



5 Worker dead after being trapped in cargo elevator



13 KFH reports profits of KD 190.5 million



20 Orange is the new grey for Bangladesh beards



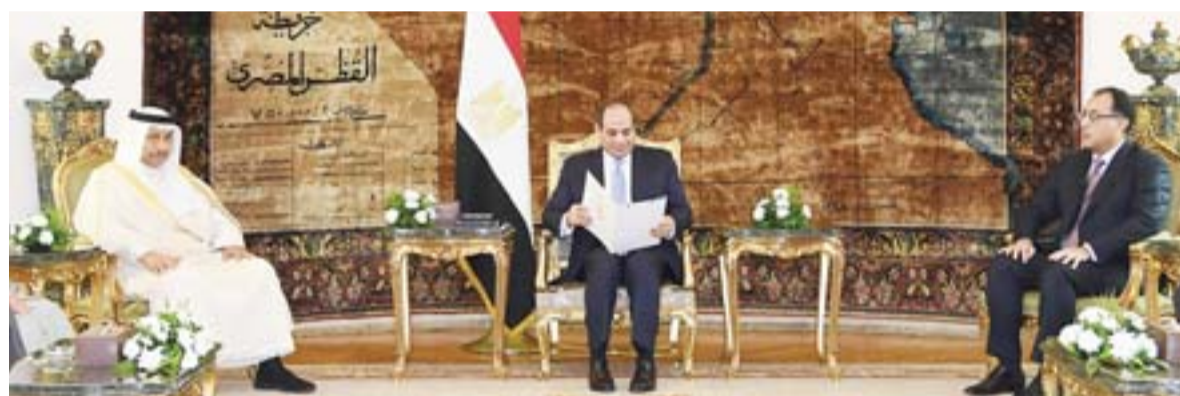
28 Packers rout Raiders behind Rodgers 6 TDs



Ex-Speaker calls for general amnesty; ex-MPs may return

Musical concert sparks controversy; MP wants old buildings renovated

PM delivers letter to Egypt president



CAIRO: His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo - handing him a letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The letter touched on issues of mutual interest as well as efforts to further bolster the strong relations linking Kuwait and Egypt. The letter also included salutations

from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Egyptian President. Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak expressed joy over his meeting with President El-Sisi, saying that he was impressed with the president's views on regional and international issues especially in regards to pushing for Mideast peace and stability in the Arab world. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Former National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun yesterday called on lawmakers to press for a general amnesty law that pardons all those who took part in the protests against corruption. The opposition leader said that it must be stressed that all activists jailed for taking part in the protests were in fact protesting against corruption in the country and as such must be pardoned.

Saadoun's call comes amid reports that some or all of the former MPs and opposition activists who have been living abroad after being handed tough jail terms, could return to the country soon. The activists were declared guilty by the Court of Cassation and handed a jail term exceeding three years for storming the National Assembly building during a protest.

Two of the activists were acting members of the National Assembly; Waleed Al-Tabtabai and Jamaan Al-Harbash who were later stripped of their membership. MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said earlier this week that there was some talk about the return of Harbash and some others after spending about a year and a half in Turkey.



Ahmad Al-Saadoun

MP Khalil Al-Saleh meanwhile, called on Kuwait Municipality authorities to force owners of old residential and commercial buildings to renovate and paint them - saying their only concern is to get the rents. The lawmaker said that there are no strict decisions or laws to force the landlords to repair their buildings, adding that the tenants appear to be only concerned with finding cheap apartments rather than good ones.

In another development, lawmakers have been pressing the Foreign Ministry to take action against officials at the Egyptian Consulate in South Surrah after a Kuwaiti lawyer claimed that he had been detained by the consulate officials who mercilessly beat him up. The lawyer said he did nothing to antagonize the consulate staff. MP Dallal inquired about the actions the ministry plans to take against the consulate staff.

A musical concert by an Iraqi singer caused a controversy between Islamist and non-Islamist MPs over reported violation of the law by spectators. Several Islamist MPs demanded action against the company that organized the concert but MP Ahmad Al-Fadhil insisted the program did not include any violation.

Saudi 100% 'shisha tax' sparks fury

RIYADH: A decision to impose a 100 percent tax on bills at restaurants that serve shisha has ignited criticism on social media in Saudi Arabia, where the water pipes are a popular pastime. The furor has also been fuelled by confusion over how the tax is applied. In the meantime, some restaurants have stopped offering shisha, while others have lowered their prices to appease customers. The government's official gazette said earlier this month that the tax will apply to all tobacco products.

However the ruling from the Ministry of Rural and Municipal Affairs said it will apply "to the total invoice of the business serving tobacco products". A number of restaurants and cafes contacted by AFP said they believed that the tax applies to all table orders in any establishment that serves tobacco products, whether or not the order included shisha. The decision sparked an avalanche of criticism on social media networks where the Arabic hashtag "tax on hookah restaurants" is trending in the kingdom.

Many people posted photos of their restaurant bills, with totals of more than double the initial amount when taking into account the new 100 percent tax and a still-unpopular five percent value added tax which went into effect last year. "Tobacco tax-controversy and confusion," read a headline in the Al-Madina newspaper yesterday. In the face of persistent budget deficits, the world's top crude oil exporter has resorted to measures like cutting subsidies on fuel and power and imposing new taxes including on cigarettes and soft drinks.

There were also suggestions that the new shisha tax could be a measure to protect public health. "This is an indirect way to prohibit shisha without actually prohibiting it," tweeted Electronic Lawyer, a popular commentator who has more than 80,000 followers. Other Twitter users said the new decision goes against the country's Vision 2030 ambitions to change its ultra-conservative image and revamp the economy.

Encouraging investment and kickstarting tourism are part of a reform program envisaged by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to wean the kingdom off its reliance on oil. Saudi columnist Bassam Fatiny criticized the size of the tax as ill-considered. "Let us assume that tax on tobacco has environmental and health benefits, is it logical that it be 100 percent!" he said on Twitter. "The ministry must have misunderstood Vision (2030)." — AFP



JEDDAH: An employee of a restaurant serves hookah (shisha) in Saudi Arabia's western city of Jeddah. A decision to impose 100 percent tax on bills of restaurants that serve hookah, or shisha has sparked social media fury in Saudi Arabia, which seeks to boost its economy. — AFP

Lebanon government in 11th-hour reform drive

BEIRUT: Lebanon's teetering government met yesterday to approve a belated economic rescue plan as thousands gathered for a fifth day of mass protests against the ruling elite. A proposed tax on mobile messaging applications last week sparked a spontaneous, cross-sectarian mobilization that has brought Lebanon to a standstill and put the entire political class in the dock. Hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered in central Beirut and other cities Sunday to demand better living conditions and the ouster of a cast of politicians who have monopolized power and influence for decades.

Euphoric crowds partied deep into the night, leaving all political and sectarian paraphernalia at home to gather under the national cedar flag, dancing to impromptu concerts and chanting often hilarious anti-establishment slogans.

Lebanon's economy has been on the brink of collapse for some time and the initial grievances of the protesters were over proposed tax hikes.

But the demonstrations have evolved into a massive push to unseat ruling dynasties widely seen as corrupt beyond redemption, and Hariri's 11th-hour rescue plan was met with disdain on the street. The cabinet held a meeting chaired by President Michel Aoun and was expected to approve a raft of measures, including

Continued on Page 24



BEIRUT: Lebanese protesters wave national flags during demonstrations to demand better living conditions and the ouster of a cast of politicians who have monopolized power and influence for decades. — AFP

Erdogan accuses West of standing by the 'terrorists'

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday lashed out at Western states, accusing them of "standing by terrorists" in failing to support Turkey's operation against Syrian Kurdish fighters. "Can you imagine the whole West stood by the terrorists and all attacked us including NATO member states and European Union countries?" Erdogan said in Istanbul.

"Since when did you start to side with terror? Did PYD-YPG (Syrian Kurdish

forces) join NATO and we do not know about it?" he asked. Ankara says the YPG is a "terrorist" offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been waging an insurgency inside Turkey since 1984.

The PKK is blacklisted as a terror group by Ankara, the US and the EU. Ankara's military action against Kurdish forces who played a key role in the fight against the Islamic State group has

Continued on Page 24



DOHUK, Iraq: A convoy of US military vehicles arrives near the Iraqi Kurdish town of Bardarash in the Dohuk governorate after withdrawing from northern Syria yesterday. — AFP

Footballers more likely to die from brain trauma

LONDON: A new study carried out by Glasgow University has found former footballers are approximately three-and-a-half times more likely to die from neurodegenerative diseases than the general population. The report, released yesterday was commissioned by England's Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association to assess the medical records of 7,676 men who played professional football in Scotland between 1900 and 1976.

Their records were matched against more than 23,000 individuals from the general population, with the study led by consultant neuropathologist Dr Willie Stewart of Glasgow University. His findings report that the "risk ranged from a five-fold increase in Alzheimer's disease, through an approximately four-fold increase in motor neurone disease, to a two-fold Parkinson's disease in former professional footballers".

Although footballers had higher risk of death from neurodegenerative disease, they were less likely to die of other common diseases, such as heart disease and some cancers, including lung cancer. The study - titled 'Football's Influence on Lifelong Health and Dementia Risk' found that deaths in ex-footballers were lower than expected up to age 70, and higher than expected over that age.

Dr Stewart said in a statement: "An important aspect of this work has been the ability to look across a range of health outcomes in former professional footballers. This allows us to build a more complete picture of health in this population."

Continued on Page 24

Local

Kuwait's Crown Prince receives official, governors, diplomats



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Interior Ministry's undersecretary and local governors. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lt Gen

Essam Al-Nahham. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received Governors of Hawally, Al-Ahmadi, Al-Asimah, Mubarak Al-Kabir, and Al-Jahra - Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Thailand Mohammad Al-Failakawi.

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Mahmoud Bushehri, and Nasser Al-Hajraf respectively.

Furthermore, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received Kuwaiti Ambassadors to Thailand and Canada, Mohammad Al-Failakawi and Reem Al-Khaled, respectively. — KUNA

News in brief

Kuwait Amir receives call from Iraqi figure

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a phone call from Iraqi figure Ammar Al-Hakim. During the conversations, Hakim inquired about His Highness the Amir's health, expressing joy over the return of the Kuwaiti leader to his country after regular medical checkups. His Highness the Amir thanked Hakim for inquiry and his sincere wishes of wellbeing. — KUNA

Amir receives cable from Pope Tawadros

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a cable of congratulations from Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria Tawadros II on His Highness's recovery from the recent health setback. His Highness the Amir sent a reply cable, expressing deep gratitude for the sincere sentiments, as well as wishing Pope Tawadros II lasting wellbeing and more progress. — KUNA

CBK issues KD 240 million tawarruq bonds

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) issued yesterday KD 240 million (\$792 million) worth of tawarruq bonds. The CBK announced that the most recent issues of bonds related to tawarruq would be for three months with rate of return of three percent. The last issuance of such bonds by the CBK was on October 14 with the same rate and return. — KUNA

Kuwaiti actor honored in Casablanca event

RABAT: Kuwaiti Actor Dawod Hussain was honored at the second edition of Casablanca Arab Film Festival (CAFF) for his body of work in theater and television. Hussain expressed his joy over this recognition during the event, which lasts until the 25th of this month. He also voiced his gratitude for hospitality he received in Morocco. The festival's director Fatima Al-Nawali said meanwhile that the honoring of the Kuwaiti actor came in recognition of his distinguished role in enriching the Gulf and Arab cinema scene in general. — KUNA

Kuwait's PM, Egyptian counterpart hold talks



CAIRO: His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (center) leads Kuwait's delegation in talks with his Egyptian counterpart. — KUNA photos

CAIRO: His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Egyptian counterpart Moustafa Madbouly held official talks in Cairo, Egypt yesterday. The talks were attended on the Kuwaiti side by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Services Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan, Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Khaled Al-Fadhel, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and senior officials at the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait Fund for Arab

Economic Development (KFAED) and the Kuwait Investment Authority, in addition to Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Al-Ghanem. The two sides discussed boosting relations in political, economic, cultural and tourism realms, as well as recent regional and international developments and means of protecting security and stability in the region. They also signed a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding in different fields.

To that, Egyptian President AbdelFattah El-Sisi hailed Kuwait's vital role in resolving key issues facing the Arab World. The remarks came during Sisi's reception with His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and his accompanying delegation, said Egyptian presidential

spokesperson Bassam Radhi. He added that His Highness the Prime Minister handed President Sisi a letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Moreover, Sisi affirmed that the security of the Gulf region is also connected to that of Egypt. The President also conveyed greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him a long healthy life. Sisi underlined strong Egyptian-Kuwaiti ties, adding that his country is eager to further develop commercial and economic cooperation with Kuwait, as well as attract more Kuwaiti investments to Egypt. His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak on his part, applauded Egypt's role in safeguarding the Arab World's stability and security and in boosting joint Arab work, Radhi said. — KUNA



Egyptian Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly (center) attends the meeting.



Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (left) and Egypt's Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr sign an agreement between the two countries.



Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Services Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan (left) and Egypt's Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr sign an agreement between the two countries.

Jordan's King lauds Kuwait's humanitarian services globally

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II underlined the importance of Kuwait's pioneering role in providing humanitarian services on both regional and international levels. This came when the Jordanian King received on Sunday the Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer at Al-Husayniya royal palace. Jordan's royal court said in a statement. King Abdullah II expressed his appreciation to Kuwait's role under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in supporting Jordan at different conditions, it noted. The Jordanian leader stressed the deep-rooted relations between the two countries, and keenness on boosting them in all domains, the statement quoted the King as saying. Meanwhile, Sayer voiced appreciation to Jordan's key role under the leadership of



AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II meets with the Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer. — KUNA

King Abdullah II in hosting refugees and providing care and services to them, according to the statement. During the meeting, the two sides also reviewed the KRCS' activities in Jordan, mainly serving refugees, it said. They also touched upon the Syrian refugees' crisis and stressed that the international community should assume its responsibilities towards the countries hosting refugees

so as to continue providing relief and humanitarian aid, it pointed out. Earlier in the day, the society's delegation led by Sayer opened a clinic to treat the Syrian refugees in Jordan, in cooperation with the Jordan Red Crescent Society. It signed a \$250,000 grant agreement with the King Hussein Cancer Center to cover the cost of the Syrian refugees. The grant is provided by Kuwait Finance House. — KUNA

Qatari FM receives letter from Kuwaiti counterpart



DOHA: Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani reads a letter from his Kuwaiti counterpart. — KUNA

DOHA: Kuwait's Ambassador to Qatar Hafith Al-Ajmi delivered Sunday a letter on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled Hamad Al-Sabah to his Qatari Foreign Minister

Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. Ajmi said in a statement to the press after the meeting that the letter was related to bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to improve them. — KUNA

Local

Northern Economic Zone adds up to KD 7 billion to Kuwait's GDP: Official

KJA hosts 'Draft Law for the Northern Economic Zone' symposium

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Northern Economic Zone will add KD 5 - 7 billion addition to the gross domestic product (GDP), a senior official said. "It will be established on an area of 1,655 square kilometers that includes a net space of 900 square kilometers for developing," said Osama Al-Qrawi, Member of the Business Team of the Northern Economic Zone during a presentation on Sunday. "The Zone will include 42 main projects and different activities including Mubarak Port, railway routes, a green zone, and others. The total value of these projects is KD 22 billion, which will be mainly financed by the foreign investor and the private sector. The whole project is valued between \$450 - 600 billion."

Qrawi made his presentation as part of a symposium titled 'Draft Law for the Northern Economic Zone' that was organized by the Kuwait Journalist Association (KJA). "These projects will offer between 220,000 - 210,000 job opportunities. The Zone will also house between 420,000 and 440,000 people from all nationalities. But it needs governmental support especially in the beginning, and issuing the draft law is the first step," he added.

"This is a project for the next generation of Kuwait that will be financed by world financial markets and directed by the private sector. This zone should be administratively independent under Kuwait's sovereignty and work according to the constitution, forming security support inside and outside Kuwait," he stated.

This Zone has great strategic importance. "Furthermore, it will be the gate of the northern border supporting modern urban life. It will be an incubator for commercial projects, as well as social and cultural activities," he further said.

According to Qrawi, there are over 3,000 free trade zones around the world. "For instance in Dubai, the Jebel Ali Free Zone is spread over 57 square kilometers and provides 144,000 job opportunities. In 2016, it generated \$87 billion in income, which equals 20 percent of Dubai's local production. It is a great support for Dubai's economy, even more important than tourism," he added.

Kuwait's Northern Economic Zone will be even more important from the international strategic view. "It will improve the regional security of Kuwait and local security as well. It will present another source of income for our economy, which is very important especially if a new clean energy source was established. We are facing many challenges including economy, job market, sustainability, infrastructure and many others," he explained.

The team did intensive studies for over a year, carried out by international consultants. "This study discusses Kuwait in the next 25 years. The team members did field visits to other trade and economic zones around the world to get the best experience. Our study was based on direct communicating with the foreign investors to encourage them to invest in Kuwait," stated Qrawi.

This project represents various sectors. "These include the health and environment tourism, and the environment and free zone as main sectors. The supportive sectors include retail, school education, banking, and healthcare. These are the basics for building cities. We also need the public institutions, entertainment and other utilities," concluded Qrawi.

Sara Akbar, Member at the General Secretariat for the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, said that oil is the mainstay of the Kuwaiti economy, and "our complete dependence on it makes our econo-



KUWAIT: A group photo of participants in a symposium hosted by KJA titled 'Draft Law for the Northern Economic Zone'. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

my unilateral." "For many years, we heard about the need to diversify sources of income," she said. "The idea of the Northern Economic Zone came to be part of efforts in diversifying the sources of income."

"This area will allow investments in different areas and islands that were not developed yet. This project will create a trade zone for creative investors and will provide new job opportunities for young Kuwaitis for a better life. The main idea of this venture is to create more projects, and to be completely managed by Kuwaiti institution," she added.

Constitutional expert Mohammed Al-Faili explained the legislation process of the Northern Zone. "The draft

law for this project can be submitted by either the government or the parliament, and in the end, it should be approved by the parliament. The main idea of this law is to establish a zone for certain commercial activities known as a free trade zone, which is popular all over the world," he noted.

"This zone should be managed by an institution formed especially for this purpose according to the constitution with specified duties. This institution has a legal personality to deal with the government and other organizations, thus it cannot sign agreements with other countries as it does not have the status of a country," Faili pointed out.

KIB sponsors Kuwait Fintech Conference

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its platinum sponsorship of the 3rd Kuwait Fintech Conference and Exhibition. Organized by 12events, the event will be held from the 22nd to the 24th of October 2019 at the Four Seasons Kuwait and aims at discussing various opportunities offered by innovative technologies as well as global solutions.

The event will be attended by an exclusive group of leading companies, a number of organizations, businesspeople and academics from across the globe. Attendees will discuss various important topics, including: payment mechanisms, block chain systems, artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, banking applications and many more.

Senior Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "At KIB, we believe in the importance of financial technology, as well as its impact and prevalence in the banking sector. We believe that a balanced approach which combines traditional banking and innovative digital services is essential. We are committed to providing our customers with an innovative banking experience of



Nawaf Najia

the highest standards of quality, excellence, security, confidentiality as well as ease of use."

Najia also pointed out that, over recent years, KIB's digital banking services have been widely welcomed by customers, as they are easier to use and facilitate a number of banking transactions at any place and time. It is worth noting that KIB has developed and introduced new services as a result of engaging directly with its customers. By listening to feedback, as well as customers' needs and wants, the bank has developed solutions that make their lives easier and more comfortable. This is a testament to KIB truly embodying its slogan, 'Bank for Life,' which offers customers an exceptional lifestyle.



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EU-Kuwait trade exchanges up

BRUSSELS: Trade exchanges between the European Union (EU) and Kuwait showed an increase in July 2019, latest figures released by the EU's statistical office, Eurostat, showed yesterday. According to Eurostat, EU trade exchanges in July 2019 reached EUR 830.85 million (\$927.43 million) compared to EUR 776.83 million (\$867 million) in July 2018. Euro area trade exchanges with Kuwait in July 2019 totaled EUR 698.29 million (\$779.45 million) as compared to EUR 610.05 million (\$681.29 million) in July 2018. EU imports from Kuwait in July 2019 were

valued at EUR 343.68 million (\$383.67 million) compared to EUR 287.49 million (\$320.94 million) in July 2018, while its exports to Kuwait reached EUR 487.17 million (\$543.84 million) compared to EUR 489.34 million (\$546.26 million) in July 2018. As for EU imports from Kuwait in July 2019, it valued at EUR 292.94 million (\$327.05 million) compared to EUR 220.91 million (\$246.63 million) in July 2018. EU exports to Kuwait reached EUR 405.35 million (\$452.57 million), compared to EUR 389.14 million (\$434.47 million) in July 2018. — KUNA

Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan up 1st time in 4 months

TOKYO: Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan rose 9.2 percent from a year earlier to JPY 50.9 billion (\$469 million) in September, expanding for the first time in four months thanks to improving exports, the Finance Ministry said yesterday. Kuwait recorded black ink with Japan for 11 years and eight months, the ministry said in a preliminary report. Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan grew 0.9 percent to JPY 65.0 billion (\$598 million) for the first increase in four months. Imports from Japan plunged 21.0 percent year-on-year to JPY 14.0 billion (\$129 million), down for the seventh month in a row. Middle East's trade surplus with Japan shrank 21.2 percent to JPY 469.6 billion (\$4.3 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region declining 13.6 percent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which

accounted for 95.9 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, fell 13.5 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan increased 8.5 percent, buoyed by strong demand for automobiles, steel, machinery and electric equipment. The world's third-biggest economy posted a global trade deficit of JPY 123.0 billion (\$1.1 billion) in September for the third straight month of red ink on sluggish shipments to China and South Korea. Exports slid 5.2 percent from the year before chiefly due to weak demand for auto parts to China and semiconductor manufacturing equipment to South Korea. Imports decreased 1.5 percent on lower energy bills, including crude oil from Saudi Arabia. China remained Japan's biggest trade partner, followed by the US. The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal factors. — KUNA

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Fishing boats near Souq Sharq as Kuwait City skyscrapers are seen in the background. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shalkh

Kuwait, Estonia sign deal to boost cooperation on cyber security

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TALLINN: Kuwait and Estonia inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bolstering cooperation on cyber security and digital transformation within the framework of the exerted efforts aiming to materialize Kuwait's vision in this matter. The MoU was signed on Sunday by Chairman and CEO of Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Salem Al-Othaina and Estonia's Government Chief Information Officer Siim Sikkut in the Estonian capital, Tallinn. Othaina expressed delight for inking this MoU, which comes in culmination of the efforts and negotiations conducted between the concerned bodies of the two countries. He stressed the importance of the memo in materializing Kuwait's vision on digital transformation to turn the country into a financial hub by 2035. It will also contribute to developing cooperation in digital governance, cyber security, digital transformation and other relevant domains, he noted. In addition, the memo will help share information on cyber security, learning, joint training, combating cybercrimes, building capabilities and others, he stated. Meanwhile, Sikkut said the memo would contribute to sharing expertise and developing human resources, which run innovative government services. — KUNA



TALLINN: Chairman and CEO of Kuwait's Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority Salem Al-Othaina (left) and Estonia's Government Chief Information Officer Siim Sikkut sign the agreement. — KUNA



VIVA extends internship program in line with CSR agenda

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, continues to roll out its internship program to different groups of students coming from various universities, introducing them to the company's work culture and main roles of the key divisions and departments. The training agenda was designed according to several specialized programs prepared in collaboration with local universities to ensure that it comple-

ments their specific majors. This program falls in line with VIVA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) plan, which embeds innovative and engaging initiatives that benefit the community, using a long-term holistic integrated approach. The interns were given hands-on training at the office, allowing them to compare, contrast and apply what they have studied on real life projects and activities. Interns were also introduced to the workplace environment by working side by side with company employees, preparing and supporting them to be ready for the job market.

VIVA is keen to continue its ongoing socially responsible role in the community in the fields of education, health, sports, environment and entrepreneurship, by spreading the spirit of goodwill amongst the Kuwaiti society. We believe at VIVA in taking a holistic approach to our CSR activities, one that engages our employees in benefiting our society and helping to grow and develop the State of Kuwait.

Local

ACK Professor urges Kuwait to keep up with 'fast changing' E-Learning age

ACK hosts 'E-Learning' symposium as part of SPHERE 2019

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: "Whether we like it or not, the age of global 'E-Learning' is fast changing and it is up to us whether to embrace it or watch other countries reap its benefits and step up relentlessly," said Professor Isam Zabalawi, President of the Australian College in Kuwait as he inaugurated the Symposia for Private Higher Education-Road to Excellence (SPHERE 2019), held at the ACK's auditorium yesterday. The event was a joint initiative by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and ACK where regular forums are held to stimulate discussions and increase awareness regarding challenges facing the private higher education sector, and consider shared research and actions. The first SPHERE event was held in 2015 with the theme 'Opportunities and Challenges'. This was followed by a second gathering in 2017 with the theme 'Research and Development', while SPHERE 2019 was held under the forum's theme 'E-Learning'.

Professor Zabalawi said E-Learning now entails interactive whiteboards, communication technologies and networking, e-libraries, e-labs, aspects of distance education and various other tools. "Who would ever know that classes can be held even if the students are not physically present at school? Who would ever think that people with disabilities can now learn



KUWAIT: A general view of people in attendance. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

the very same way other students are learning while staying at home? We are in the age of classrooms without borders, and during the extreme weather disturbances, students can stay at home yet learn as if they are in the same classroom," he said.

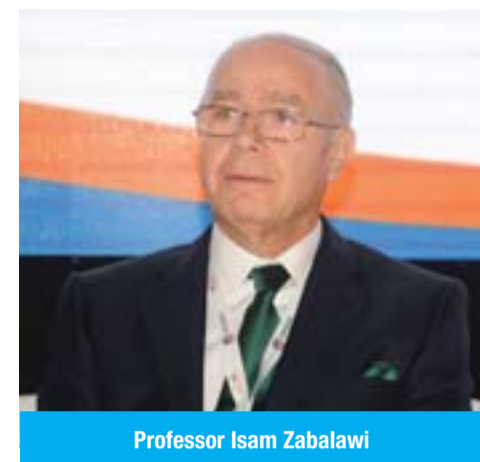
"Continuous and exponential advances in IT pose both opportunities and threats to individual educational institutions," Professor Zabalawi noted. "For instance, recognizing that the thumb generation are

experts with smart phones, how can a faculty use rather than restrict access to this technology in the classroom? How can tertiary administrators better help faculty members bridge the digital skills gap? What are the most effective digital mediums to inform prospective students of course offerings and communicate with current students and alumni? Is it time for pooling of efforts among institutions in the development of electronic learning materials? These are some of the growing chal-

lenges facing educational administrators and individual teachers."

In his presentation, Professor Zabalawi talked about rapid changes in technology, communication and lifestyles impacting not only the new generation, but also the old generation. "We cannot just watch all these things taking place, we need to understand and learn their language so we could cope up with the rapid changes taking place," he said. He suggested to the government and legislature to enact a law that can help everyone progress in various areas and not hamper their advancements. "Presently, there is limited official recognition of online qualifications in Kuwait. What are the experiences of other national governments in controlling the quality and validity of online learning and how can these be applied for possible adoption locally? We need to review the current education systems to determine how to best utilize ICT in the teaching and assessment processes," he added. "We believe that E-Learning is a global phenomenon, and accordingly, the experiences and emerging thinking of educators and researchers elsewhere is important for local interpretation. What has worked well and what has not been so successful?" he asked.

Kuwait and other countries in the MENA region are not cocooned from the international and instant free flow of online information through the internet. At the



Professor Isam Zabalawi

same time, globally recognized universities are increasingly offering online programs to prospective students from anywhere. "Traditional learners are very dependent on instructors and paper books, but now, learners are no longer waiting for the instructors to tell them the facts and truth; they learn way ahead of time; and the fact is, they are coming from all directions from the web, etc. So the possible tool we are using now may no longer be applicable to this age," he added.

Attending with Professor Zabalawi were Prof Habib Taher Abul, Sec Gen of Private Universities Council, KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Shihab Eldin and Prof Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, Head of Symposium and Board of Trustees, ACK.

Society decries Kuwait's 'low educational standards'

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Society for Education Quality (KSEQ) stressed that educational standards in Kuwait have been deteriorating due to several factors including failure to set effective policies and regulations, which caused the deterioration of Kuwait University (KU) and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) outputs. "According to World Bank reports, Kuwait's public education has been suffering from the

lack of good technical, human and organizational staff at the education ministry with the result that the ministry has failed in fighting fake degrees that have been destroying Kuwait," said a press release issued by KSEQ. KSEQ added that KU lacks the tools needed for academic accreditation after the national agency for academic accreditation and quality education had been "neutralized through interfering in its liabilities by governmental universities councils."

Palestinian teachers

In other news, the first batch of Palestinian teachers arrived to Kuwait recently via Jordan. The first batch includes 49 teachers out of a total of 322 teachers that the education ministry recently contracted, teaching subjects that include English and French languages, mathematics, science, PE, chemistry and physics. In this regard, informed sources said that the rest of the teachers would gradually arrive and that arrangements had been made to receive them at the airport and the ministry's temporary guest house, where they are given a temporary advance payment of KD 200 per teacher

and all needed formalities are made.

Heritage village

In collaboration with Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is scheduled to offer the heritage village project for bidding amongst the National Fund for SME Development entrepreneurs, said informed sources, noting that Municipal Council members have no objections against allocating the project to the fund in order to create more job opportunities for the Kuwaiti youth. Further, the sources said that special measures are needed to make sure entrepreneurs would not sublease their projects to expatriates or any other parties, which is a violation of the contract they would sign.

Alleged abuse

Kuwait's Ambassador in France Sami Al-Sulaiman strongly denied that a Tunisian woman who had allegedly abused Kuwait verbally in a video circulating on social media works for the embassy or any of its offices.

Court sets date for Twitter block hearing

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A local court yesterday set a hearing to be held on November 5th to discuss a first-of-its-kind case to ever be filed in Kuwait, demanding that Twitter be blocked in the country, well-informed sources said. Lawyer Anwar Al-Jabali had filed the case on grounds that Twitter had 'turned into an out-of-control destruction tool,' and that the government is incapable of stopping fake accounts that have been slandering many people.

Meanwhile, Public Prosecutor Dherar Al-Assousi yesterday referred a ruling family member to the criminal court demanding his punishment for verbally abusing and threatening traffic police officer Saleh Al-Rashed through a voice recording.

In other news, Head of Jahra committee at the Municipal Council Ahmad Hedayan urged the deputy director responsible for cleaning companies contracted by Kuwait Municipality to follow up the work of departments under his supervision. Hedayan added that garbage has been accumulating in Jahra streets for some time, garbage containers are so old and that cleaning companies have not been doing their work.

