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Visit-to-work visa transfers allowed, fees unchanged

MoI issues new residency bylaws • First convicted ex-MP returns to Kuwait

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah yesterday issued new residency bylaws allowing visit visas to be transferred to residency visas in many cases. There were only minor changes to other residency rules and regulations, especially with regards to fees. The new regulations, which explain how the residency law should be implemented, became effective as of Monday after their publication in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm.

Visit visas may be transferred to residency visas for the following categories: Subject to the residency affairs' director's decision, visitors of ministries and public authorities (with government visit visas) holding university degrees; domestic helpers; dependents arriving on family or tourist visit visas; holders of valid residencies who do not exceed six months out of Kuwait and have to enter with a visit visa; those who enter for work and start procedures to get residency, but have to

News in brief

Pentagon chief meets Saudi king



leave for a maximum of one month; cases subject to the residency affairs directorate's judgment.

Contrary to reports published repeatedly in the local press about plans to sharply raise almost all residency charges, the new rules included no major changes to residency fees, while dependent residency rules and others remain unchanged. The only change was introducing a KD 3 fee for obtaining a visa on arrival, which used to be offered free of charge for some nationalities. Residence and renewal fees remain at KD 10 per person per year.

Dependent residency fees for spouses and children remain at KD 10 per person annually, while the regulations allow the residency department to grant relatives other than the wife and children a dependent visa against a KD 200 charge yearly. This includes parents. The regulations set a minimum of KD 500 in monthly salary for those who can bring their families from abroad on dependent visas, while they give the director of the department to exempt couples already living here from the salary condition. The regulations also exempt a large number of professions from the salary conditions. These include judges, doctors, engineers, teachers, journalists and many others.

The new bylaws introduce a tourist visa allowing tourists to stay in Kuwait for up to three months, and a multiple entry visa valid for one year for just KD 1 for each month. Foreigners whose residence is cancelled and those who resign are given up to three months of temporary residency to leave.

In another development, former Islamist opposition MP Fahd Al-Khanna, who had been living abroad to avoid a three-year jail term, returned to the country yesterday after spending around one and a half years in Turkey. It was also reported that several other former opposition MPs and activists were returning to Kuwait after fleeing for the same reason.

The new development comes following reports that a general amnesty is expected to be issued to pardon the activists and dozens of other opposition members who are serving jail terms for either taking part in protests or writing tweets deemed offensive to HH the Amir.

Former opposition MP Ahmad Al-Shuraian said yesterday that a large number of nationalist figures have signed a memorandum addressed to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, appealing to him to issue a general pardon for jailed opposition figures and others. He said that he has repeatedly approached officials of the Amiri Diwan to arrange to deliver the petition but his attempts have been unsuccessful. Accordingly, Shuraian said the petition will be published in order to reach HH the Amir, adding that he is confident it will be in safe hands.

The former opposition figures were handed jail terms in the summer of last year, but they left the country before the verdicts were issued to avoid being jailed. Under Kuwaiti law, they will have to give themselves up to authorities as soon as they return. Their only solution is a pardon by HH the Amir or a general amnesty law by the National Assembly, which should be approved by the government.

Erdogan hails agreement with Putin over Syria

SOCHI, Russia: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hailed "a historic agreement" with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin after hours of talks between the two leaders over the conflict in Syria. "According to this agreement, Turkey and Russia will not allow any separatist agenda on Syrian territory," Erdogan said, addressing reporters alongside Putin after the talks in the Russian city of Sochi. to be moved back 30 km from the Turkish border. "Within 150 hours starting at 1200 noon on October 23, YPG terrorists and their weapons will be removed to the depth of 30 kilometers and their ... positions will be destroyed," Erdogan said.

He added that after the deadline, Turkish and Russian joint patrols would start in two zones stretching 10 km to the east and west of the area of Turkey's current Operation Peace Spring. "All YPG terrorists in Tal Firat and Manbij will be removed outside this region, together with their weaponry," he said. Erdogan also said both countries would take necessary measures against "terrorist infiltrations" and create a "joint mechanism" to coordinate the agreement.



RIYADH: Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz meets US Defense Secretary Mark Esper yesterday. — AFP

RIYADH: US Defense Secretary Mark Esper discussed "strategic cooperation" with Saudi King Salman yesterday, shortly after Washington ordered thousands of soldiers to the kingdom as tensions fester with Iran. The meeting in Riyadh, where Esper arrived late Monday after an unannounced visit to Afghanistan, also took in defense issues and the current situation in the region, the official SPA news agency said. — AFP

Qatar to expand airport

DOHA: Qatar announced yesterday a major expansion of its Hamad international airport, almost doubling the number of visitors it can receive as the Gulf state prepares to host the 2022 World Cup. "The expansion... is a vital part of the future success of the Qatar Airways group, and of course of the country's preparations to host the 2022 World Cup and beyond," said the carrier's



Akbar Al-Baker

CEO Akbar Al-Baker. — AFP (See Page 11)

Trump sends \$4.5m to White Helmets

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has authorized \$4.5 million in aid for Syria's White Helmets group, famed for rescuing wounded civilians from the frontlines in the civil war, the White House said yesterday. Trump ordered the funds for what is formally known as the Syria Civil Defense group "to continue United States support for the organization's important and highly valued work in the country," spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement. — AFP

I Coast tourism attracts \$5bn

ABIDJAN: Ivory Coast announced yesterday that Arab investors had pledged \$5 billion to support its program to attract foreign tourists to the West African nation. The tourism ministry said "a round table of investors in Dubai" on Sunday and Monday expressed interest In Ivory Coast and in total, the minister for tourism and leisure, Siandou Fofana, "enlisted from them pledges worth just over \$5 billion". — AFP Erdogan also announced a 150-hour deadline beginning today for Syrian Kurdish YPG fighters and their weapons Meanwhile, the commander of Kurdish led-SDF fighters has informed the United States that it has carried out all of its **Continued on Page 24**

SOCHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin meets his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday. — AFP

Hezbollah under rare street pressure

BEIRUT: When mass anti-government protests engulfed Lebanon, a taboo was broken as strongholds of the Shiite Hezbollah movement saw rare demonstrations criticizing the party and revered leader Hassan Nasrallah. On live TV and in protest sites, citizens accused the party of providing political cover for a corrupt government that they say has robbed people of their livelihoods.

This shattered the myth of absolute acquiescence among Hezbollah's popular

Trudeau needs help to form government

OTTAWA: A weakened Prime Minister Justin Trudeau set out yesterday to secure the support of smaller parties he will need to form a government after winning Canada's nail-biter general election but falling short of a majority. Trudeau's Liberals took 157 seats in the 338-member House of Commons, down from a comfortable majority of 177 in the last one, official results showed. Trudeau will thus have to seek some kind of accommodation with the Bloc Quebecois or the New Democratic Party.

Before launching talks with these parties Trudeau greeted people at a subway station in Montreal and posed smiling for selfies. Trudeau received congratulations Monday evening from US President Donald Trump and yesterday from European Council president Donald Tusk. "From coast to coast to coast, tonight Canadians rejected division and negativity," Trudeau said in his victory speech Monday night. "And they rejected cuts and austerity and voted in favor of a progressive agenda and strong action on climate change."

Even though he came out weakened, Trudeau did

base, baffling even those who hail from the movement's strongholds. "No one ever expected that in any of these areas in south Lebanon we would hear a single word against Nasrallah," or Amal Movement leader Nabih Berri, said Sara, a 32-year-old activist who participated in protests in the southern city of Nabatiyeh. "It's unbelievable," the activist added, asking to use a pseudonym due to security concerns.

The popular Iran-backed movement is a major political player that took 13 seats in the country's May 2018 parliamentary elections and secured three cabinet posts. It is the only political party not to have disarmed after Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, and helped its Christian ally Michel Aoun assume the presidency in 2016.

Continued on Page 24



MONTREAL: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau celebrates his victory with his supporters at the Palais des Congres on Monday. — AFP

better than expected. Up until election day polls had him neck and neck with Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer.



BEIRUT: A Lebanese protestor walks with her national flag during demonstrations yesterday. —AFP

Hover-taxi whizzes over S'pore; firm eyes Asian push

SINGAPORE: A drone-like flying taxi whirred over Singapore's waterfront yesterday, with the firm behind the test hoping the aircraft will revolutionize travel in traffic-choked Asian cities. The 18 propeller vehicle, developed by German firm Volocopter and with a pilot onboard during the test flight, took off from a promontory and flew for about two minutes and 30 seconds around the Marina Bay district. Heavy rains in the morning almost delayed the flight, but the skies cleared in time for the battery-operated, two-seater taxi to quietly fly past skyscrapers.

While the hover-taxis - resembling small helicopters but powered by drone-like technology - can fly autonomously, there was a pilot aboard during the test for safety reasons. Volocopter has already tested the aircraft in Dubai, Helsinki, Germany and Las Vegas but the Singapore trial is the first in the heart of a city. The orderly metropolis is likely to be among the first to get the service, with a commercial rollout expected in two **Continued on Page 24**





Amir, Crown Prince receive Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah, Prime Minister, Attorney General

Sheikh Sabah receives cable from KDP President Barzani on recuperation



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah after concluding an official visit to Egypt. His Highness the Amir then received Attorney General Dherar Al-Asousi.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and Attorney General Dherar Al-Asousi. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a cable of congratulations from President of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Masoud Barzani



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Attorney General Dherar Al-Asousi.

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 Barzani lasting wellbeing and more progress. In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable yesterday to US President Donald Trump, offering his condolences over casualties of the tornado that swept through the states of Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Almighty to bestow mercy upon the dead and wished a speedy recovery for the injured, as well as voicing trust that officials in the friendly country are able to overcome impacts of such natural disaster. His Highness the Crown Prince and His

Highness the Prime Minister have sent similar letters to President Trump, while National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem sent a condolence cables to US Vice President Mike Pence and US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Attorney General Dherar Al-Asousi.

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



KUWAIT: A general view of a high-level meeting between Kuwaiti and Egyptian officials held during His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jabe Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Cairo on Monday. — KUNA

KFAED sign \$85.7 million loan for Egypt Sinai project

CAIRO: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) on Monday signed a loan agreement with Egypt worth KD 26 million (\$85.7 million) to finance the project of the tunnel road in Sharm El Sheikh. Under the deal, the loan which will be repaid within 22 years will fund the project which is the beginning of financing the second phase of the Sinai Peninsula Development Program, Deputy Director General of KFAED Marwan Al-Ghanim said in a news statement. The KFAED will offer several loans worth KD 300 million (\$989.2 million) to finance some projects for 2020-2022, he added. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Cairo, where he met with the Egyptian leadership. The Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, the Saudi Fund for Development and the Abu

Dhabi Fund for Development are contributing alongside the KFAED to the Sinai Peninsula Development Program.

Deep-rooted ties

In the meantime, a number of Egyptian and Kuwaiti businessmen have extolled the depth of relations between Kuwait and Egypt. This came in statements to the press at the end of the Egypt-Kuwait business forum on Monday, on the sidelines of His Highness the Prime Minister's visit to Cairo. They called for enhancing ties to reach wider horizons mainly in economy. President of the Kuwait Industries Union (KIU) Hussein Al-Kharafi stressed that the Egyptian market is promising and has big chances in light of positive developments in investments. He praised facilitations made by the Egyptian investment authority for foreign investors, mainly the Kuwaitis.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Jazeera Airways Marwan Bodi said the Egyptian investment ministry allocated one facility containing all ministries and bodies to offer easily required services for foreign investors. He said Egypt began offering more guarantees for investors. Also, Secretary General of the Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations Alaa Ezz said the forum reviewed investment opportunities in many domains like new energy projects, tourism and others. He noted that

g Egypt has become the world's largest solar complex.

Among the chances are infrastructure projects, reclaiming 2.5 million acres, new administrative capital and others, he stated. A team of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Cairo as part of the accompanying delegation of His Highness the Prime Minister.

Ambitious plan

Kuwait has an "ambitious plan" in store aiming to rejuvenate the local market and lure foreign investment with promising projects, said the Gulf state's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI). Tariq Al-Muttawa, a chamber member, made the remarks amid talks over Kuwaiti-Egyptian economic cooperation, held as part of His Highness the Prime Minister's visit to Cairo. "This plan will enable Kuwait to contribute towards development in Egypt," he said, disclosing that total Kuwaiti non-oil investments in Egypt are more than \$4 billion, citing official Egyptian government statistics. These investments cover "vital sectors such as tourism and real estate," added the official, saying that bilateral trade was worth \$482 million last year. He went on to commend the Egyptian government on introducing a spate of economic reforms as of late, helping usher in sustainable development. ---KUNA

Sheikh Nasser attends Emperor's enthronement



KUWAIT: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-

Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, attended in Tokyo yesterday the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace. — KUNA

GCC municipalities agree on strategic urban planning

MUSCAT: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) 35th preparatory meeting for the Municipalities' officials was held on Tuesday in Muscat, Oman, setting the strategic urban planning in the Gulf region. Kuwait Municipal Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said in remarks yesterday on sidelines of the meeting that they agreed on many items including the GCC construction code and GCC prize for municipal work. They also concurred on the database of GCC municipalities' affairs, as well as acknowledging the special Kuwaiti initiative regarding the municipal work con-

ference, to be held in Kuwait in 2020, he said. The municipal work conference will tackle many issues including smart cities, supervision on municipal services, along with best experiences in the field of municipal work, he added. Participants in the meeting in Muscat also agreed on a Kuwaiti initiative of exchanging expertise, experience and information among GCC civil servants, he added. The participants also discussed means to boost joint work among the GCC nations in the regional and international arenas, he said. — KUNA



Local

Kuwait eager to develop economic legislations, diplomat tells UN panel

Kuwait affirms readiness to improve people's lives: Diplomat

Gulf countries mark GCC red crescent Day

RIYADH: Arabian Gulf countries celebrate today the GCC Red Crescent Societies' Day. In March of 2017, Gulf humanitarian officials decided to dedicate the day to celebrate the societies' relief aid efforts. A number of festivities and activities will be held all over the GCC region during the celebrations. The GCC Red Crescent Day continues this year to focus on the humanitarian efforts in the war torn country of Yemen. Although the conflict in Yemen continues to preoccupy people with destruction, famine, and displacement of families, GCC countries took charge in providing urgent aid to Yemeni people through humanitarian and development packages totaling around \$22 billion. Such vital assistance has strengthened Gulf States' charitable role and humanitarian work on both the official and popular fronts, which is a continued measure that helped to heal the wounds of those who are distressed.

GCC countries have provided Yemen with around \$11.5 billion in development aid since November 2006, and another 10.4 billion from 2015 to 2018. The Gulf Red Crescent Societies played a major role in alleviating the suffering of Yemeni brethren through providing them with a number of vital projects that helped them in their daily lives and met their basic needs. According to statistics issued by the GCC General Secretariat in September 2018, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have provided \$1.25 billion, or 42.2 percent of the global humanitarian response to Yemen, while the global humanitarian aid estimate reached \$2.96 billion in 2018.Since 2006, GCC countries have shared development assistance to Yemen, with Kuwait totaling around \$709.4 million, the UAE \$2.9 billion, including \$1.5 billion since 2015, and Saudi Arabia nearly \$5 billion. Oman has provided \$100 million, Qatar \$1 billion, and Bahrain \$4.5 million. In terms of humanitarian assistance, Gulf countries provided humanitarian assistance since 2015 and until September 2018 another generous sum. With Kuwait providing

\$350 million, Saudi Arabia with \$8.4 billion, including an exemption for health and education fees for Yemenis inside Saudi Arabia, Qatar provided \$419 million, with UAE providing \$1.3 billion, and Bahrain with \$1 million. Furthermore, Gulf countries' aid and grants to Yemen have varied in all areas, including food and relief assistance, humanitarian needs, health, education, electricity, water and shel-

ter projects. The GCC countries have also been quick to rescue those affected by hurricanes through operating emergency air and land relief bridges to help those affected in Yemen, which played a decisive role. In 2019, GCC countries took part in the Geneva conference to provide humanitarian funding to the situation in Yemen. The Gulf countries provided \$1.7 million with Kuwait contributing around \$250 million while Saudi Arabia and the UAE offering each an identical sum of \$500 million. The event gathered around \$4.2 billion in aid from participants.

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Vice President Anwar Al-Hasawi said that Kuwait has always been helping those in need globally, without discrimination. Kuwait extended a helping hand to the Yemeni brothers to alleviate their suffering, which according to the United Nations, the crisis in Yemen has become the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, where about 22 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, Hasawi explained. He added that is why His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has swiftly contributed with \$100 million to improve the situation there in Yemen.

Hasawi noted that the Kuwaiti aid covered various aspects such as medicine, food, as well as education from building or renovating schools, paintings, school supplies, and water and electricity projects. Providing his input, head of the Yemeni Higher Relief Committee Abdulraqeeb Fattah lauded the GCC countries for their humanitarian put for Yemen, saying that it has an impact on somehow elevating the dire situation of Yemenis suffering from war. The Yemeni legitimate government and the GCC countries are working closely to provide necessary humanitarian aid to the people of Yemen who are suffering from a humanitarian crisis started by the Houthi militia. — KUNA

NEW YORK: Kuwait affirmed continuous efforts to develop legislations on commerce, economy and law in accordance with international standards. The remarks were made by Kuwaiti diplomatic attache Rehab Al-Farhan yesterday, during the UN General Assembly's sixth committee's discussion on a report by the UN Commission on International Trade Law. Kuwait is set to execute vital projects to turn the country into an economic and financial center, as part of the 'New Kuwait Vision 2035,' she said. The country had also set a plan to engage the private sector in the development plan, in a joint partnership with the public sector. The authority on joint private and public sectors projects is tasked with monitoring the execution of projects and evaluating the financial part. Through engaging the private sector in the plan, the authority aims to encourage competitiveness in mar-



kets and creativity, Farhan added. The authority had announced several projects on energy, water, sewage treatment management, education, health, communication, real estate and others, she noted.



Meanwhile, Kuwait assured its permanent support to initiatives and measures taken by world nations to develop their living standards through innovative strategies and plans. This came in a speech delivered by the member of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission to the UN, second secretary Abdullah Al-Sharrah, before the meeting of the second committee of the United Nation General Assembly to discuss cooperation in the field of development between countries of the south.

"Cooperation between countries of the South has contributed to changing dynamics of international cooperation through meeting the needs of developing countries and the effective partnership that has proven merit in light of the decline of North-South and triangular cooperation," he said. He confirmed that the South-South cooperation is complementary, not a substitute for any kind of develop-



ment cooperation due to its voluntary and participatory nature, with regard to official development assistance pledged by developed countries. The meeting comes after 40 years since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action issued by United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in the Argentine capital in 1978, he explained.

Sharrah also stressed that Kuwait has always been a supporter of the process of joint cooperation. Since its independence, Kuwait has recognized the importance of development in the southern region and the need to support it by all available means. This was the reason for the establishment of Kuwait Fund for Development, which has consistently supported development projects in developing countries, he explained. — KUNA





IENZHEN, China: A group photo of Arab media representatives with Huawei CEO Ren Zhengfei.— KUNA

China's Huawei wants to leave its tech mark in Kuwait

SHENZHEN, China: Chinese telecoms as the "next generation" of mobile comequipment giant Huawei said yesterday it hopes to contribute towards Kuwait's development plans, particularly projects dealing with high-tech smart cities and public services. Huawei has joined forces with a number of reputable companies on a marquee Kuwaiti project to develop the Gulf state's eastern islands, the global tech firm's founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei told a gathering of Arab journalists in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. He pinpointed His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to China last year as the catalyst for Huwaei's foray into development projects in Kuwait. "We look forward to working with Kuwait to help the country bring its goals and ambitions to fruition," Zhengfei said, pointing out that the telecoms giant is excited about displaying its next-generation tech knowhow in the Gulf state. As part of plans to transform Kuwait into a global technology hub, he said that Kuwait was among the first countries to embrace Huawei's 5G technology, touted

munication, which was the result of a deal signed between both sides. Working with Kuwait has been a "productive experience," he added, describing the market there as significant and fast-growing, highlighting that 5G technology could help spark a digital renaissance in countries eager to explore the breakthrough. He urged oil-rich Gulf nations to make the transition towards a more digitalbased economy, warning that the age of oil would "inevitably come to an end." On US sanctions that threaten to disrupt Huwaei's smartphone and network equipment businesses, Zhengfei wanted the mobile network to eventually make its way into the US, hoping that early-stage talks with American telecoms firms would allow the company to license its 5G network technology to them. Huwaei's sales growth has largely remained unaffected after the world's largest telecoms equipment provider was placed on a US blacklist over national security concerns, banning it from buying American-made parts without a special license. - KUNA



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Local

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Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: People enjoy a walk along the seaside. — Photo by Jassem Al-Tourah (KUNA)

Int'l neurocritical care society honors Kuwaiti physician



NEW YORK: The Neurocritical Care Society (NCS) has honored Dr Yasser Abulhasan of Kuwait with the '2019 Presidential Citation' award, making him the first physician from the MENA region to acquire such a prestigious prize. Abulhasan, an assistant professor of Anesthesiology at Kuwait University, as well as Anesthesia and Critical Care consultant at Ibn Sina Hospital, was honored alongside other 38 health care physicians during NCS annual meeting, held in Vancouver, Canada. The 'Presidential Citation' awards recognize NCS members who made remarkable contributions in neurology through their great efforts, time, energy, and resources, in addition to their non-stop communication with renowned world health care bodies in that regard, Abulhasan stated. NCS strives to discern clinical practice and challenges for neurocritical care patients around the globe, said the Kuwaiti physician. It also identifies best practice strategies and clinical challenges when caring for neurocritical care patients with traumatic brain injury, intracranial hemorrhage, stroke, and central nervous system infections, he added. NCS examines ongoing clinical trials, controversies in clinical practice and end-of-life decision-making strategies in the care of patients with neurologic injury, said Abulhasan. One of the society's main objectives is determining opportunities to use neuromonitoring, informatics, genomics, and quality metrics in the neuroscience ICU to improve quality of care, he noted. NCS also tends to facilitate occupational cooperation through providing a forum for communication, collaboration, and exchange of ideas between physicians and allied health-care professionals within different specialties who care for critically-ill neurological patients, said Abulhasan. Furthermore, the US-based society aims to foster clinical, experimental, and outcomes research focused on developing innovative and cost-effective medical and surgical interventions for acute neurological disorders, added the Kuwaiti physician. He also mentioned that NCS develops standards for advanced fellowship training, program accreditation, and physician certification in the subspecialty of neurological intensive care. Moreover, the international society endorses advocacy by making the case to patients, the public, policy makers, and other healthcare





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Dasman Diabetes Institute scientist wins in Asian Conference

KUWAIT: Three scientists, representing the Dasman Diabetes Institute, attended the National Diabetes Institute (NADI) Diabetes Asia Conference (DAC) 2019 recently in Malaysia. Since 2002, the National Diabetes Institute (NADI) of Malaysia organizes the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) conferences to create a platform that emphasizes on the latest advance in diabetes research. The DAC 2019 is an event that hosted diabetes researchers from across Asia to share their latest research findings to improve diabetes care. Dr Eman Al-Shawaf, Dr Sulaiman Marafie and Dr Anwar Mohammad attended the conference and presented their scientific work in the poster displays. Dr Sulaiman Marafie was awarded first prize for the best poster presented at the conference.

As the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes increases across the world, its increase is more evident in developing countries including Kuwait and Malaysia. It is the Institute's mission to address the diabetes epidemic in

NEW YORK: The Neurocritical Care Society honors Dr Yasser Abulhasan. — KUNA

professionals that complex, life-threatening neurological diseases are best cared for by a multidisciplinary team with special expertise in neurocritical care, he added.

Established in 2002, NCS is a multidisciplinary, international organization with more than 2,700 members from 55 countries. Its main mission is to improve outcomes for patients with life-threatening neurological illnesses. NCS membership is comprised of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and advance practice providers who treat a wide range of neurocritical conditions. — KUNA



(From left) Dr Anwar Mohammad, Dr Sulaiman Marafie and Dr Eman Al-Shawaf.

Kuwait through diabetes research and diabetes-based initiatives that aim to educate the public on the latest diabetes treatment, management and prevention options. Dasman Diabetes Institute was established in 2006 by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences to tackle the diabetes epidemic in Kuwait through focused diabetes research, integrated prevention, training and education.



Local

Indonesian Embassy denies discussing domestic helpers' issue with Kuwait

'Indonesian government policy remains unchanged'

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait has denied any discussions were held with any Kuwaiti authorities with regards to the recruitment of domestic helpers. An embassy official who spoke to Kuwait Times on the condition of anonymity said the policy of Indonesia remains unchanged. "No official discussions were held on this matter. The policy of the government of Indonesia at present remains

Co-ops to step up bedoons' recruitment

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Social Affairs plans to increase the rate of recruiting stateless people at various co-op societies, provided they hold valid security IDs, well-informed sources said. An agreement was made in this regard between the ministry, Kuwait Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (KUCCS) and the Public Authority for Manpower to prioritize the employment of bedoons instead of expats and recruit citizens in leading positions after undergoing special

Uber inquires about entering Kuwaiti market

KUWAIT: Uber has written to several Kuwait authorities informing them of its wish to enter Kuwait - separate from its subsidiary Careem, which is operating in Kuwait with a roaming taxi license, reported Al-Qabas daily. Sources said Uber is conducting economic feasibility studies and studying commercial and transport regulations in the Kuwait market, as well as the process of getting licenses and permissions necessary to operate without legal obstacles to transport passengers.

The sources said Uber's path will not be rosy if

unchanged," the official said.

In 2010, the Indonesian government decided to totally stop sending domestic helpers to the Middle East over allegations of mistreatment and abuse. Prior to the ban, the population of Indonesians in Kuwait was around 60,000 - with over 85 percent of them domestic helpers. Their numbers are down to less than 9,000 presently.

On Monday, Kuwait Times reported that officials from the Public Authority for Manpower are expect-

training courses, the sources added. The sources said various co-ops are currently receiving citizens' applications for those jobs, adding that bedoons and Kuwaiti women's children are next in priority for these jobs. "Allegations that co-ops will not terminate expats are completely false and that all expats are replaceable in various positions, including warehouse laborers or market supervisors," the sources stressed.

Embassy denies allegations

Responding to recent social media and local media allegations that security staff at the Egyptian consulate in Kuwait held, assaulted and insulted a Kuwaiti man while also hurled insults against Kuwait, the consulate yesterday stressed that it had submitted the results of investigations conducted in this regard and a video showing all the details of the incident. The Egyptian consulate strongly rejected of any form of slander against Kuwait or its people and urged all media and public figures to verify allegations before responding to

Kuwait organizes meeting with 'Sophia the robot'

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) announced yesterday a special event for Space Month that includes a scientific lecture and meetings with the famous robot Sofia and its inventor at the Kuwait Scientific Center on October 24 and 25. Sofia's inventor Dr David Hansen will deliver a lecture on robotics, artificial intelligence and how inventions and modern developments contribute to space exploration, said KFAS in a statement. The lecture by Dr Hansen alongside Sofia comes within KFAS Links, which is a series of dynamic talks and panel discussions of artificial intelligence and robotics, it added. In addition, KFAS special event will provide an opportunity for visitors to interact with Sophia tomorrow from 9 am to 12 pm and from 7:30 pm to 10 pm, as well as on Friday from 2 pm to 10 pm at the Scientific Center. Dr David Hansen has earned a global reputation for his invention of the world's most compassionate, intelligent and near-human robot by integrating figurative arts with science and engineering, new skin materials, facial expression mechanisms and intelligent robotics programs for direct interaction with humans. Sophia spoke to the UN General Assembly



The sources said foreign ministries of both countries are about to sign a memorandum of understanding in this regard in Kuwait, adding that discussions were resumed upon Kuwait's request. In addition, the sources stressed that once the agreement is approved and signed, Indonesian domestic helpers will be expected in Kuwait by the fourth quarter of 2020 and that their recruitment will be done through the Al-Durra Company for Domestic Labor Recruitment.

them and circulating them.

imum wages, leaves and workers' rights.

Incentives for firemen

ed to meet soon with Indonesian officials to discuss

regulations for recruiting Indonesians as domestic

helpers, to resume a protocol that had been sus-

pended for 11 years. The meeting could be held

before the end of the year or by the beginning of

2020, said the sources, who spoke on the condition

of anonymity, noting that the Indonesian side is

used in hiring domestic helpers, which mentions min-

expected to suggest a draft of the contract to be

Chairman of the parliamentary interior and defense affairs committee MP Askar Al-Enezi said the committee discussed the new Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) law yesterday with KFSD representatives and that the law needs some amendments. Enezi added that the new law will include more incentives for firemen and that the KFSD employees syndicate will be consulted regarding the new amendments. Committee rapporteur MP Nayef Al-Merdas said firemen had fears over the discussion of the bill and that the committee insisted on adding guarantees to protect current incentives and add more in the new bill. "This is why voting was postponed to reach a final version that satisfies all KFSD personnel," he said. KFSD Director Lt Gen Khaled Al-Mekrad stressed that the new law will include more incentives without adding any new penal measures.

Underground garbage containers in new areas

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said the municipality's general cleaning committee recommended using underground garbage containers in new residential areas currently under construction. 'This technology must be included in those areas' infrastructure," he underlined in response to an inquiry filed by the municipal councilmember Meshaal Mohammed Al-Hamdhan.

In response to an inquiry by municipal councilmember Abdul Salam Al-Randi concerning the alleged theft of manhole covers by cleaners, Manfouhi stressed that contracts signed with cleaning companies include penal clauses for violations such as stealing manhole covers, operating machinery for purposes other than those contracted for and negligence by cleaners and operators. Manfouhi denied a lack of supervision over cleaning workers and stressed that stealing manhole covers are individual violations.

Meanwhile, Manfouhi said coordination with the finance ministry is in progress to initially implement the government finance management information system on listing education ministry properties around Kuwait, including all buildings and schools.

it decides to enter the market, because of legal obstacles related to getting commercial licenses for its activities, especially when it comes to interior ministry approvals, which has banned the majority of transport-related commercial licenses. Meanwhile, the sources urged government authorities to be aware of the importance of foreign investment in Kuwait and pay attention to major foreign companies that wish to operate in Kuwait such as Uber, which will add value to the local market. —Al-Qabas

Robot Sofia

and was selected as the first non-human citizen in Saudi Arabia. She possesses artificial intelligence, advanced ability to read faces, and empathizes with emotions and language. — KUNA

NBK conducts training program for KPC employees

KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait's (NBK) Human Resources, in cooperation with Foreign Corporate, Oil and Trade Finance Group, has launched the second phase of the training program held for employees of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries.

The training program, which was launched last year, comprises two phases of both practical and theoretical training and will extend for four weeks. The program is aimed at developing the technical skills of KPC employees. It covered several business divisions including Treasury, Finance and Accounting. The trainees have met with Emad Ahmed Al-Ablani, General Manager - Group Human Resources, National Bank of Kuwait; Pradeep Handa, General Manager of Foreign Corporate, Oil and Trade Finance Group, National Bank of Kuwait; Areej Yousif Al-Bahar, Deputy Managing Director for Financial Affairs at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation; and Ali Abdel Kareem, Financial Advisor at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

This program reflects the NBK's endeavors to attain a key role in developing the human capabilities in the state-owned entities, since NBK acts as the

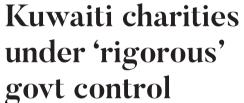


key financing partner to the Kuwaiti government," said Emad Ahmed Al-Ablani, General Manager -Group Human Resources, National Bank of Kuwait.

The program primarily seeks to boost the technical skills of those working in the oil segment and dealing with the banking institutions, through delivering an introduction to the bank services offered to different categories of clients," Ablani added.

