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Amir to open new Assembly term; 2 grillings on agenda

Legal committee declares premier's grilling unconstitutional

Amir receives message from Saudi King



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday visiting Saudi State Minister and cabinet member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud and his accompanying delegation. The Saudi minister conveyed a verbal message from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on brotherly

ties between the two countries and means to develop them on all levels. In return, HH the Amir voiced utmost appreciation for the Saudi monarch and for Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, as well as everlasting prosperity for the brotherly Saudi people. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah opens the new term of the National Assembly today amid what appears to be strained Assembly-government relations after MPs filed to grill three ministers. The Amir, in his first public appearance after undergoing successful medical tests in the United States, is expected to address domestic, regional and international issues and urge cooperation between the government and lawmakers in the last term before general polls.

The opening ceremony will also hear speeches by the speaker and the prime minister, then move to debate at least two of three grillings submitted against the ministers of finance and public works. A third grilling against the interior minister has been listed on the Nov 12 session agenda but could be brought forward if the minister and the Assembly agree. The ministers are accused of committing administrative and financial violations.

If enough time remains, the Assembly will then elect its various committees amid expectations that the government and its supporters, who enjoy a comfortable majority, will consolidate their grip on a number of key panels, especially the financial, legal and interior committees. Other committees to be elected include the health and labor, public utilities, housing and petitions panels.

The new term is expected to debate a crucial legislation to find a solution for the decades-old problem of some 120,000 stateless people or bedoons, who or their forefathers have been living in the country for over 70 years without citizenship. Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem said he has completed a comprehensive law that would provide lasting solutions, insisting that there will be no bedoon problem after one year if the law is implemented correctly. He said that he decided to delay filing the bill for a week to allow other MPs to study it and submit proposals.

And since this term is the last before parliamentary elections, populist demands by MPs seeking re-election are expected to rise sharply. An example of such demands was the approval on Sunday by the legal and legislative committee of five proposals to resolve the consumer loan problem at the expense of public coffers.

In another development, the legal and legislative committee yesterday voted to declare that a grilling filed by opposition MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari against the prime minister is not in line with the constitution. It was the committee's second such decision during the previous term. Kandari said the decision of the committee had been highly anticipated, alleging the grilling was referred to the committee to make such a decision to prevent the grilling of the premier.

News in brief

Clampdown on drones

KUWAIT: The ministry of commerce and industry urged all drone importers and outlets licensed by the interior ministry to register all buyers' civil ID and mobile phone numbers. The ministry stressed importers need prior interior ministry licenses to import drones, adding that a decision had been made to ban the import of remote control-operated drones equipped with video recording or communication devices without interior ministry authorization. — A Saleh

Floods kill 7 in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: Seven people have been killed and 11 injured in floods after heavy rain lashed northeastern parts of Saudi Arabia, Al-Ekhabriya state television reported yesterday. Rescue services in the northeastern city of Hafer al-Batin, about 100 km southwest of Kuwait, said that 16 people were forced to evacuate their homes. Seven affected by the rain were provided with shelter, it added. Schools in Hafer al-Batin suspended classes yesterday due to the weather. In January, 12 people were killed in floods in Saudi Arabia. Ten died in Tabuk, one in Madinah and another in a northern border area. — AFP

Top executives expected at FII

RIYADH: Top finance executives and political leaders have converged on Saudi capital Riyadh for a Davos-style investment forum. US officials and the heads of giant banks, top asset management firms and major sovereign wealth funds top the guest list at the three-day Future Investment Forum (FII) that starts today. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, whose countries are key emerging markets, are set to speak at the summit along with King Abdullah II of Jordan and four African leaders. — AFP

67-year-old gives birth

BEIJING: A 67-year-old woman has given birth in China, a hospital said yesterday, with the parents claiming they are the country's oldest couple to conceive a baby naturally. The woman, surnamed Tian, delivered a healthy girl by Caesarean section on Friday. Zaozhuang city's Maternity and Child Health Care Hospital told AFP. The Global Times reported the new baby girl was called "Tianci", meaning "gift from heaven". The Jinan Times said Tian already had two children, including a son born in 1977, two years before China imposed a one-child policy to control its burgeoning population. — AFP

Tharoor expounds on politics, diplomacy, literary escapades

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: In an inclusive interview with Kuwait Times yesterday, prominent Indian MP and Congress party leader Dr Shashi Tharoor said his party is now recovering from the shock it sustained in the parliamentary elections earlier this year. He added recent assembly election results from Maharashtra and Haryana states make things "more hopeful for the party" and point the way forward.

Tharoor, a former undersecretary general at the

United Nations, also recalled his UN days as an international career diplomat and fondly remembered his interactions with Kuwaiti diplomats there. Tharoor arrived in Kuwait yesterday to deliver a keynote speech at the 16th anniversary of the founding of the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) Kuwait at Radisson Blu Hotel.

"We were certainly stunned by the defeat and as a result we neglected to do some of the things we needed to do in the first few months, particularly in the immediate aftermath of the elections, which is a somewhat difficult thing," Tharoor replied to a question on the chaos the Congress party plunged into following the elections in India.

"I think Rahul Gandhi stepping down as Congress president actually was a bit of a surprise, because normally, political leaders in our country have a habit of saying 'these are parts of the ups and downs in democracy

Continued on Page 24



Shashi Tharoor



Jihad Azour

Unemployment fuels unrest in Arab states: IMF

DUBAI: Unemployment and sluggish economic growth are fuelling social tension and popular protests in several Arab countries, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday. The unrest is in turn contributing to slower growth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, alongside global trade tensions, oil price volatility and a dis-

orderly Brexit process, the IMF said in a report on the regional economic outlook. Earlier this month it lowered the 2019 forecast for the region - taking in the Arab nations and Iran - to a meager 0.1 percent from 1.1 percent last year.

The IMF slashed its outlook for the region's three largest economies - Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. The risks around the forecast of earlier this month "are skewed to the downside and are highly dependent on global factors," the IMF said in its report yesterday. "The level of growth that countries in the region are having is below what is needed to address unemployment," said Jihad Azour, the IMF's direc-

tor for the Middle East and Central Asia.

"We are in a region where the rate of unemployment at the youth level exceeds 25-30 percent and this requires growth to be higher by 1-2 percent" in order to make a dent in joblessness, Azour told AFP in an interview. The IMF report said that the high unemployment was worsening social tensions in Arab countries. "Unemployment averages 11 percent throughout the region versus seven percent across other emerging market and developing economies," it said. "Women and young people are particularly likely to be out of work, with more than 18 percent of women... without jobs in 2018."

Continued on Page 24

Trump booed at World Series baseball game

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump was booed by baseball fans as he attended a World Series game with his wife Melania in Washington Sunday. Trump attended the tie-breaking game five of the series on the day his administration announced the death, long-sought by the Pentagon, of Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. After the game's third inning, the stadium's video display showed military members in attendance - but then quickly cut to Trump.

The cheering crowd immediately switched to loud and sustained boos. When the display cut back to the soldiers, the booing died down, but fans soon took up a chorus of "Lock him up!" - a play on the chant frequently heard at pro-Trump rallies against Hillary Clinton, but now often used against the president. Demonstrators sitting behind the home plate also unfurled "veterans for impeachment" banners during the game, in reference to the House of Representatives investigation into whether Trump abused power by withholding military aid to Ukraine.

Continued on Page 24



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump attends Game Five of the 2019 World Series between the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park on Monday. — AFP

Local

Kuwait's FM highlights preventive diplomacy's role in avoiding disputes

Deputy FM lauds Kuwaiti-UN cooperation for serving humanity

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah confirmed the importance of the preventive diplomacy to stop the eruption of disputes and conflicts, and enhance dialogue and mediation amongst countries. This came in a speech delivered by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled in a ceremony on Sunday held by the office of the United Nations Secretary General Representative and Resident Coordinator to Kuwait Tarek El-Sheikh. The minister pointed to the current cooperation between the UN and Kuwait and linking between the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and Kuwait's 2035 vision. Since attaining membership to the United Nations in 1963, Kuwait has been keen on partaking effectively in the UN's activities and events, he told the ceremony. This comes in line with Kuwait's realization of major responsibilities and duties facing the UN, he added. Throughout its current non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council and in support of other members, Kuwait has highlighted those affected by the ongoing humanitarian disasters all over the world, he said.

Kuwait renews UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' speech on the importance of preventive diplomacy to avoid conflicts and disputes, and strengthen the role of dialogue and mediation, he noted. While pre-

siding over UN Security Council sessions last June, Kuwait held a meeting to discuss preventing the eruption of disputes in order to enhance the UN Secretary General's vision at the UN Security Council's meetings, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said. He further noted that Kuwait recalls with pride the UN strong and historical stances, in particular the Security Council and its role in maintaining international peace and security. Kuwait also recalls the UN Security Council's role in the liberation of the country in 1991 that reflects the current varied and close cooperation between the state and the UN, he mentioned.

One of the most outstanding cooperation is the linkage between the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and Kuwait 2035 vision, he said. He pointed out that Kuwait's 2030 vision affirms its full commitment to partnership and international solidarity within the framework of the policies of the country's government in the short, medium and long term to achieve the highest sustainable development gains. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled finally expressed appreciations to the efforts exerted to make a successful event.

Serving humanity

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Al-Jarallah hailed Kuwait-UN cooperation and its crucial role in promoting world peace and serving humanity.



KUWAIT: Officials pose for a group photo during a ceremony held by the UN office in Kuwait to celebrate the UN Day. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

This continuous and fruitful cooperation has all support from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti leadership at all levels, Jarallah told reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony held by the UN in Kuwait to celebrate the UN Day. He pointed that Kuwait is keen on participating in the UN activities out of a deep belief in the great role it plays. Kuwait is very proud of this

effective role, he said.

In the meantime, Tarek El-Sheikh shed light on the work of UN teams in Kuwait. They are working through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to improve the role of women in society and boost entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Kuwait University and research centers on women's affairs, he said. He noted that the UNDP-Kuwait has been cooperat-

ing with state institutions to develop many important strategies. Kuwait and UN are doing a great job in the humanitarian action through cooperation between Kuwaiti parties and the International Organization of Migration and other UN concerned bodies, he clarified. El-Sheikh expressed gratitude to Kuwait for its fruitful and constructive cooperation with the UN in various domains. — KUNA

Kuwait's global aid efforts unparalleled, says Deputy FM

KUWAIT: Kuwait has made unmatched contributions towards global economic growth, its deputy foreign minister said yesterday, citing a UN honor bestowed upon His Highness the Amir as a testament to the Gulf country's devotion to human welfare. The mere name of Kuwait has become "synonymous" with humanitarian aid efforts, Khaled Al-Jarallah told reporters as a seminar over Kuwaiti foreign aid opened, saying the country continues its mission to "delight nations" all over the world. He acknowledged the efforts of a Kuwait-based fund that have helped lift thousands out of sheer penury, emphasizing that the country's penchant for assisting countries in need "knows no limits."

During the seminar, held in conjunction with the World Bank Group, he said national development is among the pillars of sustainable economic growth, pointing out that Kuwait is proud to collaborate with a "venerable institution" such as the World Bank. Much like the UN, he recalled that the World Bank also honored His Highness the Amir in recognition of his immense contributions towards humanitarian causes, as their partnership yielded notable events such as Kuwait-hosted talks over



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Al-Jarallah speaks during the seminar. — KUNA

reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

On Kuwait's future plans, the official said the country finds itself in a "race against time" to bring its ultimate goal of morphing into a global financial hub to fruition. Kuwait's private sector has also contributed a fair share of the country's foreign aid, according to the director general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Abdulwahab Al-Bader. Through its philanthropic endeavors, Kuwait has left an "indelible mark" on many nations, helping prop up vital sectors through copious amounts of humanitarian aid, he added. — KUNA



KUWAIT: UNHCR Head of Office in Kuwait Samer Haddadin, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti with officials from public and private sectors during the honoring.

Zain participates in first Humanitarian Corporate Social Responsibility Forum

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, participated in a panel discussion entitled 'Walk the Talk: Highlighting the Pioneering Role of the Kuwaiti Private Sector in Humanitarian Giving' as part of the First Humanitarian Corporate Social Responsibility Forum. The forum, organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, witnessed the presence of UNHCR Head of Office in Kuwait Samer Haddadin, and many officials from the public and private sectors.

Zain took part in the forum represented by Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti. The event witnessed the attendance of many of the UN's partners from the civil community, private sector, international organizations, as well as a number of public figures. The seminar discussed the social responsibility of private sector institutions in supporting refugee issues. Zain participated in the forum as part of its Strategic Partnership with the UNHCR.

During his participation in the panel discussion, Khashti said: "we are proud that Zain was one of Kuwait's first private sector companies to form a strategic partnership with the UNHCR by signing an MoU back in 2016. The MoU aimed at finding the best ways in which to contribute to the improvement of the living and social conditions of refugees and any other individuals who the UNHCR provides assistance to, and we agreed to regularly consult with one another in order to contribute to the improvement of the well-being of refugees."

Khashti explained: "the private sector has a vital and active role in supporting the public sector and global agencies like the UNHCR to uplift the suffering of refugees around the world. For this, we have embraced and launched many programs and initiatives throughout the past years in line with the UNHCR's needs and goals."

Khashti continued: "Zain's efforts are well aligned with those of the nation, where the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh



Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti speaks during the panel discussion.

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Humanitarian Leader, have succeeded in making the State of Kuwait a leader in development projects and humanitarian assistance. We are extremely proud to work under the umbrella of these directives."

Zain's participation came as an extension of the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the company and the UNHCR during April of 2016. The agreement considered the best ways in which to contribute to the improvement of the living and social conditions of refugees and any other individuals who the UNHCR provides assistance to, and is considered an embodiment of the spirit of cooperation between private and global humanitarian sectors. Through its dedicated booth, Zain showcased its most prominent contributions in humanitarian fields during the past two years, including its #ZainWithRefugees campaign, field trips to refugee camps, online donation campaigns, strategic partnerships with local and global humanitarian entities, and more.

In 2017, Zain launched its humanitarian campaign #ZainWithRefugees in collaboration with the UNHCR. The campaign aimed at

improving the living conditions of thousands of refugees in the region who suffer from the lack of essential supplies during the harsh winter season. Donations were utilized to provide families with financial support, winter clothing, thermal blankets, heaters, and more.

Zain prides itself in its long list of joint collaborations with the UNHCR, including the extension of mobile telecommunications coverage to reconnect displaced families in the Middle East, offering telecom services in deprived areas, as well as awareness campaigns through SMS services and social media channels.

In relevance to the international refugee situation, Zain partnered with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to organize a humanitarian trip that saw 12 of its volunteer employees visiting and supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon to distribute food, clothes, blankets and cater to a number of KRCS-supported projects. Zain also continued its annual Clothes Donation Campaign and extended it this year to Kuwait University, where over 10.5 tons of clothes were donated and sent by Kuwait Society for Relief to displaced Syrian families.



KUWAIT: Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah meets with members of media delegations participating in the 3rd Gulf Women Journalists' Forum 2019. — KUNA

Women strong pillar of Gulf journalism: Official

KUWAIT: Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah received yesterday media delegations participating in the 3rd Gulf Women Journalists' Forum 2019. "Women have become a strong pillar of Gulf journalism and helped in its promotion in the last few years through raising a number of important issues that interest many segments of society," Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij addressed the audience after welcoming them, praising the leading role of women in elevating the level of media performance in the Gulf. He affirmed that

Gulf women journalists have become role models of commitment and credibility in presenting those cases in a subjective manner. Afterwards, KUNA's Deputy Director General and Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali took the visiting delegation in a tour around the agency's different departments, briefing them with the workflow and recent developments. The reception was attended by KUNA's Vice Chairman and Trustee of Kuwait Journalists' Association Adnan Al-Rashed, Chairwoman of Bahraini Journalists' Association Ahdia Ahmad Al-Sayed Noor. — KUNA

Local

Kuwait's Amir receives Supreme Judicial Council members

Sheikh Sabah condoles with Saudi King over flood victims

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court, and President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Youssef Al-Mutawaa, accompanied by members of the Supreme Judicial Council, who congratulated His Highness on his safe return home. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received Mutawaa and members of the Supreme Judicial Council, who congratulated him on the return of His Highness the Amir. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with members of the Supreme Judicial Council. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



Amir, Crown Prince meet Sheikh Nasser

Prince separately received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The receptions came after His Highness Sheikh Nasser represented His Highness the Amir at the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito of Japan last week.

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulazez Al Saud over the victims of the rain-triggered floods that swept through northeastern parts of the country. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy upon the dead, as well as wishing speedy recovery for the injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with members of the Supreme Judicial Council.



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Iraqi Foreign Ministry's visiting Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Multilateral Relations Hazim Al-Yousifi. — KUNA

Kuwait's Deputy FM meets Iraqi official, UK envoy

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with Iraqi Foreign Ministry's visiting Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Multilateral Relations Hazim Al-Yousifi and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing citizens, along with archives and properties. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office

Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah. Later on, Jarallah met with British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport. Both sides considered bilateral relations and the latest regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Ayse Koytak. — KUNA

Kuwait, Turkey discuss cooperation

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah met yesterday with Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Ayse Koytak. In a press release, the Ministry of Interior said that the meeting tackled matters of common con-

cerns, stressing the strong bilateral ties between the two countries and ways of boosting cooperation. According to the press release, the Turkish Ambassador expressed her appreciation for Kuwait's hospitality and great care that the Turkish embassy receives. — KUNA

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Local

'Discover America' starts tomorrow; promoting US products, businesses

Kuwait, US enjoy strong trade relationship: US Embassy official

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The US Embassy in Kuwait, in collaboration with the American Business Council (ABC), announced the launch of the 'Discover America' event to be held from Oct 30 to Nov 9, 2019. Discover America is an annual event aimed at showcasing US products and businesses to promote American interests here. The event is held in close collaboration with various American brands and companies. Participating companies and outlets announce discounts and promotional prices for their products and services. The 10-day event includes business seminars and cultural programs.

Discover America highlights

Discover America will commence on Oct 30 with BBQ and music at Jumeirah Hotel, which is open to the public. A tour of the Sultan Center and the 4,000 American products they offer will be held on Oct 31. Sultan Center will provide special offers for US products throughout Discover America Week. On Nov 1, a Harley-Davidson ride will be held at the Jaber Causeway. The Harley-Davidson group will be leading the event, which is open to the Embassy community and the general public. In Nov, an educational expo will also be held at Mishref Fairgrounds - Hall 4A (open to the public).

An Education USA advisor and representative from the consular section of the US Embassy will be present at the fair to answer any questions related to visa procedures

and studying in the United States. Also, a franchising event will be organized by Francorp ME. It will be held at Shaheed Park with several speakers and will discuss various aspects of how to purchase a US franchise. On Nov 4, a seminar on how to supply to US military bases in Kuwait will be held. Experts from the US army and air force will speak, highlighting how local companies can sell to the US military. On Nov 5, a screening of Apollo 11, a Hollywood movie, will be held at Vox Cinema, The Avenues, Phase 4. Also, by invitation only, the AFCENT band will perform at the American University of Kuwait and the public performance of the group will be held at Marina Crescent, Salmiya. A 5K Fun Run/Walk will be held at the Boulevard Mall outdoor track in Salmiya. This event is open to the public. Special promotions at hotels, restaurants and retail stores at The Avenues, 360 Mall and around Kuwait will be held, especially by participating US companies.

Strong relationship

Kuwait and the US enjoy a strong trade relationship according to Shari Stout, Senior Commercial Officer at the US Embassy. "The two countries frequently collaborate on enhancing political, defense and commercial cooperation. On October 18, the US-Kuwait Business Council was launched in Washington, DC. US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross attended the event along with the Kuwaiti ambassador in the US. Founding US corporate members and other distinguished guests also participated in the inaugural program," she said.

Stout said bilateral trade totaled over \$5 billion in 2018 - US exported goods and services worth \$3 billion and imported approximately \$2 billion in mostly petroleum-based products. Transportation is a major component of US exports to Kuwait - it is a third of total exports. "Kuwait is a significant investor in the United States, and we continue to work with the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) and private Kuwaiti investment firms to promote the United States as a trusted and profitable destination for further investment," she added.