Kuwaiti Minister stresses legal aspect of sustainable investment

MARRAKECH, Morocco: An effective legal system is needed to lure investment and provide an attractive business environment, two features of all developed economies, said Kuwait's Justice Minister Dr Fahad Al-Afasi. The Kuwaiti minister's remarks came amid an international conference over the role of justice towards securing investment, in addition to the legislative reforms required to keep the economy afloat. The aforementioned reforms are a crucial part of Kuwait's 2035 development strategy, which aims to transform the Gulf state into a financial and commercial hub, said the minister. Kuwait has made tremendous headway in implementing these reforms, helping eliminate any obstacles facing foreign investors, he explained, citing newly introduced consumer protection and competition laws as cases in point. On these legislative reforms, Morocco's King Mohammed VI



MARRAKECH, Morocco: Kuwait's Justice Minister Dr Fahad Al-Afasi speaks at the conference. — KUNA

said it leads to greater trust in the justice system, which in turn, ensures the protection of foreign and local investors alike. Addressing the participants in the talks, which focus

on the correlation between legal reforms and investment, the Moroccan monarch suggested setting up ad hoc bodies to set these reforms in motion. — KUNA

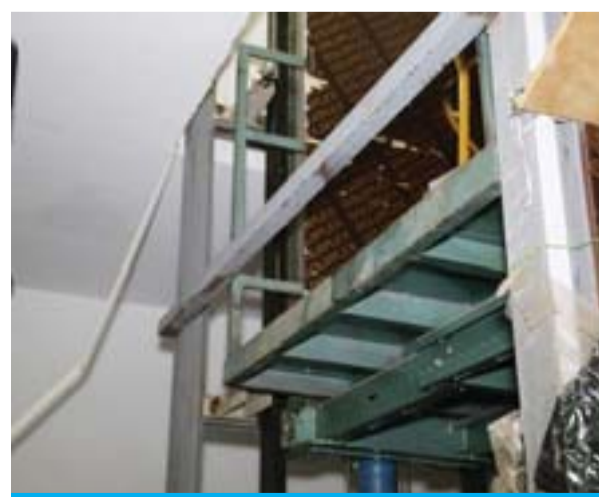
Worker dead after being trapped in cargo elevator

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A worker died from fatal wounds he sustained when he became trapped between a cargo elevator and a steel support in Fahaheel. Firefighters rushed to the scene after receiving an emergency call, but the Asian man had succumbed to his injuries by the time they arrived. Criminal Evidence Department men were called to investigate the scene and transport the victim's body to the coroner. Investigations are ongoing to reveal the circumstances behind the incident.

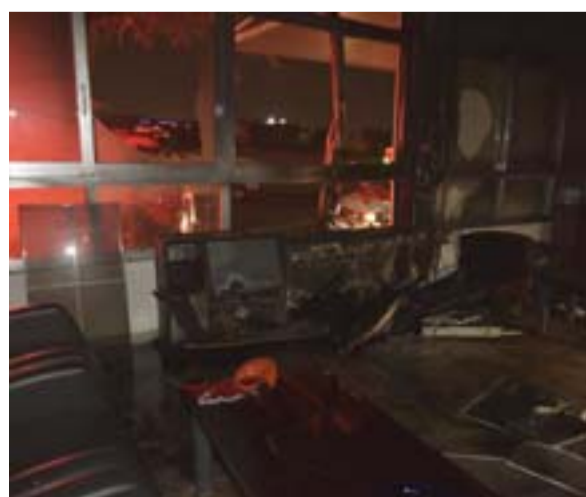
Kidnap attempt

A Kuwaiti woman accused her bus driver of attempting to kidnap her instead of dropping her home from college. In her statements to police, the woman said that she was left alone in the bus after the Bangladeshi driver had dropped all other students to their homes, and



KUWAIT: A picture showing a small space between the elevator and steel support where the victim became trapped.

instead of driving to her home as usual, he went to another area where she became suspicious. At that time her mother called the driver to ask about her daughter who was late, then the girl screamed for help, prompting the driver to change route and drop the girl to her home before driving away. Detectives are investigating.



Heavy damaged left by a blaze in a local factory's office.

Factory fire

Firemen from the Sabhan and Mubarak Al-Kabeer fire stations but put a blaze that broke out in a local factory's office yesterday. No injuries were reported in the incident. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.



KUWAIT: Hawally fire station carried out an exercise at Dar Al-Shifa hospital, which mimicked the scenario of a fire in the seventh floor with critical, medium and minor injuries reported. Patients, medical staff and administrators on the seventh floor were evacuated, while an injured person on the first floor was rescued. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



No Syria-type pullout planned for Afghanistan

Confused Assange in UK court ahead of extradition hearing

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BEIRUT: A protester rests on the ground as Lebanese demonstrators clean up rubbish in front of the governmental palace in the capital Beirut's downtown district following a night of protests against tax increases and official corruption. — AFP

Lebanese don gloves and clean up

'From three or five people, we ended up being 50. From 50, we became 500'

BEIRUT: Medical student Lynn Abi Khalil, 17, says she could not take part in Lebanon's massive spontaneous protests against the government so instead she picked up gloves and a trash bag. "I haven't been participating in the demonstrations because my family doesn't want me to," she says, as she collects rubbish in the centre of the capital. "So I'm taking part in a different way," she says, wearing a white medical mask.

On Sunday night, hundreds of thousands gathered across the country chanting against what they view as a corrupt and arrogant ruling class unable to lift the country out of its daily economic woes. In the capital's main square, on Monday morning, the ground is strewn with plastic water bottles, smoldering trash, and the odd red-and-white Lebanese flag.

"Leave now," reads a trampled flyer bearing a picture of Prime Minister Saad Hariri. Abi Khalil is one of hundreds of men, women and children who have flocked to the edge of the capital's Martyrs' Square in the early hours to do their part. On the pavement at the foot of a large mosque, volunteers crouch behind an orderly line of supplies, handing them out to those who

have turned up. In a country infamous for major trash spillovers and sub-standard recycling, there are blue bags for plastic, green for glass and metal, and black for general waste.

'Lot of pain'

Wearing a dark grey T-shirt and backpack, Peter Mouracade has been coming to Martyrs' Square since Saturday morning. "I went to my kitchen, looked at it inside the cupboard — plastic bags, gloves — and I just went down to the streets," says the 39-year-old. But the volunteer movement has since ballooned as the streets fill day after day with Lebanese from all religious sects and walks of life venting their discontent — and then also cleaning up.

"From three or five people, we ended up being 50. From 50, we became 500. Today we have thousands of people who are coming," he says. Mouracade, who is the CEO of the Beirut Marathon, says he and other volunteers mostly find a lot of plastic bottles. When he first started out on Saturday, it followed a night of several people overturning trash dumpsters and setting them

alight, or even breaking shop windows.

"There are a lot of people who are feeling a lot of anger and a lot of pain, that's why there's so much destruction," he adds. "We need to respect the voice of the people, and our duty is to clean" afterwards.

Lebanon's economy has been on the brink of collapse for some time and the latest protests grew after proposed tax hikes on phone calls on free applications — a proposal since scrapped. But the demonstrations have morphed into a huge popular outcry against what is viewed as a broken system. The last such huge movement against the political class was in 2015 under the slogan "You Stink", after the capital's main trash dump brimmed full and refuse flooded the streets.

'Throw them out'

On the square, female volunteers scoop up piles of used half lemons — some with rind curling off them — and burnt trash. Suheil Hamdan, 49, films them with his mobile phone, seemingly making a video to share on social media. "This is where corrupt lawmakers and ministers in our country belong — in the bin bags," he

says, a cap on his head to keep off the sun. "I won't leave the street until all our corrupt lawmakers and ministers are in prison," he says.

Near an iconic cinema abandoned since the 1975-1990 civil war, even a few foreigners have turned up. A group of Asian workers who usually clean the capital's streets smile as they lean on their brooms, dressed in faded grey overalls, but refuse to speak to AFP. White earphones stuffed in his ears, their supervisor is standing nearby. A Swiss woman watches as her six-year-old son drops scraps into a large trash bag, his hands protected by oversized pink washing-up gloves. But first and foremost, cleaning up is about being Lebanese. Sami Deeb, a 34-year-old, has taken the day off from running his struggling food distribution business.

"We have been on the ground for four days fighting for our rights," he says, dressed in an immaculately pressed pink shirt. For days, he has been taking part in the protests, which late Sunday evolved into euphoric celebrations complete with humorous songs, DJs, and traditional dabke dancing. "We clean in the morning, and we party at night," he says. — AFP

Mass protest against Bangladesh police after shootings

DHAKA: Thousands protested against police across Bangladesh yesterday, a day after at least four people died when officers fired on a crowd in one of the country's deadliest religious riots to date. Some 20,000 Muslims called for the execution of a young Hindu man on Bhola island Sunday for writing Facebook messages that allegedly defamed the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), with police saying they opened fire after rocks were thrown at officers.

Four people died and nearly 50 were injured, with at least seven in a critical condition in hospital. Mob attacks over online posts perceived to be blasphemous have emerged as a major headache for security forces in Bangladesh, where Muslims make up some 90 percent of the country's 168 million people. The deaths sparked a new round of protests late Sunday and yesterday as thousands of Muslims across several cities shouted slogans and called for the officers involved to be put on trial.

"This is not acceptable. Police have illegally and unconstitutionally opened fire on the protesters," 22-year-old madrasa student Mahmudul Hasan told AFP at a rally in the capital Dhaka. "It is an extrajudicial killing. We seek justice." The Hindu man whose Facebook account hosted the original messages and is from Bhola, was charged with inciting religious tension. But Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



DHAKA: Muslim demonstrators shout slogans as they take part in a protest yesterday, a day after deadly clashes when police shot at Bangladeshi Muslims protesting Facebook messages that allegedly defamed the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). — AFP

called for calm Sunday and said the man's Facebook account was hacked by a Muslim person and used to "spread lies".

Thousands of protesters who took part in the Bhola protest were being investigated, local police chief Enamul Haque told AFP, adding a police officer was also "fighting for his life" after he was shot by demonstrators. No arrests have yet been made, he added. This is not the first time alleged Facebook posts have sparked large-scale religious violence in the impoverished South Asian country. In 2016, angry Muslims attacked Hindu temples in an eastern town over a Facebook post that allegedly mocked one of Islam's holiest sites. And in 2012,

Muslim mobs torched Buddhist monasteries, houses and shops in the coastal Cox's Bazar district after a photo of the Quran that was considered defamatory was put online by a young Buddhist. In other news, a Bangladeshi lawmaker has been expelled from university after allegedly hiring as many as eight look-alikes to take exams in her place, officials said Monday. Tamanna Nusrat, from the ruling Awami League party, is accused of paying the look-alikes to pretend to be her in at least 13 tests. The scandal emerged after private broadcaster Nagorik TV entered a test hall and confronted one of the women posing as Nusrat, in a video that went viral. — AFP

UN agency on Palestinian refugees on tenterhooks

BRUSSELS: The UN agency for Palestinian refugees is waiting anxiously on the outcome this month of a probe into alleged mismanagement that has dented its already severely depleted funding, one of its top officials said yesterday. The UN Relief and Works Agency hopes the results of the investigation will enable it to get past the scandal that has worsened a cash crunch threatening the school and health services it provides to five million Palestinians.

UNRWA's director for West Bank operations Gwyn Lewis told AFP in Brussels: "We're waiting with bated breath because it obviously has financial implications." She said the conclusions of the probe are expected to be delivered "around the end of October" to UN chief Antonio Guterres, who would then issue public and internal "follow-up steps". The timing is crucial as the agency's three-year mandate is up for renewal this month, and money is tight.

UNRWA has been skating on very thin financial ice since last year, after US President Donald Trump decided to suspend, then yank entirely his country's contribution to the agency's budget, robbing it of its top donor. Those woes were com-

pounded by the allegations of abuse by the agency's management, leading other key donors — the Netherlands and Switzerland — to snap shut their purses. That has left the agency struggling to provide the schooling, medical and sanitary programs it runs for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza. According to a copy of an internal UN report obtained by AFP in July, senior management at UNRWA engaged in "sexual misconduct, nepotism, retaliation, discrimination and other abuses of authority, for personal gain".

Lewis did not confirm those allegations, noting only "rumors" and leaks to the media. "None of us have actually seen it," she said of the report, adding: "Our sense is that it's not about financial misappropriation or corruption, it's linked to management and human resources issues." She did note that the agency's deputy chief, Sandra Mitchell, had been replaced in August by an acting deputy commissioner-general tasked with strengthening human resources and financial oversight.

Lewis said she was in Brussels for two days of meetings with European Commission officials to shore up UNRWA's mandate renewal and, importantly, to maintain funding. Despite program cutbacks, the agency faces an \$89 million (80-million-euro) shortfall for the rest of this year, she said, and "financial uncertainty" beyond that. UNRWA's budget for this year is \$1.2 billion, with around 90 percent of that being linked to paying for the 30,000 staff it employs, most of them teachers, doctors and nurses. — AFP

International

Canadians vote in tight election as Trudeau hopes to cling to power

A tense and sometimes bitter election campaign with polls showing equilibrium

OTTAWA: Canadians began voting in a general election yesterday, with surveys predicting a minority government as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party risks losing its majority or even being kicked out of office. The Liberals and the Conservatives, led by Andrew Scheer, could be set for a near dead heat with pundits calling it one Canada's closest elections ever.

Polls opened at 1100 GMT in the provinces of Labrador and Newfoundland, in eastern Canada, the first of the country's six time zones. Polls will remain open in far western British Columbia until 0200 GMT today, although the first results are expected starting at 2300 GMT. Some 27.4 million Canadians are eligible to elect 338 members of parliament after a tense and sometimes bitter election campaign. Campaigning ended as it began some 40 days earlier, with polls showing a near perfect equilibrium. Neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives — the parties that have led Canada since Confederation in 1867 — is forecast to win enough support to secure an absolute majority of seats in parliament.

Faded golden boy

At final campaign stops in westernmost British Columbia on Sunday, former golden boy Trudeau made an emotional appeal to voters to enable him to build on the achievements of his first term.

He warned against Scheer's pledged rollback of environmental protections including a federal carbon tax that discourages the use of large amounts of fossil fuels.

"We need a strong, progressive government that will unite Canadians and fight climate change — not a progressive opposition," Trudeau told a rally in a suburb of Vancouver after whistle-stops in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. "We need to unite as citizens. We need to unite as a planet." After winning in a 2015 landslide — in a repeat of the wave of support that in 1968 carried his late father Pierre to power — Trudeau's star has dimmed while in office.

His image has been tainted by ethics lapses in the han-

dling of the bribery prosecution of an engineering giant, while his campaign was rocked by the emergence of old photographs of him in blackface make-up. Surging social democrats and resuscitated Quebec separatists have also chipped away at Liberal support.

Main parties both struggle

If Trudeau hangs on, it will be because Scheer has struggled to win over Canadians with his bland minivan-driving dad persona and a throwback to the thrifty policies of past Tory administrations. Canadians "cannot afford" a Liberal government propped up by the third-place New Democratic Party (NDP), Scheer said at the end of a marathon last push from the Atlantic to Pacific oceans. "We can only imagine what the NDP's price would be to keep Justin Trudeau in power," he said. "Whatever it is, we know Trudeau would pay any price to stay in power and he'd use your money to do it."

Campaign attack ads have included false accusations that Liberals would legalize hard drugs and the Tories would allow the proliferation of assault weapons. At one rally, Trudeau was forced to wear a bulletproof vest. Along the bruising way, Trudeau and Scheer traded barbs. Trudeau evoked the bogeymen of past and current Tory parties fostering "politics of fear and division" and Scheer called the prime minister a "compulsive liar," "a phoney and a fraud."

Trudeau defends record

Trudeau defended his record: a strong economy and low unemployment, legal cannabis, the resettlement of 60,000 Syrian refugees, doctor-assisted deaths, a public inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women, and free trade deals with Europe, Pacific nations and North American neighbors. Former US president Barack Obama endorsed Trudeau, calling him an "effective leader who takes on big issues like climate change."

"The world needs his progressive leadership now,"



RICHMOND: Andrew Scheer, Leader of The Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, speaks to party faithful at a rally. —AFP

Obama said in a tweet. The Conservatives, meanwhile, have stood alone among all of the parties in pledging austerity measures to return to a balanced budget within five years. Scheer was shaken late in the campaign over revelations of his US dual citizenship and allegations that his party hired a communications firm to "destroy" the upstart People's Party, led by former Conservative foreign minister Maxime Bernier.

The party has situated itself to the right of the

Conservatives and could draw votes away. On the left, the Bloc has come back from a ruinous 2015 election result, tapping into lingering Quebec nationalism to challenge the Liberals' dominance in the province. The Bloc and NDP have said they would not prop up the Tories if they secure a minority. Who will govern may still be unclear for weeks after the polls close during alliance negotiations that could keep Trudeau in office even if his party loses. —AFP

Thousands of Catholics in Brazil celebrate first female saint

SALVADOR: Tens of thousands of Catholic faithful flocked to a football stadium in Brazil Sunday to celebrate the Vatican's canonization into sainthood of Sister Dulce Lopes Pontes, dubbed the "mother of the poor." Sister Dulce, as she is affectionately known in the world's biggest mostly Catholic country, was one of five people elevated by the pope to the highest position within the church on October 13.

But for many devotees in hot and humid Salvador, where Sister Dulce was born in Brazil's northeast in 1914, the nun was a saint long before the Vatican recognized her two "miracles." "Now, everyone sees her as a saint. But for all the work that she did, for us, she was always a saint," Creusa Costa, 59, told AFP, as she decorated a statue of Sister Dulce with flowers at the entrance of her sanctuary in a poor neighborhood of the capital of Bahia state.

Most new saints must have two "miracles" to their names — usually scientifically inexplicable healings, attributed to

prayers. Sister Dulce, who died in 1992, is the first Brazilian-born female saint. She is credited with stopping a woman from hemorrhaging after giving birth and returning the vision of a man who had been blind for years. In the week since the Vatican ceremony, the number of people paying homage to Sister Dulce at her shrine in the coastal city has surged.

Believers from across the country take pictures of the white and blue habit worn by the nun when she was buried or talk to her in the room where her remains are kept beneath a ceramic replica of her body. "She is in heaven, but she's looking after us even more than when she was here," said Maria Silva de Oliveira, who along with Creusa, was involved in decorating the Fonte Nova football stadium — one of the venues for the 2014 World Cup — for a special ceremony organized by the Salvador Archdiocese. De Oliveira had planned to attend the Vatican sainthood event, but changed her mind after suffering indigestion — which she says "was a message from Sister Dulce."

'Good angel'

Born into an upper middle-class family in Salvador, Sister Dulce started a health clinic for poor workers and opened a school, a hospital, and an orphanage, as well as care centers for the elderly and disabled. The nun,



SALVADOR: Brazilian Milena Vasconcelos (R) and her son Joao, Saint Dulce's first miracle case recognized by the Catholic Church, attend her canonization ceremony at the Fonte Nova Arena Stadium. —AFP

dubbed the "good angel of Bahia", was a member of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988.

The year before her death she was visited in hospital by Pope John Paul II, who called her work "an example for humanity." Since her rise to sainthood, Sister Dulce's face has been plastered all over Salvador, a popular tourist destina-

tion. It appears on signs, T-shirts, hats, rosaries, cups and even the wrapping of sweet Christmas bread. Multicolored ribbons that usually pay homage to Senhor do Bonfim, or Lord of the Good End — a representation of Christ revered by Catholics as well as practitioners of the African-rooted Candomble religion — now also carry the name of "Saint Dulce of the Poor." —AFP

Morales narrowly wins 1st round in Bolivia election

LA PAZ: Evo Morales, seeking a controversial fourth term, led Bolivia's presidential election race Sunday but faces a historic second round run-off against opposition rival Carlos Mesa, partial results showed. Morales had 45 percent of the vote to Mesa's 38 percent, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal announced, with most of the votes counted.

Elected Bolivia's first indigenous president in 2005, Morales has won his previous elections in the first round, never having to contest a run-off. The former coca farmer and leftist union leader has led the poor but resource-rich Latin American country for the past 13 years, though his popularity has waned amid allegations of corruption and authoritarianism. He will face a stiff challenge from Mesa, a 66-year-old former president who led Bolivia from 2001-2005.

Mesa celebrated "an unquestionable triumph" in getting to the second round,

amid cheers from his supporters at his La Paz headquarters. Morales welcomed his first-round win, telling cheering crowds "we have won again, really, it is something historical, unforgettable." South Korean-born evangelical pastor, Chi Hyun Chung, was the surprise package of the election, polling strongly to finish in third place with 8.7 percent. His support is likely to be influential during campaigning for the second round on December 15.

Controversial fourth term

Morales obtained Constitutional Court permission in 2017 to run again for president even though the constitution allows only two consecutive terms. A new mandate would keep him in power until 2025. "Any party, no matter how good it is, if it stays in place for too long, it is corrupt, that's what we're going through," said 22-year-old student Tania Villaroel Lopez as she joined a line of voters near the presidential palace in La Paz.

Roberto Fernandez, 32, came with his wife Denise and their two-year-old daughter to vote at the same place. They said they feared the result of the elections would be manipulated. "We hope the end result will be respected,"



LA PAZ: Bolivian President and presidential candidate for the Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS) Evo Morales speaks next to his Vice-President Alvaro Garcia Llerena during a press conference after knowing the partial results of the general elections at Quemado presidential palace. —AFP

Fernandez said. Milton Quispe, a student, said he would vote for "Evo, because he has taken care of the poor. He has known how to give us dignity." Bolivia's seven million eligible voters also cast ballots to choose members of the 166-seat con-

gress — 36 senators and 130 deputies. After voting in his coca-growing district of Chapare, Morales, a member of the Aymara indigenous community, said he was optimistic about his chances and confident in Bolivia's democracy. —AFP

US hopes China will ease restrictions on diplomats

BEIJING: The United States hopes Beijing will ease restrictions on meetings between US diplomats and local officials after Washington imposed reciprocal measures against China, the US ambassador said yesterday. Washington angered Beijing last week after it announced that Chinese diplomats will now have to

notify the State Department before meeting with American officials.

In China, US diplomats have to get permission from several levels of the Chinese government to meet local officials or academics, only to see such requests often denied. "Even if we get permission sometimes it can get cancelled at the last minute. That's been a frustration over a long period of time," US ambassador Terry Branstad said at a press briefing with a group of foreign journalists. "We hope that the outcome (of the reciprocal measures) will be to get better access for

US diplomats here in China," he said.

The US counter-measure comes as diplomatic tensions between China and the United States have risen over a host of issues, including a protracted trade war. The US measure is a "very modest" step, Branstad said, noting that Washington is only asking Chinese diplomats to notify the US government about their meetings while their US counterparts in China must secure official permission. Branstad was himself denied access to Tibet twice before finally getting permission to go in May. —AFP

Trial set to open in massive US opioid lawsuit

CLEVELAND: Leading US pharmaceutical companies go on trial charged with stoking the opioid epidemic that has ravaged communities and left hundreds of thousands dead or overdosed across the country. Tens of billions of dollars is at stake after last-minute efforts failed to agree a settlement between the companies and the states, counties, towns and native American tribes who have brought massive civil lawsuit.

The trial could be the most costly since litigation against tobacco companies in the 1990s, which showed cigarette companies cynically hiding and exploiting the dangers of tobacco for profits. The plaintiffs in the first federal lawsuit in the opioid addiction crisis say manufacturers and distributors knew the dangers of the highly addictive painkillers they pumped into communities in the past 15 years, ignoring warning signs as they reaped billions in profits.

The trial in Cleveland, Ohio, pits 2,300 plaintiffs against giants of the pharmaceutical world including drug distributors Cardinal Health, Amerisource Bergen, and McKesson Corp; Israel's generic drug manufacturer Teva; and pharmacy chain Walgreen Boots Alliance. Johnson & Johnson broke away with its own settlement, a \$20.4 million deal with two of the worst-hit Ohio counties. That came after Johnson & Johnson was ordered in August to pay \$572 million to compensate Oklahoma state for the costs of dealing with the addiction crisis.

Health systems overwhelmed

In Ohio, Federal District Judge Dan Polster pressured all sides for months to come to a deal to avoid a grinding, lengthy trial. But the parties could not come to an agreement on a proposed settlement valued at \$48 billion, including \$18 billion in cash, after meetings on Friday. Four states involved in the litigation were in support. But other states and many smaller litigants were dissatisfied with the amount, the size of the cash component, lawyers' fees and the way the money would be distributed.

The compensation will pay for long-term damage caused by the crisis — overwhelmed health and social systems, families unable to care for themselves, and babies born addicted to the drugs. "Every expert who has looked at this issue believes our country will be dealing with the fallout from this class of drugs for many years," Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said in a statement last week. "Any recovery must be directed toward solving the problem, and not diverted to other uses."

The proposed settlement amount would be only a fraction of the overall cost. A study released this week estimated that the opioid epidemic cost the US economy at least \$631 billion from 2015 to 2018. The Society of Actuaries report projects that for this year alone the cost could be \$172-214 billion. Nearly one-third of the 2015-2018 costs was in health care spending for addicts and infants born to addicts.

Some 40 percent was for the costs of early deaths, and the rest was for child and family care programs, criminal justice and lost productivity. Communities say they are already under heavy financial pressure, and don't want to spend years fighting in court — giving the drugmakers and distributors some leverage. —AFP

International

Confused Assange in UK court ahead of extradition hearing

He seemed to have difficulties recalling his birth date

LONDON: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange appeared in public for the first time in six months yesterday, seeming frail and confused during a British court appearance ahead of his extradition hearing. The 48-year-old Australian is fighting a United States bid to extradite him on charges filed under the US Espionage Act, and sat in the witness box as a London court decided the timetable of his full hearing, due to begin in February.

Although clean shaven and dressed smartly in a blue jacket, blue jumper and dark trousers, Assange appeared confused whenever he was asked to talk at Westminster Magistrates' Court. He seemed to have difficulties recalling his birth date, and at the end of the hearing told District Judge Vanessa Baraitser that he had not understood what had happened in court.

He then complained about the conditions in which he was being kept at the high-security Belmarsh prison in southeast London. "I can't access any of my writings, it's very difficult to do anything and these people have unlimited resources, they have an unfair advantage," he said in a barely audible voice. Assange also suggested that someone had tried to steal his children's DNA before adding: "I can't think properly".

First public appearance

It was his first public appearance since being dramatically dragged from Ecuador's embassy in April. He could be sentenced to spend up to 175 years in a US prison if

convicted on all charges. Baraitser rejected his legal team's request for more time to gather evidence, telling Assange his next case management hearing would take place on December 19, before a full extradition hearing in February. Assange's lawyer Mark Summers also claimed the US had invaded his client's legal privilege.

"The American state has been actively engaged in intruding into privileged discussions between Mr Assange and his lawyers in the embassy, also unlawful copying of their telephones and computers — hooded men breaking into offices," he said. Assange used WikiLeaks to publish classified military and diplomatic files in 2010 about US bombing campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq that proved highly embarrassing to the US government.

He has been making periodic appearances by video-link at administrative hearings as he tries to prove that he is no longer a flight risk and can be set free on bail due to poor health. He recently served his term for violating his bail terms, when he sought asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London in 2012, but is still in custody while his extradition case is ongoing. Around 50 supporters gathered outside the court, chanting "free Julian Assange", led by a man with loudspeaker. One supporter was dressed as a whistle, holding a sign saying "protect journalists, publishers, whistleblowers". The small courtroom was also packed with his backers, including journalist John Pilger and former London mayor Ken Livingstone. — AFP



LONDON: Demonstrators protest outside Westminster Magistrates Court in London yesterday, 2019, where WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been attending a case management hearing as he fights extradition to the United States. — AFP

PM Johnson prepares for fresh Brexit push

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday prepared to make a second attempt to ram his EU divorce deal through parliament and avoid the political damage of delaying Brexit next week. Another momentous week in the tortuous saga could end with Johnson engineering a divorce from Brussels that breaks many of the island nation's economic relations with Europe after 46 years of EU membership.

British lawmakers dealt a dramatic blow to Johnson's Brexit plan at the weekend by refusing to give their backing to his revised withdrawal agreement until the legislation needed to ratify it has passed. His foes are now forging new alliances and trying to attach amendments that could either force Johnson to accept closer trade ties — or abandon the deal and accept a third delay this year. The option of extending Brexit past the latest October 31 deadline is now in the hands of the 27 remaining EU member states.

Britain has been struggling to agree on how to leave the EU, three-and-a-half years since a referendum on Brexit that has left the country deeply divided. Johnson has built his entire Brexit strategy on the premise of using the pressures of time to force everyone to stop bickering and agree an exit plan by the end of the month. "This is the chance to leave the EU with a deal on October 31," Brexit minister Stephen Barclay said yesterday.

But Johnson was mandated by UK lawmakers Saturday to send a letter to Brussels asking for more time. The British leader ended up sending three letters on Saturday. The only one he actually signed said an "extension



LONDON: A handout picture released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (C) smiling in the House of Commons in London on October 19, 2019, during a debate on the Brexit deal. — AFP

would damage the interests of the UK and our EU partners" and that he was firmly against a delay. The maneuver is designed to minimize the political damage of Johnson going back on his word and seeking an extension ahead of an early general election most expect in the coming months.

The top civil court in Scotland will hear a challenge on whether Johnson's half-hearted request broke the law. But officials in Brussels said Johnson's request was valid. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said he "would not rule out a short technical extension" if one was needed to get all the UK legislation approved.

Customs union plot

Johnson's first effort to get parliamentary backing for the deal he sealed against heavy odds last Thursday in

Brussels was scuttled at a very rare Saturday sitting of British MPs. Lawmakers pushed through an amendment obliging a furious Johnson to ask for an extension until the British legislation governing the withdrawal is drafted and passed.

Analysts said the process — even when fast-tracked — would normally take several weeks. House of Commons Speaker John Bercow might tell Johnson yesterday that he cannot bring what is effectively the same legislation back for a second vote. This would switch the focus on the government's attempt Tuesday to get lawmakers to support domestic legislation in the accompanying Withdrawal Agreement Bill.

Success or failure then would set the course for the coming week and largely determine whether Johnson's will get his October 31 divorce. But the deck against Johnson seems stacked. The main opposition Labour Party is trying to create a cross-party alliance that would back Johnson's deal on the condition that it is fixed to keep Britain in a customs union with the EU. Johnson and his supporters say this would kill the point of Brexit by keeping Britain tied to Europe and unable to strike its own trade deals with powers such as China and the United States.

Labour is trying to create a quick marriage of convenience with Johnson's nominal allies in Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party. The DUP broke ranks and voted against Johnson's agreement Saturday because it created new trade regulations for goods moving between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. A customs union would avoid that. The Brexit-supporting DUP appeared open to the suggestion after rejecting another amendment backed by Labour that would put up any eventual deal for a confirmatory referendum. Hundreds of thousands of people rallied in London on Saturday demanding a second national vote on Brexit that could overturn the results of the 2016 referendum. — AFP

Powerful Russia tycoon quizzed by Spain's top criminal court

MADRID: One of Russia's most powerful tycoons, Mikhail Fridman, appeared in Spain's top criminal court for questioning yesterday over allegations he artificially depressed the value of a Spanish takeover target. Fridman, who has Russian, Ukrainian and Israeli nationality, is suspected of secretly working to engineer the collapse of Spanish digital entertainment firm Zed Worldwide in order to take it over after the company declared bankruptcy.

