Ahead of the vote, Macri has rolled out

Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait, said: "We are glad to announce the winners in the Zeina Package's Double Your Child's Eidiya campaign. We value our young customers and strive to help parents plan for the future of their children from a very young age." Al-Adsani added: "Zeina Package aims to educate children about the basics of banking and managing their finances, as well as developing in them a culture of saving by providing them with an exclusive banking experience that is convenient for their age."

"We promise our Zeina Customers more surprises that are specifically tailored to cover the interests of our young customers such as rewards specifically launched for them and activities held all year long," concluded Al-Adsani. Zeina Package was designed for children from newborns up to 13 years of age, offering them exclusive services and rewards. Zeina Customers receive an NBK Zeina Debit Card and can choose between an interest-bearing Savings Account or an interest-free Trust Account. Young customers can also enjoy activities and events held for them all year long in



Bedoor Al-Adsani

Congratulations to the Winners

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. SULAIMAN MOHAMMAD HAJI | 11. MOHAMMAD AHMAD ALSAYEGH |
| 2. SAQER NAWAF ALSALEH | 12. TALAL ABDULRAZAQ ALJOUAN |
| 3. ALEISSA YAQOUB KALMAD | 13. ABDULLAH ABDULJALEEL ALHERZ |
| 4. SARAH OSAMA ALQATARI | 14. YOUSUF MOHAMMAD ALLETO |
| 5. KANZI AHMAD ALI | 15. YOUSUF MOHAMMAD MALAK |
| 6. NOURI HAYTHAM ALKAZEMI | 16. LAYA ABDULLAH ALAWADHI |
| 7. JHAT ISMAEEL ALBLOUSHI | 17. ALJOUAD JASSIM ALGHANIM |
| 8. SHAKHAH HUSSAIN ALSALEM | 18. SALMA AHMED ABDELREHIM |
| 9. MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH ALJABALI | 19. WAFAA MOURTADA |
| 10. TAIM MOHAMMED ARAB | 20. MOHAMMAD ABDULJALEEL ALHERZ |



addition to immediate discounts when using their NBK Zeina Debit Card at retailers.

Young customers avail to up to 50% discounts on purchases at select retailers and entertainment centers, in addition to exclusive offers, free tickets from KidZania and exclusive campaigns launched for them. Parents can open a Zeina Account for their children by visiting their nearest NBK Branch or nbk.com

Click account holders will be announced at Boubyan Bank's Instagram account along with those of their five friends to bring the total number of weekly winners to 10, who will be receiving gifts of up to KD 200 vouchers."

To conclude, Hajji stressed that more youth-oriented products and services would soon be launched in the field of digital banking services where Boubyan Bank is a leader in the local market.



Hamad Hajji



Buenos Aires: Argentina's Finance Minister Hernan Lacunza gestures during a press conference in Buenos Aires, on Tuesday.—AFP

popular measures to bolster jobs and cut taxes, though many blame his administration's deregulation of the housing market for high rents and for failing to get inflation under control. Macri has promised his government will look to "take care" of renters worried about an uncertain future. But he has won few favors among hard-hit voters by cutting back on subsidies for public utilities as part of a drive to lower government debts.

Argentina's Congress, meanwhile, is now

looking at draft proposals to alleviate the housing crisis. Three proposed housing-related bills went in front of lawmakers on Tuesday.

Fernando Munoz, an official at the Buenos Aires ombudsman, pointed to the number of people trying to break rental agreements, even as they worry about incurring fines, as a testament to how tough the housing situation has become. "Many people come and tell us I want to end the contract, I can't keep paying. How do I get out?" he said.—Reuters

What's On

Burgan Bank rewards its best performing employees and branches of Quarters 2, 3



Burgan Bank recently held its quarterly ceremony to reward the best branches and employees of Branches, Contact Center, Direct Sales and Merchant Sales for their outstanding work in Quarters 2 & 3/2019. Divided into separate categories, the top achievers were presented with the titles of "Best Branches," "Best Customer Service Representative" and "Best Merchant Sales officer" at Al Hamra Tower. The ceremony is held periodically in recognition of their hard work, optimal performance, and commitment to quality assurance and premium customer service.

The event that was held at the Grand Cinemas at Al Hamra Tower witnessed the attendance of senior management from the bank and branches alongside top-performing employees. Nasser Al Qaisi - Chief Retail Banking officer at Burgan Bank applauded their

efforts and efficiency as they each received a certificate of appreciation. He further explained that their performance was a demonstration of the bank's increased investment in advanced training and development to sustain successful banking operations. The employees were additionally treated to a blockbuster movie soon after the rewarding ceremony.

The Customer Experience Management (CEM) in Burgan Bank has adopted objectives to continue to upgrade its banking operations and maintain high quality services in line with the Bank's customer satisfaction strategy. The Customer Experience Management (CEM) also continue to create incentive based initiatives to further inspire employees, develop their skills, and enhance commitment to the Bank's practices and processes to improve customer experiences.



LuLu Exchange shifts location of second Farwaniya branch

LuLu Exchange, the leading financial services company in Kuwait, recently shifted the location of its second Farwaniya branch yesterday. The branch's new location is LuLu Exchange Company WLL Block 1, Shop 38 & 39, Bader Al Douweesh Complex, Farwaniya. The new branch was inaugurated by Narayan Pradhan, Vice President GCC & India, LuLu Financial Group, who was joined by Mohamed Haris, Regional Director-Lulu Hypermarket, Shaiju Mohan Das, General Manager - Lulu Exchange, Subaheer Thayil - Deputy General Manager - Lulu Exchange and Shafaz Ahamed - Area Manager. Staff and well-wishers were also in attendance at the function.



Nursing College of Public Authority for Applied Education and Training organized an event titled "a message of love and dedication" on the occasion of the safe return of His Highness the Amir. The event was attended by college dean Dr Ali Al-Ajraf, his assistants, faculty and students.

Children given world of learning at Shivadham

In the midst of students, parents and well wishers, Shivadham School of Dance organized Vidyarambham on Oct 8, 2019 at their branches in Mangaf and Abbassiya. It is a ritual that marks the last day of the Navratri festival and

the children are initiated formally into the world of letters and arts on the auspicious day. The academy also introduced the Shivadham Dance Studio, their cinematic dance wing on the same day. Escorted by their parents, the students from all the five branches flocked to the function. The academy has the strength of more than 250 students at its credit. The Shivadham dance Studio is a venture for the students interested in learning cinematic dance. Under the guidance of an expert teacher, the Dance Studio is commenced at all the five branches of the Shivadham School of Dance.



Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday Michie! May God guide and protect you as you continue to be a blessing to the family. Greetings and best wishes from mom, dad, brother, friends and well-wishers.

ICSK extends welcome to Indian volleyball legends

As a part of promoting the Volleyball sport, three eminent volleyball players were invited to ICSK Senior on 9th October 2019. Indian men's Volleyball team captain Mohan Ukrapandyan, Naveen Raja Jacob and Ashwal Rai were the eminent players. Mohan Ukrapandyan is the current Indian men's national volleyball team Captain and the intelligent setter. Currently he plays for Kochi Blue Spikers in Pro Volleyball League. Naveen Raja Jacob is an integral part of current Indian men's national volleyball team. He currently plays for Chennai Spartans in Pro Volleyball League. Ashwal Rai is an integral part of current Indian men's national volleyball team

and he currently plays for Black Hawks Hyderabad in Pro Volleyball League.

After extending a grand welcome to the volleyball legends, the program was initiated at 9:30 am with the Islamic prayer in the Auditorium. Sheryl Dennis, Principal and Sports co-ordinator, ICSK welcomed the guests. Dr Nins Peter, HOD of Physical Education Department [ICSK SENIOR], introduced the guests to the junior players of ICSK. On behalf of the management and staff of ICSK, Sheryl Dennis presented the mementos to the players as a token of appreciation and gratitude. Rajam, [member of Physical Education Department] delivered the vote of thanks.

The meeting was followed by an interactive session of the guests with the players of ICSK. The guests emphasized on the importance of discipline and dedication while practicing and the relevance of lifestyle pattern to be followed. After the interactive session, a practice session was given by the Guest Players to the Volleyball players of ICSK. The program came to an end by 11:30 am and it was worthwhile for the students.



Health & Science

Fido's raw meat pet food may be loaded with harmful bacteria

PARIS: Increasingly popular raw meat meals for dogs and cats may be full of multi-drug resistant bacteria, posing a serious risk to animals and humans, scientists reported yesterday. Three-quarters of samples purchased and tested in Switzerland exceeded recommended limits of bacteria known to cause gastro-intestinal infections, and more than half had bugs impervious to drugs designed to kill them, they reported in Royal Society Open Science.

"It is really worrying that we found EBSL-producing bacteria in over 60 percent of samples," said first author Magdalena Nuesch-Inderbilen, a researcher at the University of Zurich, referring to an enzyme that renders some antibiotics ineffective. "They include several types of E. coli which can cause infections in humans and animals."

Sales of raw pet food-sometimes called "biologically appropriate raw food", or BARF-have soared in recent years, especially for dogs. Paleo-like diets are said to boost canine vitality and immunity, even if there is scant research to back up such claims. Indeed, veterinary medical associations in the United States and Canada have raised concerns about raw meat pet food, with reports showing it to be a source of Salmonella and infectious yersiniosis in dogs.

And that, Nuesch-Inderbilen told AFP, is a problem for humans. "Raw meat-based diets may be contaminated with bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics, including those categorised by the World Health Organization (WHO) as critically important for human medicine," she wrote by email.

Pet lover beware

"There is growing evidence that these pathogens pose a risk of infectious disease to humans not only during handling of feed, but also through the contamination of household surfaces and through close contact to the dogs and their feces." There are an estimated 140 million dogs and cats in the European Union, and at least as many in North America. More generally, antibiotic resistance has become a major health crisis across the globe.

"The situation with multi-drug resistant bacteria has spiralled out of control in recent years," said co-author Roger Stephan, a professor at the University of Zurich's Institute for Food Safety and Hygiene.

The indiscriminate and sometimes inappropriate use of antibiotics have allowed surviving bugs to mutate into superbugs that outpace the development of new medicines. Because of the overuse of antibiotics in the livestock production, animals raised for consumption have become a major reservoir for antimicrobial resistance. "Like conventional pet food, most raw meat-based diets are based on the by-products of animals slaughtered for human consumption," the study notes.

To find out exactly how contaminated raw pet foods really are, the researchers tested 51 samples from different suppliers in Switzerland, purchased in stores and on the Internet. "We advise all dog and cat owners who want to feed their pets a 'BARF' diet to handle the food carefully and maintain strict hygiene standards," said Nuesch-Inderbilen. "Pet owners should be aware of the risk that their pet may be carrying multi-drug resistant bacteria and can spread them." — AFP

Scientists shed light on how brains turn pain up or down

WASHINGTON: Pain perception is essential for survival, but how much something hurts can sometimes be amplified or suppressed: for example, soldiers who sustain an injury in battle often recall not feeling anything at the time. A new study published in Cell Reports on Tuesday honed in on the brain circuitry responsible for upgrading or downgrading these pain signals, likening the mechanism to how a home thermostat controls room temperature.

Yarimar Carrasquillo, the paper's senior author and a scientist for the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), told AFP the region responsible was the central amygdala, which according to her work appeared to play a dual role. Studying mice, Carrasquillo and her colleagues found that the activity in neurons that express protein kinase C-delta amplified pain, while neurons that express somatostatin inhibited the chain of activity in the nerves required to communicate pain.

The central amygdala isn't completely responsible for pain itself: if it were removed entirely, then "the 'ouch' of things, or the protective pain, would remain intact," said Carrasquillo. "It seems to be sitting there waiting for something to happen," for example responding to stress or anxiety that amplifies pain, or being forced to focus on a task that diverts your attention and reduces pain. Experiencing pain can be a vital warning to seek help, for example in a person experiencing appendicitis or a heart attack.

People who are born with insensitivity to pain, meanwhile, often do not realize the severity of injuries and are at greater risk of early death. But not all pain is useful. According to a 2012 survey, about 11 percent of US adults have pain every day and more than 17 percent have severe levels of pain. Often this leads to dependence on potent painkillers like opioids, or attempting to self-medicate through counterfeit or illicit drugs which are increasingly laced with deadly fentanyl.

By better understanding the brain mechanisms responsible for pain modulation, researchers hope to eventually find better cures: potentially ones that target only those forms of pain that are "bad" and not useful. "The healthy response is you get pain, it tells you something is wrong, it heals, and the pain goes away," said Carrasquillo. "In chronic pain, that doesn't happen, the system gets stuck. If we can identify what makes the system get stuck, then we can reverse it." — AFP

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Laposcopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

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

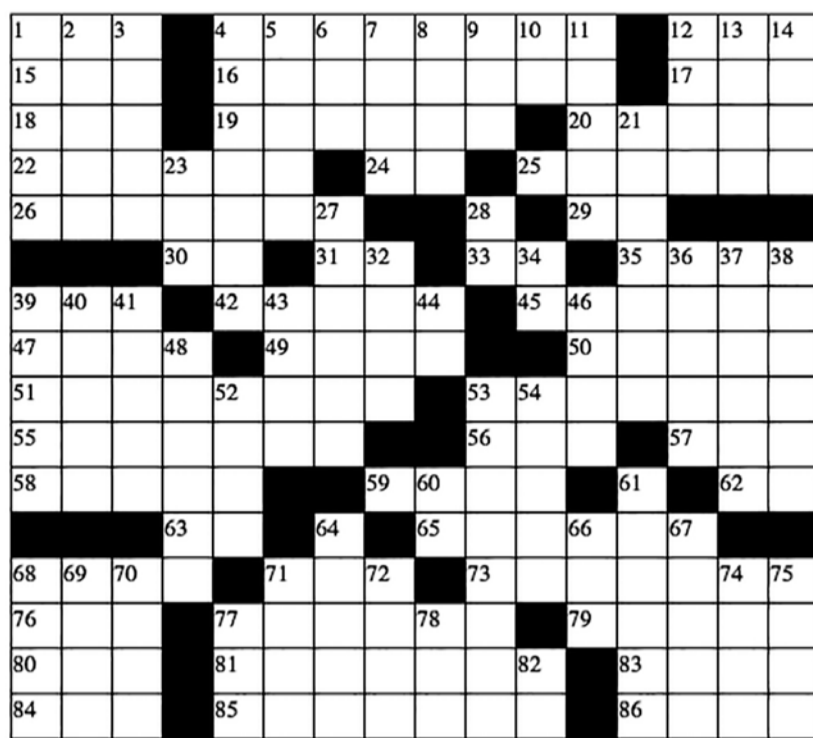
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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Stars