The training program will cover several business divisions including treasury, central operations, risk management, letters of guarantee, letters of credit, project financing, in addition to anti-money laundering. The program's goals came within NBK's commitment to maintaining the balance between the economic sustainability of both the Group and the whole country, in addition to the human capital, which receives training in line with the highest global criteria. On the other hand, Pradeep Handa, General Manager of Foreign Corporate, Oil and Trade Finance Group, National Bank of Kuwait, said, "NBK has strong relations with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation; the training plans come within the bank's efforts to raise a new competitive and productive generation."

NBK is committed to developing the human capital in line with its partnerships with public and private entities, as part of its social responsibility framework. NBK's training initiatives deliver on its profound vision to invest in the human capital. It allocates a team of prominent banking experts to share their expertise with the promising talents. The bank's annual initiatives came in line with its clear policies pertaining to its social responsibility framework. NBK's programs continue to reflect the leadership role it has undertaken for decades in the local sector.



KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti government has implemented "rigorous" control measures over local-based charities, but the move does not aim to inhibit the country's wellchronicled philanthropic endeavors, a minister said yesterday. Among these measures is the need for charities to obtain a license before their activities could begin, Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Saad Al-Kharraz said in a statement at inauguration of a conference grouping representatives of local charities and addressing charitable work in Kuwait and abroad. He emphasized that the government closely monitors all local charities to make sure they strictly adhere to national laws, citing a newly-proposed piece of legislation dealing with the matter. On the aforementioned law, he said it would be a "sizable step" towards charity registration and regulation, which in turn, would help organize Kuwait's philanthropic activities. --- KUNA

Kuwait, EU discuss audit cooperation

PARIS: Kuwait's State Audit Bureau's Acting President Adel Al-Saraawi discussed with the President of European Court of Auditors (ECA) Klaus-Heiner Lehne aspects of their technical and occupational cooperation. The two sides affirmed the importance of exchanging expertise and knowledge, and boosting their affiliated-bodies' role to achieve a maximum occupational efficiency, Munira Al-Huwaidi, an auditor in the Pre-Audit and Technical Support Sector at the State Audit Bureau, said yesterday. They also discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of performance indicator, particularly in following-up with settling notifications mentioned in audit bodies' annual reports, added Huwaidi. ECA enjoys rich and accumulated expertise in performance indicator, she said, adding the two sides also discussed bilateral cooperation in peer review to evaluate the performance of supreme bodies, and values attained via audit products. The Kuwaiti-European talks also addressed experience in performance audit system, and aspirations to switch from the traditional audit system to performance audit as one of the main requirements for auditing aimed to implement sustainable development goals, said Huwaidi. Meanwhile, the ECA chief welcomed technical and occupational cooperation with Kuwait State Audit Bureau in performance audit and indicator, pledging to provide all forms of support through hosting workshops, forums, and ECA specialists in those fields. Sarawi affirmed that cooperation with ECA adds significant occupational and technical values to the State Audit Bureau's performance and staff's efficiency. --- KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's public relations department said Fahaheel fire station men responded to a call over a fire in five vehicles parked in an open area in Fahaheel. The blaze was put out and prevented from spreading to other vehicles. No injuries were reported. The cause of the blaze is yet to be determined.— By Hanan Al-Saadoun

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Japan emperor proclaims his status to the world

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TOKYO: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (center) holds a cane while speaking to his daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio (left) while Senator Bong Go listens before the enthronement ceremony of Japanese Emperor Naruhito, at a hotel in Tokyo. —AFF

Duterte suffers 'unbearable pain

Philippine President cuts short Japan trip

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, suf- into motorbikes, they crash like I did," he said, grifering from "unbearable pain" in his spine after a motorcycle accident, is cutting short a trip to Japan, his spokesman said yesterday. The 74-year-old hurt his hip in the crash last week, with his health already the subject of intense speculation following his disclosure earlier this month that he is suffering from a disease that causes one of his eyelids to droop.

A statement from the leader's spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte would leave Japan sooner than planned, having attended the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito with the aid of a cane. "The palace announces that the president will cut short his trip to Japan due to unbearable pain in his spinal column near the pelvic bone," Panelo said. Duterte later described his predicament in a short video clip posted on Facebook by Senator Christopher Go, a former chief aide who accompanied him on the trip.

"If you ride motorbikes you will experience a crash once or twice in your life. All those who are

Baha'i community fears deportations

WASHINGTON: The Baha'i community voiced fear yesterday that a court under Yemen's Houthi rebels could order the mass expulsion of members of the faith. The community said that an appeals court in Yemen's capital Sanaa, which is controlled by the insurgents, is expected to rule Tuesday on a death sentence handed down on religious grounds to Hamed bin Haydara, a Baha'i detained since 2013.

Citing statements by the prosecutor, the Baha'i International Community said it feared the judge would not only uphold the execution but order the deportation of Baha'is from Yemen. "By such a ruling, he would target and threaten an entire religious community in Yemen - which wishes for nothing more than to contribute to its nation's progress," Diane Ala'i, a representative of the community to the United Nations, said in a statement. She warned Baha'is could face "statelessness and expulsion, confiscation of assets and threat of extermination in the country."

Sam Brownback, the US ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, voiced concern about reports that the Houthis were looking to deport the Baha'is or seize their assets. "We urge them to release arbitrarily detained Baha'is like Hamed bin Haydara and respect religious freedom," he tweeted earlier this month. Several thousand Baha'is - members of the 19th century faith founded by the Iranianborn Baha'u'llah that calls for unity among religions and equality between men and women - are estimated to live in Yemen.

The Houthis are allied with Iran's Shiite clerical

macing and moaning while sat in the back of a car beside Go. "I can't bear it, it's around my belt area (waistline), about three inches. It's really painful," added the president, who Go said was on his way back to the Philippines. Panelo said the pain was "a consequence" of the motorcycle accident that the presidency said Duterte had suffered on the palace grounds.

The leader fell off his vehicle just 10 days after he publicly revealed that he has myasthenia gravis, which causes muscle weakness and can result in drooping of evelids, blurred vision as well as weakness in a person's extremities. Questions over his health have swirled since he took office in 2016, with Duterte at times skipping events and meetings or discussing his various ailments in long and rambling speeches. He has previously said he used to take fentanyl, a potent opioid painkiller, because of a spinal injury caused by other motorcycle accidents when he was younger.

According to Duterte, his doctor made him stop using fentanyl on learning he was "abusing the drug" by using more than the prescribed patches. Duterte has also said he suffers from migraines and other illnesses including Buerger's disease, which is characterized by inflammation of blood vessels, usually due to smoking. Duterte will see his neurologist Wednesday after flying back to Manila late yesterday, while his daughter Sara Duterte Carpio will represent him at the emperor's banquet yesterday, Panelo said.

The Filipino leader attended Naruhito's enthronement ceremony earlier yesterday using a cane to help him walk, he added. Senator Go also released a photo of the president sitting down with his forehead propped up by a cane. The Philippine constitution requires the handover of power to the vice president if the leader dies or is incapacitated. However Panelo said yesterday "the public can rest assured that there is nothing to worry about as regards the physical health and condition of the president".--AFP

Trump claims impeachment is a 'lynching' WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday likened the impeachment investigation against him to a "lynching," a racially charged word from the darkest days of America's slavery

legacy. There was an immediate backlash to Trump's tweet in which he claimed that impeachment was unfair and stripping him of his legal rights.

"All Republicans must remember what they are witnessing here-a lynching. But we will WIN!," Trump tweeted. Kristen Clarke, president of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said she was "sickened to see Trump's gross misappropriation of this term today." Clarke said that 4,743 people were lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968, of which 3,446 were African Americans.

"Lynchings were crimes against humanity and an ugly part of our nation's history of racial violence," she said. "It's beyond shameful to use the word 'lynching' to describe being held accountable for your actions," said Democratic presidential candidate Julian Castro. Trump is being investigated for possible impeachment in the Democratic-led House of Representatives over his alleged abuse of office. He is counting on the Republican-dominated Senate to acquit him if the House does vote to impeach. —AFP

UK lifts flight ban to Sharm El-Sheikh

CAIRO: Britain said yesterday it was ending a nearly four-year suspension of flights to Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh that followed the bombing of a Russian airliner claimed by the Islamic State group. The move comes after multiple airport inspections and visits by aviation security experts in response to the 2015 attack that killed all 224 people on board the plane carrying holidaymakers from the Red Sea resort.

The UK has been clear that flights to Sharm El-Sheikh should resume when the security situation allows," British minister for the Middle East and North Africa, Andrew Murrison, said in a statement released by the embassy. "I am pleased that today we can announce the lifting of the current restrictions." The bombing had dealt a devastating blow to Egypt's crucial tourism indus-try. The British ambassador to Egypt, Geoffrey Adams, said the decision followed cooperation between security experts in both countries.

"We will work closely with airlines who wish to resume flights," he added. Egyptian authorities welcomed the move. "This step is a testament to the continuous efforts exerted by the Egyptian government to ensure the safety and security of every visitor in all of Egypt's destinations, and in South Sinai in particular," the tourism ministry said in a statement. Egypt has gone to great lengths to lure tourists back, touting archaeological finds and boosting security at airports and around ancient sites.

The British embassy said the number of British tourists remained high despite the ban on flights to flights to Sharm El-Sheikh, reaching 415,000 visitors in 2018. Russia, another major source of tourists to Egypt, initially suspended all direct flights to Egypt following the attack. It resumed direct flights to Cairo last year but has yet to restart them to popular Red Sea resorts. Egypt's tourism industry has started to rebound in recent years with arrivals reaching 8.2 million in 2017 and 11.3 million in 2018. —AFP



SANAA: Shoppers walk at a market in the capital Sanaa's old quarter. The Baha'i community voiced fear that a court unde Yemen's Houthi rebels could order the mass expulsion of members of the faith. —AFP

regime, which restricts the rights of Baha'is despite allowing freedom of religion for Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians. Baha'is consider the Baha'u'llah to be a prophet, a sharp contrast from the orthodox Islamic view that Mohammed was God's final messenger. Houthis control much of Yemen despite a US-backed military campaign led by Saudi Arabia, which has contributed to what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. —AFP



International

For Syrian Kurds, leader's killing deepens the sense of US betrayal

Kurdish leader shot dead during Turkey's Syria incursion

BEIRUT: Kurdish politician Hevrin Khalaf spent the final months of her life building a political party that she hoped would help shape Syria's future, drawing the attention of US officials who said it would have a say in what happened once the war ended. To her colleagues in the Future Syria Party and Kurdish communities in Syria's northeast more broadly, her killing became a symbol of betrayal by the United States.

As recently as Oct 3, State Department officials reassured her at a meeting that Washington would safeguard northern Syria from a threatened Turkish assault by mediating between Kurdish-led forces and Ankara, according to a colleague who was present. A state department official said the US message to Syrian partners had been consistent: that American forces would be withdrawing from the country. Days after the meeting, President Donald Trump announced US forces would quit the region, leaving it vulnerable to attack by Turkey. Kurdish fighters in northeast Syria, key allies in the US battle against Islamic State, said rebels fighting on the Turkish side murdered Khalaf. She was 34. She was slain on Oct 12 along with a driver and aide when Turkey-backed fighters stopped their SUV on the M4 highway in northern Syria, according to the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and officials in her party. The spokesman for the Turkey-backed Syrian rebel force, the National Army, at the time denied its fighters killed her, saying they had not advanced as far as the M4.

Last week, the spokesman, Youssef Hammoud, said the incident was being investigated among other "breaches". "If America hadn't decided to withdraw, these factions ... would not have dared to carry out their operations in that area," said Moaz Abdul Karim, a Future Syria Party leader. The US State Department has said it was looking into reports of Khalaf's death apparently while in the hands of Turkeybacked forces, calling the reports "extremely troubling". An autopsy report circulated by the SDF said Khalaf's body had been riddled with bullets.

American assurances

On Oct 3, US State Department representatives visited the Future Syria Party's headquarters in the Syrian city of Raqqa and told Khalaf and party president Ibrahim al-Kaftan that American efforts in the region were aimed at mediation. Since the party was founded in 2018, its leaders say US officials have voiced their support. The party aims to attract members from across the ethnic spectrum in a region where critics said the Kurdish YPG militia had become too powerful.

"Yes, there was encouragement from the Americans to set up a party," Kaftan said. "The party was already being worked on by a team who believes in Syrian democracy. It was a Syrian idea, not an American one, but I repeat they were in favour of this idea," he told Reuters in written answers to questions. US forces withdrew from a section of the border on Oct 7, and soon afterwards Turkish troops mounted their third incursion into northern Syria since 2016. Ankara views the YPG as a terrorist threat due to their links to a Kurdish insurgency at home. It has also said its operation in Syria was designed to create a buffer where some of the 3.6 million refugees who fled the Syrian conflict into Turkey could be re-settled.

Deeply involved

A civil engineer by training, Khalaf was deeply involved in the politics of northeast Syria from the earliest days of the war, now in its eighth year. After leaving her job as a state employee, she helped to set up the Kurdish-led administration whose influence would eventually stretch over one third of Syria including predominantly Arab areas. In 2018, she was elected secretary general of the Future Syria Party, which was launched from Raqqa, a predominantly Arab city where the SDF defeated IS in 2017 with US backing. Kaftan, an Arab architect from Manbij, was elected its leader, and he said that US and French officials attended the ceremony.

The United States has long adopted a cautious political approach towards northern Syria, even as it backed the SDF militarily in the fight against IS. Washington opposed the emergence of the Kurdish-led autonomous region and the main Kurdish groups were always kept out of the UN political process for Syria, despite their huge influence on the ground. But according to Kaftan, US officials including the envoy for Syria James Jeffrey told members of his party that it would have a role in international talks over Syria's future.



COLOGNE: Kurdish protesters wave their national flags and hold photos of former Kurdish political leader Hevrin Khalaf, during a pro-Kurdish demonstration in Cologne, western Germany. —AFP

The State Department official said the United States wanted a political solution to Syria's conflict that included "full representation for all Syrians. "US officials, including Ambassador Jeffrey, made clear that this included the populations of northeast Syria and intervened repeatedly with the UN to this end." The fate of Kurds in northern Syria is now more uncertain than it has been for years. Stripped of US protection, the SDF struck a deal for Syrian government forces to deploy into the region it controlled. The SDF says Washington has stabbed it in the back. Despite the Turkish incursion, which has sparked an exodus and killed scores of people, leaders of Future Syria Party hope it will have a role in shaping the next phase of Syria's recovery from war. Khalaf always believed the solution in Syria must come through dialogue with all concerned parties including the Syrian government and Turkey, Kaftan said. "Hevrin didn't sleep more than 4-5 hours a day," he said. "But she would always say Syria deserves a lot from us, and for the people who have suffered through nine years of war, we must seek to secure a real, safe future for them."—Reuters

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Iraq forces killed 149 protesters, most by shots to head, chest

BAGHDAD: An Iraqi government committee investigating a wave of unrest found that 149 civilians were killed forces during the protests (and this) caused chaos," the panel said in its report. "There were no official orders from the supreme authorities to security forces to open fire towards protesters or use live ammunition at all." Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi established the committee to look into the bloodshed, and he has also promised a cabinet reshuffle and reforms including steps to fight graft, and provide government jobs and land to university graduates.

But critics said his gestures were vague and appear unlikely to defuse



Netanyahu suffers defeat in failing to form government

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has suffered an important defeat in his bid to hang on as premier by failing to form a new

because security forces used excessive force and live fire to quell protests, according to its report, seen by Reuters. The report, which said more than 70% of the deaths were caused by shots to the head or chest, held senior commanders responsible but stopped short of blaming the prime minister and other top officials, saying there had been no order to shoot.

Protests over high unemployment, poor public services and corruption erupted on Oct 1, prompting a violent security crackdown. Protesters blame graft and infighting among political leaders for failing to improve their lives even in peacetime, two years after Islamic State was declared defeated in Iraq.

"The committee found that officers and commanders lost control over their public anger over rampant corruption. Renewed protests are planned for Friday after an almost three-week hiatus. The report recommended that the Baghdad operations commander in charge of the response to the unrest and dozens of other senior security officials be dismissed and put on trial. Its recommendations must be approved by Abdul Mahdi before being referred to prosecutors for possible trials.

Snipers

The report said 149 civilians and eight members of the security forces were killed in a week of disturbances ending on Oct 7, and that it found evidence of sniper fire targeting protesters from inside a building in central Baghdad. "The committee found during its field

MOSUL: An Iraqi child walks with his school bag on the first day of school in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. —AFP

investigation shells from a sniper rifle inside an abandoned building near a petrol station in central Baghdad," the report said.

Two Iraqi security officials had told Reuters last week that Iran-backed militias deployed snipers on Baghdad rooftops during what became Iraq's deadliest anti-government protests for years. The committee report said other

contributing factors in the deadly violence was a failure to impose a curfew or to punish broadcasters for airing false reports on the protests, as well as the use of firebombs by demonstrators. The violence, Iraq's worst since an Islamic State insurgency was put down in 2017, has posed the biggest challenge to Abdul Mahdi since he took office a vear ago. —Reuters government, but his opponent faced similar difficulties yesterday. Ex-military chief Benny Gantz is now expected to be given the chance to try to negotiate a coalition by President Reuven Rivlin, but a deadlock following September 17 polls remains and yet another election cannot be ruled out.

It would be the third election within a year after Netanyahu also failed to form a coalition after April polls. Netanyahu's decision to inform Rivlin on Monday night that he has been unable to form a government by no means signaled the end of his tenure as Israel's longest-serving prime minister. He remains premier as long as no new government is formed, and a number of scenarios exist that could see him retain his post even as he faces the possibility of corruption charges in the weeks ahead.

One of the few things clear in Israel's post-electoral morass was that Netanyahu, who celebrated his 70th birthday on Monday, was not giving up. But his announcement was a landmark moment in Israeli politics since Netanyahu has been given the president's mandate to form a government after every election since 2009. —AFP

Facebook steps up security amid fresh signs of meddling

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook said it was tightening its security for the 2020 US elections, amid signs of fresh activity from Russia attacking Democratic presidential candidates, including Joe Biden. The leading social network said it was taking down more accounts for "inauthentic" activity and stepping up scrutiny of "state controlled" media seeking to manipulate American voters.

As Facebook unveiled its latest steps, an analysis of activity on the social platform released by the analytics firm Graphika showed accounts originating from Russia taking aim at US political candidates and issues. "Multiple accounts praised (Democratic hopeful) Bernie Sanders or Donald Trump," the Graphika report said.

"Accounts from both sides of the political spectrum attacked Joe Biden; some also attacked Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren. Almost half the accounts claimed to be based in 'swing states,' especially Florida." The report said these accounts reused messages from the Internet Research Agency which targeted US audiences in the 2016 presidential election and that "Facebook's own analysis ... showed some links to the IRA."

One of the new steps announced by Facebook calls for labeling of messages coming from state-controlled media outlets, starting next month. "We will hold these pages to a higher standard of transparency because they combine the opinion-making influence of a media organization with the strategic backing of a state," a Facebook blog post said. Facebook also said it would seek to curb the viral spread of misinformation by using a "pop-up" that will appear when people attempt to share posts on Instagram debunked by third-party fact-checkers. —AFP

Main figures of Lebanon under-fire political class

BEIRUT: Lebanese protesters who have been gathering in growing numbers for five days are demanding the complete renewal of the political class, whose main figures haven't changed in decades. Since the 1989 Taif agreement that brought to an end the 15-year civil war and defined the rules of a sectarian-based power-sharing system, the same politicians, or their relatives, have called most of the shots. They long seemed untouchable but their future is now in the balance, with protesters vowing they will not relent until Lebanon's political barons are out of the picture. Herewith penpix of the country's main political figures:

Michel Aoun, Gebran Bassil

Michel Aoun, 84, was elected in 2016 as the 13th president of Lebanon. A Maronite Christian, he once championed opposition to the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and launched an ill-fated "war of liberation" in 1989. Forced into French exile by Syria, he eventually returned in 2005, after the withdrawal of Syrian forces, and became president after a spectacular shift of alliances earned him the support of his erstwhile arch-foes. Once a vocal critic of nepotism, he managed to secure a ministerial portfolio for his son-in-law Gebran Bassil and made him the leader of his party. The 49-year-old Bassil, who is now foreign minister, is arguably the most reviled leader among the protesters, who have not spared him in often explicit slogans.

Saad Hariri

The 49-year-old prime minister and leader of the Future Movement is the scion of an influential Sunni Muslim family. His father Rafiq, a billionaire who spearheaded Lebanon's post-civil war reconstruction, was assassinated in 2005. Saad Hariri has cast himself as a champion of economic reform held hostage by unwilling coalition partners but protesters have pilloried him all the same as a hypocrite and pure product of Lebanon's hereditary politics. His image was further tarnished last month when reports surfaced that he had sent \$16 million dollars to a South African model, even as his family group's employees were being laid off or worked unpaid.

Nabih Berri

Nabih Berri, 81, has been parliament speaker since 1992. He was reelected last year for a new four-year mandate. He is also the most senior political representative of Lebanon's Shiite community. He leads the Amal movement, which had one of the main militias in Lebanon's civil war. A former warlord, he has remained one of Syria's main allies in Lebanon.

His critics accuse him of having abused his position to amass a colossal personal fortune and protesters in recent days bashed him and his wife Randa as some of the most egregious examples of Lebanon's patronage system. Since 1992, he has shared power in the Shiite community with the Hezbollah movement led by Hassan Nasrallah, who is a cleric and has never been a state official, though he



BEIRUT: Protesters trying to block a main road sit on the ground facing Lebanese soldiers in the eastern outskirts of the capital Beirut yesterday. —AFP

wields enormous political and military power.

Walid Journblatt

The heir of one of Lebanon's oldest political dynasties, the 70-year-old Druze leader took over from his father Kamal, who was assassinated in 1977. Also a former warlord, Joumblatt long headed the Progressive Socialist Party and is a towering figure in the Druze minority. He was nicknamed "the cameleon" for his ability to shift alliances and navigate Lebanon's ruthless political game.

Some protesters see Walid Joumblatt as a symbol of the feudal nature of Lebanese politics. As head of the Druze community, he used to hold open hearings at his Mukhtara residence in his Chouf mountain fiefdom every weekend, though his son Taymour has now taken over these duties. His PSP currently sits in government and Joumblatt also "passed on" his parliament seat to his son Taymour last year.

Geagea, Frangieh, Gemayel

Samir Geagea, 66, rose to prominence during the civil when he took over the leadership of the Lebanese Forces militia. He opposed Syria's occupation of Lebanon and in 1994 became the first civil conflict warlord to be jailed. He was released 11 years later and returned to the political fray. He was accused by another Christian leader, pro-Syrian Sleiman Frangieh, of complicity in the 1978 murder of his parents and sister, an allegation the LF have denied. —AFP



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International

War creates new uncertainty for refugees, migrants in Libya

Migrants risk abuse in and out of detention

TRIPOLI: After three days at sea trying to reach Europe, Demba Dembele was intercepted by Libya's EU-backed coastguard and returned to Tripoli - where, like dozens of other migrants, he got in a taxi and set off into the city. For years, migrants sent back to Libya have been routinely transferred to government-affiliated detention centers notorious for squalid conditions and abuse.

Now, with several centers closing, some migrants are being allowed to walk free when they disembark, though they face an uncertain fate in a country shaken by renewed conflict over the past six months. Dembele, a 28-year-old from Mali, had twice tried to get to Europe. After his first attempt failed, he spent three months in detention where he said he saw guards firing on migrants who tried to escape on two occasions.

"The first time, people forced the door to get out and they shot at them ... they beat people," he said. One Liberian man was shot dead. "It was done in front of me." Smugglers' boats still leave frequently for Europe, but the proportion of migrants being intercepted and returned to Libya has risen over the past two years during an Italianled, EU-backed push to cut off crossings that has drawn sharp criticism from rights groups.

This has coincided with a collapse in the networks that sent more than 600,000 across the central Mediterranean from 2014-2017, as armed groups seeking to clean up their image have moved away from the trade. Just 8,400 migrants have made the crossing to Italy so far this year, and 7,400 have been intercepted and returned, according to UN data. But the shift has made Libya even more brutal for migrants who remain, exposing them to increased levels of abuse and extortion by smugglers struggling to make money in a shrunken market, researchers and aid workers sav.

Since April, there has been sustained fighting in western Libya after eastern-based forces led by Khalifa Haftar

The Vatican out of money? Heavens no, says pope ally

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis's economic adviser yesterday denied reports the Vatican was at risk of default, saying the allegations were part of a campaign to discredit the pontiff. "To say that the Vatican is at danger of default is false," said Honduran Cardinal Oscar Maradiaga, who heads a group of six cardinals that advise Francis on economic reforms within the Catholic Church's governing body.

"It seems to me there is a discrediting strategy underway," he said in an interview with the Repubblica er. Maradiaga was reacting to allegations in a book by Italian journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi, who claims to have seen internal documents that show the Vatican's finances are in a dire state and the institution is "at risk of default". "They want to undermine the pontificate: first by depicting a Church made up mainly of paedophiles, and now by showing economic negligence. But it's not true," Maradiaga said. Nuzzi has made a name for himself by publishing a series of books on Vatican financial scandals. In his latest, published Monday, he analyses the Vatican's books for 2018, showing them to be in the red and getting worse. The book says APSA, a department of the Holy See which oversees real estate and investments, had a deficit of nearly 44 million euros (\$49 million) in 2018, compared to 32 million the previous year. Nuzzi said the real estate portfolio was worth an estimated 2.7 billion euros and was badly managed.

made a bid to seize Tripoli. A 49-year-old Nigerian on the same boat as Dembele, said he had been in Libya for four years, and was working in a cellophane factory in southern Tripoli before the recent fighting began. "It was just the war that made me decide to leave," the Nigerian said.

Migrants enlisted

Detention centers nominally under the Tripoli-based, internationally recognized government are controlled by armed groups now involved in the fight against Haftar, and some migrants have been enlisted in the war effort, aid workers and rights groups say. A Reuters reporter saw migrants moving weapons at an armed group base not far from the front line in southern Tripoli.

The centers have also become targets. In July, more than 50 migrants were killed in an air strike on a centre in Tajoura, close to where Dembele disembarked. Those who fled the strike have overwhelmed a facility designed by the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, for refugees and asylum seekers, which has been plagued by problems since opening late last year.

The Tajoura detention centre took in more migrants after the strike but is no longer accepting new arrivals, a coastguard official said. Centres in Al-Khoms and Misrata have shut after international pressure calling for their closure. Though Dembele and more than 80 other African migrants who left in taxis avoided immediate detention, aid workers worry that some may be even more vulnerable to underground smugglers if they are not taken to the centers, where international organizations at least have sporadic access.

UNHCR, which has struggled to evacuate people from Libya and recently started transferring refugees to Rwanda, has said some migrants try to bribe their way into centers in the hope they will be resettled. Libva has an estimated migrant population of 640,000. The centers house just

Pedestrian fatalities

the second straight year - down 913 from 2017. The fatali-ty rate fell by 3.4% to 1.13 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, the lowest rate since 2014.

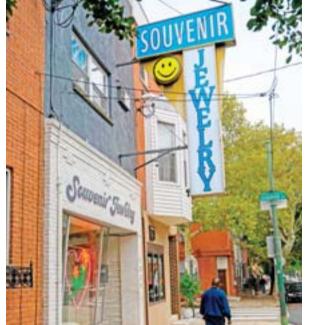
Despite the decrease in overall deaths, pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities continue to rise, with deaths of those on foot climbing 3.4% to 6,283 last year. The number of peo-



AL KHUMS, Libya: Rescued African migrants sit by the coast in the Libyan town of Khoms, 120 kilometers east of the capital Tripoli, after being rescued from the Mediterranean Sea. - AFP

5,000, but turnover can be rapid. In the past, centers that were closed have reopened, or new centers have sprung up at different sites.

After closing the centre in Misrata last week, Libyan authorities transferred more than 100 refugees and migrants to two other centers with a record of "abuses, violence, exploitation and forced disappearances", said Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), which provides care for migrants detained in Libya. "They are moved from one detention centre to another, seeing conditions go from bad to worse in an endless cycle of despair and violence," said Sacha Petiot, MSF's mission head. — Reuters



Canada's poll brings call to arms against gun violence

TORONTO: Long associated with gang violence, the Regent Park neighborhood of Canada's largest city Toronto has changed. But firearms continue to claim lives, prompting calls ahead of national elections Monday for tougher gun controls. But those working on the ground to make the community safer and steer vouths away from a life of crime say tougher laws are not enough to stem the violence.

"I've seen things here that you only see in movies," said Christopher Rogers, a 35-year-old former gang

on US roads hit almost 30-yr high

WASHINGTON: US traffic deaths fell 2.4% in 2018 to 36,560 although the number of pedestrians killed rose to its highest level in nearly three decades, the US auto safety agency said yesterday. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said traffic deaths fell for

Some 800 properties were lying empty, he said, while 15 percent of the 3,200 rented properties were being let for free, and others were being rented out below market prices. — AFP

ple killed on roads while using bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles rose 6.3% to 857. More pedestrians and cyclists were killed in 2018 than in any year since 1990. Deaths of pedestrians have jumped by 42% in the last decade even as the combined number of all other traffic deaths has fallen by 8%.

Auto safety experts say the growing number of drivers distracted by mobile devices is at least partly to blame. NHTSA said yesterday it is looking for ways to reduce fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists. The Governors Higwhway Safety Association said in February the increasing shift in US vehicle sales away from passenger cars to light trucks is a factor in the rising number of deaths. The group said the number of pedestrian fatalities involving SUVs increased at a faster rate - 50% - from 2013 to 2017 compared to passenger cars, which increased by 30%.

Earlier this month, AAA said its research showed that automatic emergency braking systems designed to stop ehicles from striking pedestrians did not always work effectively and had a significantly higher failure rate at night. Three-quarters of all pedestrian deaths take place at

PHILADELPHIA: A pedestrian walks past Souvenir Jewelry store in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. — AFP

night, NHTSA says, while 38% of pedestrians killed had some alcohol in their systems and 74% were not at intersections when struck. NHTSA said last week it may include vehicle technologies tied to the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists when it revises its five-star New Car Assessment Program. In 2017, the United States had 6.4 million traffic crashes reported to police agencies resulting in 2.7 million injuries, according to a NHTSA report released last month. Still, US roads are far safer than they were a half-century ago, when the fatality rate was nearly five times higher and more than 50,000 people died annually in crashes. - Reuters

Protests snarl transportation; 15 die in Chile

SANTIAGO: A hobbled metro system and damage to downtown streets snarled public transportation in the Chilean capital Santiago yesterday, following days of protests throughout the country that have left 15 dead and led to the arrest of 2,600, officials said. Thousands of people poured into Santiago's central squares on Monday to protest high living costs and inequality.

As pressure mounted, Chile's center-right President Sebastian Pinera said he would meet with opposition leaders to forge a "new social contract." Ten cities throughout Chile have been placed in a state of emergency and under evening lockdown since riots broke out last Friday. The general in charge of security in Santiago, Javier Iturriaga early on Monday told Chileans that the city "had slept tranquilly last night." Iturriaga reported only minor, isolated incidents following a military lockdown that began at 8 p.m. The widespread protests have nonetheless continued to sow destruction across the city. Santiago's central Plaza Italia, the focal point of much of the unrest, was littered with broken glass and stone, graffiti and stillsmoldering fires. Many downtown streets reeked of tear gas early on Monday.

'Nothing changes'

Roxana Yanez, 56, a factory worker, said she had had a difficult commute. "On the one hand, we support these protests. We don't earn much, just enough to pay our bus fare," she said. "What we don't support is disorder, riots, looting. That doesn't help." The recent protests in Chile were sparked by an increase in public transport fares in early October. But they reflect simmering anger over intense economic inequality in Chile, as well as costly health, education and pension systems seen by many as inadequate.