Spanish prosecutors accuse him of market manipulation, fraudulent insolvency, business corruption and misuse of company assets. Spain's National Court summoned Fridman to appear for questioning at a pre-trial hearing in Madrid as a person under investigation. In May, Fridman's Luxembourg-based investment company LetterOne secured majority control of struggling Spanish supermarket chain Dia via a hostile takeover following a bitter dispute with its management.

Through LetterOne, Fridman also controls interests in telecoms, banking, oil and healthcare. The tycoon, who is reportedly close to the Kremlin, was listed by Forbes this year as London's richest resident, is also one of the founders of Alfa Bank, Russia's largest privately-held lender.

'Derisory price'

Spanish prosecutors accuse Fridman of being behind "a series of actions which brought about the insolvency of Spanish firm Zed Worldwide... in order to acquire it at a derisory price, far lower than its market value". In a submission to court, they described the alleged attack on Zed Worldwide as a "raid" using techniques "typically used by the Russian mafia" in order to illegally take over a firm.

Lead prosecutor Jose Grinda told AFP the technique involved using legal and financial means to economically "strangle the company until it goes bankrupt". Founded in 1998 in Madrid, Zed Worldwide developed and sold value-added services for mobile telephone operators. It made a fortune with premium SMS services and Commandos, a real-time military tactics video game. Fridman became one of the company's main shareholders and well as one of its main creditors.

Then in 2014, telecoms firm Vimpelcom, which is also controlled by Fridman, abruptly cancelled or changed its contracts with one of Zed Worldwide's Russian subsidiaries, depriving it of significant revenues, prosecutors say. Those contracts had boosted Zed's revenues to such an extent that it planned to list on Nasdaq, securing a 140-million-euro (\$157-million) loan in 2013, some of which came from a bank controlled by Fridman, prosecutors say. They claim Fridman and Vimpelcom, which is now known as Veon, "knew it would be impossible (for Zed) to honor this loan if there was a significant reduction in revenue from the Russian market".

'Aware of everything'

As a result, Zed Worldwide filed for bankruptcy protection in June 2016, and four months later, entrepreneurs close to Fridman made a 20-million-euro purchase offer — which was "much less than its value when the obstructions began," they say. In a document sent to the court, Fridman's lawyers said their client "is not nor has ever been a director neither legally nor in fact" of the companies accused of deliberately driving down Zed's market value.

But prosecutors argued in their submission that Fridman "hides his control of criminal activities behind subsidiaries". Investigators have analyzed "a series of WhatsApps and emails that show that Fridman was aware of everything that was happening," Grinda told AFP. The case was opened when Zed founder Javier Perez Dolset filed a criminal complaint alleging there was a strategy to seize his company. But he himself ended up being indicted on separate charges of fraud, a fact which Fridman has pounced on, accusing Dolset of making up "a conspiracy theory". — AFP

N Irish lawmakers sit to oppose abortion reform

BELFAST: A group of Northern Irish lawmakers will return to their parliament in a last-minute protest at the liberalization of abortion laws, set to come into force after being decided by London for the suspended Belfast executive. The regional government in Belfast collapsed in January 2017 after a scandal over a renewable heating scheme split the power-sharing executive, amid a breakdown in trust.

Abortion is currently illegal in the province, except when the mother's life is in danger. With the Northern Ireland Assembly not sitting, the British government in July passed legislation forcing the province's laws on abortion and same-sex marriage, which is also illegal, into line with those in the rest of the UK — unless the executive returns by Monday. However, the return of around 30 of the 90 Northern Ireland Assembly members specifically to discuss abortion law is expected to be symbolic.

The majority of those appearing at Stormont will be members of the conservative Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), led by Arlene Foster. But without cross-party support, a first minister and deputy first minister cannot be elected — the assembly's first task — meaning the law cannot be blocked. Michelle O'Neill, the left-wing Sinn Fein party's leader in Northern Ireland, described the event as "stunt politics".

"They're going to discuss issues which they can do nothing about. For me, that's all about being dishonest with the public," she said Friday. "We want to be in the assembly but we need to get the issues resolved that brought the assembly down." Trevor Lunn, an assembly member for the centrist cross-community Alliance party called the bid to recall the assembly "showboating". "It appears those wanting to go back on Monday are only doing so to try and deny LGBTQ people and women the rights guaranteed to them in the rest of the UK," he said last week.

Celebrations are due in the province to herald the changes in the law. Campaign group Love Equality said couples and supporters will gather in Belfast ahead of the midnight deadline. A mock-wedding event with "a buffet reception, speeches and photo opportunities featuring a wedding cake, flowers and balloons" will take place at lunchtime, the group said in a statement. Meanwhile the Women's Resource and Development Agency campaign group is also organizing a protest at Stormont against the bid to block the new legislation. — AFP



PARIS: In this file photo taken in the night on November 14, 2015 people lie on the pavement at the terrasse of the Cafe Bonne Biere. — AFP

Probe into 2015 Paris jihadist attacks wraps

PARIS: French investigators have wrapped up their probe into the jihadist attacks that killed 130 people on a single day in Paris four years ago, prosecutors said yesterday, paving the way for trial. Prosecutors will now have a month to present their case to judges who will then set a date for a trial, though it could still be at least a year away. "This is good news," said Jean Reinhardt, a lawyer for dozens of the victims. "It's something we've eagerly been waiting for to help establish the truth" of how the gunmen and suicide bombers planned and carried out the attacks.

Fourteen people have been charged over the November 13, 2015, attacks in which nine men armed with assault rifles and explosives struck outside the national stadium during a France-Germany football match, and later at streetside cafes and the Bataclan concert hall. Ninety people were killed at the Bataclan alone, and more than 350 wounded overall. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killings, in which eight of the attackers died, seven in their own suicide bombings.

Subsequent attacks

Salah Abdeslam, the sole surviving suspected partici-

pant in the attacks, was arrested in Brussels and is being detained in France with 10 other people pending trial. Abdeslam has mostly remained silent when questioned by investigators, though in June 2018 he issued a rare statement in which he justified the killings. Three other suspects are not in detention but awaiting trial under judicial supervision, the office of the national anti-terror prosecutor (PNAT) said in a statement.

Arrest warrants are out for six more people suspected of involvement, at least some of whom are believed to have been killed in fighting in Syria or Iraq. They include Fabien Clain, a Frenchman who is believed to have gone to Syria in March 2015 and who later announced the Islamic State's claim of responsibility for the Paris attacks in an audio recording.

The same jihadist cell suspected of the Paris attacks is also believed to have struck the airport and metro system of Brussels in March 2016, killing 32 people. The PNAT said there would be 1,740 civil parties to the case. Since the 2015 carnage, France has been hit by a series of jihadist attacks that have killed more than 250 people. Also yesterday, investigators said they had finished their probe into a jihadist attack on a high-speed Thalys train between Amsterdam and Paris in August 2015, judicial sources told AFP. Ayoub El Khazzani, a Moroccan citizen, opened fire with an AK-47, wounding two people before being overpowered by three Americans on holiday, two of them off-duty servicemen. — AFP

International

No Syria-type pullout planned for Afghanistan: Pentagon chief

America maintains a 'longstanding commitment' to Afghanistan

KABUL: Afghans should not misconstrue America's sudden and contentious withdrawal from parts of Syria as a precursor to a similar move in Afghanistan, US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said yesterday. The Pentagon chief also hinted that some sort of residual US force might remain in Syria to protect oil fields, but stressed no decision had been taken.

The US last week announced the withdrawal of 1,000 American troops from northeast Syria, days after Turkey launched an offensive against the previously US-backed Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara considers a terrorist group. The move provoked outrage from observers and even members of President Donald Trump's Republican Party, who saw the sudden withdrawal as a betrayal of the same Kurdish fighters the US had been training and arming for years to fight Islamic State jihadists in Syria.

Speaking at NATO's Resolute Support mission headquarters in Kabul, Esper said America maintains a "long-standing commitment" to Afghanistan, which it invaded in 2001 to oust the Taliban, and noted US policy direction for the country is completely different. "All these things should reassure our Afghan allies and others that they should not misinterpret our actions in the recent week or so with regard to Syria and contrast that with Afghanistan," he said.

Underscoring America's will to stay in Afghanistan, Esper said, was that it still faces a "virulent terrorist threat that originated in the form of Al-Qaeda and now finds itself in the Taliban and ISIS-K and other groups". ISIS-K is the abbreviation for the Afghan Islamic State affiliate. The US and the Taliban were last month on the brink of signing a deal that would have seen some American forces

begin to withdraw from Afghanistan in return for various insurgent security commitments. But negotiations collapsed at the last minute when Trump declared talks "dead" following Taliban attacks including one that killed a US soldier.

Guarding Syria oil fields

On Syria, Esper said the withdrawal of US forces would take "weeks not days", and raised the possibility that some troops would stay for now in towns near oil fields as a way of preventing IS and other groups seizing them. "We have troops in towns in northeast Syria that are located next to the oil fields. The troops in those towns are not in the present phase of withdrawal," Esper said.

"I've made no decision with regard to various options. Those are things that we would have to present to the president in due course". General Scott Miller, who leads US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, said over the past year the US has reduced its military footprint across the war-torn country by about 2,000 troops.

"As we work in Afghanistan with our partners, we are always looking to optimize the force," Miller said, speaking at the same press conference as Esper. "Unbeknownst to the public, as part of our optimization over the last year we have reduced our authorized strength by 2,000 here." That force reduction is unrelated to any prospective deal with the Taliban. US Forces-Afghanistan spokesman Colonel Sonny Leggett said the US now has around 13,000 troops in the country. Zalmay Khalilzad, the US special envoy leading negotiations, has spoken informally with Taliban officials in Pakistan, raising the possibility that Washington is seeking to resume talks, and Esper has said he supports a political agreement. — AFP



JALALABAD: A volunteer carries an injured youth to hospital, following a bomb blast in Haska Mina district of Nangarhar Province. — AFP

Australian papers censor front pages in press freedom campaign

SYDNEY: Newspapers across Australia ran heavily redacted front pages yesterday in protest against government secrecy and a crackdown on press freedom, a rare show of unity in a fractious media landscape. National and regional mastheads including The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald and the Australian Financial Review hit newsstands Monday with most of their front-page news stories blacked out.

Advertisements have also been rolled out across the country's television networks, asking viewers to consider the question: "When the government hides the truth from you, what are they covering up?" The campaign by the Right to Know coalition was sparked by federal police raids on the national broadcaster ABC and a News Corp journalist's home earlier this year over two stories that had proved embarrassing for the government.



SYDNEY: Australia's leading newspapers blacked out front pages seen on a newsstand. — AFP

It centers on six demands, including exemptions for journalists from strict national security laws that have created a complex web of provisions critics say too easily ensnare reporters doing their jobs. "The culture of secrecy that has descended through these legal provisions restricts every Australian's right to know and goes well beyond the original intent of national security," Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance union head Paul Murphy said.

"The police raids on the home of News Corp journalist Annika Smethurst and the headquarters of the ABC in Sydney were direct attacks on media freedom in Australia but they are just the tip of the iceberg," he said. Three journalists are facing possible criminal charges in the wake of the raids — Smethurst for revealing the government was considering plans to spy on Australians — and two ABC reporters for exposing alleged war crimes by Australian special forces in Afghanistan.

The media groups are also calling for enhanced protections for public sector whistleblowers — who have also faced charges for leaking to the press — as well as an improved freedom of information regime and defamation law reform. Australia's defamation laws are notoriously complex and among the strictest in the world. And unlike most liberal democracies, Australia does not have a bill of rights or constitutionally enshrined protections for freedom of speech.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his government would "always believe in the freedom of the press", but he also insisted that journalists were not above the law. "The rule of law has to be applied evenly and fairly in protection of our broader freedoms, and so I don't think anyone is, I hope, looking for a leave pass on any of those things," he told reporters during an official visit to Jakarta. A press freedom inquiry is due to report its findings to parliament next year. — AFP

India to build solar, wind farms along Pakistan border

MUMBAI: India plans to build a string of renewable energy projects along its sun-baked, wind-whipped western border, officials said yesterday, as New Delhi continues an ambitious program to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels. Mired in an economic slowdown, the government has tripled spending over the last three years as part of its push to cut down the use of oil and coal. "We are studying land feasibility and have identified projects worth 30 gigawatt capacity for Gujarat and 25 gigawatt capacity for Rajasthan," Anand Kumar, new and renewable energy secretary, told AFP.

The government had zeroed in on barren desert areas in a bid to avoid using agricultural land, he said, adding the sunny and windy region was ideally suited to renewable energy facilities. Work on the projects would begin roughly 18 months after approval from the defense ministry and following land feasibility studies, he said. "These projects will help reduce India's carbon footprint and adhere to promises made at the 2015 Paris agreement," Kumar said.

India currently harnesses 23 percent of its total power from renewable sources, including solar and wind. RK Singh, minister for power and renewable energy, told parliament in July that India's capacity had crossed 80 gigawatts and was on track to reach 175 gigawatts in three years' time, as pledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, private investment in the renewable sector remains low, and the government has found securing land for projects difficult.

Renewable energy projects are not feasible in agricultural or forest lands, said Amit Bhandari of Mumbai-based think tank Gateway House. "Since most of these western border areas are wastelands or semi-desert, they are perfect for setting up these projects," he said. Meanwhile, investment in fossil fuel-based energy sources continues to rise in the South Asian nation, with both French energy giant Total and Saudi Arabia's Aramco buying stakes in Indian companies. — AFP

Japan says citizen held in China after alleged spying reports

BEIJING: Chinese authorities have detained a Japanese man in Beijing, Tokyo confirmed yesterday, following media reports that a university professor was being held on suspicion of spying. "The Japanese embassy in China confirmed that a Japanese man in his 40s was detained by Chinese authorities in Beijing in September for (allegedly) violating Chinese laws," Japan's top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

He did not specify the charges against the man, but Japanese media have identified him as a professor from Hokkaido University who was held on suspicion of spying. The man, who has not been named, worked previously for the National Institute for Defense Studies in the defense ministry and the Japanese foreign ministry, according to local media reports.

"Within the framework of protecting Japanese expatriates, we are holding meetings between (the man and) consuls and communicating with his family members, but we decline to comment on further details given the nature of this case," Suga said. In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said she did not know the details of the case, but that China "has always handled foreign nationals suspected of breaking China's law, in accordance with the law."

China will "provide the necessary assistance in order for the Japanese side to perform the normal consular duties, in accordance with the relevant provisions," Hua said at a regular press briefing. Hua said the detention was a "one-off case". "We hope that the Japanese side can remind its citizens to respect China's laws and regulations, and avoid engaging in illegal activities in China," she said. But, she added, China is "willing to work together with Japan to promote the continued progress of China-Japan relations along the correct path" and that "these are two completely separate issues".

She noted that Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan is scheduled to attend the enthronement of Japan's Emperor Naruhito today. China has faced accusations of using detentions of foreigners as a political tool, including recently from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who called it "hostage diplomacy". Canada-China ties have soured since its arrest of Chinese Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou on a US warrant last December — nine days later, Beijing detained two Canadians and months later accused them of espionage-related activities. The two Canadians are among a string of foreign nationals arrested in China and charged with espionage or attempting to steal state secrets. Australian academic Yang Jun, who also goes by his pen name Yang Hengjun, was detained in January shortly after making a rare return to China from the US. — AFP



BANGKOK: In this file photo taken on May 5, 2019, Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn is carried in a golden palanquin during the coronation procession, as Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol (bottom L) and Queen Suthida (bottom R) walk alongside it. — AFP

Thai king strips 'disloyal' royal consort of all titles

BANGKOK: Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn has stripped his 34-year-old consort of all titles for "disloyalty" and apparent "ambition" to match the Queen's position, a royal command issued late yesterday said, less than three months after she was bestowed with the honor. Former royal bodyguard Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi-known by her nickname "Koi" — was gifted the title on the king's 67th birthday on July 28, the first time in nearly a century a Thai monarch has taken a consort.

A few days later the palace released images of the short-haired Sineenat in combat fatigues shooting weapons, flying a jet and preparing to parachute from a plane, as well as holding the king's hand. It was an intimate and rare glimpse into the private life of Thailand's powerful, ultra-wealthy and inscrutable monarch, known as Rama X of the Chakri dynasty. But yesterday Sineenat's swift and public downfall was relayed on national television.

She was dismissed from the rank of Chao Khun Phra — or noble consort — for "disloyalty to the king" according to the command, as well as "acting against the appointment of the Queen (Suthida)... for her own ambitions". The Thai monarchy is protected by a harsh defamation law, making open discussion on the institution for the public and media based inside the country all but impossible. Rama X has dramatically bolstered his authority since his 2016 ascension to the throne, pulling the immense wealth

of the crown under his direct control and restructuring key army units to his command. Koi, a qualified pilot and former army nurse, was the first woman to receive the consort title in nearly a century — fitting a pattern of assertive moves by the king.

Stripped of all ranks

Koi's actions show "she does not give any honor to the king and does not understand royal tradition... her actions are to benefit herself", the statement said, adding she was attempting to elevate her position to the same as Queen Suthida. Her behavior is "deemed disrespectful to His Majesty's grace... and caused divisions among courtiers and misunderstanding among the people", the statement added. She was stripped of all military ranks, decorations and royal titles, it said. Born in the northern province of Nan on January 26, 1985, Sineenat, graduated from the Royal Thai Army Nursing College at the age of 23. She has also trained as a pilot in Thailand and abroad, served in the King's royal bodyguard unit, and in May was awarded the rank of a major-general.

During the elaborate three-day coronation ceremony of the king in May, Sineenat was seen marching in full military uniform in a procession that travelled from the palace to several Buddhist temples. The move stunned the Thai public, who often glean clues of the royal family's secretive ongoings through imagery and symbolism relayed by the palace. Supported by the conservative arch royalist military, frank discussion of palace affairs is rare among the Thai public. The 67-year-old king came to power in 2016 after the death of his father Bhumibol Adulyadej — who is widely revered by Thais and seen as a figure of moral authority. The new king, a cycling and aviation enthusiast, is a more remote figure to the public, having spent much of his time abroad, particularly in Germany. — AFP

Philippine police wants drug charges against its ex-chief

MANILA: Philippine police recommended graft and drug charges against its former chief yesterday over a new scandal that has put President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-narcotics crackdown under the spotlight. The police face allegations some officers are involved in the illegal drugs trade and that they had the protection of former chief Oscar Albayalde.

It is the latest controversy to engulf the Philippine police force, which is waging a drug war launched by President Duterte in 2016. It says it has killed over 5,500 drug suspects but human rights groups say the real number is four times higher. Allegations of police graft and abuse are not rare in the Philippines, with Duterte twice ordering police to stop its anti-narcotics campaign because of allegations of corruption and murder by officers. The latest controversy however goes right to the top of the force.

The police's own investigation unit called on the justice department to charge General Albayalde and 13 others for graft and violating the nation's anti-drugs laws. The charges echo the recommendations made by two Senate committees, which also investigated police involvement in the illegal drug trade and found Albayalde was implicated. The police complaint stemmed from Albayalde's role as commander of police unit near Manila in 2013 where officers under his supervision allegedly seized and sold a huge haul of narcotics and received bribes to release a drug suspect. He was accused by a former police official of intervening to protect his officers from sanctions. Another retired official alleged Albayalde received money from the drug sale. Albayalde resigned last week ahead of his November 8 retirement after serving as police chief for more than a year. — AFP

Analysis

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Wall Street learns the high cost of sexist comments

The #MeToo movement recently reached dramatically into the world of high finance, as one prominent Wall Street figure learned after losing the management of at least \$1 billion in assets over his disparaging remarks about women. Ken Fisher, whose slickly produced videos promoting his financial expertise still air regularly on American financial news networks, was invited in early October to a conference in San Francisco. The conference, which advertises a "no media" policy, was supposed to remain private.

But one participant, Alex Chalekian, said he felt so disturbed by some of Fisher's remarks, many with strong sexual undertones, that he took to Twitter to vent his outrage. He posted a video blasting Fisher's references to "genitalia" and drug use, as well as his comparison of the recruiting of a new client to a crass and boorish attempt to pick up a girl in a bar. "Things that were said by Ken Fisher were just absolutely horrifying," Chalekian said. He said several women who attended the event later told him Fisher's remarks made them feel "very uncomfortable."

Fisher subsequently expressed regret for his comments, saying in a message to AFP that "I realize this kind of language has no place in our company or industry. I sincerely apologize." But the damage was done. Several financial entities broke ties with Fisher Investments, which manages some \$112 billion. The city of Boston was among those. "Boston will not invest in companies led by people who treat women like commodities," said Mayor Marty Walsh.

'We are very concerned'

According to a tally by the CNBC network, Fisher Investments lost around \$1 billion in managed assets within days. The total could grow, since Fidelity Investments, one of the world's largest asset managers, expressed its unhappiness and said it was reviewing the relationship.

"We are very concerned about the highly inappropriate comments by Kenneth Fisher," a Fidelity spokesperson said. "The views he expressed do not align in any way with our company's values. We do not tolerate these types of comments at our company." Fisher manages about \$500 million in Fidelity's assets, CNBC said. While Wall Street traders' excesses and verbal outrages have been the subject of numerous films, the heads of big companies and financial groups generally have done their best to stay above the fray, though not all have succeeded.

"The brand is the company's value and the CEO is identified with the brand," said Charles Elson, a specialist in corporate governance at the University of Delaware, "which is why it's just a really good idea for a CEO to focus on running the business and to avoid getting into political or social controversy when speaking publicly." "When they do, it naturally creates problems."

'Everyone is afraid'

Travis Kalanick, a co-founder of Uber, was thus forced out in 2017 amid reports that the company's workplace culture included sexual harassment and discrimination. Elon Musk had to give up the chairmanship of Tesla this year after his Twitter use got him in trouble with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission, Wall Street's "policeman." In September, the co-founder of WeWork, Adam Neumann, stepped down as chief executive amid complaints about his lavish lifestyle and some impulsive actions that he himself said had become "a significant distraction."

Across the world of high finance, meanwhile, Fisher's remarks were widely denounced. Art Hogan, chief market strategist with National Holdings, said that "it's never appropriate to use that kind of language. That would be true today, and it was 20 years ago." "Maybe it was the norm back to a time of the TV show 'Mad Men,'" which was set mostly in the New York advertising world of the 1960s, "but it has not been in my career."

And in a world where the "ESG investing trend" is growing, Hogan said-referring to an emphasis on environmentalism, social issues and governance concerns-"it even speaks louder." Gregori Volokhine, president of Meeschaert Financial Services, said that Fisher's remarks were not necessarily anything new in the financial world. "Except now, everyone is afraid between the rise of the #MeToo movement and ESG management," Volokhine said. — AFP

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People hold placards reading 'Spain: Sit and Talk' during a demonstration called by 'Tsunami Democratic' in front of the Spanish Government delegations yesterday in Barcelona. — AFP

Who are the youths behind Catalonia protest violence?

The violent protests that have swept Catalonia over the jailing of nine separatist leaders have involved veteran anarchists and youthful troublemakers as well as outraged separatists, some of whom became radicalized only recently. "I am 24, have a masters and a job and I never imagined myself setting fire to a barricade with my face masked," said one protester who gave her name only as Aida.

She has joined in protests every day since they erupted in the region after Spain's Supreme Court on Monday sentenced nine Catalan separatist leaders to up to 13 years in jail for sedition over a failed 2017 independence bid. Nearly 600 people have been injured in clashes with police since the protests started. Demonstrators have set fire to cars and garbage bins and thrown rocks at police, who have responded with batons and rubber bullets. "I don't justify the violence, but we are simply defending ourselves from the repression of the police," Aida said.

Like Aida, those responsible for the violence are all young, sometimes even minors. They are not intimidated by the television crews, sometimes waving to the camera or dancing in front of burning barricades. Olivier Cauberghs, a Belgian expert in detecting and preventing radicalization, said young pro-independence Catalans who have only recently turned to violence have "gone through

a long process and didn't decide to turn violent" overnight.

They are reacting to police violence that marred a banned independence referendum held in October 2017 and the failed declaration of independence that followed, Cauberghs said. The expert, who works with Belgian police and is in Barcelona to observe the protests, told AFP the youths appeared to be letting off steam. Unlike the anarchists who perpetually commit violence against police, these young separatist activists "will go back to their stuff", he added.

Foreign radicals

Alongside these frustrated separatists, there are more experienced groups who wear balaclavas and are usually on the frontlines of the clashes with police. "The tactics they use are not from someone who is using violence for the first time," Cauberghs said. "They fall within an anarchist profile, they attack the police no matter what, since they are a physical representation of the state."

Further evidence of an anarchist presence is the appearance of graffiti with the popular anarchist acronym ACAB, which stands for "All Cops Are Bastards", on walls, bus shelters and storefronts. Spanish Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said Friday that "violent groups who focus their violence on national police in an

organized way" were among those behind the violence. He did not rule out the possibility that radical youths had come from other European nations to cause trouble. An interior ministry spokesman said 13 percent of the people arrested at the protests were foreigners.

'Cause chaos'

Other youths, who are unemployed and not political, say they are at the protests with the intention of causing unrest. "I feel Spanish and I am not a separatist. I come to cause chaos and also because I don't think it is right to put politicians in jail for their opinions," one 19-year-old said. He declined to be named because he took part in violence against police.

The police "must understand that we know how to show our displeasure, we are not afraid of anything," he added. His 17-year-old friend, who also declined to be named, is of Venezuelan origin and lives in a juvenile welfare home. He also criticized "police violence". The two youths, who live in a Barcelona suburb, do not speak Catalan and have no links to the separatist movement. "These youths don't have a good education, no jobs and no future perspective," Cauberghs said. "They express their frustration against a society that treats them without justice." — AFP

Haiti dicey prison conditions made worse by crisis

With protests rocking the streets, some prison authorities in Haiti have confined inmates to cells that lack showers or toilets, in a country where most detainees are stuck awaiting trial for months or even years. The move is meant to stop protests from breaking out in Haiti's badly overcrowded prisons, but violates the law and risks the health of prisoners, human rights advocates say.

"To prevent any kind of riot from the general tension in the country, prison officials decided to keep detainees in their cells without being allowed at least an hour of outdoor time," Marie Rosy Auguste Ducena of the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) said. The permanent confinement exacerbates the already dire situation of Haiti's prisons, which are the most overcrowded in the world with an occupancy rate exceeding 400 percent.

The law dictates that inmates should get at least six hours per day outside of their cell, while international standards recommend at least four square meters of living space per person. But in the impoverished Caribbean



Prison inmates wait for food as they stand inside Haiti's National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. — AFP

nation, the average prisoner only gets less than a meter to themselves. "People are being held in inhumane conditions that we at RNDDH have long regarded as torture and cruel and degrading treatment," Ducena said.

'Concentration center'

As of October 15, the Port-au-Prince prison, commonly called the "National Penitentiary," had 3,626 inmates. It was built to hold 778. "When we take the example of the National Penitentiary, which is the largest detention center in the country, it could be likened to a concentration center," lamented Haitian lawyer Jacques Letang.

Outside prison walls, opponents of President Jovenel

Moise have protested what they see as his illegitimate election in 2016, barricading roads and snarling supplies of staple foods, while raising fears that the country's already precarious humanitarian situation will become worse. "Amid the crisis, it's hard to get food and water to prisons," Ducena said. Even the courts themselves have been drawn into the strife.

"Almost all courts in the country are closed and three judicial buildings have been burned since the beginning of the crisis," Ducena said. "The situation is always alarming, and rather than take risks, lawyers and judges stay at home." The Port-au-Prince courthouse "is sandwiched between the fiefs of several rival gangs," Ducena said. In the area around the public prosecutor's office in Port-au-Prince, armed groups routinely divert vehicles, while gun battles have broken out at random for the past year.

Justice delayed

The paralyzed justice system means people jailed while awaiting trial languish as their cases go unheard, Haitian rights organizations say. Asked about the situation, prison and police authorities in Haiti declined to comment. Three-quarters of the 10,905 people jailed in Haiti today are awaiting trial, some for more than a decade, in what Letang said was the blatant flouting of criminal procedure. "Anyone arrested must be able to have their case heard before a judicial authority within 48 hours, but police make arrests and let people spend weeks or months in custody," said Letang, president of the Human Rights Office in Haiti NGO. — AFP

Long-persecuted Yazidis welcome new 'sanctuary'

Yazidis, an ancient ethnic group much persecuted for their faith, now have a massive new temple in Armenia to help preserve their religion and identity. The Yazidi community, which has suffered greatly in recent upheavals in the Middle East, has found a safe haven in the former Soviet Caucasus country. And now they have built a gleaming white temple there surrounded by a rose garden, which is already attracting pilgrims from abroad. The new temple stands 35 kilometers from the Armenian capital Yerevan, in the village of Aknalich, where 150 of the residents are Yazidi.

Built from milky-white Persian marble and polished granite, the 25-metre-high structure includes a large prayer hall, a religious school and museum. Its construction was partly funded by a wealthy Moscow-based Yazidi businessman Mirza Sloyan, who was born nearby. The new temple is intended as a symbol of strength for the Kurdish-speaking religious minority group, as the community tries to preserve its unique faith.

"Over the centuries, our ancestors have known much

sorrow and pogroms," said 62-year-old Tosun Avdalyan, who had come from Russia to pray in the new temple. "This temple will help our people to preserve, cherish and protect our national awareness and religion," he added. "After having seen so many atrocities, we now have a new sanctuary and feel stronger, united," said another worshiper, 31-year-old Aram Usubov.

Persecution

Yazidis worship one God, who they believe created the world and entrusted it to seven Holy Beings, the most important of which is Melek Taus, or the Peacock Angel. The temple's seven domes topped with sun symbols represent the seven angels revered by the Yazidis, adherents of an ancient religion rooted in Zoroastrianism. Worshipers remove their shoes before entering and kiss the walls around the entrance. The inside is dominated by the holy symbol of the peacock. At the altar, they pray and tie knots in pieces of cloth that represent their wishes. Outside, a stall sells souvenirs in the shape of peacocks. Their beliefs and practices of the Yazidis include a ban on eating lettuce and wearing the color blue.

But their unique beliefs - which over time have integrated elements of Judaism, Christianity and Islam - have often been misconstrued as satanic. Some Muslims consider the Peacock Angel revered by Yazidis a demon figure and refer to Yazidis as devil-worshippers. And while the 35,000 Yazidi community in Armenia can freely practice their religion, elsewhere they have suffered greatly.