CROSSWORD 2335



- ACROSS**
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
 - A dissolute character in Shakespeare's plays.
 - An American doctorate usually based on at least 3 years graduate study and a dissertation.
 - Seed of a pea plant.
 - Having or using only one filament.
 - A unit of length of thread or yarn.
 - Any high mountain.
 - A Spanish female Gypsy.
 - A grant made by a law court.
 - Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
 - A colorless odorless inert gaseous element occurring in the earth's atmosphere in trace amounts.
 - Port city on Atlantic coast.
 - Providing protective supervision.
 - A metric unit of volume equal to one tenth of a liter.
 - A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
 - A state in midwestern United States.
 - A radioactive element of the actinide series.
 - The Jewish rite of circumcision performed on a male child on the eighth day of his life.
 - A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
 - West Indian evergreen with medium to long leaves.
 - (psychology) Characterized by avoidance or withdrawal.
 - A lawman concerned with narcotics violations.
 - A system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region.
 - An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
 - Located or originating from above.
 - An ACE inhibitor (trade name Vasotec) that blocks the formation of angiotensin in the kidney and so results in vasodilation.
 - A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
 - A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
 - (Babylonian) Consort of Anu.
 - A Spanish river.
 - A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
 - Being ten more than one hundred forty.
 - Convey by horizontal mass movement of a fluid.
 - Not only so, but.
 - Genus of hardy perennials with palmately lobed leaves and long racemes of small nodding five-petaled flowers.
 - Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
 - Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
 - Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quantities.
 - A short introductory essay preceding the text of a book.
 - The basic unit of money in Iran.
 - Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
 - A Powhatan Indian woman (the daughter of Powhatan) who befriended the English at Jamestown and is said to have saved Captain John Smith's life (1595-1617).
 - A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- DOWN**
- Remote and separate physically or socially.
 - A chain of more than 200 islands about 400 miles long in the western central Pacific Ocean.
 - King of France elected in 987 and founding the Capetian dynasty (940-996).
 - (music) In a fugal style.
 - (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
 - Provided with artificial light.
 - The second largest city in Tunisia.
 - Prong on a fork or pitchfork.
 - A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
 - The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
 - Intentional deception resulting in injury to another person.
 - A series of steps to be carried out or goals to be accomplished.
 - A group of cattle or sheep or other domestic mammals all of the same kind that are herded by humans.
 - An informal term for a father.
 - A language of Australian aborigines.
 - A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
 - A narrow zigzag ribbon used as trimming.
 - An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
 - Harsh or corrosive in tone.
 - A white metallic element that burns with brilliant light.
 - A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
 - March aggressively into another's territory by military force for the purposes of conquest and occupation.
 - Any of the various silver or gold coins of ancient Greece.
 - Music composed for dancing the pavane.
 - The top line of a hill, mountain, or wave.
 - American novelist (1909-1955).
 - A public promotion of some product or service.
 - A small cake leavened with yeast.
 - The act of bending low with the limbs close to the body v.l.
 - A set of tags and rules (conforming to SGML) for using them in developing hypertext documents.
 - Very hard unsalted biscuit or bread.
 - Appearing earlier in the same text.
 - A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
 - Whitish fibrous membrane (albucinea) that with the cornea forms the outer covering of the eyeball.
 - Afflicted with or marked by anxious uneasiness or trouble or grief.
 - Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
 - The inner and thicker of the two bones of the human leg between the knee and ankle.
 - A republic consisting of 26 of 32 counties comprising the island of Ireland.
 - Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
 - (Greek mythology) Daughter of Zeus and Demeter.
 - A message received and understood that reduces the recipient's uncertainty.
 - A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
 - (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
 - (music) The pace of music measured by the number of beats occurring in 60 seconds.
 - A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
 - (Akkadian) God of wisdom.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You take time to think and study, for you have a real appreciation for the creative mind. Making your mark on the world has special significance. Achievement, ambition and authority take on a greater importance. Organizing and administering people and projects will become central to your lifestyle. Save a little time for having lunch with a friend. Getting away from the workplace for a while will help you have renewed energy when you return. This friend may be someone that works in a neighborhood shop—lovely to have a different perspective. Through this friend you may learn new and positive ways to view certain things in your life.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are very much your own boss. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste. You are called on to make use of your natural skills during group meetings. You are very career-oriented and your personal reputation and honor is of the utmost importance. You possess a natural sense of organization and practical insight and may excel at managing or supervising others. So now that you know this... It is time to create a better job for yourself by updating that resume, requesting a job change, etc. You naturally gravitate toward positions of power and authority.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are in a mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own better qualities. You communicate with skill and it is stimulating to be around you. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student—able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Your ambitions go hand in hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. You may see value in or feel love for an older person or someone in authority. Ask questions and take notes: this elder has seen many interesting things. This evening is a good time to study—you have a real appreciation for science. You may find yourself enjoying a long conversation, writing a letter, or making a special phone call.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This could be a stressful day but you have the opportunity to rise above the stress. Take a moment to surrender your agenda and become centered or focused. You are able to succeed in whatever you set your mind to do at this time. Look for ways to avoid confrontations with co-workers or superiors. Your ideas can be presented on paper and this will help others to think before they question your techniques or ideas. Given time, your ideas will win approval—do not push. Writers, salesmen and performers shine during this time. Involvement with special interest groups will help your progress in the work field now. Your ideas have a strong influence.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You do a lot to fulfill the popular stereotype of a genius. You have such an outpouring of insights that having a conversation with you can be a real experience. Your mind works like lightning. Words and thoughts come quickly, illuminating whatever subject is at hand. You really do have very different ideas and ways of expressing them. If you are looking for a job or an upgrade within your company, now is the time to make your move. There may be a sustained interest in communication, computers, electronics and all that is electrical. Updating or purchasing electronic equipment may occupy your mind this afternoon. Compare prices and talk to people that are using the brand that you want to purchase in order to have a recommendation.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Luxury is desired just now. Growth and success could be tied to your possessions or to the way you possess and respond to the various ideas and impulses in your life. You could benefit through material support. With material support you tend to invest wisely. You could save a little here and there and be your own support person. Investments take on a whole new perspective when you use your own saved funds. You may find you enjoy making your own fortune. Home, family and real estate are some of the interests that require a lot of discipline and responsibility. If you get serious about these things and think long-term, you come out ahead; otherwise, you could find yourself in a tight situation. Tidy up—company's coming.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You do a lot of research and communicate with a lot of people, including other companies, in order to keep up-to-date on the product that you sell or that the company for which you work produces. This concentrated effort goes into creating a new job identity. You may uncover some interesting information at this time—however, much thought needs to go into whether you should disclose this information. Good practical job-related thoughts and ideas are available to you now. The ability to communicate with your superiors is positive. Your timing should be perfect for just about any project you want to attempt, whether you are at work or at home. Stay on track and remember, what you see is not always what is real.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a good time to concentrate on your career goals. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career could assume a more determined and solid form. There is certainly an abundance of paperwork to wade through today. You may think that few people recognize your efforts or accomplishments but instead, there are people that know and appreciate your work. You should, however, throw your efforts into work you really love doing. A majority of planets in the past have pointed to some sort of comfort zone for you. Now, you will find yourself seeking more challenging and outgoing projects.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A friend, who may also be a co-worker, comes up with ideas today that will help both of you get ahead in the work field. Your fear of taking risks can be set aside when there is someone with whom you can share the risk taking. In both your personal and private lives you are highly organized—others seek you out for advice regarding business affairs. When you become cognizant of what you are doing and the power you have to accomplish your goals, your thinking ability will become most positive. Rest, fun and exercise are important this afternoon. You are an excellent planner with a real head for detail, including keeping up with your money.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A bit of restlessness in the wee hours this morning may find you wishing there had been better rest. Instead of allowing your mind to control you—learn ways to control your mind. Your birth sign shows you have an active mind and keeping your mind busy will help you focus. While you are working you could have a notebook handy for ongoing short story ideas or projects that you want to work on either now or in the future. When you are not working, you would be wise to set aside time for walking or bicycling. While walking, bicycling or driving, you might enjoy listening to recorded stories or self-help ideas.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Those around you, or the situation you find yourself in, may not feel right to you. Saying the right words could be of the utmost importance. You could, however, be challenged. There is a great opportunity to use your special skills today. Some new techniques may be in order. Reading books on solving problems or on communicating with difficult people may be helpful. You could find these books in the business or self-help department of your library. You seem to shine when it comes to practical matters or those involving work and career. You have an easy way with superiors or those in authority and can always get the most out of any skill or ability you have.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

It is important to concentrate on work-related problems today. Exercise gurus have always suggested a discipline in thinking, because thoughts are things like anything else. Thoughts manifest themselves into what you are becoming. In other words, energy follows thought. Create in your mind how you want your day to go and try to let nothing distract you. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career or educational path could assume a much more determined and solid form: a firm foundation. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general receive encouragement now. You will notice that your career is in real harmony with the rest of your life.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Human Skeleton & Organs

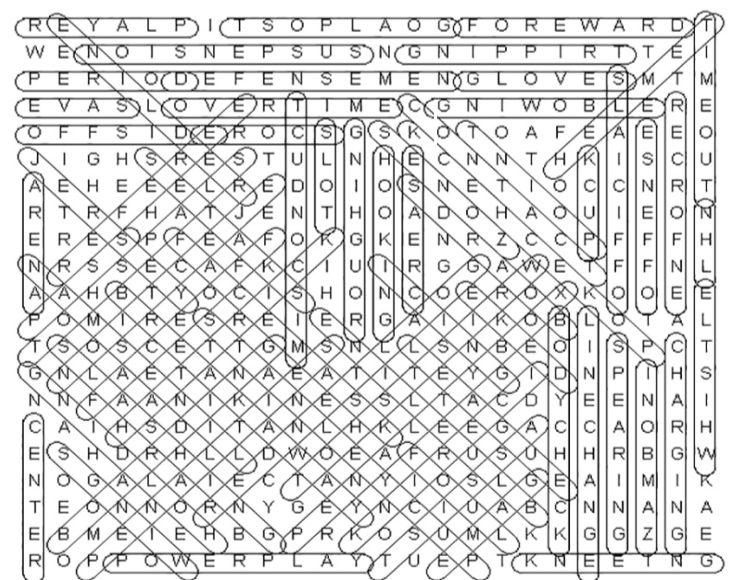
Find and circle all of the skeletal parts and body organs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.

Note: TARSALS and METATARSALS are hidden separately and do not overlap. The same goes for CARPALS and METACARPALS, and BLADDER and GALLBLADDER.

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

- Skeletons:**
- CARPALS
- CLAVICLE
- COCCYX
- CRANIUM
- FEMUR
- FIBULA
- HUMERUS
- INNOMINATE
- MANDIBLE
- METACARPALS
- METATARSALS
- Organs:**
- PATELLA
- PHALANGES
- RADIUS
- RIBS
- SACRUM
- SCAPULA
- STERNUM
- TARSALS
- TIBIA
- ULNA
- VERTEBRA
- Other:**
- LIVER
- LUNGS
- PANCREAS
- SKIN
- SPLEEN
- STOMACH
- VOICE BOX

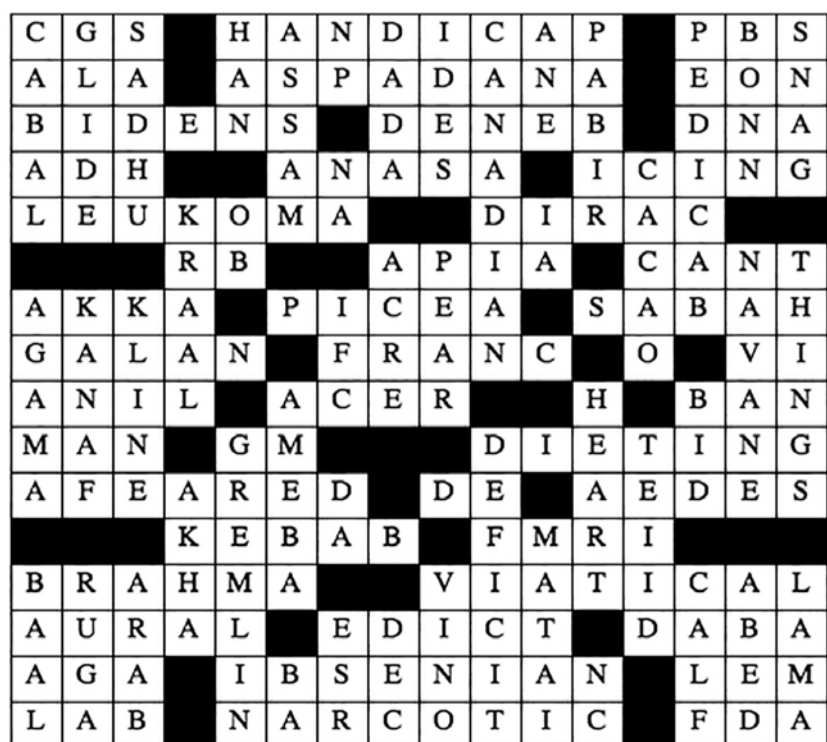
Hockey



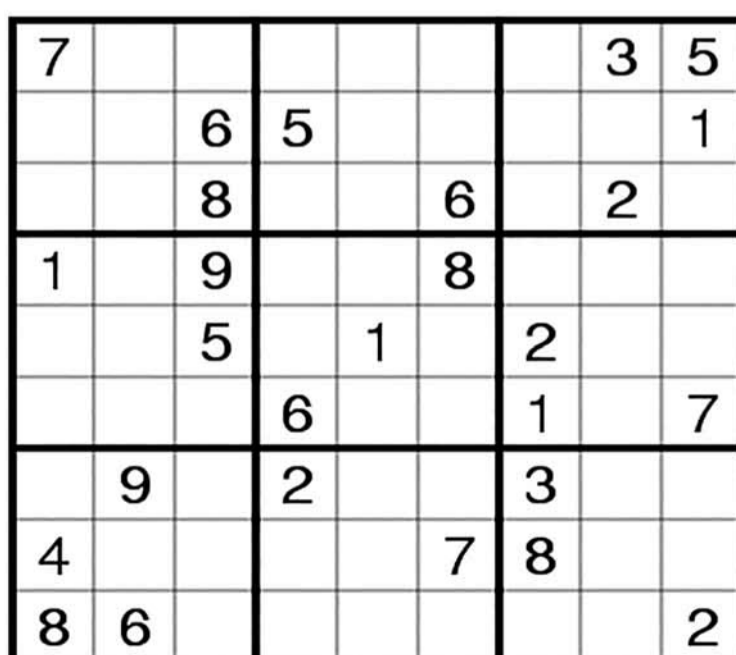
- ARENA
ASSIST
BLUE LINE
BOARDING
BOARDS
BODY CHECK
BREAKAWAY
CENTER
CHARGING
CONTACT
CREASE
DEFENSEMEN
DEKE
EJECTION
- ELBOWING
ENFORCER
FACE MASK
FACE-OFF
FORWARD
FOUL
GAME
GLOVES
GOALPOST
GOALTENDER
HAT TRICK
HELMET
HOLDING
HOOKING
- ICE RINK
ICING
JERSEY
KNEEING
LEAGUE
LINE CHANGE
LINESMAN
MISCONDUCT
NIL
OFFENSE
OFFICIALS
OFFSIDE
OVERTIME
PASS
- PENALTIES
PENALTY BOX
PERIOD
PLAYER
POINT
POKE CHECK
POWER PLAY
PUNCH
RED LINE
REFEREE
ROUGHING
SAVE
SCORE
SKATES
- SLAPSHOT
SLASHING
SLOT
SPEARING
STANLEY CUP
SUSPENSION
TIME-OUT
TRIPPING
WHISTLE
WINGS
WRIST SHOT
ZAMBONI
ZONES

Hidden sentence: I WENT TO A FIGHT THE OTHER NIGHT, AND A HOCKEY GAME BROKE OUT

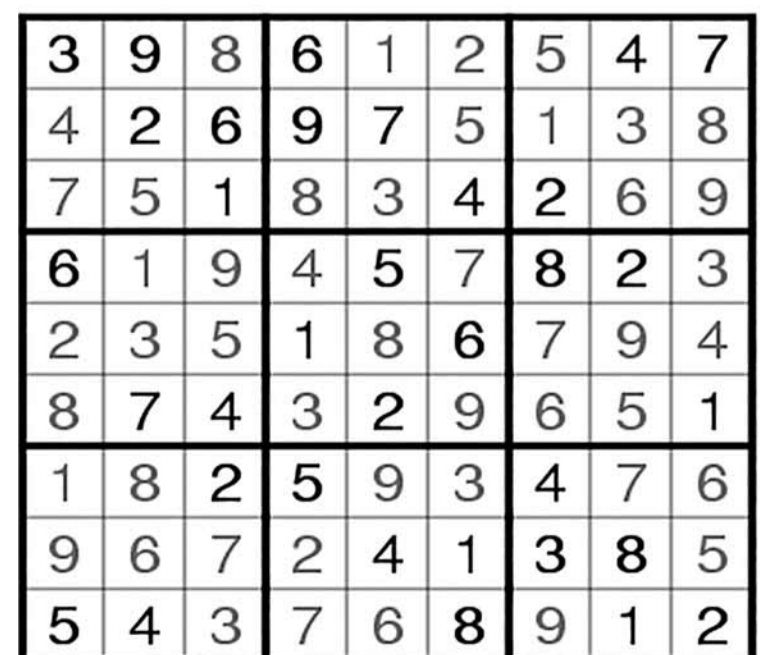
Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

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A plane flies behind the Statue of Liberty as the sun sets in New York City. — AFP
.....