Education

In 2018, Kuwait had more than 13,200 students enrolled at US universities. Kuwaitis entered the United States more than 62,658 times for tourism and thousands of Kuwaitis traveled to the United States for medical treatment. Stout said most of the challenges to doing business in Kuwait relate to the slow tendering process and the numerous approvals required for most business activities. The pace of government procurement moves more slowly than in comparable markets.

"Delayed and incomplete payments have increased over the past year. A drop in oil prices in recent years has resulted in a budget deficit. Improvements in intellectual property rights are also needed. As part of our continuing strategic dialogue, the United States and Kuwait will continue working together to overcome obstacles to bilateral investment in our two countries," she noted during the press conference. Throughout the Discover America pro-

gram, the US Embassy team, including Charge d'Affaires Larry Memmott, will attend events and visit various US retail outlets that are promoting US products and brands. "I am thrilled to kick off the seventh annual Discover America Week with an American barbecue dinner and music performance at Jumeriah Hotel and Spa on October 30. Over the next 11 days, we will be promoting various cultural aspects of life in the United States including music, film, food, sports, motorcycles, education and tourism," Memmott said.

He added: "There will be special offers at numerous American restaurants and stores around Kuwait City, live performances from the US Air Force Central Command band, and a screening of the movie 'America's Musical Journey' at Vox Cinemas. Discover America showcases the strong bonds between the US and Kuwait, and the cultural connections that broaden and deepen our ties. I hope that you'll join me at some of the exciting events taking place over the next two weeks."

"The American Business Council Kuwait (ABCK) is proud to join the Embassy in this year's Discover America as the exclusive business partner. We look forward to exciting events over the coming 11 days, highlighting US businesses, products, culture, food and much more," Esra Cavdarali Menke, Executive Director of the American Business Council Kuwait, said. Also present at the Discover America press conference were Frank Belonus, Vice Chairman of ABCK, and Ravi Candadai, Public Affairs Councilor at the US Embassy.

Burgan Bank sponsors vocational rehabilitation exhibition

KUWAIT: In line with Bank Burgan's partnership with Al-Ahmadi Governorate and as part of its social responsibility towards the special needs segment, Burgan Bank concludes its sponsorship and participation in the rehabilitation exhibition held by the Day Care Center of the Kuwait Society for Handicapped (KSH) in South Sabahiya in Al-Ahmadi Governorate under the patronage of Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, in the presence of Sheikh Sheikh Al-Abdullah, representatives from the bank and a number of dignitaries and parents of special needs participants in the exhibition. During the exhibition, KSH children's crafts and artistic creations

were presented, amazed the audience which is considered a kind of motivation and encouragement for them.

Burgan Bank remains a keen contributor to the development of the special needs segment through its several noteworthy initiatives, activities, and continued collaborations between the official, civil authorities and voluntary organizations. Being a financial powerhouse in the banking sector, we strive through our social responsibility to highlight their most important achievements, encourage their talents and share their activities and create the most appropriate opportunities to integrate them into the society.

Burgan Bank and Al-Ahmadi Governorate's partnership continues throughout the year by highlighting several initiatives and activities of interest to the Kuwaiti community. The bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural and health driven initiatives. Burgan

Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its con-

duct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community.



Diabetes Institute doctor wins prize at AACE Conference

MUSCAT: Dr Dalal Al-Saeed, representing Dasman Diabetes Institute, attended the Gulf Chapter of the Seventh Annual Clinical Congress by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. The conference was held in Muscat, Oman recently. Dr Saeed presented a poster titled 'Fasting decisions of people living with type 1 diabetes' and was awarded 3rd prize for the best poster.

Dr Saeed focuses on enhancing the experiences of people living with type 1 diabetes wishing to fast during the holy month of Ramadan and ensuring that safe fasting practices are adopted. At the Medical Sector of Dasman Diabetes Institute, she explored the decision-making process behind fasting to understand why patients decide to fast and identify the factors affecting their decisions. The common factors affecting their decisions include: managing low and high blood sugar levels, use of assistive technology (insulin pumps, continuous

glucose monitoring tools), working environment, family support, trusting health care professionals, and the spirituality behind fasting. This work allows health care professionals to understand and assist their patients throughout their fasting experience and ultimately promote safe fasting practices. 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.



Dr Dalal Al-Saeed

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Men cast their fishing rods on a pier in Kuwait City on October 27, 2019. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Councilmembers call Municipality out on public cleaning shortcomings

Members demand more control over cleaning companies

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Municipal Council Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi adjourned the council's session yesterday after members Hamad Al-Medlej, Abdul Aziz Al-Mejel, Abdullah Al-Roumi and Humoud Al-Enezi withdrew in protest of forming a committee to discuss the council's internal charter. Otaibi then ordered reporting the matter to the council's secretariat general and discussed the new cleaning contracts.

Commenting on the issue, member Abdul Salam Al-Randi said municipal cleaning inspectors were not doing their jobs properly and that municipality officials had been refusing to attend workshops the council had organized. Councilmembers Ahmed Al-Hadbban, Maha Al-Baghli, Fahd Al-Muwaizri and Meshaal Al-Hamdhan all criticized the

performance of cleaning companies in various areas around Kuwait and called for more control on them.

On the other hand, member Humoud Al-Enezi called for more time to investigate the matter before jumping to conclusions and judging cleaning companies. He also refused to respond to social media reports, describing them as rumors. Member Hamad Al-Medlej wondered on the reason behind cutting the value of cleaning contracts, saying these contracts involve visa trafficking suspicions. In the meantime, the council's legal advisor Rajaan Al-Ghareeb stressed that the council should obtain copies of the cleaning contracts from the municipality and that those contracts should match all tendering conditions. He also gave the municipality the right to annul any contract in case of inaction.



KUWAIT: Municipal Council Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi (center back) speaks during yesterday's session. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Kuwait launches knowledge portal for GCC capital markets

MUSCAT: Chairman of Kuwait's Capital Market Authority Ahmad Al-Melhem launched a knowledge portal for GCC capital markets in Muscat, Oman yesterday. The portal is a Kuwaiti proposition and includes research, studies, reports and training courses, Melhem said on the sidelines of participating in the meeting of the ministerial committee of the Committee of Heads of the GCC Capital Markets Authorities. The suggestion was largely welcomed by heads of GCC delegations, said Melhem, adding that it would boost the Gulf states' joint financial cooperation. He noted that the meeting approved a number of topics including implementing inter-licensing for the GCC investment funds and activating the inter-recognition between the GCC stock markets. — KUNA

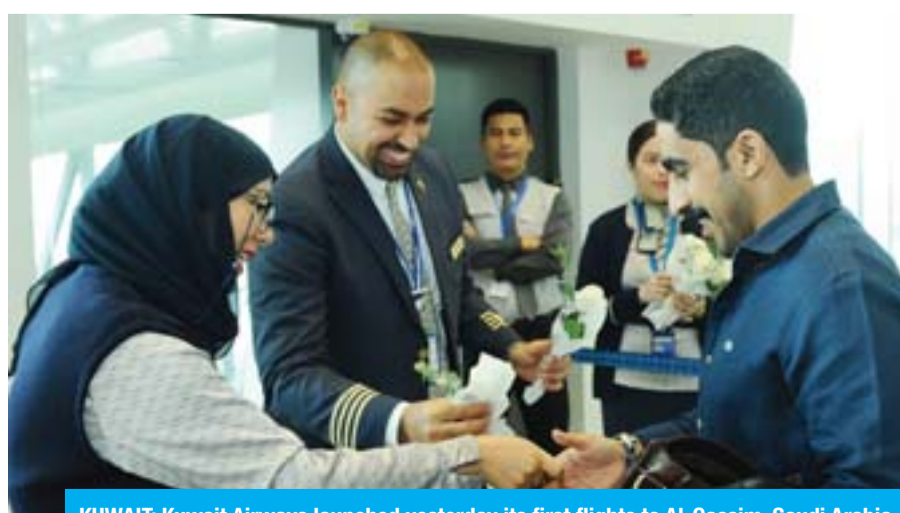
Contracts with offices in maids' countries required

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Domestic helper recruitment offices' licenses will not be renewed unless owners provide the Public Authority for Manpower with copies of the contracts signed with licensed offices in the helpers' original countries, and attested by Kuwaiti embassies in those countries, the authority's official spokesperson and manager of the public relations department Aseel Al-Mezayad said in a statement yesterday.

In other news, the Ministry of Health is getting closer to receiving the Sabah Hospital and infectious diseases hospital project, which is expected to happen the latest by November, said informed health sources, pointing out that the ministry is preparing to receive and equip the hospitals, which would need at least two months before both hospitals could be launched during the national anniversaries in February 2020.

The sources added that the infectious diseases hospital is located next to the old one. "The project cost KD 53,894,000. It has a bed capacity of 224 beds and is located over a total area of 75,000 square meters," the sources explained. The sources said the new Sabah Hospital project had cost KD 179 million to provide a bed capacity of 512, in addition to 105 ICU beds. "The new hospital will include 72 outpatient departments, labs, pharmacies, reception, a helipad and parking spaces for 1,457 vehicles," the sources concluded.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways launched yesterday its first flights to Al-Qassim, Saudi Arabia, bringing the number of Saudi cities it flies to regularly up to five. The national carrier already schedules flights to the Saudi cities of Jeddah, Dammam, Riyadh and Medina.

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Candidates meeting the above conditions and requirements should send their CV's to

Info.career.kw@gmail.com



Flights, fake passports: 'VIP packages' enticing Vietnamese to Britain

New Delhi fights hazardous pollution after Diwali party

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BARISHA: Syrian bikers ride past a damaged car at the site of a suspected US-led operation against Islamic State (IS) chief Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi on the edge of the small Syrian village of Barisha in the country's opposition-held north-western Idlib province. —AFP

SE Asia expects long fight against IS

Concerns about lone wolf attacks, online radicalization

MANILA: Southeast Asian countries fighting Islamic State's influence in the region lauded the killing of its leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi but said security forces were preparing for a long battle to thwart the jihadist group's ideology. The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, home to some of Asia's most organized Islamist militants, said yesterday they were braced for retaliation by Islamic State loyalists, including "lone wolf" attacks by locals radicalized by the group's powerful online propaganda. Baghdadi killed himself in a tunnel in northwest Syria by detonating a suicide vest as US forces closed in, according to US President Donald Trump.

Though his death will unsettle Islamic State, it remains capable and dangerous, said Delfin Lorenzana, defense secretary of the Philippines, where the group's influence has taken a hold among unschooled Muslim youth in its troubled Mindanao region. "This is a blow to the organization considering al-Baghdadi's stature as a leader. But this is just a momentary setback considering the depth and reach of the organization worldwide," Lorenzana said. "Somebody will take his place."

Southeast Asia has long been an important focus for Islamic State, which has inspired Islamist militants

in West Africa, across the Middle East and Asia and through to Indonesia and the Philippines. The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia are concerned Islamic State supporters from the region and those fleeing Iraq and Syria could exploit the porous borders, lawlessness and abundant arms found in Mindanao to take refuge in its far-flung villages.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for four suicide bombings since July last year in the Philippines, which fought its toughest battle since World War Two in 2017 when extremists seeking to establish an Islamic State laid siege to Marawi City and occupied it through five months of air and ground assaults. Fighters from at least seven countries took part, including Malaysia, which remains on high alert and has arrested 400 people suspected of links to militant groups.

Malaysian police counter-terrorism chief Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay said the real concern was not

Islamic State's leadership but the effect of its teachings. "It's good news, but his death will have little impact here as the main problem remains the spread of the Islamic State ideology," he said. "What we are most worried about now are 'lone wolf' attacks and those who are self-radicalized through the internet. We are still seeing the spread of IS teachings online.

IS publications and magazines from years ago are being reproduced and re-shared," he said.

Chatrooms in messaging applications used by Islamists such as Telegram showed defiant messages about Baghdadi's death, according to a researcher who monitors activity by Islamic State sympathizers. "God Willing, whatever happens, Islamic jihad will not rely on any one individual, but will always stand tall on the orders of God and His Prophet," read one posting under the handle Ansurul Ummah.

Another participant, Abu Abdullah Asy Syami, posted: "Jihad will never stop, even if our own caliph

dies." Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison made a similar observation, and said Baghdadi's death was by no means the end. "This is a many-headed monster ... As you cut one off, another one inevitably arises," he told reporters.

Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim-majority country, is grappling with a resurgence in militancy and has detained hundreds of suspects this year under tightened anti-terrorism laws. Authorities believe thousands of Indonesians draw inspiration from Islamic State and about 500 are thought to have joined the group in Syria. Indonesia's intelligence agency said it was ready for retaliation and though Baghdadi's death would be a psychological blow, Islamic State would have a successor in place.

"It is a war. Usually, there must be a counterattack or the like. When it comes to security, we are sure that we will secure this country," said its spokesman, Wawan Purwanto. Security analyst Rommel Banlaoi said Baghdadi's demise and uncertainty about the leadership could undermine operations of Islamic State loyalists seeking to regroup and establish their own territory in Southeast Asia. "Pro-ISIS groups in the Philippines will surely re-examine their roles in the post-Baghdadi era," he said. —Reuters



Security forces wary of reprisals by IS supporters

Trump wins big with Baghdadi death - and intends to milk it

Washington: President Donald Trump took a victory lap Sunday over the killing of Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi—and he's likely just getting warmed up. "This is the biggest there is," Trump said at a White House appearance, reaching into his customary arsenal of superlatives after announcing the dramatic raid by special forces into Syria. The raid was, by US accounts, a remarkable success of intelligence gathering, cooperation with multiple foreign powers in the Syrian war, and ruthless execution by helicopter-borne American soldiers.

But Trump—threatened by a snowballing impeachment threat in Washington and stung by widespread criticism of his overall Syria policy—needs the victory to be his. So amid a sometimes surprising level of detail in his account of the raid, the president shoehorned in plenty of politics—lines that had less to do with counter-terrorism than they did with Trump's need to boost Donald Trump.

The Baghdadi victory wasn't just the "biggest." It had to be bigger than the killing in a similarly daring raid in 2011 of Al-Qaeda founder and 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden. Perhaps that's because bin Laden was killed under Trump's predecessor, Democratic president Barack Obama. "Osama bin Laden was big, but Osama bin Laden became big with the World Trade Center. (Baghdadi) is a man who built a whole, as he would like to call it, a country," Trump said.

Military credibility

The 45th president has long struggled, politically speaking, with the mantle of commander-in-chief. He is dogged by his history of having avoided conscription—along with many other young men of that generation—during the Vietnam War. And his push to extract the United States from what he calls "stupid" wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan may be popular with many voters, but is seen as dangerously naive by the Washington elite, including much of his own Republican party.

A recent abrupt decision to yank a contingent of US troops from a traditionally Kurdish area of Syria-giving Turkey a green light to attack the same Kurdish forces who had partnered with the US-sparked especially deep anger. The Baghdadi raid provides Trump with a perfect riposte.

Lindsay Graham, one of the senior Republican senators who lambasted Trump

over the Kurdish controversy, was among the first to declare he'd seen the light. "This is a moment where President Trump's worst critics should say, 'Well done,'" he said. "What I see happening in Syria, makes sense to me," he said. "Now I understand what the president wants to do." It was a remarkable turnaround—and a boost for Trump's chances that the Republican majority in the Senate will stick by him and refuse to convict on the Democrat-led lower house's likely impeachment vote.

Bullish

After being on the back foot for weeks—and with a potentially damaging week ahead in the impeachment saga—Trump again has a spring in his step. He peppered his lengthy remarks at the White House with congratulations to himself in the third person. He stated falsely that he was one of the first to predict bin Laden would become a problem, though he did write in his 2000 book "The America We Deserve" that the US was at risk of a devastating terrorist attack.

He referred to the Islamic State group's successful use of social media for spreading its ideology, saying "they use the internet better than almost anybody in the world, perhaps other than Donald Trump." He mockingly threatened US allies in Europe over citizens who joined the Islamic State group and are now held prisoner in a legal limbo, with their home countries unwilling to bring them back. "I'm going to drop them



MARYLAND: US President Donald Trump speaks to the press before boarding Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland en route to Chicago. —AFP

right on your border and you can have fun capturing them again," he said. "They can't walk back to our country. We have lots of water in between our country and them."

The starkest evidence of his reinvigorated bullishness, though, was closer to home. Trump announced that he'd told the Russians about the raid before it happened, because the US raiders would need to cross Russian-

controlled air space. He told numerous Republicans and administration officials of the heads-up. But his impeachment foes—the top Democrats in Congress, who are among the most senior figures in the country's political hierarchy—were kept in the dark. He couldn't trust House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, he indicated. "I wanted to make sure this kept secret." —AFP

International

Lebanon protesters block roads to keep revolt alive

Angry protesters defy pleas from Lebanon's top leaders

BEIRUT: Lebanese demonstrators set up barricades and parked cars across key roads yesterday to protest corruption and press their demands for a radical overhaul of their country's sectarian political system. Defying pleas from Lebanon's top leaders, protesters sought to keep the country on lockdown for a 12th consecutive day by cutting off some of the main thoroughfares, including the main north-south highway.

The protesters are demanding more freedom, better services and an end to corruption and sectarian politics, among other things. Their unprecedented mobilization - sparked by a proposed tax on voice calls via messaging apps on October 17 - has quickly morphed into a massive grassroots push to drive out a political elite which has remained virtually unchanged in three decades.

Lebanon's political leaders have appeared shell-shocked, trying simultaneously to express sympathy for the protest movement while warning of chaos in the case of a power vacuum. "If the corrupt ruling class doesn't feel like the country is crippled we will not see any results," said 21-year-old Ali who was among a group of demonstrators blocking a key road in the capital yesterday morning.

Couches & footballs

A poster urging motorists to block roads with their cars started circulating on social media on Sunday night. By the next day, some major routes were closed off by hundreds of angle-parked vehicles, others by groups of protesters sitting on the road. Schools and banks have been closed for more than a week. The Lebanese security forces had been expected to make a new attempt at reopening the roads as the country faced more paralysis. The army and the country's top security agencies had agreed at the weekend to a mili-

tary-led plan to clear roadblocks, but their efforts have been met with resistance from demonstrators. In the southern city of Sidon, the army scuffled with protesters blocking the city's northern entrance yesterday morning, injuring three, said an AFP correspondent.

In Beirut, activists converted a main artery in the centre of the city into an open-air living room, furnished with couches and rugs. They shot footballs across streets which on a regular yesterday would have been jammed with motorists streaming in from Beirut's northern suburbs. Most residents have backed road closures, and business owners on Sunday night called for a general strike in solidarity, but political officials and flustered motorists have in recent days accused demonstrators of robbing people of their livelihoods.

No going back

"We are not closing all the roads. There are always side roads people can use," said Yusra, a 16-year-old in central Beirut. "We don't want to stand against the people but we also don't want to go back to the way things were before the revolution," she said. So far, the unprecedented protest movement has been relatively incident-free, despite tensions with the armed forces and attempts by party loyalists to stage counter-demonstrations.

In one of the most serious incidents, the army opened fire on Friday to confront a group of protesters blocking a road in the northern city of Tripoli, wounding at least six people. On Sunday, tens of thousands of protesters joined hands nationwide to form a 170-kilometre human chain stretching from Tripoli to Tyre in the south. The event drew Lebanese of all ages and backgrounds, many of them draped in the national cedar flag. Organizers said the event symbolized a national civic identity that has emerged since the start of the



BEIRUT: Lebanese anti-government protesters wave a national flag on a blocked avenue in the center of the capital yesterday. —AFP

protests on October 17.

The rallies have been remarkable for their territorial reach and the absence of political or sectarian banners, in a country often defined by its divisions. The leaderless protest movement is driven mostly by a young generation of men and women born after the 1975-1990

civil war. Lebanon's reviled political elite has defended a belated package of economic reforms and appeared willing to reshuffle the government, but protesters have stayed on the streets. More than a quarter of Lebanon's population lives in poverty, according to the World Bank. —AFP

Army declares curfew in Baghdad after student protests

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi army yesterday announced it would impose an overnight curfew in the capital as students and schoolchildren joined spreading protests to demand an overhaul of the government. Swathes of Iraq have been engulfed by demonstrations over unemployment and corruption this month that have evolved into demands for regime change. The rallies have gathered despite temporary curfews, threats of arrest and violence that has left nearly 240 people dead, including five protesters in Baghdad yesterday.