"This won't stop until people see real change," said Brandon Rodriguez, 25, a security guard. "Governments of



SANTIAGO: Protester clashes with riot police during a protest in Santiago, Chile. — AFP

the left and right have come and gone...but nothing changes for ordinary people." Late into the day on Monday, demonstrators spread along main avenues, plazas and bridges around the city, and remained on the streets until past the 8 p.m. curfew before soldiers dispersed them using water cannons, tear gas and verbal persuasion.

General Iturriaga said he was aware of videos circulating on social media suggesting brutality by police or the military in dealing with protesters and vandals. "We are investigating every one of these situations. We're not going to hide anything," Iturriaga told reporters. Interior sub-secretary Rodrigo Ubilla declined to identify the 15 people killed thus far in the riots.

The unrest in Chile has yet to dock copper output from the world's top producer of the red metal, mining officials said. Workers at BHP's Escondida copper mine, the world's largest, nonetheless initiated a 5-hour strike in the morning, union officials said. At Santiago's international airport, many passengers were stranded after hundreds of flights were canceled by major airlines over several days and airlines laid out camp beds on the airport forecourt to accommodate them. — Reuters

member who grew up in the neighborhood and now leads a youth awareness group. "I have great memories here and I also have very sad memories here, stuff that changed my life and made me who I am today," he adds.

Regent Park was one of the largest social housing projects in Canada when it was erected in the late 1940s, but drug trafficking, shootings and gang activity have since then made it synonymous with crime. Subject to an ambitious revitalization since 2005, it now looks very different, yet remains a hotbed of violence. Just last month, two young men were wounded in shootings. Since the beginning of the year, Toronto has been the scene of 370 shootings-more than twice as many as for the whole of 2014 - which killed 30 people.

That prompted Mayor John Tory, along with other big city Canadian mayors facing similar spikes in gun violence, to demand stricter gun controls from the federal government. Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau proposed a ban on assault rifles but stopped short of the handgun ban sought, saying only that he would help cities to restrict pistols and revolvers. "You don't need military-grade assault weapons, ones designed to kill the largest amount of people in the shortest amount of time, to take down a deer," he said in Toronto at the start of his re-election campaign in September.

Gangs and smuggling Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, who is neckand-neck with Trudeau in the polls, said he supports tougher penalties for gun crimes rather than gun restrictions. While regulation is essential and proven in Canada, researcher Adam Ellis says the political debate around guns is distracting from substantive issues. "It's not necessarily the gun itself that's the problem," he told AFP, "The problem is the masculinities that are attached to the gun." "Let's stop talking about the guns, let's have a bigger real conversation about toxic masculinity in society, how we socialize young boys to feel like they have to be violent... and the only way they can prove their manhood is through a loaded gun," he said. Police attribute most of the violence to gangs and the many guns being smuggled into the country from southern neighbor the United States. In response to the recent spate of shootings, Toronto in August launched an 11week action plan to boost outreach and policing in hotspots. Within weeks, police say they made more than 200 arrests and seized a number of guns.

'Harsh reality'

But some experts have criticized the crackdown, saying it is an "emotional response" that will only lead to more violence. After decreasing between 2009 and 2013, violent gun crimes rose by 42 percent across Canada in subsequent years to 2017, according to Statistics Canada. The rise was due in large part to the situation in Toronto, the agency said. Ellis, who left gangsterism to became a criminology researcher at the University of Toronto, said the violence is rooted in social inequities in the city of six million people, where the cost of living, especially housing, has skyrocketed in recent decades. "We see a lot of young males, and now we find more and more females, drifting toward a gang life as a way to survive," he says. Ron Chhinzer, a detective in the Toronto Police Gang Prevention Unit, is also concerned about the age of those involved in the violence. "The harsh reality is that we're seeing kids younger and younger committing more and more violent acts. You're seeing potentially 12 to 13 year-olds with guns," he says. "You're seeing them associated to shootings." - AFP



International

In ancient throne ritual, Japan's emperor vows to fulfill his duty

New Japanese emperor proclaims his status to the world

TOKYO: Japanese Emperor Naruhito formally proclaimed Pine, the most prestigious room in the palace, two courtiers his ascendancy to the throne yesterday in a centuries-old ceremony attended by dignitaries from more than 180 countries, pledging to fulfill his duty as a symbol of the state. Naruhito became emperor and his wife Masako became empress on May 1 in a brief ceremony, but yesterday's "Sokui no Rei" was a more elaborate ritual at the royal palace in which he officially announced his change in status to the world.

'I swear that I will act according to the constitution and fulfill my responsibility as the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people," the 59-year-old emperor declared, his voice slightly hoarse, in front of about 2,000 guests including Britain's Prince Charles. "I sincerely hope that Japan will develop further and contribute to the friendship and peace of the international community, and to the welfare and prosperity of human beings through the people's wisdom and ceaseless efforts." Naruhito is the first Japanese emperor born after World War Two. He acceded to the throne when his father, Akihito, became the first Japanese monarch to abdicate in two centuries, worried that advancing age might make it hard to perform official duties. The long-planned celebrations, for which Japan declared a national holiday, were tempered following Typhoon Hagibis, which killed at least 82 people when it tore through Japan 10 days ago, and pouring rain yesterday.

A public parade was postponed until next month to allow the government to devote attention to the typhoon clean-up, while yesterday's weather forced the palace to scale back the number of courtiers in ancient robes taking part in the courtyard ceremony. But just before the ceremony began, the skies cleared and a rainbow appeared over Tokyo. "Storm-like rain and winds came to a stop right before the ceremony, and the sun came out. I, along with people around me, were moved," tweeted lawmaker Kentaro Sonoura, who attended the ceremony.

'Banzai' cheers, 21-gun salute

At the sound of a gong in the Matsu-no-Ma, or Hall of

bowed deeply and drew back purple curtains on the "Takamikura" - a 6.5-metre high pavilion that weighs about 8 tons. Naruhito was revealed standing in front of a simple throne, dressed in burnt-orange robes and a black headdress, with an ancient sword and a boxed jewel, two of the so-called Three Sacred Treasures, placed beside him. Fifty-five-year-old Harvard-educated Empress Masako, wearing heavy 12-layered robes and with hair flowing down her back, stood in front of a smaller throne to the side. Such traditional robes can weigh around 15 kilograms.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered a congratulatory speech before assembled dignitaries including Crown Prince Akishino, the emperor's younger brother, and his family, all adorned in brightly colored robes. Other guests included US Transport Secretary Elaine Chao and Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Abe led a trio of cheers of "banzai", or "long life", for the emperor, before a 21-gun salute. Guests from overseas were not required to join in shouting the phrase, which for some raises memories of the wartime emperor worship.

Naruhito had entered the palace to cheers from admirers before reporting his enthronement to his imperial ancestors at three shrines on the palace grounds, dressed in pure white robes. "As he is young and energetic with outstanding leadership, I hope he'll support the people of Japan, which has faced continuous disasters and typhoons," said Tomoko Shirakawa, 51, who was among the crowds of umbrella-clutching citizens packing the area in front of the palace. A court banquet was held yesterday evening, before Naruhito and Masako host a tea party for foreign royalty on Wednesday afternoon. The government pardoned about half a million people convicted of petty crimes, such as traffic violations, to mark the day. Although the public parade was postponed until Nov. 10, NHK public TV said there were 26,000 police providing security.

Imperial family future Naruhito is unusual among recent Japanese emperors

Guru's 'best friend': Gold and diamonds

NEW DELHI: Indian investigators seized more than \$14 million in cash, gold and diamonds after raiding 40 properties belonging to a spiritual guru with a worldwide following, investigators said yesterday. Vijayakumar Naidu, known as Kalki Bhagavan, a former insurance agent who says he is the reincarnation of a Hindu god, is one of several Indian "godmen" to have fallen foul of the law in recent years for crimes from rape to murder to fraud.

The raids on properties belonging to Bhagavan-whose group is accused of tax evasion and amassing unaccounted wealth up to of six billion rupees (\$75 million) involved 300 investigators and took place over five days in



AHMEDABAD: A saleswoman helps a customer try a neck-lace at a jewelry shop in Ahmedabad on the occasion of Guru Pushya Nakshatra (auspicious venture day). — AFP



TOKYO: Japan's Emperor Naruhito (2nd right) and Empress Masako (right) welcome Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck (center) and Queen Jetsun Pema (2nd left) prior to a court banquet at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. — AFP

since his only child, 17-year-old Aiko, is female and cannot inherit the throne under current law. Unless the law is revised, the future of the imperial family for coming generations rests instead on the shoulders of his nephew, 13year-old Hisahito, who is second in line for the throne after

stayed at his ashrams a decade ago, and he also claims other celebrities and politicians among his followers. The couple issued a video statement Monday denying media reports claiming they had fled India.

"We will not leave you, we will not abandon you.. Things will continue as usual, things are continuing as usual," an apparently unfazed Naidu said, wearing his trademark white dress and with a gold-bordered cloth draped over his shoulder. His son runs several real estate companies and the Oneness University-spread over 400 acres and which teaches courses in spirituality-attracting students from across the globe. Media reports said a glimpse of the couple in a crowded room costs \$60 while a one-on-one meeting with the guru sets followers back by \$700.

Gurus offer spiritual enlightenment and help huge numbers of devotees in India with their financial, physical and mental problems but are often accused of preving on the

his father, Crown Prince Akishino. Naruhito's grandfather, Hirohito, in whose name Japanese troops fought World War Two, was treated as a god but renounced his divine status after Japan's defeat in 1945. Emperors now have no political authority. — Reuters

Clean getaway: Meat waste joins biofuels at luxury jet show

LAS VEGAS: At the world's biggest industry show in Las Vegas luxury jets are luring buyers with their sleek silhouettes, plush cabins - and increasingly, their use of alternative fuels. Fuel producers and jetmakers are keen to showcase novel forms of aviation fuel deemed less harmful to the climate, from used cooking oil to the distinctly less glamorous meat waste. Business jet

three southern states. "\$2.5 million in cash and gold weighing 90 kilograms (200 pounds) and diamonds were seized.

Cash receipts and investment and business documents worth 400 crore (four billion rupees) were also recovered," a tax official told AFP on condition of anonymity. The official said the group had been suppressing financial information for years and channelling money through shell

companies into real estate and to foreign countries. The 70-year-old guru and his wife Amma, who claim to have millions of followers across the world, promote the concept of "oneness philosophy" and receive millions of dollars in donations every year. Bollywood actor Shilpa

Shetty and fashion designer Donna Karen are said to have

poor and vulnerable for power, fame and money. In 2017 Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was convicted of raping two of his disciples, prompting riots by tens of thousands of people in several Indian states that left 40 people dead. In January he was sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering a journalist who exposed rampant sexual abuses at his luxurious sect headquarters in Punjab. — AFP

Bangladesh court jails key opposition lawmaker for graft

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi court sentenced a senior opposition figure to five years in jail yesterday for evading taxes on the sale of a car he imported when his party was last in office. The opposition in the South Asian country has long complained that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Awami League party which tightened its grip on power following elections last year - is seeking to muzzle dissent.

Harunur Rashid, who has emerged as a prominent voice in parliament, was found guilty of evading taxes on Monday after he sold a car he had bought dutyfree in 2005 when his Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was in government. He was sentenced to five years in jail and fined five million taka (\$59,000) by a court in Dhaka "for selling the duty-free car illegally, depriving taxes to the government", court inspector Ashikur Rahman said.

The owner of a private television channel who bought the car was also sentenced to two years in jail. There was no immediate comment from the BNP, the largest opposition party, whose leader and two-time former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was last year jailed for 10 years on graft charges. Rashid, also a joint secretary of the BNP, earlier this month met with the deputy leader of the Awami League in an attempt to secure bail for Zia, saying she needed medical treatment abroad.

His own conviction comes weeks after Hafizuddin Ahmed, another senior BNP figure, was arrested under contentious digital security laws on charges of spreading anti-state propaganda. He was later granted bail. The BNP said the arrest was carried out to "muzzle" Ahmed as he was planning to speak out against a water-sharing accord Bangladesh recently signed with India. A former army colonel, who was reportedly a member of Zia's security team, was also arrested on the same charges. In recent years tens of thousands of opposition activists have been arrested for various acts.

At a general election in December which was marred by allegations of widespread fraud and ballot stuffing, the Awami League tightened its grip on power, with the BNP managing to win only seven seats. Hasina last month launched a sweeping anti-graft crackdown, arresting prominent members of her own party and sacking the influential heads of its student and youth wings. Hasina said the drive was necessary to prevent a repeat of the January 2007 coup by the powerful military, which said tackling corruption was one of its key goals. - AFP



MONTREAL: Liberal Leader and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trude au appears on stage to deliver his victory speech at his election night headquarters in Montreal, Canada. — AFP

Trudeau: Liberal star shines less brightly

OTTAWA: Justin Trudeau's golden-boy image was blotted by ethics lapses and scandals going into Monday's Canadian elections, but he managed to secure a second term to build on his past achievements - albeit with a weakened minority government. The first-born son of late prime minister Pierre Trudeau had swept to power in a landslide in 2015 with a mop of dark curly hair and confident swagger, jumping into crowds to take selfies with adoring young fans. Four years later, at 47, he faced a barrage of criticism on the campaign trail, and even threats -forcing him to appear at a rally in a bulletproof vest.

As a self-declared feminist, his cabinet was equally split with 15 men and 15 women in his first term, during which he resettled tens of thousands of Syrian migrants. He also legalized cannabis, held a public inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women, and passed legislation permitting medically assisted suicide. "Trudeau's great strength is his positive message," University of Montreal researcher Jocelyn Coulon told AFP. "It's all about openness, tolerance and respect for diversity, at a time when public discourse has become bigoted and xenophobic."

Trudeau dynasty The world watched with interest, even admiration, as Trudeau proclaimed in 2015: "Canada is back!" "Why can't he be our president?" shouted a Rolling Stone magazine cover featuring Trudeau. This election, former US president Barack Obama endorsed him, calling him an "effective leader who takes on big issues like climate change." "The world needs his progressive leadership now," Obama tweeted.

The Trudeaus, with their political talent and film-star good looks, have often been compared to the Kennedys in the United States. Pierre Trudeau, who was prime minister from 1968 to 1979 and 1980 to 1984, established the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and preserved national unity against Quebec separatists. He also decriminalized homosexuality and pushed for the bilingualism and multiculturalism that have become integral parts of Canadian identity. Justin's birth on December 25, 1971, made frontpage news across Canada. His mother Margaret's partying with the Rolling Stones and her 1984 divorce from Pierre a rare sensational scandal in Canada - was also fodder for the tabloids. Coming late to politics after working as a snowboard instructor, bartender, bouncer and teacher, Justin Trudeau was first elected in 2008 to the House of Commons to represent a gritty, working-class Montreal neighborhood.

Trudeau's admission that he had smoked cannabis after becoming an MP raised eyebrows, and his detractors accuse him of being an intellectual lightweight. Nevertheless, in his first term, his Liberal Party ratified free trade agreements with Europe and Pacific nations, and negotiated a new continental trade pact with the United States and Mexico. — AFP

operators, like airlines, have bowed to environmental pressure on aviation and committed to halving carbon emissions by 2050 compared with 2005.

Their hope is that adopting renewable fuel to curb emissions could make business jets more attractive to environmentally conscious buyers - especially corporations facing questions over sustainability from shareholders or green campaign groups. The availability of less polluting private jets could also spare the rich and famous the negative publicity experienced by Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan over a recent private jet trip to southern France. Five Gulfstream jets on display in Las Vegas are using California-produced fuel from inedible beef tallow.

The latest waste-based fuels include "fats, grease and oils that are byproducts of the food industry," said Bryan Sherbacow, chief commercial officer of Bostonbased biofuel producer World Energy, which produces fuel from meat waste used by Gulfstream. "All of our product is inedible." Some of the other 79 aircraft on display are expected to be powered by 150,000 gallons of other renewable fuel blends expected to be pumped at the show.

Flight shaming Private jets account for less than 0.1% of total annual carbon emissions globally, but can emit, on average, up to 20 times more carbon emissions per passenger mile than jetliners, according to the London-based private charter firm Fly Victor. Prince Harry has defended his occasional use of private jets to ensure his family's safety, and has said that on the rare occasions he does not fly commercially he offsets his emissions. But planemakers say incidents such as the furor over his itinerary have added fresh challenges for an industry already striving to justify its contribution to cutting corporate costs. "Incidents of flight shaming involving the use of private jets are unfortunate when you consider that our industry has delivered fuel efficiency improvements of 40% over the past 40 years," said Bombardier Aviation President David Coleal.

Bombardier believes increased sustainable fuel use will help the industry make inroads with corporations and wealthy buyers. According to industry data, billionaires only have a 19% business jet ownership rate. But even an image makeover - with jets sporting stickers like "this aircraft flies on renewable fuels" and organizers adding alternative fuel pumps for visiting planes - is unlikely to satisfy all critics at the Oct 22-24 luxury jet event. Environmentalists and some analysts remain skeptical that biojetfuels, usually mixed 50-50 with kerosene, will make a significant impact on public perceptions about luxury travel. "No amount of Jatropha or Brazil-nut fuel can make business jets look eco-friendly," said aviation analyst Richard Aboulafia. Demand from business jet operators for renewable fuels now far exceeds supply and their interest could drive future production, Sherbacow said. World Energy, which produces 40 million gallons of biofuel at its California plant, could expand production up to 150 million gallons by 2022.

Corporate charter companies and consultants are also seeing more interest from customers who want to buy carbon credits to offset emissions from their flights. Brian Proctor, CEO of Mente Group, a US consultancy, said emissions played a role in a corporate jet utilization study his company recently completed for a Fortune 500 company. — Reuters

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Analysis

Wednesday, October 23, 2019



Editor-in-Chief ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

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China's rise and its implication on current world security

By Alanoud Ebraheem Al-Sabah PhD candidate in history of Kuwait-China relations



Thoughts on 9th Xiangshang Forum "Maintaining International Order and Promoting Peace". The forum is a platform that invites participants from around 70 countries to come together and discuss world security issues. It also serves as platform to express China's views on regional and international

issues. The inauguration speech by the Chinese minister of defense presented an overview of China's defense white paper published in July 2019 titled "China's defense in the new era".

China has reformed and modernized its army in recent years. It has reduced the number of service personnel and has invested heavily in the modernization of the military structure, arms and equipment.

The panels of the forum addressed eight main topics: Innovation in security concepts; Strategic trust and confidence building measures; Asia-Pacific security structure; Maritime security situation; International counterterrorism cooperation; New security situation in the Middle East; Scientific and technology innovation; and AI and future warfare. All panels were taking place simultaneously, so I have tackled three main ones - maritime, Asia-Pacific and Middle East panels.

In short, I can conclude that China is aware that its economic rise is creating a regional competition with the US and it would rather work with its neighbors to maintain the security of the region. However, China believes that the integrity of Chinese territory is crucial to its licy, meaning Taiwan and its unification with mainland China and any Western intervention there is a direct threat to its integrity. This includes China' claims in the South China Sea and Diaiyu islands. Moreover, Brazil is considered another important partner to China within the BRICS and in UN peacekeeping missions. Brazil is an important player in the UN and its institutions. It respects international rules within its foreign policy. Brazil's interest is in strengthening cooperation with China in all fields of cooperation - political, economic, energy and military. Both countries are celebrating their 45th anniversary of bilateral relations. The Brazilian president will visit China in the coming days. Nevertheless, topics such as the North Korean nuclear issue, the Korean-Japanese conflict and the US' Asia-Pacific policy played a key element in understanding the Asia-Pacific security structure. China will not replace any superpower's presence but rather cooperate with the existing mechanism to maintain peace and prosperity, like the ASEAN +1 mechanism and others that aim to protect the maritime security of the Indo-Pacific region. France is another nation that contributes to the protection and safety of the Indo-Pacific region and will have a role in the present and future of the Asia-Pacific region. ASEAN's security structure also plays a crucial role in territory and resource conflicts in Asia. As for the Middle East, the main message is that China does not aim to take the US' role in defending and protecting this region. It rather promotes dialogue through the formation of a regional security dialogue that includes all regional countries with the superpowers that are currently present in the region to help solve the instabilities there. Terrorism and US trade war are other hot topics that were discussed in this forum. No one is winning in this war and soon positive progress will be reached. China' advancement in artificial intelligence and technology is important in the military field. All regional security structures should be inclusive and try to find a win-win situation for all or at least a negotiable and suitable situation for all the regional countries to avoid wars and geopolitical instabilities. China's One Road One Belt is its only initiative that will bring prosperity and development to all mankind. China is a big contributor to the UN peacekeeping efforts both with around 2,500 personnel and with financial support. It's important that the first peacekeeping force that China participated in was the UN peacekeeping force on the Kuwait-Iraq border in 1992. Take away points: The Middle Eastern nations should exert more efforts to solve their issues. Egypt is a great example of resilience over terrorism and development of infrastructure. The Chinese interest in the region is mainly economic and energy related that is supported by political support. Yet China seems hesitant in intervening in the region after the Libyan crisis. China will always have a diplomatic role to play - however its interest to provide defense and protection to the region is still farfetched, although it has military cooperation with several countries in the region. China's main military partner today is Russia and there is a clear alliance in the process between these two superpowers.



Olivier Laurent (left), researcher at the Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (LSCE - Climate and Environment Science Lab) and Fouzi Benkhelifa, head of Origins.earth, install a new CO2 sensor on the platform Qualair on top of the Jussieu university in Paris on Oct 20, 2019. — AFP

CO2 monitors new weapon in Paris climate fight

Spurred on by growing social movements, cities across the world are getting serious with their climate action, vowing to slash pollution and implement greener laws. But until now efforts to make some of the largest urban areas on the planet compliant with the Paris climate goals have been hampered by an inability to measure their effect. The benchmark of a city's "carbon footprint" currently tracks estimated emissions of greenhouse gases based on voluntary disclosures from industry, traffic authorities, energy firms, among others.

Cities produce around 70 percent of all manmade greenhouse gases, yet estimates of each urban area's carbon footprint contain a huge margin for error – as much as 30 percent in some cases. "It requires lots of information to be assessed and generally that creates a lag of 2-3 years," said Thomas Lauvaux, a researcher at the Environment and Climate Sciences Laboratory (LSCE), told AFP. Take for example Paris, home of the landmark 2015 agreement that saw nations commit to limiting global temperature rises to "well below" two degrees Celsius.

The latest official figures were published in 2016 but actually date from 2014: 25.6 million tons of CO2 equivalent that year. While that's down 9.2 percent compared with

2004, it is hardly the most accurate way of comparing carbon cuts. "Carbon footprints every five years isn't good enough, we need to have more reactive data," said Celia Blauel, Paris' deputy in charge of ecological transition.

Tuesday saw the unveiling of a pilot project aimed at changing how cities monitor their climate action: a network of 20 carbon dioxide monitors on rooftops across the greater Paris area providing constantly updated CO2 level data. "No one at the moment has the ability to know what emissions levels are in real time," said Fouzi Benkhelifa, head of Origin.earth, a startup piloting the monitoring project, which received funding from energy giant Suez and the EU. "There's a huge gap between the need to act against global warming and the tools we have at our disposal. "Cities need to act on a daily basis but they only have a five-year-old snapshot (of emissions levels), it's really a problem," said Benkhelifa.

'More dynamic'

The monitoring stations, currently used only for research purposes, will eventually allow the city and surrounding region to act more rapidly to fluctuating emissions levels. Voters will also be better able to judge the climate action taken by the office of mayor Anne Hidalgo, and see whether it's living up to its green pledges ahead of elections next year. Greater transparency brings greater scrutiny for policymakers, but Blauel insists Paris lawmakers aren't worried. "This will allow us to be more dynamic," she said. The mayor's office isn't anticipating any huge surprises in emissions levels since it has already targeted several areas of reduction – such as retrofitting buildings, reducing waste and greening transport links – leading up to carbon neutrality by 2050. "But to measure our action in a more detailed manner... that will allow us to refine those policies," said Blauel. The constant feedback will also allow Paris' 2.5 million inhabitants to track their own contribution to the climate fight, according to Lauvaux.

Thanks to an index to be published monthly next year, citizens "will become aware of the natural cycle of emissions, in summer and winter, and see the impact of them putting on the heating has for example," he said. While several cities in North America, including Los Angeles and Mexico City, have launched projects to measure CO2 levels, Lauvaux said Paris was the first to use the data for constant monitoring. "No one can lie about (the data)," he said. — AFP

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Diapers: Conquering a \$9bn market no one wants to talk about

The time may not be far off when more adults need diapers than babies as the population grows older, potentially a huge opportunity for manufacturers of incontinence products - if they can lift the stigma that has long constrained sales. The market for adult diapers, disposable underwear and absorbent pads is growing fast, up 9 percent last year to \$9 billion, having doubled in the last decade, according to Euromonitor.

But manufacturers like market leaders Essity and Kimberly-Clark Corp reckon only half of the more than 400 million adults likely to be affected by weak bladders, are buying the right products, because they are too embarrassed. Companies are trying various methods to change attitudes, including making products more discreet, avoiding terms like diapers or nappies, and placing items in the personal care aisle, next to deodorants and menstrual pads, rather than in the baby products section.

They are also trying to normalize discussions around the subject through advertising. In Japan, where adult incontinence products have outsold baby diaper sales since around 2013 due to a rapidly ageing population, market leader Unicharm Corp has adopted the phrase "choi more" in its advertising, which translates as "lil" dribble", to make light of the problem. "What we are doing is trying to let people know that incontinence, even among young people, is normal," said Unicharm spokesman Hitoshi Watanabe.

The company is focusing particularly on people with mild bladder issues where it sees the biggest growth as people lead more active lives. Unicharm's sales of absorbent pads and liners that target this market were up 8 percent last year. In the US, market leader Kimberly-Clark has this year given its 35-year-old Depend brand a makeover, introducing thinner, softer and more fitted products that can be worn discreetly, in an effort to make them more acceptable. The changes are just the latest in a decade-long attempt to win over consumers, which started with manufacturers dropping the 'diaper' label, to loosen the association older customers might have with a loss of control in their life. Yet it is still difficult for companies to persuade people they should buy specially made incontinence products. "People keep the fact that they have incontinence secret from their loved ones, from their husbands, brothers and sisters - this is a deep secret for many consumers and yet it's just a fact of life, it's a physiological reality," said Fiona Tomlin, who leads Kimberly-Clark's adult and feminine care division.

Manufacturers have been particularly keen to win over women, who are more than twice as likely as men to experience bladder weakness, due to childbirth. Kimberly-Clark has reached out to them directly over the years in light-hearted ad campaigns featuring actresses Whoopi Goldberg and Kirstie Alley.

Secret's out

Kimberly-Clark's Poise brand is aimed at younger women like Ellie Foster, a 31-year-old from Maine, who has struggled with leaks since having her first child a year-and-a-half ago but is too embarrassed to buy products that might help her. "At first I did, but it was definitely weird picking out adult diapers to wear," said Foster. "You feel like you're in the old lady section." Sweden's Essity, the global industry leader, is also trying to reach a younger audience with its TENA brand and a new line of black, low-rise disposable underwear called Silhouette Noir. The advert's tagline reads: 'secret's out: 1 in 3 women have incontinence'.

Around 12 percent of all women and 5 percent of men experience some form of urinary incontinence, although conditions vary from mild and temporary to serious and chronic, according to the Global Forum on Incontinence, which is backed by Essity. Essity said it tries to package and market its products in a way that avoids associations with ageing. "Designing products and packaging it as feminine and discreet as possible for females and as masculine and discreet as possible for men helps," said Ulrika Kolsrud, president of Essity's health and medical solutions.

Getting the message across to potential customers can sometimes be a tricky path to tread. A few years ago, SCA - from which Essity was spun off in 2017 mailed samples of its products to Swedish men above 55, only to receive a barrage of complaints. But efforts are starting to pay off. Five years ago, adult incontinence products were used by around 13 percent of the target adult female audience in France and the UK and that is now closer to 20 percent, according to research firm Kantar. That does, of course, leave huge potential for further sales growth. As Kolsrud puts it: "If incontinence was a country, it would be the third largest country in the world." — Reuters

Fall of a royal consort and king's assertive reign

The very public downfall of the Thai king's 34-year-old consort - stripped of all royal titles and military ranks by a late-night command - left the country openmouthed yesterday at the latest abrupt act from its mercurial monarch. Former royal bodyguard and army nurse Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi was dismissed from the rank of Chao Khun Phra, or noble consort, and accused of "disloyalty to the king". Her whereabouts are unknown but the announcement has set social media alight with speculation and intrigue sparked by the rare glimpse behind cloistered palace walls. But it wasn't the first time King Maha Vajiralongkorn has made his powerful presence felt since ascending the throne in 2016. Here are five ways royal power has been displayed under Thailand's new king so far, from beefing up his security to taking direct control of a fortune.

'Disloyalty' in palace

The palace said Sineenat had not obeyed the king, had created conflict in the palace by going above her authority, and had acted "against the appointment of the Queen (Suthida)... for her own ambitions". Her actions had also undermined the monarchy, it said. Known as Koi, Sineenat is a qualified pilot and was the first woman to receive the consort title in nearly a century. After she obtained it, the palace released images of a 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 a vivid contrast to the swift dismissal, which has gripped Thai Twitter users. #SaveKoi was one of the trending hashtags, while one user said they felt "sorry" for Sineenat. Thailand has a harsh royal defamation law that means media must self-censor when reporting on the palace.

Sineenat's rapid fall from favor is not the only time the Thai public has been given a glimpse into the king's dramatic personal life. Several relatives of his third wife Srirasmi were arrested as part of a police corruption probe and charged with lese majeste. Vajiralongkorn divorced her and she lost her royal titles, and pictures later circulated of her with a shaven head.

Army units

The palace has also stepped up royal security under Vajiralongkorn, adding 1,600 police officers. Two new army units were later put under the monarch's direct control in October by royal decree, only a few months after the May coronation. It is unclear how many soldiers are in each regiment, but experts say a single division holds up to 5,000 troops. The troop transfer saw pushback from the youth-propelled Future Forward Party in parliament who questioned the "urgency" of such a move - an unprecedented political objection to a royal command. But the decree still passed with an overwhelming majority.

Banking billions

King Vajiralongkorn inherited one of the world's richest monarchies from his beloved father Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died in Oct 2016. Among his successor's earliest moves was to assert full, personal control over the Crown Property Bureau (CPB), which has billions in assets in banks, companies and prime real estate. The CPB committee was previously headed by the finance minister in an arrangement that gave a sheen of public oversight of a trust some experts estimate to be worth \$30-\$60 billion. The CPB's full assets are privately held and remain a closely guarded secret.

Haircuts and salutes

Discipline, protocol and loyalty are virtues state officials say the king insists upon, especially among royal guards. Vajiralongkorn reminded members of his beefedup detail in April that their duty was to "preserve the nation, country, and monarchy". The army introduced a new salute under Vajiralongkorn in which soldiers must puff out their chests and jerk their heads to the side. And the country's police force has adopted a uniform crew-cut said to be at the king's request.