'Invisible' Bosnians born of wartime rape use art to find their voice

Ajna Jusic, the first baby to be registered as born of rape during the Bosnian war in the 1990s, describes to a packed Sarajevo theatre the discrimination and bullying she endured as a child with an unknown father in a deeply patriarchal society. Nearly a quarter of a century after the devastating war in which about 100,000 Bosnians died, the stories of the children conceived through wartime rape remain mostly unspoken because of the stigma attached to rape victims and because children were not told of their origins.

Between 25,000 and 50,000 women and girls are believed to have been raped by enemy soldiers during the Bosnian war, according to research by some non-government organizations. Nobody knows for sure how many children were born as a result. "I thought my mother hated me because I was the most horrible experience in her life," Jusic's voice states, during a performance of the play "In the Name of the Father", a joint Austrian-Bosnian production.

Some rapes were also committed by foreign soldiers serving in Bosnia with United Nations peacekeeping forces. Rape was declared a "tool of warfare" by the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Jusic's mother was raped in 1993 by an

enemy soldier in a small town in central Bosnia and sent by her parents to a shelter for victims of wartime sexual violence to give birth. There Jusic was registered as a child born of rape.

Muslim Bosniak Jusic does not want to reveal the ethnic background of her father. "There are no bad peoples, just bad individuals," she told Reuters. Today she chairs an association "Forgotten Children of War" set up specifically to help children born of rape. "We are trying to show that rape is a trauma for everyone and cannot be looked at through an ethnic lens," she said. Children born of rape, most of whom were left in orphanages where their origin was concealed from them, have become known in Bosnia as 'invisible children'.

In the play, the voices of the invisible children are heard from loudspeakers, as dancers express their feelings of fear, forced silence, shame, guilt and turmoil. One story tells of a child whose father was a UN peacekeeper. "They need to break the silence and take a place at the table in society," said Darrel Toulon, the play's director. "We are using beauty to transcend the ugliness of the situation."

Art soothes trauma

Jusic, 26, discovered the truth of her origins at the age

of 15. She kept the secret to herself for nine months before admitting it to her family and friends. Years of psychotherapy followed. Her life changed in 2015 when she joined the "Forgotten Children of War" association, which helped her confront her trauma, search for others born of rape and find the way to speak to the public through various art forms. "There was a need to know that I was not alone," she told Reuters in an interview. "But the stigmatization of raped women in our society makes it difficult to reach these children, because mothers are most often not ready to go public about their trauma."

Jusic and her mother told their story publicly for the first time last year. Since then, their story has inspired a documentary film, an exhibition of photo portraits of children and mothers, and the theatre play. Jusic said art has helped the association she now chairs to establish direct contact with the public. Slowly the plight of rape victims is also starting to be addressed. Earlier this year, the UN ordered Bosnia to compensate a Bosnian Muslim woman raped by a Bosnian Serb soldier during the war and to set up a nationwide war crimes reparation scheme. — Reuters

Italy court to rule on iconic Da Vinci loan to Louvre

An Italian court is to rule yesterday on whether Leonardo da Vinci's iconic Vitruvian Man drawing can be loaned to France's Louvre, bringing to a head a bitter cultural row. The Venice court last week suspended the loan of the world famous artwork, due to appear later this month in an exhibition at the Paris museum to mark the 500th anniversary of the artist's death. It did so after an Italian heritage group, Italia Nostra (Our Italy), filed a complaint saying the drawing was too fragile to travel.

The Vitruvian Man is kept in a climate-controlled vault in the Accademia Gallery in Venice and is rarely displayed to the public. The court put on hold an accord signed in September in Paris between Italy's culture ministry and the Louvre for a swap of works by Da Vinci and Italian painter Raphael for the Renaissance master's quinquennial next year. Rome had been due to lend several Leonardo works to the Louvre for a major exhibition which opens next week.

In return, paintings and drawings by Raphael were to be loaned to Italy for an exhibition in the Italian capital in March. The loan was already questioned by Italy's former right-wing government, which railed against the idea of lending Da Vinci works to France. With fewer than 20 Leonardo paintings still in existence, many Italians are resentful that the Louvre possesses five of them, as well as 22 drawings.

The Renaissance genius was born in Tuscany in Italy, but died in the French town of Amboise in 1519, at the age of 67. Italia Nostra said its motives were not political, but aimed at safeguarding a national treasure, saying the Vitruvian Man risked tearing and those who had given the green light for it to travel had not removed it from its case to examine it properly. — AFP

Nigerian painting fetches £1.1 million after Google search

A painting by the Nigerian artist responsible for the "African Mona Lisa" sold at auction in London on Tuesday for £1.1 million after the family who owned it googled the signature and realized its importance. "Christine", by 20th century master of African modernism Ben Enwonwu, had been in the sitter's family home ever since it was painted in Lagos in 1971. "The family were unaware of the significance of the painting or the importance of the artist, until a chance "googling" of the signature led them to Sotheby's free Online Estimate Platform," said the London auction house.

The painting fetched over seven times the pre-auction estimate, finally going under the hammer for £1.1 million. The work precedes the artist's 1974 painting of Ife royal princess Adetutu "Tutu" Ademiluyi, which recently turned up in a London flat after not being seen in decades. The

portrait is a national icon in Nigeria, with Booker Prize-winning novelist Ben Okri telling AFP that it was thought of as "the African Mona Lisa".

Enwonwu, who died in 1994, is considered the father of Nigerian modernism. He made three paintings of "Tutu", the locations of all of which had been a mystery until the recent discovery. The works became symbols of peace following the clash of ethnic groups in the Nigerian-Biafran conflict of the late 1960s. — AFP

This undated handout picture released by Sotheby's auction house in London, shows a painting entitled 'Christine' by Nigerian artist Ben Enwonwu. — AFP



Lifestyle | Movies

'Sex In The City' creator's new rom-com falls for Paris

He has a string of hits from "Sex In The City" to "Beverly Hills 90210" under his belt, but legendary showrunner Darren Star wanted the ground to open underneath him on the first day of shooting his new television show. "Emily in Paris", is a fish-out-of-water romantic comedy about an American marketing executive living the dream in the French capital. Except that Emily—played by Lily Collins, the actress daughter of pop star Phil Collins—is in over her head, without a word of the language. "The first scene we actually shot was with her Chinese friend who is telling her how mean the French are," Star said.

"I thought 'Oh no, we are filming this in Paris with all these nice French people in the crew.' But actually I think they got a kick out of it," laughed Star, one of the most successful TV producers ever. The frisson of cultural tension runs almost as strong as the romance through the show—which is due to air next year—with Star admitting that he "has great fun with cultural misunderstandings but also the exchanges". "We play on it a bit," Star said. "But the French bash us too, and the French

characters just kill her." "We try to see their side too." After all, "she is an American who comes in tone deaf to the culture."

Love hate relationship

French bashing may have become a social media bloodsport in the States, but Star is a fan of both the country and the people. While US President Donald Trump complained loudly on Twitter that "Paris is no longer Paris"—and rarely misses a chance to do France down—Star begs to differ. "It is a good time to be leave the United States for a while," he observed wryly of his four months shooting the first series in the French capital. "And the longer I am here the more I like it," he added.

Star said Trump has a "love hate relationship with Paris. And a lot of Americans have that attitude for sure." But underneath all that, "people have a real affinity with France and a real love affair with Paris in particular. And there has never been a TV series that taps into that." A little like "Sex In The City" did with New York, "the nice thing about this show is that it gives the viewer the opportunity to go

on that vicarious journey with her." "We are living through her, and it is definitely romantic and glamorous" with Lily Collins' character Emma working in the luxury good trade which brings her into contact with the worlds of fashion, wine and haute cuisine. "But she also has struggles.

Gift for romantic comedy

"She is from Chicago and she wasn't the person who was meant to go to Paris for her job. And really (her new Parisian colleagues) are not happy to see her." She is also a strong-willed Midwestern girl who comes in with a lot of ideas. She is bubbly and nice, and they do not like that either." Star told AFP amid a round of meetings at MIPCOM, the world's biggest entertainment market, in the French Riviera resort of Cannes. "So she gets stepped on a lot at the beginning but she kind of catches on."

Star believes the series could run and run and was lavish in his praise of Collins, 30, who got rave reviews for her performance as Fantine in the BBC adaptation of "Les Misérables" earlier this year. "Lily is such a star," he declared.

"It is dangerous to do a show with her if you only want to do one season, people are going to like her." The producer said she has a "real gift for romantic comedy and she brings so much of herself to it."

French actor Mathias Barnaveille from the hit series "Call My Agent!" stars opposite her, with the French cast translating their own lines from English. Even after nearly four months in the French capital, the beauty of the place still takes Star by surprise. "I have the opposite of Paris Syndrome," a condition sometimes suffered by Japanese tourists shocked that the city is different to their expectations.

"I think the show meets all your fantasies of Paris. And we don't have to work hard to find it." He said Emmy may live in a tiny attic apartment but "all she has to do is to stick her head out the window to see beauty." Star's only worry is that his main locations in the Latin Quarter are so pretty that "people will think it is not real, it so looks like a backlot. But it is." — AFP



US producer, director and writer of film Darren Star poses with his 'Cannes series Award' trophy for his career in the television and cinema at the MIPCOM, the World's biggest television and entertainment market, in Cannes, southeastern France. — AFP



US actress Angelina Jolie poses on the red carpet upon arrival for the European premiere of the film 'Maleficent: Mistress of Evil' in London. — AFP

Jolie and Pfeiffer battle for power in 'Maleficent' sequel

The sequel to Walt Disney Co's 2014 hit "Maleficent," which begins rolling out in global theaters on Wednesday, puts three women at the center of a fight for control between humans and fairies. Angelina Jolie stars in "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" as the titular villain and dark fairy godmother to Aurora, the queen of the fairies played by Elle Fanning. When Aurora becomes engaged to the human Prince Phillip, the pending marriage brings Maleficent in conflict with Aurora's future mother-in-law, Queen Ingrith, who is played by Michelle Pfeiffer.

It is the rare Hollywood movie where men are in secondary roles. "They're just not the focus" in this film, Pfeiffer told Reuters in an interview. Chiwetel Ejiofor, in the role of a mysterious figure named Conall, said the movie plays with many of the traditional narratives typical to fairy tales. "There's like 100 tropes that are exploded in this film," Ejiofor said. "Seeing those explored in different ways, I think is very exciting."

The sequel reflects the message of the original, which urged people not to judge a book by its cover or to attach labels to others that ostracize them. The sequel amplifies the look with more fan-



US actress Elle Fanning poses on the red carpet upon arrival for the European premiere of the film 'Maleficent: Mistress of Evil' in London. — AFP

tastical creatures and more intricate costumes. "You try that little bit harder to say 'We've got to give them something better or we've got to give them something a little more fun,'" said Jolie, who also acted as a producer of the film, "or this would make a better Halloween costume for the kids." — Reuters

It's the time! Grease to come back as TV show

"Grease" is about to come roaring back with a small screen version called "Grease: Rydell High", named after the high school in which the 1978 movie was based. With "Summer Loving", a big screen prequel to the musical also in the pipeline, WarnerMedia Entertainment chairman Robert Greenblatt revealed Tuesday that a spin-off series based on the musical is in the making. Like the original, the updated story will explore teenage angst and peer pressure, the horrors of puberty and life in Middle America.

It will also feature some of the original songs as well as hits from the 1950s, Greenblatt told delegates at MIPCOM, the world's biggest entertainment market in Cannes, France. "We're going to reinvent it as a musical series, with some of the music of the show, some of the characters. We're going to build out the world of the show that everybody loves... into a big, fun rock 'n' roll musical," he added. "Other ideas are cooking. Grease crosses all kind of genres and, you know, it's hip!" Greenblatt said.

"We are in a moment of time where musicals are really back. It's a form that goes in and out of favour, and it's coming back in a big way," he said. "Movie studios are making them, people are going to them. Broadway has never been stronger." Sparked by the success of the 2017 Oscar winner "La La Land", Hollywood has taken the form to its heart again with Steven Spielberg shooting "West Side Story" with a new screenplay by Tony Kushner.

Greenblatt said the new show would be made by Paramount for the US cable network HBO, which would stream it on its upcoming joint online platform WarnerMedia HBO Max. Paramount also shot a 2016 live version of "Grease" that won five Emmys. The new WarnerMedia HBO Max platform, which is set to become a major challenger for Netflix in the streaming wars, is due to be online in the first few months of 2020. — AFP

UK Oscar-winning special effects firm mulls London IPO

British special effects firm DNEG, winner of five Oscars for work on blockbusters including "Blade Runner 2049" and "Inception", said Tuesday that it planned launching on the London stock market. DNEG, whose ground-breaking computer-generated technology helped also bring the Harry Potter movies to life, said in a statement it was mulling an initial public offering to raise £150 million, plus a shares sale by existing investors.

The London-headquartered company has worked on other big-budget Hollywood movies such as Avengers: Endgame, "First Man" and "Mission Impossible: Fallout". It is currently involved with next year's James Bond spy thriller "No Time to Die". "We now look to the next chapter in our exciting growth story and the opportunities that a London listing can bring, as we seek to build on the strong momentum we have generated over the past two decades," said DNEG chief executive Namit Malhotra.

Sky News, citing sources close to the company, reported that the IPO

could value the entertainment titan at almost £1.0 billion. DNEG has also won multiple awards for its television work including "Chernobyl"—about the 1986 nuclear catastrophe—and futuristic western series "Westworld", as well as "Black Mirror" and "Doctor Who". The group, which employs 6,900 people in Britain, Canada, India and the United States, will use proceeds to grow the business and reduce debt—but has yet to make a decision to proceed with the flotation.

DNEG works with major Hollywood studios including 20th Century Fox, Disney, Legendary Entertainment, MGM, Sony Pictures, Universal Pictures and Warner Bros. It also features on productions from streaming giants Amazon, Hulu and Netflix. "This is a golden age for premium content as major markets re-establish their love for film, especially with the exponential growth of high-quality streamed content," said Malhotra.

"A London listing will continue our development as one of the world's leading partners for the film, television and entertainment industries. "In addition to the recognition the London main market would give DNEG, we have a clear plan to invest the proceeds to further advance our ability to support the world's greatest storytellers," he added. — AFP

Waititi takes on Nazis in 'Jojo Rabbit'... by playing Hitler

It takes a brave director to make a comedy about a 10-year-old Nazi and his imaginary friend Hitler—and an even bolder one to play the moustache-and-swastika-clad dictator himself. But Taika Waititi says he was determined to use humor to tackle bigotry and fascism in his Oscar-tipped film "Jojo Rabbit," released this week, at a time when there are "many Nazis around." "It's 80 years ago this year that Charlie Chaplin made "The Great Dictator". So I wouldn't say it's too soon!" the New Zealander, who is of Jewish and Maori descent, told journalists at a Beverly Hills press conference.

"It's following in the tradition of some very smart people who had something to say and used comedy—which in my opinion is one of the most powerful tools against bigotry and against regimes and dictators," said the "Thor: Ragnarok" director. The film, starring Scarlett Johansson, portrays World War Two through the eyes of a young German boy (Roman Griffin Davis) who has been indoctrinated by the Nazi Youth, and is appalled to discover a Jewish girl living in his attic.

Young Jojo, who has never met a Jew before, initially views her with fear and revulsion. But upon learning his mother (Johansson) has secretly taken in the girl at immense risk, he is forced to spend time with her. Billed as an "anti-hate satire," the movie has been in the works since 2011, when Waititi's mother first recommended to him "Caging Skies," the novel on which it is based. Its release comes at a time when despots and far-right populists are on the rise around the world, said Waititi.