The military said cars and foot traffic would be barred in the capital for six hours starting at midnight. The move sparked concern security forces want to clear out main gathering places like the capital's Tahrir Square, occupied by demonstrators for four consecutive nights. Security forces there have relied heavily on tear gas to keep protesters from storming the Green Zone, which hosts government offices and foreign offices.

But protesters had otherwise been

allowed to set up tents in Tahrir and taken over multi-storey buildings there since Thursday in a marked departure from the response to protests during the first week of this month. They were joined in the past 24 hours by a huge contingent of students, who joined despite stern warnings by the higher education minister and the prime minister's office that they should "stay away."

"No school, no classes, until the regime collapses!" boycotting students shouted yesterday in Diwaniyah, 180 km south of the capital. Diwaniyah's union of universities and schools announced a 10-day strike on Monday "until the regime falls", with thousands of uniformed pupils and even professors flooding the streets. Young protesters still gathered yesterday morning in the southern cities of Nasiriyah, Hillah and Basra. In Kut, most government offices were shut for lack of staff.

'No nation, no class'

In Baghdad, demonstrators gathered on campuses and in Tahrir Square. "Qusay Al-Suhail (the higher education minister) said not to come down into the streets. But we say: no nation, no class!" one student protester said. "All we want is for the government to immediately submit its resignation. Either it resigns, or it gets ousted." About 60 percent of Iraq's 40-million-strong population is under the age of 25.

But youth unemployment stands at 25 percent and one in five people live below



KARBALA: Iraqis wave national flags as they take part in an anti-government demonstration in the Shiite shrine city of Karbala, south of Iraq's capital Baghdad yesterday. —AFP

the poverty line, despite the vast oil wealth of OPEC's second-largest crude producer. Anger at inequality and accusations that government corruption was fuelling it sparked protests in Baghdad on Oct 1 that have since attracted growing numbers of young people. Yesterday, a small group of students brought kits to Tahrir Square to treat people affected by tear gas along with cans of Pepsi - believed to alleviate discomfort when splashed on the face. "It's my first day at the protests. I told my mom

I'm going to class, but I came here instead!" a girl with curly hair told AFP.

In the province of Diyala, which had so far been calm, two members of the provincial council resigned in solidarity with the rallies. Even in the holy city of Najaf, dozens of young clerics-to-be took to the streets. The protests are unprecedented in recent Iraqi history for their ire at the entire political class, with some even criticizing traditionally revered religious leaders. —AFP

Barisha: Syrian village where Baghdadi died

BARISHA: Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the elusive leader of the Islamic State group and the world's most wanted man, met his demise near a small village in north-western Syria called Barisha. This is what we know about the area:

Geography

Barisha is located less than five kilometers from Turkey and close to Bab al-Hawa, one of the main border crossings between the two countries. The house targeted in the overnight US special forces raid that US President Donald Trump says killed Baghdadi was on the edge of the village. The area is mountainous and sparsely populated, about 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) north of Idlib city, the capital of the province.

It lies barely five kilometers east of Qalb Lozeh, which is one of a scattering of ancient villages listed as world heritage by UNESCO and hosts a Byzantine

church that is thought to have inspired the design of Notre Dame in Paris. The agricultural area, like many others in Idlib province, is home to small informal settlements of displaced people from other parts of Syria. Barisha's population of some 7,000 inhabitants is impoverished, with many relying on aid, local television station Aleppo TV said in a report on the village in January.

Control

The area where Barisha lies is nominally under the control of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an outfit that includes ex-members of Al-Qaeda's former Syria affiliate. But IS sleeper cells and the Al-Qaeda-linked Hurras al-Deen group are also present in the area, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor says. The village is near the border with Turkey but far from the regions where US forces were deployed and used to operating. The mountainous region is known for smuggling and porous enough for other armed groups than HTS to operate in.

The IS fighters who managed to flee the Kurdish-led offensive that eradicated their "caliphate" in eastern Syria earlier this year scattered in different directions. Some are thought to have slipped across



BARISHA: An aerial view taken shows the site that was hit by helicopter gunfire which reportedly killed nine people near the northwestern Syrian village of Barisha in the Idlib province along the border with Turkey. —AFP

the borders with Iraq or Turkey, while others headed to the Badia desert and the Palmyra region. Several other reports at the time of the fall of Baghouz in early

2019 also mentioned that convoys of operatives had snuck into Idlib province, despite IS's bitter rivalry with Al-Qaeda and its HTS offshoot. —AFP

15 killed in northern Burkina Faso attack

OUAGADOUGOU: Gunmen killed 15 civilians in northern Burkina Faso over the weekend, security and local sources said yesterday, in the latest deadly attack as the impoverished West African country battles a jihadist revolt. "On Saturday night numerous armed individuals attacked the village of Pobe-Mengao and kidnapped several residents, ransacked shops and carried away equipment," a local source

said. A security source said "the lifeless bodies of 11 people were found on Sunday morning... probably the bodies of those abducted the day before in Pobe-Mengao by an armed terrorist group". The local source said that "after the attackers departed, the population started to leave the village to take refuge in Djibo - particularly after the bodies were discovered."

Djibo, the capital of the Soum province, is 25 kilometers (15 miles) from Pobe-Mengao. The gunmen returned to Pobe-Mengao on Sunday morning, where they "shot in the air for several hours before leaving," said the source, who is a Djibo resident, quoting testimonies from the displaced villagers. Four more bodies were found after the second

onslaught, the source told AFP, bringing the death toll to at least 15. The security source said that reinforcements had been sent to patrol the area. Soum is one of a swathe of provinces in northern Burkina Faso that have been battling with a four-year-old wave of jihadist violence that came from neighboring Mali. The attacks - typically hit-and-run raids on villages, road mines and suicide bombings - have claimed around 640 lives nationally, according to an AFP toll. Nearly 500,000 people have been internally displaced. More than 10,000 people marched in the capital Ouagadougou on Saturday to express their support for the country's security forces, which are badly-equipped, poorly trained and under-funded. —AFP

Russia guarded over Baghdadi killing as IS fight goes on

WASHINGTON: Russia offered guarded praise yesterday after President Donald Trump announced that US forces had killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, but world leaders warned that the fight against the militant group was not over yet. Trump said on Sunday that Baghdadi had died "whimpering and crying" in a raid by US special forces in Syria, fulfilling his top national security goal.

Baghdadi, who had led the jihadist group since 2010, killed himself by detonating a suicide vest after fleeing into a dead-end tunnel as US forces closed in, Trump said in a televised address from the White House. "He was a sick and depraved man and now he's gone," said Trump. "He died ... whimpering and crying and screaming." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to say if the United States had told Russia about the operation in advance. But he added: "If this information is confirmed we can talk about a serious contribution by the president of the United States to the fight against international terrorism."

World leaders and security officials welcomed Baghdadi's death but said the campaign against Islamic State was not over, with so-called lone wolves likely to seek revenge. French President Emmanuel Macron said Baghdadi's death was a major blow against Islamic State but "the fight continues to finally defeat this terrorist organization". British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "We will work with our coalition partners to bring an end to the murderous, barbaric activities of Daesh (Islamic State) once and for all."

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters: "This is a many-headed monster ... As you cut one off, another one inevitably arises." In Southeast Asia, an important focus for Islamic State, officials said security forces were preparing for a long battle to thwart the group's ideology. The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, home to some of Asia's most organized Islamist militants, said they were braced for retaliation by Islamic State loyalists, including "lone wolf" attacks by radicalized locals.

Capable and dangerous

Though Baghdadi's death will unsettle Islamic State, it remains capable and dangerous, said Delfin Lorenzana, defense secretary of the Philippines, where the group's influence has taken a hold in its troubled Mindanao region. "This is a blow to the organization considering al-Baghdadi's stature as a leader. But this is just a momentary setback considering the depth and reach of the organization worldwide," Lorenzana said. "Somebody will take his place." Islamic State has no declared successor as leader. But the group has in the past proved resilient, continuing to mount or inspire attacks in the region and beyond despite losing most of its territory in recent years.

Baghdadi had long been sought by the United States - which offered a \$25 million reward - as leader of a jihadist group that at one point controlled large areas of Syria and Iraq, where it declared a caliphate. Islamic State has carried out atrocities against religious minorities and attacks on five continents in the name of a fanatical version of Islam that horrified most Muslims. In their long hunt for Baghdadi, Iraqi intelligence teams secured a break in February 2018 after one of his top aides gave them information on how he escaped capture for so many years, two Iraqi security officials said. —Reuters

International

'Great expectations', but EU's fraud prosecutor undaunted by challenge

Kovesi named head of European Public Prosecutor's Office

BUCHAREST: Romanians regularly stop Laura Codruta Kovesi in the street to shake her hand or to be photographed with the woman who for five years led the country's fight against corruption. Her work as the head of Romania's DNA anti-corruption agency, which secured convictions of mayors, lawmakers and ministers, won Kovesi many admirers in her homeland and in the rest of the European Union.

It also earned the wrath of the centre-left government, and she was driven out of office in July last year. But government opposition to her candidacy was not enough to prevent Kovesi being confirmed this month as the EU's first fraud prosecutor. She starts the job next month, but warns against expecting immediate results from the new European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) she will lead in the battle against fraud and corruption affecting the EU budget.

"I think there will be very high expectations once the institution effectively starts working on cases," Kovesi, 46, told Reuters in an interview. "But I think people must understand that credible results will come in two, three years, once final verdicts from courts start

coming in." Romania's government has come under fire in the EU over changes to judicial legislation and staffing that have undermined the rule of law and weakened the fight against entrenched corruption.

But Kovesi, who is likely to start in her new role on Nov 4, makes clear she will not be daunted by pressure from anyone. "There will certainly be pressure - once investigations start - on the institution and prosecutors, let's not forget that the people using European funds are generally businessmen, some of whom are very powerful," Kovesi said. "But I am extremely well trained for it, I am not even a little bit worried about that."

Multi-billion-euro budget

The EU is working on adopting a 2020 budget of

nearly 160 billion euros (\$177.5 billion). The bloc has lost just under 9 billion euros to tax fraud during 2002-2016, a report by the European Court of Auditors said earlier this year. Due to be launched in 2020, the EPPO

will be geared to investigating and pressing criminal charges in cases crossing the EU's internal borders, particularly those affecting the budget since November 2017. Twenty-two of the EU's 28 member states are participating so far.

Much of the EPPO's efficacy will depend on Kovesi's ability to convince member states to give it the prosecutors and resources it needs. Some, such as Hungary, have not joined, saying prosecutorial powers should remain at the national level. Kovesi will run the EPPO from a central office in Luxembourg alongside one European prosecutor from each member state.

Investigations will be run by delegated prosecutors nationally.

Their number will be determined after negotiations with justice ministers and general prosecutors in each state. Kovesi said estimating the number of potential cases EPPO will handle and the number of prosecutors needed in each state are immediate priorities. "It is possible that in some states, the desire to have more prosecutors is bigger, maybe other states will not want to have that many," Kovesi said. "There will certainly be talks and negotiations to solve this problem."

Prior to leading Romania's anti-corruption agency, Kovesi was the country's prosecutor general and worked her way up from being a prosecutor in the central Romanian city of Sibiu. Though she has protection, she still enjoys doing the things she used to do back then - walking, going to the park or gym, and attending church and has no plans to change her life in Luxembourg. "It is what I applied for, what I wanted," Kovesi said. "For now my main concern is to ensure the institution has the budget and resources it needs to work." —Reuters



In new role she will tackle crimes affecting budget

German conservative leader faces rebellion after poll trouncing

BERLIN: German conservative leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer yesterday faced a rebellion by party members angry at a humiliating election result in eastern Thuringia state where the Christian Democrats (CDU) lost voters to both the far-left and far-right. Discontent within the CDU grew louder after their fourth setback at the ballot box this year under Kramp-Karrenbauer, who has countered mounting doubts about her suitability to lead the conservatives in the next federal election in 2021 since she became chairwoman in December.

The CDU dropped from first to third place in Thuringia, falling behind the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) in second and the far-left Linke party, which came out first with just over 30% of the vote. The inconclusive election has put the onus on the CDU to ditch its long-established policy of ostracizing the Linke, which conservative leaders deem the reincarnation of the Communist party that ruled East Germany until 30 years ago.

Thuringia's Linke-led coalition with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens lacks a majority to continue governing and needs the CDU on board for a stable coalition. All parties refuse to work with the AfD, which they accuse of racist rhetoric against Muslim migrants. Mike Mohring, CDU leader in Thuringia, led the charge against his party's position, saying it was up to him, and not Chancellor Angela Merkel or Kramp-Karrenbauer, to decide on a policy reversal that opens the door for a possible coalition with the Linke.

"I do not rule out talks with those who respect our constitution and want to build Thuringia with us," Mohring told public broadcaster MDR. "I do not need Berlin for the question of how we can take responsibility for the sake of our state." Ingo Senftleben, former CDU leader in Brandenburg who resigned last month after his party fell to third place in a regional election, was more direct.

'Altkatastrophe'

"People don't want ideological trenches and that's why the Linke and CDU should be able to hold talks," he told the Handelsblatt business daily. He added that the CDU should not block the will of the people. A poll published after the election in Thuringia on Sunday showed that more than 70% of CDU voters in the eastern state want their party to join a Linke-led coalition. Kramp-Karrenbauer, known as AKK, has been weakened by gaffes and a perception among voters and a large section of the CDU that she is a continuation of Merkel's centrist path.

Her authority has been further eroded by her failure to revive the conservatives' fortunes at the ballot box. The party suffered painful losses at the European Parliament elections in May and three elections in eastern German regions. The election in Thuringia exposed deep polarization among German voters. The Linke and AfD together won more than half of the vote, leaving the CDU, the centre-left SPD, the Greens and the liberal Free Democrats with no majority.

Mass-selling Bild newspaper blamed this polarization on Merkel's and Kramp-Karrenbauer's centrist political path, which makes it difficult for voters to distinguish between the mainstream parties and pushes them to extremes. "Merkel's strategy of absolute open-mindedness for the sake of colorful coalitions as well as her tactic of adopting policies from the Greens and the Social Democrats has failed," Bild wrote. "Angela Merkel and CDU leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer could share a prize for causing the (voter) exodus that brought us here. Altkatastrophe!" —Reuters



BERLIN: (Left to right) The leader of Germany's conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer looks on as the CDU's top co-candidate for Thuringian state elections Mike Mohring is kissed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a leadership meeting of the CDU at their headquarters in Berlin yesterday. —AFP

EU nations agree Brexit delay until Jan 31 as UK PM seeks election

LONDON: The European Union agreed a three-month flexible delay yesterday to Britain's departure from the bloc as Prime Minister Boris Johnson pushes for an election after opponents forced him to request an extension he had vowed never to ask for. Just days before the United Kingdom is formally due to leave the EU on Oct 31 at 2300 GMT, Brexit is hanging in the balance, with British politicians no closer to reaching a consensus on how, when or even if the divorce should take place.

Johnson, who became prime minister in July by pledging, "do or die", to deliver Brexit on Oct 31, was compelled to request a postponement after he was defeated in parliament over the sequencing of the ratification of his divorce deal. The 27 countries that will remain in the EU agreed yesterday to put off Brexit until the end of January with an earlier departure possible should the faction-ridden UK parliament ratify the separation deal Johnson agreed with the bloc.

"The EU27 has agreed that it will accept the UK's request for a Brexit 'flexextension' until 31 January 2020," European Council President Donald Tusk said in a tweet, referring to the

concept of a flexible extension. EU member states will need Britain to formally reply to its offer of a three-month delay before launching a "written procedure" whereby governments will have 24 hours to accept or reject.

"We can only launch the written procedure when we have the agreement of the UK government on the text," a senior EU official said. Johnson is obliged by legislation passed by parliament last month to accept an extension once offered. Johnson will respond to the EU's delay offer once he has reviewed the details, his spokesman said yesterday. Two senior EU diplomats confirmed that the written procedure period agreed was 24 hours, effective from the time London accepts the offer of a Brexit delay from Oct 31 to Jan 31.

Britain's departure has already been delayed twice—from March 29 and April 12 - after Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, failed three times to get her deal ratified by parliament. With British politics still paralyzed over carrying out Brexit 3-1/2 years after a 52%-48% referendum vote in favor of leaving the EU, Johnson is demanding parliament approve an election on Dec. 12 in return for more time to adopt his deal. But he needs the support of two-thirds, or 434, of the 650 lawmakers for a new election. A House of Commons vote was due later on.

'Flexextension'

The EU, forged from the ruins of World War Two as a way to prevent another devastating conflict in Europe, is fatigued by Britain's Brexit crisis but

State of emergency declared; California wildfires rage

HEALDSBURG: Thousands of firefighters battled into the early hours yesterday, losing ground to the huge blaze burning through the famed Sonoma wine region in northern California. California's governor declared a statewide emergency on Sunday as the wind-driven Kincade Fire spread to more than 34,000 acres, forcing residents to flee. In Los Angeles, meanwhile the local fire department issued mandatory evacuation orders after a "very dynamic" brush fire broke out west of a major highway, US 405, near The Getty museum.

Refugees from the Kincade blaze, the largest of more than a dozen burning throughout the state, recalled hasty departures as they waited in the safety of a community center in Petaluma, California. "The police came with loudspeakers. We weren't expecting it," said Kathy Amundson, who had to get her 90-year-old mother Joy into a wheelchair and then into the car for the trip out. "We smelled smoke, we couldn't see

it," she said. "Looks like our home is safe but the fear is wind blowing ambers and then it starts new fires."

Others were not so lucky. The fire has destroyed dozens of homes and vineyards, including the renowned 150-year-old Soda Rock Winery. "We've seen the news. We are devastated," the owners said in a Facebook message, adding that all staff at the winery - located in the town of Healdsburg, 70 miles north of San Francisco - are safe. At least two hospitals in Santa Rosa evacuated patients over the weekend to other facilities.

The Kincade Fire - the most devastating in California this year - ignited Wednesday and spread quickly due to powerful gusts of up to 90 miles per hour. As of early yesterday, it was only five percent contained. "Over 3,000 people are working on the fire as we speak, making sure the evacuation is going smoothly and people are taking it seriously," said state governor Gavin Newsom. An estimated 180,000 people were under mandatory evacuation orders, including in parts of Santa Rosa and a large swath of Sonoma County all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Nearly 80,000 structures are threatened, according to the county sheriff's office. And fire officials said they did not expect the fire to be contained before November 7. Authorities said the area would remain under dangerous red flag conditions until yesterday morning. "Things will improve as we head into



LONDON: An anti-Brexit activist holds an EU flag as they demonstrate outside of the Houses of Parliament in London yesterday. —AFP

kept not to be held responsible for an economically tumultuous "no-deal" rupture. French President Emmanuel Macron had been the main hurdle to an extension, arguing there had to be a good reason for a delay and that the British needed to break their own political deadlock.

But a source close to Macron said the prospect of an election in Britain had strengthened significantly. The source stressed that the third Brexit delay would come with conditions, including a refusal to renegotiate the divorce agreement and giving a green light to other EU countries to meet without Britain to

discuss the bloc's future.

An EU diplomat said the hope was that the British would use the postponement wisely. Even though the United Kingdom is set to leave, it will have a legal obligation to nominate a new commissioner for the EU's powerful executive body. The latest delay plan envisages that Britain could be out on Dec 1 or Jan 1 should parliament ratify the agreement in November or December respectively, according to diplomats who deal with Brexit in Brussels. But in London, there was no consensus on an election which Johnson says is needed to break the deadlock. —Reuters



HEALDSBURG: Firefighters survey Soda Rock Winery as it begins to burn in Healdsburg, California. —AFP

today but we need to be resilient," a spokesman for the National Weather Service told a news conference.

Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Essick told a news conference that hundreds of police officers backed by the National Guard had been deployed in regions under evacuation orders to check property and prevent looting.

Several other fires have erupted throughout the state in the last week, fueled by high winds, bone-dry conditions and temperatures in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. One major fire - the Tick Fire - in the southern part of the state, north of Los Angeles, also prompted evacuations and destroyed a number of homes near Santa Clarita. —AFP

Flights, fake passports: 'VIP packages' enticing Vietnamese to Britain

NGHE AN: For up to \$50,000, Vietnamese migrants can get the "VIP package" to Britain-flight, fake passport and even a lawyer-illegal, but billed as safer than cheaper overland routes by people smugglers who provide a menu of options for those trying to reach the UK. Details of well-oiled smuggling routes spanning Vietnam to Europe have come under renewed scrutiny after 39 people were found dead in a truck in Britain.