Charter changes

Any major legal changes in Thailand require the king's signature. But King Vajiralongkorn ordered rewrites to part of the country's new constitution, including a vaguely worded clause that says any unforeseen issues should be handled based on "tradition". They also scrap the need for the king, who spends much of his time in Germany, to appoint a regent when abroad. While Thailand's constitutional monarchy is nominally above politics, Vajiralongkorn has taken actions that many see as smudging the line. Before the March 24 election he torpedoed a bid by his older sister to become prime minister at the head of an anti-junta party, calling it "highly inappropriate". — AFP



BUSINESS





DUBAI: This picture taken vesterday in Dubai shows a view of ongoing construction work at the site of the Expo 2020, a big-budget global trade fair the glitzy emirate's rulers hope will restore its flagging fortunes. — AFP

Dubai marks 1-yr countdown to Expo 2020

High hopes on big-budget global trade fair amid slowdown

Sunday to mark the one-year countdown to Expo 2020, a big-budget global trade fair the glitzy emirate's rulers hope will restore its flagging fortunes. Megastar Mariah Carey headlined at a concert underneath the illuminated Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, where thousands gathered for the centerpiece of festivities across the United Arab Emirates.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019

At exactly 20:20 local time, the skyscraper was lit up with "1 year to go" and "the world's greatest show" in both English and Arabic. "These spectacular nationwide celebrations will usher in the final leg of a historic journey," said Reem Al-Hashimy, a government minister and also director general of Expo 2020.

"The next 12 months will see us put the finishing touches to ensure an exceptional World Expo." Dubai hopes to attract 15 million visitors to the sprawling

Poll: Canada top country for social entrepreneurs

LONDON: Canada was named the best country for business leaders seeking to tackle social problems in a global poll yesterday while the United States fell from top slot due to political uncertainty.

Australia came second in the Thomson Reuters Foundation's second global survey on the best countries for social entrepreneurs, seeing the biggest gain of 24 places from the inaugural poll in 2016, while France came third. Mexico came last, down 15 places from 2016, but the United States was the biggest loser, plunging to 32nd place from No. 1, with the poll of about 900 social enterprise experts pointing to difficulties with government policy and access to investment.

Francois Bonnici, head of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, said over the past three years there had been "some amazing gains and some ongoing challenges" for social entrepreneurs addressing issues from climate change to refugees. "Governments are recognizing that to meet their own agendas this is a group of citizens and entrepreneurs that actually want to improve society and the environment," said Bonnici.

"But it has a slightly different flavor in each country and that government role is important (as it) can legitimize the sector in their country by creating these policies." Business entrepreneurs globally are increasingly setting their sights on social problems with ventures that can be a commercial success while addressing problems like unemployment, homelessness, mental health, knife crime and even loneliness.

For example in South Africa social enterprise

DUBAI: Fireworks exploded over Dubai's skyline on site taking shape on sand dunes south of the city's gleaming downtown, being built at the staggering cost of 30 billion dirhams (\$8.2 billion).

With the city in the grips of a downturn in its vital property sector, officials are pinning high hopes on the event, the logo of which is emblazed on everything from business cards to airliners. Some 200 countries will take part in the fair, which runs from October 20, 2020, to April 10, 2021.

Attractions will include the UAE pavilion in the shape of a falcon in flight and a dome crafted from 800 tons of steel which will be the world's largest 360-degree projection surface. Organizers say the Expo is much more than a six-month trade show. But although experts believe the much-anticipated event will give the economy a boost, there are concerns it will be only a temporary one and that finances will slump again as soon as the show is over.

Economic hangover

Since the first "World Expo" was held at the Crystal Palace in London in 1851, world fairs have been used to showcase new ideas and technology as well as serving as nation-branding exercises.

But not all have had the desired impact, with some marred by disappointing visitor figures and leaving a legacy of debt and abandoned infrastructure. Raed Safadi, chief advisor to Dubai Economy which is charged with guiding the emirate's financial fortunes, said Expo will add some \$34.6 billion to the economy between 2013 — when it won the bid to host the eventand 2030.

"It will be gross value added, directly, indirectly and induced. You come to Expo, you stay at a hotel, you go shopping, etc.," he said. London-based Capital Economics agreed the event would provide a boost-but said it was likely to burn out soon afterwards.

"As preparations for the Expo come to an end, activity in the construction sector is likely to weaken," it said. Already there are concerns of huge oversupply in the property sector, driven by predictions that the trade fair will deliver some 300,000 new jobs which saw hundreds of major projects unveiled in recent years. Also in the spotlight is the government's goal of attracting 20 million tourists in 2020, an increase of around 20 percent from this year.

The all-important arrivals figure has been stagnant at 16 million in recent years, and there are doubts that Expo will singlehandedly bridge that gap. Standard and Poor's ratings agency said in September that it expected Dubai's economy to pick up with 2.4 percent growth this year, from 1.9 percent in 2018, largely due to the completion of projects related to the Expo. But after the event packs up, growth will drop to a modest 2.0 percent through 2022, it said. — AFP



Canada was named the best country for business leaders seeking to tackle social problems in a global poll yesterday while the United States fell from top slot due to political uncertainty.

Harambee has created a 'dating service' to match unemployed youth with employers, while in India Project Patradya is tackling the waste problem by employing Afghan refugee women to make edible bowls. But with little data on which nations were encouraging the sector, the Thomson Reuters Foundation, in partnership with Deutsche Bank, began a poll in 2016 which was repeated in 2019. Social entrepreneurs, academics, investors and support agencies in the world's 45 biggest economies, as ranked by the World Bank, were asked their views. Iran and Saudi Arabia were dropped in 2019 as it was impossible to get the right sample.

Lack of understanding

The 2019 poll found most experts, 82 percent, said social entrepreneurship was gaining momentum in their countries - although this was down three percentage points from 2016. Canada, Indonesia and South Africa were named as the top countries where social entrepreneurship was gaining momentum, while Mexico, the United States and China saw the biggest falls. Despite this, more than half of respondents - 54 percent - said the public still did not understand what they did which was not helped by the lack of a global definition of social enterprise. Italians were most aware of their work and Poles the least. "People are becoming aware that the whole notion of social entrepreneurship is not just kumbaya," said former Bangladeshi-U.S. investment banker Durreen Shahnaz, founder of the first social stock exchange, Impact Investment Exchange (IIX). "It really is about doing serious work and making sure that work is scalable ... There are signs the industry is maturing." — Reuters

Qatar's Hamad airport to handle 60m passengers a year after 2022

DUBAI: Qatar's Hamad International Airport will be expanded to handle over 60 million passengers a year after 2022, the airport said yesterday. Qatar's main commercial airport, used by state carrier Qatar Airways, handled 34.5 million passengers in 2018.

It has already been announced capacity will be increased to over 53 million passengers a year by 2022 when the Gulf state hosts the FIFA World Cup. Construction of that expansion, which will link concourse's D and E, is due to start early next year, the airport said in a statement.

The second phase, where the airport will be able to handle over 60 million passengers, will begin sometime after 2022 and see the expansion of concourse's D and E. The expansion includes 11,720 square meters of retail and food & beverage space, a 10,000 square meter indoor tropical garden and a 268 square meter water feature. A new cargo terminal will also be built, increasing capacity to an estimated 3.2 million tons a year by 2023. Hamad International opened in 2014 with a capacity of around 30 million passengers a year, replacing the Doha International Airport. — Reuters





Nigeria's youth breathes new life into business for good: Global poll

Social enterprise looking to tackle Nigeria's youth unemployment problem

ABUJA/LONDON: When Olamide Ayeni-Babajide discovered an expensive ornament she purchased on a trip abroad was made of old corn husk it opened her eyes to the potential of Nigeria's own waste problem. In 2016 she founded Pearl Recycling, which remodels solid waste such as old tyres into furniture in Lagos, Africa's most populous city with 21 million people and home to one of the world's largest garbage sites.

The social enterprise - a business that aims to do good - is also looking to tackle Nigeria's youth unemployment problem, training hundreds of young locals to recycle disused materials, with most of them going on to set up their own waste ventures.

"Nigeria is a good place for social entrepreneurs because there are diverse problems to be solved," said Ayeni-Babajide.

The Thomson Reuters Foundation's second global poll on the best country to be a social entrepreneur found the three African nations among the world's 45 biggest economies surveyed - Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa - failed to make the top 20. But Nigeria came sixth when about 900 social enterprise experts were asked where young people are playing a key role in the growing sector. Egypt came fourth and South Africa 34th in the youth ranking in the poll, supported by Deutsche Bank.

In Nigeria - a young country where the median age is about 18 - young people are rising to find business solutions to challenges ranging from poverty to environmental and cultural issues - from illiteracy to pollution - neglected by the government. Facing a youth unemployment crisis - with more than half of 15-35 year olds out of work or not in full-time jobs - a new generation of social entrepreneurs wants to create opportunities and economic prosperity themselves.

Passion and energy

Femi Taiwo, executive director of LEAP Africa, said encouragement from faith-based organizations, motivational speakers, an array of local and international programs and competitions for young leaders has helped pave the way. "These initiatives and many more put a spotlight on young people making a change, and inspired many more to jump on the bandwagon," said Taiwo, whose Lagos-based youth leadership nonprofit provides free training for social innovators.

But with this zeal for social entrepreneurship comes risks. "The enthusiasm, the energy, the drive of young people is incomparable," said Atinuke Lebile, 31, founder of Ibadan-based social

enterprise Cato Foods.

"However, young people often lack experience and the patience to learn," added Lebile, whose biotechnology business aims to reduce malnutrition and poverty by creating fortified food products, such as custard enriched with vitamins A and C. In addition to young people, women are increasingly well represented in leadership positions in social enterprises in Nigeria, which jumped to joint ninth place on this issue from 40th in the inaugural global poll in 2016.

Ayeni-Babajide, 36, who worked as an engineer in a male-dominated sector for almost a decade before founding Pearl Recycling, finds Nigerians are gradually getting used to women in leadership positions.

"Women now know their rights and power they possess," she said, but added that women still found it hard to access funds. "The majority of laid down rules are favoring men, especially access to capital. Women need access to funds and an enabling environment devoid of gender profiling to thrive."

Like Nigeria, in Egypt there has also been a concerted push to support young social entrepreneurs, especially since the country's 2011 uprising, said Iman Bibars of Ashoka Arab World, a non-profit organization that supports social entrepreneurs.

Egypt, like Nigeria, has a large youth population with 34 percent of people under the age of 14 compared to 44 percent in Nigeria, according to World Bank data from 2018.

"After the Arab Spring there was a lot of interest in the youth, there were a lot of programs by the government and international donors and CSR [corporate social responsibility] in trying to figure out how to support young people," she said.

This year Ashoka Arab World launched a Young Changemakers scheme with the British Council and social enterprise Red Ochre to help support females aged 16-20 from rural Egypt develop social enterprise ideas

Egypt rose to 22nd place from 29th three years ago when asked if women were well represented in social enterprises. South Africa was in 23rd place, also up from 29th. "The reason why young people are excited is it gives them an opportunity to be leaders, it gives them an opportunity to be of help to others and recognition, and this is something that young people did not have before," said Bibars.

"Since there are so many social problems in the country and poverty, there is a lot of space for them to innovate." ---Reuters

Infosys shares plunge 14% after charges

MUMBAI: Shares in Indian IT giant Infosys slumped more than 14 percent yesterday as the firm launched a probe into whistleblower complaints alleging its top executives acted unethically to inflate revenues. The letter, a copy of which was sent to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, said the CEO and chief financial officer asked executives to not fully disclose US visa costs in a bid to boost short-term profits, according to media reports.

Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani said the company was looking into the complaints, adding that chief executive Salil Parekh and chief financial officer Nilanjan Roy have been recused from the probe to ensure its independence. Its shares dived 14.1 percent to 659.10 rupees in Mumbai, having seen its stock on New York's Nasdaq collapse 12 percent on Monday. The whistleblower letter accused Infosys, which has been at the vanguard of Indian firms taking on the IT operations of corporations worldwide, of concealing information from auditors. "Several billion-dollar deals of last few quarters have nil margin," the complaint says. Indian IT outsourcing firms including Infosys have struggled in recent years after US President Donald Trump threatened to cap H-1B visas, largely issued to Indian IT professionals. The resulting pressure and allegations of anti-American bias in hiring forced the firms to employ more local staffers for their US operations. Infosys earns more than 60 percent of its annual revenues of around \$12 billion from the United States. In the July-September quarter, Infosys raised its forecast for earnings growth from 8.5-10 percent to 9-10 percent in dollar terms for the current fiscal year. In 2017, the company's founders locked horns with its former management over alleged corporate governance lapses and payment packages for top executives including then chief Vishal Sikka. —AFP

Does the 737 **MAX** crisis threaten **Boeing's future?**

NEW YORK: Seven months after the 737 MAX was grounded, Boeing remains stuck in crisis mode. Revelations from recently-released text messages between two Boeing pilots add to questions facing the aviation giant.

Uncertainty continues to cloud Boeing's timeframe for returning the MAX to service. The accident has already cost the company billions of dollars and sparked calls to reform the company's culture and transparency issues. Here are some of the main questions facing the aviation giant:

Why has the MAX been grounded? Boeing's single-aisle 737 MAX has been grounded since March following accidents of Lion Air in October 2018 and Ethiopian Airlines in March 2019 that killed 346 people. In both accidents, preliminary crash investigations pointed at the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System, an automated flight-handling mechanism that pilots were unable to control. A report released by international regulators said the US Federal Aviation Administration lacked the manpower and expertise to fully evaluate the MCAS system when it certified the plane.

What are the latest revelations?

Boeing faced new scrutiny following text messages from November 2016 in which a Boeing pilot described the MCAS during a simulation as "running rampant" and behaving in an "egregious" manner.

Boeing has known about the messages for months and shared them with the Department of Justice in February in February. But the FAA learned of their existence only last week and publicly criticized Boeing for withholding the documents.

Does crisis threaten future of the MAX?

Most aviation experts and financial analysts are confident the MAX will fly again once Boeing emerges from the current crisis. But when that happens remains murky. Boeing has said it expects to receive regulatory clearance in the fourth quarter of 2019, but analysts increasingly view that schedule as unlikely. "As we are now into the fourth quarter and Boeing has not submitted the final software package to the FAA, we expect the entry into service of the 737 MAX to shift into the first quarter of 2020," said a note last week from Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Boeing has not lost orders of the 737 MAX due to the crisis, but some airline executives have publicly criticized



Junction, Maryland. — AFP

this month for a hearing for the first time in the crisis

> What other risks face Boeing? oeing's development of the M

\$8.4 billion, but analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch estimates the figure will reach \$17.2 billion based on the hit from production delays, penalties and extra costs to store planes that cannot be delivered Does the crisis threaten Boeing's future? The crisis has hit Boeing's bottom line and will continue to do so far for the foreseeable future. Still, "it's a little too soon to say Boeing's future is at risk," said Michel Merluzeau at AirInsight Research. Boeing's outlook is expected to improve dramatically once the MAX is cleared for service and it can collect payments from airlines for new jet deliveries. Boeing's other assets include the 787 Dreamliner plane and 777 and it also has important businesses in aviation services and military sales. —AFP

The MAX is the subject of numerous probes in the US.

Boeing's handling of the crisis.

Will Boeing's CEO survive?

Boeing has not ousted any senior executives since March, but the latest revelations have raised questions about how much longer Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg will lead the company. Muilenburg was stripped of his title of chairman earlier this month, even as he was kept on as CEO.

Some analysts think Muilenburg's days are numbered, but that he won't exit until after the MAX returns to service. The CEO is scheduled to appear on Capitol Hill later

drawals, cheque clearances, ATM operations were affected, according to bank employees.

C H Venkatachalam, general secretary of the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), said the plan was to expand the protest movement to other bank employees as well, taking it up to nearly a million workers to force the government to reconsider its decision.

A senior banker, however, said the protests would not derail the merger plans. 'We have seen that the unions had taken similar steps even in the last round of merger which included the State Bank of India and then in the case of Bank of Baroda but it quietly died down later," said the chief executive officer of a public sector bank, requesting anonymity. —Reuters

representations to regulators during the certification are being investigated by the Departments of Justice and Transportation. The company also faces numerous lawsuits from family members of victims. While large fines are possible from the US probes, it is difficult to envision a scenario where the jet is permanently grounded, in part because of Boeing's clout in the United States and in the world of international aviation, where Airbus is its only bona-fide competitor.

How much will it cost Boeing?

Boeing has so far recognized costs of



ople walk past as bank employees sit next to banners near the entra ank during a strike in Kolkata yesterday. Two banking unions called the strike in response to the Indian government's decision to merge ten public sector banks into four banks. —AFF

Some 300,000 employees of **Indian state-led** banks strike

MUMBAI: Nearly 300,000 employees of Indian state-run banks went on strike yesterday against government plans to consolidate the sector through mergers as part of efforts to ensure stronger balance sheets. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has vowed to cut the total number of

state-owned banks to 12, from 27 in 2017, raising fears of job losses. Under the current round of squeezing, 10 banks will be amalgamated into four. 'Government may call it a merger but in

reality it is cold-blooded murder of six banks," a release by the bank unions said. The state-owned banks account for nearly two-thirds of banking assets in the country and also have a lion's share in the nearly \$150 billion of soured loans in the banking sector.

The sector suffered from out-of-control lending in 2006-11 when the economy grew rapidly, and has continued to struggle. Employees stayed away from work across the country and joined in protest marches. Services such as cash deposits and with-

EXCHANGE RATES

	Muzaini Exchange Co. EAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES 304.150 340.950 396.310 233.600	Egyptian Pound - Transfer Yemen Riyal/for 1000 Tunisian Dinar Jordanian Dinar Lebanese Lira/for 1000 Syrian Lira Morocco Dirham	$18.781 \\ 1.222 \\ 110.600 \\ 429.440 \\ 0.203 \\ 0.000 \\ 32.083$	Chinese Yuan Renminbi Thai Bhat Turkish Lira Singapore dollars BAHRAIN EXO	43.065 10.935 54.365 220.536 CHANGE COMPAN	Y WLL	Chinese Yuan Hong Kong Dollar Indian Rupee Indonesian Rupiah Japanese Yen Korean Won Malaysian Ringgit Nepalese Rupee	0.041604 0.036687 0.003686 0.000017 0.002713 0.000249 0.069297 0.002622	0.045104 0.039437 0.004458 0.00023 0.002893 0.000264 0.075297 0.002962
Turkish lira Swiss Franc US Dollar Buying	52.460 309.880 296.600	Dollarco E	xchange Co. Ltd	CURRENCY British Pound	BUY Europe 0.387591	SELL 0.401491	Pakistan Rupee Philippine Peso Singapore Dollar	0.001346 0.005710 0.217855 0.001316	0.002116 0.006010 0.227855
Japanese Yen Indian Rupees Pakistani Rupees Srilankan Rupees Singapore Dollar Hongkong Dollar Bangladesh Taka Philippine Peso Thai Baht Malaysian ringgit	ASIAN COUNTRIES 2.800 4.286 1.961 1.669 2.676 224.220 38.779 3.571 5.945 10.083 77.788	Rate for Transfer US Dollar Canadian Dollar Sterling Pound Euro Swiss Frank Bahrain Dinar UAE Dirhams Qatari Riyals Saudi Riyals Jordanian Dinar Egyptian Pound Sri Lankan Rupees	Selling Rate 304.740 230.725 375.885 333.495 307.075 810.415 83.370 84.610 82.160 431.105 18.729 1.672	Czech Korune Danish Krone Euro Georgian Lari Hungarian 0.000936 Norwegian Krone Romanian Leu Russian ruble Slovakia Swedish Krona Swiss Franc	0.005232 0.041309 0.331529 0.101966 0.001126 0.029244 0.054289 0.004756 0.009088 0.027475 0.301571 Australasia	$\begin{array}{c} 0.014532\\ 0.046309\\ 0.345229\\ 0.101966\\ 0.034444\\ 0.071139\\ 0.004756\\ 0.019088\\ 0.032475\\ 0.312571\\ \end{array}$	Sri Lankan Rupee Taiwan Thai Baht Vietnamese Dong Bahraini Dinar Egyptian Pound Iranian Riyal Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound	0.001316 0.009826 0.009705 0.000013 Arab 0.800620 0.018619 0.000084 0.0000214 0.424078 1.000000 0.000151	0.001897 0.010006 0.010255 0.000013 0.808664 0.021360 0.000085 0.0000274 0.433078 1.000000 0.000251
Saudi Riyal Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Bahraini Dinar UAE Dirham	GCC COUNTRIES 81.161 83.592 790.513 808.160 82.863	Indian Rupees Pakistani Rupees Bangladesh Taka Philippines Pesso Cyprus pound Japanese Yen	4.308 1.949 3.609 5.872 18.130 3.815	Australian Dollar New Zealand Dollar Canaclian Dollar US Dollars US Dollars Mint	0.200774 0.189194 America 0.227004 0.300050 0.300550	0.212774 0.198694 0.236004 0.305350 0.305350	Moroccan Dirhams Omani Riyal Qatar Riyal Saudi Riyal Syrian Pound Tunisian Dinar	0.020805 0.784875 0.082887 0.080020 0.001289 0.103375	0.044805 0.792761 0.083719 0.081320 0.001509 0.111375
Egyptian Pound - Cash	ARAB COUNTRIES	Syrian Pound Nepalese Rupees Malaysian Ringgit	1.595 2.697 73.635	Bangladesh Taka	Asia 0.002959	0.003760	Turkish Lira UAE Dirhams Yemeni Riyal	0.045409 0.082176 0.000989	0.055254 0.083002 0.001069



Business

AUB reports KD 45.2m net profit for 9 months period ended 30 Sept 2019

Result reflects a 5.1% growth year on year and an EPS of 23.5 fils

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) reported a net profit amounting to KD 45.2 million for the nine months period ending on 30 September 2019 compared to KD 43.0 million during the same period last year. This reflects a 5.1 percent growth year on year and an earnings per share (EPS) of 23.5 fils as compared with 22.3 fils EPS for the same period last year.

The Bank's increase in net profits is derived from its continued growth in core revenues whereby financing income has grown by 8.7 percent during 2019.

AUB's operating revenue amounted to KD 80.7 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2019. Shareholders equity rose further by 3.9 percent reaching KD 447.5 million as of 30 September 2019 as compared with KD 430.8 million recorded at the end of 2018. Capital Adequacy Ratio of 14.9 percent remained resilient with a comfortable cushion above the regulatory requirement of 13 percent.

The Bank has achieved satisfactory returns on both equity and assets of 13.9 percent and 1.5 percent respectively during the period, being amongst the highest Key Performance Indicators in the local market. Total assets and financing receivables grew by 5.2 percent and 5.4 percent each to reach KD 4,117.8 million and KD 2,950.6 million respectively as at the end of September 2019. Furthermore, customer deposits increased by 8.4 percent and reached to KD 2,627.6 million at the end of September 2019 backed by ideal cost, maturity and concentration management aiming to secure higher margins. Despite the assets growth, the bank continued to maintain the high quality of its assets whereby assets quality metrics remained strong of Non-performing finance (NPF) ratio of 1.27 percent of the total finance books with provision coverage ratio of 251.4 percent excluding collaterals.

Commenting on these results, the Chairman of Ahli United Bank, Dr Anwar Ali Al-Mudhaf, said that the positive indicators that accompanied the Bank's performance during the third quarter of the year are the result of the continuous efforts made by all business sectors in the Bank to maintain a remarkable performance that enhances the Bank's reputation and solidifies its position within the Kuwaiti banking sector as the first bank operating in Kuwait, now for 78 years. It also reflects our successful business strategy and plans to diversify sources of income, maximize shareholder returns, and go far in achieving customer aspirations with an early response to their increasing needs."

Dr Al-Mudhaf pointed to the advanced capabilities enjoyed by AUB and its commitment to the highest professional standards that are most appreciated by global ratings agencies and place the Bank at the forefront of banking and financial service providers in the State of Kuwait, which enables the Bank



Dr Anwar Ali Al-Mudhaf

to continue to receive these superior ratings from agencies in addition to the prestigious awards received by international well-known entities. "These achievements are a strong indicator of the Bank's business strategy and sound performance," he said.

Al-Mudhaf referred to the role of AUB's sustainable social development program which continued to focus on support Kuwait's vouth and environment. These efforts continue to deepened Ahli United Bank's positive impact on society. Dr Anwar Al-Mudhaf expressed thanks and appreciation for the Bank's shareholders and customers for their committed support to and deep trust in the Bank. He also expressed appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait, and all supervision authorities and lauded the efforts of the Bank's executive management and all its employees that enable the Bank to achieve that success.

Leadership position

AUB's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Tareq Muhmood, emphasized that "The Bank has maintained its leadership position in Kuwait, due to the joint efforts of management and all staff, noting that the financial results reflected the strong financial position of the Bank.

Muhmood expressed his pride that the Bank recently won a number of prestigious awards including the "Best Online Cash Management Bank" in Kuwait 2019 in corporate banking for the third year in succession, by Global Finance, the leading international finance magazine. This award is given to banks that offer advanced local, regional and international banking solutions combined with the latest innovative digital technologies This award reaffirms the appreciation of international institutions for AUB's leading position in the local market. The bank also won "the Best Business IT Innovation - Banking - Kuwait 2019" granted by "the International Finance Magazine (IFM)", a world-class recognized magazine specialized in Banking and Finance based in London, UK. . In addition to previous awards, the bank also won the "The Most Innovative Digital Banking Initiative (Smart Branch) Kuwait 2019" by Global Banking & Finance Review - a leading magazine in publishing the latest global developments in finance and banking-, for the digital branch AUB opened at the Avenues Mall, Phase IV.

Muhmood further added: "We are pleased with our achievements to embrace the most recent technological developments in banking and digital transformation to continue AUB's leadership by taking numerous significant steps in its journey towards digital transformation. We have a number of contributions in the field of digital transformation in the banking sector through a full range of solutions for private, retail and corporate banking, covering all business and activities of the bank, including the only application of its kind in Kuwaiti banks for smartphones and computers for corporate banking (AUB B2B) which includes all corporate-related services and products. The Bank also succeeded to launch the Video Chat Room Service at the Avenues Branch, providing customers a privacy space for video chatting with customer service staff. The Bank also provided several new updates to its outstanding Mobile Banking Application, providing its customers unparalleled exclusive features in terms of convenience, speed, security and the ability to meet and exceed customers' expectations in the digital era." Muhmood added "With the excellent team at Ahli United Bank, we expect to see more progress over the coming months".

Indonesia's Indrawati to stay on as finance minister

JAKARTA: Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said yesterday she had been asked by President Joko Widodo to stay in her post in his new cabinet, and the rupiah strengthened on expectations fiscal discipline would be maintained. Since Monday, Widodo has tapped more than a dozen candidates for ministerial posts in his second five-year term, including his presidential election rival Prabowo Subianto. Local media have said Prabowo could be the new defense minister. The candidates - all wearing white shirts visited the presidential palace to be interviewed by Widodo, with most declining to confirm the positions offered ahead of an official announcement expected today. After meeting Widodo, Indrawati said she had agreed to stay on as finance minister and to ensure policies supported the president's priorities such as improving human resources, creating jobs and executing government budgets well. "Indonesia I think is facing a very dynamic and uncertain global economy and an economic slowdown that is pressuring the whole world," Indrawati said. "Therefore, a continued policy is needed in order to be able to guard our economy from the challenge of this global slowdown," she said, noting she also



discussed ways to narrow Indonesia's current

to boost growth through monetary policy.

Three party heads

The number of technocrats like Indrawati named to the cabinet is being closely watched as they are seen more likely to back Widodo's plans for boosting growth and investment than party-affiliated candidates. Basuki Hadimuljono, credited with driving infrastructure projects as public works minister in Widodo's first term, and Siti Nurbaya Bakar, environment minister, will remain in the cabinet, they said after meeting the president. Besides Prabowo, a former general who heads the Gerindra party, two other party heads have been tapped to become ministers: Airlangga Hartarto, chairman of the Golkar party, and Suharso Monoarfa, who chairs the

Samsung, UAE funds lead \$55m investment

DUBAI: US quantum computing startup IonQ said vesterday it raised \$55 million in a funding round that was led by venture funds backed by Samsung Electronics and the government of the United Arab Emirates. With the investments from Samsung Catalyst Fund and Mubadala Capital, Maryland-based IonQ said its total funds raised to date reached absolute zero, IonQ's computers operate in room temperature, said Chief Executive Officer Peter Chapman.

Chapman said most of IonQ's quantum computer parts are commonly available off-the-shelf, which helps to keep the cost down. The high costs associated with building quantum computers, along with the cold environment they generally need, have been a challenge in making them a profitable business.

"I like to joke that Amazon delivers most of the parts for us," Chapman said.

The only custom part of IonQ's machine is a special chip that is made by an outside vendor. Chapman declined to name the vendor, but said the part is made with commonly available chip making technology. Francis Ho, co-head of the Samsung Catalyst Fund, said Samsung, a major chipmaker itself, invested in part because it hopes to one day possibly supply parts for quantum computers. But Ho said Samsung could also be a large potential customer. Around the world, governments are concerned about quantum computing because it could be used to break today's encryption technology. Chapman said although the company does not yet have substantial revenue, there are customers and countries it will avoid doing business with, including China. Ouantum computing "is at a nation-state level. It's really the US versus other countries who are busily trying to leapfrog the US and its technical dominance," said Chapman. — Reuters

Sterling softens as more Brexit votes loom

LONDON: The pound slipped yesterday awaiting key votes on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's EU withdrawal bill, but analysts said its downside was capped by broad optimism that a no-deal Brexit will be avoided. Global stock markets meanwhile rose on growing expectations that China and the United States will sign a partial trade deal next month. Sterling's modest decline came a day after a five-month peak at \$1.3013, struck after parliament forced Johnson to request another extension to Britain's scheduled exit from the European Union. The pound switched hands at \$1.2914 yesterday, down from \$1.2960 late in New York on Monday. "The pound has dipped a little but remains well supported on the whole and not too far from recent highs," noted David Cheetham at XTB.

'Fool's errand'

But it was also clear that traders were largely flying blind, with political proceedings difficult to call. "If the whole Brexit process has taught us anything it is that trying to predict the next political development is something of a fool's errand," he said.

Johnson published his hotly awaited withdrawal agreement bill (WAB) late on Monday, with just over a week to go until Brexit on October 31. "The Brexit saga rumbles on today as MPs debate and vote on the WAB in what is likely to be the first of a few excruci-

account and trade deficits.

Indrawati, a former managing director of the World Bank, has been finance minister in Southeast Asia's largest economy since 2016, spearheading tax reform efforts, seeking to capitalize on a tax amnesty program in 2016-2017. She is now one of the longest serving finance ministers in Indonesia, having also held the post in the previous administration of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The rupiah extended gains after her comments, strengthening by as much as 0.6 percent to 13,990 to the dollar, to trade at the highest in more than a month. "Sri Mulyani is seen as a key architect behind the fiscal discipline in recent years and many wish for her continued leadership in driving deeper fiscal reforms," Bank of America wrote in a note.

Nomura economists Euben Paracuelles and Rangga Cipta said Indrawati's expected re-appointment implies Indonesia's fiscal policies will remain conservative in the short term, putting the burden on the central bank United Development Party. — Reuters

Hartarto has been linked in media to the post of coordinating minister for economic affairs. The coalition led by Widodo's PDI-P party, which includes Golkar and the United Development Party, has about 60 percent of the seats in parliament. Gerindra has 14 percent.

Although the appointments underpin Widodo's attempts to secure wide parliamentary support as he seeks to push through his agenda, they will add to concerns among activists about a muted opposition and the dilution of Indonesia's democracy. Other ministerial candidates asked to join the cabinet include Nadiem Makarim, chief executive of tech startup Gojek and media tycoon Erick Thohir, a former chairman of Italian soccer club Inter Milan. National police chief Tito Karnavian, who has led a crackdown on Islamic militants, may also join the cabinet, a police spokesman was quoted by news portal Tempo.co as saying. — Reuters

\$77 million. The company didn't disclose its valuation.

Researchers believe quantum computers could operate millions of times faster than today's advanced supercomputers, making potential tasks ranging from mapping complex molecular structures and chemical reactions to boosting the power of artificial intelligence possible.

Alphabet Inc's Google, International Business Machines Corp and Microsoft Corp have all either made investments or launched research projects around quantum computing. IonQ already has 4 quantum computers, each the size of four regular refrigerators operating in Maryland, and rents out time on them to academics and businesses. Unlike some of its competitors that need to keep the environment around the quantum computer at

to 2011.