"There weren't as many Nazis around then!" he said, referring to when work on the movie first started. Now, "It feels strangely relevant, more relevant." "Cut to 2019, this film is coming out, there's the rise of more neo-Nazis and hate groups and intolerance and hate is on the rise, and people who promote hate and intolerance," Waititi said.

Audacious

It has resonated with audiences, and the film could yet emulate 1997's "La vita e bella" ("Life Is Beautiful"), another polarizing Nazi-themed film which bagged three Academy Awards. While "Jojo Rabbit" received lukewarm reviews, it dramatically entered Oscars contention last



(Left to right) Rebel Wilson, Scarlett Johansson, Thomasin McKenzie, and Taika Waititi attend the premiere of Fox Searchlights' 'Jojo Rabbit' at Post 43 in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

month when it won the Toronto film festival's top prize. The audience-selected award has proven a reliable bellwether for several recent best picture Oscar winners including "Green Book," "The King's Speech" and "Slumdog Millionaire." Festival-goers shrugged off critics' concerns over the film's cartoonish, "hipster" aesthetic, and Waititi's controversial on-screen portrayal of a childish, idiotic Hitler—a figment of the young boy's brainwashed imagination. Waititi said he did not originally want to play the Hitler character—who badgers Jojo to turn on the Jewish girl—but did so on the request of Fox Searchlight, the studio which bought the film. "Playing that role, the main word to describe it is embarrassing," said Waititi. "I was embarrassed most of the time, to have to dress like that."

But the decision paid off, said Waititi, as having a known Hollywood screen star in the role would have diverted attention from the

film's true concern—the impact of war and fascism on innocent young minds. Johansson—the world's top-paid actress—instead came on board as Jojo's goofy but idealistic mother. Her interest was piqued after her fellow Marvel superhero star Chris Hemsworth showed her Waititi's script.

"It was full of whimsy and it was childlike but it was also really poignant and strong and had a vulnerability to it," said Johansson. Stephen Merchant, the co-creator of "The Office" who plays a sinister Gestapo captain, said he felt it was "audacious" to make the movie at a time when "mainstream cinema has got perhaps a little bit more conservative or less risk taking ... That's to be applauded." "Jojo Rabbit" hits North American theaters on Friday. — AFP

Actor Gooding Jr denies groping two women

Actor Cuba Gooding Jr pleaded not guilty Tuesday to groping two women as prosecutors revealed that a dozen others had accused the Oscar winner of sexual misconduct. The "Jerry Maguire" star was arraigned before a judge in New York to hear an indictment against him that added new forcible touching and sexual abuse charges to a previous allegation. Gooding was due to go on trial last week over accusations he grabbed a woman's breast without her consent in a Manhattan bar on a night out in June.

But it was postponed after prosecutors said they planned to file new charges. That indictment was unsealed at a state criminal court on Tuesday, showing that Gooding is

also accused of pinching a women's buttocks in a New York nightclub in October 2018. He has been charged with four counts related to the two allegations. The indictment also detailed accusations by 12 other women. Those incidents stretch from 2001 to 2018 and all include allegations that he touched the victims at restaurants, bars and hotels without their consent.

The alleged incidents took place in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, New York and Dallas. None of the women has been identified. The judge will decide whether to allow them to testify at the trial. Gooding was released without bail. No trial date has been set and the next hearing is on December 13. Gooding won an Academy Award in 1997 for his performance as a football player in "Jerry Maguire." He recently played OJ Simpson in "The People vs OJ Simpson: American Crime Story." — AFP



Oscar-winning actor Cuba Gooding Jr. departs his court arraignment in New York, where new charges are to be unsealed on his sexual assault case. — AFP

Lifestyle | Music



In these photos competitors from all over the world perform at the 'K-pop World Festival' in Changwon.

Dancing in the streets: Performers gather for K-pop World Festival

On the streets, in parks and garages, seven Cuban youngsters spent seven months practicing K-pop moves to secure a spot on their dream stage: an appearance in South Korea to imitate their idols. At the grandly titled and government-funded Changwon K-pop World Festival contestants from around the globe perform imitation dances or sing cover versions of the genre's biggest hits—with thousands of fans cheering them on.

In terms of global heft, South Korea is overshadowed by its much larger neighbors China and Japan, but the event is a way for Seoul to derive soft power from one of the country's biggest cultural exports. Cuba's Communist government is one of North Korea's few remaining allies: when President Miguel Diaz-Canel, successor to the Castro brothers Fidel and Raul, visited Pyongyang last November he was only the third foreign head of state to do so since leader Kim Jong Un inherited power in 2011.

But rather than geopolitics, Havana performer Karel Rodriguez Diaz—whose mannerisms and sleek hairstyle could easily be mistaken for those of a K-pop star—is more motivated by high-tempo beats and superslick dance moves. "We never had a place with a mirror or a choreographer who could teach us the steps" but they kept on practicing, he said.

His team-mate Elio Gonzalez added: "We are so excit-

ed to represent not just Cuba but also the whole of Latin America." Some 6,400 teams from more than 80 countries entered the competition, according to organisers, with 13 groups from places as diverse as Kuwait and Madagascar winning through to the final in Changwon, where they appeared on stage waving their national flags. "This is like watching the Olympics, a K-pop Olympics," said the event's host Lia, a member of K-pop group ITZY.

Soft spot

K-pop—along with K-drama soap operas—has been one of South Korea's most successful cultural exports to date. A key part of the "Korean Wave" which has swept Asia and beyond in the last 20 years, the K-pop industry is now estimated to be worth \$5 billion, with boyband BTS its latest high-profile exponent. The South Korean government has financed a variety of K-pop themed events in what CedarBough Saeji, a visiting professor at Indiana University Bloomington in the US, said was a form of long-term "soft power diplomacy".

"When you are covering you get to 'become' those idols for the three and a half minutes of the song," she said, adding that performers will go so far as matching their clothing, accessories and hairstyle to their heroes and heroines. "The cover dancers of today will be diplomats,



news reporters, and business leaders in forty years," she went on. "And hopefully they'll still have a soft spot in their heart for Korea. Korea can't win the world through hard power - armies, economic bullying - but with soft power even a small country like Korea has a chance."

The music also provides an artistic alternative for overseas fans, especially those in developing countries, Saeji added. "The West, especially the United States, has been so dominant culturally for so long, and having a different cultural pole to look to provides hope that one's own country can experience similar success in the future."

Be who you want

Beneath its glitz and glamour, the K-pop industry is also known for its cutthroat competition, a lack of privacy, online bullying and relentless public pressure to maintain a wholesome image at all times and at any cost. Sulli, a popular K-pop star and former child actress who had long been the target of abusive online comments was found dead on Monday, with her death sending shockwaves through fans around the world.

"I think a day where (people) would be ashamed of the K-show business will surely come," a South Korean online user wrote in the wake of the star's death. "I think an industry that makes money by (making people) sing, dance, undergo plastic surgeries and go on a diet to please the gaze of others since they are teenagers should really go bankrupt." But for Kenny Pham, a finalist from



the US at last week's contest, K-pop's diversity—with some tunes having dark themes, while others were "cute" or sensual—is what gives him a sense of liberation.

"I like how expressive you could be," the 19-year-old told AFP last week. "I feel like it's a place where you could show the passion you have for music, dance or fashion. No one is bashing you for what your likes are." — AFP



In these photos audience members cheer for a professional K-pop band performing between rounds of amateurs, at the 'K-pop World Festival' in Changwon. — AFP photos

Scandal-hit Placido Domingo 'happy' to sing in Moscow

Opera singer Placido Domingo on Tuesday spoke of his joy over a forthcoming Moscow concert as the famed Spanish tenor faces multiple sexual harassment claims. Giving a press conference at Russia's TASS state news agency, Domingo avoided mentioning the scandal which has seen him resign from the Los Angeles Opera and withdraw from all future performances at New York's Metropolitan Opera.



Spanish tenor Placido Domingo gives a press conference ahead of his concert in Moscow. — AFP

Asked by AFP during a photo-call how the allegations would affect his legacy, the 78-year-old said simply: "It is under investigation, it is not possible to talk." Flanked by Russian star conductor and viola player Yuri Bashmet, Domingo said he was looking forward to performing with him at a Moscow concert hall on Thursday, one of his first concerts in Europe since the allegations became public. "I am tremendously happy to be back in Russia," said Domingo, adding that he last visited during the 2018 World Cup.

"I hope we will have a wonderful, beautiful concert." Embattled Domingo has been accused by 20 women of forcibly kissing, grabbing or fondling them, in incidents dating back to at least the 1980s. The "King of Opera" has said that "all my interactions and relationships were always welcomed and consensual." So far, Domingo's career has been less affected by the scandal in Europe than in the United States.

He performed to a chorus of bravos this summer in Austria and Hungary, and most recently performed in the opera "Nabucco" in Zurich on Sunday. Bashmet told journalists in Moscow on Tuesday that the opportunity to perform with Domingo was a "huge joy". "We have loved him, we love him and we will continue loving him," he said of Domingo. The tenor also vowed to perform at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre in the future. "I'm looking forward, when I will be coming back, to sing at the Bolshoi," he said. — AFP

Tigres del Norte, Latin legends following in footsteps of Johnny Cash

In 1968, when music legend Johnny Cash was giving his iconic concert at Folsom Prison, Los Tigres del Norte were newly arrived Mexican immigrants dreaming of making it big in the United States. Five decades later, the band—now legends in their own right—are back in Mexico promoting their latest album: a tribute to Cash recorded live in concert at the same California prison, many of whose inmates are Latino.

The album and accompanying Netflix documentary, "Los Tigres del Norte at Folsom Prison," are a fitting capstone for a band that is arguably the Latino answer to Cash: country boys who shot to fame with songs of outlaws, prisoners and rebels. Cash, the baritone-voiced "Man in Black," left an indelible mark on country, rock and gospel music before his death in 2003 at age 71.

A devout but troubled Christian who called himself "the biggest sinner of them all," he made his famous stop at Folsom State Prison on a long spiritual journey that saw him go from an alcohol- and drug-abusing bad boy to a singer of penitence and redemption. Los Tigres del Norte are musical bad boys, too. Famous for their "narcocorridos," or songs chronicling the lives of drug traffickers, they have faced fines and bans in Mexico for allegedly glorifying criminals.

Like Cash, though, they laced their songs to the inmates at Folsom with a deeper message: in their case, a reflection on what it means to be Latino and "illegal" at a time when immigrants like themselves are regularly portrayed as criminals by US President Donald Trump. "We're very worried" about the current political climate, guitarist Luis Hernandez told AFP in Mexico City.

"Life in the US is very tough for immigrants. They're constantly putting obstacles in your path, giving you different rules. The only answer... is getting out the vote, uniting as Mexicans and Latin Americans to show our strength and achieve a change."

Latino power

Hernandez, the youngest Tigre, at 45, is one of the five members of this literal band of brothers. The others are his siblings Eduardo (54, accordion), Hernan

(61, bass) and Jorge (66, vocals), plus their cousin Oscar Lara (69, drums). Past members include two more Hernandez brothers, Freddy and Raul. Natives of the village of Rosa Morada, in the lawless state of Sinaloa, in northwestern Mexico, the Hernandezes founded the band in the late 1960s and soon hopped the border to San Jose, California.

Their name, which means "The Tigers of the North," is a nod to both their cross-border lives and their musical style, "norteno," or northern music, Mexico's accordion-heavy equivalent of country. Los Tigres have achieved huge success on both sides of the border, selling more than 40 million albums and racking up seven Grammys. Now naturalized US citizens, they say, like many Mexican-Americans, that they often live their lives in between one identity and the other.

"We're not from either here or there," said Luis. "The only way we can make a difference is by passing our culture and our roots to the next generation, explaining where we come from and why we go to a country like the United States," he said of the band's music. "We're trying to build young people's consciousness, encourage them to get an education, so they don't end up like some of the inmates who tell their story in the documentary, who didn't get a chance to study and got led astray."

Eduardo said the band—who originally arrived in the United States with 90-day visas, which they overstayed—particularly identified with one group of inmates. "There is this problem at Folsom Prison: inmates who are undocumented immigrants, and who will be deported after serving their sentences, after being there for so many years," he said. The accordionist called Trump's anti-immigrant attacks "outrageous."

The band, which publicly supported former president Barack Obama, is working to get out the Latino vote when Trump stands for re-election next year. "A lot of what happened to us the last time (2016, when Trump won the presidency) was because the majority of Latinos didn't vote," said Luis.—AFP

Rapper Biggie, Whitney Houston among Rock Hall of Fame potentials

First time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominees Whitney Houston and the Notorious B.I.G. topped this year's short-list of potential inductees, the institution announced Tuesday. The late music icons are among 16 acts vying for a coveted spot, joined by performers and groups including Soundgarden, Depeche Mode, Dave Matthews Band, Motorhead, Pat Benatar and The Doobie Brothers. This year's field is marked by three legendary artists who died young.

The Notorious B.I.G.—a pride of New York, widely considered one of the greatest rappers of all time—was nominated in his first year of eligibility, which comes 25 years after the release of an act's first commercial recording. The artist born Christopher Wallace was murdered in 1997 in Los Angeles at age 24, in a still-murky shooting that some speculated was part of a feud between East Coast and West Coast rappers.

Houston, the most awarded female artist

of all time, died at 48 years old in 2012 after a public struggle with drugs, following a decade that saw her go from America's sweetheart to tabloid drama queen. And the first nomination after several years of eligibility of seminal grunge act Soundgarden includes former frontman Chris Cornell, who committed suicide in 2017 at the age of 52. The new class of inductees will be announced in January 2020, with the annual star-powered ceremony set for May 2 in the hall of fame's home city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Germany's electronic music pioneers Kraftwerk are also up for the honor, with Nine Inch Nails, Judas Priest, Rufus featuring Chaka Khan, MC5, Todd Rundgren, T Rex and Thin Lizzy rounding out the pack. Inductees are chosen following a survey of more than 1,000 musicians, historians and industry members, who consider an act's career work, innovation, skill and influence in voting in new members. — AFP



This combination of file photos shows (Left to right) Pop diva Whitney Houston during the Grammy award she received for Best Female Rhythm and Blues Vocal Performance for 'It's Not Right but It's Okay' at the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, a man displaying a T-shirt tribute to rapper Biggie Smalls aka The Notorious B.I.G. during his funeral procession in Brooklyn, and US singer Chris Cornell at the World Music Awards in Earls Court, London. — AFP



Identical twins attend Igbo-Ora World Twins festival to celebrate the uniqueness in multiple births at Igbo-Ora Town in Oyo State, southwest Nigeria. — AFP photos

Nigeria town celebrates claim as 'twins capital' of the world



The sign greeting visitors at the entrance of Igbo-Ora in southwest Nigeria welcomes people to a place unlike anywhere on the planet: "TWINN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD". The rather sleepy-looking town boasts of having the highest concentration of multiple births of any place on the globe. To celebrate its self-proclaimed title the town hosts an annual festival, now in its second year, that draws hundreds of sets of twins from around the country.

Donning different traditional clothes and costumes, the twins—male and female, old, young and even newborns—sang and danced at the latest edition this weekend to the appreciation of an admiring audience. "We feel elated that we are being honored today," Kehinde Durowoju, a 40-year-old twin, told AFP as he hugged his identical brother Taiwo.

"With this event, the whole world will better appreciate the importance of Ibeji (twins) as special children and gifts from God." Around them, twins moved in procession to show off their colourful outfits as magic displays and masquerades also entertained the crowds.

Twins tourism

Population experts say the Yoruba-speaking southwest has one of the highest twinning rates in Nigeria. Statistics are difficult to come by, but a study by British gynecologist Patrick Nylander, between 1972 and 1982, recorded an average of 45 to 50 sets of twins per 1,000 live births in the region. That compares to a twin birth rate of 33 per every 1,000 births in the United States, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Igbo-Ora is the epicenter of the phenomenon in the West African country. Residents in the town, some 100 kilometers north of Nigeria's biggest city Lagos, say that almost every family has some twins. Traditional leader Jimoh Olajide Titiloye knows all about this special quirk. "I am a twin, my wife is a twin and I have twins as children," he told AFP. "There is hardly any household in this town which does not have at least a set of twins."