People walk past the new Yazidi Temple in the village of Aknalich, 35 kilometers from the Armenian capital Yerevan, which has seven domes topped with sun symbols represent the seven angels revered by the Yazidis, adherents of an ancient religion rooted in Zoroastrianism. — AFP

Yazidis also live in Syria, Turkey - and Iraq, which has the largest community, numbering 1.5 million. After years of persecution by the former dictator Saddam Hussein, in 2014 they faced the brutality of the Islamic State group. The jihadists seized their bastion Sinjar in northwestern Iraq, killing thousands of Yazidis then abducting and enslaving women and girls. — AFP

Business

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Burgan Bank posts strong earnings with Q3'19 net income of KD 22.7m

9-month net income of KD 67.5 million, return on equity of 10.4%

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank K.P.S.C. (Burgan) announced its Q3 2019 financial results, highlighting strong net income of KD 22.7 million for the third quarter, translating into an impressive growth of 10.7 percent Y-o-Y.

Key factors contributing to the earnings growth are:

- Solid revenue levels of KD 61.9 million
- Reduction in operating expenses (Q3'19 KD 25.7 million vs Q3'18 KD 25.9 million)
- Lower provisions (Q3'19 KD 9.5 million vs Q3'18 KD 17.7 million)

This solid third quarter performance has further strengthened Burgan's 9 months' performance (9M'19) as highlighted below.

9-month 2019 revenue remained robust at KD 178.3 million on the back of stable net interest margin at 2.8 percent. Burgan also maintained an efficient cost-to-income ratio of 41.9 percent leading to operating profit of KD 103.6 million.

Burgan's cost of risk remains low at 0.8 percent while the NPL coverage ratio remains healthy at 162 percent. As a result, Burgan continues to generate strong earnings with the 9M'19 Net Income of KD 67.5 million, thereby delivering return on equity of

10.4 percent.

Burgan's relentless focus on capital efficiency in its businesses has ensured that the regulatory capital ratios are healthy with CET1 ratio of 11.0 percent, Tier 1 ratio of 13.7 percent and CAR ratio of 16.6 percent. Commenting on these results, Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of Burgan Bank K.P.S.C. said: "We continue to deliver strong results to our shareholders, despite increased volatility in the region. These results reflect the strength of Burgan's operating model across its subsidiaries, ably supported by strong risk management framework."

Masaud M J Hayat, Vice chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer of Burgan Bank K.P.S.C. added, "Burgan's strong performance in the first nine months of 2019 demonstrates the bank's relentless focus on serving its customers' needs while achieving high levels of operating efficiency."

Please note that beginning this year, the Bank has revised its financial statements' closing process by changing the reporting date of its subsidiaries to one month earlier than the Group's reporting date. Accordingly, the reported financial results of the first nine months of 2019 include only eight months (i.e.



Majed Essa Al-Ajeel



Masaud M J Hayat

January to August) performance of the subsidiaries instead of nine months as included in the prior periods. The consolidated financials encompass the results of the Group's operations in Kuwait, and its share of results from its subsidiaries, Burgan Bank Turkey, Gulf

Bank Algeria, Bank of Baghdad and Tunis International Bank. Burgan Bank has one of the largest regional branch networks with 164 branches across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Iraq, Tunisia, Lebanon and a representative office in the United Arab Emirates.

Zain offers the revolutionary Samsung Galaxy Fold

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the offering of the all-new revolutionary Galaxy Fold from Samsung. The device introduces the biggest breakthrough since the mobile phone, featuring a stunning foldable display that defies expectations.

Zain offers the all-new category of Samsung devices knowing the passion customers have for the latest and most advanced products in the world of technology. The Galaxy Fold is an engineering marvel inspired by the precision of watch mechanics, where the hinge delivers symmetrical movement that gently locks in place, allowing it to intuitively fold like a book.

Zain's postpaid customers can now get the new Galaxy Fold device with an unlimited

plan at KD 60 monthly, featuring unlimited LTE-A Internet and unlimited local calls. The device is available in limited quantities only, and customers can inquire about availability on Zain's Online Store at kw.zain.com. The company is keen on offering the most premium plans to suit customers' unique personal and professional needs. The Galaxy Fold's 7.3-inch Infinity Flex Display revolutionizes smartphone screens. Built with bonded, tissue-thin layers of innovative materials, the foldable screen is incredibly slender and elegant. Enjoy the flexibility of every fold and unfold with a delicate touch for the unique experience of both smartphone and tablet.

The 4.6-inch cover display allows for easy one-handed use. Folded, Galaxy Fold is compact enough to hold and use with one hand, with an ergonomic, comfortable grip. The fingerprint scanner is placed along the side where the user's thumb or index finger naturally land, so unlocking is as intuitive as picking up the phone. Users can open the Galaxy Fold up to reveal the tablet-sized 7.3-inch main display and its more immersive view. The precision-crafted hinge is made of multiple interlocking gears hidden away on the rear for an elegant look, while allowing for minimal bezels on the main display. Tested and retested for dura-

bility alongside the Infinity Flex Display, it stands up to the folds and unfolds of everyday life. Users can shift and resize the windows as they like with a tap and drag.

Galaxy Fold features a breakthrough six-camera array to capture the impossible, including a 16MP Ultra-Wide Camera, a 12MP Wide-angle Camera, a 12MP Telephoto Camera, an 8MP RGB Depth Camera, and two 10MP Selfie Cameras. Unfolding opens a display that doubles as a massive camera viewfinder and allows previewing the whole scene as it'll get captured. With its 4:3 display ratio, the 7.3-inch main display shows exactly what Galaxy Fold's 4:3 camera sensor sees. The Galaxy Fold also allows recording in professional quality 4K UHD video for playback that shows every detail seen in person. HDR10+ color brings lifelike hues and contrast to the video, with Dynamic Tone Mapping ensuring accurate color in each scene.

The Galaxy Fold performs like no other smartphone, because it's like no other smartphone. An advanced processor and impressive 12GB RAM gives users fast and powerful performance for fluid multitasking and gaming with little lag - and 512GB internal storage gives the space to hold it all. The device adapts to the way users use their phone for consistent performance

throughout the day. It even learns user habits, preloading frequently used apps to launch instantly when needed. Galaxy Fold's revolutionary dual battery works as one, using power and recharging in a way that prevents overcharging. While the Intelligent Adaptive Power Saving Mode learns usage patterns to manage battery life - so the impressive 4380mAh (typical) battery capacity gets through the day.

This offering comes in line with Zain's aim to provide its customers with a superi-

or digital experience, and springs from its core understanding of their needs. The company aims at providing its customers with an unmatched experience on Zain's most advanced network.

Zain emphasized its commitment to the needs of the largest customer base in Kuwait, and will continuously look into expanding its horizons to introduce the latest and most advanced solutions in the market to meet its customers unique needs and aspirations.

Departing Draghi leaves divided ECB to Lagarde

FRANKFURT: Departing European Central Bank president Mario Draghi will leave a conflicting legacy after chairing his final governing council meeting on Thursday, credited with saving the euro but dividing the institution with his easy-money policy. The gathering "is unlikely to be the good-natured celebration of his achievements that he might have hoped for," said analyst Jack Allen-Reynolds of Capital Economics.

"Attention will focus on the growing divisions" among policymakers left by a September stimulus package, he predicted. Among the 25-strong council, "the loss of teamwork and comradeship has now burst into public", agreed Dirk Schumacher of Natixis bank.

"That in itself is undermining to some degree the effectiveness of the ECB," he added - just when it needs to convince watchers it can support the economy in

future. Seen as a solo artist who succeeded in bending the institution to his vision for the eurozone economy, Draghi is credited above all with saving the euro during its existential debt crisis. That rescue came only with help from hefty cash injections and historic low interest rates - earning him the ire of conservatives, especially in Germany, who say he has harmed savers.

As he departs, Draghi leaves his successor Christine Lagarde to confront a eurozone apparently running out of steam after five years of recovery added 11 million jobs.

Last week, the IMF forecast eurozone economic growth of just 1.2 percent this year and 1.4 percent in 2020.

Battle lines

Since 2011, Draghi has lowered interest rates into negative territory, bought 2.6 trillion euros (\$2.9 trillion) of government and corporate debt and issued hundreds of billions in cheap loans to banks. An official account of September's governing council meeting showed broad agreement on the need for further supportive steps, as the ECB's own forecasts showed inflation falling short of its just-below-two-percent target out to 2021.

But disagreement erupted over how powerful the response should be. Most controversial was restarting "quantitative easing" (QE) bond purchases, which had

been idling since December 2018.

The scheme, aimed at boosting growth and, indirectly, inflation, has always split policymakers.

This time, backers argued it should "ward off future shocks affecting the eurozone, which raise fears of deflation", while opponents including the German and unusually-French central bank chiefs believed it would have a "minimal effect". Mirabaud bank economist Valentin Bissat said. Capital Economics' Allen-Reynolds warned that the acrimony "raises questions about the decision's legitimacy and whether the council could ever agree to expand its asset purchases further" if needed.

A need for increased stimulus cannot be ruled out in the coming months and years.

Meanwhile, Europe's trade face-off with the US ratcheted up Friday as Washington imposed new tariffs over illegal subsidies to plane builder Airbus. And Britain's exit from the EU remained mired in uncertainty after MPs refused to back Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new Brexit deal at the weekend.

Time for fiscal policy?

As external headwinds have grown fiercer, calls from the ECB for governments to loosen their purse strings have grown louder. "The ECB is rightly worried about the balance between monetary and fiscal policy" after years fighting its battles almost



NICOSIA: In this file photo, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi and International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde (right) talk at the start of a two-day informal meeting attended by EU finance and economy ministers in Nicosia, Cyprus. — AFP

alone, economist Christian Odendahl of the Centre for European Reform told AFP.

With the governing council divided over further stimulus and threats from abroad, rather than at home, weighing heaviest, former IMF chief Lagarde "will have to call for fiscal support to fulfil the ECB's mandate" on inflation, he added. In her European Parliament confirmation hearing last month, she harked back to Draghi's 2012 promise to

do "whatever it takes" to preserve the euro.

"I hope I will never have to say something like that, I really do, because if I had it would mean the other economic policy makers are not doing what they have to do," Lagarde told the Brussels lawmakers.

Later in September, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said governments shouldn't "overstretch" monetary policy in an apparent recognition of the ECB's woes. — AFP

Business

Gulf Bank wins 'Best Nationalization Initiative in the Private Sector' award

Bank recognized for Kuwaitization achievements at prestigious GOV HR summit

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank was chosen as this year's recipient of the "Best Nationalization Initiative in the Private Sector" award during a prestigious awards ceremony hosted by the GCC GOV HR Awards at Rixos Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, UAE on October 16. The award recognizes Gulf Bank for its various Kuwaitization achievements throughout the past year.

Supporting the region's vision of building a robust & future ready workforce, the prestigious GCC GOV HR Awards, recognizes the GCC region's leading organizations, HR leaders and decision makers for ground-breaking innovations, their significant growth strategies, for exemplary leadership in the industry and for raising the benchmark of people performance.

The 7th Annual GOV HR Summit was hosted under the theme "Because Nation Building is about Developing Human Capital". The summit emphasized the importance of a diversified and innovative approach to attracting talent, work force optimization, and tackling the challenges that lie ahead.

During the GCC HR Awards, Gulf Bank won "Best Nationalization Initiative in the Private Sector"

award, in recognition of its various Kuwaitization achievements. Throughout the past year, Gulf Bank has launched various educational programs, targeting executives and mid-management employees. Gulf Bank has also pioneered the recruitment process investing in an innovative and inclusive approach to achieve its objective of attracting and developing local talent. This includes Gulf Bank's exclusive AJYAL program, a six-month training program aimed to help employees develop key banking skills and unleash growth potential.

The award was presented to General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, Salma Al-Hajaj, who stated: "We are proud to have been recognized for our achievements regarding Kuwaitization at this year's GCC GOV HR Summit, an annual event that brings together brilliant minds and key stakeholders in human resources across the region. We are delighted that Gulf Bank's strategy is in alignment with not only that of the country, but of the entire region as well. At Gulf Bank, we believe the key for a bank with our local and historical ties rests with our national manpower."



Salma Al-Hajaj receives the award

Pound shrugs off Johnson's latest Brexit setback

TOKYO: Sterling fell modestly as trading resumed yesterday following British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's latest failure to break the Brexit deadlock, with forex markets shrugging off a weekend of drama in the British parliament. The currency was down 0.55 percent to \$1.2913 at around 0000GMT, holding relatively steady for a currency that has been on a rollercoaster over the past month. "The fact Sterling has proven surprisingly resilient... buttresses well for risk sentiment," wrote Stephen Innes, Asia Pacific market strategist at AxiTrader, in a commentary. All eyes were on the pound after the House of Commons sat on Saturday to consider Johnson's EU divorce deal in a vote that was seen as a potential turning point in the long-running Brexit saga. Instead of delivering a verdict on the deal itself, lawmakers voted to force Johnson to ask the European Union for another Brexit delay, hoping to prevent the country crashing out of the bloc on October 31 with no agreement in place. Johnson reluctantly agreed, although the EU is yet to respond to the request and Britain's conservative government insists it is still committed to exiting by month's end.

'Details are what matter'

It meant that instead of decisive developments over the weekend, the market was still waiting to see how the situation would play out, Shinichiro Kadota, exchange strategist at Barclays Securities in Japan told AFP. "There had been hopes late last week that this issue would finally see a settlement. But now it's been shelved," he said. "The pound rallied to close to \$1.30 from \$1.22... We can say it is holding firm, which shows hopes (for avoiding no-deal Brexit) have not been dashed." Rodrigo Catril, a senior forex strategist at National Australia Bank said the market was not in "wait-and-see mode." "We saw the pound lose a little bit of ground, but from the perspective of what it's gained over the past week, that's really minimal," he told AFP. Catril said it appeared a deal would be done before October 31 but a great deal of uncertainty remained, including the possibility of a "confirmatory vote", or second Brexit referendum. "Based on commentary overnight, there seems to be a fair bit of support rising for Boris Johnson to get the deal done, but details are what matter," he said. "There's still the potential for a confirmatory vote and the potential for further amendments." He said sterling had the potential to rise if Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab's claim that the UK government had the numbers to push through Johnson's deal proved correct. "But we're not yet certain that the government has got the vote, so that points to a little bit of cautiousness in terms of the pound facing a little bit of uncertainty in coming days," Catril said. —AFP

Shipping firms look to sail into the future

PARIS: Global shipping firms under pressure to cut carbon emissions are experimenting with an age-old technology: sails to harness ocean winds and reduce reliance on costly fuels.

"Five years ago, such projects would have gotten us thrown out by security" at shipping firms, said French naval architect Marc Van Peteghem. "Now shipowners are listening to us," he said.

A design from his firm, VPLP, has just been picked by European rocket-maker Ariane Group for a sail-equipped cargo ship to transport parts for its new Ariane 6 launcher to French Guiana starting in 2022.

The ship will be equipped with four huge rectangular sails rising 30 meters (100 feet) high, supplementing a motor and cutting fuel consumption by about 30 percent. It might not be the first, though: French start-up Neoline announced in July it would start building a sail-powered transporter this year for launch by the end of 2021. "We have 5,000 years of experience in sailing with wind—it's renewable energy, and less intermittent than solar power," Neoline's managing director Jean Zanuttini told AFP at his office in Nantes, western France.

So far the firm has orders from three clients, including French automaker Renault.

But using wind to meet carbon goals

is not as simple as building new boats or rigging sails on existing ones, as some ship owners have already done. "Our 136-metre ship costs 30 percent more than current ships," Zanuttini said, "but we compensate by using 80 to 90 percent less fuel." Wind-powered vessels are also slower—a hard sell for some shipowners and clients who want their raw materials and merchandise to move as quick as possible.

'Everything's in transition'

Operators of the 60,000 to 90,000 oil tankers, bulk carriers, ferries and other huge cargo ships plying the seas are racing to find alternatives to fuel oil as pollution rules are tightened. The industry generates roughly three percent of Earth-warming greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, a figure that experts say could reach 17 percent by 2050 if nothing is done. Also, starting January 1, levels of air-polluting sulphur in marine fuel must be below 0.5 percent, according to new International Maritime Organization standards—a sharp drop from today's 3.5 percent.

This is forcing firms to seek out cleaner, more costly fuels or invest in "scrubbers" to filter sulfur out of smokestacks. "Everything is up for grabs, everything is in transition," said Gavin Allwright, secretary of the International Windship Association in London. This month his group organized a wind conference at the Royal Institution of Naval Architects in London, just a stone's throw from Trafalgar Square and its statue of renowned British naval officer Horatio Nelson. Even if sailing goes back centuries, "the vast majority of the tech-



NEW YORK: A view of shipping containers and downtown Brooklyn in New York. —AFP

nologies are 21st-century technologies and materials. They are almost fully automated, one-button computer operated," Allwright said.

Beside sails, some firms have designed huge kites that pull cargo ships, though just a few operators have adopted the system.

'Opportunity'

Another option is to use "Flettner rotors" like those built by Norsepower of Finland, employing a technology developed by German engineers in the 1920s. The tall columns are installed on a ship and set spinning, creating lift that propels a ship forward when they catch a perpendicular wind.

Ville Paakkari, a Norsepower repre-

sentative at the London conference, said the columns can be installed in just a few hours, and can cut fuel consumption by five to 10 percent.

"The investment pays off in three to eight years," he told participants. So far, Norsepower's rotors are used on just two cargo ships and the Viking Grace ferry between Finland and Sweden.

But wind advocates say tighter pollution rules—potentially including more widespread taxes on carbon emissions—will force shipping firms to clean up their act. "People only change when they are forced to," Van Peteghem said. "We need to find solutions so that what shipowners consider a constraint today will become an opportunity, and make them want to change," he said. —AFP

Facebook's Marcus says Libra won't be controlled by a single company

WASHINGTON: Facebook executive David Marcus on Sunday tried to calm the fears of officials threatening to block its proposed digital currency, saying Libra won't be controlled by a single company. The head of Facebook's Libra currency project sought to address the main issue raised by France's Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire: the potential for a company to have the power

to undermine a government's control of its currency. Marcus said it has been "very clear to us from the very beginning that a payment networks such as the Libra network shouldn't be controlled by one company." Speaking at a forum, hosted by the Group of 30, he repeated the company's commitment to work with regulators to address their concerns.

He added that the Libra Association—comprised of 21 companies—will "welcome competition to benefit local access and strive for the lowest cost possible for consumers." But, he cautioned, "the status quo is not an option any longer." Central banks and government finance officials have long worried about the challenges posed by digital currencies, and the risk they can be used for money laundering and financing terrorism. Libra is different from other digital currencies like Bitcoin because it would be a "stablecoin" tied to national currencies.

But Le Maire told reporters on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington last week that European governments "will not allow a private company to have the same power, the same monetary power as sovereign states," and will take steps to block Libra from Europe. Agustín Carstens, former Mexican central banker and longtime skeptic of digital currencies, agreed that technology can help provide access to the financial system to people who have been excluded.

But Carstens, now head of the Bank for International Settlements, said Sunday that the best course would be to "maximize the use of technology with what we've proven that works, that provides stability." Marcus remained cautiously optimistic. "We recognize that a change of this magnitude can't be operating without a great sense of responsibility," he said, but he added: "We can actually work together to solve these issues." —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.050
Euro	340.840
Sterling Pound	393.900
Canadian dollar	22.450
Turkish lira	52.890
Swiss Franc	309.940
US Dollar Buying	296.700
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.802
Indian Rupees	4.285
Pakistani Rupees	1.986
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.667
Nepali Rupees	2.660
Singapore Dollar	224.060
Hongkong Dollar	38.772
Bangladesh Taka	3.574
Philippine Peso	5.937
Thai Baht	10.066
Malaysian ringgit	77.762
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.134
Qatari Riyal	83.565
Omani Riyal	790.253
Bahraini Dinar	807.890
UAE Dirham	82.836
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.900

Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.752
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	110.560
Jordanian Dinar	429.300
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	31.972
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.740
Canadian Dollar	230.725
Sterling Pound	375.885
Euro	333.495
Swiss Frank	307.075
Bahrain Dinar	810.415
UAE Dirhams	83.370
Qatari Riyals	84.610
Saudi Riyals	82.160
Jordanian Dinar	431.105
Egyptian Pound	18.729
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.672
Indian Rupees	4.308
Pakistani Rupees	1.949
Bangladesh Taka	3.609
Philippines Peso	5.872
Cyprus pound	18.130
Japanese Yen	3.815
Syrian Pound	1.595
Nepalese Rupees	2.697
Malaysian Ringgit	73.635

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	43.065	
Thai Bhat	10.935	
Turkish Lira	54.365	
Singapore dollars	220.536	
BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.384943	0.398843
Czech Korune	0.005206	0.014506
Danish Krone	0.041312	0.046312
Euro	0.331539	0.345239
Georgian Lari	0.101727	0.101727
Hungarian 0.000933	0.029143	0.034343
Norwegian Krone	0.054307	0.071157
Romanian Leu	0.004753	0.004753
Russian ruble	0.009083	0.019083
Slovakia	0.027439	0.032439
Swedish Krona	0.301626	0.312626
Swiss Franc		
Australian Dollar	0.200219	0.212219
New Zealand Dollar	0.188068	0.197568
Canada Dollar	0.226027	0.235027
US Dollars	0.299950	0.305250
US Dollars Mint	0.300450	0.305250
Bangladesh Taka	0.002957	0.003758

Chinese Yuan	0.041651	0.045151
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036682	0.039432
Indian Rupee	0.003685	0.004457
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002716	0.002896
Korean Won	0.000249	0.000264
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069362	0.075362
Nepalese Rupee	0.002621	0.002961
Pakistan Rupee	0.001345	0.002115
Philippine Peso	0.005708	0.006008
Singapore Dollar	0.217699	0.227699
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001316	0.001896
Taiwan	0.009823	0.010003
Thai Baht	0.009702	0.010252
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.800355	0.808399
Egyptian Pound	0.018613	0.021353
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000024	0.000274
Jordanian Dinar	0.423937	0.432937
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020795	0.044795
Omani Riyal	0.784615	0.792501
Qatar Riyal	0.082860	0.083692
Saudi Riyal	0.079993	0.081293
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.103243	0.111243
Turkish Lira	0.045757	0.055602
UAE Dirhams	0.082149	0.082975
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.010688

Business

KFH reports net profits of KD 190.5 million up to end of Q3 2019, an increase of 12.7%

Al-Marzouq: Total operating income reached KD 615.2 million, an increase of 4.3%

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that KFH has, by the grace of Allah, reported net profits of KD 190.5 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2019 for KFH shareholders compared to KD 169.1 million for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 12.7 percent.

Total Financing income increased for the nine months ended 30 September 2019 to reach KD 701.2 million an increase of 10.2 percent. Total operating income for the nine months ended 30 September 2019 reached KD 615.2 million an increase of 4.3 percent; and net operating income reached KD 393.0 million i.e. a growth of 7.0 percent compared to the same period last year.

Cost to income ratio dropped to reach 36.1 percent for the nine months ended 30 September 2019, compared to 37.7 percent for the same period last year. Earnings per share for the nine months ended 30 September 2019 reached 27.67 fils, compared to 24.58 fils for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 12.6 percent.

Total assets increased by 6.9 percent compared to the end of last year to reach KD 18.999 billion at the end of Q3 this year.

Finance receivables reached KD 9.356 billion i.e. an increase of KD 167.7 million i.e. a growth 1.8 percent compared to end of last year. Investment in Sukuk reached KD 2.132 billion an increase of KD 568.6 million i.e. a growth of 36.4 percent compared to end of last year and the majority of the balance represents investments in Sovereign Sukuk.

Depositors' accounts reached KD 13.248 billion i.e. an increase of KD 1.467 billion or 12.5 percent compared to the end of last year.

Growth sustainability

Al-Marzouq said in a press release that the double-digit growth in net profits and the bank's positive financial indicators are results of the successful growth sustainability strategy of focusing on core banking activities and exiting non-strategic investments to improve asset quality. He pointed out that KFH succeeded in raising total assets value, maintaining the highest possible



Hamad Al-Marzouq

quality standards and diversity to limit risk and ensuring inflows to enhance liquidity. This was reflected in the ongoing increases in net income, backed by the increased operating income. All of the previous factors had a positive impact on net profit and the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) which has lately been showing steady growth.

Al-Marzouq added that KFH seeks to enhance the return on shareholders' equity (ROE) and depositors' accounts, while reaching the highest level of innovation and distinction in customer service. This is to be in line with the bank's vision of leading international developments in Islamic

financial services.

Digital transformation strategy

Al-Marzouq drew attention to the success of the digital transformation strategy in the Group, pointing to a qualitative move in rolling out digital financial solutions, such as the self-service banking services and the AI-enabled robotics. KFH also succeeded in enhancing security and data analyses, upgrading the infrastructure and e-service platforms in order to improve customer experience in accordance with the highest world standards.

He added that KFH aims to expand its operations in the Middle East and Europe through the services of the "digital bank" in Turkey and the "Jazeel" platform in Bahrain, plus modern, sophisticated and highly efficient online services. He stressed the ongoing KFH policy of investing in technology and adopting the latest financial technology tool "FinTech", along with strengthening the innovation environment which has become a strategic factor in confronting the challenges of digitalization and adapting to fast-paced and competitive environment in the banking sector.

Al-Marzouq noted that KFH is on track of promoting synergy among the Group's banks in Turkey, Malaysia, Bahrain and Germany which continued their outstanding performance in line with the strategies aimed to utilize the strength of the markets they operate in.

He went on to stress that KFH-Turkey

enjoys a strong financial position with a very high liquidity levels as stipulated by Turkish and Kuwaiti regulatory requirements as well as Basel III standards. In addition, Al-Marzouq pointed out that KFH-Turkey Capital Adequacy ratio and all financial indicators exceed by far the rates required by the regulatory bodies. He credited that to the breadth of funding activities in Turkey, the diversity of KFH-Turkey portfolio, the high-quality assets and its size as the largest Islamic bank in the country.

Development plan and Kuwait Vision 2035

Emphasizing the role of the private sector in the Kuwaiti economy, Al-Marzouq pointed out the leading role of KFH in supporting the local economy, financing mega projects and supporting the National Development Plan. This is particularly part of Kuwait Vision 2035 to transform the country into a regional and global financial and commercial hub.

He said that "KFH has successfully financed a large number of projects in various vital sectors, including energy, water, power, infrastructure and construction. It has a regional and global leading role in Sukuk issuances for local and international companies and governments." Meanwhile, he stressed the need to diversify sources of income and not to rely on oil as the only source of public finances.

Entrepreneurs and SMEs

Having a proven track record in support-

ing Small and Medium enterprises SMEs, Al-Marzouq praised KFH's efforts to encourage the entrepreneurs and youth so that they can be materialized in the interest of society and economy. He added that KFH has established a department dedicated to finance such enterprises.

Credit ratings

Al-Marzouq said that KFH's continuous holding of the international rating agencies positive ratings confirms its sound financial position, adding that Moody's affirmed A1 / Prime-1 long- and short-term domestic and foreign currency deposit ratings of KFH. At the same time, Moody's upgraded KFH's baseline credit assessment (BCA) to baa3. The outlook on KFH's long-term ratings remains stable. Fitch Ratings also has affirmed recently KFH's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'A+', with a stable outlook. The rating agency also affirmed the company's Viability Rating at 'bb+'.

Best Bank in Kuwait

KFH has won prestigious awards from well-known international providers, including the Euromoney 'Best Bank in Kuwait' award for 2019 and the Global Finance's World Best Islamic Financial Institution award for 2019. The criteria and methodologies are used for these awards including but not limited to, customer needs, technological innovation, quality of products, reputation, customer satisfaction, geographic footprint, strategic relationships, excellence and adapting to the changing market conditions. All these ratings are based on the advice of bankers, analysts and financial experts from around the world.

Kuwaiti youth

Al-Marzouq said that "the recruitment and development of Kuwaiti youth is ongoing strategy at KFH, which is supported by growth opportunities and a large market share. The organizational structure should be improved, procedures developed, and effective systems implemented to enhance the mechanism and efficiency of work.

- 27.67 fils EPS, an increase of 12.6%
- Net operating income reached KD 393.0 million, an increase of 7%
- Depositors' accounts reached KD 13.248 billion, an increase of 12.5%
- Growth sustainability strategy by focusing on core banking activities
- To expand operations in Middle East and Europe through Digital Bank
- Enhancing innovation to meet the challenges of digitization and achieve excellence in customer service
- KFH-Turkey's financial indicators outperform the required rates with excellent levels
- A leading role in supporting the development plan and Vision 2035
- Supporting entrepreneurs and SMEs is an ongoing strategy
- Positive credit ratings with a stable outlook

بيت التمويل الكويتي

Kuwait Finance House

Praise be to Allah

Financial Results up to the End of Third Quarter of 2019

		30/09/2019	30/09/2018	%
Net Profit for Shareholders	"KD Million"	190.50	169.10	12.7
Earnings per Share	"Fils"	27.67	24.58	12.6
Total Financing Income	"KD Million"	701.24	636.46	10.2
Total Operating Income	"KD Million"	615.18	589.61	4.3
Net Operating Income	"KD Million"	393.04	367.47	7.0

		30/09/2019	31/12/2018	%
Total Assets	"KD Billion"	18.999	17.770	6.9
Financing Receivables	"KD Billion"	9.356	9.189	1.8
Depositors' Accounts	"KD Billion"	13.248	11.780	12.5
Share Holders' Equity	"KD Billion"	1.994	1.894	5.3

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Business

Global Finance honors Boubyan Bank, names it 'Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait'

Award ceremony held during IMF & World Bank meetings in Washington

KUWAIT: Boubyan Bank has continued its local achievements and followed the journey it started before many years by being named the Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait in 2019 by Global Finance for the 4th year in a row due to the growth witnessed by the various indicators of the bank as well as the growth of its market shares.

The ceremony was held in Washington during IMF and World Bank's meetings where the bank's CEO & Vice Chairman, Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed, received the award along with many of the bank's officers who attended the grand ceremony held for this occasion.

Commenting on this special achievement, Al-Majed stated: "Thanks to Allah, the Almighty, we have made this achievement which is attributed to the Grace of Allah, the Almighty, in the first place, then to the efforts of our great human resources, the trust of our shareholders and customers in what we have been doing since many years. The bank takes pride in its record of awards and recognition that have been received in the recent years, especially as they come from regional and global institutions that are renowned for their fairness and the credibility of their choices which are based on numbers, financial results, and market achievements." Al-Majed went on to add: "Such global recognitions put more responsibilities on the management to commit to the remarkable service levels we provide to our customers. We believe that creativity and innovation are the way to continue in our path of success."

Award-winning criteria

In its report about the selection criteria for choosing Boubyan, Global Finance stated that the bank managed during relatively short periods to make great leaps in growing its financial indicators, especially its market shares, in one of the most competitive markets in the region. Boubyan Bank already announced KD 45 million in net profits until September, at a growth rate of 12 percent compared with the comparative period of the past year, while the earning per share amounts to 15.25 fils compared with 14.20 fils for the comparative period of 2018. All of the Bank's main indicators witnessed a remarkable growth until September 2019 where the total assets increased to KD 5 billion at a growth rate of 18 percent while the operating income increased to register KD 109 million at a growth rate of 4 percent in addition to the increase in customers' deposits by 14 percent, to reach KD 4.1 billion.