PARIS: Hundreds of farmers rolled out tractors to stage protests at government offices across France yesterday, railing against measures they say are crimping revenues and contributing to a spike in suicides in the sector in recent years. "Macron, answer us!" read a banner in Le Mans, western France, as farmers dumped hay and dug up a roundabout in front of the regional government office as the protests began Monday night.

Another asked "France, do you still want farmers?" referring to regulations, price wars and global trade deals many say are stifling their ability to make a living. It was the second mass protest this month, after an estimated 10,000 farmers blocked highways across France on October 8.

"We're demanding an end to 'agribashing,' to stop making our jobs more and more difficult, to stop putting spokes in our wheels and blaming us for everything," said Delphine Fernandez, president of the Young Farmers association in the southern Gard department.

"Every day a farmer takes his own life, and it seems that Emmanuel Macron's government isn't aware of the problem," she said. French health authorities confirmed in July that the number of suicides among farmers reached 605 in 2015, the most recent year of data available, after staying

stable at around 150 a year from 2007

The subject, long taboo in the sector, has made headlines in recent weeks with the success of the film "Au Nom de la Terre" (In the Name of the Earth), which recounts the true story of a farmer driven to suicide by ever-increasing demands on his operations.

'Caught in a vise'

Many farmers say they are being targeted by unreasonable restrictions on the use of pesticides, as well as by vegan activists denouncing the raising of livestock. Despite working long hours yearround, their revenues often barely cover their costs: More than 30 percent of farmers earn just 350 euros a month, according to Social Security figures.

"Farmers are deeply angry inside, they keep taking it on the chin, and they need to express their exasperation with the government's inconsistencies,' Christiane Lambert, head of the FNSEA farmers' federation, told CNews television. "We get the feeling that agriculture is caught in a vice, and that no one understands the risk of our lands emptying out because dozens of farms are disappearing," she said.

The government says it is listening to farmers' demands, in particular by passing a food law aimed at giving farmers more pricing control against large retailers who enjoy huge profit margins.

But Agriculture Minister Didier Guillaume acknowledged yesterday that for many farmers the law has not done enough. "The numbers don't add up" for many, Guillaume said on LCI television, vowing to "harden things up politically."- AFP



bers on the Nikkei 225 index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo.— AFP

ating and long sessions in parliament," said Oanda analyst Craig Erlam.

Johnson faces two crucial Brexit votes that could decide if he still has a reasonable shot at securing his EU divorce by next week's deadline. Firstly, the Conservative leader hopes parliament gives initial support to a Brexit bill that translates the revised withdrawal agreement he struck with Brussels last week into UK law. Secondly, he also hopes the lower House of Commons will vote in favor of a speedy timescale to pass the entire legislation in just three days.

'Displeasure'

The rapid timetable-a big ask for a 110-

page text designed to unwind 46 years of intricate EU-UK ties-has sparked outcry from opposition lawmakers. "The main events of the day will likely come this evening, after the stock market here in London has closed, with parliament set for two key votes on Brexit," said XTB analyst David Cheetham. Even if the withdrawal bill "passes there's a fair chance that a vote on the timetable shortly afterwards will fail. "Several MPs have already voiced their displeasure at the lack of time to scrutinise the bill," he added. At the same time, Johnson has been forced by parliament to request a threemonth extension that European leaders will consider once they get a clearer picture of this week's parliamentary votes. - AFP

French farmers stage protests as anger boils over





NBK partners with global non-profit 'Entrepreneurs' Organization', Kuwait

Al-Abdulghafour: We aim to help young entrepreneurs plan their future

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) signed a partnership agreement with the global non-profit "Entrepreneurs' Organization" Kuwait Chapter in an aim to engage its Business Banking customers throughout the year as part of its ongoing efforts to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Established in 1987, Entrepreneurs' Organization is a global business network that enables business owners to learn from each other's experiences and digital management systems through global events, leadership-development programs, an online entrepreneur forum and executive education opportunities leading to greater business success

Speaking of the partnership, Ghalia Al-Abdulghafour, Business Banking Direct Sales and Strategy Manager at National Bank of Kuwait, said: "Our partnership with a leading international organization such as Entrepreneurs' Organization is a new step in our commitment to our responsibility towards owners of small and medium enterprises as we endeavor to provide an integrated banking experience to our Business Banking customers,

providing them with opportunities to partake in international events and programs that help them gain knowledge and acquire the latest digital and management solutions." Al-Abdulghafour added: "At NBK, we aim to help young entrepreneurs plan their future and support them fully from the start of their journey. Giving them access to these events and global experiences is key pillar to our strategy to forge strong relations with SMEs and granting them support in all ways possible.'

Al-Abdulghafour promised new and unique services and products designed for Business Banking customers as well as specialized events that are organized or sponsored by NBK as it continues to commit to providing an exceptional banking experience to meet their aspirations and needs. On his part, Yousef Salah Al-Sultan -President at Entrepreneurs' Organization Kuwait Chapter, said: "We are pleased to partner with a leading financial institution in Kuwait and the region such as NBK and we look forward to driving this partnership to new heights by organizing events and programs that provide entrepreneurs with an opportunity to improve their skills and share their experiences with SMEs around the world." Al Sultan added that Entrepreneurs' Organization has supported entrepreneurs since its establishment, creating a platform of seminars and events for learning, training and social support.

NBK gives its Business Banking customers access to a wide range of banking products and services including: Business Banking Officers, Points of Sale, Business Banking Credit Cards, Online Salary Transfers, NBK Online Banking, Insurance, Business Loans, Letters of Credit, Letters of Guarantee and local invoices.

NBK also provides 9 Business Banking branches tailored to the needs of customers and located across Kuwait, including: the main branch in Kuwait City, Surra, Shuwaikh, Mubarak Al Kabeer, Arraya Tower 2 (5th floor), Fintas, Ghazali, Sharq, and Ras Salmiya. These branches provide a team of professionals with different expertise to service Business Banking customers. Customers benefit from a one-on-one experience with their Business Banking Officer for credit, financial and investment consulting, commercial finance and treasury.



Customers can complete their banking transactions in a seamless and convenient way. They can also visit nbk.com to learn more about the Business Banking products and services.

Huawei commends Germany's higher standards for vendors

KUWAIT: Recently, Germany unveiled Catalog of Security Requirements for Operating Telecommunication System and Data Processing System as well as for Processing Personal Data According to Section 109 of Telecommunication Act, Version 2.0. Germany has set technology-neutral cyber security standards that apply to all vendors. Steffen Seibert, Spokesman of the Federal Government and Head of the Federal Press Office reiterated that Germany will not exclude any vendor, and will set higher cyber security standards that will apply to all vendors.

Germany has set higher and consistent security standards for all vendors. Advanced declarations and process-based inspections will be adopted, and all vendors are equally and fairly welcome to participate in the construction of 5G networks if they fulfill the security requirements. This fact- and standards-based approach is of exemplary significance for addressing global cyber security challenges. Huawei spokesperson told media they welcome the move the German Government has taken to create a level playing field for 5G network vendors and that a fully competitive digital infrastructure market will drive industry digitalization and digital economic development in Germany, bringing more advanced and convenient information services and experiences to consumers.

Global poll finds Scottish social entrepreneurs optimistic

LONDON: When Josh Babarinde came up with the idea of a company hiring young ex-offenders to fix phone screens, he found Britain a good environment for accessing investment and sales took off.

Babarinde said Cracked It found its niche - and the awards and accolades rolled in - with Britain found to be one of the top nations in policies and support for social entrepreneurs in a global poll by the Thomson Reuters Foundation in 2016. Three years on the sector is thriving in Scotland - but conditions for ventures with a mission to succeed commercially while helping society were stalling elsewhere in Britain with experts saying Brexit had dominated the political agenda.

The second poll of experts on the best countries for social entrepreneurs by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, released yesterday, found Britain had slumped to 13th place among the world's 45 biggest economies from third slot three years ago. Babarinde, who recently announced plans to run for public office, said it was frustrating to see the pace of the sector's development slowing as social enterprise slipped down the political agenda. "We have the capacity for a social innovation policy revolution - tax breaks for social enterprises, social innovation in the curriculum - yet we've only seen a very slow evolution over the last couple of years," Babarinde said. "There's never been a need more than now for social enterprise. We need to treat social enterprise more seriously."

Britain's fall in the poll, produced in partnership with Deutsche Bank, came as experts cited less favourable business conditions and government support for social entrepreneurs and a fall in public awareness about what they do.

Brexit uncertainty

Britain's well-established social enterprise sector - with more than 100,000 social enterprises contributing 60 billion pounds (\$78 billion) to the economy - is held up as an exemplar, tackling issues like homelessness, knife crime and pollution.

But since Britain's 2016 referendum, the country has become embroiled in a prolonged political crisis with no clarity on when and how the nation will depart the European Union. "The political environment is so uncertain, unpredictable, and more extreme than it has previously been," said Peter Holbrook, chief executive of Social Enterprise UK, the trade body representing the sector.

"Whether you're a social business or mainstream business, this is not a great place - given all of the uncertainties and unpredictability - to start a business." Britain was been hailed an example after launching a social enterprise strategy in 2002, issuing the first social impact bond in 2010, and introducing social investment tax relief.



Office - a department at the heart of government - to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), left many industry leaders feeling side-lined. A DCMS government did not comment directly on the results of the poll but said Britain was committed to supporting the sector which has a vital role in changing lives for the better. "As set out in our Civil Society Strategy, we are placing social value at the heart of central government's estimated 49 billion pounds (\$60 billion) of procurement spending each year," he said.

10-year strategy

The Scottish government, led by Nicola Sturgeon, in 2016 launched a 10-year strategy to promote social enterprises with about 5,600 running in Scotland employing about 82,000 people.

Since 2007 students in about 1,000 schools and colleges have been taught about social enterprise with the aim to teach the topic in all schools by 2026, according to Social Enterprise Academy (SEA), a training organization in Scotland.

"Governments in the UK rarely think beyond their five-year terms, which has made it difficult to address issues like social care, housing or the attainment gap," said David Bryan, an SEA regional manager. "The 10-year strategy has focused minds in the government on investing in the social enterprise sector, so that it can help government address some of these really wicked issues." Glasgow-based Sophie Unwin, who set up Remade Network, a social enterprise to promote the repair and reuse of household goods, said there was a lot of support for social enterprises. "But then it's a smaller place than England so you feel that support goes a lot further," she said. —Reuters

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 20th October 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 13 -17 October 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are: Areej Mohamad Jameel Khair Ahmed Abdulrazag Mutcher Jaber Zaid Fahad Abdulrahman Alzaid Muhannad Ebrahim Naser Buresli Mohammed Salbi Albarak

Gulf Bank's final Al-Danah draw for KD 1.000.000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event. Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services. Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2019 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw. Furthermore, loyal Al-Danah customers are rewarded with loyalty chances. Loyalty chances are the total chances accumulated from the previous year which are added to the customer's chances the following year.

Youth, women drive spur social business growth in Pakistan, says global poll

KARACHI/LONDON: From turning organic waste into fertilizer to sharing farm equipment, new businesses seeking to address social problems in

Failure of businesses doing good drives Mexico to bottom of global poll

MEXICO CITY: When Mexican entrepreneur Alvaro Velasco came up with the idea of a digital app that provided earthquake warnings he was convinced he had the ideal business that could be a commercial success while helping society.

But door after door slammed as he tried to get money and legal assistance from both the government and the private sector to set up his social enterprise, SkyAlert - and he was not alone in this challenge.

Mexico was listed yesterday as the worst country for social entrepreneurs out of the world's 45 biggest economies in the second global poll of experts by the Thomson Reuters Foundation. It fell 15 places from the inaugural survey three years ago. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela were the other Latin American countries in the poll, coming 26th, 38th, 39th and 40th respectivey in the ranking of 43 nations. Iran and Saudi Arabia were dropped due to difficulties

polling there.

entrepreneurs.

good staff.

Pakistan have made the South Asian nation one of the

best performers in the second global poll on social

with Australia and the Netherlands, whose overall

ranking improved the most since the first Thomson Reuters Foundation experts' poll on the best coun-

tries for social entrepreneurs in 2016. The country

advanced 18 spots to place 14th among the world's

45 biggest economies, seen as a nation where

social entrepreneurs can make a living and attract

terms of openness and receptivity for entrepreneur-

"The landscape has changed tremendously in

Pakistan was one of the three countries, along

It created a law in 2013 for all public sector commissioning to factor in social value, which it expanded this year. But when about 900 social enterprise experts were asked in this year's poll how favourable conditions were for social entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses, Britain slumped 10 places to 13th slot.

Asked if government policy supported social entrepreneurs, Britain slipped eight places to rank 15th. A decision in 2016 to move responsibility for Britain's social enterprise sector from the Cabinet

"In Mexico City, there's been a brutal slowdown in the atmosphere for entrepreneurship," said Velasco. "With few resources, with zero possibility of accessing public funds ... and always fighting local and federal governments that don't want you to operate, it becomes mission impossible, and that's what we have to fight against in Mexico."

The poll of about 900 social enterprise experts, conducted with Deutsche Bank, found Mexico saw the biggest slump of any country when respondents were asked if social entrepreneurship was gaining momentum there. It dropped 32 places to number 40. Mexico was one of the worst two countries when it came to public understanding the work of social entrepreneurs, leaving them struggling to sell to the public, and also in the bottom two countries when it came to support from government policy. The findings echoed a 2017 study from the Failure Institute, a nonprofit organization that investigates why various endeavors fail, that found more than 80 percent of Mexican social enterprises had a life expectancy of less than three years. The biggest causes of failure, the study found, were a lack of resources and infrastructure and public and private resist-

Lack of understanding

"There's only a small minority of people who see social entrepreneurship as a signifi-

> ship," said Shaista Ayesha, 39, who heads product development at SEED Ventures, a business incubator based in Karachi. "Almost all universities have business incubation centers that are either working with the public or the private sectors to support home-grown enterprises." Interest of young people

in the sector was seen as spurring growth, with a youth boom giving Pakistan one of the world's youngest populations, a trend seen continuing until at least 2050, according to the United Nations Development Program.

About two-thirds of Pakistan's 210 million people are younger than 30 with 29% percent aged between 15 and 29. This new generation of young

Cliff Prior, chief executive of Big Society Capital, said social entrepreneurship had been high profile in the political scene in Britain from the 1990s and to 2016 and it could be time for the well-established sector to stand up on its own more. "Government is still important, as it sets the tax rules, sets the regulatory system, sets the procurement system ... but we should do a lot of our own sector development," he said

But while Britain as a whole declined in the poll, Scotland bucked the trend and was seen as a rising star of the sector.

cant or important value proposition." said Alejandro Morales Garcia, from the Eugenio Garza Laguera Entrepreneurship Institute at Mexico's Tecnologico de Monterrey university. "It's difficult for projects to flourish or be born or to continue to develop if we keep

The country of about 130 million people fared badly in most of 12 indicators used to measure political economic, regulatory and cultural factors impacting social entrepreneurs. Topping the poll were Canada, Australia and France.

Mexico also came third last when looking at where women were playing a leading role as social entrepreneurs, rating just above Brazil and the United States.

Marcela Torres, founder of startup Hola Code, said Mexican machismo was a constant battle for women in social enterprise. When she was first launching her company, which teaches young deportees in Mexico how to code, she said investors would often only address her male co-founder.

"There's an expectation in Mexico that a woman should behave a certain way or talk a certain way," Torres told the Thomson **Reuters Foundation.**

"I know a lot of women who develop strategies to seem more likeable, so that they're not perceived as hard." Torres said she also had to struggle with a legal system that offered no real incentives for startups, and a government that offered little support for social entrepreneurs.

"(Social enterprise) doesn't even enter the radar of the Mexican government," she said. In June, the administration of leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who took office in December, scrapped the National Institute for Entrepreneurs (Inadem), a government agency which supported small businesses.

Leaders of his Morena party said dissolving the Inadem would cut out the middleman and root out corruption with support going directly to beneficiaries. But Torres and other business leaders were concerned the government hasn't done enough to ensure they get this support.

"The Inadem was a fairly corrupt institution, and I don't think it was a bad decision to dissolve it but the problem is that it's left a gap," she said.

A representative from Mexico's economy ministry did not respond to a Thomson Reuters Foundation request for comment on the poll. Mexico also ranked among the lowest for access to investment and the ability to sell to businesses, which entrepreneurs said made long-term survival all but impossible.

"It's very difficult to become self-sustainable in Mexico," said Velasco. "It's hard for investors to notice you because they only look at the return on investment, more than leaving a mark on society." —Reuters

Pakistanis was not only aware of the political and socio-economic challenges faced by the country, but has also found social networks to voice opinions.

"Social issues no longer go unnoticed, and there is a general increase in public eagerness, particularly among the youth, to step up and bring positive change," Ayesha said.

As the government struggles to find solutions for a nation affected by poverty, water scarcity, climate change and lack of sanitation, social startups are emerging to fill the gaps. Pakistani banker and economist Ishrat Hussain, adviser to Prime Minister Imran Khan for Institutional Reforms and Austerity, said he was not surprised by the poll results. -Reuters

ance to investing in social enterprises.

thinking in this same way.'



What's On

RISE Center at AUK hosts Kuwait's NASA Space Apps Challenge 2019



Group photo of the judges with Dr Amir Zeid and Dr Rawda Awwad.

The Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences, and Engineering (RISE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) concluded the second year of Kuwait's local edition of the NASA Space Apps Challenge in collaboration with its strategic partner, Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO). The 48-hour hackathon was attended by a myriad of eager contestants, including high school students, AUK alumni and professors. The closing ceremony unveiled the two winning teams "Oxylus Kuwait" and "Tempest", both of which have qualified to join the world finals.

The NASA Space Apps Challenge is the world's largest hackathon introduced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The international competition occurred in more than 75 countries around the globe. The Kuwait competition took place at Marina Hotel and brought together around 80 people from around Kuwait to solve problems related to Earth and space.

As witnessed throughout the weekend, NASA Space Apps lived up to its ethos and inspired collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. Twelve competing teamscomposed of scientists, coders, space enthusiasts, graphic designers and business analysts-worked over 48 hours to create apps, games, and websites that addressed the challenges provided by NASA Space Apps. These included, Earth's Oceans, Our Moon, Planets Near and Far, To The Stars, and Living in Our World. Subject matter experts from different institutions were available throughout the event to mentor participants and help with questions related to Earth, space science, and technology.



Dr Amir Zeid addressing the participants.

The 2-day event concluded with a closing ceremony, in which the two winning teams were announced. During his closing speech, Dr Amir Zeid, Dean of the AUK College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, congratulated all participants on their vigilance and perseverance in working long hours to produce a marketable software solution within a short period of time.

"Hackathons are increasingly becoming an effective developmental platform to generate young innovations and new business ideas of international significance. Throughout the past 48 hours, our NASA Space Apps teams have been working around the clock to produce comprehensive software solutions. I am amazed by the level of energy and enthusiasm these young people radiate, and I am even more thrilled to see this number of high school



AUK President Dr Rawda Awwad addressing the participants.

participants coming to the stage to showcase their talents and innovative ideas," said Dr Zeid. "We treasure KIPCO's strategic partnership for the second year, and we hope to continue working with them on more youth empowerment initiatives in the future," he added.

Youth empowerment

Stressing on the essence of youth empowerment in Kuwait, Abeer Al-Omar, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at KIPCO noted, "This is KIPCO's second year supporting the NASA Space Apps Challenge as it aligns with KIPCO CSR strategy of youth welfare. We are very proud of the creative ideas that are coming from Kuwait's youth, and we continue to offer our sincere support and congratulations to the winners for



Group photo of the winning teams with Dr Rawda Awwad and Dr Amir Zeid.

their devotion and commitment during the duration of this challenge."

The atmosphere at Six Palms (Marina Hotel) radiated devotion and commitment, but the teams did not only think of creating projects that would win the competition, rather, similar to last year, they made sure to weigh in the social and ethical impacts of their ideas. Commenting on this, AUK President Dr Rawda Awwad said in her closing remarks, "At AUK, experiential learning is not merely a concept; rather, it is our practice. However, the level of engagement at NASA Space Apps Challenge is something entirely new. It is spaces such as these, that often become the site for something that is groundbreaking. This is AUK's version of education; and to say that we are proud of you is an understatement."

Three judges convened to select the first and second place teams who will move on to compete globally against winners from other locations. The judges, Mazen Hawwa, KIPCO Senior Vice President of Finance and Operations; Yacoub Yousef Al-Bash, Team Leader of Information Technology Services at Kuwait Oil Company (KOC); and Dr Bassem Alfeeli, Director of Innovation and Enterprise at KFAS, represented a variety of expertise and provided a balanced perspective. Each team had 5 minutes to explain and demonstrate their projects to the judges, after which the judges made their final choice of winners.

The first winning project "Oxylus" led by AUK alumnus Ali Kelkawi, is a multi-tier application which allows communities at risk of wildfire to serve each other as well as to be better assisted by authorities. The application allows communities to offer

services such as shelters to other people, carpool and volunteer with the authorities when needed, all this built on top of a previous iteration of the application which allowed users to report wildfires in the vicinity to alert their community.

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

The mobile application developed is also able to safely navigate users away from danger zones to their required destination. A prediction model was also developed to predict fires based on a location's given features (temperature, humidity, wind etc.) to be able to better allocate resources to areas at risk. "It is always a pleasure to gather as a community of developers in Kuwait to tackle different issues through the use of technology. The challenges encouraged us to think outside the box to come up with innovative solutions in the theme of Earth and Space, and I am extremely proud of the level of quality that my team was able to deliver in this year's challenge," said Kelkawi.

The second winning project "My Verse", led by AUK alumnus Omar Khalil, is a mobile AR application that allows users to create, customize, and simulate interactive solar systems using accurate and real algorithms. Players can create planets that can be comprehensively customized in a wide variety of ways such as terrain textures, ocean levels, and the colors of every element. Planets then interact with each other and the star that the player has customized to create a solar system that behaves realistically. For example, a planet can harbor water if it is the right distance from the sun and contains atmospheric gases. Finally players can contribute by creating planets and placing them into other people's solar systems in real-time.

Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Week

Nuclear medicine departments in Kuwait, along with their world counterparts annually celebrate the Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Week, which has been annually held in October since 2004, with a new message each year. This year's celebration will be under the patronage of Ahmadi Medical Zone Director Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti under the slogan "Making the Invisible Visible" on October 25 at the Gate Mall.

In this regard, Adan hospital's senior nuclear medicine technician and specialist, Ayesha Al-Qattan said that the Nuclear Week ceremony is marked with support and appreciation to those working in the field. The week is open for nuclear doctors, specialists and nursing staff members to enhance their role in diagnosing various diseases and



Ayesha Al-Qattan

exploring the latest in nuclear medicine. "The Nuclear Week will also include special lectures and activities to be held in various public and private schools and various malls with the aim of boosting public awareness concerning this line of medicine", Al-Qattan concluded.

Symphony Style appoints a new general manager

ith over 15 years of experience in managing four and five-star hotels in addition to 13 years in driving sales and operations across the GCC hospitality sector, Pike began his career in hospitality and managing hotels with the Radisson Blu Group, serving as the General Manager for Hotel Radisson Blu Waterfront, Cape Town - South Africa; Radisson Blu Hotel Birmingham - United Kingdom; Radisson Blu Hotel, Addis Ababa -Ethiopia; and Hormuz Grand Hotel, Muscat - Oman. Pike also served as the General Manager of the Radisson Blu Hotel Apartment Dubai Silicon Oasis -UAE, a position he held before joining Symphony Style Kuwait.

Pike has an extensive network and a desire to explore new avenues to maximize growth potential in the hospitality sector in all of Europe, the Middle East



and Africa. He is also renowned for his capability to foreshadow the markets, cultures and diverse challenges of the labor market. Utilizing his experience, Pike has proven his strength in meeting the requirements for unique revenue generation, cost control, foreseeing challenges and opportunities across cultures and the geographic location of the facility. In addition to all the above, Pike is always keen to make the guest experience exceptional by all standards. Pike will work alongside the hotel's highly qualified and experienced staff in the Kuwait market to achieve the objectives and strategies of the hotel and enhance its position in the local and international market.

ICSK Khaitan conducts K-Rays 2019

S cience Exhibitions develop scientific attitude in the young generation of our country; it helps to inculcate the sense of pride in their talent and to promote interest in Science and Technology. ICSK Khaitan organized its Science Exhibition K-Rays 2019 on 17th October Thursday in the school premises.

The Exhibition was inaugurated by Dr Mohan Rana - a senior Research Scientist in Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. He showed keen interest in the working models and said that parents must encourage children and should enhance their creative endeavors. Azharuddin Amir Mohammed, Hon. Secretary, Board of Trustees of ICSK also graced the occasion. The exhibits were displayed subject wise, all the teachers and students put forth their best efforts. Students exhibited working models, still models and charts on the relevant subjects. The entire campus was abuzz with energy and admiration. The auditorium was filled with exhibits of KG children. Art, music and dance projects were also displayed there. Models depicting seasons, houses, zoos, wealth from waste, models of musical instruments, craft work of students were elegantly and proudly displayed in the auditorium which caught the attention of all.

Pillars of Dharma, weapons of early men, Burj Khalifa, Solar Power Station and Chandrayan II were the center of attraction and enthralled the parents and the guests. They were appreciated by the visitors. Students also displayed models of- Early man and their life style, working models of Solar System, Terrestrial Ecosystem, Soil Conservation. The life style of tribals was the main attractions of the Social Science projects. The students of class 11 Commerce utilized their whole class as a replica of a Bank, which consisted of reception, ATM counter, help desk, locker system, loan counter was very creative and attractive.



Everyone who were present at K Rays were quite impressed with the dedication and grasp of students and appreciated their endeavors in cultivating a scientific temper. The Principal KG Shirsath also acknowledged the passion and interest shown by the students through their various exhibits. He also thanked all the teachers, students and parents for making K-Rays a grand success.

Al-Sarraf: Horeca helps hospitality sector develop consumer health

In view of the growing number of companies announcing intention to take part in the Horeca Kuwait 2020 exhibition to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Co. at Mishref International Fair

Ground in the period of

January 20-22, 2020, The

Consumable Industries Co.

National

Mohammed Al-Sarraf

(NatMed) recently announced joining the exhibition sponsors.

Medical

"Cooperation between hospitality manufacturers in the field of food safety, quality and environment saves billions of dollars that could be spent on direct and indirect damage resulting from the production, manufacture and preparation of food and consumer good", said NatMed's managing director, Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sarraf.

Al-Sarraf stressed that changes in the world of trade and services made specialized exhibitions such as Horeca Kuwait indispensible on setting successful marketing strategies for any sector at national, regional or international scales.

Al-Sarraf also stressed that NatMed thinks highly of Horeca Kuwait as one of a kind exhibition adding that his company would display products and services of interest to the hotels and restaurants including disposable aluminum and plastic packs and over 2,000 items of other paper and plastic products used in food serving and packaging in addition to disposable medical products.

"NatmMed was founded in 1989, with a Capital of KD 100,000 (US\$ 330,000) and a limited number of staff members. Those numbers gradually multiplied and our products multiplied to around 2,000 items and our company is now considered the number one supplier in its field, servicing hotels, catering companies, restaurants, medical centers, supermarkets, food industries, and many other organizations", Al-Sarraf explained. Further, Al-Sarraf pointed that the economic value of medical care in the hospitality field had recently multiplied in Kuwait and elsewhere in the world as more countries are now keen on making and joining international agreements with specialized organizations such as the FAO, WHO, WTO. "The FAO estimates the economic impact of food safety at \$ 95 billion", he concluded.





Health & Science

Ohio drug program seeks to reunite families of addicts

WARREN: Emily McIntyre is eight-and-a-half months pregnant with her third child. Her other two were taken away by child services because of her drug use. "Addiction is a full-time job," said the 26-year-old who lives in Ohio, a midwestern US state hard hit by the opioid epidemic. "It completely managed my life for six years."

When her baby daughter tested positive for cocaine, McIntyre lost custody of both her children. McIntyre's 11-month-old daughter and five-year-old son are among the thousands of children who have been put into foster care because of their parents' drug use. In Ohio alone, social services have recorded a 27 percent increase over the past five years in the number of children separated from their parents.

"My kids needed to be taken from me for me to focus on myself and fix myself," said McIntyre, who is undergoing treatment for her addiction. "They're not the reason I got sober, but they're my biggest motivation as to why I got sober," she said. "And I don't ever want my kids to see me in active addiction again." McIntyre's path to drug dependency began when she was 18 years old, starting with OxyContin, the painkiller made by Purdue Pharma at the heart of the opioid crisis. She later became hooked on heroin before turning to cocaine.

Settlements a boost for drug programs

McIntyre is currently enrolled in a courtordered program called START/QIC designed address the causes of the opioid crisis. As

to get her clean and eventually reunite her with her children. She first underwent seven months of rehabilitation. "She's accountable to report to us, report to the court how she's doing, report to treatment," said Lauren Wimer, a caseworker with the county court system. "And we kind of follow up every single week," Wimer said. "We're in contact to make sure she's going to her groups, going to meetings, going to court, make sure she's on time for all of her appointments."

Angela Cochran, herself a former addict, is McIntyre's "recovery coach." "I also have that experience with my kids being in foster care," Cochran said. "I help women like Emily navigate the child welfare system. "I think it makes it more manageable, less fearful for the individual that has to put forth that effort, just having somebody who's went through that process, she said. Programs such as the one McIntyre is enrolled in could get a boost nationwide following the court settlements of a series of lawsuits facing the major drug companies.

Three leading American drug distributors and an Israeli company settled a civil lawsuit with two Ohio counties in Cleveland on Monday just hours before they were to go to trial. The \$260 million deal set the basis for a broader potential multi-billion-dollar payout to some 2,700 addiction-ravaged communities nationwide who had signed on to the Cleveland lawsuit, the first in a federal court to

doctors prescribed opioids in huge quantities, drugmakers reaped tens of billions of dollars in profits while overdose deaths soared to over 70,000 in 2017 alone.

'A normal life'

In Trumbull County, where Warren is located, a total of 564 overdoses were reported in the first nine months of this year, and 60 fatalities. At the height of the opioid crisis in 2017, there were months when more than 200 overdoses were reported. "It has become a huge issue and a huge problem out here," McIntyre said. "A lot of my friends are gone. They didn't make it. I'm fortunate to have made it.'

Kimberly Ruble, supervisor of child recovery services in Trumbull County, said the goal is to reunite families. "We want a minimum of six months of sobriety," Ruble said. "But we also want to make sure that they have safe and stable housing, that they're in a safe relationship and that they're able to provide a safe environment for the children."

Sober for the past seven months, McIntvre has recently moved into a new apartment and should be allowed to keep her baby - another daughter — when she is born in the next few days. If all goes well, her son and baby daughter should join her by the end of the year. "My future looks great to me," McIntyre said. "I see my kids coming back. Having a job, a vehicle, everything else again, a regular life, a normal life." — AFP

NASA wants international partners to go to Moon too

WASHINGTON: As it looks to return to the Moon, NASA is open to the idea of international participation, which could mean a non-American setting foot on Earth's natural satellite for the first time in history, global space chiefs said Monday. "I think there's lots of room on the Moon, and we need all our international partners to go with us to the Moon," NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine told reporters at the 70th International Astronautical Congress held in Washington.

"If we can come to agreements on the contributions of all the nations and how they're going to be a part of the architecture, then certainly I would, I would see that there'd be no reason we can't have all of our international partners with us on the Moon," he added.