He said the festival on Saturday was aimed at promoting Igbo-Ora as "the foremost twins tourism destination in the world" and that efforts were underway to get the town listed in the Guinness Book of Records. Prominent Yoruba



Royal father and King of Oyo kingdom Oba Lamidi Adeyemi, III, looks on during the parade of twin mothers at the Igbo-Ora World Twins festival designed to celebrate the uniqueness in multiple births at Igbo-Ora Town in Oyo State, southwest Nigeria.

ruler, the Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Adeyemi, said the festival "is a celebration of culture and recognition of Ibeji as special children in Yorubaland". He said the birth of twins usually "heralds peace, progress, prosperity and good luck to their parents," adding that parents should always take good care of them.

But while twins are seen as a blessing by many today that has not always been the case in parts of southern Nigeria. In pre-colonial times twins were often regarded as evil and were either banished to the "evil forest" or killed. Scottish missionary Mary Slessor is widely credited with helping to curb the practice in the late 19th century.

Food or genes?

Scientists have not said definitively why Igbo-Ora has such a high number of twins. But local residents have a theory that it is down to the diet of women in the town. "Our people eat okra leaf or Ilasa soup with yam and amala (cassava flour)," community leader Samuel Adewuyi Adeleye told AFP. Yams are believed to contain gonadotropins, a chemical substance that helps women to produce multiple eggs. "The water we drink also contributes to the phenomenon," Adeleye added.

Fertility experts are skeptical and point to another explanation. They say there is no proven link between diet and the high birth rate, with the same food being consumed across the region. "It's a genetic thing," said Emmanuel Akinyemi, the medical director of Lagos-based Estate Clinic. "I think the gene for multiple births is in the region and this has been passed on from generation to generation."—AFP



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CHANGE OF NAME

I, HUSSEIN TAWAWALA, holder of Indian Passport No. Z3199912 presently residing in Kuwait do hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: **ABBAS** and Surname: **TAWAWALA. (C 5460) 15-10-2019**

It is to be informed to the public at large by this public notice that the original name on my Passport (No. Z1907249), Civil ID No. 272050803003, is to be corrected as **ZUBAIR MUSTAFA KHAN. (C 5457)**

I, Joseph Shibu George (Eruthuckal House, Keekozhoor P.O, Ranny, Pathnamthitta, Kerala, Pin 689672) holder of Indian Passport No. S2349462 issued at Kuwait on 07/12/2017 presently residing at Kuwait do hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: **Joseph Shibu** and Surname: **George**. Objections if and may be forwarded to embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Safat, Arabian Gulf St, Kuwait City 13015. (C 5459)

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Safat, Arabian Gulf St, Kuwait City 13015. (C 5459)

I, Roy Mathew (Chirackal house, Karikolam P.O. Pathanamthitta, Kerala) holder of Indian Passport No. J4437810 issued at Kuwait on 21/12/2010 presently residing at Kuwait do hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: **Roy** and Surname: **Mathew**. Objections if and may be forwarded to embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Safat, Arabian Gulf St, Kuwait City 13015. (C 5456)

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I, Binu Puthozhathil Sam, Father of **Joshin Binu Sam**, holder of Indian Passport No. R8270345 issued at Kuwait on 09/08/2017, permanent address of Puthozhathil House, Mekozhoor P.O Pathanamthitta, Kerala, India and presently residing at Kuwait do hereby change my son given name as: **Joshin Binu** and Surname: **Sam**. Objections if and may be forwarded to embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Safat, Arabian Gulf St, Kuwait City 13015. (C 5458) 14-10-2019

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

Arrival Flights on Thursday 17/10/2019				Departure Flights on Thursday 17/10/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	GEC	8486	Frankfurt	22:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	MSC	501	Alexandria	23:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSC	415	Sohag	23:15
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	Departure Flights on Thursday 17/10/2019			
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	JZR	713	Sohag	00:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	MSC	406	Sohag	00:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
PGT	828	Istanbul	02:00	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	JZR	409	Delhi	01:10
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:35	IGO	1758	Kochi	01:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	FDB	Dubai	01:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	THY	773	Istanbul	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	111	Doha	02:10
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	PGT	765	Istanbul	02:50
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETH	829	Istanbul	02:59
RBG	1155	Luxor	03:15	KLM	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	UAE	446	Amsterdam	03:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	ETD	306	Dubai	03:30
OHY	352	Istanbul	03:40	RBG	1152	Asyut	04:05
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
MSR	0516	Cairo	04:25	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:25	ZAV	4132	Baghdad	05:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	OHY	351	Istanbul	05:00
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	MSR	0517	Mumbai	05:25
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	IGO	1765	Delhi	06:10
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
BAW	157	London	06:10	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	JZR	121	Dubai	07:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	KAC	167	Paris	07:15
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
KAC	106	London	06:40	BAW	156	London	07:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	KAC	173	Munich	07:45
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	JZR	211	Jeddah	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	IGO	1767	Mumbai	08:10
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	IRA	606	Mashhad	08:10
IRA	601	Tehran	07:10	KAC	163	DXB	08:35
QTR	1766	Mumbai	07:10	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
FDB	053	Doha	07:15	KAC	545	Cairo	08:50
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KAC	501	Beirut	08:50
IAW	1574	London	08:00	KAC	561	Amman	08:55
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	JZR	1333	Al Najaf	09:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:05	QTR	8512	Doha	09:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	09:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	117	New York	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	791	Madinah	09:10
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	QTR	1085	Doha	09:10
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	09:25
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	KAC	157	Istanbul	09:35
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	126	Sharjah	09:40
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	JZR	731	Cairo	09:45
IRA	675	Lar	09:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	JZR	301	Istanbul	09:55
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	09:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR	1523	Al Najaf	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	JZR	1331	Al Najaf	10:00
OMS	223	Muscat	11:00	OMA	642	Muscat	10:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	101	London	10:05
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	GFA	210	Bahrain	10:05
ZAV	4131	BSR	11:30	KAC	197	Baku	10:10
IAW	157B	Al Najaf	11:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:30
NIA	1407	Sohag	11:35	GOW	062	CNN	10:30
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	KAC	617	Doha	10:40
AHY	119	Baku	12:05	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
JZR	1334	Al Najaf	12:20	IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	10:40
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:55
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:30	SVA	513	Riyadh	10:55
				SAW	704	Damascus	11:00
				KAC	1525	Al Najaf	11:00

Can Turkey-Syria face-off flare up?

BEIRUT: A week-old Turkish invasion of northeast Syria combined with a US withdrawal have redrawn the lines and left Russian-backed Syrian regime troops and Ankara's forces standing face-to-face. What are the risks of an escalation? Experts argue that an all-out conflict between Syrian regime forces and Turkey is unlikely but they do not rule out sporadic clashes.

Where the forces stationed?

On October 9, the Turkish army and its Syrian proxies launched a broad offensive against Kurdish forces controlling swathes of northeastern Syria. The move against the People's Protection Units (YPG), a militia Ankara considers a terrorist group, came after US troops who were deployed along the border as a buffer between the two enemies pulled back. Turkey and its proxies - mostly Arab and Turkmen former rebels defeated by regime forces earlier in Syria's eight-year-old conflict - have already conquered territory along 120 kilometers of the border.

In some areas, they have moved some 30 kilometers deep into Syria territory, prompting the Kurds to turn for help to the regime in Damascus. Government troops responded and rushed north as soon as US troops withdrew from some of their positions, including the strategic city of Manbij. The Syrian government's main backer Russia swiftly sent its own forces to patrol the new contact line between regime forces and the ex-rebels.

"It is mostly rebel groups linked to Ankara who are on the front lines, Turkish troops are mostly deployed along the border," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The intense ballet of military deployments is redrawing the map of territorial control in a region previously held by the US-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Defense Forces. "There's a new map. And it's the regime sweeping almost everything, Turkey is left with a few crumbs along the border," said Thomas Pierret, from the French National Centre for Scientific Research.

Risk of flare-up?

Turkey insists it will not stop the offensive until it meets its declared goals of creating a buffer zone all along the border, but it now has limited room for manoeuvre in the face of the regime surge. Russia and Iran, both Damascus allies, "will act as intermediaries to ensure everybody stays on the patch they have been allocated", said geographer and Syria expert Fabrice Balanche. He said incidents should not be ruled out "due to the unclear nature of the territorial boundaries and the presence on the Turkish side of uncontrollable elements." Two Syrian soldiers were killed near Ain Issa in artillery fire from Turkish proxies Tuesday, the Observatory said.

"There could be limited clashes... but no major battles," Pierret said. "The Syrian army cannot take on Turkey... The Turkish army is much better equipped." "It isn't hard to imagine how areas retaken by the regime could be used as a staging ground for YPG guerrilla



TAL TAMR: Displaced people, fleeing from the countryside of the Syrian Kurdish town of Ras Al-Ain along the border with Turkey, ride a motorcycle together along a road on the outskirts of the nearby town of Tal Tamr yesterday as they flee from the Turkish 'Peace Spring' military operation, with smoke plumes of tire fires billowing in the background to decrease visibility for Turkish warplanes in the area. — AFP

operations," he said. The Kurdish force could be "re-invented as an anti-Turkey force" at Damascus and Moscow's orders. "It's a very credible scenario and could give Russia new leverage against Turkey."

Informal deals?

Moscow is keen to avert any escalation, analysts say. "Russia is working overtime to prevent any type of large scale conflict between Assad's forces and Turkey and its proxies," said Nick Heras from the Center for New American Security. Turkey together with Russia and Iran launched the so-called Astana process which provides a framework for peace talks on Syria.

To win support for its invasion, Turkey will need to make concessions over the Idlib region in Syria's north-west, Balanche predicted. "The Russians finally agreed to this Turkish intervention in the north, in exchange for Idlib," he said, referring to the last opposition bastion in Syria, a region where Ankara has some clout but which Damascus wants to retake.

The strategic relationship between Ankara and Moscow goes far beyond the Syrian conflict. NATO member Turkey has ignored US warnings and acquired Russia's state-of-the-art S-400 missile defense system. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is expected in Moscow on Thursday for talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Putin's office said a prior phone call between the two leaders had emphasized "the need to prevent confrontations between units of the Turkish army and Syrian armed forces". — AFP

Human Rights, which monitors the eight-year Syrian war, said yesterday Russian troops had crossed the Euphrates River to advance to Kobani's outskirts.

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen TV reported that Russian-backed Syrian forces had also set up outposts in Raqqa, the one-time capital of Islamic State's caliphate, which the Kurds captured in 2017 at the peak of their campaign with US support. Hours after Washington announced its pullout on Sunday, the Kurds, who lost thousands of fighters waging battle against Islamic State in a five-year alliance with the United States, made an abrupt deal with Washington's adversaries, the Russian- and Iranian-backed government of President Bashar al-Assad.

Russia-backed Syrian troops have swiftly moved into towns across the breadth of the Kurdish-held area, including the city of Manbij, a major target of Turkey which US forces said on Tuesday they had quit. Reuters journalists travelling with Syrian government forces on Tuesday entered Manbij and saw Russian and Syrian flags flying from buildings near the city. Russian state television reported yesterday that Syrian government forces had occupied bases abandoned by US troops.

Erdogan, who is due in Moscow later this month, said he had told President Vladimir Putin that Russia could move forces into Manbij, provided that the Kurdish YPG militia was cleared out. "I told this to Mr Putin as well," Erdogan said. "If you are clearing Manbij of terrorist organizations, then go ahead, you or the regime can provide all the logistics. But if you are not going to do this, the people there are telling us to save them."

'No ceasefire'

Erdogan says Trump approved his plans for a "safe zone" around 30 km inside Syria, stretching hundreds of miles from the Euphrates river in the west to the Iraqi border in the east. Trump says he did not endorse the Turkish plans but Washington cannot stay to police the Middle East. "They say 'declare a ceasefire'. We will never declare a ceasefire," Erdogan told reporters on a plane back from a visit to Azerbaijan late on Tuesday. "They are pressuring us to stop the operation. They are announcing sanctions. Our goal is clear. We are not worried about any sanctions," he said.

The Turkish campaign shows no sign of abating on the ground, with most of the fighting so far around two border cities, Ras Al Ain and Tel Abyad. A Reuters cameraman in the Turkish border town of Ceylanpinar reported the sound of heavy gunfire just across the frontier in Ras Al Ain, which Turkey's Defense Ministry had earlier said its forces controlled.

Although US sanctions announced by Trump so far were seen by markets as mild, the case against its second biggest state lender Halkbank was a reminder that Turkey's economy could be vulnerable to measures that hit its financial system. The charges against Halkbank stem from a case that has caused friction in US relations with Turkey for years. Shares of Halkbank plunged as much 7% yesterday, despite a ban on short selling. — Reuters

As war map shifts, fleeing Syrians face tough choices

BEIRUT: Driven from his hometown in northeast Syria as bombs rained down in a Turkish assault, a Kurdish father worried for his toddler son, who was ill, and accused America of betraying the Kurds in the region. Agid Meshmesh escaped from the mainly Kurdish border town of Kobani on Monday after he couldn't get food or diapers for his son, who was battling a severe infection.

"Life stopped; the doctors all fled," Meshmesh, 29, told Reuters by phone from the nearby town of Manbij, where he was staying with his wife and son. "We're fleeing, but we don't know where to go." He called the Turkish military move on the region "a catastrophe," and he criticized Washington for abandoning Kurdish fighters in northeast Syria, leaving the region at the mercy of Turkish troops and seeking help from Syria and Russia.

His hometown, Kobani, was the birthplace of a US-Kurdish military alliance some five years ago, when Washington intervened with air strikes to help Kurdish fighters turn the tide against Islamic State. That made the US pullout even more bitter. "The Americans couldn't do a thing for us," he said. "It was an American betrayal of northeast Syria and the Kurdish people... They left us between the jaws of a pincer."

Caught in the crossfire, Meshmesh and his family are waiting, helplessly, to see how the shifting web of rivalries and alliances plays out in the tangled battlefield of northeastern Syria, which the Kurdish YPG militia controls. The past week has redrawn the map of Syria yet again after more than eight years of war. Washington's move to pull out of the region, opening the way for Ankara's offensive, left Kurdish forces scrambling for protection. So the Kurds invited in the Syrian army and its ally Russia.

Meshmesh said he would rather have Syrian troops take his hometown than see it fall to Turkish forces - which he fears would make him a target for his Kurdish ethnicity. Turkey launched the operation in the region to target the YPG, which it brands a threat to Turkey. The ethnically mixed northeast region is home to up to 2 million people, including Kurds, Arabs, Assyrians and others, many of them uprooted from other parts of Syria. The Syrian army's deployment raises questions

US carried out a secret cyber strike on Iran

WASHINGTON: The United States carried out a secret cyber operation against Iran in the wake of the Sept 14 attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities, which Washington and Riyadh blame on Tehran, two US officials have said. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the operation took place in late September and took aim at Tehran's ability to spread "propaganda." One of the officials said the strike affected physical hardware, but did not provide further details.

The attack highlights how President Donald Trump's administration has been trying to counter what it sees as Iranian aggression without spiraling into a broader conflict. Asked about Reuters reporting on Wednesday, Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi said: "They must have dreamt it," Fars news agency reported.

The US strike appears more limited than other such operations against Iran this year after the downing of an American drone in June and an alleged attack by Iran's Revolutionary Guards on oil tankers in the Gulf in May. The United States, Saudi Arabia, Britain, France and Germany have publicly blamed the Sept. 14 attack on Iran, which denied involvement in the strike. The Iran-aligned Houthi militant group in Yemen claimed responsibility.