The total equity of the bank increased to KD 567 million compared with KD 396 million last year and there



Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed receiving the award



was a notable increase in the financing portfolio up to KD 3.6 billion with a growth rate of 14 percent in addition to the continuous growth of the bank's customers' base.

The market share, in financing, increased generally to approximately 9 percent in the meantime, while Boubyan Bank's share of the retail finance increased specifically to approximately 12 percent. Besides, the bank recorded outstanding growth rates in the corporate credit portfolio which stood at 16 percent. This was achieved by attracting a number of operational companies known for their financial and economic creditworthiness while continuing to maintain the highest standards of credit quality, studying and diversifying risks. Speaking of corporate services, Al-Majed added "Boubyan Bank is aspiring to be the bank of choice for corporate customers. To this end, we have successfully managed to launch a number of innovative and remarkable digital products and services introduced for the first time in the local market in line with the bank's plan to cater for all the banking

needs and requirements in compliance with the provisions of the Noble Islamic Sharia."

The bank's Corporate Banking Group recorded good growth rates in its corporate credit portfolio which stood at 17 percent in 2018 by attracting a number of operational companies known for their financial and economic creditworthiness while continuing to maintain the highest standards of credit quality.

2019 Awards

This year, Boubyan received more than 20 remarkable awards, the most prominent of which has been received from Global Finance which named Boubyan the Best Islamic Digital Bank in the Middle East. Additionally, the bank received another four awards, namely, the Best Islamic Digital Bank in Kuwait, the Best Mobile Banking App in Kuwait, the Most Innovative Digital Bank in Kuwait, and the Best Innovation in IMAL Technology.

Furthermore, the Noor Boubyan Initiative for eyesight-

restoration operations in Africa was named the Best Social Humanitarian Initiative at the GCC level, and the bank received the GCC's Award for the "Replacement and Nationalization of Manpower in Kuwait".

Al-Majed went on to add: "Since creativity and innovation represent two main pillars in Boubyan Bank's business model, we have been constantly keen over the past years on enhancing our innovation and our services extended to customers. To maintain its edge in the market, Boubyan Bank continued offering new and innovative banking products and services in addition to improving existing ones."

"Boubyan maintains the highest standards upon offering products in a comfortable and innovative manner that befits the needs of customers whether in terms of technology or traditional ways of banking. Through our care, persistence and dedication to work, we managed to achieve the highest levels of customer satisfaction.", he concluded.

Warba Bank launches 'Investors' Relations' platform

KUWAIT: Warba Bank took the extra-mile as being the digital leading bank and launched its latest digital service "Warba Bank Investors' Relations Platform", through which it will provide investors with all necessary information related to the bank's financial and operational as well as shares' performance.



Khaled Hafez

Available on both, the bank's smartphones' app and website, the launch of the "Investor Relations" platform gives Warba Bank the exclusivity as being the first Kuwaiti bank to introduce this platform as a smart phone app. Warba's IR platform is the newest service to be added to the bank services' portfolio targeting investors. It comes in-line with the CBK regulations, Kuwait Capital Markets Authority and related entities, inviting Kuwaiti banks to reinforce transparency measures in their relations with investors by providing around the clock, accurate and reliable data. Today and through their smart phones or the web, Warba Bank's investors have the chance to keep abreast with the latest news of the bank's financial and operational update.

The new platform provides interactive screens that enable the investor to obtain an accurate result about share price changes with specified period. This new feature is also available in the "Financial Results" and "Share Price History" tabs. The new platform provides another new feature under "Investments" Calculator tab, which enabling investors to calculate the exact return on invested capital during a specific period according to spot market price per share. Investor will only need to enter either the total invested amount investment's value or the total number of shares acquired. Moreover, investors can go through the latest updates on the bank's activities including but not limited to: Analysts' quarterly conference call, Sukuk issuance, bank's credit ratings and others. All these features will be available under sub-screen "News & Advertisement". In line with the regulations issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Market Authority and relevant authorities combined to our sense of responsibility towards our investors, Warba Bank provides "Investors Relations" as a secured platform offering qualitative and quantitative information with transparency and credibility on the financial, economic and social performance of the bank; it will enable our investors to stay informed of all developments related to the bank's operations while enhancing communication's platforms as per Khaled Hafez Chief Financial Officer in Warba Bank.

Hafez added: "Warba Bank has earned its leading reputation among the Kuwaiti business community, as being one of the Islamic banks that has succeeded to create a business model combining between the Sharia laws and the offerings of value-added Islamic banking products and services that achieve the highest returns on customer banking transactions. Warba's leading position exceeds the local market to reach international markets through its achievements of various unique transactions such as Sukuk issuance as well as capital increase, which contributed to the expansion and diversification of our investors base. As a result, We believe that the "Investors Relations" platform will positively contribute to the bank's position in the market as well as enrich the credibility towards our current and potential investors, as we continue provide them with updates about investment status with us through this modern, flexible & user-friendly mean".

KAMCO closes 43 DCM transactions worth \$7.6 billion

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, successfully closed 43 debt capital market (DCM) transactions worth approximately \$7.6 billion since launching its DCM group. Over the last two years, KAMCO closed 7 bonds and sukuk transactions, raising approximately \$2.2 billion through its premier debt capital market's group, placing the company amongst the most active asset managers and investment banking firms in the region.

KAMCO's strong presence in the regional debt market, coupled with its extensive networks and relationships with clients, led to the successful conclusion of numerous transactions for key players in the market. In review of the Company's DCM track record, KAMCO's Investment Banking Team managed

more than 80 percent of the KD denominated bonds in the last 10 years. More recently, KAMCO co-managed several landmark transactions which include Kuwait Project Company's ("KIPCO") USD 500 million bond issue, Kuwait International Bank's ("KIB") \$300 million sukuk issue and Damac Properties' \$400 million sukuk issue.

In recognition for its outstanding performance during the period, KAMCO's Head of Debt Capital Markets, Omar Zaineddine, and Vice President of Debt Capital Markets, Bader Al-Ghanim, received the "Best Debt Bank in the Middle East - 2019" award on behalf of the Company at Global Finance's 21st award ceremony held on October 19th at the National Press Club in Washington D.C.

Commenting on KAMCO's DCM performance, Zaineddine said, "Our success stems from our highly skilled team and ability to lead several workstreams simultaneously in a timely professional manner for our clients while utilizing our extensive resources. As a prominent player in the local and regional debt capital markets, we will continue to guide our clients through complex transactions and pro-



Omar Zaineddine and Bader Al-Ghanim receive the "Best Debt Bank in the Middle East - 2019" award.

vide them with unique solutions through alternative financing strategies."

It is worth mentioning that over the years, KAMCO's Investment Banking Department has achieved a strong track record of 142 successful investment banking transactions worth around \$21.0 bil-

lion, as of 30 June 2019. KAMCO offers a suite of investment banking solutions in Debt Capital Markets, Equity Capital Markets, and Mergers & Acquisitions to its clients backed by a research-driven approach that is executed in line with international best practices.

Gulf Bank winner claims cash prize up to 12 times her salary

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced the winner of its ninth monthly Salary Account draw of the year. This month's lucky winner, Shoroq Salem Ahmad Alhazaa, will take home a cash prize of 12 times her salary. The Salary Account draw took place at Gulf Bank's Al Adan branch in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce. To date, Shoroq Alhazaa is one of nine Salary Account winners, each of whom took home cash prizes.

"I would like to thank everyone at Gulf Bank for their outstanding customer service," said the winner, Shoroq Alhazaa. "As

a Gulf Bank customer, I appreciate how quickly and efficiently I can conduct all my banking needs, and how innovative Gulf Bank's products and features are. Gulf Bank is the only bank that constantly strives to find ideal solutions for each and every customer."

With the 2019 Kuwaiti Salary Offer, new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the monthly draws, giving them the chance to win cash prizes of up to 12 times their salary. Customers are also enrolled in a yearly draw of Kuwait's largest salary prize, a cash prize of up to 100 times the winner's salary.

Gulf Bank's Salary Account also gives new customers the opportunity to receive either a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank,



or an interest-free loan of up to KD 10,000. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and are eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.

Customers can also enjoy additional benefits like a Visa or MasterCard credit card free of charge for a year. They can also apply for a loan of up to KD 70,000 or a consumer loan of up to KD 25,000.



Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director, Twenty14 Holdings at 10 Downing Street in the UK as a part of a high-level business delegation, hosted by Graham Stuart, Minister of Investment, UK to discuss on promoting investments in the UK.

EU revises up German 2018 budget surplus

BRUSSELS: The European Union's statistics agency revised up Germany's budget surplus for 2018, data released yesterday showed, following a trend that could signal Berlin's plan to spend more next year may end up delivering less than expected.

The data may not bode well for euro zone's economic growth prospects, as the bloc is facing risks of a protracted slowdown, which many economists say could be countered only with a significant increase in governments' spending - especially by Germany, the euro area's largest economy, Eurostat said

Germany's revenues last year exceeded expenses by more than previously estimated, allowing Berlin to post a budget surplus of 1.9 percent of its output, above the 1.7 percent that Eurostat had calculated in April.

The eurozone overall recorded a 0.5 percent deficit, unchanged from Eurostat's previous estimate as Germany was offset by higher-than-expected spending in other countries, such as Italy, which posted a 2.2 percent deficit, above the 2.1 percent estimated earlier.

The 19-country currency bloc's debt was revised up to 85.9 percent of gross domestic product from the 85.1 percent previously estimated. The upward revision of Germany's budget surplus confirms the trend in surprise overshoots in data from Berlin. In 2017, the country's surplus was raised to 1.2 percent of GDP from the 1.0 percent initially estimated. —Reuters

What's On

Sheraton hotels Kuwait participate in Breast Cancer Awareness campaign



The month of October has been designated as the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, started by the American Cancer Society since 1985 educating the world of the signs and symptoms associated with the disease. The Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, annually organizes an awareness campaign for all its female associates with the aim to get as many people as possible in raising awareness highlighting the importance of early detection and sharing useful information about breast cancer given the hotel's important role in encouraging positive healthy lifestyle choices.

Throughout the campaign, employees were provided with detailed information highlighting the symptoms of breast cancer and early detection, in addition

to prevention and treatment. To further promote the campaign - an all pink themed set up was done by the Training and Human Resources Department. The ballroom was decorated in pink; ladies wearing pink in all shades, as well as the pink ribbon recognizing the importance and further represent the month of breast cancer awareness.

The management of the Sheraton Kuwait and the Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait are keen to give outstanding attention to the health and safety of their employees along with the hotels' commitment to social responsibilities, providing permanent contribution to adopt effective programs supporting our advocacy, knowing that early detection can save lives where both the company and employees can receive significant benefits.



Brazilian Embassy marks National Day



By Ben Garcia

The Brazilian Embassy in Kuwait marked its country's National Day with 3-day art and photo exhibition. The event was being held at Yarmoukh Cultural Center Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiya. The paintings at the venue were the works of Syrian-US born-Hadeel Khayat while Thomaz Napoleao, a Brazilian diplomat captured lives of Syrian people inside Brazil. In his speech during the event, Brazilian Ambassador to Kuwait Norton de Andrade Rapesta said that this year marks the celebration of friendship and challenges.

He said Kuwait and Brazil share the same vision and have similar approaches to many challenges in making the world a better place to live. "The challenge I am referring to is about the war in neighboring country Syria, where we share the burden of receiving people displaced by the war," Rapesta said. "As we talk now, we house more than 9,000 refugees in Brazil from Syria. They have found Brazil as a new country to live and rebuild their lives," he said. He then closed his short speech by thanking Kuwaiti Ambassador Reem Al-Khalid who he said played a key role in enhancing and widening his country's relations with Kuwait. Reem is also the assistant minister for Americas and Oceania and former Ambassador of Kuwait to Chile.



Customers win gold coins from Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of 250 outlets spread across the globe is running their 'A Gift of Gold' campaign in Kuwait showrooms until 27th October, 2019. This is a golden chance for the customers to win assured gold coins with Gold & Diamond Jewelry purchases. Also, the company has unveiled the latest Festive Jewelry collection in gold, diamond and precious gem jewelry featuring the most eye-catching and unique trends bound to captivate the customers.

Customers are continuing to win big across all the outlets of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in the Kuwait. 'A Gift of Gold' offers by Malabar Gold & Diamonds gives unmatched chances for the cus-

tomers to win gold coins with their gold & diamond jewelry purchases. Customers can win a guaranteed gold coin or up to 50 gold coins instantly on purchase of gold jewelry worth KD 250 via 'Scratch & Win' coupons. Adding to the above, customers also get two gram gold coin free on diamond jewelry purchase of KD 500 and a one gram gold coin free on purchase of diamond jewelry worth KD 250. Also, customers will have a great opportunity to get protected from the increasing gold rate by just paying 10% of the entire amount on your favorite gold jewelry. This offer is valid until 25th October only.

The latest jewelry collection launched in celebration of the festive season includes both traditional and contemporary designs in 18 & 22K gold, diamond and precious gem jewelry and are guaranteed to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has incorporated these designs as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine- Indian Heritage Jewelry, Precia - Gem Jewelry and Starlet - Kids jewelry.

'Kolathunadu Mahotsavam' 2019 debuted

Kannur Expats Association (KEA) celebrated its 2nd 'Kolathunadu Mahotsavam 2019' with the launch of KEA Star Singer Competition at Nottingham British School, Abbasiya at 3 pm. Following the cultural programs, public meeting was held at 7 pm. The ceremony was inaugurated by K Jeeva Sagar, Ambassador of India, who said that women should be given equal importance and they should flourish in our society and should be supported to use their talents for the benefit of the society.

At the function, the ambassador dis-

tributed prizes to the five winners of KEA Star Singer competition. The first place was won by Ruth Ann Joby, second place by Devika Viji Kumar, the third place by Navneet Krishnan, fourth place by Anil Kumar and Esther and 5th place by Archana Srija Saji. Ruth Ann, who won the first place at the request of the Ambassador, performed a song in front of the audience.

President Sherine Mathew presided over the meeting. Biju Sopanam, Nisha Sarang, KEA patron Madhu Kumar, KEA office-bearers Muhasena, Preman Illuth, program convener Santosh Kumar, Syed Amjad and Social activist Manoj Mavelikkara felicitated the greetings. Actors and prominent family serial pair, Biju Sopanam and Nisha Sarang, who were the guests of event, interacted with audience. Secretary Ajit Kumar welcomed the gathering and Treasurer Pushparajan delivered the vote of thanks.



Health & Science

Maritime industry seeks solutions to limit pollution and replace heavy fuel

Shipowners say they are trying to cut their heavy-polluting industry's impact on the environment by using cleaner energy—but some have stalled over limiting the speed of ships. Led by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the industry is considering several options to replace so-called heavy fuel oil that propels over 60,000 vessels, including tankers, used in the global transportation of goods. Last week, the IOM met in London to discuss options with other industry players.

"The IMO's ambition can only be realized with the development and application of technological innovation and the introduction of alternative fuels, which means low- or zero-carbon fuels should be made available soon," said its secretary general Kitack Lim. French companies are driving the development of new ships that can run on less-polluting liquefied natural gas, but that does require suitable storage facilities and engines.

The new technology is gaining support from energy majors, such as Royal Dutch Shell. "Maritime transport is very polluting and yet is the last sector not to have been regulated," Faig Abbasov of Belgian NGO Transport and Environment told AFP. Maritime transport accounts for 2.3 percent of CO2 emissions, according to Armateurs de France representing shipping companies. This compares with 2.0 percent for air transport, according to the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The IMO has in the meantime decided that from next year sulphur content in heavy fuel oil will be cut to 0.5 percent from 3.5 percent. This is expected to be achieved by the use of "scrubbers", or exhaust cleaning

systems fitted to ships, that reduce the amount of sulphur emitted into the environment.

Reduce the speed

Meanwhile, a large section of the French maritime sector recently voted to limit pollution by reducing ships' speed, a move supported by President Emmanuel Macron. The ecological benefit is exponential: a tanker that lowers its speed from 12 to 11 knots reduces its fuel consumption by 18 percent. The reduction reaches 30 percent if it travels at only 10 knots, according to the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition.

"Reducing vessel speed is one of the options on the table, but it's not the only one," said Hiroyuki Yamada, director of the marine division within the IMO. "This measure is pushed by some shipowners but not by all," he added. "Our role is to put in place effective measures that can provide more flexibility." Shipowners are yet to be convinced, however. "It's first and foremost a question of investment," said Philippe Renaud at CMA CGM Group. "If we reduce speed, we will need more ships."

And to add "a longer journey increases storage time and results in additional cost for customers", he noted. The issue of reducing speeds will feature at the 75th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee between November 11-15. The French maritime sector is hoping for a possible vote in favor of the measure in 2020, for implementation by 2023. "The shipping industry is going to change, because we have to address climate change," said Edmund Hughes, head of air pollution and energy efficiency at the IMO insisted last week. "We have to phase out CO2 emissions as soon as possible," he insisted. — AFP



TOKYO: In this file photo a crane unloads a container from a cargo ship at the international cargo terminal at the port in Tokyo. — AFP

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REHABILITATION & PHYSIOTHERAPY

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

- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Post-surgical rehabilitation (knee & hip joint replacement - arthroscopy)
- Neurological disorders (neck & back disorders)
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Mansour Al Adhbi
Physiotherapist

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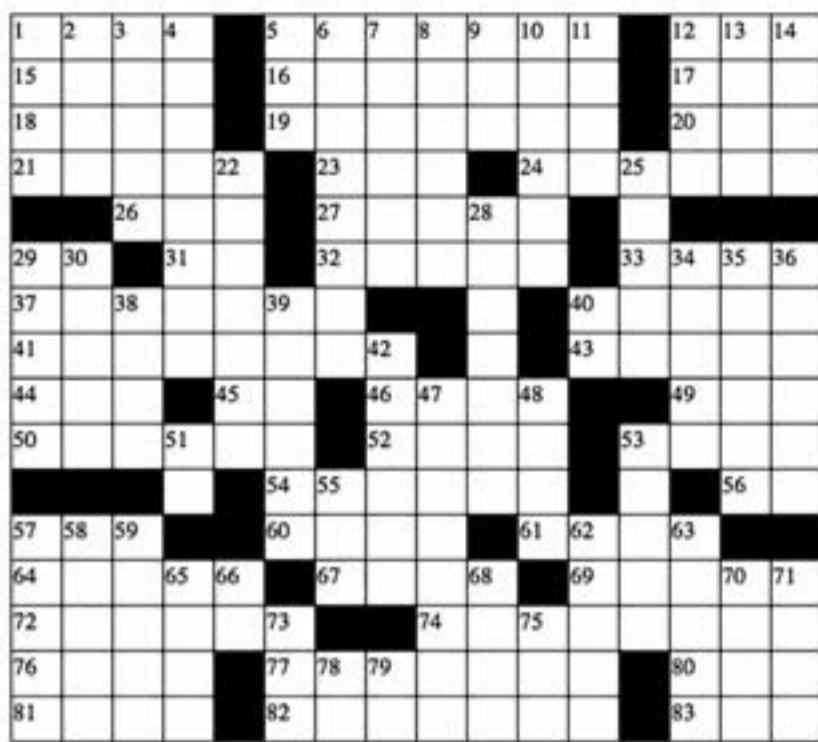
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Stars

CROSSWORD 2339



ACROSS

1. Of or relating to near the ear.
5. A support consisting of an arrangement of straps for holding something to the body (especially one supporting a person suspended from a parachute).
12. Your general store of remembered information.
15. Large genus of tropical shrubs or herbs some of which yield fibers of mucilaginous substances.
16. Bring to light.
17. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
18. A form of energy that is transferred by a difference in temperature.
19. Extremely large tree-like cactus of desert regions of southwestern United States having a thick columnar sparsely branched trunk bearing white flowers and edible red pulpy fruit.
20. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
21. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
23. A female person who has the same parents as another person.
24. United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
26. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
27. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
29. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
31. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
32. Arm again.
33. A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
37. Lac purified by heating and filtering.
41. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Celebra).
43. A unit of elastance equal to the reciprocal of a farad.
44. A United Nations agency that invest directly in companies and guarantees loans to private investors.
45. (Greek mythology) A maiden seduced by Zeus.
46. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
49. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
50. Goddess of spring and wife of Brahma.
52. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
54. (Old Testament) Hebrew prophet and judge who anointed Saul as king.
56. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
57. A protocol developed for the internet to get data from one network device to another.
60. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
61. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
64. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
67. Tall woody perennial grasses with hollow slender stems especially of the genera Arundo and Phragmites.
69. An honorary arts degree.
72. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
74. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.

DOWN

1. A law passed by US Congress to prevent employees from being injured or contracting diseases in the course of their employment.
2. A relative position or degree of value in a graded group.
3. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
4. Moths whose larvae are cutworms.
5. Czechoslovakian religious reformer who anticipated the Reformation.
6. Generalized edema with accumulation of serum in subcutaneous connective tissue.
7. The organization that is the governing authority of a political unit.
8. The state that precedes vomiting.
9. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
10. A natural body of running water flowing on or under the earth.
11. Wearing footgear.
12. A person who has lied or who lies repeatedly.
13. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
14. Female equine animal.
22. A stabilizer that is part of the vertical tail structure of an airplane.
25. Any plant of the genus Erica.
28. A light roll rich with eggs and butter and somewhat sweet.
30. A line that forms the length of an arrow pointer.
34. A city in northeastern Ohio.
35. (South African) An ear of corn.
36. Become of.
38. Make an etching of.
39. Cuban dancer and choreographer (born in 1921).
40. A public promotion of some product or service.
42. Tropical American tree having wood like mahogany and sweet edible egg-shaped fruit.
47. A deep pan with a handle.
48. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
51. A monarchy in northwestern Europe occupying most of the British Isles.
53. Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
55. The month following March and preceding May.
58. Of or relating to Chios.
59. 100 penni equal 1 markka.
62. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
63. A city in central New York.
65. In bed.
66. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
68. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
70. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
71. A Chadik language spoken south of Lake Chad.
73. Water that has condensed on a cool surface overnight from water vapor in the air.
75. Tag the base runner to get him out.
78. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
79. A colorless explosive liquid that is volatile and poisonous and foul-smelling.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are ready for work but there just seem to be too many projects for now. There is a push to accomplish your goals the first part of this week. If you find interruptions exasperating, you may want to put a note on your desk that says, working... Please leave a message. The word for your feeling now is achievement. If there is a job, you can do it! You pour yourself into any task with absolute determination. You are organized and able to take care of business. Sprinkle your conversations with your sense of humor this evening. Loved ones will respond in like form. You may find yourself returning a favor later this evening: taking care of children, running errands.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There is an instinctive need to be powerful and in control this day. Be careful that you do not become too pushy right now—things may not happen on your time schedule. Pay attention to your intuition; a hunch could lead you into some very positive places, with answers to difficult work problems never thought of before. Your increasing inner confidence helps you emerge from a time of self-doubt into a time of trust and dependence regarding your own choices. Affirm to yourself often that you deserve, and are grateful for, the prosperity and perhaps the abundance that comes your way. This evening your sense of practicality is strong and you feel loving and relaxed with your loved ones.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could be most persuasive with others, and expressive in your speech. If you are in the sales profession you will find this day a productive one. This is also a great time to work in groups. You have new ideas and the freedom to put them to work for you. You tend to sense the successful outcome that is on the horizon. Later today you may think about involving yourself in some humanitarian group—perhaps as simple as greenpeace. Now is a good time to pursue these extraordinary avenues. Some of your friends may have had those same desires and in your communications today you may gain some focus along this line. Family members are all scattered this evening. Relax and just enjoy the evening. This is a good day.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be seen by others as the right person to be put in charge of some project. By allocating some of the time-consuming things that slow you down, you will be able to forge ahead with your work. You gain the rewards for your hard work, whether it is from some speculation or from the time you put in on some project. Be sure to compliment the ones that help you along your way. You are a delight to all around you, as usual. It is good to see the progress you have made. Beating the odds through cleverness is appealing and this may lead to an interest in all kinds of financial speculation this afternoon. There are opportunities to be with your friends tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Being more practical and hard-working is of special importance now. Taking care of the necessary underpinnings of life health, work, etc. Becomes a greater preoccupation. Witty little aphorisms like "no-pain, no-gain" will be your motivation to follow through on your goals, at work and home. Sorting things out and getting them organized keeps you busy. You are in a mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own better qualities throughout this afternoon. You may see value in or feel love for an older person or someone in authority. Your inner resources are accentuated. Expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. You are moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A burdensome business project finally comes to an end—never fear, there are better projects on the horizon. Your intuition is strong and can guide you accurately in making forecasts or decisions. Your sensitivity makes you recoil from aggressive types. Circumstances, however, can throw you into a few tough situations. You will be able to win the competition, outfox the fox or uncover the secret code! This may mean dealing with education, psychology, spiritual enlightenment or teaching principles and techniques. Your artistic talents are showing, especially while teaching young people this afternoon. Your imagination is crucial to your functioning. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

An important relationship, perhaps with an older person or someone in authority, may come into focus this day. It may be hard to concentrate on the business issues. There could be some need for a compromise or some form of negotiation, but this is something that you are able to accomplish. There is an opportunity for growth—you will need to give a project your special attention. You may find that both your personal growth and your career may depend upon how you can handle the very sensitive psychological material coming up now. You will benefit from removing the emotional and applying the analytical. Take your allocated breaks and know that work will proceed at the proper rate of speed. Friends or family can be a great boost this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Sometimes you ask too many questions—sometimes you do not ask enough. Today will be a great day to learn the difference—listen carefully. This point-of-knowing may come through a book, another person's rendition of an experience or your own experience in a legal matter. Not to worry, you will not suffer any ill effects. You radiate much energy and you enjoy working within groups. You have the opportunity to provide help to those that do not seem to have any idea of how to do research. You just may have to accept the fact that people like to feel your warmth.



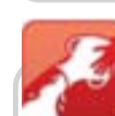
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

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 manage to get the most out of any skill or ability you have. Use your talent for seeing both sides of a situation and show the pros and cons throughout the process of a meeting, lecture, etc., perhaps a few charts as well. You may be combining art with work these days... You certainly like your work and hobby or art combined. Any problems today are valued for the lessons they represent, rather than perceived as obstacles. Budgeting, investments and all that brings profit are on your mind now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are at your mental best this morning. You will be successful in your attempt to make decisions and take care of mental work. Your fine verbal skills and a natural sense of justice make legal work a distinct possibility. Working with laws, natural or manmade, amounts to a real talent. You are able to guide superiors through some sensitive situations at this time. You also have a great interest in ideas: the closer they are to positive results the more impressive. You discover the true feelings of another this evening and decide it is time to move forward with your own ideas. This is a full day with much communication.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You would be wise to be patient and tread a little lightly when it comes to indulgence and overextending yourself. Things could be tight. Your career and life direction are putting some real pressure on your home and emotional life. Obviously you cannot live without both, so some kind of self-control on your part is indicated. You may have trouble with subordinates or young people in the workplace today. This may mean dealing with the public or dealing with new employees that have a lot of questions. Self-sacrifice and an understanding attitude on your part, however, could have far-reaching effects on your own life-path and career.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Mental patterns and communication skills play a major role in your life most every day—they can change life patterns for others, in most positive ways. A new co-worker may misunderstand or a co-worker friend may be difficult to get along with and cause you to re-think your words. You now have the opportunity to bring about positive results. Step back and see the situation differently... Look at the bigger picture. Don't assume anything, just be patient. You have a positive attitude and usually think from this angle first. That inner self-confidence burns with its own light. There is an increasing inner confidence that will help you to be helpful when others need you. Family matters are fun this evening. A young person is learning how to tell jokes.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Las Vegas

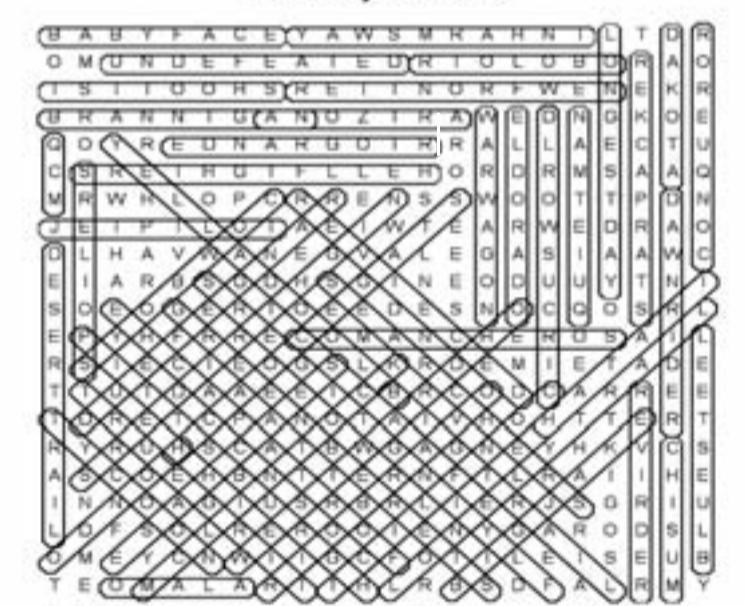
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 24 letters spell something you might see in Las Vegas.