The Americans are developing a spacecraft (Orion) and a mini space station (Gateway) that will remain in lunar orbit, which will in theory be used for a first crewed mission in 2024, Artemis 3. Only one element of the mission will be produced outside the US: the Orion service module that will supply it with electricity, propulsion, thermal control, air and water in space and is being delivered by the European Space Agency (ESA).

Only once the Gateway is expanded will non-Americans be able to make the journey too. "We are in discussion also with NASA, so that we have European astronauts on the surface of the Moonthis is of course the European intention," said Jan Worner, head of the ESA, at the same press conference. "2024 is for sure something which is purely American," he later told AFP. For Europeans, it could be "2027, 2028, something like that." For its part, Japan also wants to take advantage of the new US program to write a new chapter in its own history. "It's a very simple question to me because JAXA would like to send Japanese astronauts to the surface of the Moon," said Hiroshi Yamakawa, president of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. — AFP



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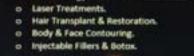
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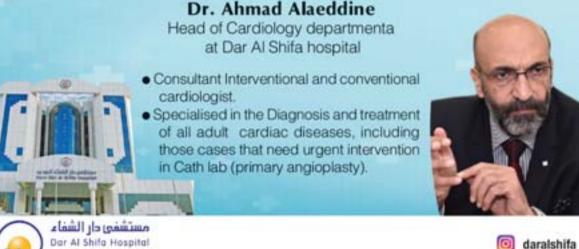
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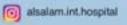
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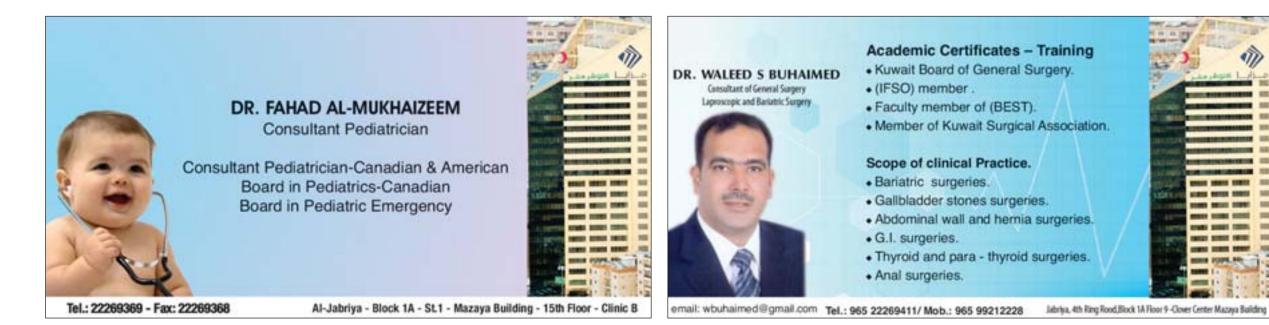
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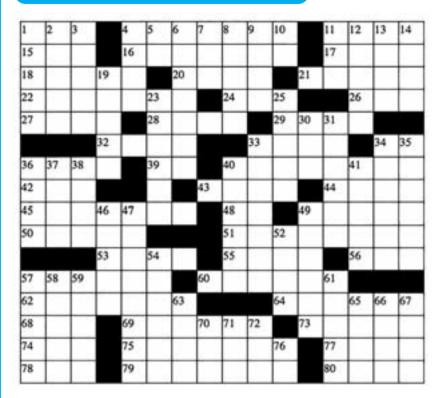




Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Stars

CROSSWORD 2340



ACROSS

- 1. Type genus of the Suidae. 4. Winged monster with an eagle-like head
- and body of a lion. 11. A French abbot.
- 15. A transuranic element that has not been found in nature.
- 16. A city in southern California (southeast of Los Angeles).
- 17. A city in northwest Indiana on Lake Michigan.
- 18. Run away secretly with one's beloved.
- 20. A small bottle that contains a drug (especially a sealed sterile container for injection by needle). 21. A sheet or band of fibrous connective tis-
- sue separating or binding together muscles and organs etc. 22. A picture (or series of pictures) repre-
- senting a continuous scene. 24.100 pyas equal 1 kyat.
- 26. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
- 27. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- 28. Type genus of the Apidae.
- 29. A Hindu prince or king in India. 32. Queen of the Olympian gods in ancient Greek mythology.
- 36. A quantity of no importance. 39. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that
- can solve problems creatively. 42. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 43. An international organization created in 1949 by the North Atlantic Treaty for purposes of collective security.
- 44. Scottish explorer who led Arctic expeditions that yielded geographic discoveries while searching for the Northwest Passage (1777-1856). 45. A tricycle (usually propelled by ped-
- alling). 48. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease
- affecting connective tissue (skin o

STAR TRACK



Everything works together to reveal you at your best today-particularly in group gatherings. You will have a grasp for abstract as well as practical ideas, which is one reason you are usually included in solving problems or brainstorming meetings. Whether it is you or someone else that comes up with a clever idea, you can usually create the practical side to the situation making the idea workable or showing the difficulties. With this talent, you may find that some days you are received well by all your co-workers and some days you are keenly unappreciated. Go with the flow and you will fare better.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is quite a busy day, one that seems to be pulling you in many directions. Prioritize and don't skimp on your breaks, those breaks legally belong to you. If the company has added work, they may need to hire a temporary helper; if a project is into a tight schedule, it may mean some overtime but the breaks are important for your sanity as well as your job performance. After work there is an opportunity to become involved in some athletic activity; join in to relieve any tension leftover from the workday. There is a strong need for nurturing and to be nurtured.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It is easy to overdo this day. Your energies are high and you may feel that you can do anything. You are smooth when there is a need to solve problems. However, do not try to reorganize a business or roof the house in one day! Set your priorities and pace yourself. Your patience may be tested after work today. You may complain of never having any privacy, or time to think-even though you are the one choosing the amount of social and professional contact. Being an extrovert, you may have difficulty understanding reclusive types; you may long to suffer in solitude-a balance is needed. Your mind is ever on communicating well: how you present yourself and are understood. This evening it is time to do only the most relaxing things; laugh!

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Stressful conditions or difficult people in the workplace this morning may cause you to question your choice of profession but with patience and a little counting to ten several times, the morning proceeds harmlessly and you are, once again, saving the day. Do not resent the part you play; without the stress you would not be motivated to the next step up the corporate ladder. You may want to take a short trip or visit a new friend. Perhaps you and your friend could shop together this evening. Purchasing, selecting colors and so on are at a high. You want to look your best regarding an upcoming social engagement.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel a love of order and law-an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. Discipline is no problem, but you may want to be careful of becoming too authoritarian. Your sense of responsibility is well developed and you may successfully help a co-worker overcome some difficulty or change some difficult situation in that person's life. Taking care of an older person or tending to the little problems around your living area may hold your attention after work. Problems are few and far between for you and you seem more than happy to help in any opportunity that comes to your attention. There is a renewed interest in a hobby this evening, perhaps in writing or cooking. This has been a successful and pleasant day.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Bevond whatever external considerations may be present, you exude a contagious thankfulness and fondness for things and people. These inner, loving qualities are experienced as a very real good. You seem to gravitate to those things which last and hold true and are always separating the false from the true. You manage to find the truth in most matters. Matters of law, religion and philosophy of the most resolute kind hold your interest. You may find yourself reading and catching up on the latest business technology at the library, bookstore or newsstand. New ways to organize and better discipline are possible as well. Here is an opportunity to get some insight into some techniques of solving problems that may prove of great value in the years to come.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will find that you can really use your mind to make clear choices and think things through. Any career decisions are straightforward and easy to make. You make your way through ideas, concepts and your ability to communicate and express them to others. Outer circumstances and the flow of events make it easy for you to make clear decisions, see the road ahead and move forward. Things seem to fall into place and progress is easy. Be careful not to take on more than you can process. There is a major life event now that marks the end of a formative period and the beginning of more independence. You are on your own and this marks the start of increased responsibility and accountability. This is a time for deep thought.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Smiles are easy to find-you will find yourself in a social mood most of this day and although you work and get a lot done, it is easy to respond with conversations to co-workers and to customers. Connections that last a lifetime and networking opportunities that help you to expand your knowledge on some hobby make this day quite interesting. New and unusual ways of working may be possible through some of your communications and perhaps, a higher-paying job opportunity is within your reach; pay close attention. Like the artist that depicts a beautiful scene, you have an artful way in which you express yourself.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have great insight into matters of personal freedom. When communicating with supervisors, you may have insight into their world and what they must do to succeed in their profession. Finding a way to serve or volunteering to help in some charity project from the workplace will help you in your climb up the ladder as well as give help to others. You come up with brilliant ways to help your coworkers and you are appreciated. Communication after work seems focused on young people. New methods of raising kids or caring for animals are yours. You relax with children, sports, acting, singing and such this afternoon.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Support and recognition should be available from the public and from family and friends. A new project is at hand. Perhaps some monetary rewards are in the forecast. You feel at home in the world and it more than takes care of you. You could have deep insights into your own feelings and inner spirit. You may be attending or giving an art show this evening. Some shopping may be in order. Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened. You may be motivated to make some decisions about your creative expression today. Your sense of value is active just now. This is a good time to select furnishings, colors and so on-the finer things of life.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Listening becomes important today as you try to understand new ways of working. Ideas and thoughts are important for the art of creation and will not come easily if you are stressed. A round table discussion presents the perfect forum for your presentation as well as it gives you the opportunity to add to your own creative mind as well; be patient and bide your time before making vourself known. After you make your presentation, make sure you take notes on what you have heard and how you want to grow and achieve. You are successful in your efforts; keep moving forward by adapting and adjusting.



You could be moody, even dreamy today. Relaxation techniques will benefit your frame of mind by giving you positive avenues where you can release any negative feelings. It is easy for you to find the proper motivation and to change any negative to a positive. Generally, this is a creative and successful time-one of healing. Problems could lose some of their definition and appear less difficult. You might have a sense of living in a dream world or of being awake in your own dream this evening. Everything seems less solid and definite. The spirit world seems real and possible. Enjoy observing all the things you can see that really make the world a pleasant place. Enjoy the sunset. You may even have ideas for encouraging others.

DOWN 1. Leather with a napped surface. 2. Not set afire or burning.

- 3. A piece of cutlery with a shallow bowlshaped container and a handle.
- 4. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
- 5. A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.
- 6. A member of a North American Indian
- people of central Arizona.
- 7. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 8. A large number or amount.
- or oil.
- lionth of a meter.
- lv in Turkey).
- ovary having one or many seeds within a
- 13. Two-masted sailing vessel square-rigged
- 14. An unfledged or nestling hawk.
- 19. Capital and largest city of the Czech
- Republic. 23. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as
- dance. 25. An artificial language intended for inter-
- 30. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- 33. Providing protective supervision.

- 9. Containing an unusual amount of grease
- 10. A metric unit of length equal to one bil-
- 11. Title for a civil or military leader (especial-
- 12. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single
- fleshy wall or pericarp.
- on both masts.

by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the

- 31. A city in northern Mexico on the Rio
- national use as an auxiliary language.
- - Grande opposite El Paso.

joints). 50. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan

- River. 51. Any of numerous trees of the genus
- Albizia
- 53. Precisely as stated.
- 55. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples
- 56. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- 57. An enzyme secreted in the digestive tract that catalyzes the breakdown of fats into individual fatty acids that can be absorbed into the bloodstream.
- 60. A native of ancient Trov.
- 62. A false statement.
- 64. Hard white substance covering the crown of a tooth.
- 68. A negative.
- 69. Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
- 73. The ending of a series or sequence.
- 74. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods. 75. Genus of herbs and subshrubs with milky juice and showy bluish flowers.
- 77. (used as a sentenced connector) Therefore or consequently.
- 78. A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.
- 79. Continuing or enduring without marked change in status or condition or place.
- 80. A strong-smelling plant from whose dried leaves a number of euphoriant and hallucinogenic drugs are prepared.

34. A milk protein used in making e.g. plastics and adhesives. 35. Remove from political office. 37. In bed. 38. An informal term for a father. 40. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice. 41. Eurasian plant cultivated for its seed and as a forage crop. 46. (trademark) An alloy of iron and nickel having a low coefficient of thermal expansion. 47. Of or relating to a caesura. 49. The capital of Lombardy in northern Italy. 52. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria. 54. Small genus of mediterranean shrubs. 58. Complacently or inanely foolish. 59. Asian rat snakes. 61. Verbal abuse. 63. English pianist (1890-1965). 65. Being nothing more than specified. 66. Oval reproductive body of a fowl (especially a hen) used as food. 67. A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia. 70. A small amount (especially of a drink). 71. Black tropical American cuckoo.

- 72. A unit of time equal to 60 seconds or 1/60th of an hour.
- 76. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.

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Wordsearch Puzzle

Les Misérables

Find and circle all of the names and items from the novel Les Misérables.

The remaining 47 letters spell a secret message.

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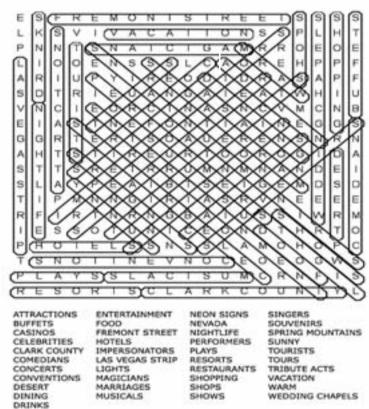
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Yesterday's Solution

Las Vegas



The hidden message is: ELVIS PRESLEY IMPERSONATOR

Yesterday's Solution

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Daily Sudoku

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Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019



On Neil Young's new 'Colorado' album, amped up rage - and hope

British-born Nigerian

A t 73 years old, Neil Young could be reminiscing about his legendary past, but the classic rocker instead has his sights set squarely on the planet's future with his latest album "Colorado." The album out Friday sees Young, a long-time crusader for the environment, reunite with the loud, raggedy band Crazy Horse, which has recorded and toured on and off with the superstar for half a century. The prolific Canadian-born artist gathered the latest iteration of Crazy Horse high in the Colorado mountains, where they shredded in between hits of oxygen to avoid altitude sickness.

The album opens with Young's harmonica twang in "Think of Me," on which he croons: "I'm gonna live long and I'm happy to report it back to you," dispelling any notion that the septuagenarian with more than 40 studio albums to his name might slow down. Young's signature bleeding amp reverb persists throughout the rugged album, as the rocker's singular oscillating voice rings out with a tender fragility on weighty themes like the climate.

"We heard the warning calls / Ignored them / We watched the weather change / We saw the fire and floods," he warbles in the environmental ballad, "Green Is Blue." "We saw the people rise / Divided / We fought each other while we lost our coveted prize," Young sings over a pounding piano riff. It's on brand for the rocker, who has long bared his environmentalism musically, most notably with 2015's "The Monsanto Years" that saw him attack the agricultural corporate titan over its genetically modified seeds.

The following track, "Shut It Down," begins with chaotic guitar and a heart-pounding beat akin to battle march, as the chant "Gotta shut the whole system down," loops throughout. Nils Lofgren-a rock world mainstay and



member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band-recently returned to the Crazy Horse lineup, having teamed with Young and the band in the 1970s.

The Arizona-based guitarist, who earlier this year released a solo album including songs he co-wrote with the late rock visionary Lou Reed, said the rawness of "Colorado" speaks to "the horrible place we're in, not only as a country, but as a planet." "The idea of the wealthy becoming, you know, mentally ill with the disease of greed, money and power-now it's at the expense of literally the planet itself, life itself," the 68-year-old said.

Soulful hoping

But near the album's end, the track "Rainbow of Colors"-a feedback-heavy song played in the romantic triple time of a waltz-hears the band sing the chorus as a unified voice. "There's a rainbow of colors / In the old USA / No one's gonna whitewash / Those colors away," they sing, in an obvious swipe at Donald Trump administration. "We'll always be strong / When the people have spoken / And the walls are all gone," Young sings.

For Lofgren, the jagged edges of the album's sound contrast with "beautiful sentiments" throughout, a "kind of emotional, soulful hoping." There's a feeling of "let's all wake up and do what we can and move this thing forward," Lofgren said. The album's recording in a secluded "recording studio in the clouds" outside of Telluride is documented in the companion film "Mountaintop," set for release Tuesday. Young, who's known for cranky tendencies during recording sessions, at one point rails over the sound volume-too low-in the documentary.

The artist's emotional outbursts aren't so much anger, Lofgren said, as they are evidence of "extreme frustration." "When you know you're on the way to something magical musically, you want to get there sooner," he said. "Sometimes you get more upset about it than others." "I take that as excitement and emotion, I mean that's what you need in the song. That's what you need from the guy who wrote it."

A tour with Crazy Horse was in the works for this fall, but the recent death of Young's longtime manager Elliot Roberts put it on ice. Lofgren is hopeful for a future series of live shows, when he says Young's innate talent shines. "Unlike some writers who kind of lose the edge in front of audience... he's got that bug," Lofgren said. "Something going on in front of an audience that you're just born with." "You just gotta get out there and exercise that part of your musical soul."— AFP

actor hopes black skinhead film will heal pain

British-born Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje was taken into foster care by a white family near London as a baby in the 1960s. As a youth, the unthinkable happened: the black boy joined a gang of violent white supremacists. Now an awardwinning actor, he has brought his story to cinemas in his country of origin - Nigeria. He hopes his directorial debut will be part of a "healing" process for people who sought foster care to give their children a better life.

Farming, the film's title, takes its name from a term used to describe the practice of Nigerian immigrants fostering their children to white families in Britain so they could work, study and save money. It refers to the idea that the children were "farmed" out. The aim of the practice, mainly prevalent from the 1960s to 1980s, was for the immigrants to eventually return to Nigeria.

"Perhaps this can provide a healing in some sense but ultimately a re-evaluation of our child-rearing processes," Akinnuoye-Agbaje told Reuters at the film's Nigerian premiere on Saturday in the country's commercial capital, Lagos, after first being screened in London last month. "I'm hoping that it will create a dialogue and a collective therapy for those that are still suffering, and a healing because many of the Nigerian farmers don't actually go back for the children that were fostered," he said.

As a six-week-old baby in 1967, Akinnuoye-Agbaje was left in the care of a white family in Tilbury, a southeast England town around 20 miles east of central London. And, as a youth, he joined a gang of skinheads - a far-right subculture often associated with racist violence in Britain. Membership in a gang that previously tormented him ended when his biological father, who had relocated to Nigeria where he worked as a barrister, paid for him to attend a private school in the affluent English county of Surrey.

That step was taken after he was contacted by Akinnuoye-Agbaje's foster mother. "It is an important part of British history as well as Nigerian culture, so to be able to bring a story that I have harboured for so long home to the Nigerian audience is... a wonderful sense of accomplishment," said Akinnuoye-Agbaje. The film - which cost 3 million pounds (\$3.89 million) to make and stars British actor Kate Beckinsale as the foster mother - was greeted with cheers and applause in a packed cinema hall in the upmarket Lagos district of Lekki.

Thousands of Nigerians leave the west African country each year in search of a better life abroad – often in Europe and the United States. Some of those who attended the screening said it was interesting to see a depiction of life overseas that differed from their expectations.—Reuters

World's loudest bird sings heart out in pursuit of love

n the mountainous northern Amazon, a tiny whiteplumed suitor turns to face his would-be paramour and belts out a deafening, klaxon-like call, reaching decibel levels equal to a pile driver. Meet the white bellbird, which has just beaten out its rainforest neighbor, the screaming piha, for the title of the world's loudest bird. Biologist Jeff Podos at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Mario Cohn-Haft of Brazil's Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia described the record-breaking finding in a paper published in the journal Current Biology on Monday.

The researchers wrote that its calls are so loud, they wondered how white bellbird females listen at close range without damaging their hearing. The feat is all the more impressive given the species' diminutive size: they're about as big as doves, weighing around half a pound (a quarter of a kilogram). The males are distinguished by a fleshy black wattle adorned with white specks that falls from the beak, while the females are green with dark streaks and wattle-less.

Podos told AFP he was lucky enough to witness females join males on their perches as they sang. "He sings the first note facing away, and then he does this dramatic, almost theatrical swivel, where he swings around with his feet wide open and his wattle is kind of flailing around," he said. "And he blasts that second note right where the female would have been, except the female knows what's coming and she's not going to sit there and accept that so she flies backwards" by around four meters.—AFP



This image obtained courtesy of Anselmo d'Affonseca shows a male white bellbird (Procnias albus) screaming its mating call. — AFP





Lifestyle | Features

Wednesday, October 23, 2019







Syrian rapper Amir al-Muarri's music booth is pictured in his room.

Syrian rapper Amir al-Muarri works with earphones on, in front of his microphone-equipped booth, padded with soft foam and egg cartons, in his room.

Syria rapper shines light on Idlib woes

etween the blighted buildings of war-torn northwest Syria, 20-year-old rapper Amir al-Muarri rails against regime bombs, but also shuttered universities and jihadist domination. "I chose rap because the genre is political," Muarri said. "It speaks out against dictatorship, tyranny,



Syrian rapper Amir al-Muarri rides his motorcycle through a war-damaged street in the northwestern city of Maaret al-Numan in the Idlib province. — AFP photos

government corruption, and social issues." Muarri's home region of Idlib is the last major bastion of opposition to the rule of President Bashar al-Assad, which over the past years has also seen an influx of refugees squeezed out of other areas by the war.

has been pummeled by regime and Russian bombardment in recent months, with around 1,000 civilians killed since late April. While a Russianbacked ceasefire has largely held since August 31, there have been sporadic strikes. With the help of friends and the internet, Muarri last month put out his first music video, titled "On all fronts". "It conveys what's in the hearts of people here," he said.

It tackles not just Syria's civil war, but also dayto-day complaints in the bastion dominated by the country's former Al-Qaeda affiliate. The video, posted on YouTube, shows Idlib residents from all walks of life bobbing their heads in slow-motion to the beat. There is a rescue worker in a hard hat, a member of the so-called White Helmets who have been pulling bodies and survivors from bombedout buildings.

But it also features some of the ordinary peoole who live in Idlib: a man watering his plants, a barber, and two young boys on a balcony playing chess.

Tupac and Beethoven

In the room where Muarri lives, on the top of a high building, a guitar he one day hopes to play hangs on the wall. Standing in a corner with earphones on, the young rapper spits rhymes into a tiny microphone booth attached to the wall, padded with soft foam and ordinary egg cartons. Muarri said he returned to his hometown of

Now home to some three million people, Idlib Maaret al-Numan from Istanbul last year, equipped with a single microphone, after his brother was shot dead by Turkish border guards while trying to illegally cross the border. He had been living intermittently between Turkey and Syria since 2015.

He had little experience mixing tracks, but he soon learned with the help of friends found on the internet, including many based in neighboring Lebanon. "Sometimes I send them tracks and they do the mixing," he said. When he is not making music, Muarri works in his father's small shop selling cleaning detergent and other household supplies. Between customers, he whips out a phone and listens to his favorite artists: El Rass, but also fellow Syrian rapper Bu Kolthoum, and Shiboba from Saudi Arabia.

From the West, he said he likes Tupac and old school rap that denounces racism and oppressionbut also Beethoven and Vivaldi. For his next tracks, he said he might write about the tens of thousands made homeless in recent fighting, or even the endless conferences that have failed to end the conflict. Above all, he just wants to be heard. "I wish my lyrics to be understood as words, not just music to shake your head to," he said.

'War and blood'

Idlib's inhabitants are supposed to be protected by a year-old deal between regime ally Russia and rebel backer Turkey although intermittent bombardment has continued. In his new song, Muarri denounces "systems that feed on war and blood" eight years into a civil war that has killed 370,000 people and displaced millions. Half of Idlib's population are Syrians who have been displaced by fighting in other parts of the country, many living in camps. The Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance, in charge of all Idlib since January, has been criticised for shutting down universities in a bid to bring them under their control.

"They closed the entrances of schools ... they are closing the door to our livelihoods," the rap continues, in a jab at HTS. "Throw away the curriculum, the university has been sealed with red wax." Despite his critical lyrics, the young musician said he has so far escaped any reprisals from HTS or other rebel groups still present in the area. Last year, vocal activist, cartoonist and radio presenter Raed Fares was shot dead by unknown gunmen.

"I get warnings from journalists linked to rebel groups or organizations that I should tone it down or not talk about such and such organization or group," Muarri said. But he largely ignores them. "I want to express what I'm seeing," said the rapper. "The people all support me."—AFP



Cigarette-burned Kurt Cobain 'Unplugged' cardigan heading to auction

In this file photo Christie's employees pose in front of a painting entitled Salvator Mundi by Italian polymath Leonardo da Vinci at a photocall at Christie's auction house in central London ahead of its sale at Christie's New York.

Louvre blockbuster: Honoring Leonardo da Vinci 500 years on

blockbuster retrospective of Leonardo da Vinci opens tomorrow at the Louvre museum to mark 500 years since the death of the Renaissance master in the historic town of Amboise, France. Nearly 200,000 people have already reserved their place in line for the exhibition, the biggest ever organized to showcase the Tuscan polymath's indelible contributions to humanity-with an emphasis on his painting.

A decade in the planning, the show simply titled "Leonardo da Vinci" groups 162 works, including 24 drawings loaned by Queen Elizabeth II of Britain from the Royal Collection. The British Museum, the Hermitage of Saint Petersburg and the Vatican have also contributed, as well as, of course, Italy-after a sometimes acrimonious tug-of-war between Rome and Paris over the loans.

The exhibition in the Hall Napoleon features 11 of the 20 paintings definitively attributed to the Renaissance master, as well as drawings, manuscripts, sculptures and other objets d'art. The show walks the visitor through the timeline of the master's peripatetic life under the tutelage of dukes, princes and kings, from Florence to Milan, Venice and Rome, and finally France, where he spent the last three years of his life.



This file photograph shows The Mona Lisa (La Gioconda) after it was returned to its place at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

In this file photograph a visitor views the 'Portrait of a man in red chalk' (circa 1510), widely accepted as a self portrait of Leonardo da Vinci, during the exhibition Leonardo da Vinci.— AFP photos

Two notable no-shows-for different reasons

Two works are missing from the show, starting with the Mona Lisa. Organizers decided the world's most famous painting should remain in the Louvre's Salle des Etats-its normal home-to help avoid overcrowding. As it is, the masterpiece attracts nearly 30,000 people a day. The Mona Lisa's ineffable smile will however beguile visitors in a virtual reality experience at the end of the Leonardo show, which runs until February 24.

The other notable no-show is the Salvator Mundi, the work that became the most expensive painting ever sold when it fetched \$450 million (400 million euros) at a Christie's auction in 2017. Mystery now surrounds the painting-whose authenticity is disputed by some experts-as it has not been seen in public ever since the stunning sale. Officially, it was to be displayed at the Louvre Abu Dhabi but an unveiling set for September 2018 was inexplicably postponed. The Louvre said the museum's request to borrow the work is still pending.

Late runner: The Vitruvian Man

The final act in the row between Paris and Rome over Italy's contributions to the show came with a last-minute legal effort to halt the loan of the iconic Vitruvian Man drawing. Last week an Italian court rejected a bid by an association advocating for the protection of Italy's heritage-Italia Nostra (Our Italy) - to halt the loan of the work dating from the late 15th century, arguing that it was too fragile to travel.

A spat over Italy's contributions to the Louvre show erupted late last year when the new populist rulers in Rome took issue with the previous government's agreement with Paris. Lucia Borgonzoni, the number two in Italy's culture ministry and a member of the anti-immigration League party, argued that the accord was lopsided in favour of France. At the height of the row, it appeared that Italy would cancel the accord altogether. It was finally resolved with Paris pledging to loan several Raphaels to Rome next year, the quincentenary of that artist's death.

The Vitruvian Man-which Italian media say is insured for at least one billion euros-will join the Louvre show later this month, but only for a few weeks rather than the full four months. The drawing, kept in a climate-controlled vault in the Accademia Gallery in Venice, is rarely displayed to the public. The exhibition curated by the Louvre's Vincent Delieuvin and Louis Frank, the heads of the museum's painting and graphic arts departments, includes infrared reflectographs that offer an insight into the master painter's techniques. - AFP

quarter century after grunge's enigmatic rhapsodist took his own life, Kurt Cobain's iconic cigarettesinged cardigan worn during Nirvana's 1993 "Unplugged" performance is up for sale. The tattered, drab olive green button-up sweater with dark stains and a burn hole could go for at least \$200,000 to \$300,000, according to pre-bidding estimates from Julien's Auctions, which says rock and roll memorabilia has become a major investor's market.

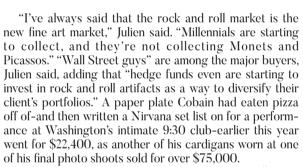
The thrifted cardigan is the toast of this fall's "Icons & Idols: Rock 'N' Roll" auction organized by the house, which will also sell off the late Nirvana frontman's lefthanded teal Fender Mustang guitar played during the "In Utero" tour. "This cardigan, it's the holy grail of any article of clothing that he ever wore," said Darren Julien, CEO and president of the house.

"Kurt created the grunge look; he didn't wear show clothes," Julien told AFP at a New York exhibition preview of the auction, which will kick off October 25 and run through October 26, with bidding in person and online. The music cable channel MTV began its "Unplugged" series in 1989, recording live performances of acts that generally played their normally electrified music on sparse acoustics.

Cobain's haunting "Unplugged" performance with Nirvana-recorded less than six months before his suicide at age 27 — is considered one of the most iconic shows of the series, and was released posthumously. Already deep into an emotional, drug-addled downward spiral, the depressive but singular talent with ocean-blue eyes reportedly lamented to "Unplugged" programmer Amy Finnerty after the set that the audience seemed not to like the show. "Kurt," she told him, "they think you are Jesus Christ."

Rock the new fine art

It's the second time the Manhattan-brand sweater has gone up for auction, having sold in November 2015 for \$137,500 via Julien's. The house originally acquired the oversized cardigan from the nanny of Cobain's daughter with Courtney Love, Frances Bean, now 27 years old. The house's CEO said interest in the rock and roll market has seen a particular uptick in recent years, as the genre ages and its memorabilia becomes artifact.



Other items from the more than 700-strong collection hitting the auction block this weekend include Michael Jackson's bejeweled custom velvet jacket the late pop star donned at Elizabeth Taylor's 65th birthday party. Guitars belonging to Elvis Presley, Madonna and Paul McCartney will be up for purchase, as well as handwritten lyrics to classics such as Eric Clapton's "Layla" and Bob Dylan's 'Mr. Tambourine Man.'

Also on sale is a surrealist watch given from McCartney to one of his sound engineers, who helped dispel 1969 gossip that the Beatle had died. "Thanks for your help in squashing the old rumour that Paul is dead," reads a note accompanying the watch, signed by McCartney, now 77, and his late wife Linda. "Paul is Live with boots on!"- AFP



A custom velvet jacket worn by Michael Jackson at Elizabeth Taylor's 65th birthday party.



Kurt Cobain's cardigan from Nirvana's 1993 MTV Unplugged performance is on display at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York City ahead of the auction of Julien's Auctions in New York City.



Kurt Cobain's custom-built left-handed Fender Mustang quitar.

Video stars: Russian child bloggers score millions of 'likes'

iza Anokhina was 11 when people started recognizing her in the street. Now a year older, she is one of Russia's most popular child bloggers with 2.3 million followers on Instagram. In a Moscow park, her producer jogs backwards, using his phone to film as Liza runs and blows raspberries. Tall and slim and wearing thick makeup for the shoot, she squeals with laughter when she views the result. "We've done (Instagram) 'stories', now we'll do TikTok," the 25-year-old producer Ivan Bushmelev tells her, referring to her main social media platform.

Russia counts some 40 million Instagram users, behind only Indonesia, India, Brazil and the United States, according to data firm Statista. And the photo-sharing platform is, as elsewhere in Europe, particularly popular among children, analysts say. Instagram and other platforms have spawned a generation of

unwrap toys or sweets. Older ones like Liza speak on camera and film sketches. They earn from ads and by promoting products, as brands value their connection with their peers.