Publicly, the Pentagon has responded by sending thousands of additional troops and equipment to bolster Saudi defenses - the latest US deployment to the region this year. The Pentagon declined to comment about the cyber strike. "As a matter of policy and for

about the fate of a region where the YPG and its local allies have carved out self-rule for years.

Making matters even more fraught, the humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) announced Tuesday that it had suspended most of its activities in the region and evacuated all its international staff. Meshmesh said the new reality on the ground could pose a threat for people who had evaded mandatory military service or Kurdish activists who are wanted by the government.

For him, that paled in comparison to the Turkish incursion. "It is an existential problem," he said. "I'm proud to be Syrian," he said. "I prefer the Syrian government ... even if it may weaken the rights and dreams that were built in the past eight years." But with territory shifting hands at lightning speed and a new exodus unfolding, Syrians must weigh up tough choices over where to seek shelter.

In the city of Raqqa farther south, a young Syrian Arab man hid in his home Tuesday, frantically following the news, worried about the prospect of Syrian government forces coming back. "I'm living in a state of terror. I can't sleep at night," said the opposition activist, who is in his 20s and didn't want to give his name because he is afraid of retribution. "I don't know what I'm going to do."

He has remained in his city since early in the war even as its rulers shifted from rebels opposed to President Bashar Al-Assad's rule to Islamic State militants and then to Kurdish fighters. But now he fears a return of state rule because of his past work with local outlets and activists opposed to Assad. Syrian Kurdish leaders have said the deal with Damascus involves only army troops deploying at the border, and there has been no official comment from the Syrian government.

But the activist and a second Raqqa resident said they still worried that Kurdish forces would cut a deal with Damascus and hand over Raqqa. Some in the city who support Damascus rallied on Monday, calling for a return of its rule and carrying photos of Assad for the first time in years, he said. If it comes to it, his siblings, like many others, would have no problem staying in Raqqa, so he would have to find a way out alone, he said.

He hopes to get smuggled into territory in the north under the control of mainly Sunni Arab Syrian rebels funded and trained by Turkey, a swathe of Syria where Turkish forces are stationed. For now, though, he is waiting to see what happens. The activist said he had heard from relatives in the north that some rebels had been looting and acting inappropriately but he would feel safer there than under state rule. "Listen, nobody is good - they're all criminals," he said. "But some are easier than others." — Reuters

operational security, we do not discuss cyberspace operations, intelligence, or planning," said Pentagon spokeswoman Elissa Smith.

The impact of the attack, if any, could take months to determine, but cyber strikes are seen as a less-provocative option below the threshold of war. "You can do damage without killing people or blowing things up; it adds an option to the toolkit that we didn't have before and our willingness to use it is important," said James Lewis, a cyber expert with the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. Lewis added that it may not be possible to deter Iranian behavior with even conventional military strikes.

Tensions in the Gulf have escalated sharply since May 2018, when Trump withdrew from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Tehran that put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the easing of sanctions. It was unclear whether there have been other US cyber attacks since the one in late September. Iran has used such tactics against the United States. This month, a hacking group that appears linked to the Iranian government tried to infiltrate email accounts related to Trump's re-election campaign.

Over 30 days in August and September, the group, which Microsoft dubbed "Phosphorous," made more than 2,700 attempts to identify consumer accounts, then attacked 241 of them. Tehran is also thought to be a major player in spreading disinformation. Last year a Reuters investigation found more than 70 websites that push Iranian propaganda to 15 countries, in an operation that cybersecurity experts, social media firms and journalists are only starting to uncover.

Tensions with Iran have been high since the Sept 14 attack. Tehran has said an Iranian tanker was hit by rockets in the Red Sea last week and warned that there would be consequences. On Monday, President Hassan Rouhani reiterated his country's policy toward the Trump administration, ruling out bilateral talks unless Washington returns to the landmark nuclear deal and lifts crippling US economic sanctions. — Reuters

US officials rush to Turkey; Russia...

Continued from Page 1

Turkish state bank over allegations it broke sanctions on Iran. The Turkish assault, launched after a phone call between Erdogan and Trump, has forced Washington to abandon a strategy in place for five years and pull its troops from northern Syria.

It has spawned a humanitarian crisis, with 160,000 civilians taking flight, a security alert over thousands of Islamic State fighters abandoned in Kurdish jails, and a political maelstrom at home for Trump, accused by congressional leaders, including fellow Republicans, of betraying loyal US allies, the Kurds. Syrian government forces, backed by Washington's adversaries Russia and Iran, have meanwhile taken advantage of the power vacuum left by retreating US troops to advance swiftly into the largest swath of territory previously outside their grasp.

Washington announced a package of sanctions to punish Turkey on Monday, but Trump's critics said the measures, mainly a hike in steel tariffs and a pause in trade talks, were too feeble to have an impact. Twenty-four hours later US prosecutors' charges were unveiled against Turkey's majority state-owned Halkbank for taking part in a multi-billion dollar scheme to evade Iran sanctions. Washington says the case is unrelated to politics. Halkbank denies wrongdoing and called the case part of the sanctions against Turkey.

US 'show of force'

The Turkish advance, and Washington's need to swiftly evacuate its own forces, have brought the two biggest militaries in NATO close to confrontation on the battlefield. Washington has complained about Turkish artillery fire near its troops. In the latest potential flashpoint, US military aircraft carried out a "show of force" over the border city of Kobani after Turkish-backed fighters came close to American troops there, a US official said.

Pence said Erdogan had promised Trump by phone that Turkey would not attack Kobani, a strategically important border city where US forces first came to the aid of Kurds against Islamic State, which massacred Kurdish civilians there in 2014. Erdogan said he had not broken his promise to Trump: "Mr Trump's remark on Kobani was 'Don't strike there'," Erdogan told reporters late on Tuesday. "We said that we had only done an encircling operation there at the moment."

Land rush

Washington's hasty exit has created a land rush between Turkey and Russia - now the undisputed foreign powers in the area - to partition the formerly US-protected Kurdish area. The Syrian Observatory for

Sports

Mickelson tells Tiger to pick himself for Presidents Cup

Mickelson has an unmatched record in team events

JEJU: Phil Mickelson said yesterday that captain Tiger Woods should pick himself to play the Presidents Cup this year believing it is wrong that two of 2019's major winners are not automatic selections.

Woods won his 15th major at The Masters and Gary Woodland won the US Open, but neither qualified automatically in the top eight points scorers for December's team matchplay showdown against Team International in Melbourne.

"I think those two players should be automatic picks," Mickelson firmly told AFP at the CJ Cup in Jeju, South Korea. "I think if somebody else was the captain, 100 percent they would pick Tiger."

"The only reason that it's a question is because it's weird to pick yourself, but he's ninth in the world, and he won the Masters. He should be on the team." Mickelson has an unmatched record in team events, playing in 24 consecutive Ryder or Presidents Cups since 1994.

But the five-time major winner is resigned to missing out saying his form this year has not been good enough.

"I have not played well in the last seven, eight months," said the slimmed-down 49-year-old, who has embarked on a fitness and diet regime in an effort to get back to his best.

"Even if I were to win (this week), I have not done enough to warrant a pick. I'm not asking for one, I don't expect one."

Woods is returning from arthroscopic surgery at the inaugural ZoZo Championship in Japan next week and his fitness will probably decide if he follows the advice of his long-standing rival.

Mickelson by contrast is revelling in his new fitter body and has set himself the target of making the US Ryder Cup team next at Whistling Straights at the age of 50.

"Well, I'm starting to play some good golf and I fully expect to play to my level and make the Ryder Cup team next year," he said. "But the players that are on the Presidents Cup team need to showcase consistency throughout the year."

"I have not played very consistent good golf at all this year. And there are a lot better, more deserving players that have earned their way on to the team." A lithe-looking Mickelson would not reveal how much weight he has lost, but said he was already feeling the benefits.

"I've changed my eating habits. I eat much healthier, I eat a lot less," he revealed. "I work out twice a day when I'm home and I believe that the weight loss and increased physical fitness will help me play better," said Mickelson.

"I wanted to feel better on the golf course. I wanted to be able to practise longer and I wanted to be able to recover faster. It helps me have more energy and more focus towards the end of the rounds. I'm optimistic and believe that I will start to play to the level that I know I'm able to." —AFP



Tiger Woods

Kuwait ready to host bowling championships

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Bowling Club, headed by Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah continues its preparations for the opening of the 25th Asian Ten Pin Bowling Championship with the participation of 28 countries, to be hosted by Kuwait next Sunday, as the men and women teams are training hard in order to guarantee a positive participation.

Bowling Club Secretary and head of the national teams Salem Al-Aradah said work is ongoing since the handover of the Bowling Center six months ago to complete all the necessary preparations at international

standards under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

He said all systems used in international championships were brought in, and lauded the facilities of the Bowling Center, adding that the current facilities will be ready to host the world championships of the individuals and teams in 2020 and 2021.

Al-Aradah appreciated the support of various state entities including private universities, schools and sports authority that removed all obstacles.

The secretary said Kuwaiti men and women teams' preparations was in full swing. The technical department intensified its preparations in order to appear in a respectable form by holding training camps in Hong Kong and Denmark.

He said officials are working hard and lauded the players' efforts who are training hard to achieve success. He said Kuwait teams' mission will not be easy as they will compete against the prominent champions of Asia, adding that getting in competition with them will be the most important thing at this stage.



Salem Al-Aradah

IOC to move Tokyo Olympic marathon to Hokkaido due to heat concerns

TOKYO: The International Olympic Committee yesterday announced a plan to move the marathon and race walking at Tokyo 2020 to Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido from originally planned courses in the capital due to worries about heat.

The IOC's statement said that it is planning to move the events to Sapporo, which will mean "significantly lower temperatures for the athletes during the Olympic Games." "Athletes' health and well-being are always at the heart of our concerns," IOC President Thomas Bach said in a statement.

"The Olympic Games are the platform where athletes can give 'once-in-a-lifetime' performances, and these measures ensure they have the conditions to give their best." However, Tokyo 2020 organisers appeared to think the move was just a proposal and that further discussions would be had at their coordination commission meeting planned for the end of this month.

"Working closely with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee will discuss this matter with the concerned parties at the upcoming IOC Coordination Commission meetings," a Tokyo 2020 statement said. The head of the International Association of Athletics Federations Sebastian Coe said his organisation will be working with the IOC and Tokyo 2020 on any new plan.

"(We) will continue to work with the IOC and Tokyo 2020 on the proposal to move the road events to Sapporo," Coe said in a statement. "Giving athletes the best platform for their performances within the environment they are in is central to all major events."

Organisers had been looking for ways to protect athletes and spectators from Tokyo's sweltering temperatures expected during next year's Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games.

Tokyo held a test marathon in September, featuring tents equipped with mist machines for spectators. Officials had also been planning to hold longer-distance races during cooler hours, but questions had persisted over whether such steps were enough.

Suffocating humidity and high temperatures at the recent world championship marathon in Doha proved gruelling despite a midnight start. It was still 29.09 Celsius with 48.6% humidity at the start of the marathon and nearly a third of the 70 starters failed to reach the finish line, fuelling debate over athletes' welfare.

Temperatures in Tokyo during July and August, when the city hosts the Olympic and Paralympic Games, commonly exceed 30 degrees Celsius, with high humidity adding to the discomfort.

Sapporo's temperatures during the period are as much as five to six degrees centigrade cooler during the day than in Tokyo, the IOC said. The city will also host some Olympic soccer matches. However, Kyodo News reported officials describing the move as coming "out of the blue."

"We have practical experience with running big competitions such as the Hokkaido Marathon, but will that know-how translate to the Olympics?" a Sapporo official was quoted as saying by Kyodo.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympics will run from July 24 - Aug. 9. —Reuters



Kuwait National Bowling team

Gulf Bank renews commitment to KRCS for Gulf Bank 642 Marathon

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has renewed its partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) for this year's 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon.' For the second consecutive year, Gulf Bank will be supporting the KRCS with donations for medical aid for those who are unable to afford medical treatment in Kuwait.

Proceeds from the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon will go towards the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, covering the provision of medical devices including pacemakers, cochlear devices, hearing aids, electric wheelchairs, and stents.

Commenting on the renewed partnership with KRCS, Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank, said: "Gulf Bank is committed to supporting the local community, which is why we are renewing our alliance with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society in support of its efforts to provide healthcare to patients who are unable to afford it. The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is a family-fun activity that not only brings people together, but also encourages everyone to give back. We invite everyone to participate in the marathon and to donate in support of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society."

On his part, Anwar Al Hasawi, the Vice Chairman at Kuwait Red Crescent Society, said: "At the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, we rely on social responsibility initiatives spearheaded from different stakeholders in the private sector. We are especially delighted to be an annual beneficiary of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, whose proceeds will contribute directly to our efforts. We are also proud to be a part of an event that encourages people to lead healthier lifestyles. We thank Gulf Bank for their continued efforts in organizing the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, which is only growing in its success every year."

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon has placed Kuwait on



the map for international sporting events. It is the only road race in Kuwait to have received accreditation from the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS).

The much anticipated community event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 16, 2019 and invites challenge-seeking athletes as well as beginner

runners to participate. Last year's marathon was an unprecedented success with over 7,500 attendees representing over 66 nationalities competing at the event.

For event registration and more information regarding participation as a corporate or in groups, please visit www.gulfbank642marathon.com or access the Instagram account @GulfBank642

Sports

World Cup dream sparked retirement U-turn for England's 'plodding' Marler

Marler confident he will be fit for Saturday's crunch match after back injury

BEPPU: England prop Joe Marler said his belief in the team's potential to become world champions had fuelled his decision to come out of international retirement. When Marler quit the Test arena late in 2018, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family, the Harlequins front-rower appeared to have no regrets and seemed at ease with his decision.

But with Mako Vunipola struggling with injuries, the experienced Marler answered the call from England coach Eddie Jones and came out of retirement earlier this year ahead of the World Cup.

The 29-year-old, a veteran of 65 Tests, is now set to be involved in England's quarter-final against old rivals Australia in Oita on Saturday. "I want to be part of a squad that wins the World Cup," said Marler.

"That was part of the reason I came out of retirement. I could see the potential in this group and I wanted a taste of that. "That's ultimately what's driving me on for the next couple of weeks." Marler was involved when Australia condemned hosts England to a pool-stage exit at the 2015 World Cup with an emphatic 33-13 Twickenham triumph.

While Marler said gaining revenge over the Wallabies for that woeful loss was not part of his agenda this weekend, he added the events of four years ago had finally nailed the perception that Australia had a weak scrum.

Marler, who had been accused of illegally "angling in" during the build-up to the match by former Wallabies coach Bob Dwyer, was a member of an England pack that gave away six scrum penalties on

that fateful night.

"Traditionally, in a different generation there were always question marks over Australia being weak up front and being wet in scrum time," he said. "They showed in 2015 when (Mario) Ledesma was there that he transformed them a bit and he made a huge impact."

Australia props Scott Sio and Sekope Kepu remain in the Wallabies' squad, although the third member of their 2015 front row, hooker Stephen Moore, has retired. "You've got Scott Sio who I think's got 70 caps, top quality loosehead," said Marler. "(Tolu) Latu, he's a huge leader for them, big big unit; then you've got young (Alan) Alaalatoa, who's been going really well that tournament.

"So that narrative (of a weak Australia scrum) is no longer the case." Marler is confident he will be fully fit for Saturday's crunch match after recovering from the back injury he sustained in the bonus-point win over Argentina, with England's final group game against France cancelled because of Typhoon Hagibis.

"I did the injury when I attempted to sprint, which is not like me, and I got a little tweak," Marler said. "That is not a lie or attempt to be funny."

"What I often do is just concentrate on pushing and then plodding." He added: "But when a scrum-half tried to make a break, even though we were 25 points up, I decided to try and chase him down."