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| ATTRACTIONS | ENTERTAINMENT | NEON SIGNS | SINGERS |
| BUFFETS | FOOD | NEVADA | SOUVENIRS |
| CASINOS | FREMONT STREET | NIGHTLIFE | SPRING MOUNTAINS |
| CELEBRITIES | HOTELS | PERFORMERS | SUNNY |
| CLARK COUNTY | IMPERSONATORS | PLAYS | TOURISTS |
| COMEDIANS | LAS VEGAS STRIP | RESORTS | TOURS |
| CONCERTS | LIGHTS | RESTAURANTS | TRIBUTE ACTS |
| CONVENTIONS | MAGICIANS | SHOPPING | VACATION |
| DESERT | MARRIAGES | SHOPS | WARM |
| DINING | MUSICALS | SHOWS | WEDDING CHAPELS |
| DRINKS | | | |

Yesterday's Solution

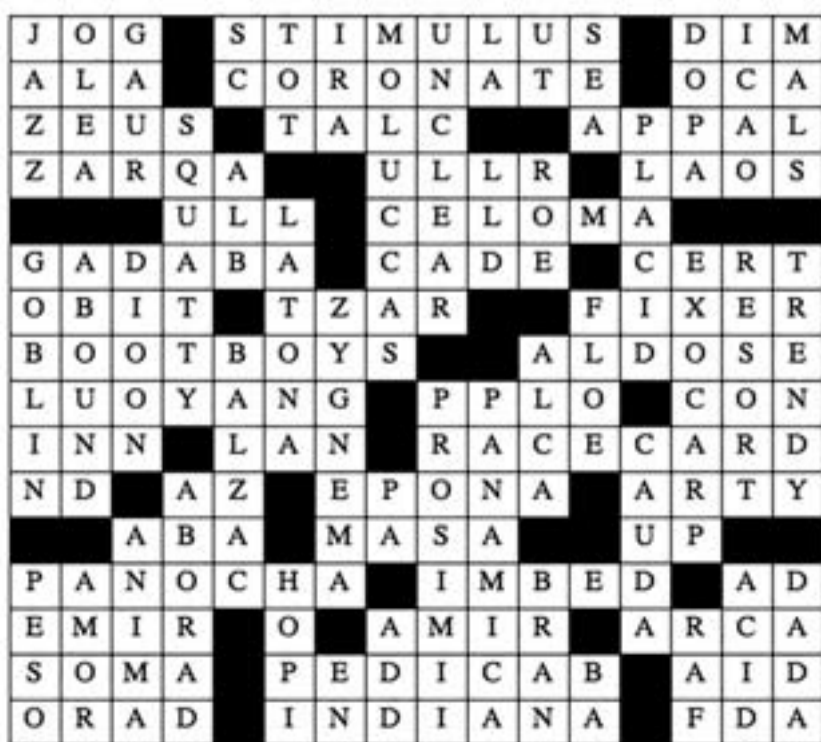
John Wayne Movies



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| ALAMO, The | COWBOYS, The | JET PILOT | RIO LOBO |
| ARIZONA | DAKOTA | LONGEST TRAIL, The | SEA CHASE, The |
| BABY FACE | DAWN RIDER, The | MCQ | SEARCHERS, The |
| BIG JAKE | DECEIVER, The | NEW FRONTIER | SHOOTIST, The |
| BIG TRAIL, The | DESERT TRAIL, The | PIZZA MAN, The | SPAGHETTI |
| BLOOD ALLEY | EL DORADO | QUET MAN, The | STAR Packer, The |
| BLUE STEEL | FLYING TIGERS | RANGE FEUD | STARBUCK |
| BRANNIGAN | FORT APACHE | RED RIVER | STARBUCK |
| CHESUM | GREEN BERETS, The | RIO BRAVO | STARBUCK |
| CIRCUS WORLD | HATAI | RIO GRANDE | STARBUCK |
| COPANCHEDS, The | HELL FIGHTERS | | STARBUCK |
| CONFLICT | HONDO | | STARBUCK |
| CONQUEROR, The | IN HARMS WAY | | STARBUCK |

The hidden message is: TOMORROW HOPES WE HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM YESTERDAY

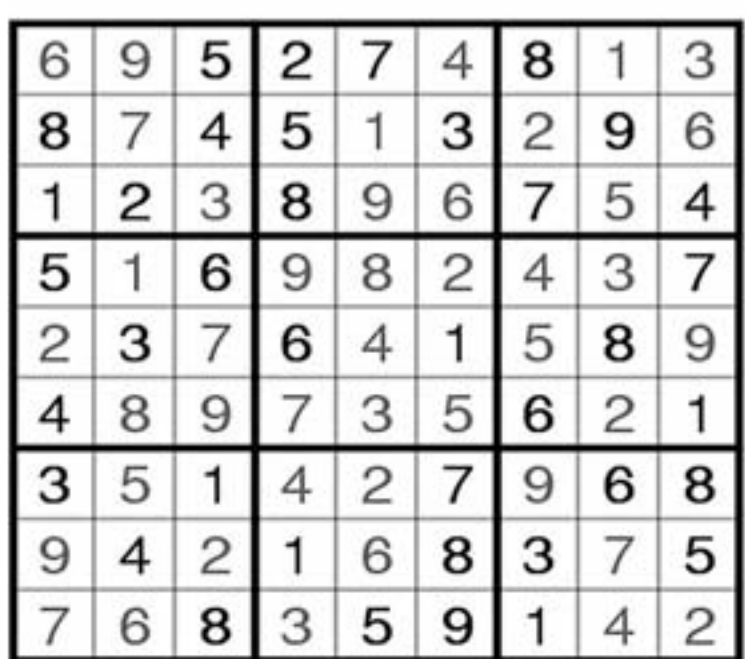
Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019



.....
A dog dressed in a dinosaur costume attends the Tompkins Square Halloween Dog Parade in Manhattan in New York City. — AFP
.....

French architect **Jean Nouvel** workshop sues Paris concert hall

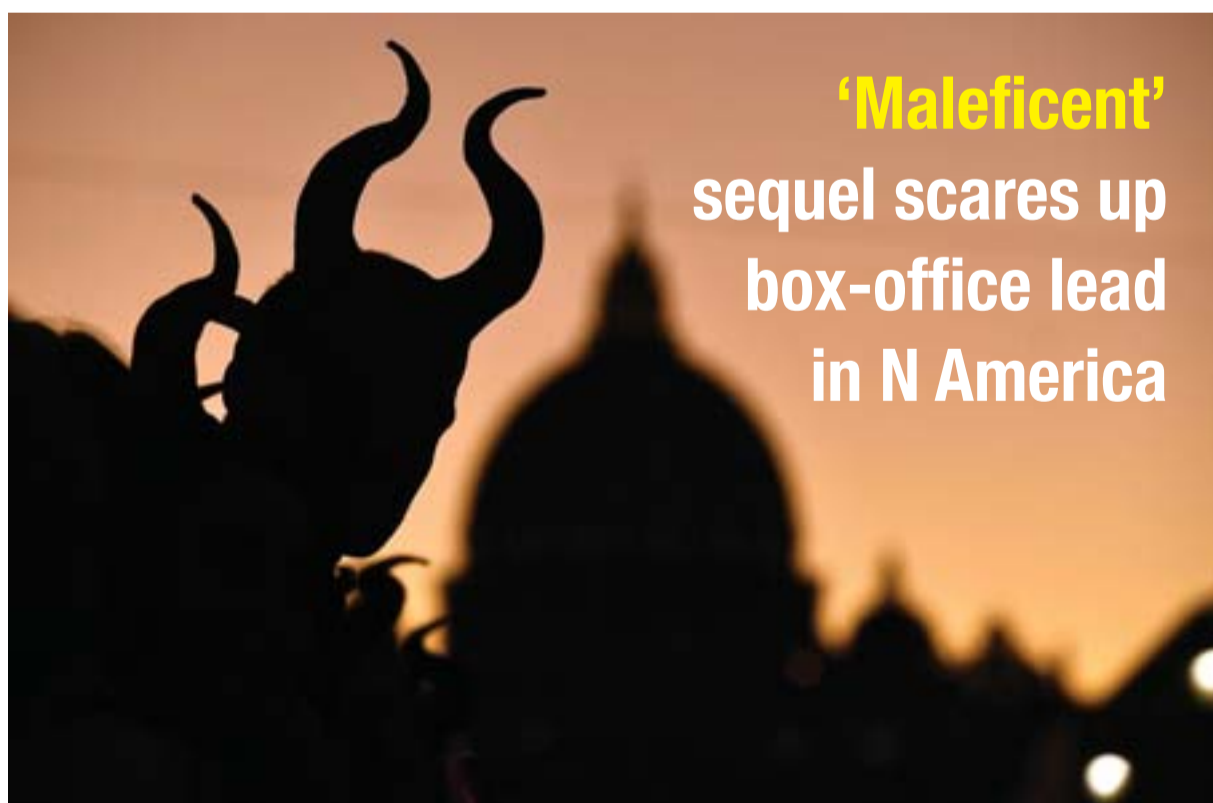
Top architect Jean Nouvel is suing one of his former clients, the Philharmonie concert hall in Paris, in a dispute over the cost of building the venue, which opened in 2015. In a complaint filed in the Paris court on October 14, his company Ateliers Jean Nouvel counters a 170 million euro (\$190 million) claim lodged by the Philharmonie de Paris against his company. The concert hall argues the architect's firm owes them the money because of budget overruns during the building of the hall, sources told AFP yesterday.

But the counter-claim filed by the architect's studio describes that demand as "exorbitant" and "unjustified", according to documents seen by AFP. The cost of the building rose from 173 million euros when the project was announced in 2006 to 386 million euros by the time it opened on January 14, 2015. Each side blames the other for having mismanaged the project. In April 2017, the body responsible for managing the concert hall sent a bill of 170.6 million euros to the architect, which included penalties for late delivery.

For Ateliers Jean Nouvel, this claim was "totally disproportionate not only in the absolute but also relative to the sums that were actually received" by the architect, which according to the legal document seen by AFP came to 12 million euros. Nouvel's lawyers, William Bourdon and Vincent Brengarth, said the claim against their client was all the more unusual for the fact that the concert hall was targeting only the architect and no other business involved in the project.

The Philharmonie was knowingly going after funds it

knew were not owed, they argued. Nouvel and the Philharmonie have been engaged in a very public war of words in the media and the courts since the concert hall's inauguration. Nouvel refused to attend the event, insisting that work on the building was not ready. At the time Nouvel, who won architecture's top global award, the Pritzker Prize, in 2008, wrote a lengthy complaint about the affair published in the daily Le Monde. — AFP



'Maleficent' sequel scares up box-office lead in N America

Disney's new "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" topped the North American box office for the weekend with an estimated take of \$36 million despite falling far below the original 2014 film, an industry group reported Sunday. The original "Maleficent," also starring Angelina Jolie, took in \$69.4 million in its debut weekend, going on to earn \$758 million globally. Both films follow the evil sorceress of "Sleeping Beauty" fame; Michelle Pfeiffer plays a scheming Queen Ingrith in the latest movie.

Slipping to second in its third week out was "Joker" from Warner Bros., at \$29.2 million for the Friday-to-Sunday period, Exhibitor Relations said. It stars Joaquin Phoenix in a backstory about the rise of Batman's maniacal nemesis. In third place was new Sony release "Zombieland: Double Tap," at \$26.7 million. With a star-laden cast including Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone, Luke Wilson and Rosario Dawson, the zombie comedy is expected to

remain strong through the month-end Halloween holiday.

In fourth was another Halloween-friendly film, United Artists' "The Addams Family," at \$16.1 million. The computer-animated movie, which follows the spooky Addams family and some creepy relatives, features the voices of Oscar Isaac, Charlize Theron, Snoop Dogg and Bette Midler. A live-action version in 1991 grossed \$113.5 million in the US. And in fifth was Paramount's "Gemini Man," starring Will Smith as a retired hitman who must face off against a younger clone of himself. It took in \$8.5 million.

Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were:
"Abominable" (\$3.5 million)
"Downton Abbey" (\$3.1 million)
"Judy" (\$2.1 million)
"Hustlers" (\$2.1 million)
"IT: Chapter Two" (\$1.5 million)—AFP

Britain's Prince Harry: 'I will not be bullied into playing a game that killed my mum'

Britain's Prince Harry has said the memory of his mother Diana's death more than two decades ago was still incredibly raw and he would not be bullied into "playing the game" with the media that he believes killed her. Princess Diana, who became one of the most photographed women on the planet after she married into the British royal family, died in a car crash in 1997 after being followed through the streets of Paris by photographers.

Earlier this month Harry's wife, Meghan Markle, began legal action against a newspaper in response to what the couple described as "bullying" by some sections of the British media. At the time, Harry said the treatment of Markle was reminiscent of their approach to his mother. "Everything that she went through and what happened to her is incredibly raw every single day and that is not being me being paranoid. That is just me not wanting a repeat of the past," Harry told ITV in an interview that was filmed during a tour of Africa earlier this month and aired on Sunday.

"Part of this job ... means putting on a brave face and turning a cheek to a lot of this stuff," he said. "All we need to do is focus on being real, and focus on being the people that we are and standing up for what we believe in. I will not be bullied into playing a game that killed my mum." Harry is also suing the publishers of Rupert Murdoch's Sun newspaper and the Daily Mirror over allegations of phone-hacking.

Describing what happened to his mother as "a wound that festers," Harry said: "Every single time I see a camera, every single time I hear a click, every single time I see a flash, it takes me straight back." Asked about newspaper reports of a rift with his older brother, William, Harry said, "inevitably stuff happens" as part of the role and the pressure the family is under. "We will always be brothers. We are certainly on different paths at the moment, but I will always be there for him as I know he will always be there for me," he said. "As brothers you have good days you have bad days."

Markle's proceedings against the Mail on Sunday newspaper are over the publication of a private letter that her lawyers said was "unlawful" and part of a "campaign by this media group to publish false and deliberately derogatory

stories about her." Asked during an interview for the same ITV documentary about how she had found the last year, the American former actress said it had been hard, and that she "didn't get it" when British friends had warned her about tabloid newspapers when she had first met Harry.

"I never thought that this would be easy, but I thought it would be fair, and that is the part that is really hard to reconcile," Markle said. "When people are saying things that are just untrue and they have been told they are untrue, but they are allowed to still say them, I don't know anybody in the world that would feel like that is OK, and that is different from just scrutiny." — Reuters



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, right, and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex attend the annual WellChild Awards in London. — AFP



Henna enthusiasts with henna-dyed beards pose for a photo in Dhaka. — AFP photos

Orange is the new grey for Bangladesh beards



In this photograph, barber Mohammad Shadat Hossain prepares henna powder to apply to the hair of a client in Dhaka.

From shades of startling red to hues of vivid tangerine, brightly colored beards have become a fashion statement on the streets of Bangladesh capital Dhaka. Facial hair of sunset tones is now the go-to look for older men wanting to take off the years, with an array of henna options available to the style-conscious. "I have been using it on my hair for the last two months. I like it," says Mahbubul Bashar, in his 50s, whose smile reflected his joy at his new look.

Abul Mia, a 60-year-old porter at a local vegetable market, agrees that the vibrant coloring can be transformative. "I love it. My family says I look a lot younger and handsome," he adds. While henna has been used widely in the country for decades, it has reached new heights of popularity. It is now virtually impossible to walk down a street in a Bangladesh city without seeing a colored beard. Orange hair—whether it's beards, moustaches or on heads—is everywhere, thanks to the popularity of the colored dye produced by the flowering henna plant.

"Putting henna on has become a fashion choice in recent years for elder men," confirms Didarul Dipu, head fashion journalist at Canvas magazine. "The powder is easily found in neighborhood stores and easy to put on," he adds. But the quest for youth is not the only reason why more and more Dhaka barbers are adding beard and hair coloring to their services.

Top imams also increasingly use henna powder color in what experts say is a move to prove their Muslim credentials as some religious texts say the prophet Mohammed

dyed his hair. In Bangladesh most of the population of 168 million is Muslim. "I heard from clerics that the prophet Mohammed used henna on his beard. I am just following," says Dhaka resident Abu Taher.

Beard fervor

Henna has long been a tradition at South Asian weddings. Brides and grooms use henna paste to trace intricate patterns on their hands for wedding parties. It has also long been used in Muslim communities in Asia and the Middle East for beards. Previously, aficionados created the dye by crushing henna leaves to form a paste. It was messy and time-consuming but modern henna powder is far more user-friendly.

Taher, who goes by one name, believes the dye has given his beard added vigour. "Look at this growth. Isn't it strong?" he exclaims pointing to his chin. "The powder turns the grey hair red but does not change the remaining black hair," he explains. Some believe henna powder has health benefits and, as it is natural rather than created using man-made chemicals like some dyes, does not cause any medical issues.

The new trend has also boosted barbers' fortunes—more men feel compelled to dye their hair and to do it more often at the salons. "In the past we hardly would get any customers for this," recalls Shuvo Das, who works at the Mahin Hairdressers in Dhaka's Shaheenbagh neighborhood. "But now there are clients who come every week to get their beard dyed," he says.

"It takes about 40 minutes to make the beard reddish and shiny. It is also cheap. A pack cost only 15 taka," Das explains as he massages the dye mixture—imported from India—into a customer's beard. According to Dhaka University sociology professor Monirul Islam Khan, the growing number of henna beards "is a sign of increasing Muslim fervor in Bangladeshi society." But, he adds, even those who are not strict followers do it. He explains: "They want to look younger. Even the women are getting fond of it as it makes their hair glitter."—AFP



In this photograph, barber Mohammad Shadat Hossain applies henna to the beard of his client Abdur Rahman in Dhaka.

Promise of an empty box: Mini-pantries bring free food, solidarity to US streets

On a recent Sunday, across the Potomac River from the US capital, two pre-teen girls were dusting off a refurbished dresser near a busy road, stocked with fruit, canned goods, toothpaste, children's books and more. Amanda Santana and Anna Rissi, both 12, had placed the dresser in their Alexandria neighborhood last year and attached written instructions: "Take what you need, leave what you can".

And to their surprise, many have been doing just that. The area's residents regularly fill up the "pantry" with non-perishable food items, toiletries and toys to make them readily available — for free — to anyone who needs them, the girls said. Their local project is part of the global Little Free Pantry movement, which gives those in need 24-hour access in their neighborhood to food and other basic necessities they may not normally be able to afford.

The initiative's founder, Jessica McClard, modeled it off of the Little Free Library project, in which community members and businesses in more than 90 countries have built freestanding boxes in cities where the public can leave and take books.

McClard built the international project's first free pantry box in 2016, on the grounds of a church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, a state she said is perpetually one of the most food-insecure in the country. Many emergency meal providers have irregular hours, but the free pantries are open all day, every day, she said.

And people can use the pantries privately and anonymously, avoiding the "shame" of using federal vouchers at a grocery store — something McClard remembers from having relied on food stamps earlier in her life. "On the one side, there's need and shame and judgment," she said. "And on the other, there's trust and compassion — more of a focus on community as opposed to individual responsibility."

As Santana and Rissi tidied their pantry in Alexandria, they recalled meeting a man who was using it recently. "He said, 'Today for the first time in a very long time, I had a fresh tomato,'" Santana told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "That made me smile."

Room for innovation

Hunger in the United States spiked during the 2008 recession and has only barely recovered to previous levels, according to government data released in September. The report from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) showed that more than 11 percent of the population lived in "food-insecure" households last year.

And the rate of hunger in the country is likely being exacerbated by other costs: According to 2017 research by Harvard University, households considered "severely burdened" by housing costs spend half of what other households do on food. In the four years since McClard launched the Little Free Pantry movement — with the motto "Feeding Neighbors, Nourishing Neighborhoods" — it has grown to 670 recorded projects, she said, adding the real figure could be triple that.

The idea has since been picked up across the country and abroad, with projects in Europe, Canada, South Africa, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia, she said. Little Free Pantries work best when built on private land that is publicly accessible, she added. Not only does such property often have fewer regulations than public land, but many churches, schools, businesses and community centers also have ample parking, an element of privacy and a built-in support network.

National anti-hunger organizations have taken notice. "We appreciate that (the project) not only supplements our efforts, but also helps to raise awareness about the issue of hunger in America," said Zuani Villarreal, spokeswoman for Feeding America, a network of 200 food banks which in 2018 distributed 4.3 billion meals.

Pushback

One of the larger Little Free Pantry networks is in South Carolina, where two years ago Katie Dahlheim, motivated by what she said was a polarized atmosphere nationally, built four pantries out of old cabinets. "I was trying to find something that was universal and everyone can agree on — and everyone has to eat," she said. Since then, the Lowcountry Blessing Box project has "exploded," she said, and today numbers nearly 100 boxes spread throughout a third of South Carolina; two sister projects cover the rest of the state, Dahlheim noted.

The project sees a "huge influx" of need each summer, when kids are out of school and suddenly their families or friends have to find a way to feed them three meals every day, she said. There has been pushback, she acknowledged, with some locals saying a particular box's presence could snarl up traffic or bring poor people into a neighborhood. But Dahlheim said she uses those complaints as an educational opportunity. "My response has been that poor people are always here — you never know whose mother is sick, for instance. You can't judge somebody based on what you're observing," she said.

Food deserts

In Indianapolis, Sierra Nuckols-Cosby is perpetually on the hunt for old newspaper distribution boxes. In 2016, just out of college, Nuckols-Cosby became concerned by the city's "food deserts", areas where people lack access to grocery stores and their fresh produce and meats. So, she struck on the idea of creating Little Free Pantries out of decommissioned newspaper boxes. Nuckols-Cosby, who works at a social services centre where she focuses on food access, set up the first one in front of her younger brother's elementary school, and her Community Food Box Project is now up to 55 boxes, she said.

She encourages people to use the sides of the boxes for civic engagement, such as one campaign that painted some of the boxes to raise awareness about mental health problems in black communities. Another pantry placed in front of an upscale restaurant in a fast-gentrifying area was decorated with a rendition of da Vinci's "Last Supper", showing people eating at a long table and others beneath the table with their mouths open, feeding on scraps. Angry locals ended up destroying the box, Nuckols-Cosby said.

But that incident underscored the fact that Indianapolis's poor neighborhoods are facing a real crisis of access to food, she said, noting that the impoverished area she works in has no grocery stores. "The reason people were so ready for this is because they see people in their neighborhoods every day who are hungry, and this is something they can do about it," she said, of the food box project. Nuckols-Cosby is now working to establish her project as a non-profit so she can raise money to create a centralized hub that can distribute food items throughout the pantry network. She just needs a few more newspaper boxes, she said. — Reuters

Ultra-long battery life of Huawei Watch GT 2 delivers rich features

Huawei launched its latest outdoor smartwatch Huawei Watch GT 2 that features up to 2 weeks of battery life, fashionable appearance, diverse functions and beautiful colors in addition to excellent properties of the previous edition. Comprising 42mm and 46mm series, HUAWEI WATCH GT 2 better serves users thanks to its ultra-long battery life.

Applying the self-developed Kirin A1, the world's first BT/BLE 5.1 wearable chip, Huawei Watch GT 2 adopts the high-integration heterogeneous chip design and delivers ultra-low power consumption computing and long battery life thanks to the efficient coordination of exercise, music, smart heart rate monitoring and sleep monitoring sensors. Smart power-saving algorithm 2.0 mode allows HUAWEI WATCH GT 2 to adjust power consumption modes in both leisure and exercise, bringing it ultra-long battery life.

Calling mode: 10 hours for BT calling

Thanks to the built-in loudspeaker and horn, Huawei Watch GT 2 46mm features all new bluetooth calling, with the smart phone-bluetooth connection range of about 150 meters. With HUAWEI WATCH GT 2, users may answer their calls on special occasions via Bluetooth for 10 hours at the maximum. The watch also supports contacts sync for easy check.

Music mode: 24 hours for Bluetooth-based music playing

Huawei Watch GT 2 innovatively supports Bluetooth-based music playing to satisfy the demands of race walking and marathon enthusiasts. 4GB ultra-large memory space allows the watch to collect 500 pieces of high-

quality music and manage music locally. Users may listen to the music via Bluetooth for up to 24 hours.

Up to 30 hours under exercise mode

Sports talents focus more on a watch's performance under exercise mode. With ultra-long battery life, Huawei Watch GT 2 may run for up to 30 hours with GPS/BEI-DOU positioning activated under all modes like mountain climbing, running, cycling, swimming and triathlon, making it a good choice for those who exercise on sunshine weekends.

Up to 2 weeks battery life

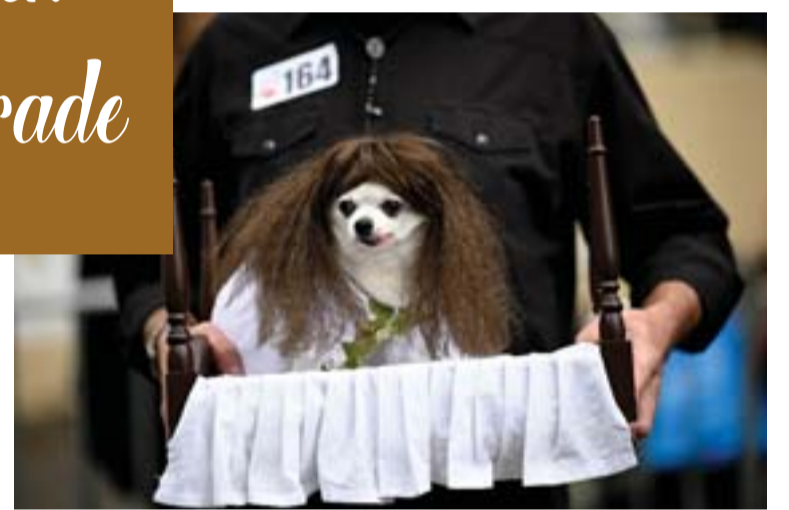
Huawei Watch GT 2 delivers ultra-long battery life thanks to the self-developed wearable Kirin A1 plus smart power-saving algorithm 2.0. In daily use, the 46mm series of Huawei Watch GT 2 can run for two weeks with its smart heart rate monitoring, incoming call reminding and scientific sleep monitoring functions activated normally. BT call and music playing functions activated for 30 minutes, exercise function activated for 90 minutes. All these make it a fine choice for users needing health monitoring and those keen on sports.

With upgrade made in both hardware and software, Huawei Watch GT 2 can be said to be the model for smart watches for its perfect performance in BT call, BT music playing, continuous exercise and typical scenario! Get a Huawei Watch GT 2 to start your comfortable yet relaxed journey.





*Halloween
Dog Parade*



Dogs dressed in costumes attend the Tompkins Square Halloween Dog Parade in Manhattan in New York City. — AFP photos



Lifestyle | Gossip



Peter Andre stains Queen Elizabeth's carpet

The 46-year-old singer stained the British monarch's carpet when he attended the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in May 2019 at the royal residence in London. Peter was "honored" to have been invited to the event with his wife Emily but things took an embarrassing turn when his hot beverage tumbled out his hand onto the lush flooring. Writing in his *New!* magazine column, he said: "I was in this beautiful room, which had the best carpet I've ever seen and, me being me, I tipped a cup of black coffee all over it. I was freaking out and begged the royal staff not to tell the

Queen. She might have made me pay for it, which would probably have cost more than the whole village I live in!" The 'Mysterious Girl' hitmaker spilled the beans following Olivia Coleman disclosed her husband stole toilet roll from their visit to the palace. The 'Crown' actress' spouse Ed Sinclair - with whom she has three children - were meeting Prince William at a charity event at the royal residence when he swiped the paper. Olivia admitted: "Since getting the part, I've met the Queen in a line-up at the BFI, and the lovely Prince William at a charity do at the palace. I was very uncool, and he was charming. He has

that thing where he makes you feel you're the most exciting person in the room ... Then my husband stole some loo roll just to say we got it from Buckingham Palace. If we can get away with that, we can get away with this program." Sharing his opinion of the toilet roll theft, Peter said: "The Oscar-winning actress ... now joins the likes of Emma Bunton and Piers Morgan, who've both nicked trinkets from the Palace. Tut-tut!"



Kim Kardashian West, Kanye West renew wedding vows

The high-profile couple tied the knot in a lavish ceremony on May 24, 2014, and to mark their five-year anniversary and the arrival of their fourth child, who was born in May 10, 2019, Kim decided to surprise her rapper husband with a vow renewal. During Sunday's episode of 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians', Kim - who also has North, six, Saint, three, and Chicago, 17 months, with the 'Jesus Walks' star - told Scott Disick: "I think it's so special that all four of our kids are here. It'll just be really sweet, and I'm excited that everyone is coming over." The actual ceremony wasn't shown, but Kim shared the first line from her speech. She read: "You are my husband. You are my best friend. My biggest believer and my one true love." The reality star - who turned 39 yesterday - also shared how

Kanye "stepped up" his game after Psalm was born as she opened up about having "anxiety". She said: "Things are definitely more chaotic like all the time, but I make it a serious point to spend time with him. Kanye knows that I've had such anxiety with the new baby and everything going on. He's stepped up so much and has been the most amazing dad, playing all the games with the kids and things like that." The KKW Beauty businesswoman also revealed that she was planning on calling Psalm "Ye" at one point, but Kanye - whose name is often shortened to Ye - "didn't like it". It was her half-sister Kylie Jenner who suggested Psalm would work well with Saint.



Miley Cyrus on vocal rest after her hospital stay

The 'We Can't Stop' hitmaker was hospitalized earlier this month to be treated for her tonsillitis and she has now revealed she has been banned from speaking whilst she heals. Sharing a video of herself working out, she captioned it: "On vocal rest not body." Miley left hospital in the middle of the month, with her boyfriend Cody Simpson revealing the news by posting a black and white photograph of him and Miley cuddling. Posting on her Instagram story, he captioned the sweet photo: "She made it home. Recovering from surgery, send all the vibes (sic)" Miley's hospitalization came after an intense few weeks for the 'Malibu' hitmaker, who has recently announced her split from her estranged husband Liam Hemsworth, as well as dating and breaking up with Kaitlynn Carter. And the 'Slide Away' singer recently slammed critics who claim she's moving on too quickly from 29-year-old Liam. She wrote on social media last week: "I know the public feels invested in my past relationship because they felt like they saw it thru from the beginning. I think that's why people have always felt so entitled over my life and how I live it because they've watched me grow up. I am grown now and make choices as an adult knowing the truth/details/reality. People only 'know' what they see on the internet. [Men], they move on from one beautiful young woman to the next MOST times without consequence ... I am trying to just THRIVE/survive in a 'mans' world. If we can't beat em, join em! (sic)"



Bebe Rexha dishes out advice to body-shaming troll

The 'I Got You' hitmaker shared a stunning picture of her backstage on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show' in a black gown on Saturday before she performed her "empowering" new single 'You Can't Stop The Girl'. She captioned the Instagram snap: "I've always wanted to do an Ellen solo performance and doing it for an empowering song was amazing. I'm so grateful. #YouCantStopTheGirl (sic)" And when one user told her she needs to "lose weight" in the comments section, Bebe proceeded to tell them that they need to "work on" their own "self hate". The troll wrote: "Wow ... you need to lose weight", and Bebe replied: "no you need to be more accepting and work on your own self hate. (sic)" The 30-year-old singer has been outspoken about body shaming and ageism in the music industry, and has previously called out designers for refusing to dress her for the Grammys because of her size, as well as recently slamming a music executive who told her she was "too old to be sexy". And the 'I'm A Mess' hitmaker recently said she is doing her best to "ignore" what critics say about her, although she does still get "insecure sometimes". She said: "You gotta ignore the body shaming. I just feel like now we're in such a different landscape, especially for women. It doesn't matter what your size is, it doesn't matter what your age is. I get insecure sometimes. I'm human just like everyone else. It gets tough because, at the end of the day, I am in the public eye and if you complain about it, then it just doesn't seem right. It's a blessing for me to be doing what I love, and when I speak out about, you know, if it's age or sizing, it's not been that I'm the first to do it. I'm just not scared." Since making an Instagram post about the unnamed executive in August, Bebe has received support from fellow singers who have been through similar experiences, and says she can't believe how widespread the issue is. — Bang Showbiz

Mike Posner completes walk across America

The 'Cooler Than Me' hitmaker had to temporarily halt his trek after he was bitten by a rattlesnake but has now come to end of his mammoth journey. Taking to Instagram, he wrote: "My name is Mike Posner and I walked across America. Keep Going ... Moments after putting my feet in the Pacific Ocean after walking across America ... Thank you all for the support. Keep going (sic)" Mike was struck down in August and had to be airlifted to hospital after suffering the rattlesnake bite in Colorado but fortunately medics managed to get the anti-venom to him "in time". He wrote on Instagram: "Whatup doe!!! Crazy day yesterday! I had just crushed 16 miles and was going for 8 more when I got bit by a baby rattlesnake! That venom is no joke! I got to the hospital and got the anti-venom in time. Shout outs to G and Mike from the chopper team and Bo and Cassie and Whitney (my nurses). (sic)" Mike is expecting to remain in hospital for "a few days", and will not be able to walk for "several weeks" when he is released. He added: "I'll be here a few days and will not be able to walk for several weeks but enjoying the AC and the nice bed, haven't had those in a while Hahahaha! Can't wait to get back on The Walk! KEEP GOING!!!!!! (sic)" And he thanked his 'The Walk' partners for sending him their support.