Earnings a secret

Liza clutches her phone in a pink plastic case, admitting that she uses it eight hours a day. The clips on her Instagram anokhina_elizabeth_2007 are ultra-polished and looping, with visual effects and music. Asked how her earnings have changed her family's life, she gives what sounds like a well-practiced answer: "It has changed our life for the better. I prefer to keep the topic of my earnings a secret.'

Revealing few details, she says her mother is a lawyer while her father is a former military man. She vows to keep on creating content, even as social media platforms prepare to bring



young "influencers", leading to concerns that parents might exploit children for financial gain. Another risk is that the desire to accumulate "likes" may be psychologically damaging for children.

Such concerns have forced social media companies themselves to react, with YouTube and Instagram moving to make such blogs less attractive to advertisers and to make "likes" invisible to users other than the creators. Yet many Russian parents encourage their children

in changes that could hit her channels. To combat cyber-bullying, Instagram is experimenting with hiding the number of "likes" on others' posts. And from next year YouTube will bar targeted ads in videos aimed at children.

"It is a problem because of the way viewers are: they're used to seeing numbers," Liza's producer says of the potential Instagram changes. 'Not just viewers but advertisers, too." Fans, both girls and boys, come up to take selfies with Liza. "She speaks well, she's clever, she makes to blog and even send them to classes to interesting videos," says Natalya Usacheva, 12.

aspires "to dress just as stylishly" as Liza.

For Moscow-based child psychologist Viktoria Karavayeva, top child bloggers, just like school sports stars, could develop "dependence on popularity-that is, likes, comments, people talking about them." This could lead to "dependence on outside reactions and approval, tunnel vision only on this," she said. While it is normal for teenagers to value their peers' esteem, those who are "very sensitive to comparisons and outside judgment" may come to crave online likes, she said.

Big earnings, many subscribers

At a video blogging class at Moscow's Coddy programming school, 11-year-old Artyom Shalovey has big ambitions. "I'm constantly waiting for the moment when I get 1 million subscribers," he said, planning to blog on computer games, pranks and BMX bike stunts. He has a way to go, with around 130 subscribers currently. "For me, it's important both earning lots of money and having lots of subscribers," he says.

During the two-hour class, children discuss topics, write scripts and shoot with their phones. Their 23-year-old teacher, Amela Shabotich, is a student at Moscow's Higher School of Economics. She says she enjoys seeing children's blogs develop, with topics ranging from fashion modelling to learning English. Psychologist Karavayeva says parents tend to be more concerned with rationing the time their children spend on gadgets than with the content, and some children see material that scares them.

She "has encountered various fears (among children) after watching certain videos or films discussed in their social group." Parents should follow their children's favourite bloggers and "discuss things that bother them," she suggests. "I don't think simple restrictions or a ban can eradicate parents' fears or create understanding in the family. In general, I'm for talking.'

A mother-of-three who gave her name only as Yulia admitted she was stunned by her children's viewing choices, such as videos showing children cracking open endless chocolate eggs to find toys. "Imagine my amazement when I found out what they were watching," she said of her children aged 7 to 10. "I always thought kids really liked Winnie the Pooh... but no, if you leave them on YouTube they actually end up with someone unwrapping hundreds of Kinder Eggs." — AFP

Russian child blogger Liza Anokhina, 12, participates in

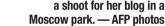








improve their skills. The youngest child bloggers while Veronika Kosynkina, also 12, says she



The pirarucu: The giant prized fish of the Amazon

ts white flesh is tender and tasty, it can measure up to three meters long and weigh more than 200 kilograms: meet the pirarucu, one of the world's largest freshwater fish, and native to the Amazon. The enormous animal, once threatened with extinction, is now on dinner plates in Rio de Janeiro's fanciest restaurants, thanks to a number of chefs who have championed the delicacy, and the indigenous communities who ensure its continued survival.

"Without them, there would be nothing left," says Frederic Monnier, the head chef at the city's hip Brasserie Rosario. "What they're doing for the Amazon is priceless," adds Jessica Trindade, the Brazilian chef at Chez Claude, an institution in the city's restaurant scene. Chef Marcelo Barcellos uses pirarucu in his moqueca, a fish stew swimming in palm oil and seasoned with coriander that is a signature Brazilian dish originating in the northeastern state of Bahia.

Served with a toasted manioc flour mixture and nuts that come straight from the Amazon basin, the moqueca delights foodies' taste buds and eyes, as the white fish contrasts with the yellow flour and green spices. The

taste is akin to that of other saltwater whitefish like pollock or cod. Barcellos, the executive chef and owner of the restaurant Barsa, is one of several Rio chefs who have happily added pirarucu to his menu.

But not that long ago, before pirarucu made it to the top tables in the Marvelous City, Arapaima gigas-or Amazonian cod, as it is sometimes called-almost vanished from menus. It was brought back from the brink of extinction thanks to the establishment at a nature preserve of a sustainable fishing program with strict quotas. Pirarucu can only be fished from July to November, the non-mating season.

Superior fish

Raising the pirarucu's profile with Rio's top chefs has certainly helped. The Taste of the Amazon project has helped do that. Recently, nine chefs traveled to northern Brazil to observe how the Paumari tribe has established sustainable practices for harvesting pirarucu. Through their contact with the indigenous fishermen, the chefs learned which parts of the fish are the best. That knowledge ended up on their menus.

"It's an excellent product, with a fabulous flavor, without that earthy taste that some freshwater fish have," Trindade says. For Ricardo Lapeyre of the Michelinstarred Laguiole Lab, the experience surpassed his expectations. He figured he would take the trip just to learn a bit more about how to cook the fish, and bring some new ingredients back to his kitchen. In the end, he is on board the pirarucu train, and is one of its biggest fans. "It's a superior fish-the quality is largely superior to what we get from fish farms," he said. "I became aware of the importance of the forest and the support given to projects that benefit local populations.'

Preservation

Adevaldo Dias, an official at ASPROC, the cooperative that manages the sustainable fishing of the pirarucu, was pleasantly surprised with how keen the chefs were to take part in the project. "I was struck by their commitment, their understanding of how this fish is good for the Amazon, and the need to pay fishermen properly," Dias explained. The sustainable fishing project for the pirarucu was put in place 20 years ago.

Since then, the giant fish population has soared, from more than 2,500 in 1999 to more than 190,000 last year. Thanks to ASPROC, the fishermen are paid seven reais (about \$1.75) per kilo (2.2 pounds), against the four reais they could count on by selling in local markets. But restaurants pay a whopping 48 reais a kilo, because of transportation costs. The dish is then sold for about 70 reais (\$17).

Leonardo Kurihara-the coordinator of Operation Native Amazon (OPAN), which is overseeing the Taste of the Amazon initiative-chefs are vital because "they are at the other end of the chain, presenting the product to the consumer." Felipe Rossoni, also at OPAN, explains that the initiative has cleared the way for new markets for the pirarucu. "Sustainable fishing helps preserve the environment, and reinforces the autonomy and clear identity of traditional communities," Rossoni said. — AFP





This file handout picture shows fishermen carrying a large Pirarucus (Arapaima gigas) fish at the Amana Sustainable Development Reserve, in Amazonas State, northern Brazil. — AFP photos





Lifestyle Fashion

Wednesday, October 23, 2019



Models present creations by Isaac Silva during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AFP photos







Models present creations by Amapo during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Classifieds Wednesday, October 23, 2019

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



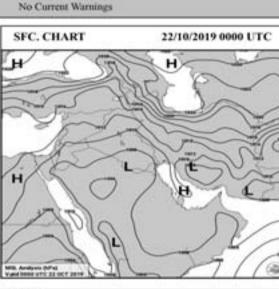
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south westerly wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust over open areas.

BY NIGHT: Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 10 35 km/h with a chance for scattered rain.	•
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WEATHER WARNING		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	39 °C	29 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	39 °C	23 °C
ABDALY	37 °C	23 °C
BUBYAN	• °C	- °C
JAHRA	39 °C	23 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	• °C	• "C
SALMIYAH	35 °C	30 °C
AHMADI	34 °C	28 °C
NUWAISIB	38 °C	22 °C
WAFRA	39 °C	24 °C
SALMY	38 °C	25 °C



		4 DAYS FORECA	ST				
DAY	0.0000	1	Tempe	ratures	¹ ever convent	Wind Speed	
	DATE	WEATHER	MAX.	MIN.	Wind Direction		
Wednesday	10/23	Hot and Clouds will decrease gradually	39 °C	22 °C	SW-SE	12 - 32 km/h	
Thursday	10/24	Hot and Clouds will increase gradually with a chance for fou forming at night	39 °C	23 °C	SW-SE	10 - 35 km/h	
Friday	10/25	Hot and Humid and Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for fog forming at night with a chance	37 °C	22 °C	SE-NE	10 - 40 km/h	
Saturday	10/26	Hot and Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times with a	33 °C	24 °C	E-NE	15 - 50 km/h	

PRAYE	R TIMES	RECORDED YESTERDAY AT K	UWAIT AIRPORT
Fajr	04:34	MAX. Temp.	37 °C
Sunrise	05:54	MIN, Temp.	26 °C
Zuhr	11:33	MAX. RH	72 %
Asr	14:46	MIN. RH	20 %
Sunset	17:11	MAX. Wind	SE 36 km/h
Isha	18:28	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											
Clinic												

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



CHANGE OF NAME Old name: HAKIMUDDIN, new name: HAKIMUDDIN KAGZI,

Passport No. T1940117, Civil ID No. 269121402091. (C 5466) 23-10-2019

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, Mundamveli 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

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: technoarch43@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

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



DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



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News

Expo 2020 site rises from Dubai desert

Expo 2020 trade fair, the mammoth venue in Dubai's desert is currently a tangle of steel, concrete and dust. But the emirate, hit hard by a downturn, hopes the event will deliver an economic shot in the arm when it launches in October next year. Dubai, defined by its skyscrapers and mega-projects, may boast the most diverse economy in the Gulf region, but its vital property, tourism and trade sectors have been badly weakened.

The total value of real estate deals plunged 21.5 percent last year, while tourist arrivals remained stagnant at around 16 million. This year, Dubai seems to be on the same path, hosting 8.3 million visitors in the first six months. But officials in the emirate, known for its giant malls, luxury resorts and unlikely attractions including an indoor ski slope, are hoping the global trade fair will turn things around.

On a tour yesterday of the sprawling site, much of it off limits to the media, organizers said construction was "on track". Dozens of trucks, some loaded with building materials, zipped in and out of the venue, on sand dunes in the south of Dubai. Countless workers in yellow and orange vests plied the scaffolding of vast unfinished structures. The

DUBAI: With a year to go until the first few white feathers are now recognizable on the wings of the United Arab Emirates pavilion, built in the shape of a falcon in flight. When completed, the four-storey structure's vast wings will move to capture or repel sunlight.

The Al Wasl Plaza taking shape at the heart of the complex has a 550-tonne steel dome that forms a vast projection screen for light shows and images. Some 200 countries will take part in the fair, which runs from Oct 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021. Organisers say the \$8-billion Expo, with more than 200 restaurants and dozens of events each day, is much more than a six-month trade show.

"This is the first time that there's an Expo happening in this part of the world," said Sanjive Khosla, Expo 2020's Chief Commercial Officer. "From a business event to a concert or festival, it is really diverse programming," he said. After the party is over, the goal is to turn the 4.4 sq km site into a district including homes, an exhibition center and headquarters for scores of companies. "The plan for the future development is that it becomes Dubai's innovation district... that will then be the true legacy of Expo 2020," said Nadimeh Mehra, vice-president for the new mini city. — AFP



DUBAI: View of ongoing construction work yesterday at the site of the Expo 2020. - AFP

Mosul strains to revive manufacturing past

MOSUL: Its wool could once be found in French marketplaces and its cement as far away as Singapore. But after years of fighting, Iraq's Mosul has yet to regain its former industrial glory. The city's factories were pulverized by Islamic State group militants and its export routes remain choked by informal customs points, while cheap imports flood the market. Those challenges have hamstrung the northern city's recovery from three years of brutal jihadist rule that ended in mid-2017, its business owners say.

"Under IS' strict measures, the factories closed, the economy regressed and Mosul was cut off from the rest of the world," said 33-year-old Issam Abdallah. Abdallah owns a dairy factory in the city's west, most of which was bombed into ruin in the final phase of fighting to oust the

militants. "Sixty percent of my factory was destroyed, but I borrowed from relatives and reopened it a few months after Mosul was recaptured," he told AFP.

His modest factory churns out white cheeses packed into medium-sized pots that are sold on store shelves in Mosul for 2,000 Iraqi dinars, or a little over \$1.50. But there's new competition in town, and the same money can buy a much larger vat of cheese imported from Iraq's northern neighbor Turkey.

A storied past Unproductive and isolated, the state of Mosul today is a far cry from during the city's industrial golden days. It was a crucial overland trading post along the Silk Road to China beginning under Ummayyad rule in the 8th century. Wheat from surrounding fields was processed and stored in Mosul, and the region became known as Iraq's "breadbasket". Wools and tanned hides sourced from surrounding ranches were exported to Europe and contributed to the city's expanding growth in the 1800s.

By the 20th century, oil was discovered, the government invested in manufacturing, and Mosul produced more than one million tons of cement - some of which reached halfway around the world to the Far East. In 2013, the city boasted 350 food stuff plants, dozens of tanneries and furniture factories, and other facilities for juicing, processing metal and more. The following year, IS overran the city, transforming the trade hub into the Iraqi seat of its selfstyled "caliphate".

Factories were shut, with 70-80 percent of their equipment sold or repurposed to make weapons, according to the World Bank. Skilled workers fled and demand plummeted as residents only spent what they absolutely had to. Now, factory owners are trickling back - but finding a near-unrecognizable market. No reliable electricity and water, high rents and no distribution channels are the top complaints, according to a poll by the International Organization for Migration.

"Before 2014, we exported our products to the rest of Iraq safely and easily," recalled Hashem Al-Najjar, 22. His

Trudeau needs help to form ...

Continued from Page 1

family's business in east Mosul made bright plastic pipes, buckets and other inexpensive household products shipped out in bulk along the network of highways linking Iraqi cities.

Mosul was spared from the anti-government protests earlier this month which rocked Baghdad leaving more than 100 dead. But even though Najjar's factory reopened a few months ago, obstacles abound. "Electricity is unreliable and there are a lot of difficulties in transporting the products outside the city," he told AFP. Indeed, roads leading from Mosul into the autonomous Kurdish region or south to Baghdad are dotted with checkpoints collecting informal customs fees.

According to a Chatham House report this year, these fees are "critical for armed groups" which are desperate to remain relevant now that fighting has slowed down. Iraq's government has repeatedly ordered the checkpoints removed, with little effect: one paramilitary group made up of minority Shabak fighters recently blocked access through one of these valves for days in a show of force. — AFP

a federal political party in Canada, and is now a kingmaker. "In the days ahead, I'll be meeting with my new caucus, to talk about how we will deliver for people," Singh said in a statement. "We'll approach building the new parliament with open minds and open hearts," he added. He added: "The real winner of this election is not a party or a leader. Canadians sent a clear message:



SINGAPORE: A Volocopter unmanned air taxi flies over Marina Bay during a test flight with a safety pilot at the 26th Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress (ITSWC) yesterday. — AFP

Hover-taxi whizzes over S'pore; firm...

Continued from Page 1

to four years, and Volocopter then hopes to introduce the vehicles in traffic-clogged Asian cities.

Prices for a trip in the aircraft have not yet been determined but Volocopter is aiming for just above the fare of a taxi ride. "We generally consider Asia to be a huge opportunity to benefit from this new technology, and we intend to have a strong presence in Asia starting here in Singapore," Volocopter chief executive Florian Reuter told AFP. The company wants to bring the service to sprawling cities like Jakarta, Manila and Bangkok, as well as parts of India and China, he said. Many Asian mega-cities are notorious for monster traffic jams, which leave millions of commuters facing long journeys, and can delay executives trying to dash to airports or reach important meetings on time.

In China, Volocopter plans to partner with automaker Geely, which owns a stake in the German aviation

Erdogan hails agreement with...

Continued from Page 1

obligations under a US-brokered truce to withdraw forces from a border area with Turkey in northeastern Syria, a senior administration official said earlier vesterday. "A letter came in from General Mazloum...that he had carried out all of his obligations under the arrangement that we had done with the Turks...to withdraw all YPG forces out of the Turkish-controlled safe zone," the senior administration official told reporters, referring to Mazloum Abdi, the head of Washington's former allies in the fight against Islamic State.

Ankara and Washington have been in close contact to agree that the withdrawal has taken place, the official company, to mass-produce flying taxis for the Chinese market, Reuter said. The flying taxi will be used in Singapore to provide quick travel on routes such as from Marina Bay to Sentosa island, home to several tourist attractions and luxury hotels, or to ferry people from ships anchored offshore to port.

Earlier this week in the city-state, Volocopter unveiled the "VoloPort", a flying taxi port at the water's edge with a landing and takeoff pad as well as a passenger terminal. The port was not used for yesterday's test flight because it has not been certified yet. Volocopter faces some competition, including from Uber and Kitty Hawk, a firm backed by Google cofounder Larry Page.

'We feel we are at the humble beginnings of a new mode of transportation that ultimately will transform the way we see mobility in cities," Reuter said. "This might sound sci-fi futuristic to many people, but I think we are now starting to grasp what implications this technology can actually have." Singapore has become a center for testing self-driving vehicles, and earlier this year conducted a public trial of autonomous buses booked through an app. The citystate is currently hosting a major transport technology conference. — AFP

said and therefore Turkey's pause in its military offensive into Syria would turn into a permanent halt of the campaign, as agreed under a deal in Ankara last week.

The five-day truce in Turkey's cross-border offensive to allow the withdrawal of Kurdish YPG fighters from the border area ended at 10 pm (1900 GMT) yesterday, and Erdogan had said Turkey could then press on with fighting. "We think that Turkey in the end will agree that the withdrawal has taken place under the terms of the agreement. This means that the Turkish pause becomes a Turkish halt in military operations," the official said.

But he warned that if Ankara fails to cease operations, US sanctions will follow. "Any Turkish kinetic military operation that moves forward at the end of this 120 hours, when they're supposed to move into an even more...rigid and formal ceasefire under the name halt....will lead to us concluding that Turks have violated our agreement with inevitable sanctions." — Agencies

The Conservatives won 121 seats but beat the Liberals in the popular vote, taking 34.4 percent to their 33.1 percent. Scheer issued a warning to Trudeau. "Canadians have passed judgement on (Trudeau's) Liberal government," noting that the Liberals shed more than 20 seats. "We have put him on notice, his leadership is damaged and his government will end soon and when that time comes, the Conservatives will be ready and we will win!"

The first test of Trudeau's future government will follow in the coming weeks with a speech to parliament outlining his legislative priorities and a confidence vote. For now he faces the tough task of forming a government, for which he will have to take into account the demands of minority parties. Yves-Francois Blanchet, head of the Bloc Quebecois, a down and out party that scored a big comeback on Monday, said he can work with the new government if the interests of Frenchspeaking Quebec are preserved. "If what is proposed is good for Quebec, you can count on us," said Blanchet, whose party will have 32 seats in the next legislature.

Jagmeet Singh, the leader of the New Democratic party, promised to be constructive. The leftist former criminal defense lawyer is the first non-white leader of

Hezbollah under rare...

Continued from Page 1

Popular dissatisfaction with the government peaked last week following protests over taxes, corruption and dire economic conditions. South Lebanon - a bastion of the powerful Shiite movement since the group liberated the region from Israeli occupation in 2000 - was not spared. Protests have been reported in the cities of Nabatiyeh, Bint Jbeil, and Tyre, where Hezbollah and its political affiliate the Amal Movement hold sway. With the exception of Tyre, they were not as big as other parts of the country.

But "the novelty here is that some of these protesters are party loyalists," said Sara. "They support Hezbollah, but they are suffocating." Among his supporters, Nasrallah is revered as an icon, with his pictures inundating highways, shops and homes. In the past, his followers have mobilized against anyone who tried to criticize him, often ostracizing opponents as supporters of rival Israel.

But anti-government protests that started in Beirut on Oct 17 and quickly spread across the country left no politician unscathed, not even the Hezbollah leader. "All of them means all of them, Nasrallah is one of them," protesters chanted in Beirut. Criticism of Nasrallah even aired on the Hezbollah-run Al-Manar TV, in a scene that was previously unfathomable for watchers of the movement's propaganda arm.

In a live interview from central Beirut, one protester urged Nasrallah to "look after his people in Lebanon" instead of focusing on regional enterprises like Syria, where he has deployed fighters to defend President

they want a government that works for them, and they are not satisfied with the old ways of doing politics.'

Trudeau, a 47-year-old former school teacher, dominated Canadian politics over the four years of his first term, but faced a grilling during the 40-day election campaign, which he described as one of the "dirtiest and nastiest" in Canadian history. Trudeau and Scheer exchanged barbs as attack ads and misinformation multiplied. Trudeau evoked the bogeymen of past and current Tory parties fostering "politics of fear and division" while Scheer called the prime minister a "compulsive liar," "a phony and a fraud."

Going into the election Trudeau's golden boy image had already been damaged by ethics lapses in the handling of the bribery prosecution of engineering giant SNC-Lavalin. His popularity took a further hit with the emergence during the campaign of old photographs of him in blackface makeup. Some 27.4 million Canadians were eligible to vote in the election, and the turnout was reported to have been large, at almost 65 percent. A record 97 women were elected to parliament, including Canada's first indigenous attorney general, Jody Wilson-Raybould, who ran as an independent candidate after Trudeau kicked her out of his caucus. — AFP

Bashar Al-Assad's regime. Nasrallah acknowledged the mounting criticism against him in a speech on Saturday: "Curse me, I don't mind." Speaking on the protesters demands, he warned against calling for the resignation of the government -saying it could take a long time to form a new one and solve the crisis.

Hatem Gharbeel, a protester in Nabatiyeh, said Hezbollah loyalists felt let down. "The messages being addressed to Nasrallah by his own supporters in Nabatiyeh is that the resistance is not just about fighting Israel or terrorism," he said. "It should also be about supporting people's livelihoods." Other party heads have come in for even greater criticism. Prime Minister Saad Hariri, Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil and Speaker Nabih Berri have been the targets of strong insults and slurs by demonstrators, even in areas where they are popular.

But the relatively toned-down criticism of Nasrallah has broken taboos, said Gharbeel. "The barrier of fear has been broken," he said. "It shows that people are not blindly following their political or sectarian leaders anymore." Lokman Slim, an independent political activist and an outspoken critic of Hezbollah, said that resentment among Lebanon's Shiite community "is not born out of a single event or a single moment". "Frustration has been fermenting over the past few years over an economic crisis hampering not just the Lebanese state but also Hezbollah's statelet.'

Hezbollah has filled in for the weak central government in areas where it has influence, creating social welfare institutions and provided an array of public services, including education and health services. But the group has come under financial strain due to tightening US sanctions since President Donald Trump assumed office, forcing Nasrallah to appeal to his popular base for donations earlier this year. "The Shiites have nothing to lose anymore," said Slim. "This is why they are out on the streets." — AFP



Sports

England 'not our fiercest rivals': **All Blacks coach Steve Hansen**

'History is history — it's about creating new history'

"mighty clash" in this weekend's heavyweight World Cup semi-final with England, but insisted they were not New Zealand's biggest rugby rivals.

The treble-chasing All Blacks have won their last six meetings against England dating back to 2013 and 15 of their last 16. Eddie Jones's side are riding high after smashing Australia 40-16 in the last eight, but Hansen attempted to play down New Zealand's rivalry with the English.

"It will be a mighty clash, but I think South Africa will always be our biggest rival - because of the history that comes with it," Hansen said yesterday following the 46-14 rout of Ireland at the weekend.

"And the fact we play each other so regularly. We've played England once in the last (five) years so it's hard to build a rivalry when you don't play each other." Hansen added: "If we could get the Six Nations to come on board with a global season then we might able to do that. Once they do that, they're starting to think about the game, rather than themselves — there's a headline for you."

Despite New Zealand's traditional dominance, Hansen feels that history will count for nothing against England in Yokohama. "History is history — it's about creating new history," he said. "You're playing in the semi-final of the Rugby World Cup, so there will be pressure on both sides," he added.

"The key thing will be how to manage it — you crack that nut then you give yourself a great opportunity." Hansen admitted that England had "come a long

TOKYO: All Blacks coach Steve Hansen is predicting a way" since their horror 2015 World Cup when they became the first tournament hosts to crash out in the pool stage under Stuart Lancaster.

On England's quarter-final thrashing of the Wallabies, Hansen said: "They took all their opportunities. Some were given to them but you've still got to take them. They're a good side.'

SOWING SEEDS OF DOUBT

Jones has described New Zealand as "the greatest team there's ever been in sport" in the build-up and the cricket-mad Aussie likened the task of toppling the All Blacks to bowling out Australia's star batsman Steve Smith. Hansen, though, is too wise to get sucked into any mind games by his wily, old foe. "That's a really nice statement," he grinned, ever mindful Jones has a reputation as something of a wind-up merchant.

"I'm sure Eddie believes that but he's also being quite kind. "It's a real thing," Hansen replied when asked about the kidology that goes on before big games. "But sometimes you're better not to go there. Eddie is a smart man — he knows me well, I know him."

New Zealand beat England 16-15 when the teams squared off at Twickenham last November and Hansen expects another nail-biter this weekend. "It's our job to put doubt into their heads," he said.

"That's part of what rugby is about — how quickly you can learn and adapt on the park in the heat of the moment." Both New Zealand and England had their final pool games washed out by a violent typhoon two weeks ago, but Hansen believes his team are coming to



FOKYO: File photo shows New Zealand's full back Beauden Barrett collects an All Blacks flag from the crowd beside his father Kevin (2nd R) after winning the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup quarter-final match between New Zealand and Ireland at the Tokyo Stadium in Tokyo. — AFP

the boil nicely.

"You don't get performances like the ones we and England had (in the quarter-finals) without emptying

the tank," he said. "Now it's about being smart, getting clarity around the game and dealing with the stuff on Saturday really humming." - AFP

Malaysia bags first gold in bowling championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Malaysia's Shalin Zulkifli snatched the first gold medal of the 25th Asian Ten Pin Bowling Championships 2019 being held in Kuwait under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, as she ended first in the women's individual category.

Shalin Zulkifli collected 1,498 points ahead of Indonesia's Nadia Pramanik who took the silver medal with 1,492 points while Malaysia's Sin li Jane was satisfied with the bronze medal collecting 1,471 points. The first competition of the championship with the participation of 228 players representing 27 countries was very strong and competitive as the scores show. Meanwhile, medals will continue to be awarded through the men's individuals and the women's doubles to be held today in the fourth day of competition. The men's individuals will start at 9:10 am and will conclude at 12:40 pm. The women's doubles will start at 2:20 pm, and will conclude at 5:50 pm. The first round which was held yesterday saw Kuwaiti men: Khaled Al-Dubayyan, Basel Al-Enezi, Aseel Al-Roumi and Mustafa Al-Mousawi, who competed hard with the Malaysians, South Koreans and Japanese. It is known that Malaysia's Timmy Tan won the men's individual's gold in the previous championship which was held in Hong Kong 2016, followed by Thailand's Annop Arrcmsaranon and Hong Kong's Michael Mak.

Board of Public Authority for Sport Asad Taqi lauded the opening ceremony of the championship and stressed that the outstanding organization and the large continental gathering shows high professionalism said President of International and Asian Bowling Federations, Chairman of Kuwait Bowling Club Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad and board members. Taqi said "the opening ceremony presented our country in the best way for the continent of Asia, and such championships will remain in the memory for years to come", as he wished success to those all involved.

Qatar's Bowling Federation President Abdelsalam Abdallah said his federation is participating with six players in the men's category as it is being held in Kuwait, although the best players are away because they are busy with their Abdallah said the chances of Gulf players are good despite the presence of world champions from South Korea, Japan and others, but we saw some Gulf players on the awarding podiums in previous championships. Saudi player Mohammad bin Sultan Al Saud said he as well as the rest of Saudi squad are proud to participate in the event being held in Kuwait, and lauded the organization, hospitality and reception by the higher organizing committee.



Messi, Ronaldo wouldn't do what rugby players do, says coach Jones

Nokyo: England coach Eddie Jones contrasted what he said was rugby's down to earth attitude with that of football superstars Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi as he lauded All Blacks boss Steve Hansen ahead of Saturday's blockbuster World Cup semi-final.

Jones and Hansen are two of the most suc-

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman of the

Qatar Airways launches amazing offers and packages for FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2019

DOHA: Qatar Airways yesterday launched an exciting promotion to Doha as the Official Airline Partner of the FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2019.

The award-winning airline has announced incredible flight offers on Economy and Business Class tickets as well as packages from the world to Doha. Qatar Airways invites its customers to book flights and receive match tickets to see the stars of world football in action at the FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2019 between December 11 and 21.

Passengers who already booked their travel journey are invited to extend their holiday with a stopover in Doha and receive match tickets to experience worldclass football and the cultural delights of Qatar.

Qatar Airways will launch a global TV campaign to support this extraordinary travel offer entitled 'Make Qatar Your Goal'. The TV campaign will be broadcast in over 160 countries worldwide and is available to view at: https://youtu.be/a42rI6Doafk.







Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Akbar Al Baker, said: "We are delighted to offer fans these amazing deals to visit Qatar and be part of the FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2019. We are committed to inspiring our passengers to come and discover what Qatar has to offer, on and off the football pitch.

"As an airline, we firmly believe in the power of sport to unite people, and we look forward to bringing thousands of passionate fans together in Qatar to enjoy world-class football alongside five-star hospitality and organisation. The FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2019 will serve as an exciting preview to the biggest event in world football, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in just over three years' time."

Featuring the six continental club champions from around the world along with Qatar Stars League champions Al Sadd Club, the FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2019TM action will start on 11 December, culminating in the final on 21 December. Reigning European Champions Liverpool FC open their campaign on 18 December, marking the inauguration of Education City Stadium, the latest FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022TM stadium to be completed over three years ahead of the world cup finals. For more information on individual match ticket sales, please visit www.fifa.com/tickets.

cessful coaches in the modern game, with the New Zealander looking to guide the All Blacks to a third straight World Cup title at Japan 2019 and fourth in total. But if he is to do that his side must first beat a resurgent England in Yokohama this weekend.

The coach of his native Australia when they lost the 2003 World Cup final to England and the mastermind behind Japan's shock victory over South Africa in England four years ago, Jones is no stranger to pre-match "mind games"

But there has been little in the way of verbal fireworks from former Brumbies boss Jones at this tournament, with the England coach delivering a glowing assessment of Hansen's record. "To start with, Steve's a good bloke," said Jones. "That's number one. Secondly, he's got a great record.

"Super Rugby with the Crusaders when we first started coaching against each other, followed by Wales, followed by New Zealand. You don't get a better record than that. Jones said it was rugby's culture of "respectful relationships" that set it apart from other codes.

"You just have to see this tournament to know what it's done because the things that have happened don't happen in other sports. "You've got the Canadian and Namibian blokes cleaning up the ground (after their pool match in Kamaishi was cancelled because of Typhoon Hagibis).

"Could you imagine Ronaldo or Messi doing that if Barcelona or Real Madrid gets a wash? Hansen was equally complimentary about Jones's work in transforming an England side who suffered an embarrassing first-round exit on home soil at the 2015 World Cup into genuine title contenders four years later.

"Eddie's done a fantastic job with England they've got a harder edge about them now," Hansen said. "Eddie's been part of a winning World Cup team with South Africa (2007), he's had the disappointment of losing to England when he was coaching Australia (2003) but to get to the final is being successful anyway.