"Ridiculous and it's not going to happen again. I'll stick with plodding." —AFP



BEPPU: England's props Joe Marler (L) and Mako Vunipola attend a training session in Beppu, ahead of their Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup quarter-final match against Australia. —AFP

From Lomu to Chicago: Ireland, NZ rugby history

TOKYO: Ireland and New Zealand have met only once at the Rugby World Cup, a game the All Blacks won — but they haven't had things all their own way in recent years. The Irish ended a 111-year wait for a victory against New Zealand in 2016 when they turned them over on neutral territory in Chicago, before recording a first-ever home win last year. Here's a look back at the history between the two ahead of their quarter-final clash on Saturday.

1995: LOMU BURSTS ONTO STAGE

Ireland and New Zealand met in their first pool game in 1995 in a match where legendary All Black winger Jonah Lomu announced himself on the world rugby stage.

The 18-stone winger with blistering pace was the difference between the two sides, running in two tries and setting up another as the Irish were powerless in the face of his devastating carries.

Ireland were first on the board via a Gary Halpin try but their joy was to be short-lived as Lomu dominated proceedings.

His first score gave the world a taste of what was to come. Receiving the ball out wide with 20 metres to go, he bounced off a tackle by opposite number Richard Wallace as if he wasn't there.

The second try was a demonstration of his speed rather than his power as he outpaced Wallace to the corner after a clever penalty move.

But his best moment came in a rampaging run from just outside his own 22m line, beating four defenders before finally being brought down by a fifth with the try line at his mercy.

However, Lomu had the presence of mind to pop the ball to flanker Josh Kronfeld for one of the greatest tries in Rugby World Cup history, as the All Blacks cruised to a 43-19 win.

Ireland would go on to lose 36-12 to France in the quarter-finals while the All Blacks would continue all the way to the final, famously losing 15-12 in extra time to South Africa in Johannesburg.

2016: HISTORY IN CHICAGO

Ireland had to wait 111 years for a first win against New Zealand and when it finally came, it was on the unusual territory of Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears.

The Irish were irresistible in the first half, racing out to an astonishing 25-8 lead at the break, the highlight being a sniping break by scrum-half Conor Murray that split the All Black defence wide open.

Ireland extended their advantage to 30-8 after half-time but the world champions roared back, a Scott Barrett try on debut bringing them back to 33-29 with a quarter of an hour to play.

But Ireland held firm despite waves of All Black pressure and centre Robbie Henshaw crashed over on 74 minutes to seal a historic 40-29 win.

2018: FIRST HOME WIN

Ireland were unable to complete a series victory in 2016, with the All Blacks squaring it 1-1 with a 21-9 win in Dublin. So it was with a sense of unfinished business that Joe Schmidt's men welcomed New Zealand back to Dublin in 2018, seeking their first victory over the All Blacks on home turf.

The teams went into the match at one and two in the world rankings and the first half was an arm-wrestle, Johnny Sexton and Beauden Barrett trading penalties and the latter slotting a drop goal as Ireland led 9-6 at half-time.

But Ireland's pack had New Zealand's forwards on the back foot for once and the Irish scored a sensational try just after the break, winger Jacob Stockdale chipping and collecting his own kick before racing to the line for a 16-6 lead. —AFP

A second miracle? Japan v S Africa at Rugby WCup

TOKYO: Japan have only played South Africa once at a Rugby World Cup but it was one of the most famous games in the tournament's history and produced one of the biggest shocks in sport. South Africa hit back in a warm-up match before the 2019 World Cup, in the words of coach Rassie Erasmus, to "erase" the pain of that loss but hosts Japan are hoping that lightning can strike twice in Sunday's quarter-final.

2015: THE MIRACLE OF BRIGHTON

No one gave Eddie Jones's Japan a prayer of beating the mighty Springboks as they took the field in Brighton for their opening pool match in 2015. The bookies had South Africa 500-1 favourites, but the Brave Blossoms had other ideas.

When Francois Louw opened the scoring for the Springboks, many expected them to run up a huge score against Japan, who had been in the wrong end of some embarrassingly one-sided defeats in past World Cups, including a 145-17 loss to the All Blacks.

But Japan produced an almighty first-

half defensive effort and trailed just 12-10 at the break, a try from inspirational captain Michael Leitch keeping them in touch.

Despite an early second-half try by Lood de Jager, the boot of Ayumu Goromaru kept Japan in the game and the score was an improbable 22-22 with less than 20 minutes to play.

Hooker Adriaan Strauss burst through tiring Japanese defences to give the Springboks a critical lead, and most in the stadium in the English coastal city of Brighton expected them to run away with it. But Goromaru scored a sensational converted try to level the scores at 29-29, setting up a nerve-jangling last 10 minutes.

A Handre Pollard penalty gave the favourites a 32-29 lead before Leitch famously spurned a penalty chance that would have tied the game, instead going for the win.

His gamble paid off, replacement wing Karne Hesketh bolting into the corner nearly five minutes into injury time to win 34-32 to give Jones probably his most satisfying victory. Heartbreakingly for Japan, they ultimately failed to make it through the group stage, a 45-10 loss to Scotland meaning they were eliminated due to bonus points.

But the Springboks bounced back to top the pool and beat Wales in the quarter-finals before losing a semi-final

thriller 20-18 to the All Blacks.

pointing Japan in brutal late summer heat in Kumagaya, north of Tokyo.

Winger Makazole Mapimpi was the hat-trick hero for the Springboks as Japan struggled to deal with his pace and that of his side-kick Cheslin Kolbe, trailing 22-0 at half-time.

There was no let-up after the break, as South Africa dominated the set-piece and Mapimpi burst clear to complete his hat-trick on 52 minutes. —AFP



TOKYO: South Africa's players take part in a training session at the Fuchu Asahi Football Park in Tokyo, ahead of their Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup quarter-final match against Japan. —AFP

2019: REALITY CHECK IN KUMAGAYA

Just two weeks before the 2019 World Cup kicked off, the two sides faced off again in a warm-up match, Springbok coach Rassie Erasmus picking his strongest available side to slay the demons of four years previously.

This time, there was to be no miracle, as South Africa overpowered a disap-

Nigeria cricketers hope T20 chance can boost game at home

LAGOS: When Ademola Onikoyi was a teenager he struggled to explain to his friends why he would leave football games early to go to cricket practice. "They never understood what cricket was all about — they didn't know what it was," he told AFP.

Now the wicketkeeper-batsman hopes the explaining is over as he gears up to captain Nigeria's T20 national team at the World Cup qualifiers in the United Arab Emirates. "It is a big stage for us — the first time we are participating at this level," Onikoyi, 32, said.

Reaching this far is a huge step up for Africa's most populous nation as it edges closer than ever before to a major international tournament. The Nigerian side recognises it is lucky just to be in the UAE ahead of its opening game against Jersey on October 19. The squad only got through to this stage after the International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended Zimbabwe in July over government interference in the game. The team of amateurs — students and businessmen — is the lowest ranked side at the qualifiers and faces overwhelming odds to reach the World Cup in Australia next year.

But those involved insist they are in with a chance — and hope that any success can fuel interest in cricket back home. "We got

handed this opportunity and now we have to grab it," said coach Clive Ogbimi. "The belief is rising and we can go out there and compete."

'STARTING AFRESH'

Like many other former British colonies, Nigeria has a lengthy association with cricket. In 1904 the first "Inter-colonial" match was played between Lagos Colony and the Gold Coast. But despite its long history, the game has never become mainstream in the football-mad country.

"Cricket has been played for over 100 years in Nigeria — so it is not a new sport," said national team manager Oghenekome Agodo. Traditionally it was the preserve of elite government boarding schools but political upheavals in the country since independence in 1960 saw the system change and the number of players dry up.

"We started having issues with bringing up new cricketers — so the game is more or less now starting afresh," Agodo said. "We are sending coaches to identify schools and catching players young."

Those efforts already seem to be bearing fruit and cricket Nigeria is enjoying a mini golden-age. In March the Under-19 team made history as well by winning the African qualifying tournament to make it through to the World Cup finals for the first time.

'EVERYONE IS SACRIFICING'

Despite the upturn in fortunes, the game still has a long way to go. Cricket grounds



LAGOS: File photo taken on April 17, 2018 shows Nigerian batsman plays a shot during an international Cricket Council (ICC) World Twenty20 African 'A' qualification match between Nigeria and Ghana in Lagos. —AFP

can be found in cities and towns across Nigeria as a legacy of the colonial past — but the facilities are often in dire condition.

Just days ago the cricket federation laid the only usable grass wicket in the country in the capital Abuja. For the national team that has meant a steep learning curve as they readjust from the astroturf wickets they usually play on with warm-up games in the UAE ahead of the qualifiers.

Cricket federation secretary general Taiwo Orris said he is hoping that success

at both senior and junior levels can help bring in more support. Nigeria's cash-strapped government does not give any money but does provide transport and accommodation for some games.

At the moment the federation operates on a shoestring budget as private individuals, the ICC, occasional sponsors, its own board members and even the players themselves chip in. "Everyone is sacrificing to sustain cricket in Nigeria," Orris said. —AFP

UAE trio charged under ICC Anti Corruption Code

DUBAI: United Arab Emirates captain Mohammed Naveed was among three national team players provisionally suspended yesterday after being charged under the International Cricket Council's Anti-

Corruption code. The ICC confirmed <https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/1453760> the three players - Naveed, Qadeer Ahmed Khan and Shaiman Anwar Butt - along with Mehardeep Chhayakar, a participant in cricket from Ajman, were charged with a combined 13 counts of breaching the code.

Naveed faces four charges, including an agreement to "fixing or contriving" aspects of matches in the upcoming World Twenty20 qualifiers. Top-order batsman Butt is also under investigation for an effort to influence results or any other aspect of matches ahead of the qualifiers, which are scheduled to be played in

the UAE starting Friday.

The competition will decide the last six teams to play at the T20 World Cup in Australia next year. Khan has been charged with failing to report "approaches to engage in corrupt conduct" in relation to UAE's matches against Zimbabwe and Netherlands in April and August respectively.

The 33-year-old bowler is also alleged to have disclosed inside information to Chhayakar in August. Chhayakar was charged with refusing to cooperate with an investigation carried out by the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit. —Reuters

Sports

Spain make Euro 2020 with late Sweden draw, beaten Ireland forced to wait

Finland inch closer to qualifying for their first ever European Championships

PARIS: Rodrigo Moreno fired Spain into Euro 2020 with a last-gasp equaliser in Sweden while the Republic of Ireland's chances of reaching the finals are still in the balance after they fell 2-0 in Switzerland.

Spain became the sixth team to qualify for next summer's tournament thanks to Rodrigo, who came off the bench to score a dramatic injury-time leveller in a 1-1 draw in Stockholm, sparking wild celebrations on the touchline. "Qualification is a must for a team like Spain but achieving it still has value," said Moreno. "It releases the pressure and gives us time to work."

Robert Moreno's side are top of Group F on 20 points after drawing their last two matches. They are five ahead of Sweden and six above Romania, who missed the chance to take second spot when Norway's Alexander Sorloth snatched a late 1-1 draw in Bucharest.

However it was a far from vintage display from Spain, who started brightly but faded as the match wore on against the lively hosts, who were distraught after missing out on a famous victory right at the death.

A celebratory night was tempered slightly by the loss of goalkeeper David de Gea to a thigh injury in the second half, although that will worry his club Manchester United more ahead their meeting with Premier League leaders Liverpool this weekend.

Ireland left sweating

In Group D, Haris Seferovic's early strike and Shane Duffy's late own goal kept Switzerland's hopes of automatic qualification alive with a 2-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland.

The win in Geneva means the Swiss are just a point behind group leaders Ireland and Denmark with two

matches remaining in their campaign, compared to just the one for the Irish, who host the Danes on November 18 needing a win to guarantee qualification.

"It's a cup final. Beat Denmark to reach Euro 2020. I would have taken that at the start and I'll take it now," said the Republic's coach Mick McCarthy.

The Swiss, who also have the better of the head-to-head record with the Irish as the two teams drew 1-1 in September, take on group minnows Georgia and Gibraltar in their final two games.

"The result doesn't mean a lot in the group, we still need to get results in our next two games. If we get the points we need against Georgia and Gibraltar we can turn our attentions to Euro 2020," said Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic.

FINLAND EDGE TOWARDS HISTORY

Finland inched closer to qualifying for their first ever European Championships after Teemu Pukki took his qualifying tally to seven in eight matches with a double that helped Finland sweep aside Armenia 3-0 in Turku.

Fredrik Jensen gave the Finns a 31th minute lead. Norwich City striker Pukki then scored just after the hour and got his second two minutes from the end with a neat dinked finish.

Markku Kanerva's side stay nine points behind Group J winners Italy, who maintained their 100 percent record with an eighth straight win, 5-0 against Liechtenstein.

Finland need a win over rock-bottom Liechtenstein to qualify for their first major tournament after fourth-placed Bosnia & Herzegovina lost 2-1 in Greece with an 88th-minute own goal from Adnan Kovacevic.

Israel kept their hopes of qualifying from Group G



SOLNA: Spain's midfielder Mikel Oyarzabal reacts during the UEFA Euro 2020 Group F qualification football match Sweden v Spain in Solna, Sweden. — AFP

alive after seeing off Latvia 3-1 as Eran Zahavi scored his 11th goal of the qualifying campaign.

Andi Herzog's side are level on 11 points with North

Macedonia and Slovenia and five behind second-place Austria, meaning they still have a chance with two games remaining. — AFP

FIFA president 'disappointed' by empty stands at Koreas qualifier

SEOUL: FIFA president Gianni Infantino said he was "disappointed" after attending a historic but bizarre World Cup qualifier between North and South Korea that had empty stands and no live broadcast.

The rare match in the North Korean capital ended 0-0 on Tuesday, with Infantino one of the few people allowed to see the surreal game play out at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Stadium. "I was looking for-

ward to seeing a full stadium for such a historic match but was disappointed to see there were no fans in the stands," he said in an interview published on the FIFA website.

"We were surprised by this and by several issues related to its live broadcast and problems with visas and access for foreign journalists." No foreign media were at the game — the first competitive men's match to be played in Pyongyang between the two sides, whose countries are still technically at war.

Frustrated South Korean fans who were not permitted to travel to the game will have to wait days to see it on television after officials bring back a DVD recording. "For us, freedom of the press and freedom of speech are obviously paramount, but on the other hand it would be naive to think we can change the world from one minute to the next," Infantino said.

The match comes in the wake of a series of North Korean missile tests that raised tensions in the region, and after the breakdown of talks with the US over

Pyongyang's weapons programmes.

It is a far cry from the cross-border warmth of last year, when South Korean President Moon Jae-in seized on the Pyeongyang Winter Olympics to broker the Pyongyang-Washington discussion process.

The only simple way to follow the match, which the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had billed as "one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures" for years, was a limited online text commentary posted on the FIFA and AFC websites. Meanwhile North Korean state media did not offer much in the way of colourful description in its report on the match. "The game of attacks and counterattacks ended in a draw," summarised the official Korean Central News Agency in a two-line dispatch.

Infantino said he and his team had raised questions of free press and speech with North Korea's football association. "We will certainly keep pushing so that football can have a positive influence in (North) Korea... and other countries around the world," he said. — AFP

Italy hammer Liechtenstein for perfect Euro 2020 run

VADUZ: Andrea Belotti scored a second-half brace as already-qualified Italy overran Liechtenstein 5-0 on Tuesday to stretch their perfect run in Euro 2020 qualifying to eight games and match an 80-year Italian record.

Roberto Mancini's side were assured of top spot in Group J after a 2-0 win over Greece in Rome on Saturday. Federico Bernardeschi gave Italy the lead after just two minutes in Vaduz but it was not until the last 20 minutes that the 'Azzurri' hammered home their domination with four late goals.

Belotti headed in twice for a second-half brace with Alessio Romagnoli and substitute Stephan El Shaarawy also scoring near the end. Mancini celebrated his ninth win in a row as Italy manager to draw level with the record run of legendary Vittorio Pozzo back in 1938-1939.

Pozzo won the first two of Italy's four World Cup titles in 1934 and 1938 and gold in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. "I'm more interested in his record of two World Cups and the Olympics, but even just winning Euro 2020 would be enough," said Mancini.