Chris Pratt sarcastically praises his wife on her burnt cooking

The 'Jurassic World' actor couldn't resist a playful dig at his wife over the weekend after she tried to make him a "bagel bite" and it's safe to say things didn't really go to plan. Sharing a snap of the very burnt bagel on Instagram, he quipped: "Proud of my darling for trying to cook tonight. Did it go well? No. No it did not. Not at all. To quote Rocky Balboa, 'It's not how many times you get knocked down, it's how many times you get up... and keep moving forward'. As you can tell from the lump of coal in the center of the plate, this bagel bite never stood a chance. I hon-

estly simply cannot imagine what went wrong here. "Pretty simple. Microwave. 2 minutes. Maybe she thought it said 2 hours. But I want to commend her for her effort. This is a big step babe. Proud of you." Katherine didn't get offended by the playful post, as she replied and jokingly suggested the poor skills were just a ploy on her part. She commented: "Looks like my plan to just have you do the cooking is working out very well."



Troian Bellisario led tributes to Shay Mitchell on giving birth

The 'Pretty Little Liars' star posted a sweet message for her friend and co-star as she announced she had welcomed her first child with her boyfriend Matte Babel. Troian wrote in the comment section on Instagram, alongside a heart eyes emoji: "Most beautiful babe and mother." Whilst co-star Keegan Allen shared: "So happy for you and your beautiful family!" Vanessa Hudgens wrote: "Omg babe. Congratulations." Shay announced she had given birth to her first child on Instagram, captioning the post: "Never letting go... (sic)" The 32-year-old actress recently opened up about having anxiety about sharing her pregnancy news, after having previously suffered a miscarriage. She said: "I previously had a miscarriage and that experience gave me anxiety about sharing the news of this pregnancy with anyone outside of our parents. With the first pregnancy, I was elated and told everyone at eight weeks. However, I wanted to be sure that this second pregnancy would be viable before shouting it from the rooftops, so I hid it for nearly six months and became very antisocial. "Usually, I'm incredibly active and outgoing, but instead, I mainly stayed home to avoid stares and questions. I was extremely lonely." During the time she kept her pregnancy a secret, the 'Mother's Day' star was "paranoid" that people would think she was gaining weight when her body began to change, and as a result, she began to suffer from pre-partum depression.

Classifieds

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 45 km/h with a chance for light rain that might be thundery at times and a chance for dust

BY NIGHT: Fair and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for scattered light

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 21/10/2019 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	37 °C	29 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	38 °C	26 °C		
ABDALY	36 °C	25 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	38 °C	27 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	35 °C	29 °C		
AHMADI	35 °C	30 °C		
NUWASIB	36 °C	25 °C		
WAFRA	39 °C	22 °C		
SALMY	38 °C	24 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST				
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	MAX. Temp.	MIN. Temp.
Tuesday	10/22	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	40 °C	23 °C
Wednesday	10/23	Hot and Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for scattered light rain later on	39 °C	23 °C
Thursday	10/24	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance	41 °C	21 °C
Friday	10/25	Hot and Cloudy with a chance for thunder rain later on and a chance for dust	38 °C	22 °C

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:34
Sunrise	05:54
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:46
Sunset	17:12
Isha	18:29

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	39 °C
MIN. Temp.	22 °C
MAX. RH	56 %
MIN. RH	16 %
MAX. Wind	NE 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

CHANGE OF NAME

This is to notify all that I Natalia Raj daughter of Nitesh Raj holder of Indian Passport No. N-0420190 (born in Kuwait) would like to change my name from Natalia Raj to Natalia Nitesh for all my future dealing here after. (C 5463)

I Mathew holder of Indian Passport No. Z3829588 / Civil ID No. 278122303567 having permanent address Mankayil Kazhuthumuttu, House No - 17/1619 D, Mundaveli Post Office, Ernakulam, Kerala, India, Pin-682507. Residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Given name: Denny Joseph and Surname: Mankayil Mathew. (C 5464)

Old name: Kalla Mohammad Burhan, new surname: Kalla, old given name: Mohammad Ilyas, new given name: Mohammad Burhan. Address: Esa Qutami street, street 8 block - 10, building no. 6, Salmiya. (C 5465) 20-10-2019

I, Shaikh Yasmin Faisal Mohamed holder of Indian Passport No. J4434237 issued at Kuwait on 28/11/2010 having permanent address Pathan Chawal Bldg, 2nd floor, Gunpowder road, Mazgaon, Mumbai 400010 MS and

presently residing in Kuwait, do hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: Yasmin Faisal Mohamed and Surname: Shaikh. Objections if and may be forwarded to Indian Embassy, Diplomatic Enclave, Safat, Arabian Gulf Street, Kuwait City Pin code 13015. (C 5462) 18-10-2019

MATRIMONIAL

Goan wellknown Catholic family for a girl 38 yrs. 5.3 slim, God fearing, convent educated Bachelor of Pharmacist, she has got her own medical shop in Goa. Seek alliance from well educated & settled Catholic Bachelor below 42 yrs. Good looking clean habit teetotaler from Kuwait/India. Interested send details CV with photograph to email: tech-nourch43@gmail.com (C 5461) 18-10-2019

32 year old Goan Catholic boy looking for suitable Goan Catholic life partner. He has graduated in industrial engineering from a reputed university in the US. He is currently employed in Kuwait and looking forward to settle down very soon. He is 5'10" tall, fair and good looking. If you think you are the right match please contact at 96765696 ASAP. Email: if8016037@gmail.com (C 5454) 10-10-2019

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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 22/10/2019					Departure Tuesday 22/10/2019				
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time		Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	
FEG	243	Alexandria	00:05	MSR 610	Cairo	12:45			
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	SYR 341	Damascus	13:00			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	AXB 393	Kozhikode	13:10			
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	JZR 222	Riyadh	13:30			
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KAC 672	Dubai	14:00			
KAC	102	London	00:50	KNE 231	Riyadh	14:10			
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:15			
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	FDB 059	Dubai	14:20			
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	QTR 1078	Doha	14:25			
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC 286	Dhaka	14:35			
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:45			
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KAC 304	Mumbai	14:45			
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC 562	Amman	14:50			
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25	KAC 618	Doha	14:50			
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC 788	Jeddah	14:55			
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KAC 516	Tehran	15:00			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	JZR 602	Baku	15:00			
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC 118	New York	15:00			
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC 692	Muscat	15:00			
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:05			
NIA	1601	Luxor	03:10	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:15			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA 645	Muscat	15:20			
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:35			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45			
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	KAC 546	Cairo	15:50			
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	FEG 341	Sohag	16:00			
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	FDB 051	Dubai	16:10			
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	JZR 732	Cairo	16:10			
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	KAC 502	Beirut	16:15			
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	QTR 1072	Doha	16:15			
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	JZR 116	Doha	17:05			
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:10			
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30			
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	JZR 214	Jeddah	17:35			
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	KAC 124	Dubai	17:40			
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	KAC 158	Istanbul	17:45			
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR 104	Bahrain	18:00			
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	JZR 142	Al Najaf	18:05			
BAW	157	London	06:10	QTR 1080	Doha	18:10			
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	JZR 612	Tbilisi	18:15			
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	JZR 302	Istanbul	18:20			
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	MSR 620	Cairo	18:30			
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	UAE 875	Dubai	18:30			
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	RJA 640	Amman	19:05			
KAC	106	London	06:40	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:05			
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:20			
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC 744	Dammam	19:25			
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	NIA 0161	Cairo	19:30			
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	RBG 555	Alexandria	19:40			
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	KAC 616	Bahrain	19:40			
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:45			
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC 674	Dubai	19:45			
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	FDB 057	Dubai	19:50			
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KNE 381	Taif	20:00			
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC 166	Rome	20:00			
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	OMA 647	Muscat	20:05			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	NIA 1403	Sohag	20:10			
JZR	708	Luxor	08:45	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:10			
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	MEA 402	Beirut	20:15			
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	RBG 213	Sohag	20:30			
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC 620	Doha	20:30			
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	KAC 542	Cairo	20:35			
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR 1088	Doha	20:40			
IRA	675	Lar	09:20	ICV 6752	Luxembourg	20:55			
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	KLM 445	Amsterdam	21:00			
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC 172	Frankfurt	21:00			
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:10			
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	UAE 859	Dubai	21:15			
JZR	404D	Hyderabad	10:30	ALK 229	Colombo	21:15			
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC 168	Paris	21:20			
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	THY 764	Istanbul	21:30			
KAC	624	Doha	10:55	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:50			
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC 564	Amman	21:55			
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	QTR 1082	Doha	22:05			
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	KAC 786	Jeddah	22:20			
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	AIC 987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25			
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:30	JZR 128	Dubai	22:50			
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	BBC 043	Dhaka	23:00			
				MSC 405	Sohag	23:15			
				MSR 614	Cairo	23:30			



ABU DHABI: Emirati girls run on the shore, off the coast of Dalma Island in the Arabian Gulf, about 40 kilometers off of the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

Global warming overtakes nukes as top concern

DUBAI: The threat of climate change has overtaken the prospect of nuclear war as the most pressing concern facing humanity, a former Colombian president and Nobel peace laureate warned yesterday. "After World War II, the world was facing a threat from a nuclear war," Juan Manuel Santos, a staunch environmentalist, told the World Green Economy Summit in Dubai. "The threat from a nuclear war remains... but we have something worse, which is a certainty. That is climate change," he said. "If we don't act, we will perish. We must act for survival."

Santos, who won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end, also won plaudits for his green policies while in office. Experts at the two-day conference called for more aggressive policies to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of preventing global average temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above

pre-industrial levels.

They called for more action to reduce carbon emissions and move faster towards renewable energy and taxes on carbon emissions. "Some countries still think that moving toward green economy is a luxury. Actually, it has become a question of to be or not to be," said Mohamed Kafafy, president of the World Green Energy Council which organized the conference along with Dubai's government.

Kafafy said that funds collected from carbon taxes should be used to promote green economic initiatives and renewables. The International Monetary Fund this month urged the world's biggest carbon polluting nations to agree to tax emissions at \$75 per ton in the next decade to keep climate change at safe levels. Greenhouse gases are released as by-products in sectors ranging from energy to manufacturing, shipping and agriculture.

Taxes on such emissions provide an incentive to cut pollution. The IMF said such taxes are the most efficient way to tackle global warming. Assistant United Nations Secretary-General for Climate Change Ovais Samad warned that the world is facing an "existential crisis". "We have all the agreements, the policies and the tools. Now, we need to enhance the implementation," he said. — AFP

Erdogan accuses West of standing...

Continued from Page 1

drawn widespread international criticism and prompted some NATO countries to suspend new arms sales. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has repeatedly voiced "serious concerns" about the military operation launched on October 9 to push Syrian Kurdish forces back from the border.

Erdogan denied any territorial ambition saying: "Turkey does not have an eye on any country's territory... We consider such an accusation as the biggest insult directed to us." Turkey has announced a 120-hour suspension of the offensive following a deal with US Vice President Mike Pence, under which Kurdish fighters were to withdraw to allow a "safe zone" to be set up along the border. Erdogan was to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

US troops enter Iraq

In another development, dozens of US armored vehicles with American soldiers aboard crossed into Iraqi Kurdistan from Syria yesterday, according to AFP journalists. The withdrawing convoy crossed the Tigris

River at the Fishkhabur border post near the Turkish frontier, en route to Arbil, the capital of the autonomous Kurdistan Region, where there is a US base.

The United States announced the withdrawal of 1,000 American soldiers deployed in northeast Syria on October 13, the fifth day of Turkey's offensive against the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara considers a terrorist group. On October 7, US soldiers withdrew from the Turkish border in northern Syria on orders of President Donald Trump, opening the way for Turkey's offensive against Kurdish forces.

The offensive was paused on Thursday by a fragile ceasefire negotiated by Washington. On Sunday, an AFP correspondent saw more than a convoy of 70 armoured vehicles flying the American flag and escorted by helicopters drive past the Syrian town of Tal Tamr carrying military equipment. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the convoy was evacuating the military base of Sarrin, south of the border town of Kobane, and appeared to be heading east to Hasakeh province.

In the past week, US forces have withdrawn from three other bases in Syria, including from the key town of Manbij and another close to Kobane close to the Turkish border. The United States currently has 5,200 troops posted in Iraq, deployed as part of a Washington-led coalition against the Islamic State group. The US presence at several bases across Iraq is controversial, with numerous political groups and pro-Iran Shiite armed groups demanding their expulsion. — Agencies

of play. "The whole game must recognize that this is only the start of our understanding and there are many questions that still need to be answered," said FA chairman Greg Clarke said. "It is important that the global football family now unites to find the answers and provide a greater understanding of this complex issue. The FA is committed to doing all it can to make that happen."

Outgoing PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor has been strongly criticized for his lack of action on the subject, in particular by the family of former West Bromwich Albion striker Jeff Astle, whose 2002 death from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) was linked to repeatedly heading heavy leather footballs. Taylor said it was now "incumbent on football globally to come together to address this issue in a comprehensive and united manner". He added: "Research must continue to answer more specific questions about what needs to be done to identify and reduce risk factors." — AFP

Footballers more likely to die from...

Continued from Page 1

"Our data show that while former footballers had higher dementia rates, they had lower rates of death due to other major diseases. "As such, whilst every effort must be made to identify the factors contributing to the increased risk of neurodegenerative disease to allow this risk to be reduced, there are also wider potential health benefits of playing football to be considered."

Earlier this year, UEFA requested for a change in the game's laws to reduce the pressure on the medical staff and give doctors more time to assess head injuries off the pitch, so that no concussed player returns to the field

Hacking the hackers: Russia group hijacked Iranian spying operation

LONDON: Russian hackers piggy-backed on an Iranian cyber-espionage operation to attack government and industry organizations in dozens of countries while masquerading as attackers from the Islamic Republic, British and US officials said yesterday. The Russian group, known as "Turla" and accused by Estonian and Czech authorities of operating on behalf of Russia's FSB security service, has used Iranian tools and computer infrastructure to successfully hack in to organizations in at least 20 different countries over the last 18 months, British security officials said.

The hacking campaign, the extent of which has not been previously revealed, was most active in the Middle East but also targeted organizations in Britain, they said. Paul Chichester, a senior official at Britain's GCHQ intelligence agency, said the operation shows state-backed hackers are working in a "very crowded space" and developing new attacks and methods to better cover their tracks. In a statement accompanying a joint advisory with the US National Security Agency (NSA), GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre said it wanted to raise industry awareness about the activity and make attacks more difficult for its adversaries.

"We want to send a clear message that even when cyber actors seek to mask their identity, our capabilities will ultimately identify them," said Chichester, who serves as the NCSC's director of operations. Officials in Russia and Iran did not immediately respond to requests for comment sent on Sunday. Moscow and Tehran have both repeatedly denied Western allegations over hacking.

Western officials rank Russia and Iran as two of the most dangerous threats in cyberspace, alongside China and North Korea, with both governments accused of conducting hacking operations against countries around the world.

Intelligence officials said there was no evidence of collusion between Turla and its Iranian victim, a hacking group known as "APT34" which cybersecurity researchers at firms including FireEye say works for the Iranian government. Rather, the Russian hackers infiltrated the Iranian group's infrastructure in order to "masquerade as an adversary which victims would expect to target them," said GCHQ's Chichester.

Turla's actions show the dangers of wrongly attributing cyberattacks, British officials said, but added that they were not aware of any public incidents that had been incorrectly blamed on Iran as a result of the Russian operation. The United States and its Western allies have also used foreign cyberattacks to facilitate their own spying operations, a practice referred to as "fourth party collection," according to documents released by former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden and reporting by German magazine Der Spiegel.

GCHQ declined to comment on Western operations. By gaining access to the Iranian infrastructure, Turla was able to use APT34's "command and control" systems to deploy its own malicious code, GCHQ and the NSA said in a public advisory. The Russian group was also able to access the networks of existing APT34 victims and even access the code needed to build its own "Iranian" hacking tools. — Reuters

Lebanon government in 11th-hour reform...

Continued from Page 1

the scrapping of new taxes and a sweeping privatization program, among others. As it began, Aoun proposed new measures to improve confidence in the political class.

"What is happening in the streets reflects the pain of the people," the National News Agency (NNA) reported him as telling ministers, though adding generalized accusations of corruption against all politicians was an injustice. "We must start by lifting bank secrecy on the accounts of those who are appointed minister now or in the future." Lebanon has strict rules over bank account privacy that critics say makes the country susceptible to money laundering. Aoun's son-in-law and ally, Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, has been a particular figure of anger among protesters.

'Day of destiny'

On Sunday thousands again gathered in front of the government houses in Beirut and elsewhere in the country. Many said Hariri's reform attempts smacked of a desperate attempt by the political class to save their jobs. "It is a day of destiny for us. All our hard work and efforts in previous days and years were to get us to this moment," Roni Al-Asaad, a 32-year-old activist in central Beirut, said.

"If they could have implemented these reforms before, why haven't they? And why should we believe them today?" What was initially dubbed the "WhatsApp revolution" morphed into a mass non-partisan push for a total overhaul of a sectarian power system still run mostly by civil war-era warlords, three

decades after the end of the country's conflict.

Given the size of the gatherings, the five-day-old mobilization has been remarkably incident free, with armies of volunteers forming to clean up the streets, provide water to protesters and organize first aid tents. Lebanon's debt-burdened economy has been sliding towards collapse in recent months, adding to the economic woes of a population exasperated by rampant corruption, the lack of job opportunities and poor services. Forest fires also devastated parts of the country last week, with politicians accused of inaction.

Among the protesters' main grievances is the poor supply of electricity from the state. Usually prone to blame anti-government mobilization on another party or a foreign conspiracy, Lebanon's top political figures have appeared to acknowledge that none of them were spared by public anger. The powerful Shiite movement Hezbollah, which has the country's most powerful militia and also dominates political life, agreed to Hariri's reform package, a senior cabinet official said.

'Volcano'

The embattled premier went live on television on Friday to give his uneasy coalition partners 72 hours to back his rescue plan. "What happened in the street is a volcano that can't be contained with timely solutions," Imad Salamey, a political science professor at the Lebanese American University, said. "It is difficult for the demonstrators to regain trust in the state in 72 hours and with solutions only presented on paper," he said.

The deadline expires at 7:00 pm yesterday and Hariri's wording suggested he could resign if his move failed. Lebanon's embattled political leaders have warned that the government's resignation at this time would only deepen the crisis gripping the small Mediterranean country. Schools, banks, universities and many private businesses closed their doors yesterday, both for security reasons and in an apparent bid to encourage people to join the demonstrations. — AFP

Sports

England expect Nowell to be available for N Zealand s-final

England encouraged by the form of Mako Vunipola

BEPPU: England "expect" Jack Nowell will be available as a member of a fully fit squad for their World Cup semi-final against New Zealand in Yokohama on Saturday following the wing's hamstring injury.

Nowell was not involved in the England matchday 23 that overwhelmed Australia 40-16 during a dominant quarter-final win, with Jonny May and Anthony Watson — who between them scored three tries — their starting wings against the Wallabies at Oita Stadium last weekend.

Towards the end of that match May, who marked his 50th cap with two tries in three first-half minutes, went off with what head coach Eddie Jones said was a "twinge". But England scrum coach Neal Hatley, speaking to reporters at the squad's hotel in Beppu yesterday, said of May: "He's bouncing around this morning. He has a small twinge and we'll assess where he is a little bit later today."

"He's in really good spirits, moving well and we expect Jack to be fit for selection as well. "It's fantastic where we are, all 31 (players in the squad) being available for selection at the end of the week."

Meanwhile, England have also been encouraged by the form of Mako Vunipola following the prop's return from a hamstring injury. The Saracens front row had been limited to just 17 minutes of competitive rugby since May 11 until he came on as a replacement during the pool win against Argentina.

But that did not stop Jones fielding him in his starting XV against Australia. Vunipola responded with an

all-action display that featuring 18 tackles, solid work at the scrum and carries in open play. "We were unbelievably impressed by Mako. He continues to go from strength to strength," said Hatley.

"And he needs to because Ellis Genge and Joe Marler have been ferocious in training and everyone's putting the pressure on. "Without sounding massively biased about it, I wasn't surprised at the performance he turned in, but I can understand why people outside of our group would look at it and go 'that's a hell of a performance'."

New Zealand, the reigning champions, advanced into the last four courtesy of a 46-14 demolition of Ireland. "I think they are dangerous from all over the pitch. Good set-piece, I thought they defended really well and they took their chances — they are clinical when they get opportunities," said Hatley of the All Blacks.

England lost narrowly, 16-15, when they last played New Zealand, at Twickenham in November 2018, with flanker Sam Underhill having a try disallowed for a disputed offside call involving Courtney Lawes.

But Hatley said: "I don't think we can take a lot from what happened in autumn. They were missing a few (players), we were missing a few and I think both sides have improved since then and it's a whole different situation."

"We will look to get better again this week, individually and as a group, and then give it everything on Saturday." Both England and New Zealand are due to name their teams on Thursday. —AFP



OITA: File photo shows Australia's centre Jordan Petaia (C top) catches the ball in front of England's wing Anthony Watson (L) and England's flanker Sam Underhill (C) during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup quarter-final match between England and Australia at the Oita Stadium in Oita on October 19, 2019. —AFP

25th Asian Bowling Championship opens with dazzling show



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The opening ceremony of the 25th Asian Ten Pin Bowling Championship dazzled guests with its various shows that were upto international standards, as competitions will start today and the first gold medals will be handed out today for the women's singles.

With the outstanding professional organization, and the fantastic ceremony, by President of the International and Asian Bowling Federations, and Chairman of Kuwait Bowling Club Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad, the championship which will continue until Oct 30, under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah with the participation of 228 players, representing 27 countries competing for 12 gold medals in six categories.

Minister of Information, State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri representing HH the Prime Minister declared the 25th Asian Bowling Ten Pin Championship Open.

Al-Jabri told journalists that such events bring back

Kuwait to continental and world arenas following years of suspension. He also lauded the role the Bowling Club in playing to bring out the championship in a way that is suitable for Kuwait's name and status.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Talal said the organization of this continental gathering comes with the instructions of the political leadership to restore Kuwait's pionership in all fields including sports. Al-Mohamad said he as well as all club members are happy to have this tournament coincide with the return of Kuwait's leader HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in good health.

Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad appreciated the patronage of HH the prime minister of the tournament, and lauded the support of Public Authority for Sport and all those who helped in the preparations for the event.

PAS Director General Dr Humood Fulaiteh lauded the distinguished opening ceremony, which materialized following hard effort by the organizing committee led by Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad.

He said Kuwait is the forefront in organizing major sports events at all levels, be it regional or international,



adding that there will be more events in the coming period. Meanwhile, the Bowling Center located in Salmiya will at 4:10 pm today see the first award ceremony through the women's individual competition, as competition is expected to be intense between South Korea, Malaysians, Japanese and Taipei players, as they are the strongest in Asia.

The men's individuals competition will follow the women's award ceremony.

Wales have played their 'get out of jail card': Gatland

TOKYO: Wales have played their "get out of jail card", coach Warren Gatland said yesterday of his team's nail-biting victory over France that set up a World Cup semi-final against South Africa this weekend.

The Welsh edged France 20-19 in their quarter-final in Oita, but will face the Springboks without No 8 Josh Navidi after Gatland confirmed he had been ruled out of the rest of the competition with a grade two hamstring injury.

Gatland said they would bring in a replacement on Tuesday, but said the management "haven't made a decision yet" on who that might be. The Kiwi coach did say, however, it would not be a like-for-like backrow forward as he has five of the original six chosen still fit.

With Jonathan Davies nursing a knee injury that saw him ruled out of the France game an hour before kick-off and Hadleigh Parkes playing with a shoulder contusion and a bone fracture in his hand, the replacement would likely be another centre, with the names of Scott Williams and Owen Lane high on the list.

"It's very disappointing for him," Gatland said of Navidi. "He's been very influential, very important for us for the last year. "These games are so physical, to have only lost one player at this stage is a real positive for us."

Turning to the victory over France, Gatland said: "We're a bit disappointed about yesterday's performance, we didn't think we played as well as we could. "France played exceptionally well, but in reflection I think we showed some great character out there and got the win."

"We've got to park last night and say we've played our get out of jail card and get excited about this week." Gatland said South Africa would likely be very similar to France in their line-speed in defence and kicking game to put Wales under pressure.

"We're fairly familiar with South Africa, we've had some close encounters in recent years and we've had some good success," he said, with Wales having won five of the last six Tests between the two teams dating back to 2014. —AFP

Flying Start Triathlon on Friday by Ooredoo Kuwait and Provision

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait announced its strategic partnership of the Flying Start Triathlon for the third year in a row at a press conference held yesterday at its headquarters in Kuwait City as a testament to its support of Kuwaiti youth and athletes.

Moreover, Corporate Social Responsibility and Sponsorship Manager at Ooredoo Kuwait Mohammad Mirza and General Manager at Provision Sports Management Ahmad Al Majed, joined the Nagham Al Sabah radio show with presenters Talal Malik and Nouf A Sultan in Marina FM. Mirza and Al Majid talked about the triathlon that will take place during the weekend of October 25th and 26th at Green Island. The activities will be launched on October 25th and will include exciting activities such as swimming, running and biking. They highlighted the important role that this athletic event plays in spreading the sports culture that encourages sportsmanship and ethical sports culture.

Commenting on this, Corporate Communications Senior Director at Ooredoo Kuwait Mijbil Al Ayoub said: "This strategic partnership goes in tandem with our belief in supporting youth initiatives and athletes in Kuwait. We have been witnessing a great deal of demand for such sports in Kuwait, especially among the youth. We are proud to be sponsors of the Flying Start Triathlon, and we wish all the participating athletes the best." Al Ayoub added: "We are proud to announce that Ooredoo Kuwait's brand ambassador triathlete Najla Al-Jeraiwi, that recently won first place in the Abu Dhabi World Triathlon which was held in Abu Dhabi, will be participating in this year's Flying Start Triathlon."

Also commenting on this partnership, General Manager at Provision Sport Management, Ahmad AlMajed said: "We consider the triathlon to be the biggest races in the Middle East, and our goal today is to create a new sports culture built on ethics, discipline and sportsmanship. We are expecting 600 participants this year from all over the world to join us in the twelfth edition of the Triathlon. Al Majed further added, "We consider the strategic partnership between Ooredoo and Provision as ideal due to its leadership position in the private sector and its support towards the youth. We are looking forward to a long relationship with Ooredoo."



Sports

India on brink of series whitewash over South Africa in third Test

Opener Elgar takes nasty hit on the helmet from short delivery by Yadav

SCOREBOARD

RANCHI: Scoreboard at stumps on day three of the third and final Test between India and South Africa in Ranchi yesterday: India 1st innings 497-9 dec (R. Sharma 212, A. Rahane 115; G. Linde 4-133)

South Africa 1st innings (overnight 9-2, Z. Hamza 0, F. du Plessis 1)	
D. Elgar c Saha b Shami	0
Q. de Kock c Saha b Yadav	4
Z. Hamza b Jadeja	62
F. du Plessis b Yadav	1
T. Bavuma st Saha b Nadeem	32
H. Klaassen b Jadeja	6
G. Linde c Rohit b Yadav	37
D. Piedt lbw b Shami	4
K. Rabada run out (Yadav)	0
A. Nortje lbw b Nadeem	4
L. Ngidi not out	0
Extras (b8, lb3, nbl)	12
Total (all out, 56.2 overs)	162
Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Elgar), 2-8 (de Kock), 3-16 (du Plessis), 4-107 (Hamza), 5-107 (Bavuma), 6-119 (Klaassen), 7-129 (Piedt), 8-130 (Rabada), 9-162 (Linde)	
Bowling: Shami 10-4-22-2, Yadav 9-1-40-3, Nadeem 11.2-4-22-2 (nbl), Jadeja 14-3-19-2, Ashwin 12-1-48-0.	

South Africa 2nd innings (follow-on)	
Q. de Kock b Yadav	5
D. Elgar retired hurt	16
Z. Hamza b Shami	0
F. du Plessis lbw b Shami	4
T. Bavuma c Saha b Shami	0
H. Klaassen lbw b Yadav	5
G. Linde run out (Nadeem)	27
D. Piedt b Jadeja	23
T. de Bruyn not out	30
K. Rabada c Jadeja b Ashwin	12
A. Nortje not out	5
Extras (b5)	5
Total (8 wickets, 46 overs)	132
To bat: L. Ngidi	
Fall of wickets: 1-5 (de Kock), 2-10 (Hamza), 3-18 (du Plessis), 4-22 (Bavuma), 4-26 (Elgar, retired not out), 5-36 (Klaassen), 6-67 (Linde), 7-98 (Piedt), 8-121 (Rabada)	
Bowling: Shami 9-5-10-3, Yadav 9-1-35-2, Jadeja 13-5-36-1, Nadeem 5-0-18-0, Ashwin 10-3-28-1.	

RANCHI: Pace duo Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav had India on the brink of a series whitewash after South Africa crumpled while following-on in the third Test and saw batsman Dean Elgar suffer a wincing blow to the helmet.

At the end of the third day the tourists were on 132-8, trailing India by 203 runs, with replacement batsman Theunis de Bruyn on 30 and Anrich Nortje, on five. De Bruyn came in under the new concussion sub rule after opener Elgar took a nasty hit on the helmet from a short delivery by Yadav, and had to retire hurt on 16.

The impact left the opener shaken as he lay on the ground getting physio assistance. A South Africa team spokeswoman Sipokazi Sokanyile said Elgar was taken off as a "precaution".

Events did not improve for South Africa, however, with Shami claiming three wickets, including South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis for four, while Yadav struck twice.

Zubayr Hamza, top scorer in South Africa's first innings, indicated that his teammates had concentrated too much on India's spin threat and been taken by surprise by the fast bowlers.

"I would say, based on the general thought of playing in India, you'd assume that it would be tougher to play against the spinners," said Hamza, who made 62 in his team's first innings.

"I wouldn't say we under-prepared against the seamers. I will just say that maybe we should have prepared more mentally in terms of playing them in whatever conditions that we were faced."

South Africa's first innings ended on 162 earlier as they chased India's 497-9 declared. The hosts made them bat again, and Yadav drew first blood, getting left-hander Quinton de Kock — who was promoted to open the innings — for five.

Shami took over to get first innings hero Hamza for nought with a delivery that rattled his off stump.

The pace spearhead then got du Plessis' prized scalp and Temba Bavuma caught behind for nought.

Spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin also took a wicket each to force an extension of the



RANCHI: South Africa's Theunis de Bruyn (R) plays a shot during the third day of the third and final Test match between India and South Africa at the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) stadium in Ranchi yesterday. —AFP

final session but de Bruyn and Nortje survived the final few overs.

DAY OF FIRSTS

India's wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha suffered a finger injury in the final session and Rishabh Pant took over. According to new rules that allowed a concussion sub, a team is also allowed to replace a wicket-keeper.

Shahbaz Nadeem, making his debut at the age of 30, also claimed two wickets with his left-arm spin and said it was a "dream" to play for the national side after taking 424 first-class scalps in Indian domestic competition.

Hamza, playing just his second Test, was happy to score his maiden Test half-century to offer some resistance during his 91-run fourth-wicket stand with Bavuma, who made 32.

"But also disappointed in the same breath, not having gone on to make use of that opportunity. And the first time that I've been out twice in the same day, so it's been a tough day. Really disappointing for the side."

Opening batsman Rohit Sharma put India in command of the match with his maiden Test double century on Sunday. He made 212. India won the first two Tests by big margins in Visakhapatnam and Pune. —AFP

Fit Tiger Woods hints he'll pick himself for Presidents Cup

NARASHINO: Tiger Woods said yesterday his fitness was ahead of schedule after arthroscopic knee surgery, and dropped a heavy clue he might use one of his four Presidents Cup captain's picks on himself. "I'm probably a week early. My season had ended a little bit earlier than I had expected it," the 15-time major winner told reporters at Accordia Golf, Narashino Country Club near Tokyo before coming through an exhibition match unscathed.

"I had the procedure a little bit early and got ahead of it," he added.

Woods is in Japan this week to play in the US PGA Tour's inaugural Zozo Championship, the second \$9.75 million tournament of an almost \$30 million three-event Asian swing.

He intends to end his year by playing in the Hero World Challenge beginning December 4, before going to Australia to captain Team USA in the Presidents Cup a week later. Woods, who completed a remarkable return from years of injury and personal problems to win the US Masters in April, said his knee had been giving him more pain as the year wore on. "It progressively got worse and got to the point where it was affecting even reading putts," the 43-year-old Woods said. Woods has a large depth of talent from which to make his four captains picks ahead of the match against Ernie Els's International team at Royal Melbourne.

"I've been pretty consumed by it," he said, adding his return to fitness made it more likely that he would use one of his wildcards on himself. "It made me more hopeful that I could play this week, play Hero and play Australia," said Woods, who has dropped one place to number 10 in Monday's new world rankings. "The way I was feeling towards the middle part of the year, it was going to be a tall order to be able to do it all." If Woods burns one of his picks on himself that leaves him the difficulty of choosing three players from the likes US Open champion, Gary Woodland, Tony Finau, Rickie Fowler, Kevin Kisner and Jordan Spieth.

Woods also reiterated he wanted to come back to Japan next year to represent the US at the 2020 Olympics. "I would love to play in an Olympic Games," he said. "It would be an honour to represent my country in an Olympic Games. Hopefully next year I can have a good year and qualify."

Before all that, however, Woods on Monday shook off the rust and tested his knee in a made-for-TV exhibition — "The Challenge: Japan Skins" — against Rory McIlroy, Jason Day and Hideki Matsuyama.

It was knockabout stuff with plenty of banter to entertain large galleries of Japan's golf-mad fans as the players tried to win holes outright for cash or "skins" worth anything from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Woods looked healthy throughout the 18 holes, though the golf was nowhere near as intense as tournament play. Day came out on top, pocketing \$210,000 mainly because of winning the final two skins. Woods and McIlroy scooped \$60,000 each and Matsuyama \$20,000. —AFP

Pakistan drop Sarfraz, Malik from Aussie tour

LAHORE: Pakistan dropped former skipper Sarfraz Ahmed from the country's Twenty20 and Test squads for their upcoming Australian tour yesterday, while experienced players Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Hafeez were also given the axe in the shorter format.

Sarfraz, 32, was stripped last week of his Twenty20 international and Test captaincy, just days after Pakistan were routed 3-0 by Sri Lanka at home in the short format. His place in both squads was taken by 27-year-old Mohammad

Rizwan, whose only Test was in New Zealand in 2016.

The exit from Twenty20 internationals means curtains for Malik who had already announced retirement from Tests and one-day internationals. Hafeez was part of Pakistan's Twenty20 squad in South Africa earlier this year but was not played. At 39, he has little hope of competing in international cricket again.

Pakistan will play three Twenty20 internationals in Sydney (November 3), Canberra (November 5) and Perth (November 8). The two Tests will be in Brisbane (Nov 21-25) and Adelaide (Nov 29-Dec 03). Head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq said Pakistan need to do well in Australia following a disappointing summer. "We need to play aggressive cricket to achieve better results there," said Misbah. "We have

some exciting youngsters in the pace squad who could be surprise packages."

The Test pace attack — hampered by the untimely retirement of Mohammad Amir and Wahab Riaz earlier this year — includes 16-year-old Nasim Shah and 19-year-old Musa Khan who have played just five and seven first-class matches respectively.

Imran Khan senior, 32, returns to the Test squad after playing his last Test during the Australian tour in 2017. Prolific leg-spinner Yasir Shah will be assisted by 33-year-old left-arm spinner Kashif Bhatti in Tests.

And leg-spinner Usman Qadir — son of the late legendary leggie Abdul Qadir — will be part of the Twenty20 squad, with Misbah citing his experience playing in Australia's Big Bash Twenty20 league earlier this year. The lanky 37-year-old

Mohammad Irfan, who played the last of his 20 Twenty20 internationals in the Twenty20 World Cup in India three years ago, is also part of the shorter format.

Squads:

Twenty20: Babar Azam (captain), Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Irfan, Mohammad Rizwan (wicketkeeper), Musa Khan, Wahab Riaz, Shadab Khan, Usman Qadir

Test: Azhar Ali (captain), Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Imam-ul-Haq, Imran Khan senior, Iftikhar Ahmed, Kashid Bhatti, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan (wicketkeeper), Nasa Khan, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Yasir Shah. —AFP

Astros seek World Series dynasty as Nats hunt fairytale title

WASHINGTON: An upstart Washington Nationals squad will try to end the US capital's 95-year Major League Baseball title drought when the 115th World Series opens today against the Houston Astros.

Two impressive sets of starting pitchers are the feature attraction as the Nationals, who overcame a 19-31 start to reach their first World Series, meet an Astros club trying for a second title in three seasons. No team has done better since the New York Yankees won three in a row from 1998-2000.

"We want to be able to be a dynasty," Astros shortstop Carlos Correa said. "To do that we have to win, win, win. We have to go out there and keep doing that."

The Nationals had not won a playoff series since 1981, when they were the Montreal Expos. But since

relocating from Canada in 2005, they had lost four times in the division series before finally breaking through. "All the things in the past, all the failures, and losing in the first round, it just makes it sweet," said Nationals second baseman Howie Kendrick, the National League Championship Series Most Valuable Player.

"To see a team like us continue to grind, I think the mixture of people that we do have is what makes us so good. I wouldn't change anything about the past because this is just unbelievable."

The best-of-seven showdown will start in Houston then move to Washington for game three on Friday, the first World Series game in the US capital since 1933, when the Senators lost to the New York Giants.

"This right here, to me, tops everything I've ever been through," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "I'm so proud of the guys. They could have folded. They didn't. It means a lot to all of us."

Washington's original Senators became the Minnesota Twins after the 1960 season while a replacement expansion club relocated to become the Texas Rangers in 1972.

Houston Astros star pitchers Gerrit Cole, Justin

Verlander and Zack Greinke will be tested against Washington's starting rotation of Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin.

"I'm thrilled," Cole said. "We're going to have some great pitching matchups. They have a lot of talent. They are going to be a really tough opponent. It's going to be a fun series for sure."

Houston game one starter Cole, 3-0 in the playoffs with a 0.40 earned-run average (ERA), is 19-0 in his past 25 starts with a 1.59 ERA and 258 strikeouts over 169 1/3 innings. He went 20-5 this season and led the major leagues with 326 strikeouts. The Astros have won his past 16 starts.

Washington ace Scherzer is 2-0 with a 1.80 ERA in playoffs, allowing one run on five hits and five walks with 18 strikeouts over 14 innings. He lost his only prior World Series start in 2012 with Detroit. Scherzer went 11-7 with a 2.92 ERA this season with a major-league best ratio of 7.364 strikeouts per walk issued.

Houston's hitters will be ready for the challenge, including clean-up batter Alex Bregman and star second baseman Jose Altuve, the American League Championship Series MVP. —AFP

India tour in doubt as Bangladesh cricketers go on strike

DHAKA: Bangladesh's professional cricketers — including several members of the national squad — went on strike yesterday to call for better pay and benefits. The protest, announced by national Test and Twenty20 captain Shakib Al Hasan, could also put next month's tour of India in jeopardy.

"Unless our demands are met we will not get involved in any cricketing activities," said Al Hasan, flanked by former and current national players, at a press conference in Dhaka. "It includes everything — first-class cricket, national team preparations, (and) international cricket."

The industrial action is significant in cricket-mad Bangladesh, where national players are idolised. It comes amid increasing criticism from players that the Bangladesh Cricket Board is not sharing its

wealth with those who contribute most to the game. The strike comes just weeks before Bangladesh is due to play three Twenty20 internationals and two Tests in India. The cricketers want local players and coaches to be paid more equitably with foreign hires. This includes a 50 percent pay hike for first-class players, the expansion of national pay contracts, increased match fees in domestic four-day and 50-over games, and better benefits for groundskeepers.

Al Hasan, the de facto leader of the revolt, said players called the strike as they wanted to "keep a good environment for the new generation so that Bangladesh cricket can move forward". The cricketers also want franchises to be allowed to run the lucrative Bangladesh Premier League.

The BCB last month announced it would drop the franchises from the upcoming BPL, which kicks off again in early 2020, and take over ownership of the tournament. The decision raised fears among players that they would have to accept a pay cut.

The governing body said yesterday it was considering the players' demands. "The players are very important for us. They also made demands in the past and we always



DHAKA: Bangladesh national cricket team captain Shakib Al Hasan (C) speaks with journalist next to teammate Mushfiqur Rahim (R) at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, in Dhaka yesterday. Bangladesh cricketers including the members of the Bangladesh national squad called an unprecedented strike yesterday demanding sweeping pay hike. —AFP

try to accommodate their demands," BCB chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury told AFP.

He added that a board meeting would be held soon, without giving further details. —AFP

Sports

Inter keep pace with Juve, Pioli held on AC Milan debut

Parma's Cornelius scores hat-trick in 5-1 hammering of Genoa

MILAN: Inter Milan survived a late Sassuolo scare and a bizarre intervention by a parachutist to win 4-3 and keep in touch with leaders Juventus in Serie A on Sunday as Stefano Pioli's first game in charge of AC Milan ended in a 2-2 draw against lowly Lecce.

Romelu Lukaku and Lautaro Martinez each bagged a brace in a seven-goal thriller to keep Antonio Conte's side second, a point behind Juventus who beat Bologna 2-1 on Saturday. Inter Milan had led 4-1 with 20 minutes to go after Martinez had opened the scoring after two minutes in Sassuolo, adding a second from the penalty spot after 71 minutes.

Belgian forward Lukaku found the net after 38 minutes and converted a penalty just before the break despite a parachutist inexplicably landing on the pitch just as he was about to kick the ball. The man was quickly led off by security agents as players and fans looked on bewildered. Then the former Manchester United striker slotted in to give Inter a 3-1 lead.

With the game under control Conte brought on winger Matteo Politano and midfielder Valentino Lazaro for their first appearances this season.

Then Filip Djuricic (74) and Jeremie Boga (81) hit back for the hosts, who are struggling in 17th position, to add to Domenico Berardi's first-half goal. Inter held on for a win after consecutive defeats against Barcelona in the Champions League and Juventus in Serie A.

"Once it goes to 3-1 and 4-1, it should be over," said Lukaku who has now scored five Serie A goals in eight games. "In the first half, we did everything well. However, we should have scored in the first 15 minutes after the restart to really kill off the match.

"The positive we take is that we got the three points, but we need to defend better than that. "It was very important to get this win."

Meanwhile, Pioli's debut as Milan coach was spoiled by

two players he previously coached — Kouma Babacar and Marco Calderoni. Babacar cancelled out Turkish winger Hakan Calhanoglu's first-half goal, when the Senegalese forward missed a penalty but turned in the rebound after an hour in the San Siro.

Krzysztof Piatek came off the bench and scored with nine minutes to go after a Calhanoglu pull back, but Calderoni rifled in the equaliser in stoppage time.

"Tonight I suffered because of my exes," said Pioli. "I had hoped for a gift this evening for my birthday, but I saw some good things, the team deserved a win, but it was our own fault we didn't," added the former Fiorentina coach, who turned 54 on Sunday.

Milan are in 12th with ten points from eight games. Lecce are one point above the relegation zone. Claudio Ranieri's first game in charge of basement club Sampdoria also ended in a goalless draw in Genoa against his former club Roma on his 68th birthday.

The visitors lost Bryan Cristante and Nikola Kalinic to injury early, with coach Paulo Fonseca sitting out a touchline ban. Edin Dzeko came on for Kalinic with his face protected by a mask after breaking a cheekbone two weeks ago.

The Romans played the final five minutes a man down after Justin Kluivert was sent off for a second yellow card. The match was also overshadowed by monkey chants directed at Sampdoria midfielder Ronaldo Vieira for which the Roman club apologised and vowed to identify and ban those involved.

The Guinea Bissau-born, English footballer later wrote on Instagram: "Football has a responsibility to punish and educate the idiots in the stadium today." Roma fall to sixth in the table behind Cagliari who beat SPAL 2-0 as Sampdoria stay bottom but take their first point in four games.

Ranieri said he had made progress. "I'm satisfied espe-



REGGIO-EMILIA: Sassuolo's Brazilian defender Marlon (C) tackles Inter Milan's Belgian forward Romelu Lukaku (L) during the Italian Serie A football match Sassuolo vs Inter Milan at the Mapei stadium in Reggio Emilia. —AFP

cially after only a week training together and against a very good Roma," said the former Leicester City coach. "Now let me have time to get to know the players and then we will try to find solutions to score."

Parma move up to eighth after substitute Andreas Cornelius scored a hat-trick in a 5-1 hammering of lowly Genoa as Stefano Okaka's header was enough to get struggling Udinese past Torino slipped to 10th. —AFP

Marseille end slump with Strasbourg win

PARIS: Marseille ended a four-match winless streak in Ligue 1 on Sunday after Boubacar Kamara's early strike and a late Kevin Strootman penalty saw them to a deserved victory over lowly Strasbourg. Kamara, 19, struck the opener with just two minutes on the clock when his shot was deflected home by Strasbourg defender Ludovic Ajorque, and Strootman finished off with a calm spot-kick deep in stoppage time after Dario Benedetto was brought down by Mohamed Simakan.

The win sends Andre Villas Boas' inconsistent side fourth, one point off the Champions League places, while Strasbourg drop to the bottom of the league after a performance that offered little.

However, Marseille are still eight points behind leaders Paris Saint-Germain, who swatted Nice aside 4-1 on Friday. Marseille and bitter rivals PSG meet next weekend but Villas-Boas played down the significance of the

fixture. "It will be a totally different match, against a team that is not in the same league," he said. "We will play the match for the match, but it is not a game that matters too much for me." The hosts could have easily won by more, striking the woodwork either side of half-time through Duje Caleta-Car and Nemanja Radonjic.

Benedetto also wasted a decent opportunity in the 56th minute with Marseille still just a goal up when he failed to get a contact on Maxine Lopez's cross, but in the end it mattered little. Wissam Ben Yedder fired Monaco out of the Ligue 1 mire with a stoppage time winner that earned an entertaining 3-2 win over Rennes.

Yedder pounced on Keita Balde's flick two minutes into added time to lash home a powerful left-foot finish and send Leonardo Jardim's side up to 14th just as it looked as if a handball spotted by VAR had denied them the three points.

The scores were level thanks to Islam Slimani equalising Fataou Maouassa and Adrien Honou's strikes for Rennes when Balde thought he had won the game for Monaco seconds before Yedder's winner.

Balde capitalised on a dreadful error by Rennes goalkeeper Romain Salin to roll the ball into an empty

net, only for the video assistants to spot him controlling the ball with his hand.

The last-gasp winner was Ben Yedder's eighth goal in as many league matches, putting him top of the Ligue 1 scoring charts and making fans forget Radamel Falcao's departure to Galatasaray.

"I'm very happy, it wasn't an easy match. We scored in the last seconds and it was a very good goal, so I'm very happy," said Ben Yedder. The late goal means they are now level on 12 points with Toulouse, Amiens and 12th-placed Rennes, who have not won a match since August.

Claude Puel continued his perfect start as Saint-Etienne coach. Denis Bouanga's stoppage time penalty at Bordeaux launched Puel's side into the top half of the table. The 10-time French champions were second-bottom in Ligue 1 after their home loss to Metz late last month but have won three straight, the last two under Puel. Their turnaround in form, which includes victory over local rivals Lyon in Puel's first match, has moved them to 10th place.

Bordeaux meanwhile missed the chance to move into the Champions League positions with their second home loss on the bounce. —AFP

Tottenham faced with fresh Champions League rescue mission

LONDON: Tottenham's miserable start to the season shows little sign of improving quickly, but prior to Red Star Belgrade's visit today, Spurs can take some solace from the fact they are in a better position in the Champions League than they were 12 months ago.

Defeats to Inter Milan and Barcelona saw them travel to PSV Eindhoven for what manager Mauricio Pochettino described as a "must-win". After a 2-2 draw in the Netherlands, Pochettino admitted his side's Champions League campaign was "nearly over."

Yet, eight months later, the Argentine had led Tottenham to their first ever Champions League final. The hangover from defeat to Liverpool in that final in Madrid has been long and sobering. Spurs have won just three of their opening 12 games in all competitions this season.

Chances of a first trophy under Pochettino in the League Cup have already gone after an embarrassing exit on penalties to fourth-tier Colchester and they are already five points off the pace just for a place in the Premier League's top four.

However, Pochettino admitted that the most damaging defeat of all came last time out in the Champions League, when Bayern Munich ran riot in the second-half to leave London 7-2 winners. "After Bayern Munich our confidence was on the floor," said Pochettino after a 1-1 draw at home to the Premier League's bottom club Watford on Saturday.

The heaviest defeat ever suffered at home by an English side in European competition may have had a lasting effect, but it is not terminal to Tottenham's chances of again pulling themselves off the canvas and into the Champions League last 16.

Beat the Serbian champions at home today and they will move into second place in Group B, as long as Olympiakos don't shock Bayern in Greece.

Doubt has been cast over Pochettino's capability to rouse another response from largely the same group of players into his sixth season in charge. He certainly does not have troubles to seek. Captain Hugo Lloris is sidelined until 2020 leaving substitute goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga to hold the fort at the back.

Centre-back pairing Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld look to heading towards the end of their Tottenham careers with both the Belgians' contracts expiring at the end of the season. Christian Eriksen has also been in and out of the team with the Dane also likely to leave next summer if not before in January. New signings Ryan Sessegnon and Giovanni Lo Celso are not yet close to a return to first-team action after lengthy injury layoffs and



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's Brazilian midfielder Lucas Moura (C) attends a team training session at Tottenham Hotspur's Enfield Training Centre, in north London yesterday, ahead of their UEFA Champions League Group B football match against Red Star Belgrade. —AFP

club record buy Tanguy Ndombele was left on the bench for the visit of Watford after an inconsistent start to his Spurs career. However, Pochettino was encouraged by his side's response in the second half against the Hornets as they fought back from 1-0 down to level thanks to Dele Alli's first goal since January.

"It was so important in the way that we achieved the point in the end, the team was fighting, we showed character," said Pochettino. "We have quality but when you are in

this type of situation the most important thing is the character you need to show.

"Talent is after, you need to fight and you need to run and you need to be strong in your mind, the effort is double. "When everything is good you fly, when everything is going against you need to be so strong and you spend a lot of energy." Red Star's visit will give another indication as to whether Pochettino's men have the energy to rise again or really are a spent force. —AFP

Madrid shift focus to Europe

MADRID: Zinedine Zidane said in April Real Madrid would prioritise La Liga over the Champions League this season and their defeat to Real Mallorca on Saturday suggests they may not have the squad to go far in both.

"For us next year, the league must be our number one priority," Zidane said. "It's the longest competition, it's the one that cannot be missed, and I'm going to put that in the heads of my players."

Yet Zidane made several changes ahead of today's Group A game away at Galatasaray and those who came in failed to impress, with a blunt performance against Mallorca revealing familiar failings up front and causing Madrid to slip to their first league defeat of the campaign. Some of the adjustments were enforced as Eden

Hazard was absent following the birth of his fourth child on Friday while Toni Kroos, Luka Modric and Gareth Bale were all nursing injuries of varying severity. Others were seemingly chosen as Raphael Varane and Dani Carvajal were rested, along with Fede Valverde, who had brought much-needed energy into the midfield before the international break.

Bale's calf injury is believed to be minor but was considered too much of a risk and will also miss the trip to Turkey along with Ballon d'Or winner Modric. Heavy rotation points to a belief in the utmost importance of the game against Galatasaray and a recognition from Zidane that Madrid cannot afford another misstep in Europe. "The problem is we have to show every three days that we are good," Zidane said on Saturday. —AFP

Two arrested over racism

LONDON: Two men have been arrested over alleged racist abuse that forced Saturday's FA Cup qualifier between Haringey Borough and Yeovil Town to be abandoned. Haringey manager Tom Loizou said defender Coby Rowe suffered racial abuse while Cameroonian goalkeeper Douglas Pajetat was also spat at.

Metropolitan Police said yesterday that two men, aged 23 and 26, have been detained on suspicion of racially aggravated common assault. Both sides left the field after 64 minutes when Rowe and Pajetat were abused shortly after Yeovil took a 1-0 lead. "I was angry and upset, so wasn't really paying attention to what else was going on around me, then I felt someone pull me and it was my manager," Rowe told the Daily Mail. "He said, 'We are all going off, we are not playing any more'. Yeovil agreed and we left the pitch as one."

Haringey, who play in the seventh tier Isthmian League Premier Division, and Yeovil, who are in the fifth tier National League, are just the latest clubs to be caught up in a racism storm. "We didn't want to go back out because our safety couldn't be guaranteed, but not just that. It was just out of our own pride and respect. We are not going to go out and play in front of people like that," added Rowe.

The incident occurred just five days after England's Football Association (FA) condemned the racist abuse suffered by their players during a Euro 2020 qualifier against Bulgaria as "abhorrent." That match in Sofia was twice stopped to warn supporters that the game would be abandoned if racist chanting did not stop, but the England players decided to play on and complete the game. The FA said it is "deeply concerned" about the allegation and has launched an investigation and both Haringey and Yeovil have said they will co-operate with the authorities.

"If the stand we have taken helps other clubs and stops other people from being abused then it's all been worth it, whatever the personal cost to all of us," Haringey chairman Aki Achillea told the Guardian on Sunday. —AFP



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Atletico de Madrid v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	19:55
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Shakhtar Donetsk v GNK Dinamo Zagreb	19:55
beIN SPORTS	
Club Brugge KV v Paris Saint-Germain	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Juventus FC v Lokomotiv Moscow	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Manchester City v Atalanta	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Tottenham Hotspur v Crvena Zvezda	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Olympiacos CFP v Bayern Munich	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Galatasaray SK v Real Madrid CF	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1	

25 England expect Nowell to be available for N Zealand s-final

26 India on brink of series whitewash over South Africa in third Test

27 Inter keep pace with Juve, Pioli held on AC Milan debut



Packers rout Raiders behind Rodgers' 6 TDs

Ravens' two defensive TDs deny Seahawks



GREEN BAY: Will Redmond #25 of the Green Bay Packers tackles Derek Carrier #85 of the Oakland Raiders in the second half at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. — AFP

GREEN BAY: Aaron Rodgers threw five touchdown passes as the Green Bay Packers capped their fifth home game in seven weeks with a 42-24 dismantling of the Oakland Raiders on Sunday. Green Bay improved to 6-1 under first-year coach Matt LaFleur behind the biggest game of the season from Rodgers. When he hit Marquez Valdes-Scantling for a 74-yard touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, Rodgers had six total touchdowns compared to six incompletions and a perfect 158.3 passer rating. He wound up completing 25 of 31 passes for 429 yards. The game swung late in the first half. With Green Bay having taken a 14-10 lead, the Raiders (3-3) motored into scoring position on a 48-yard catch by tight end Darren Waller to the 3. On second-and-goal at the 2, quarterback Derek Carr lunged head-first to the goal line with the ball extended. Before his knee hit the turf, Carr lost the ball, which bounced out of the end zone, resulting in a turnover and touchback for the Packers.

RAVENS 30, SEAHAWKS 16

Lamar Jackson passed for 143 yards and rushed for 116 more and a touchdown, and Baltimore's defense scored twice as the Ravens won at Seattle. Cornerback Marcus Peters, acquired in a trade Tuesday with the Los Angeles Rams, returned an interception 67 yards for a score in the second quarter for the Ravens (5-2). Defensive back Marlon Humphrey returned a fumble 18 yards for a clinching touchdown with 3:37 remaining. Russell Wilson completed 20 of 41 passes for 241 yards for the Seahawks (5-2), with one touchdown and his first

interception of the season.

RAMS 37, FALCONS 10

Todd Gurley caught a touchdown pass in his return and Los Angeles' defense dominated in Atlanta. The Rams ended their three-game losing streak, while the Falcons lost their fifth in a row and saw quarterback Matt Ryan leave in the fourth quarter with an ankle injury. Rams quarterback Jared Goff passed for 268 yards one week after he was held to 78 yards in the air as the Rams (4-3) won in their return to Atlanta, where they lost Super Bowl LIII to the New England Patriots to end last season. Gurley caught a 13-yard TD pass from Goff in the second quarter after missing a game because of a quadriceps injury. Ryan was 16 of 27 for 159 yards for the Falcons (1-6). He was knocked out of the game with a right ankle injury after he was sacked by defensive tackle Aaron Donald.

JAGUARS 27, BENGALS 17

Rookie quarterback Gardner Minshew threw for 255 yards and the go-ahead touchdown as visiting Jacksonville kept Cincinnati winless. Jacksonville scored 18 points in the fourth quarter to seal the win. Minshew, who completed 15 of 32 passes, found Keelan Cole for a 2-yard score with 12:41 left in the game and then converted a two-point pass to give Jacksonville a 17-10 lead. Yannick Ngakoue put the game away with a 23-yard interception return for a touchdown with 4:18 remaining. Josh Lambo kicked four field goals as the Jaguars (3-4), and Leonard Fournette added 131 rushing yards on 29 attempts against the NFL's worst running defense.

Andy Dalton hit on 22 of 43 passes for 276 yards with a touchdown and three interceptions for the Bengals (0-7).

BILLS 31, DOLPHINS 21

Josh Allen fired a 20-yard, fourth-quarter dart to John Brown for the go-ahead touchdown, leading host Buffalo to a victory over winless Miami. Tre'Davious White had a goal-line interception in the third quarter and a forced fumble in the fourth to help hold off Miami. The interception was White's third of the season, and the fumble was recovered by Jerry Hughes. Allen completed 16 of 26 passes for 202 yards and two touchdowns, with two sacks and no interceptions. The Bills (5-1) are off to their best six-game start since 2008. The Dolphins (0-6) lost their ninth straight game dating to last season, despite getting 282 passing yards from Ryan Fitzpatrick, who threw for a touchdown and ran for another.

COLTS 30, TEXANS 23

Jacoby Brissett completed 26 of 39 passes for a career-high 326 yards and four touchdowns to lead host Indianapolis past Houston in a battle for first in the AFC South. With under three minutes left and forced to punt from its own end zone, Houston elected to take a safety, conceding two points when punter Bryan Anger ran out of the back of the end zone to make it 30-23 with 2:41 remaining. Houston got the ball back at its own 36-yard line with 1:41 left, but Deshaun Watson was intercepted by Darius Leonard with under a minute left. Zach Pascal caught six passes for 106 yards and two touchdowns for the Colts (4-2).

Watson completed 23 of 34 passes for 308 yards, with one touchdown and two interceptions for the Texans (4-3).

CARDINALS 27, GIANTS 21

Running back Chase Edmonds had career highs with 126 rushing yards and three touchdowns, and quarterback Kyle Murray set an NFL record for most completions in the first seven games of a career as Arizona held off New York in rainy East Rutherford, N.J. Edmonds scored on two 20-yard runs four minutes apart in the first quarter as the Cardinals took a 17-0 lead. His 22-yard run made it 24-14 with six minutes left in the third quarter. Arizona (3-3-1) won a third straight game for the first time since 2015. Daniel Jones completed 22 of 35 passes for 223 yards and one touchdown with one interception, and Saquon Barkley rushed for 72 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries in his return from injury for the Giants (2-5), who have lost three in a row.

49ERS 9, REDSKINS 0

Robbie Gould kicked three field goals and San Francisco remained undefeated by beating Washington in heavy rain and wind at Landover, Md. San Francisco (6-0) relied on its sturdy defense on a day featuring treacherous field conditions and allowed just 154 yards while starting 6-0 for the first time since the Joe Montana-led 49ers won their first 10 games in 1990. Julian Taylor recovered a fumble and made an important fourth-down stop for the Niners. Jimmy Garoppolo completed 12 of 21 passes for 151 yards and one interception to improve to 12-2 as a starter during his tenure with the 49ers. Adrian Peterson rushed for 81

yards on 20 carries but lost a key fumble for Washington (1-6). Case Keenum completed 9 of 12 passes for 75 yards.

VIKINGS 42, LIONS 30

Kirk Cousins passed for 337 yards and four touchdowns and Dalvin Cook rushed for 142 yards and two touchdowns as Minnesota edged host Detroit, which got four touchdown catches by Marvin Jones Jr. Stefon Diggs caught seven passes for 142 yards for the Vikings (5-2). Matthew Stafford passed for 364 yards, and Jones caught 10 passes for 93 yards for Detroit (2-3-1). Minnesota star receiver Adam Thielen left the game in the first quarter due to a hamstring injury after catching a touchdown pass. Detroit's top running back, Kerryon Johnson, exited in the first half with a knee injury.

TITANS 23, CHARGERS 20

Jurrell Casey recovered Melvin Gordon's fumble in the end zone with 19 seconds left Sunday, capping a bizarre ending that gave Tennessee a win over Los Angeles in Nashville, Tenn. The Chargers (2-5) appeared to have taken the lead with 44 seconds left when Austin Ekeler caught what looked like a 16-yard touchdown from Philip Rivers, but a review ruled Ekeler was down at the 1. Gordon was stopped on the next two plays, fumbling the game away on the second to seal the Chargers' third straight loss. Rivers was 24 of 38 for 329 yards and two touchdowns. Ryan Tannehill, making his first start since the benching of Marcus Mariota, completed 23 of 29 passes for 312 yards and two touchdowns for Tennessee (3-4). — Reuters