Hansen, in a reference to the stroke Jones suffered six years ago when in charge of Japan, added: "I respect his passion for the game — he loves the game.

"He's got a work ethic second to none. He put himself in hospital, he'd worked that hard. He just loves the game and anyone who loves the game gets my support."

Hansen said the verbal sparring that went on between opposing coaches should not be taken too seriously. "It's a game of footy, it's not life or death. It's like when you play against your brother or sister. It's important, but it's not life threatening.

"It's definitely closer than you guys (the media) perceive. You see some of the banter which is really only to help promote the game as being 'cor, these guys don't like each other', which couldn't be further from the truth," he added. "Rugby's a special game and those of us who have been around for long enough understand that the game is bigger than everybody else." —AFP





India sweep series, Rohit reinvents himself in Tests

India cement lead in Test Championship

NEW DELHI: India completed a 3-0 series sweep against South Africa yesterday to consolidate their lead in the World Test Championship race, with Rohit Sharma providing the icing on the cake by successfully reinventing himself as a Test opener.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on day four of the third and final Test between India and South Africa in Ranchi yesterday:	
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 162 (Z. Hamza 62; U. Yadav 3-40, M.	
Shami 2-22)	
South Africa 2nd innings (follow-on - overnight 132-8)	
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. Klaasen lbw b Yadav	5
G. Linde run out (Nadeem)	27
D. Piedt b Jadeja	23
T. de Bruyn c Saha b Nadeem	30
K. Rabada c Jadeja b Ashwin	12
A. Nortje not out	5
L. Ngidi c and b Nadeem	0
Extras: (b5, lb1)	6
Total: (all out, 48 overs)	
Fall of wickets: 1-5 (de Kock), 2-10 (Hamza), 3-18 (du Plessis),	
Total: (all out, 48 overs)	133 Hamza), 3-18 (du Plessis),

4-22 (Bavuma), 4-26 (Elgar, retired not out), 5-36 (Klaasen), 6-67 (Linde), 7-98 (Piedt), 8-121 (Rabada), 9-133 (de Bruyn), 10-133 (Nadeem)

Bowling: Shami 10-6-10-3, Yadav 9-1-35-2, Jadeja 13-5-36-1, Nadeem 6-1-18-2, Ashwin 10-3-28-1.

Result: India won by an innings and 202 runs Series: India won the three-match series 3-0

South Africa, made to follow on for the second straight test in the series, had managed to escape a defeat inside three days on Monday, but their final two batsmen lasted only two overs on Tuesday before they were shot out for 133 in Ranchi.

Bowling the second over on day four, debutant spinner Shahbaz Nadeem dismissed Theunis de Bruyn and Lungi Ngidi in successive deliveries to seal India's emphatic victory by an innings and 202 runs.

De Bruyn, playing as a substitute to opener Dean Elgar, who had suffered a concussion on Monday, made 30 before being caught behind off Nadeem before South Africa's innings folded in bizarre fashion.

Ngidi swung hard at the next delivery, hitting Anrich Nortje on the wrist at the non-striker's end and Nadeem did not even need to move as the ball looped up for him to take a simple catch.

India, who beat West Indies 2-0 in their first series under the new World Test Championship, top the table with 240 points after five wins in a row. "Amazing, you guys have seen from the outside the way we've been playing and the way we have just come of age as a side," India captain Virat Kohli said after the victory.

"Making things happen on pitches that don't seem to offer much is something ... I'm really proud of." Once South Africa had conceded a first innings lead of 335 runs, and were made to follow on for the second straight test in the series, their defeat was always on the cards against an Indian team who had secured their 11th home series win in Pune.

"It's a remarkable team and it's tough to beat them at home," South Africa captain Faf du Plessis conceded after the defeat. "I thought they were ruthless in every aspect of the game. "They were better than us in the spin department, fast bowling department, batting department, even the fielding. We were dominated



match between India and South Africa at the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) stadium in Ranchi yesterday. — AFP

pretty much all through the test series."

India will be particularly pleased about Rohit's effortless transition into a Test opener after struggling lower in the batting order in his stop-start Test career. The limited-overs stalwart, the only batsman with three 200-plus scores in one-dayers, was adjudged man-ofthe-match for his 212, his maiden test double hundred, in India's first innings total of 497-9 declared.

Rohit also bagged the man-of-the-series award for his 529 runs from four innings, which included three 100-plus scores. "I'm thankful to the management for the opportunity at the opening slot," Rohit said after collecting his awards. "I can take a lot of positives about how to counter the new ball. The new ball is always a threat, and to be able to counter that will be a huge positive. I can take my game forward from that." — Reuters

Patriots stay unbeaten with rout of Jets

LOS ANGELES: Tom Brady and the New England Patriots kept their record blemish free on Monday night, carving up the New York Jets 33-0 to win their seventh straight to start the NFL season.

The Patriots are rolling along with an explosive offence and a stingy defence and are now 7-0 for



Teenage Pakistan fast bowlers aim to rattle Australia

LAHORE: Pakistan's rookie pace duo of Musa Khan and Naseem Shah have promised to rattle Australia with their speed when they travel Down Under next month for a two-test series and three Twenty20 Internationals. Seen as two of the fastest bowlers in Pakistan's domestic circuit, 19-year-old Musa was included in both squads on Monday, while 16-year-old Naseem has been named in the test attack featuring a third teenager in

just the third time in franchise history.

"We had good execution. That's what you need to sustain long drives," Brady said. "Our defence is playing great football. They cover the rush, stop the run and make critical plays. It is awesome to watch."

New England kept pace with the San Francisco 49ers (6-0) as the NFL's only undefeated teams.

The bumbling Jets didn't do themselves any favours gaining just 154 total vards in losing their eighth straight game to New England. Quarterback Sam Darnold had five turnovers and threw four interceptions at MetLife Stadium.

"Obviously, that was brutal," said head coach Adam Gase. "We didn't do anything right. Just a bad performance. We can't play that way against these guys. It is just not good enough. We got a lot of work to do.'

New England also swept their AFC East rivals in the regular season series for the fourth consecutive year and Brady is now 29-6 against New York in the regular season.

Brady threw a touchdown pass to Phillip

EAST RUTHERFORD: Trumaine Johnson #22 of the New York Jets tackles Benjamin Watson #84 of the New England Patriots as he carries the ball during the first half of their game at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. — AFP

Dorsett to improve to 17-7 in Monday night games, including 3-0 against New York. Sony Michel finished with a career high three rushing touchdowns

The Patriots forced six turnovers as Devin McCourty, Duron Harmon, Stephon Gilmore and Terrence Brooks all grabbed interceptions to increase New England's NFL-leading count to 18.

in their last two Monday night clashes. In 2010,

New England clobbered the Jets 45-3. Darnold missed three games with mononucleosis then returned to lead the Jets to a 24-22 win over Dallas last Sunday. Darnold's performance against the Cowboys earned him the AFC offensive player

worst four interceptions. — AFP

of the week honours. But he was stumbled mightily coming off that game against New England, completing 11 of 32 passes for 86 yards. He also matched a career-The Patriots have now outscored the Jets 78-3

Japanese swim coach quits **Bangladesh over** punishment of juniors

DHAKA: The Japanese head coach of Bangladesh's national swimming federation has quit after alleging that junior swimmers were forced to do punishment exercises in the blazing sun for using their phones too much.

Announcing his resignation on Facebook, Takeo Inoke, who was hired in August ahead of the South Asian Games in December, said he had "zero tolerance" for physical punishment. Inoki said that a group of juniors were given "meaningless physical exercise" in temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) on Sunday for breaching rules limiting their mobile phone usage.

Forced to wear long sleeves and tracksuit bottoms in the hot sun, the children had to run, do somersaults and frog jumps on a hard tiled floor. One of them then collapsed to the ground.

The girl was left lying for about 10 minutes and when Inoki raised his concerns, the other coaches "were laughing and saying that she was acting and we should leave her there.'

Eventually she was brought to a shaded area but Inoki said he was told there was no ice and no phone to call an ambulance. Finally she was taken away "to somewhere" by van, he said.

Inoki said he would notify FINA, the world swimming federation, and that he hoped this "sad incident would became (a) critical tuning point into building a new competitive swimming organization and structure in Bangladesh." Bangladesh Swimming Federation chief M.B. Saif said they were "surprised" at the resignation. "The swimmers are allowed to keep a phone with them only one day a week. They broke the rule and were punished. Usually these punishments are not very harsh," he said, adding a probe has been ordered.

Physical punishment of children and teenagers is widespread in Bangladesh although corporal punishment has technically been banned since 1995. A study by UNICEF in 2009 year found that nine out of 10 children in Bangladesh are physically beaten in school, with seven out of 10 reporting they receive similar treatment at home. — AFP

Epic pitching lineups lead Astros, Nats into World Series

HOUSTON: Two of the greatest pitching rotations in baseball playoff history will duel when the 115th World Series starts today with Houston's Gerrit Cole and Washington's Max Scherzer on the mound.

Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship showdown is the first since 1945 to feature six of the 20 pitchers with the lowest earned-run averages from the regular season.

Cole, Justin Verlander and Zack Greinke ignite the Astros, who seek a second title in three seasons, while Scherzer, Steven Strasburg and Patrick Corbin power Washington, which will try to bring the US capital its first crown since 1924.

'Both sides have got unbelievable starting pitching so it's going it to be a lot of fun," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "I just want our club to go out there and play the game like we're capable of playing, and focus on the little things."

It's the first MLB playoff series to feature five of the 10 major league strikeouts leaders, paced by Cole and Verlander and joined by the Nats' trio. It's only the second time since 1930 that the two teams with the most strikeouts from starters meet in the World Series.

"There are a lot of really good starting pitchers on the other side of the field, guys that kind of emulate the role in terms of longevity, durability, creativeness, tenacity, grit," Cole said. "Just a pleasure to share the field with them on the greatest stage."

The Astros have won 16 consecutive games when Cole has started. The 29-year-old right-hander hasn't lost a game in five months and has struck out 39.7 percent of all batters he has faced in the season and playoffs, a major league record. - Reuters

Shaheen Afridi. "I am not thinking about bowling to the likes of David Warner or Steve Smith, rather I want to make an impression with my pace and penetration," Musa said in a news release issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board yesterday.

"My strength is bowling fast. Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar are my fast bowling idols and I want to replicate their performances and instil fear in batsmen like they did." The inclusion of Naseem and Musa is seen as a bold move by head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq, who wants the team to play aggressive cricket under new test skipper Azhar Ali.

Naseem, who has already built a domestic reputation for his sharp bouncers, said that on his maiden call-up he also hopes to have an immediate impact. "I aim to make an impression with my speed and swing if given a chance in the tests against Australia," he said.

The conditions in Australia help fast bowlers, my aim is to make maximum use of the conditions and give a tough time to the home side. Playing on hard and bouncy pitches will be a great experience and a learning curve for me.'

Beginning on Nov. 3, Pakistan will play three Twenty20 Internationals in Australia before the tests in Brisbane and Adelaide, the last being a day-night affair. — Reuters

Corruption claim deepens Bangladesh cricket crisis

DHAKA: A former Bangladesh cricket chief said yesterday that match fixing was widespread in the country, deepening a crisis sparked by a strike by top players over wages.

Former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a British-educated lawyer, businessman and now member of parliament, said corruption was deep-rooted at the governing body.

"@BCBtigers is only national sporting body in the world that promotes institutionalised #matchfixing, #corruption," he said on his Twitter account, adding: "Unbelievable!!"

"Flagged this issue many times myself," he said. National captain Shakib Al Hasan raised concerns about corruption in domestic cricket on Monday when announcing that most of the country's professional players had started a strike to press for better pay and benefits.

The stoppage threatens a Bangladesh tour of India next month. "We all know the sorry state of our first, second and third division cricket," Shakib said. "A lot of the times we know which team will win and which team will lose before the match starts. The strike comes amid growing criticism of the BCB from cricketers who say the governing body is not sharing enough of its growing wealth.

Local cricketers want Bangladesh players and coaches to be paid more in line with foreign hires. They have demanded a 50 percent pay hike for firstclass players, the expansion of national pay contracts, increased match fees in domestic games and better benefits for support staff. Allegations of match fixing and corruption in Bangladesh cricket are not new, and in 2014 the entire Bangladesh Premier League T20 contest was suspended under a graft cloud.

In another notorious case in 2017, authorities banned a bowler for 10 years after he delivered a succession of wides and no-balls to concede 92 runs to deliberately lose a match in what his team called a protest against biased umpiring. That Dhaka League Second Division game raised suspicions after a Lalmatia bowler sent down 13 wides and three no-balls in the first over — all of which raced to the boundary — costing his side 80 runs.

Lalmatia had earlier been dismissed for just 88 off 14 overs before opponents Axiom reached 92-0 off just four legal deliveries. - AFP



Sports

Rising Chelsea stars face acid test against youth kings Ajax

Blues are on a five-match winning streak in all-competitions

AMSTERDAM: Chelsea's young guns will test their run of form at one of the homes of youth development today as they attempt to stop an Ajax team on course to replicate last season's thrilling Champions League run. The Blues are on a five-match winning streak in all-competitions after beating Newcastle United 1-0 at the weekend but come up against the Group H leaders in Amsterdam Ajax are averaging over three goals a game at home and abroad and are hungry for European success after semifinal heartache last season.

Fikayo Tomori, Ross Barkley, Mason Mount, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Tammy Abraham all started Saturday's win at Stamford Bridge, the first time since 2013 five English players made the London club's starting XI. They second on three points in Group H after a wobbly opening two games in the Champions League, with a pair of matches coming up against on-fire Ajax that could decide their European destiny.

"These two games against Ajax are really big because they're such a strong team ... The movement of the team and the way they play football will be a big test for us," coach Frank Lampard told the Chelsea website on Monday.

Abraham has stolen the headlines with eight goals in nine league appearances and the opener in Chelsea's 2-1 win in Lille, and Lampard called the 22-year-old a "sponge" for his capacity to learn. "He wants to listen, to get better, to score more goals, improve his game and help his team-mates. He's got the beautiful base of that in terms of coaching," added Lampard.

However four of those Saturday starters are academy products who have flourished under new boss Lampard, who has dealt with the loss of Eden Hazard and a UEFAimposed transfer ban by pushing the Premier League club's youth products to centre stage.

Hudson-Odoi, who recently returned from a long-term ankle injury, was a constant menace with his bursts down the flank and it was the 18-year-old who teed up Marcos Alonso for the winning goal from a match in which Chelsea had 16 shots at goal and 72 per cent possession. It was also just the second time this season that Chelsea kept a clean sheet, and they did it without the injured Andreas Christensen and Antonio Rudiger, with 21-yearold Tomori proving an increasingly solid presence at the back. Rudiger and Christensen are two of a string of Chelsea absentees which includes midfield lynchpin N'Golo Kante and another academy product Ruben Loftus-Cheek, with Barkley and Cesar Azpilicueta also doubts for Ajax.

Ajax's remarkable form has led to rumours that coach Erik ten Hag is a potential Bayern Munich target, rumours that the 49-year-old refused to play down on Monday as Nico Kovac comes under fire in Germany.

Despite losing midfield dynamo Frenkie De Jong to Barcelona and defensive rock Matthijs de Ligt to Juventus, they are top of the Eredivisie and unbeaten after scoring 31 times in their opening 10 games, three points ahead of PSV Eindhoven and Vitesse Arnhem.

In fact Erik ten Hag's side have hardly felt the effects of their departures, as the rising stars of Dutch football struggle to impose themselves in new countries.

They are also top of Group H after beating both Lille and Valencia 3-0 with the same brand of thrilling football that captured Europe's imaginations last season.

However, although they reemerged as a European force thanks to their academy talent, their star turns this campaign are all outside discoveries, with Hakim Ziyech, David Neres and Dusan Tadic all in fine form and new



AMSTERDAM: Ajax's Dutch defender Donny van de Beek (C) reacts during a training session, in Amsterdam, yesterday on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match between Ajax Amsterdam and Chelsea. — AFP

signing Quincy Promes causing havoc from midfield. The 26-year-old Ziyech's incredible strike sent Ajax on their way at the Mestalla in their last Champions League match, while Promes, 27, scored in both Group matches

and six times in the league.

Even 36-year-old Klaas-Jan Huntelaar is on fire, with five league goals in as many appearances, as they hunt their first European trophy in 25 years. —AFP

'Gentle giant' Lukaku thriving at Inter Milan

MILAN: Italian coach Antonio Conte has made his "gentle giant" Romelu Lukaku the focus of Inter Milan's attack this season where the striker has found his scoring touch again after leaving Manchester United.

The Belgian got off the mark in his first league match against Lecce and has since scored five goals in eight Serie A games since departing Old Trafford under a cloud last summer. The 26-year-old scored a brace last weekend against Sassuolo to keep Inter second in Serie A, one point behind defending champions Juventus, after eight games. Inter gambled big by investing around 80 million euros (\$89 million) in Lukaku to restore the pairing he composed under the Red Devils' jersey with Alexis Sanchez. Chilean Sanchez made just four appearances for Inter before being ruled out for three months with an ankle injury. But Lukaku has still impressed with a rich vein of form alongside Argentine Lautaro Martinez, who also scored a double at the weekend against Sassuolo. "We're working with Romelu to get to know one another better," said Martinez. "We're looking to improve our understanding to help Inter to win."

The Belgian's high energy levels and sharp play are in contrast to United where he spent two seasons, scoring 42 goals in 96 appearances, but just 15 last season. He was never far from fan criticism, over his weight and professionalism, as he fell down the pecking order once Ole Gunnar Solskjaer replaced Jose Mourinho.

Hopes had been high that Lukaku could spearhead a new era for United when he joined from Everton for £75 million (\$91 million) in 2017, but he left Manchester having Chelsea before the Belgian's move from Everton to United. "Lukaku entered the Inter world in the best of ways, with great humility, he's a good giant, a giant with a smile," said Conte, who is trying to break Juventus's stranglehold in Italy and win Inter's first title since their treble under Mourinho in 2010. Despite being targetted by racist chants during a league game in Cagliari, Lukaku has no regrets about choosing Italy, and above all Conte. "Between him and I there is a very strong relationship. I'm happy. At the age of 26, I want a coach like this, who helps me every day and gives me motivation," said Lukaku.

"He's the best manager in the world." His move to Italy was also eased by the presence of his brother Jordan Lukaku, 25, who has played as a defender for Lazio since 2016. Former Inter Milan star Samuel Eto'o has praised Lukaku for how he has adapted.

"We played together at Everton, he was already big and strong even though he is like a baby, but he is very intelligent and on the issue of racism, he said important things,"

FA chairman wants concussion substitutes in football

LONDON: Football Association chairman Greg Clarke wants concussion substitutes introduced "as quickly as possible" following a landmark report showing a link between football and dementia. A Glasgow University study shows former footballers are approximately three-and-ahalf times more likely to die from neurodegenerative disease than the general population. The report, released on Monday, was commissioned by England's Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) and assessed the medical records of 7,676 men who played professional football in Scotland between 1900 and 1976. Clarke will present the findings of the study to the FIFA Council in Shanghai this week. The FA chairman said the game needed to understand whether repeated heading of the ball, or a failure to treat concussion properly, were contributory factors in dementia risk. "One of the things we're pushing on, and I've spoken to FIFA and UEFA about this, is to introduce concussion substitutes as quickly as possible," he told a committee of British lawmakers. "If anyone has a head injury you don't just want to have a doctor looking at them quickly and saying 'you're OK' or 'you're not OK' — you can send someone else on to play while that player is assessed to make sure we move away from time pressure on doctors to make really important health decisions." Football's lawmaking body, the International Football Association Board (IFAB), will discuss concussion at a meeting of its football and technical advisory panels in Zurich on Wednesday. Outgoing PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor has been strongly criticised over a lack of action, 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. Former England international Chris Sutton, whose father suffers from dementia, accused Taylor of letting players down.--AFP

It followed his double as Belgium sealed their Euro 2020 ticket, extending his national all-time record to 51 goals in 83 appearances. Conte's side host Group F leaders Borussia Dortmund in their third Champions League game today having been held 1-1 to Slavia Prague and losing 2-1 to Barcelona, with Lukaku missing the trip to Spain with a thigh injury.

20 failed to win a trophy.

"At the end, I thought it was better for me to move on and try different things," said Lukaku, who took the number nine jersey of former Inter captain Mauro Icardi, who fell out of favour and moved to Paris Saint-Germain.

Conte had been a long-time admirer of Lukaku, who started his career at Anderlect, and tried to sign him for

said the Cameroonian.

"Some players think they are stars and others feel like normal people, he's in the second category, and you'll see how many goals he's going to score." Ex-United teammate Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who won three Serie A titles with Inter Milan, added: "Lukaku has this mad hunger to prove himself to the world and I'm sure he will do well at Inter too."—AFP

Blades burst Arsenal bubble as Mousset strikes

SHEFFIELD: Unai Emery claimed Arsenal were unlucky to suffer a shock 1-O defeat at Sheffield United as Lys Mousset condemned the Gunners to their latest away-day flop on Monday. Emery's side are without an away Premier League win since the opening weekend of the season after failing to rise to the challenge posed by fired up United at Bramall Lane.

French forward Mousset, making his first Premier League start for United, punished poor Arsenal defending in the first half to score his second goal since signing from Bournemouth. That was enough to send Arsenal crashing to just their second defeat of the season, ending an eightgame unbeaten run in all competitions.

The north Londoners sit fifth in the league after a powder-puff performance that showed Emery's rebuilding job is still a work in progress. But Emery insisted Arsenal deserved at least a draw and criticised the failure to give a penalty for a foul on Sokratis.

"We didn't deserve to lose. We can speak about two key moments, one is the goal and the other is a clear penalty with Sokratis. With VAR, the foul should have been reviewed, but we have to accept it," Emery said after Arsenal's winless run in the city of Sheffield extended to 26 years. "We had more chances than them. If we scored one goal then we could have controlled better." Asked if Arsenal have a mental block in away games, Emery said: "We prepare for the matches the same home and away and think to win.

"We deserved more but they are a very strong defensive team." Under Emery, Arsenal have kept just two clean sheets in 24 away league matches and once again they wilted too easily in a hostile environment.

"We conceded a lot of corners in the first half and they scored the goal. It can happen. Above all, we have to improve by not allowing balls like that," Emery said. "We are playing some young players who are taking experience but the most important thing is to win."

This was a signature win for the Blades after last season's promotion and they sit proudly in ninth place, just three points behind Arsenal.

With the Bramall Lane crowd in full voice, a bruising clash got off to a contentious start when Sokratis appealed in vain for a penalty after having his shirt tugged by John Egan. Emery's men should have taken the lead when Sead Kolasinac curled a perfect low cross towards Nicolas Pepe in the six-yard box, but the unmarked Ivory Coast winger completely miscued his shot.

It was the latest in a growing list of disappointing displays from Pepe, who has struggled to make an impact since his club record move from Lille in the close-season.

United made the most of that escape as Arsenal's long-



SHEFFIELD: Arsenal's Spanish midfielder Dani Ceballos (L) has an unsuccessful shot under pressure from Sheffield United's Irish defender Enda Stevens (R) during the English Premier League football match between Sheffield United and Arsenal at Bramall Lane in Sheffield, northern England. — AFP

running set-piece issues resurfaced in the 30th minute.

Oliver Norwood's corner reached Jack O'Connell at the far post and he rose above Matteo Guendouzi to head down to Mousset, who poked home from virtually on the line after Granit Xhaka failed to react to the danger.

Damningly, Arsenal have conceded 22 league goals from set plays since the start of last season, with only Watford (25) and Everton (24) allowing more.—AFP

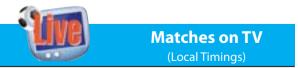
Tanzanian star Samatta has sights set on Liverpool as Salah fights for fitness

GENK: While Liverpool hope to have Mohamed Salah back alongside Sadio Mane in attack in time for today's Champions League meeting with Genk in Belgium, their opponents have their own African forward who is a superstar in his home country.

Mbwana Ally Samatta's 23 league goals last season helped fire the unfashionable club from an old mining hub in the Dutch-speaking north of Belgium to the league title and a return to Europe's leading club competition. The 26-year-old then became the first Tanzanian to play in the Champions League and marked the occasion by scoring on an otherwise miserable night for Genk as they lost 6-2 in Salzburg in their Group E opener. Since then they have held Napoli to a 0-0 draw at home, a result which gives an unfancied side hope they can spring a surprise against the reigning European champions.

"Some people thought it might be very difficult for us against Napoli but we could have won that game so we will see. We will give everything at home," said Genk coach Felice Mazzu at the weekend.

Just as Genk have brought through and sold on the likes of Thibaut Courtois, Kevin De Bruyne, Kalidou Koulibaly, Christian Benteke and Wilfred Ndidi in recent years - Divock Origi also spent time here as a youngster — so key members of last season's title-winning side were allowed to leave. However, Samatta stayed despite interest from around Europe, including a reported 10 million-euro (\$11.2m) offer from Dynamo Moscow. "He is a complete forward, good with both feet, technical, skilful," said Mazzu in an interview with French magazine So Foot. The former Simba and TP Mazembe star took the Ebony Shoe prize for the best player of African origin in Belgium last season, succeeding the likes of Romelu Lukaku, Vincent Kompany and Marouane Fellaini. He described winning the league as "maybe the best night of my life so far".—AFP



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

RB Leipzig v Zenit St. Petersburg	19:55
beIN SPORTS	
Ajax Amsterdam v Chelsea FC	19:55
beIN SPORTS	
SK Slavia Prague v FC Barcelona	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Internazionale Milano v BV Borussia Dortmund	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
KRC Genk v Liverpool	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Red Bull Salzburg v SSC Napoli	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
LOSC Lille v Valencia C.F	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
SL Benfica v Olympique Lyonnais	22:00
beIN SPORTS	



Jackets edge Leafs on OT penalty

Avalanche fall to Blues as Rantanen exits



TORONTO: Ryan Murray #27 of the Columbus Blue Jackets looks to get a puck at Frederik Andersen #31 of the Toronto Maple Leafs during an NHL game at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. — AFP

TOTONTO: Gustav Nyquist scored on a penalty shot at 1:57 of overtime, and the visiting Columbus Blue Jackets defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday. The penalty shot was awarded after Toronto's Mitch Marner hooked Nyquist on a breakaway. Nyquist responded by scoring his second goal of the season. Riley Nash, Pierre-Luc Dubois and Alexander Wennberg also scored for Columbus. Nick Foligno had two assists. It was the seventh straight game decided by one goal for the Blue Jackets, who improved to 2-2 in overtime this season. They lost in overtime Friday and Saturday. Auston Matthews had a goal and an assist for the Maple Leafs while Kasperi Kapanen and William Nylander added a goal each.

Jake Muzzin and Andreas Johnsson had two assists apiece.

FLYERS 6, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2

Michael Raffl scored two goals and added one assist as host Philadelphia ended a four-game losing streak by trouncing Vegas. Oskar Lindblom and Travis Konecny each scored one goal and added one assist, and Kevin Hayes and Matt Niskanen added a goal apiece for the Flyers, who scored the game's first five goals. Flyers goaltender Brian Elliott stopped 33 shots, while Golden Knights counterpart Oscar Danks struggled despite making 31 saves. Jonathan Marchessault and Reilly Smith scored the goals for Vegas, which had won four of five entering this game.

BLUES 3, AVALANCHE 1

Vladimir Tarasenko scored a goal and set up two others as host St. Louis handed Colorado its first regulation loss of the season. The defeat could prove costly for the Avalanche. Top-line winger Mikko Rantanen exited the game with a left leg injury in the second period, and he needed help getting back to the Colorado dressing room. Brayden Schenn and David Perron also scored for the Blues, who snapped a four-game losing streak. Goaltender Jordan Binnington stopped 17 of 18 shots. Nathan MacKinnon scored for the Avalanche, extending his season-opening scoring streak to nine games (five goals, seven assists).

STARS 2, SENATORS 1

Joe Pavelski scored a rare power-play goal, and backup goaltender Anton Khudobin was solid as Dallas earned its first home win of the season at Ottawa's expense. Radek Faksa also scored for the Stars, who outshot Ottawa 43-20 to improve to 3-7-1 and win back-to-back games for the first time this season. They were 0-2-1 at home before finally breaking though one night after several players, including stars Tyler Seguin and Ben Bishop, sustained damage to their homes from a tornado that swept through the north Dallas area. With Bishop not in the lineup, Khudobin, who had yielded 10 goals while losing his first three starts of 2019-20, needed to make only 19 saves. He improved to 8-0-1 in his career against Ottawa. — Reuters

Rapinoe named but Modric, Neymar miss out on Ballon D'Or shortlist

PARIS: While Megan Rapinoe is the leading candidate for the second ever women's Ballon D'Or, the holder of the men's award, Luka Modric, and the world's most expensive player Neymar missed out as France Football unveiled nominees in four categories on Monday.

Modric, fresh from guiding Croatia to a World Cup final, broke the 11-year Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi, who are both included, stranglehold on the men's award last year. Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, who cost the French club 222 million euros (\$247 million) in 2017, failed to make the 30-man shortlist after a year overshadowed by injury, suspension and controversy for both club and country.

Messi has just collected the FIFA Best award, as did Rapinoe, which split from the Ballon D'Or in 2016. Rapinoe dominated the Women's World Cup, on and off the field, in the summer. She was joint top scorer and was voted player of the tournament as she led the United States to victory in France in July.

The 34-year-old Reign FC playmaker, already a campaigner for LGBT rights and gender equality, made headlines during the tournament by publicly taking on US President Donald Trump.

Last year, Norwegian Ada Hegerberg was the first women's winner. The Lyon forward did not play in the World Cup but is among the 20 nominees as are stars who were present at the competition, such as Australia striker Sam Kerr, England's Lucy Bronze

and France captain Amandine Henry.

Virgil Van Dijk, 28, who has had an impressive six months with Liverpool lifting the Champions League, could become a rare defensive winner of the men's award. Fabio Cannavaro was the last defender to win in 2006, and only the fourth since the award began in 1956.

Another nominee, Kylian Mbappe, the top goal scorer in Ligue 1 last season, would represent a genuine change of the guard. The Paris Saint-Germain striker is inelgible to defend his Kopa trophy for the best player under 21 last year as he celebrates his 21st birthday on December 20.

This year also sees the introduction of the Yashin trophy, named after the only goalkeeper to win the Ballon D'Or, Lev Yashin of the Soviet Union, to give that ignored minority a chance to get their hands on a prize of their own. The award winners will be unveiled on December 2 during a ceremony in Paris after a voting process including journalists from 180 different countries. — AFP

Asian football final moved from North Korea after blacked-out match

KUALA LUMPUR: The final of an Asian club tournament has been moved from Pyongyang to Shanghai, football officials said yesterday, a week after North and South Korea played out a surreal World Cup qualifier in an empty stadium. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said it had been "compelled" to shift the November 2 AFC Cup match between North Korea's 4.25 SC and Al Ahed from Lebanon to a "neutral venue" due to logistical and other issues.

Its statement did not mention the inter-Korean showdown in Pyongyang but said that commercial partners had warned of challenges in broadcasting the highly anticipated final of Asia's second-tier continental competition. Last week's match — a historic encounter between two countries still technically at war — took place with no live broadcast and no foreign media in attendance, and with FIFA president Gianni Infantino one of just a handful of spectators.

Infantino said he was "disappointed" after attending the match and "surprised" by the absence of fans and lack of media access.

Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min described the game, which ended 0-0, as "very aggressive" and one South Korean official likened it to warfare.

Last week's debacle raised doubts over the prospects for further North-South sporting co-operation, once a driver of nuclear diplomacy.

The South's team had expected large crowds and until the last minute had no idea that even North Korean spectators would be absent. —AFP