Initially identified as Chinese, many are now believed to be Vietnamese after families came forward saying they feared their relatives were in the refrigerated trailer. The nature of their journey depends on how much money their families can stump up. Faster, comfortable and supposedly safer, the "VIP package" goes for as much

as \$50,000 - compared to around \$15,000 for so-called "grass" overland journey, according to several experts AFP spoke to.

The VIP deal offers travel documents and flights to Europe, often to France, Germany or Spain, before the final passage into the UK. "They put you in contact directly with a group in France that helps you at that end," Chung Pham, who works with Locate International, a UK-based group that helps to find missing Vietnamese migrants in Britain told AFP. Once in the UK, they are even provided with Vietnamese lawyers and translators in the event they are caught by police. "It shows you how organized and systematized they are," Pham said.

Britain has long been a prime destination for Vietnamese migrants thanks to well-entrenched criminal networks offering work-though often at lower salaries than promised. The poor central provinces of Vietnam are riddled with people smugglers and brokers with underground contacts stretching across the world. Families sell land or take on huge loans for the journeys, believing the investment will eventually pay itself back several times over. —AFP



NGHE AN: Relatives of 33-year-old Nguyen Van Hung who is feared to be among the 39 people found dead in a truck in Britain, sit outside a house in Dien Chau district of Vietnam's Nghe An province yesterday. —AFP

International

Angry at criticism, Philippines' president dares vice to take over law enforcement

Philippine mayor on Duterte 'narco' list shot dead

MANILA: Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte yesterday lashed out at Vice President Leni Robredo for criticizing his war on drugs, and offered to put her in charge of law enforcement. The president has a frosty relationship with opposition leader Robredo, who was elected separately from Duterte, whose drugs crackdown has killed thousands, stirring global alarm, although polls show strong domestic support for the campaign. "I will surrender my powers to enforce the law," Duterte said in remarks to newly-appointed government officials. "I will give it to the vice president for six months. I'll let her carry it out, let us see what will happen. I will not interfere."

It was not immediately clear if Duterte's offer was meant sarcastically, although he said he would send a letter to Robredo, a former human rights lawyer. A spokesman for Duterte did not immediately respond to a request from Reuters asking about the legal basis for such a transfer of authority. The comments follow Robredo's statements in an interview with Reuters, saying that too many people had been killed in the crackdown, which had not solved the drugs problem.

The comments have outraged Duterte, his aides and supporters. Robredo also urged access for the United Nations to investigate accusations of rights abuses over the crackdown, which Duterte's administration has rejected as lies. Later, Duterte told reporters Robredo could start the job anytime. "If she wants, I can commission her to be the drug czar," Duterte said. "I'll give her a clean slate, so she will know how easy it is to control drugs." Approached by Reuters for comment, Robredo's office said the vice president had no statement on the matter yet.

In an interview with news channel ANC yesterday, Robredo stood by her criticism of Duterte's policies. "I can't just sit back and look the other way," she said. "If I see something wrong, I feel it's my obligation to verbalize what I see, no matter how few we are." Philippine authorities reject activists' allegations that drug dealers and users are being executed and say the more than 7,000 people killed by police had all resisted arrest. Police say they have

no connection to the mysterious murders of thousands more drug users.

Philippine mayor shot dead

In another development, a Philippine mayor tagged by President Rodrigo Duterte as a "narco-politician" was ambushed while in police custody and killed Friday, police said, the latest official on the leader's blacklist to be targeted by unknown gunmen. Gunmen stopped a police van that was taking David Navarro, the mayor of the small southern town of Clarin, to the state prosecutor's office in the central city of Cebu and shot him dead, authorities said. City police had arrested Navarro, who was visiting on official business, late Thursday after he allegedly assaulted a masseur, a Cebu police officer who asked not to be named told AFP. Following the attack, in which one of Navarro's police escorts was also injured, the gunmen escaped, police said. Local television footage showed two women named by the station as the politician's siblings crying and hugging a bloodied body sprawled on the road beside a police van.

The Philippines has a violent and often deadly political culture, but rights monitors have expressed concern that Duterte's signature drug war - which has led to the killings of thousands of narcotics suspects by police - may be emboldening assailants. On March 14, ahead of May elections, Navarro's name had turned up in a list of 44 mostly local officials put out by Duterte, who accused them of being "involved in the deadly game of drug trafficking". Duterte had also released a longer list in 2016 of more than 150 judges, mayors and other local officials allegedly linked to drugs. On that list, Mayor Vicente Loot of the central town of Daanbantayan later survived a 2018 ambush, while Mayor Jed Mabilog of the central city of Iloilo went into hiding in 2017. Two other mayors in the longer list, Rolando Espinosa and Reynaldo Parojino, were killed by police in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Espinosa was shot dead inside a police jail. Mayor Antonio Halili, who was assassinated by a sniper as he attended a flag-raising ceremony outside his



CEBU: A police investigator looks at the body of slain Clarin town mayor David Navarro, after he and his police escort were ambushed in Cebu. A Philippine mayor tagged by President Rodrigo Duterte as a 'narco-politician' was shot dead in an ambush on October 25, police said, the latest official on the leader's blacklist later targeted by unknown gunmen. — AFP

office in Tanauan city near Manila last year, was linked by Duterte to illegal drug runs after the attack.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency also said Mariano Blanco, who was killed by unknown gunmen at his office in the southern town of Ronda last year, was also on the government's narcotics watchlist. Philippine police say

they have killed just over 5,500 drug suspects who fought back against arrest, but rights groups say the true toll is four times higher and may amount to crimes against humanity. International Criminal Court prosecutors have launched a preliminary probe of the drug war killings, and the UN's top human rights body has approved a review. — Agencies

Indian rescuers struggle to save toddler stuck in 26-metre well

NEW DELHI: Scores of workers were racing against time yesterday to try to rescue a two-year-old boy trapped for more than 72 hours down a 26-metre (85-foot) well in south India, officials said. The boy fell into the 30-centimetre (one-foot) diameter pipe on Friday afternoon while playing near his home in Tiruchirappalli district of Tamil Nadu state.

A thermal camera was briefly used to monitor the child's body temperature while oxygen was supplied through a pipe. The toddler, Sujith Wilson, was unconscious but breathing until Sunday morning, but rescuers have been unable to check his condition since then. Authorities said the child was initially wedged at around nine meters (30 feet) before slipping to the bottom in an upright standing position. "It's a race against time," said Jawaharlal Nehru, a senior district officer at the site.

Workers used an oil drill to dig a hole parallel to the well on Sunday, but the rig broke down at around ten metres (33 feet) because of the rocky ground. Attempts to use robotic devices to lower ropes to latch onto the boy's wrist failed on Saturday. The incident is the latest in series of mishaps that have seen children accidentally fall into



MANAPPARAL: Rescue workers gather with heavy digging equipment during an operation to rescue a toddler stuck in a deep well near Manapparal town in Tiruchirappalli district, in India's southern Tamil Nadu state yesterday. — AFP

disused and uncovered wells in rural India. In 2006 the

rescue of a six-year-old child made headlines when he was recovered safely in Haryana state after being stuck in an 18-metre (60-foot) well for 48 hours. — AFP

India allows EU MPs into Kashmir in first foreign visit since clampdown

NEW DELHI: A group of European Union lawmakers will visit Indian Kashmir today, the first foreign delegation since the special status of the Muslim-majority territory was revoked, Indian officials said. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government withdrew Kashmir's autonomy in August, a move accompanied by a crackdown on dissent by security forces there, to head off protests. It has since said the situation is returning to normality.

Hundreds of people have been freed from detention and phone lines restored, although the internet remains suspended for fear it could be used to organize street demonstrations that have turned violent in the past in the region. Pakistan, which like India lays claim to the region, has condemned the change of status of the territory and warned it could drive more Muslims to extremism across the world.

The dispute over Kashmir has bedeviled relations between the two nuclear-armed nations and sparked two of their three wars. The EU delegation of 27 lawmakers drawn from 11 countries will meet with government officials and residents to assess the situation in Kashmir, Indian officials said. The Europeans will be the first foreign group visiting Kashmir since August. This month, US members of Congress expressed concern over a lack of access for diplomats and foreign media.

Yesterday, the EU lawmakers met Modi who said the visit would give them a clear view of the development priorities of the region, his office said. Modi, making the biggest political move in Jammu and Kashmir since an armed revolt erupted in 1989, has said that special rights for Kashmir, such as a ban on outsiders buying property, had hindered its development. Within the region, which includes the Hindu-dominated Jammu region and the Buddhist enclave of Ladakh, the turmoil that was confined to the disputed Kashmir Valley had held back the development of other parts of the state. — Reuters



GOH: President Joko Widodo takes a selfie with Papuans welcoming him to Wamena, Papua. — AFP

Indonesian president opens bridge in Papua

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo will officially open a new \$128 million bridge in Papua yesterday amid a renewed pledge to develop one of the country's poorest regions, which has seen a spike in unrest over perceived racial discrimination. Widodo at the weekend visited several towns across Papua and West Papua provinces, which are collectively known as Papua, in his first trip to the country's easternmost area since he was sworn in for a second five-year term last week.

Indonesia's newly appointed deputy minister of public works, John Wempi Wetipo, a native Papuan politician, also joined the trip to Papua, where a mostly low-level separatist conflict has simmered for decades. In Kaimana, the president, his wife and others in his party took part in a traditional Papuan dance on the sea front, with some officials swaying awkwardly.

There has been a spike in unrest over the past few months in Papua, including some of the worst bloodshed in decades when 33 people died in the town of Wamena in September, adding momentum to calls by separatist groups for a new independence referendum. Yesterday, Widodo ordered that the reconstruction of the main market in Wamena should be accelerated after it was torched

during protests, according to a statement by the presidential office.

"If everyone here commits to staying united, together we can build the land of Papua and I think we can achieve prosperity and welfare quickly," he said in the statement. Widodo will hold talks with local leaders before opening the newly constructed Youtefa bridge in the provincial capital of Jayapura, his office said. The bridge cost 1.8 trillion rupiah (\$128 million) to build, according to news portal CNN Indonesia.

Widodo has also promised 139 km of roads and a new airport in the Arfak highlands to help locals transport agricultural products to the Papuan city of Manokwari, his office said. The killings of 16 construction workers building the Trans Papua highway, Widodo's flagship project in the region, by separatist rebels last year has focused new attention on who will benefit from the new infrastructure in the region.

In the latest unrest in the area, Indonesian security forces said three motorbike taxi drivers were shot dead on Friday by separatists in Hitadipa, some 340 km away from Jayapura. The military wing of the Free Papua Movement, a separatist group, claimed responsibility, but said the victims were Indonesian military personnel. Resource-rich Papua, which shares the island of New Guinea with the nation of Papua New Guinea, has a distinct Melanesian population and was a Dutch colony that was incorporated into Indonesia after a controversial UN-backed referendum in 1969. — Reuters

New Delhi fights hazardous pollution after Diwali party

NEW DELHI: After India's biggest firework party of the year, Delhi awoke to a pollution hangover yesterday with the capital forced to breathe hazardous levels of toxic particles. A thick smog engulfed landmarks such as the capital's Red Fort and India Gate while drivers had visibility cut by the haze that built up after the Diwali holiday weekend.

With the pollution threat growing over the past decade, the Supreme Court banned most fireworks for the Hindu festival of lights. However, few revelers followed the order. Firecrackers and rockets lit up the night sky and left clouds of smoke, adding to emissions from cars and trucks and stubble fires by farmers around Delhi that have made it the world's most polluted capital. Tens of thousands of people set off firecrackers into the early hours of yesterday, pushing the government air quality index beyond the top recordable level of 999.

While the pollution was less serious than previous years, the amount of the most harmful PM 2.5 pollutants was still more than 20 times international safe levels at several locations in the city of 20 million people during commuting hours. The government monitoring system said air quality was "very poor" yesterday morning. The 2.5 particulate matter (PM2.5) measures less than 2.5 microns and can penetrate the lungs through the blood system, causing serious respiratory and heart diseases.

Experts say the toxic cocktail that hits Delhi and other Indian cities each winter causes the premature deaths of more than one million people each year. Weather officials said moderate winds will help clean the city's air but that increased fires on farms in Haryana and Punjab states was a particular threat. Thousands of farmers in Haryana burn their rice and wheat stubble in between planting new crops sending clouds of smoke toward Delhi. Experts say this contributes a fifth of the PM2.5 pollution that hits each year, while the millions of vehicles on the roads and unregulated construction and factory emissions are the major cause.

The government has taken a slew of anti-pollution measures in recent years, including shutting down thermal power plants and banning construction during the pollution season. In November, a bid to reduce road traffic will be introduced with odd and even registration plates allowed on Delhi roads on alternate days. — AFP



NEW DELHI: An icecream vendor waits for customers under heavy smog near India Gate in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

Analysis

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Kenya issues smart ID cards to protect fishing and forests

Fishing communities on Kenya's north coast will be the first to benefit from "smart" identity cards aimed at distinguishing genuine fishermen and loggers from poachers who raid waters and cut down mangroves vital to ease climate change threats. Each government-issued Mvuvi card - the word means "fisher" in Swahili - features a photo and fingerprint taken from its registered owner. Authorities will be able to read the cards using smartphones loaded with communications software that allows short-range wireless data transfers.

Officials hope the cards, being used first in Lamu County, home to what the government says are about 60 percent of Kenya's protected mangrove forests, will boost security and curb illegal fishing and logging. "There are people who pretend to be fishermen going out to sea but they are doing illegal logging of the mangroves," Samson Macharia, commissioner of Lamu County, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview. "Over-harvesting of mangroves will affect (impacts from) climate change and ecosystems all along the shores of the coast and the islands," he added. Environmental scientists have long stressed the important role mangrove forests play in reducing global warming threats. Mangroves are far more effective at absorbing and storing carbon dioxide - one of the major drivers of climate change - than trees on land, they say. The trees' roots also trap and hold sediment, providing a coastal buffer against storms and protection from floods, as well as creating an important fish breeding ground.

More than 35 percent of the world's mangroves are already gone and they are disappearing three to five times faster than other forests, according to international conservation group WWF. Figures published by Kenya's Ministry of Environment and Forestry show that the country lost about 20 percent of its mangroves between 1985 and 2009. Of the mangroves that remain, an estimated 40 percent are degraded. "In the mangroves, we have witnessed 'die-back', which is mangroves just drying up," said John Bett, who works on sustainable forestry for WWF-Kenya. Bett said he has seen the effects of climate change in Lamu County gather pace in the last 10 to 15 years and that the rate of mangrove regeneration, which can occur naturally as seeds fall from trees onto the mud, has "slowed down dramatically". Only loggers registered with Kenya's Forestry Service are allowed to cut mangroves in Lamu County and only within certain quotas and areas, he explained. But without knowing who exactly is on the water, cracking down on those fishing or logging mangroves illegally has been a challenge, he stressed.

Saltier land, emptier seas

Coastal communities in Kenya are already struggling with the effects of climate change. Globally, scientists have warned that water temperatures are increasing far faster than expected due to carbon emissions. As oceans warm, they expand, driving rising sea levels which, along with more erratic weather, make farmland increasingly vulnerable to flooding and failed harvests. Hotter seas also fuel more powerful cyclones and other storms, which can drive saltwater onto land. With fewer mangrove forests to buffer coastal land, soil is becoming salty - which kills crops - and or is being washed away by heavy rains, scientists say. Warming oceans also threaten fish, especially in areas such as Kenya that have experienced coral bleaching. "Fishermen report that some of the species are disappearing because of the increase of temperatures and the damaged corals and increasing bleaching, so you find breeding areas have reduced drastically," said Bett of the WWF.

Bett has seen local fishermen become poorer and more desperate, with some taking bigger risks to net increasingly smaller catches. Others have given up fishing entirely, he said. "We have witnessed decreased stocks, so fishermen are now going further, beyond the reefs they are used to, whereas 10 to 15 years ago they would just fish near the reefs," he said. Bett also noted that local fishermen using traditional methods and small wooden boats struggle to compete with foreign vessels that fish using more modern gear.

Funded by the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Mvuvi card project originally launched in 2018, with a pilot phase that handed out 250 cards to fishermen on Kiwayu Island in Lamu County. Those cards were eventually canceled due to the discovery of security gaps in the system, explained Mathenge Ndungu, program manager of the Kiunga Youth Bunge Initiative (KYBI). The local civil society group is in charge of finding and registering fishermen for the card. The group is now working with the government to strengthening the security of participants' personal information and is in discussions over allocating space on the government's servers to store that database, Ndungu said. — Reuters

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Iraqi medical students take part in an anti-government demonstration in the Shiite shrine city of Karbala yesterday. — AFP

Iraq's 'PUBG generation' schools politicians

It was a sea of white: Students in school uniforms and lab coats demanding change in Iraq, where youth make up most of the population but benefit from few of the government's policies. They stole the spotlight yesterday by joining a wave of anti-government protests in Iraq's capital and south, ignoring threats of arrest and parents worried by violence that has so far left more than 200 dead. Samara, who studies engineering at Baghdad's Dijlah University, said she was rallying without her family's knowledge.

"They called us the PUBG generation," she said, referring to a combat video game that is so popular among Iraqi youth that parents often scold them for playing it too much. "Look what the PUBG generation can do," she said. Young Iraqis claim a generational gulf between them and the country's politicians - chief among them 77-year-old premier Adel Abdel Mahdi. "Adel, chief of thieves!" they chanted.

About 60 percent of Iraq's 40-million-strong population is under the age of 25. But youth unemployment stands at 25 percent and one in five people live below the poverty line, despite the vast oil wealth of OPEC's second-largest crude producer. Corruption is widespread, with a parliamentary probe this year finding \$450 billion in public funds have been stolen since the 2003 US-led invasion that ended Saddam Hussein's rule.

Many youths blame an entrenched system of clientelism that they say provides jobs based on personal connections

or bribes rather than university degrees or experience. "They steal billions and billions of dollars while the people don't see any of the country's resources," said Tareq, a third-year dentistry student in Baghdad.

'Take care of our country'

Their ire has engulfed more than just the premier. "We had one Saddam before. Now we have a parliament full of Saddams," said Rafal, a young business administration student protesting in Baghdad. "Young graduates are working as taxi drivers," she lamented. "We have to reopen the factories that have been closed for years and find jobs for young laborers," Rafal told AFP.

Students have chanted classic protest slogans, including, "We sacrifice our souls and blood for you Iraq!" But they have also come up with their own, including "No country? No class!" And in Najaf, striking medical students held up a banner reading: "Don't just teach us to take care of the sick - teach us to take care of our country."

In nearby Basra, an oil-rich city where public services remain shockingly poor, students filled the streets. "We're out here to ask for our rights - our right to education, our right to life, and when we graduate, to get appointed to a job," said one student, Ali. Ahead of yesterday's protests, higher education minister Qusay Al-Suhail said academics should "stay away" from protests, and a spokesman for Abdel Mahdi threatened "severe punishment" for any further disruptions. Students went out anyway, and have cir-

cumvented blocks on social media by downloading virtual private network (VPN) apps. On Facebook and messaging application WhatsApp, they shared news on protests, coordinated movements and meetings, and offered tips on avoiding closed roads to reach rallies. "We said to ourselves, we need to back these protests in our own way," said Alaa, a high school student demonstrating in Baghdad.

Democracy, open-mindedness

Professors, too, are taking part. The Iraqi Syndicate of Teachers announced a four-day strike across the country, except in the autonomous north. Raghad, a university professor, said her students inspired her and she was taking to the streets "to support them". "The authorities shouldn't cross this generation, because they were raised on democracy and open-mindedness," she said proudly.

Since protests erupted on Oct 1, almost 240 people have died across the country from live rounds, heavy tear gas use and in fires set to political offices. Yesterday, security forces fired tear gas at young protesters gathering on the edge of Tahrir Square, near a bridge leading to the high-security Green Zone which hosts government offices and foreign embassies. Those gathered said they knew the rallies could turn violent but were hoping their presence could prevent that. "This movement must stay peaceful, because the blood of our young people is precious," said Raghad. "And the people of the Green Zone aren't worth dying for." — AFP

With Baghdadi gone, who is heir to the 'caliph'?