The 54-year-old former Inter Milan and Manchester City manager took over in May 2018 after Italy's failure to qualify for the World Cup. Liechtenstein are already eliminated from the European tournament and they also lost 6-0 to Italy in Parma last March.

With qualification already in the bag, Mancini rang the changes with Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Marco Verratti the only survivor from the Greece game. The 26-year-old took the captain's armband with Leonardo Bonucci rested, as Napoli defender Giovanni Di Lorenzo got his senior Italian debut aged 26, with winger Vincenzo Grifo, also 26, getting his first start. Roma midfielder Nicolò Zaniolo, 20, made his first senior start having come off the bench in his three previous appearances. Brescia midfielder Sandro Tonali, 19, was also given his first international debut in the second half.

"We struggled a bit because we didn't find the second goal right away, but with so many changes it was inevitable to spend a little time finding the right chemistry," said Mancini. "The important thing is that all the kids are really involved."

"And the truth is that in June, I will be forced to make choices and some good players will have to stay out." With only pride to play, for the hosts threatened early with Dennis Salanovic testing Salvatore Sirigu after just one minute. A minute later Italy were ahead with Belotti setting up Cristiano Biraghi who connected with Bernardeschi to finish off for his second goal in a row after Greece last weekend.

Belotti broke through for the second with 20 minutes to go getting his head to the end of Freiburg winger Grifo's corner. El Shaarawy, who plays for Shanghai Shenhua, came on for Zaniolo after the hour mark, and set up Romagnoli for the third before scoring himself with eight minutes to go.

Belotti completed the rout when he dived to meet a Di Lorenzo cross for his second goal on the night as Liechtenstein fell to their sixth defeat in eight games, having held Greece and Armenia to draws.

"Liechtenstein brings me luck, especially here as I got a brace last time too," said Belotti, with five of his eight Italy goals against the team. "We're a completely different team from the one that lost the World Cup play-offs to Sweden two years ago. 'It's right that Italy are back where we belong.'"

Italy next play Bosnia and Herzegovina on November 15 with Liechtenstein travelling to second-placed Finland Liechtenstein. — AFP

Messi receives record sixth European Golden Shoe

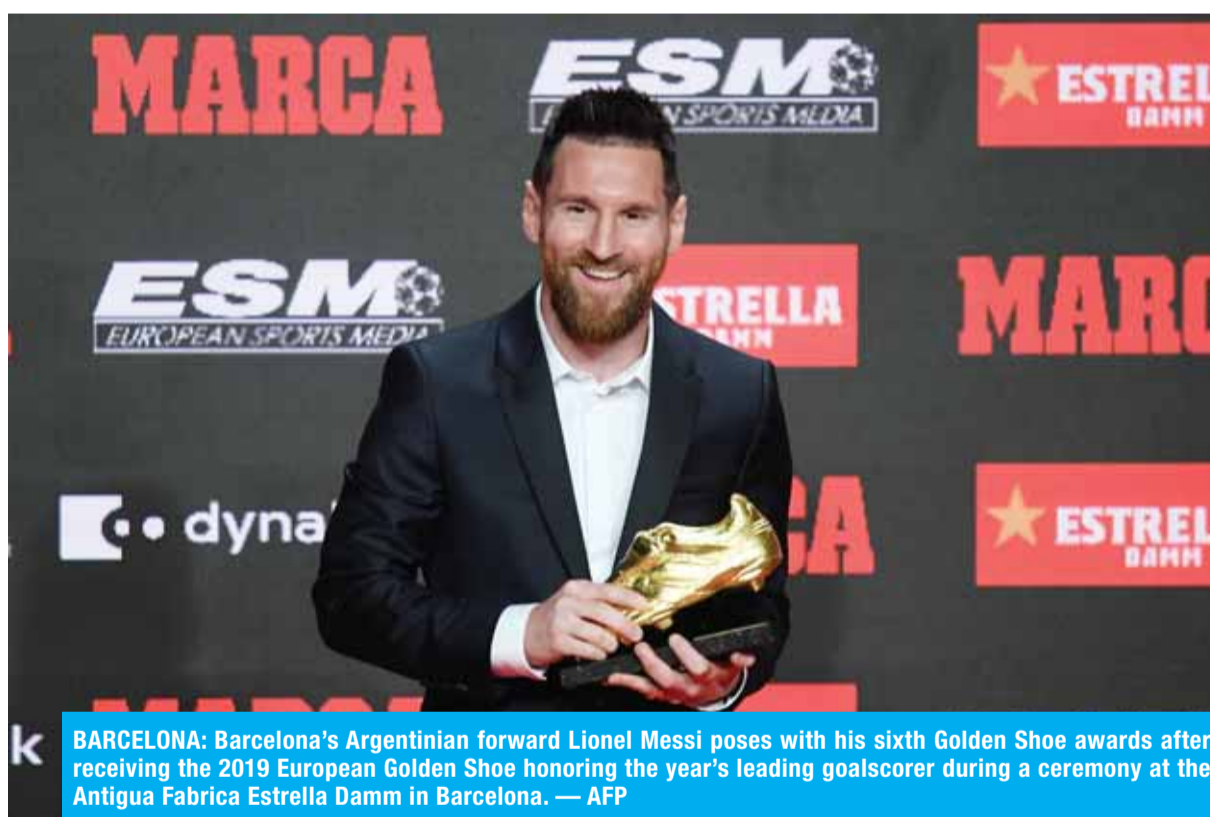
BARCELONA: Barcelona forward Lionel Messi picked up a record-extending sixth - and third consecutive - European Golden Shoe award yesterday following his outstanding individual 2018-19 domestic campaign.

The award is presented to the top goalscorer in league football across Europe, with the Argentine finding the net 36 times last season as Barca retained their La Liga title. Messi was three ahead of nearest rival Kylian Mbappe, who scored 33 times for Paris St Germain as they won France's Ligue 1.

"My team and my team mates, I would have never been able to win even one of these awards without them," Messi said at the presentation in Barcelona. "This is a recognition for everyone, all the team."

The forward, who won his first Golden Shoe in 2010, admitted he was disappointed to have missed out on Champions League glory again after Barcelona blew a 3-0 first leg lead to Liverpool at the semi-final stage. However, he said he was conscious that the league should be the club's priority.

"The Champions League is something special and we all want to win it, but we are conscious that the Liga is the most important. "La Liga can help you reach the



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi poses with his sixth Golden Shoe awards after receiving the 2019 European Golden Shoe honoring the year's leading goalscorer during a ceremony at the Antigua Fabrica Estrella Damm in Barcelona. — AFP

Champions League and the Copa del Rey. It is very difficult if you don't perform well in the Liga to compete in the Champions League.

"We never forget about the Liga and the Copa because we are Barcelona and we always aim to win

everything." Barca have endured a difficult start to the season, losing twice in their first eight league games. They have won their last three matches to pull themselves into second place on 16 points, two behind leaders Real Madrid. — Reuters

team at the Tokyo Olympics so take the size of football and multiply that into what the Olympics normally does when it comes around and it will be an incredible summer.

"Euro 2021 will take this country in the same way as the 2012 Olympics did and I think it will have the same impact on women's sport." Bogdanowicz, the FA's head of marketing and commercial for women's football, has the figures to back her up.

More than 75,000 tickets (priced at £10 for adults and £1 for children) have been sold for the friendly at Wembley with Germany on November 9. That compares with a crowd of around 70,500 at Wembley for Team GB's match against Brazil in the women's competition at the 2012 Olympics.

And interest is also growing in the domestic game, with more than 62,000 supporters attending opening fixtures in the Women's Super League compared with a reported 92,000 across all 110 WSL games last season. In an effort to promote the game further, the FA announced the first Women's Football Weekend in November, with a men's international weekend creating a pause in the Premier League and Championship calendars.

Euro 2021 a 'game changer' for English women's football

LONDON: The Women's Euro 2021 could have the same positive impact on women's sport as the 2012 London Olympics, says Football Association executive Marzena Bogdanowicz.

The women's game in England has enjoyed a surge in popularity on the back of the success of Phil Neville's national side, who reached the World Cup semi-finals this year, with a TV audience of more than 11 million tuning in watch their semi-final defeat by the United States.

Bogdanowicz pinpointed Euro 2021, being hosted by England, as a huge opportunity to boost the game further. "Euro 2021 will be the next big game changer," she told the SportsPro FAN Conference in London.

"Before that there will be a Team GB football

25 Mickelson tells Tiger to pick himself for Presidents Cup



26 Nigeria cricketers hope T20 chance can boost game at home



27 Messi receives record sixth European Golden Shoe



Nats down Cards for first World Series berth

Nationals to play winner of the American League Championship Series



WASHINGTON: General manager Mike Rizzo and Manager Dave Martinez #4 of the Washington Nationals celebrate with the trophy after winning game four and the National League Championship Series against the St. Louis Cardinals at Nationals Park in Washington, DC. — AFP

WASHINGTON: The Washington Nationals reached the World Series for the first time in franchise history on Tuesday after completing a 4-0 series sweep over the St. Louis Cardinals. A blistering first inning laid the foundation for a 7-4 victory over a Cardinals team who rallied in the fifth but were unable to overturn the deficit.

Nats ace Patrick Corbin fanned 12 batters through five innings before finally allowing four runs as the Cardinals attempted to claw their way back into contention. The Nationals will now play the winner of the American League Championship Series — either the Houston Astros or New York Yankees — in game one of the World Series next Tuesday.

The NL Championship Series victory marked the latest chapter of an improbable season for Washington, who were 19-31 earlier this year with little apparent hope of reaching the playoffs.

Prior to Tuesday's win, the Nationals were one of only two Major League Baseball teams, along with the Seattle Mariners, who had never reached a World Series. The Nationals had also carried a miserable post-season record into the playoffs having never won a series before 2019.

"I can't put this moment into words," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "Often bumpy roads lead to beautiful places — and this is a beautiful place," added Martinez, who only last month underwent a heart procedure. "These guys back here cured my heart," Martinez said. "My heart feels great right now. I can't wait to do this next week." A comeback win over Milwaukee in the wild-card game then saw them advance to a dramatic NL Division Series where they stunned the Los Angeles Dodgers with an upset 3-2 series win last week.

Three convincing wins over St. Louis in the opening games of the NLCS had left them on the brink of the World Series, and before an expectant Nationals Park on Tuesday they were in no mood to be denied.

With a sea of red-shirted fans roaring them on, the Nats raced into a 7-0 lead in a disastrous first inning for the Cardinals. Cards starting pitcher Dakota Hudson was given a brutal mauling, with Anthony Rendon's sacrifice fly scoring Trea Turner to start the onslaught.

Juan Soto's sharp line drive saw Adam Eaton scamper home for 2-0 before a misfield by Cardinals second baseman Kolten Wong loaded the bases. Another fielding blunder by the Cardinals — Jose Martinez failing to collect a straightforward fly ball from Victor Robles — allowed Soto to score for 3-0.

Yan Gomes's single then sent Howie Kendrick and Ryan Zimmerman home for 5-0, by which time Cardinals manager Mike Shildt had seen enough, yanking Hudson off the mound for Adam Wainwright.

Wainwright's arrival did little to staunch the bleeding however, with Turner's single on a line drive allowing Robles and Gomes to score for a 7-0 lead. Yadier Molina homered for the Cardinals in the fourth to make it 7-1, before Harrison Bader scored in the fifth.

A Martinez double allowed Wong and Dexter Fowler to score but the Nationals bullpen held firm to close out victory. The victory was sweet for Nationals veteran Howie Kendrick, who was named series MVP after going 5 for 15 with four doubles and four RBI.

"All of the blood, sweat and tears and grinding, the losses, the wins come down to this moment," Kendrick said as he received his MVP award. "I can truly say this is the best moment of my career." —AFP

Rielly enjoys four-goal period as Leafs top Wild

TORONTO: Mitchell Marner scored a goal and added two assists, Morgan Rielly tied a team record with four assists in one period, and the Toronto Maple Leafs defeated the visiting Minnesota Wild 4-2 Tuesday night. Andreas Johnson contributed a goal and an assist, and John Tavares and Auston Matthews each scored a goal for the Maple Leafs, who won their second consecutive game following a three-game losing streak. Toronto goalie Frederik Andersen made 27 saves. All of Toronto's scoring came in the second period, with Rielly matching the club assist mark set by Rick Vaive on March 12, 1984.

LIGHTNING 3, CANADIENS 1

Steven Stamkos scored a goal and an assist, and Nikita Kucherov recorded two assists as Tampa Bay earned a victory at Montreal. The Lightning, who are 9-1-2 in their past 12 games against the Canadiens, also got goals from Braydon Coburn and Tyler Johnson. Stamkos' fourth goal of the season put Tampa Bay ahead 2-1 just 1:04 into the second period. It was the 397th goal of Stamkos' career, breaking a tie with Hall of Famers Dave Keon and Paul Coffey for 98th on the NHL's all-time goal-scoring list. The Lightning trailed 1-0 after a dominant opening start minutes from the Canadiens that included Jeff Petry's power-play goal at 15:46 into the first period.

HURRICANES 2, KINGS 0

Martin Necas scored in the second period, Sebastian Aho added a late empty-netter, and Carolina overcame a slow start to earn a

victory at Los Angeles. With their high-powered offense held in check, the Hurricanes picked things up on defense in the opener of a four-game road trip and a three-game swing through California. Petr Mrazek made 31 saves while earning his first shutout of the season and improving to 4-0-0. After winning its first five games of the season, Carolina took a 3-2 defeat at home against the Columbus Blue Jackets on Saturday before bouncing back Tuesday. The latest win came in an unexpected low-scoring affair between the high-scoring Hurricanes and the defense-challenged Kings.

COYOTES 4, JETS 2

Christian Dvorak and Nick Schmaltz ignited a three-goal second period as Arizona blew past host Winnipeg. Dvorak recorded his sixth career two-goal game, and Schmaltz added a goal as the Arizona linemates broke a 1-1 tie by potting all of their tallies in the second. The Coyotes, who improved to 2-0-1 in the past three games, netted goals on both of their power plays after entering the game 0-for-9 on the season. Schmaltz contributed two assists for a three-point game. Conor Garland notched a goal for the Coyotes, Oliver Ekman-Larsson chipped in two helpers, and Darcy Kuemper recorded 38 saves on 40 shots to improve to 2-2-0.

FLAMES 3, FLYERS 1

Michael Frolik celebrated his 800th NHL game in fine fashion by scoring once amidst a memorable first couple of shifts as host Calgary beat Philadelphia. Flames goalie David

Rittich made 21 saves to backstop his team to a victory that snapped a two-game losing skid. Frolik opened the scoring 95 seconds into the affair, just the second time this season the Flames got the first goal. Then Andrew Mangiapane provided the hosts with something that's been missing so far this season, a goal from the bottom two lines, when he doubled the lead at 14:15 of the second period.

PREDATORS 5, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2

Kyle Turris and Nick Bonino each had a goal and an assist, and Pekka Rinne finished with 33 saves to lead Nashville to a victory over Vegas in Las Vegas. Colton Sissons, Calle Jarnkrok and Filip Forsberg also netted goals for Nashville, which has scored at least five goals in four of its first six games. Ryan Ellis added a pair of assists. Mark Stone and Reilly Smith scored goals and Marc-Andre Fleury made 34 saves for Vegas, which had a two-game win streak snapped.

CANUCKS 5, RED WINGS 1

J.T. Miller scored two power-play goals, and Thatcher Demko made 26 saves to win his first start of the season as Vancouver capped an unbeaten homestand with a victory over Detroit. Elias Pettersson and Alexander Edler each had a goal and two assists for the Canucks, who improved to 3-0 at Rogers Arena. Troy Stecher also scored for the Canucks, who were 3-for-5 with the man advantage, and Brock Boeser added three assists. Dylan Larkin scored the lone goal for Detroit, and Jonathan Bernier stopped 27 of 32 shots. — Reuters