The US declaration of Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi's death opens the question of his succession at the helm of the Islamic State organization and analysts say the list looks short. It was limited further on Sunday night after Kurdish fighters in Syria said they had killed IS spokesman Abu Hassan Al-Muhajir - another prominent figure - in a joint operation with US forces. IS social media channels have not confirmed President Donald Trump's announcement on Sunday that Baghdadi had been killed in a US raid in Syria, nor alluded to potential successors.

But Hisham Al-Hashemi, an Iraqi expert on IS, said two potential candidates stand out: Abu Othman Al-Tunisi and Abu Saleh Al-Juzrawi, who is also known as Hajj Abdullah. The first - a Tunisian national - heads IS' Shura Council, a legislative and consultative body, Hashemi said. The second - a Saudi - runs the group's so-called Delegated Committee, an executive body, he added. These "possible options" would nonetheless be controversial, according to the IS expert, because neither is a Syrian or Iraqi national, who make up the bulk of IS' guerrilla force. "This could lead to defections," he said.

Aymenn Jawad Tamimi, an academic and expert on jihadists, also identified the elusive Hajj Abdullah as a

potential successor. "He turns up in leaked IS documents as a deputy of Baghdadi and to my knowledge, he is not dead," Tamimi said. "Apart from some texts that mention Hajj Abdullah, not much is known about him except that he was the amir of the Delegated Committee which is the general governing body of IS."

Rumors

Speculation has abounded around a senior IS figure known as Abdullah Qardash - a former Iraqi military officer jailed with Baghdadi in the US-run Iraqi prison of Camp Bucca. A months-old statement attributed to IS propaganda arm Amaq but never officially adopted by the group said he was selected to replace Baghdadi even before Trump declared the self-proclaimed "caliph" dead. But Tamimi and Hashemi both said the statement was fake. Fake statements in the name of Amaq routinely circulate on social media networks. "It was not put out on the official IS channels, it was not disseminated there... it was definitely fake," said Tamimi, who archives and analyses the group's publications. Citing Iraqi intelligence sources, Hashemi said Qardash had died two years ago. "Qardash's daughter is currently held by Iraqi intelligence," he said. "Both her and other relatives have confirmed that he died in 2017." Hashemi also said Qardash - a Turkmen from Iraq's Tal Afar region - would not qualify as "caliph" because he is not from the Quraysh tribe - the same tribe as Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He said belonging to the Quraysh tribe is seen as a prerequisite for becoming the leader of IS.

Tricky succession

Whoever gets the job will inherit the difficult task of

leading a frayed organization that has been reduced to scattered sleeper cells after continuous offensives stripped it of its territory in Iraq and Syria. Divisions have widened within IS ranks in recent months, with some supporters blaming Baghdadi for the demise of the "caliphate" in March. With Baghdadi gone, "IS affiliates have a chance to switch allegiances or simply not repledge their allegiance to Baghdadi's successor," said Nate Rosenblatt, a researcher and jihad expert. This may give a boost to rival jihadist groups in Syria such as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, headed by Al-Qaeda's former Syria affiliate, and the Al-Qaeda-linked Hurras al-Deen group, he said.

'It doesn't matter'

But day-to-day IS operations are not likely to be impacted by the leadership void, according to Max Abrahms, professor of political science at Northeastern University in the United States. "It doesn't matter who will succeed Baghdadi," who largely disappeared after he announced his "caliphate" across swaths of territory in Syria and Iraq in 2014, he said. "When it comes to decision making and operations and recruitment, IS was much more decentralized than even Al-Qaeda," whose founder Osama bin Laden was also killed in a US raid in 2011, he added. "When bin Laden was killed, the question of who would replace him was more relevant, because bin Laden exercised more control over Al-Qaeda than Baghdadi did over IS."

IS has invested in an elaborate bureaucratic structure that could compensate for the loss of its leader, according to Charlie Winter, a researcher at King's College London. — AFP

Tiger emerges from 'most challenging' career phase with win

Tiger Woods said yesterday his latest injury comeback to win the Zozo Championship and tie the US PGA Tour's win record had ended the "most challenging" phase of his storied career. Woods held off Hideki Matsuyama at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club to equal Sam Snead's record of 82 wins and move to number six in the world rankings from 10th. It was his first tournament since arthroscopic left knee surgery in August and came after he started the tournament on Thursday with three straight bogeys.

Four back surgeries, countless knee operations, marital strife and run-ins with the law meant Woods had not won a major since 2008 and no tournaments since 2013 when he teed up at the Players Championship at East Lake, Atlanta, just over a year ago. He had endured two years out of the game and hobbled out of the February 2018 Dubai Desert Classic with back spasms on his long-awaited return.

His ranking plummeted to 656 at the end of 2017, and

with form and fitness deserting him many observers felt he might never get the three further tour wins he needed to tie Snead, let alone another major. Not only did he win the Tour Championship for his first victory in five years, but Woods went on to secure a fifth Green Jacket and 15th major at Augusta earlier this year to stand just three behind Jack Nicklaus's record 18.

And now he stands unsurpassed as the most successful PGA Tour golfer of all time after victory at the weather-delayed inaugural tournament in Japan. "Well, it's satisfying to dig my way out of it and figure out a way," said Woods, who finished three shots clear on 19-under par. "As far as playing, I didn't really know that I would come back and play at this level. "But I've come back with different games over the years, moving patterns, and this one's been obviously the most challenging," he said, after four stunning rounds of 64, 64, 66 and 67 for a three-stroke win.

Olympic ambition

"Then having another procedure a couple months ago and again coming back and winning an event, not easy to do, but I trust my

hands and today was no different." Woods recalled as a five-year-old in 1981 getting to play with Snead for the only time. "I played with Sam at, I think, it was Calabasas Country Club," said Woods. "He was doing an outing there and I had come out to play the 17th and 18th holes with him. I remember hitting the ball into a little creek and playing it out of the water and making bogey. I bogeyed the last and he went par-par."

"It was the only time I ever got a chance to play with Sam Snead - I was two-down through two," he smiled. While Snead registered his 82nd win at the age of 52, Woods is nine years younger. "As far as playing until 52, I hope that's the case," said Woods. "If you would have asked me a few years ago, I would have given you a different answer, but certainly the future looks brighter than it has." And that includes coming back to Japan for the Tokyo Olympics next year before defending his Zozo Championship.

"I hope to qualify for the team and represent my country," he said. "I know some of my friends have made Olympic teams before in the past and they said it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I'll be 44 and I don't know if I have many more chances after that." — AFP



Business

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2019

12 Kuwait ambassador to UK welcomes first Jazeera flight at London Gatwick**13** VIVA reports KD 31.6m net profit during nine-month period ended 30 Sept 2019**14** Al Mulla Automobiles delivers 258 Mercedes-Benz Actros Trucks to NCC

FRANKFURT AM: Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), arrives for the press conference following the meeting of the Governing Council in Frankfurt am Main. — AFP

ECB's Draghi hands baton to Lagarde

Lagarde's first task will be to heal rifts among policymakers

FRANKFURT: ECB chief Mario Draghi bowed out yesterday, passing the baton to former IMF head Christine Lagarde whose first task will be to heal rifts among policymakers.

The man credited with saving the euro during his eight-year tenure at the European Central Bank was sent off with speeches by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian head of state Sergio Mattarella.

But before Draghi has even left the bank's Frankfurt headquarters, attention was switching to Lagarde, a French former economy minister about to become the ECB's first female president. While the 63-year-old has ambitions to focus on gender equality, climate action and jargon-free language, analysts say the most pressing issue is to resolve divisions over Draghi's final monetary stimulus package.

The Italian central banker in September restarted government and corporate bond purchases to the tune of 20 billion euros (\$22.2 billion) per month to bolster a stuttering eurozone economy.

The move sparked fierce public criticism from some

of the ECB governing council's 25 members, who argued it was too heavy-handed and robbed the bank of firepower in case of a more protracted downturn. Finding a way to bridge the divide and "have the two sides talk to each other" will top Lagarde's to-do list, said ING bank economist Carsten Brzeski.

"This also means that there won't be any imminent changes to monetary policy."

'Change in style'

Not an economist herself, Lagarde lacks the technical expertise of other members on the council, made up of 19 central banker governors and a six-person executive board. But she is a savvy, well-connected politician who won plaudits for guiding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through the aftermath of the financial crisis. "Lagarde will be more depending on advice from others," Brzeski told AFP.

"That doesn't have to be a disadvantage but will definitely be a change in style."

Lagarde, a lawyer by training, has already signalled that Draghi's easy-money legacy will be in safe hands. In

a bid to drive up growth and stubbornly low inflation, Draghi guided the ECB council as it set interest rates at historic lows, hoovered up 2.6 trillion euros in bond buys and offered ultra-cheap loans to banks.

Lagarde told EU lawmakers last month she would stick to the "same sound principles" as the euro area grapples with headwinds from US-led trade tensions, Brexit chaos and slumping German exports. She is already echoing Draghi's calls for governments in the 19-nation currency union to use their fiscal leeway to help boost the economy—a plea she regularly made as IMF boss. "Monetary policy has done a lot in recent years. Finance and economic policy must complement it now," she told German weekly Der Spiegel on Friday. Such calls have been mainly aimed at economic powerhouse Germany, and so far fallen on deaf ears.

As the global outlook worsens, observers are hoping that could change under Lagarde who counts Merkel as "a dear friend".

'Dusty language'

Used to being the only woman in the room,

Lagarde has vowed to tackle the gender gap in the higher echelons of the ECB. "I would dearly like to see more women in the financial world and to make their voices heard," she told Spiegel. Lagarde is expected to soon be joined at the bank by respected German economist Isabel Schnabel, who is going through the nomination process.

If confirmed, they will be the only two women on the bank's council and board.

Lagarde has also set herself the goal of communicating more clearly, promising she would "bring the ECB and its monetary policy closer to a broad public". On climate change too, Lagarde sees room for improvement. The ECB's core mandate is "price stability of course... (but) climate change and environmental risks are mission critical," she said during her grilling by Brussels lawmakers, adding that she backed a "gradual transition" of the bank's investments to greener projects.

The real thing will be waiting in the governing council's meeting room on the 41st floor of the gleaming ECB skyscraper. Lagarde officially takes up the post on November 1. — AFP

LVMH woos Tiffany with takeover proposal

PARIS: French luxury giant LVMH said yesterday it was exploring a takeover of US jewellers Tiffany, most famous for its fine diamonds and luxury silver wedding and engagement rings.

Tiffany, founded in 1837 and headquartered on glamorous 5th Avenue in New York, is the most iconic of US luxury brands, an image reflected in the "Breakfast at Tiffany's" novella by Truman Capote, made into a film with Audrey Hepburn in 1961. LVMH, one of the world's most powerful luxury conglomerates, said it was in "preliminary talks" to take over Tiffany but there was "no certainty" that they would be successful. Tiffany, in a separate statement yesterday, confirmed "an unsolicited, non-binding proposal" from the French conglomerate, saying it was for \$120 per share, which values the company at around \$14.5 billion.

Tiffany's stock market value stood at



NEW YORK: People walk past the headquarters of luxury jewelry and specialty retailer Tiffany & Co on 5th Avenue in Manhattan yesterday in New York City. — AFP

\$11.9 billion at the close of Wall Street trading on Friday.

The US company said there were no actual discussions going on but it was "carefully reviewing" the proposal. LVMH said earlier yesterday that "following recent market rumors, the LVMH group confirms having started preliminary discussions about a possible operation with Tiffany".

The purchase of Tiffany by LVMH would

be one of the largest acquisitions by the French group, which is a world leader in luxury, present in fashion to wine, perfumes and cosmetics, with brands including Louis Vuitton, Dior and champagnes Veuve Clicquot et Moët & Chandon.

LVMH's share price was mildly higher following the announcement, rising 0.3 percent to 384.90 euros in mid-afternoon Paris stock trading. — AFP

Argentina tightens exchange controls

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's central bank said yesterday it has sharply tightened currency exchange controls to stem a surge in capital flight, a day after Peronist candidate Alberto Fernandez swept to victory in presidential elections. Fernandez defeated market-friendly incumbent Mauricio Macri, setting off market jitters about the return to power of protectionist Peronists, including former president Cristina Kirchner.

Central Bank President Guido Sandleris said Argentina's international reserves have plummeted by \$22 billion dollars since a primary election in August that established Fernandez as the likely winner.

He told the news conference that the bank decided to further tighten exchange controls, effective Monday, after noting "an important demand for dollars" last week. "Faced with the risk that this would continue this week, we decided to deepen the controls. From

yesterday, we have reduced to \$200 the maximum monthly amount that individuals can buy," he said. The bank initially imposed exchange controls in September, limiting dollar purchases by individuals to \$10,000 a month.

The Fernandez victory comes amid a lengthy recession and a debt crunch, which has raised market fears of a possible default on a \$57 billion IMF loan. The peso fell 5.86 percent in the week before the elections, and the week ended with the dollar at 65 pesos.

Argentines have historically sought dollars as a safe haven against high inflation and devaluations of the peso.

Sandleris said the nation's international reserves dropped by \$10 billion after exchange controls were first imposed in September, which followed a \$12 billion decline after the August primary.

He attributed a third of the drop to declines in dollar deposits, another third to government payments on the debt, and the remaining third on central bank interventions to shore up the peso in exchange markets. Sandleris stressed that the new, stricter exchange control targets individuals, but not dollar purchases for foreign trade or debt payments. He said the restrictions will remain in force until the new government assumes office, December 10. — AFP

Business

Warba Bank acts as joint lead manager in arranging \$600m sukuk for Dar Al-Arkan

Saudi real estate developer Dar Al-Arkan raises \$600m under its sukuk program

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on Sunday announcing the names of the winners for the week of 20 - 24 October 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

Nesma Mohammed Alturkai
Ayoub Yousef Ali Kamal
Naji Ahmad Suwaidan
Omar Abdulla Mohammed Al-Somali
Abdullatif Abdullah Al-Rodan

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. 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. So the customer receives in 2018 all the chances he earned in 2018, and they get added to the chances he earned in 2019, and so on. Terms and conditions apply.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 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.

KUWAIT: Warba Bank acted as Joint Lead Arranger and Book-runner on the successfully placed Sukuk issuance for Saudi Arabia's leading listed real estate developer Dar Al-Arkan, rated Baa2 by Moody's with a stable outlook. The five-year \$600 million Sukuk was issued at a discount at \$98.841, with a coupon rate of 6.75 percent to produce a 7.00 percent yield and based on the principles of the Islamic wakalah. Warba Bank was appointed alongside other regional and international financial institutions to manage the company's sixth sukuk issuance which listed on Irish Stock Exchange under its \$2 billion program.

Demand for sukuk was strong as evidenced by the oversubscription. Warba Bank's participation in Sukuk issuances and the growth of its assets' portfolio reflects its commitment to develop its investment banking capabilities in foreign markets by continuing to inject the necessary financing for international companies in the regional and global markets through its financing portfolio, which witnessed a remarkable growth of 39 percent to



Thuwaini Al-Thuwaini

reach KD 1.931 billion until June 30, 2019.

Thuwaini Khalid Al-Thuwaini, Chief Investment Banking Group at Warba Bank said that the Sukuk issuance was successful in generating 2.7 times over subscription with the order book reaching over \$1.6 billion. "We are pleased play such a lead role in this sukuk issuance for Dar Al-Arkan Real Estate Development," he said.

Al-Thuwaini said that the transaction followed a comprehensive marketing strategy and road show

aimed at informing the international fixed income community on the company's most recent development. He pointed out that a senior management delegation met with investors in Singapore, Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and London.

Al-Thuwaini pointed out that the transaction was successfully led by Alkhair Capital, Deutsche Bank (B&D) / Dubai Islamic Bank / Emirates NBD Capital / Goldman Sachs International / Nomura International / Noor Bank / Standard Chartered Bank and Warba Bank as Joint Lead Managers. He elaborated that the law firm Allen and Overy acted as legal counsel for the banks, while Latham and Watkins represented Dar Al-Arkan.

Al-Thuwaini added that Warba Bank continues to support the business sector in emerging markets by providing them with superior financing and investment solutions that are flexible and efficient. This is based on the Bank's strategy to establish Warba Bank as a leader in the corporate and investment sector both in Kuwait and in international markets.

ECB lending pace sees slower growth

FRANKFURT MAIN: The pace of growth in lending to eurozone companies slowed in September, ECB data showed yesterday, bolstering outgoing president Mario Draghi's message that more stimulus was warranted to confront an economic slowdown. Loan growth to non-financial firms shed 0.6 percentage points compared with August, to 3.7 percent year-on-year, the European Central Bank said in figures adjusted for some purely financial transactions.

Credit to households expanded by 3.4 percent, the

same pace as the two previous months.

Overall, private sector credit growth slowed from 3.8 to 3.7 percent. The monthly data is closely watched to gauge the effectiveness of the ECB's measures to encourage lending and investment in the single currency bloc in a bid to drive up economic growth and inflation.

Draghi, after chairing his final meeting as ECB chief last Thursday, said a recent decision to unleash fresh stimulus in the eurozone was "justified" in the face of a weaker economy. Last month, the Italian economist and his colleagues cut a key interest rate deeper into negative territory and loosened conditions on a new round of cheap credit to lenders.

More controversially, the ECB also relaunched corporate and government bond purchases to the tune of 20 billion euros (\$22.2 billion) a month, sparking rare public criticism from some council members who argued that the move was too drastic. — AFP

Dollar dips on trade optimism, before Fed meets

NEW YORK: The US dollar slipped yesterday as optimism that the US and China will reach a trade deal reduced demand for safe haven currencies, and as investors waited on the Federal Reserve's meeting this week. US President Donald Trump said yesterday he expected to sign a significant part of the trade deal with China ahead of schedule but did not elaborate on the timing.

The comments come after the US Trade Representative's office and China's Commerce Ministry said on Friday that US and Chinese officials are "close to finalizing" some parts of a trade agreement, with talks to continue. The trade war between the US and China has been blamed for adding to global economic weakness, which in turn has prompted central banks globally to cut rates. "Positive trade headlines continue to support our view that trade tensions are easing," said Win Thin, global head of FX strategy at Brown

Brothers Harriman.

The dollar index against a basket of six major currencies fell 0.07 percent to 97.765. The greenback gained 0.19 percent against the Swiss franc to 0.9962. The Australian dollar, which is highly sensitive to the Chinese economy, rose 0.07 percent to \$0.6827 US dollars. Hopes that Britain will reach a deal to leave the European Union, and avoid a disorderly exit, also boosted risk sentiment yesterday.

The European Union yesterday agreed to a 3-month flexible delay to Britain's departure from the bloc as Prime Minister Boris Johnson pushes for an election after opponents forced him to request an extension he had vowed never to ask for.

The next major US focus is this week's Federal Reserve meeting. The US central bank is expected to cut rates when it concludes its two-day meeting tomorrow, though investors will be watching for any indication that further cuts are likely. Fed policymakers are deeply divided on whether the U.S. central bank should continue cutting rates.

"There's still an awful lot of discrepancy and uncertainty in the markets as to what the Fed will do next year," said Jane Foley, senior FX strategist at Rabobank. "The market will be looking for clues as to which way that might go." — Reuters

Kuwait ambassador to UK welcomes first Jazeera flight at London Gatwick



At the moment of the landing of flight J9 1 of Jazeera Airways London Gatwick



LONDON: Khaled Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan and Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai on the A320neo that landed in London Gatwick on Sunday

KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Kuwait to the United Kingdom, Khaled Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan, honored Jazeera Airways with his presence at the landing of its first flight to London Gatwick on Sunday afternoon. The airline's first flight "J9 1" to the UK took off in an A320neo at 9:45am Kuwait time.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer | 304.400 |
| Euro | 340.780 |
| Sterling Pound | 394.350 |
| Canadian dollar | 235.240 |
| Turkish lira | 54.070 |
| Swiss Franc | 309.660 |
| US Dollar Buying | 296.950 |

ASIAN COUNTRIES

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen | 2.802 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.302 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 1.963 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.674 |
| Nepali Rupees | 2.677 |
| Singapore Dollar | 225.060 |
| Hongkong Dollar | 38.839 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.574 |
| Philippine Peso | 5.956 |
| Thai Baht | 10.108 |
| Malaysian ringgit | 77.852 |

GCC COUNTRIES

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyal | 81.227 |
| Qatari Riyal | 83.661 |
| Omani Riyal | 791.163 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 808.820 |
| UAE Dirham | 82.931 |

ARAB COUNTRIES

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Egyptian Pound - Cash | 20.900 |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 18.866 |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000 | 1.223 |

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Tunisian Dinar | 111.500 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 429.790 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000 | 0.203 |
| Syrian Lira | 0.000 |
| Morocco Dirham | 32.189 |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Europe | | |
| British Pound | 0.383906 | 0.387806 |
| Czech Korune | 0.005207 | 0.014507 |
| Danish Krone | 0.041227 | 0.046227 |
| Euro | 0.330411 | 0.344111 |
| Georgian Lari | 0.121480 | 0.121480 |
| Hungarian 0.001147 | 0.001337 | |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.029279 | 0.034479 |
| Romanian Leu | 0.065231 | 0.082081 |
| Russian ruble | 0.004775 | 0.004775 |
| Slovakia | 0.009099 | 0.019099 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.027494 | 0.032494 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.299995 | 0.310995 |

| Australasia | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Australian Dollar | 0.199883 | 0.211883 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.187457 | 0.196957 |

| America | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Canadian Dollar | 0.228078 | 0.237078 |
| US Dollars | 0.300300 | 0.305600 |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.300800 | 0.305600 |
| Asia | | |
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.002962 | 0.003763 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Chinese Yuan | 0.041639 | 0.045139 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.036936 | 0.039686 |
| Indian Rupee | 0.003690 | 0.004462 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000017 | 0.000023 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.002719 | 0.002899 |
| Korean Won | 0.000249 | 0.000264 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.069357 | 0.075357 |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.002625 | 0.002965 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.001332 | 0.002102 |
| Philippine Peso | 0.005715 | 0.006015 |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.217981 | 0.227981 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001319 | 0.001899 |
| Taiwan | 0.009697 | 0.009877 |
| Thai Baht | 0.009736 | 0.010286 |
| Vietnamese Dong | 0.000013 | 0.000013 |

| Arab | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.801280 | 0.809330 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.018636 | 0.021377 |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000086 |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000214 | 0.000274 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.424432 | 0.433432 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.000157 | 0.000257 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.020832 | 0.044832 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.785522 | 0.793413 |
| Qatar Riyal | 0.082955 | 0.083789 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.080087 | 0.081387 |
| Syrian Pound | 0.001290 | 0.001510 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 0.103271 | 0.11271 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.046002 | 0.055847 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.082244 | 0.083070 |
| Yemeni Riyal | 0.000989 | 0.001069 |

Trade tariffs hit profitability at Philips

THE HAGUE: Electronics giant Philips said yesterday that trade tariffs had begun to bite into the profit margins at one of its medical equipment units and that orders were flat in the third quarter.

The Dutch firm that has largely shifted to building medical equipment in recent years reported that net profits fell by nearly 30 percent to 208 million euros (\$231 million) in the three months to September, thanks largely to 78 million euros in writedowns. It was in the business line which makes equipment that helps doctors and hospital staff monitor patients that Philips said tariffs have begun to erode margins.

The operating profit margin in the Connected Care businesses declined to 11.3 percent from 15.8 percent, "due to increasing headwinds from tariffs," chief executive Frans van Houten said in a statement. He also cited the delayed impact of measures meant to mitigate the impact of tariffs, under-utilisation of factories and its product mix as factors for the unit's performance.

Overall, sales rose by six percent on a comparable basis, with China leading the way with double-digit growth. But order intake was flat after surging 11 percent in the third quarter of last year.

While van Houten described the third quarter performance as "mixed results" for the firm, he said Philips still expects adjusted sales growth of 4.0-6.0 percent for the year, with its overall operating margin to rise slightly. Shares in Philips fell 3.2 percent in midday trading on the Amsterdam exchange, where the AEX index was 0.2 percent lower. — AFP

Business

VIVA reports KD 31.6m net profit during nine-month period ended 30 Sept 2019

Revenues reach KD 215.6 million

KUWAIT: VIVA, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and a subsidiary of STC Group, announced the financial results for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2019; whereby VIVA's Revenues reached KD 215.6 million, and the net profit reached KD 31.6 million for the nine-month period ended 30 September.

Commenting on the financial results, Eng Maziad Nasser Al-Harbi, VIVA CEO said: "The company's financial results grew during the third quarter compared to the second quarter of this year, third quarter revenues reached KD 76.1 million compared to KD 72.9 million during second quarter of 2019, a growth of 4.3 percent. EBITDA grew by 11.0 percent reaching KD 21.4 million in the third quarter of 2019 while, the net profit for the same period increased to reach KD 11.7 million compared to KD 10.3 million for the second quarter of 2019, a growth of 13.3 percent.

VIVA was able to achieve this growth during the third quarter of 2019 despite the

continued competition witnessed in the Kuwaiti telecom market which is one of the most competitive markets in the region, where VIVA was able to achieve outstanding levels of revenues in addition to enhancing the operational efficiency to ensure generating value and positive return to our shareholders.

VIVA has accomplished these results due to the implementation of the digital transformation strategy and providing integrated solutions for both consumers and enterprises, and has driven its business to new areas of sustainable growth, through a series of innovative initiatives which aims to improve operational efficiency, customer service, and offering the best services and products that cater to its customer's needs, as well as invested in the advanced 5G framework with the biggest scope over the country."

Al-Harbi added: "Commenting on the results of the nine-months period ended 30 September 2019, VIVA managed to achieve revenues KD 215.6 million during the nine-month period of 2019, while the EBITDA



Eng Maziad Nasser Al-Harbi

recorded a growth of 11.3 percent to reach a KD 59.5 million during the nine-month period of 2019 compared to KD 53.4 million for the same period in 2018. EBITDA margin reached 28 percent during the nine-month period of 2019 compared to 25 percent during the nine-month period of 2018. As a result, VIVA reported a net profit of KD 31.6 million (earnings per share of 63 fils) during the nine-month period of 2019

with a profit margin of 15 percent. VIVA's customer base reached 2.01 million at the end of September 2019."

He added: "VIVA managed to achieve positive earnings for its shareholders as a result of the commitment to elevate the quality of customer service and improving the operational efficiency. By achieving this outstanding level of revenues and profitability during the nine-month period in 2019, VIVA reflects its solid stance in the telecom market, accompanied with the fruitful launch of the fifth generation (5G) network nationwide, positioning itself to be one of the first telecommunications companies in the region to offer this service to its customers with the widest coverage in Kuwait, and in line with companies of its likes in the international market."

Al-Harbi concluded: "VIVA's financial results reflected its capability to compete and preserve its function as the Second greatest telecom operator in the Kuwaiti market in terms of market share of revenue in the telecom sector. Due to VIVA's safe and stable financial policy, we continued to



implement the cost reduction program adopted by the company during the previous year to reach the best results to enhance profitability by adopting a balanced and effective financial policy in operating and capital expenditures. Shedding the light on the financial position of the company as of 30 September 2019, the total assets at the end of the nine-month period of 2019 reached KD 387.8 million where total shareholders' equity reached KD 203.6 million, with a book value per share of 408 Kuwaiti fils. In addition, VIVA has a strong financial solvency position, which is considered one of the best companies across the Middle East telecoms companies."

Lagarde: Crisis fighter at home in halls of power

BERLIN: After a career breaking glass ceilings to join a tiny global elite, Christine Lagarde will bring experience of cool-headed crisis fighting to her job as first female head of the European Central Bank.

The 63-year-old Frenchwoman arrives at the ECB after weathering the financial crisis and its aftershocks at the French finance ministry, in 2007-11, and the International Monetary Fund in 2011-19 — the first woman to hold both jobs. She faced one catastrophic threat after another, from financial sector meltdown in 2008 to the Greek and Argentine debt crises.

Formerly a successful corporate lawyer, Lagarde is praised for tactical nous, level-headedness and stamina. Her lack of a formal economics education also leaves her less bound by ideological convictions.

After three ECB chiefs well-versed in tinkering with interest rates and soothing the fears of financial markets, she may have to work harder to secure credibility—a central banker's most invaluable asset. But Lagarde, unused to failure, "knows perfectly well what she has to do" at the ECB, departing chief Mario Draghi said Thursday. Her one prominent black mark is a "negligence" conviction over a business arbitration as economy minister that cost taxpayers dearly. Judges spared her a sentence out of concern for her "international reputation".

Rapid rise

The daughter of two teachers, Lagarde was a champion synchronized swimmer in her

youth. Some of her zeal for women's cause may date back to being refused a job as a young lawyer "because you are a woman". Usually smiling and standing out by her stature and silver bob, Lagarde climbed the ladder into the circles of the powerful. Her ascent recalls the Latin motto of the elite Holton Arms high school she attended for one year in Maryland, "Inveniam viam aut faciam"—"I will find a way or create one".

She only really came to public prominence in 2005, when France's conservative government tapped the then-president of law firm Baker and McKenzie in its search for fresh faces. Beginning as trade minister, Lagarde ascended to the economy portfolio two years later, just before the 2008 financial crisis and global recession. When a new IMF chief was needed after former chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn's sexual assault scandal, she made the leap.

Lagarde was soon trotting the globe, selling economic orthodoxy in near-flawless English. The IMF's widely-criticized role in repeated rescues of Greece brought her into close contact with the ECB, while she rarely hesitates to ruffle feathers among her former European partners or to break diplomatic protocol. In her private life, Lagarde is an item with French businessman Xavier Giocanti, after splitting from the father of her two sons.

'Adults in the room'

From marking her political career in France, Lagarde's habit of speaking her mind took on new dimensions on the international stage. She once urged austerity-battered Greeks to "pay their taxes" to help end the government's fiscal woes, as well as at one point bemoaning the lack of "adults in the room" at talks with Athens and its creditors.

Greeks have also targeted her for the harshest criticism, with the leftist Syriza government once accusing the IMF of "criminal responsibility" for the country's troubles. Lagarde attempted to learn from the Greece crisis in dealings with Argentina, placing responsibility for reforms firmly on Buenos Aires' shoulders. While the country is struggling to repay its record \$57 billion loan from the IMF, she insisted last month that things would be "a lot worse" if the fund had not intervened.



Christine Lagarde, President-designate of the European Central Bank (ECB), speaks in this file photo. — AFP

Athletic, a vegetarian and a non-smoker, Lagarde is also known for offering glimpses of her personal life like her poor English as a teenager, her two failed attempts to enter the elite French civil service school ENA and her habit of undercover exercises for stomach and bottom muscles.

In a recent interview with US broadcaster CBS, she even showed off her poker-faced technique for appearing to drink wine without swallowing a drop. Weeks before, she had stood before the assembled IMF staff and guests to sing French megastar Edith Piaf's "Je ne regrette rien"—"I regret nothing". —AFP

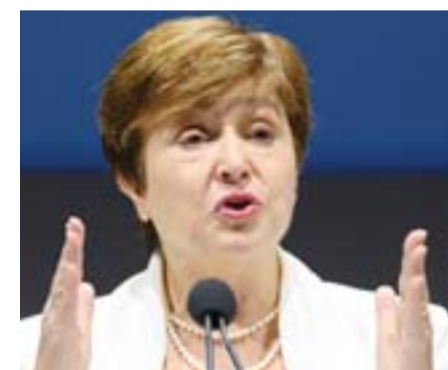
IMF chief: We look forward to engaging with Argentina govt

WASHINGTON: International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva yesterday congratulated Alberto Fernandez, winner of Argentina's presidential elections, and vowed to work with his government to stabilize the economy. "We look forward to engaging with his administration to tackle #Argentina's economic challenges and promote inclusive and sustainable growth that benefits all Argentines," Georgieva tweeted.

Fernandez and his running mate-former president Cristina Kirchner soundly defeated business-friendly President Mauricio Macri in Sunday's polls. Macri had signed a massive \$57 billion loan package with the IMF, but the austerity measures he imposed failed to right the economy and generated a wave of popular anger against him.

The poverty rate has risen to more than 35 percent, inflation for the year to September was at almost 38 percent, while the peso has depreciated 70 percent since January 2018.

The return to power of protectionist Peronists has raised fears of yet another debt default, and eroded the peso's value. The president-elect has insisted his government would not default but rather seek to renegotiate the terms of the IMF



In this file photo, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaks at the IMF/World Bank Annual Fall Meetings Plenary Session in Washington, DC. — AFP

loan, and sought to reassure voters that their bank deposits would be safe under his administration.

But since Fernandez's crushing victory in August primaries, Argentine savers have withdrawn around \$22 billion from their accounts. The government has imposed strict capital controls to prevent further erosion of its currency reserves, and the restrictions were tightened again yesterday to allow dollar purchases of only \$200 a month. The IMF is viewed as having taken a chance with the record loan to Buenos Aires, given the country's track record, and it is the first major crisis for Georgieva who took the helm of the Washington-based crisis lender only this month. —AFP

But analysts say the chances of another default are rising, one putting them at 67 percent, with a "haircut" to reduce the debt level and extend the maturity highly likely. —AFP

HSBC profits slip in US, Europe

HONG KONG: HSBC's interim chief executive yesterday said the banking giant was underperforming in parts of Europe and the United States, as third-quarter profits slipped and the lender warned of further headwinds. The Asia-focused behemoth has been trying to lower costs as it faces the double uncertainties caused by the grinding US-China trade war and Britain's impending departure from the European Union.

Noel Quinn, who took over as acting CEO after the shock ouster in August of John Flint, has overseen plans to axe some 4,000 jobs, primarily away from its more profitable businesses within the Greater China region. "Parts of our business, especially Asia, held up well in a challenging environment in the third quarter," Quinn said in a statement attached to the bank's latest results.

"However, in some parts, performance was not acceptable, principally business activities within continental Europe, the non-ringfenced bank in the UK, and the US," he added.

The results statement gave no concrete details of what further restructuring may be down the line and said investors would be updated before February 2020, when the full 2019 results are released.

But Quinn, who has signalled he wants the top job on a permanent basis, hinted at more pain ahead in the coming months. "Our previous plans are no longer sufficient to improve performance for these businesses, given the softer outlook for revenue growth," he said.

"We are therefore accelerating plans to remodel them, and move capital into higher growth and return opportunities." Bloomberg News has reported that the bank may look to partially exit stock trading in some developed Western markets, and will attempt to sell its French retail bank. In the results, pre-tax profit slipped 18 percent on-year to \$4.8 billion in July-September with the vast majority — \$4.7 billion—coming from Asia, according to the statement. Adjusted pretax profit fell 12 percent to \$5.3 billion, net profit fell by 24 percent to \$3 billion and revenue slipped 3.2 percent to \$13.4 billion, all missing analyst forecasts. —AFP



Business

Al Mulla Automobiles delivers 258 Mercedes-Benz Actros Trucks to NCC

Trucks to be used in ten areas of Kuwait in 6-year contract with Municipality



KUWAIT: Al Mulla Automobiles, the authorized dealer of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, delivered 258 Actros 2032 Trucks to NCC, in the presence of Muhsen Boshehri, CEO of National Cleaning Company, Imad Flayhan, the Managing Director of the Automotive at Al Mulla Group, and a number of the top management team from both companies, as well as delegates from Daimler Commercial Vehicles MENA.

The trucks were delivered on schedule and will be

used by the National Cleaning Company and its subsidiaries in ten areas in Kuwait, as part of a six-year contract with Kuwait Municipality.

Imad Flayhan, the Managing Director of the Automotive at Al Mulla Group, said: "We are delighted to cooperate with the National Cleaning Company. During the last period, we have worked closely with the company to identify their needs, to design the best suitable specifications and to deliver this large number



of trucks on the fixed date and according to the agreed specifications."

Muhsen Boshehri, CEO of National Cleaning Company, stated: "The Mercedes-Benz Actros trucks are the best in their class and we believe it will help us serve Kuwait areas better and more efficient and we will continue to work with the Commercial Vehicles Division at Mulla Automobiles to ensure that we always provide the highest quality of service to our society."

The Mercedes-Benz Actros advanced specifications make it the most efficient vehicle in its class. In addition to its distinctive design that holds the features of the latest generation of trucks, it is provided with a PowerShift automated gearbox equipped as standard, in addition to a powerful and efficient engine to achieve the highest levels of fuel efficiency, which makes it a perfect choice for companies that are looking for powerful and economical trucks at the same time.

Gulf Air's inaugural Maldives flight touches down



MALE: Gulf Air - the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain - celebrated its inaugural service to the Maldives as its flight GF144 landed in Velana International Airport in the capital, Male. The landing aircraft, a new Airbus 320neo, was welcomed with a water cannon salute and, upon arrival, a celebratory event was held at the airport which saw the attendance of Gulf Air's Chief Commercial Officer Vincent Coste, the Managing Director of Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation Thoyyib Mohamed and Chief Executive of Maldives Civil Aviation Authority Hussain Jaleel along with various dignitaries, a number of local media, travel industry representatives and airport officials.

At the inaugural event in Velana International Airport, Coste said: "This is a remarkable event for us to fly, for the first time, to the Maldives. This tourist destination is widely popular amongst premium leisure travelers being honeymooners or fami-

lies seeking luxurious holidays". He also added: "With five weekly direct flights between Bahrain and Male and with great connectivity through our hub, this destination promises to be a key route within our growing network."

Acting Head of Operations of Maldives Airports Company Ltd Ibrahim Hareef said: "It's an honor that 'Gulf Air' the flag carrier of Bahrain has become our newest partner and we are confident that the airline will add value to our airport and benefit the Maldives in terms of Trade & Tourism and I thank Gulf Air Team for choosing Velana International Airport in their route expansion and I wish Gulf Air success in their future endeavors".

Gulf Air will deploy its new aircraft the Airbus A320neo on this route. With its latest technologies, the aircraft is eco-friendly as it produces low fuel emissions while in the same time it is equipped with latest cabin comfort features.



Gulf Bank executive attends session on ISO 27001 certification

KUWAIT: In line with Gulf Bank's ongoing efforts to strengthen and optimize its information security, the Bank's executive leadership team attended an awareness session on ISO 27001 certification. The ISO 27001 certification is a widely recognized international standard outlining best practices for information security management systems.

Gulf Bank security processes and procedures are continuously updated to mitigate risks and to support organizational growth. ISO 27001 is a globally recognized standard mandating numerous controls for the establishment, maintenance, and certification of an information security management system (ISMS). This ISMS framework consists of all the legal, physical, and technical controls which allow companies to manage the security of assets such as financial information, intellectual property, employee details, or information entrusted by third parties.

Commenting on the session, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, Salma Al-Hajjaj, said: "At Gulf Bank, we continuously strive to ensure our workforce is trained to consistently enhance our operations in line with global business trends. This initiative, amongst others, is a testament to Gulf Bank's commitment to operate in line with the latest industry standards and best practices, especially in regards to the protection of



Salma Al-Hajjaj

customer information and providing our clients with the highest levels of information security."

The awareness session was delivered by Protiviti, a global consulting firm that delivers deep expertise, objective insights, a tailored approach and unparalleled collaboration to help leaders confidently face the future.

Infiniti Al-Babtain brings the best service offers

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait encourages its customers who own any Infiniti vehicles prior to August 2016 to avail a spe-

cial service campaign. Delivering on the promise of exceptional aftercare and support to ensure seamless driving experiences, the offer is part of an ongoing effort to facilitate the requirements of all of its owners. The offer includes: a 30 percent discount on car parts, 15 percent off on service labor with 13 points free checkup. Infiniti Al Babtain seeks to create the perfect opportunity for customers to maintain their premium Infiniti car.

Equipped with the best capabilities, Infiniti Al-Babtain invites its customers to avail the deal at its service center located in Al-Rai.

In Argentina grains belt, farmers ready to 'unsaddle' as Peronists return

ALADILLO, Argentina: There is a saying among farmers when times are hard on the Argentine Pampas: "Unsaddle the horse until the sun comes out". That saying is starting to spread in farm towns like Saladillo, after the populist-leaning Peronists won back power on Sunday.

This dusty soy, corn and cattle ranching town in the bread-basket province of Buenos Aires was a bastion of support for farm-friendly incumbent Mauricio Macri. He was seen here as a free-markets messiah when elected in 2015 after eight years of populist, protectionist rule.

Farmers "saddled up" by planting at record levels when Macri, only days into his administration, ditched the heavy handed trade controls and export limits that previous President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner had put on corn and wheat. Now she is back as the running mate of president-elect Alberto Fernandez, who will take office in December. Questions are swirling about his policies for the farm sector, Argentina's main source of sorely needed export dollars.

Around Saladillo, a town soaked in farming, growers and traders said Fernandez would likely increase grains export taxes, which would hit profits. Some fear a full-on return to

Fernandez de Kirchner's policies, which included strict export limits during her two-term 2007-2015 administration.

"If that happens again, I will produce the minimum to get by, unsaddle, in other words, until the market comes back. We've done it before. We can do it again if we have to," said Eduardo Bell, 63, who owns a 2,000-hectare farm and cattle ranch. As popular as Macri is in Saladillo, where the town crest includes a cow and bags of wheat, his image nationwide had been battered by recession and high inflation. He came to power on promises of "normalizing" Latin America's No. 3 economy after the distortions caused by robust state intervention in the markets under the Peronists before him.

But his orthodox policy signals were not enough to attract significant foreign direct investment to a country still plagued by cyclical financial crises and high business costs. The economy slumped, inflation ignited and debt fears rose.

And he underestimated the inflationary effect of his fiscal policies, which included cuts to public utility subsidies, which heaped more costs on already hard-hit voters and small businesses, including farmers.

Argentina is a major world supplier of soybeans, corn and wheat, as well as the No.1 exporter of soybean livestock feed, fueling Asia's shift in diet from rice toward animal protein.

But uncertainty abounds in Saladillo, a quiet community of 27,000 residents. While voters turned against Macri in the August primary vote nationwide, handing Peronist Fernandez a huge margin of victory, Saladillo stuck by him. "I'm afraid they'll come at the agricultural sector with every short-sighted policy they can think of, like export limits (quotas) and more export taxes," said Roberto Vaccarini, 60, a cattle broker in the town as he went to vote for Macri.— Reuters

What's On

Ooredoo Kuwait continues to support entrepreneurs in 'Murouj'



Ooredoo Kuwait is proudly partnered with Al Souq Murouj for the fourth consecutive year. The first market was held last Friday, 25 October in which Ooredoo supported local entrepreneurs and businesses. The market, which was held at Al Murouj Complex, included an Ooredoo dedicated booth, local farm produce, artisanal food products and crafts, with a 'street food' section aimed at highlighting the culinary diversity of Kuwait's local food community. The market also offered a section dedicated for children's activities. It will be held once a month on weekends, until March 2020. Commenting on this sponsorship, Ooredoo Kuwait Senior Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Al Ayoub said: "We're happy to be supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs through this engaging project. This sponsorship comes in tandem with our social responsibility strategy, which in turn is based on our core values of caring, connecting and challenging. We look forward to meeting those young enthusiastic small business owners as well as our valued customers at the next market".



ACK 'goes pink' to support Breast Cancer Awareness

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) launched its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. One of the main campaign goals was to encourage and highlight the importance of early detection and regular screening to ensure safety. The campaign organized by the Public Relations Department included several activities to raise awareness among ACK family, as well as many interactive activities on campus targeting employees and students, in addition to providing followers on social media networking pages with important scientific information and giving them instructions and advice related to it, thus reaching the largest segment possible. Believing in the role and involvement of its students in social activities and the develop-



ment of their personal skills, the Public Relations Department has formed a volunteering team for the awareness campaign to coordinate the activities and distribute leaflets that contain educational information on prevention methods and encourage them not to fear frequent screening because early detection can save lives. Raising awareness of this issue is important for ACK as we believe in playing an active role in educating the community about basic health issues, said May Al-Musallam, Senior Manager of the Public Relations Department at ACK. "Similar events and our annual campaign that

we launch targets all segments of the society and aims to raise awareness among them, especially women, to highlight the importance of early detection of the disease". May concluded that "out of social responsibility and a belief in the need to contribute and interact positively in all issues of concern to the community, whether health, developmental, voluntary or educational, we are always keen to create programs and activities that serve these issues and we are happy and proud by the feedback received from our students and with their constant contribution to all activities and events organized by the College".

Al Mulla announces winners of iPhone 11

Who wouldn't like to get the latest iPhone 11 Pro Max? If you are an Al Mulla Exchange online customer who transfers money through Al Mulla Exchange App or website, you will get a chance to win the latest iPhone. The promotion is for online customers who have a chance to win an iPhone every week. The grand prize is an Apple watch and Air pods. As of 22nd of October, three iPhone 11 Pro Max have been given. The 1st draw winner was Somasunadaram Valliappan, the 2nd draw winner was Waleed Ahmed Al Rashidi, and the 3rd draw winner was Saif Nasser Khamees Al Ajmi

The promotion will have winners selected every week. There are no coupons to be filled. All successful online transactions done through Al Mulla Exchange App or website enter automatically into the draw. The remaining draw dates are on 29th Oct, 5th Nov, 12th Nov, 19th Nov, 26th Nov and Grand Prize is on 3rd December. The draw is in part of a campaign to reward loyal Al Mulla Exchange customers who use the app and online services. Al Mulla Exchange was the first to launch the remittance app in Kuwait. The online portal and app are packed with a lot of features including foreign currency delivery, which allows customers to have their foreign currency of choice to be delivered to a place of their choice, place orders for receiving alerts when market rate matches desired rate, get personalized rates based on history and pattern of transactions, add new beneficiaries of choice, send money even when outside of Kuwait. In addition to the above, with the latest feature, the customer also gets to know the delivery of funds to the account.



Jumeirah Messilah hosts media event Al-Fresco

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa hosted media personnel and representatives to the ultimate Al-Fresco dining experience at its Winter Desert Camp Barbeque. The attendees had an opportunity to enjoy a unique evening experiencing the culinary journey prepared by skilled chefs in an open-air setting with live music for entertainment. Assistant Director of PR and Marketing, Yasmine Ismail along with Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa staff, welcomed guests upon arrival and thanked the media for their presence and continued support. She invited them to a memorable dining experience and to enjoy the special evening with the live band, shisha and open-air ambience with the most astonishing view overlooking the Arabian Gulf. Guests savored the scrumptious BBQ buffet with a variety of freshly cooked meats, seafood along with live cooking stations. To wrap up their perfect evening, guests explored an array of exquisite desserts with ice cream and waffle stations. The evening ended with an exciting raffle draw which was well received by the winners. A number of guests won valuable gifts presented by the hotel. Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa ensured that each guest had a truly remarkable evening filled with warm hospitality, breath-taking culinary journey and ambiance. Winter Desert Camp Barbeque takes place every Wednesday night from 7 PM to 11 PM for everyone to enjoy the lovely outdoor weather.



New TB treatment for developing countries to cost \$1,040: WHO

LONDON: A newly-approved three-drug treatment for tuberculosis will be available in 150 countries including India and South Africa, priced at \$1,040 for a complete regimen, more than twice the cost proposed in the past by advocacy groups for other treatments.

The World Health Organization-backed Stop TB Partnership said yesterday that BPaL would be obtainable in eligible countries through the Global Drug Facility (GDF), a global provider of TB medicines created in 2001 to negotiate lower prices for treatments.

Tuberculosis was responsible for 1.5 million deaths in 2018. BPaL is an oral treatment which promises a shorter, more convenient option to existing TB treatment options, which use a cocktail of antibiotic drugs over a period of up to two years. The new cocktail, which will treat extensively drug-resistant strains of the illness, consists of drug developer TB Alliance's newly-approved medicine pretomanid, in combination with linezolid and Johnson & Johnson's bedaquiline.

Pretomanid, which will be available at \$364 per treatment course, is only the third new medicine for drug-resistant tuberculosis to be approved in about 40 years, after J&J's bedaquiline and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co Ltd's delamanid. Advocacy groups have long criticized the cost for bedaquiline and delamanid.

Not-for-profit Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has waged a running battle in public with J&J over its \$400 price tag for a six-month course for bedaquiline.

MSF has argued that bedaquiline could be produced and sold at a profit for 25 cents per day, and that the price of treatments for drug-resistant TB should be no higher than \$500 for a complete treatment course. But Stop TB Partnership says costs of other regimens for extremely drug-resistant TB range from \$2,000 to \$8,000 for courses of at least 20 months.

TB Alliance in April granted a license to US drugmaker Mylan NV to manufacture and sell pretomanid as part of certain regimens in high-income markets, as well as a non-exclusive license for low-income and middle-income countries, where most tuberculosis cases occur. Stop TB Partnership said it would start supplying the regimen following WHO's guidance on using the drug. Mylan, however, said it will also sell the drug directly to countries. Prices in low-income countries would be in-line with the price offered through GDF, but would be decided on a case by case basis where the drug is not supplied through GDF, it said.

The drug will be available in bottles of 26 tablets, with a six-month treatment requiring seven bottles. — Reuters



JOHANNESBURG: A physician (left) examines a tuberculosis patient at the Sizwe Tropical Diseases Hospital in Johannesburg. — AFP

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- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
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Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant
http://www.international-clinic.com
Tel: 1886677

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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- Single Port Surgery
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- Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
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- Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve-Gastroctomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernia Surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

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DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

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Academic Certificates - Training

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

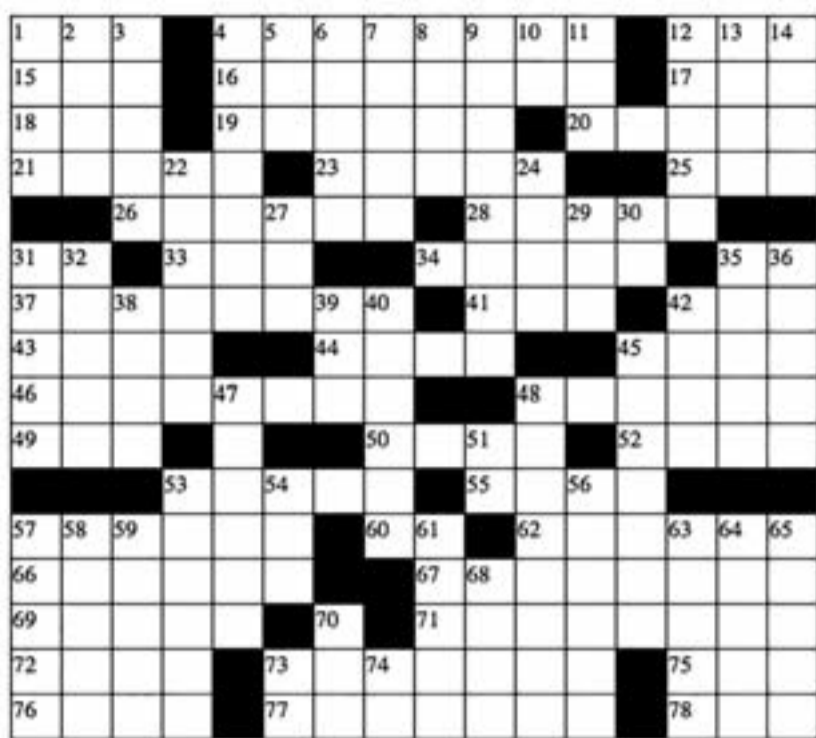
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2345



ACROSS

1. Acute delirium caused by alcohol poisoning.
4. More of the same adv.
12. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
15. (computer science) Memory whose contents can be accessed and read but cannot be changed.
16. A hypothetical continent that (according to plate tectonic theory) broke up later into North America and Europe and Asia.
17. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
18. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
19. Obtain through intimidation.
20. Dressed or clothed especially in fine attire.
21. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
23. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
25. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
26. Serving no useful purpose.
28. Talk pompously.
31. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
33. Tastelessness by virtue of being cheap and vulgar.
34. Grind together, of teeth.
37. A group of island in eastern Indonesia between Celebes and New Guinea.
41. Automatic data processing in which data acquisition and other stages or processing are integrated into a coherent system.
43. The seventh month of the Hindu calendar.
44. An ancient Egyptian city on the west bank of the Nile opposite Cairo.
46. Israeli violinist (born in 1948).
49. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
50. The capital and chief port of Qatar.
52. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
55. An annual award for outstanding achievements in television.
57. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
60. A person forced to flee from home or country.
62. United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
66. A port city in southwestern Iran.
67. Not based on fact.
69. The basic unit of money in Saudi Arabia.
71. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
72. (cosmology) The original matter that (according to the big bang theory) existed before the formation of the chemical elements.
75. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
76. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
77. Live longer than.
78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. The phenomenon of resistance to motion through a fluid.
2. An aromatic balsam.
3. Perennial mountain rice native to Mediterranean region and introduced into North America.
4. Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
5. Charge against a citizen's person or property or activity for the support of government.
6. A natural protective covering of the body.
7. Become ground down or deteriorate.
8. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
9. A republic in northeastern Europe on the Baltic Sea.
10. A state in New England.
11. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
12. American dramatist (1928-).
13. Relatively deep or strong.
14. An informal term for a father.
22. Adjust or accustom to.
24. Toward the mouth or oral region.
27. (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.
29. Of southern Europe.
30. The fifth day of the week.
32. A petty officer on a merchant ship who controls the work of other seamen.
35. Make uniform.
36. With rapid movements.
38. Resembling or similar.
39. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
40. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
42. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
45. An uncertain region on the east shore of the Adriatic where an ancient Indo-European people once lived.
47. Of or in or relating to the nose.
48. A genus of Ascladiaceae.
51. A Mid-Atlantic state.
53. Title used for a married Frenchwoman.
54. Of a light yellowish-brown color n l.
56. A device that attracts iron and produces a magnetic field.
58. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
59. The acetylated derivative of salicylic acid.
61. Fig tree of India noted for great size and longevity.
63. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
65. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
68. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
70. The basic unit of money in Romania.
73. An uproarious party.
74. A state in New England.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Job and family may take up most of your time now. You may find that friends and many personal interests fall by the wayside. Perhaps there is a new member of the family in your household at this time. This marks a time when you look for a new career direction. You may want to enter a request when it comes time for an employee review. If you see that you would do better in public relations, or in some other department, start a project that would help you show off your talents. When higher-ups recognize your potential, you may begin to realize some moves up the success ladder, perhaps a move to a different environment.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Discipline is no problem, but you may be too assertive during this time. You are involved in a day that requires intense mental effort on your part. However, you have a lot of energy to pour into career decisions. Later this afternoon others will find you just plain witty and the ideas roll off your tongue. This is a real time for communication—by phone, by letter or in person. The mind is clear and you can be most persuasive with others. The situation is a natural for self-expression and creates an opportunity to develop your professional goals. Make it a point to take your breaks and be aware of your energies during your breaks—relax! Exercise or take in a massage this afternoon.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Taking care of business is a major theme where your emotional orientation is concerned this workday. There is intellectual creativity—expressing yourself well comes to mean more. Beating the odds through cleverness is appealing and this may lead to an interest in all kinds of financial speculation. A conference with a friend or relative may find you making decisions along these lines. You may be able to help a loved one advance his or her own financial security now; teaching budget techniques is wise. Young people may involve you in their activities after work. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love. A sense of support and harmony makes this a happy time.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You got it ... Another high-cycle day! You could come up with new solutions or inventions. If something doesn't work, you seem to know just who to call that will be able to fix, change or update equipment or projects or most any other thing. You see a value on the way you make choices and you usually take care when making decisions concerning finances. You will be teaching through example, the art of making choices regarding expenditures. You may even find that your way of economizing will help you achieve a better position in the workplace. Your transportation home this afternoon may be a little different in that someone needs a ride and you are not inclined to say no.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a rewarding day—any reasonable investment, project or activity will prove quite successful. Your superiors at work are in a position to help you get ahead or give you advice on the best ways to handle a business situation. Do not hesitate to use them when you need them. Your life is fast paced, and planning some ways to relieve the stress is a very important part of maintaining good health. Perhaps a couple of your friends or a family member will meet you after work at a health spa or a gym for an hour of exercise this afternoon. This is one good way to bring family members or a loved one into parts of your life outside your work world. A good workout can bring about some wonderful conversations and inspiring moments.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have a lot of energy to pour into practical decisions. You may appear assertive. Right now, the key to career moves involves attending to nagging details—whatever you have neglected and put aside. Attention to matters of health and efficiency is also important. Good fortune and plain old luck surround you. It is easy for you to make correct decisions, find the right path and move forward where career and success are concerned. Life's problems seem manageable. There is a feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough. There are optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels. You are a good mentor. New and deeper powers and abilities are being awakened in you—pay attention.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You seem to shine above all others today as matters keep coming up that give you opportunities to show off your creative abilities. You have suggestions and methods that will cut cost and time—superiors are listening. You have an easy way with superiors or those in authority and can usually manage to get the most out of any skill or ability you have. You like work and career. You communicate with complete skill and others will understand just what you mean. Your high degree of mental concentration helps you to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Your ambitions go hand in hand with communication and using the mind—the two should never be far apart. Make the time this evening to enjoy your friends—relax!



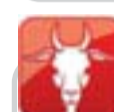
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It's a time of refinement and tact, of an urge to please others that is so strong it may make it hard to decide or act for fear of offending someone. You will quickly learn to balance this out, or you will discover that there is no peace in compromise—and this can be tough on close relationships—work or home. The trick is to find the win-win solution and if anyone is ever up to it, you are at this time. You may benefit from other people's money—perhaps through a loan or through some investment. This is certainly a time to reassess your investments. It would be well worth your time to think about some sort of travel or volunteer service that would enhance your understanding of human experiences.



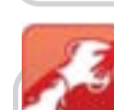
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

An important relationship, maybe with a person who is older or in authority, may come into focus today. There could be some tension or sense of opposition requiring compromise or negotiation on your part. There is an opportunity for understanding and even growth. Competition seems to spur you into achieving things you never thought you could accomplish. This afternoon you will continue the competitive edge through some sort of sports. Perhaps you are part of a team—expect the highest achievements. An early dinner this evening will give you plenty of time to attend a special meeting or join a group.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Independence, as well as anything unusual or different, is valued today. Information that you have been questioning will begin to take shape and prove useful. This next period is one of action and embarking on new projects. You may have a tendency to take refuge in duties and responsibilities rather than face issues that might put you through some changes, but today is different. Puzzling questions are present, and there could be a feeling of being tested. If you are never puzzled or challenged, you may never discover the extent of your intelligence. Perhaps this puzzle or challenge is great enough to encourage you into further education or a special class in some particular skill you want to learn.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Organizing a business conference or part of a business conference may be on your shoulders today. After you have the plans in order you could ask for one or two people to help in this process. There could be printing, technical equipment, memos, etc. You will be glad to have some help. Your social connections will bring in a large crowd to hear the main speaker. This afternoon you may be chosen to look at both sides of an issue to figure out resolutions to opposing views. You find it easy to work with sensitive material, touching upon the more vulnerable areas of the mind or self.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is a relentless drive to achieve the essentials that make your sense of practical vision deep. You have a sense of how to manipulate sensitive areas of the public mind. Perhaps you work for a group that is involved in the study of statistical matters. You may have come upon some answers lately that may be very important to a particular project. Research and statistics and writing your findings could be very important at this time. This could be a mentally stressful day for you as there is much busyness. If you look at the far-reaching advantages you have encountered today, you will want to record your studies. There is an emphasis on close relationships and ideas of fairness and harmony concerning young people this evening.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Moods & Emotions 1

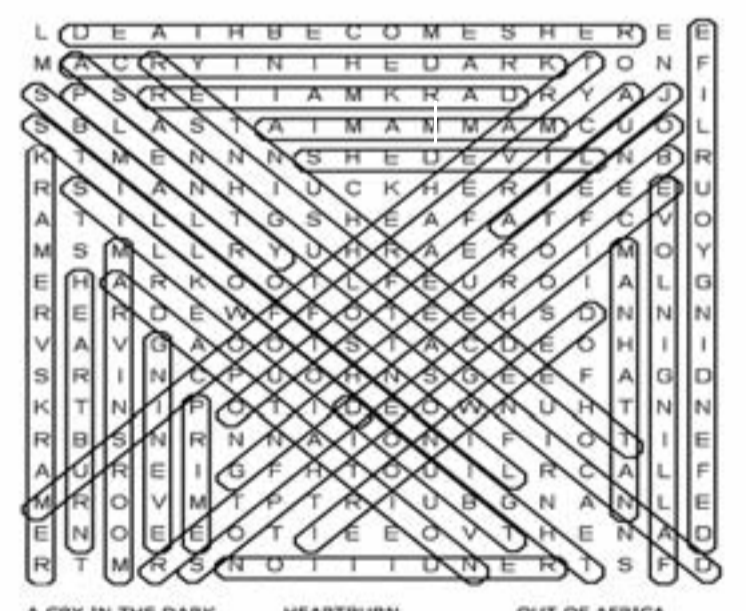
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 12 letters spell an additional word.



- | | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| AFRAID | ELATION | JADED | PEACEFUL |
| ANGRATED | FURIOUS | JOVIAL | PLEASED |
| ANGUISH | GENIAL | LONELY | REMORSE |
| BLUE | GLOOMY | LOVE | SOMBER |
| BORED | GROUCHY | MELLOW | SUNNY |
| CHEERY | HELPLESS | MERRY | SYMPATHY |
| DARK | HOPEFUL | MISERY | UNEASY |
| DOWN | HUMILIATED | OFFENDED | UPBEAT |
| DREAD | HURT | ORNERY | WEARY |
| EDGY | IRKED | PANIC | |

Yesterday's Solution

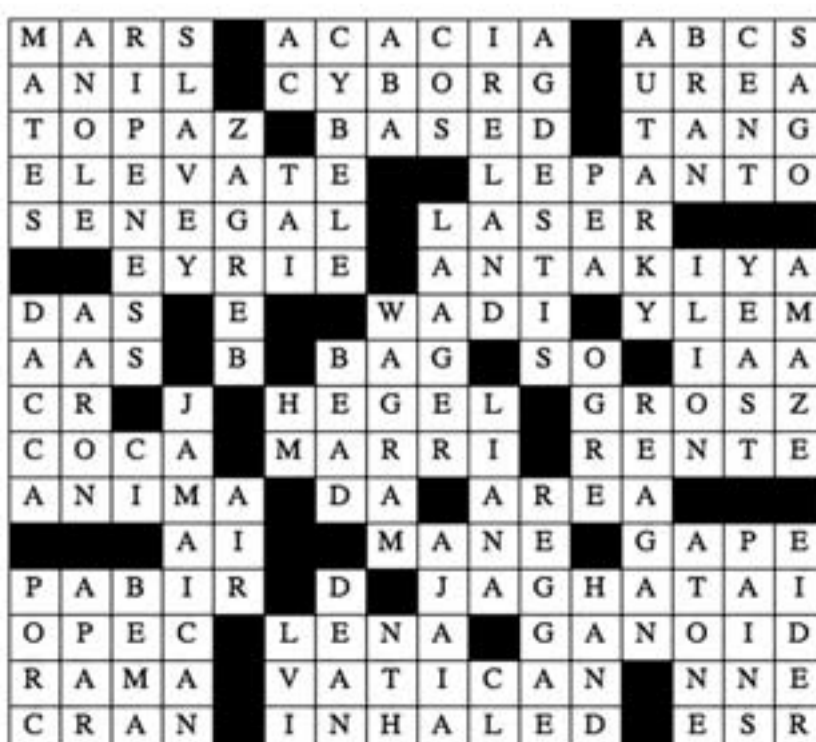
Meryl Streep Movies



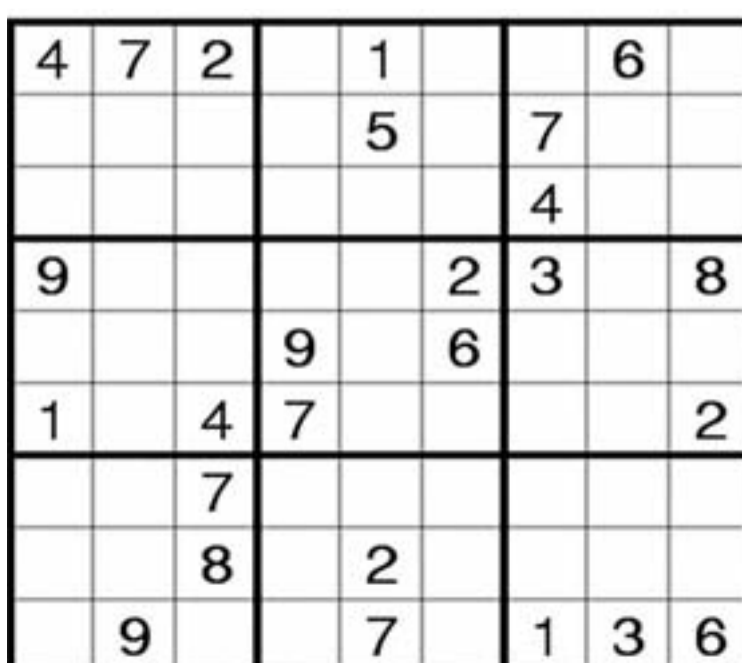
- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| A CRY IN THE DARK | HEARTBURN | OUT OF AFRICA |
| ADAPTATION | IRONWEED | PLENTY |
| BEFORE AND AFTER | JULIA | PRIME |
| DANCING AT LUGHNASA | KRAMER VS. KRAMER | RENDITION |
| DARK MATTER | LIONS FOR LAMBS | SHE-DEVIL |
| DEATH BECOMES HER | MAMMA MIA | SILKWOOD |
| DEFENDING YOUR LIFE | MANHATTAN | SOPHIE'S CHOICE |
| DOUBT | MARVIN'S ROOM | STILL OF THE NIGHT |
| EVENING | MUSIC OF THE HEART | THE DEER HUNTER |
| FALLING IN LOVE | ONE TRUE THING | |

The hidden movie is: LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

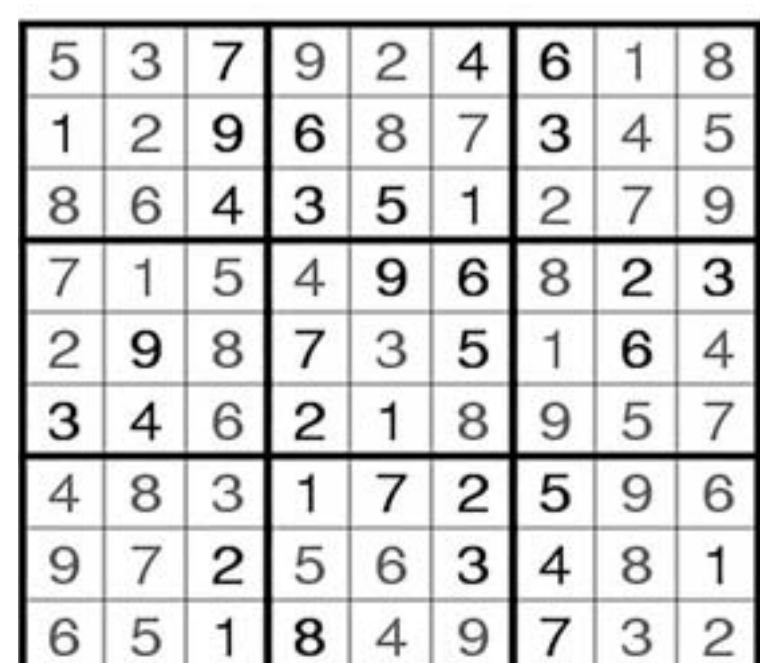
Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2019



Members of the Indian Sikh 'Nihang', the traditional Sikh army, ride horses while standing on their backs during a Fateh Divas celebration that takes place the day after the Diwali festival, in Amritsar. — AFP photos

'The Annas?': Oscar honorees target gender equality



US actress Geena Davis accepts the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian award.



US actor Wes Studi accepts his honorary award.



Actress Q'orianka Kilcher speaks onstage.

Hollywood's female filmmakers set out plans to achieve gender equality Sunday as actress Geena Davis and director Lina Wertmuller collected honorary Oscars at a star-studded ceremony focused on diversity. "Thelma and Louise" star Davis told the annual Governors' Awards in Los Angeles how the feminist road movie had prompted her lifelong campaign for gender balance at the movies. "It made me realize in a very powerful way how few opportunities we give women to come out of a movie feeling excited and empowered by female characters," said Davis of "Thelma and Louise."

Davis, already an Academy Award winner, received the special statuette for her work to highlight the lack of women in films. She founded an institute compiling data on gender bias in 2004. She called on filmmakers to immediately go back to their ongoing projects and "cross out a bunch of names of ensemble characters and supporting characters and make them female." Director and actress Olivia Wilde said Davis "was ahead of the #TimesUp conversation by about 20 years."

"She really bangs the drum on this issue... She's the real deal," Wilde told AFP. Wertmuller, 91, finally received an honorary Oscar more than four decades after she became the first woman nominated for best director. She collected

the statuette flanked by fellow Italian screen legends Sophia Loren and Isabella Rossellini, who translated Wertmuller's call for the award to be given a new, more feminine name. "She would like to call it 'Anna.' Women in the room, please scream, 'We want Anna, a female Oscar!'" said Rossellini. The origin of the nickname "Oscar" is unclear, but is thought to derive from the statuette's likeness to a male relative of an early Academy member.

'About time'

Stars at the glitzy ceremony in Hollywood's Ray Dolby Ballroom included Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks, Quentin Tarantino, Eddie Murphy, Scarlett Johansson and Jennifer Lopez. "Last of the Mohicans" star Wes Studi became the first Native American actor to receive an Oscar. "I'd simply like to say — it's about time," said Studi, to a raucous ovation. "It's been a wild and wonderful ride," he added. Studi was introduced by Joy Harjo, the first Native American US poet laureate, and actor Christian Bale, who called it a "long overdue moment."

"Too few opportunities in film, on both sides of the camera, have gone to native or indigenous artists — we are a room full of people who can change that," said Bale, who starred with Studi in 2017's "Hostiles." The

#OscarsSoWhite protests surrounding the 2016 Oscars drew attention to the awards' diversity issues.

Studi's award comes almost half a century after Marlon Brando declined his best actor Oscar for "The Godfather" in protest at the movie industry's treatment of Native Americans. Canadian indigenous musician Buffy Sainte-Marie shared a best original song Oscar in 1982. The night kicked off with an honorary Oscar for David Lynch, the surrealist auteur who has been nominated three times for best director but never won.

Regarded as one of the greatest American filmmakers of his generation, Lynch is the enigmatic director of cult classics such as "Blue Velvet" and "Mulholland Drive," as well as television's "Twin Peaks." He was introduced by Laura Dern and Kyle MacLachlan, who have both acted in several of his films. The pair paid tribute to Lynch as a "modern Renaissance man." "David is a man who dares to invent and to create and challenge himself, every single day," said Dern. The honorary Oscars are handed out every year to honor lifetime achievement, and were spun off into a separate event in 2009 to declutter the main show's packed schedule. — AFP



Italian director Lina Wertmuller accepts her honorary award onstage at the 11th Annual Governors Awards gala hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood.



Director David Lynch accepts his Honorary Award. — AFP photos

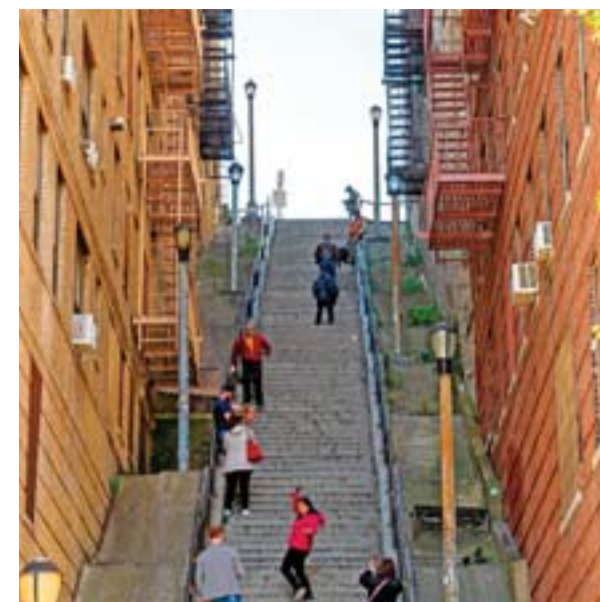
Lifestyle | Features



Visitors hold a Joker pose for pictures on the staircase in the Bronx, made famous by the movie "Joker," October 23, 2019 in New York. — AFP photos



A woman poses next to a joker face painted on the staircase in the Bronx.



People pose and take selfies on the staircase in the Bronx.

Movie fans flock to 'Joker' steps in New York

Tourists are flocking to a flight of stairs in the Bronx area of New York that Joaquin Phoenix dances down in an iconic but controversial scene from hit movie "Joker." Film buffs have even had to queue before being able to snap photos of themselves recreating the character's pose that appears on the poster of the Todd Phillips-directed blockbuster.

"It looks even better than in the movie," Tasula Ceballos, a young Russian living in Miami, told AFP, slightly disappointed that the crowds meant her photos didn't come out quite as she had hoped. "I love when directors shoot in real places. Usually they film in studios like Warner Brothers but this is a real place. We can come and we can touch the floor," she added. Before "Joker" hit theaters in early October, the 132 steps between Shakespeare Avenue and Anderson Avenue were about as far away from the tourist trail in New York as you could get.

Now visitors are swarming to them from all over the world to upload pictures to Instagram or create hilarious memes to share online. "I've been a huge fan of Batman

since I was small and I'm really happy to come here," said French teenager Noa Angenost, who planned to post his photos on Instagram. In the film, Phoenix dances down the steps — with a backdrop of streetlights and classic New York fire escapes — after transforming himself into the Batman villain.

Many reviewers were outraged, however, that the song he danced to was by convicted pedophile Gary Glitter. The former glam rocker is in a British jail for sexually abusing three girls in the late 1970s. This is not the first time that a staircase featured in a film has become a tourist draw — the steep, narrow flight of 75 stone steps in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood seen in "The Exorcist" have drawn crowds for decades.

In the Bronx, the sudden "Joker" craze is not appreciated by everyone. Elliott Raylassi, carrying his white bike on his shoulder, tries to disrupt the photo shoots. "It's my neighborhood and I have to do what I can to defend it," he told AFP, saying it was a "shock" that his area was suddenly under the microscope. "The movie came out and within

a week, people came to visit one of the worst neighborhoods in the borough. "There's a trend in New York City that when a neighborhood garners a lot of tourists' attention, it sparks the interest of developers," he added. Frankie Astacio, who lives on the other side of the street from the steps, welcomes the interest though. "It's good for the neighborhood. It makes it more exciting," he said.

'Joker' gets the last laugh

Meanwhile, Warner Bros' "Joker" won a battle of the supervillains this weekend, selling an estimated \$18.9 million in tickets to edge out "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" and regain the top spot in North American theaters, an industry group reported Sunday. The Joaquin Phoenix scarefest slipped from last weekend's take of \$29.2 million for the Friday-to-Sunday period, but still bested the \$18.5 million taken in by "Maleficent," a dark fantasy from Disney starring Angelina Jolie. "Joker," with Phoenix incarnating Batman's notorious nemesis, accomplished the rare feat of returning to No 1 in its fourth week out. It has now

taken in an impressive \$849.1 million globally, becoming the most successful R-rated movie in history, according to Variety.

With Halloween only days away, scary movies did well overall. In third spot was "The Addams Family" from United Artists, at \$11.7 million. The computer animation, following the spooky Addams family and some creepy relatives, features the voices of Oscar Isaac, Charlize Theron, Snoop Dogg and Bette Midler. In fourth, at \$11.6 million in its second week out, was Sony's "Zombieland: Double Tap," a comedy starring Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone and Luke Wilson. New release "Countdown" from STX films placed fifth at \$9 million. The low-budget horror film tells the tale of a nurse (Elizabeth Lail) who finds an app that predicts exactly when people will die — and learns her own death is only days away. — AFP



In this file photo taken on January 6, 2016 Netflix CEO Reed Hastings gives a keynote address, at the CES 2016 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

Climate experts ask you to Chill your Netflix habit

Movie nights once required driving to the local video store to rent, rewind and return the latest blockbuster. Now on-demand video content providers offer countless binge-worthy options at the touch of a finger. But experts say the ease of streaming services comes with a hefty environmental price tag.

Watching a half-hour show would lead to emissions of 1.6 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent, said Maxime Efoù-Hess of French think tank the Shift Project. That's equivalent to driving 3.9 miles. Last year, online video streaming produced emissions equivalent to Spain and that amount may double in the next six years, according to the Shift Project. While most of the online traffic — 34 percent — is related to streaming videos, on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu, for example, the next biggest sector is online porn.

"Digital videos come in very large file sizes and (are) getting bigger with each new generation of higher definition video," said Gary Cook of Greenpeace, which monitors the IT sector's energy footprint. "More data equals more energy needed to maintain a system that is ready to stream this video to your device at a moment's notice," Cook told AFP. Much of the energy needed for streaming services is consumed by the data centre, which delivers data to your computer or device, explained Cook. The centers contribute about 0.3 percent of all carbon emissions, according to an article by Nature. Experts remain divided on how much that number will grow.

'Waste of resources on all levels' -

"For energy consumption to stay flat for the next five to 10 years, significant improvement in IT equipment and data centre energy performance must be made or our appetite for computations must diminish," said Dale Sartor of the Center of Expertise for Data Centers, linked to the US Department of Energy. Anders Andrae of Huawei Technologies told AFP he estimated they would consume as

much as 4.1 percent of global electricity by 2030.

Web-based video traffic is expected to increase four times from 2017 to 2022 and account for 80 percent of all internet traffic by 2022, according to the CISCO Network. Netflix is continuing to expand globally — the company reported a 53-percent increase in international revenue for streaming subscriptions between 2017 and 2018. And Disney and Apple are launching their own streaming services this year.

Meanwhile, the equipment used to view videos is getting larger — the average screen size shot up from 22 inches in 1997 to an expected 50 inches by 2021, according to the Consumer Technology Association. "The changing screen size and related shift to digital video technology has set the stage for higher definition and thus larger file sizes that we are streaming," said Cook.

Screens with 4K resolution use about 30 percent more energy than high-definition screens, according to a report by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Last year, 8K screens made their debut. The consequence is "a waste of resources at all levels", added Laurent Lefevre of the French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation.

Experts suggest that viewers disable autoplay and stream over Wi-Fi in lower-definition formats. The worst-case scenario is watching over a 3G connection on a mobile device, said Lefevre. The Shift Project offers a browser extension that monitors internet use, displaying the amount of electricity used, the CO2 that electricity produces, and how far the user would have to drive to match those emissions. Cook emphasizes the most impactful change consumers can make is through their wallets. "Exercising collective responsibility, with individuals demanding internet giants rapidly transition their data centers to renewable energy, has been the biggest driver thus far," he said. — AFP

Streaming TV gears up for ad targeting

In the new world of streaming television, advertising is not going away, but is evolving to become more like marketing on the internet — targeted to specific groups or individuals. While some subscription streaming services including Netflix, Apple+ and Disney+ have pledged to be ad-free, others including those from WarnerMedia and NBCUniversal are expected to have some ad-supported options, as does Hulu.

Because these new platforms operate online, they will also be able to deliver targeted or "addressable" ads based on viewing habits, location and other data it may collect, in the same manner as Google and Facebook. According to the research firm eMarketer, addressable TV ad revenue — which includes some ads on traditional TV — in the US is likely to grow from \$1.5 billion in 2018 to \$3.5 billion in 2021.

Smaller players

Streaming services are making it easier for smaller companies and marketers to get on television through self-serve ad platforms without the big budgets required for broadcast TV, according to eMarketer analyst Ross Benes. "There are a lot of new companies coming into television advertising" as a result of streaming, Benes said. "TV is still a place where you can get a massive amount of people's attention."

Roku, a television platform for many smart TVs, announced plans this month to buy data, which provides automated self-serve ads for what is known in the industry as "over the top" or OTT services. "TV advertising is shifting toward OTT and a data-driven model focused on business outcomes for brands," said Anthony Wood, chief executive officer at Roku.

Fresh privacy issues

The rise of streaming could raise a fresh set of privacy concerns over how data on TV viewers is collected and shared across various platforms and devices. A recent academic study found smart TVs, streaming dongles and other connected devices sending data to companies such as Netflix and Facebook.

"There is a small number of these cloud providers that are getting a lot of insight into what you're doing with these devices," said David Choffnes of Northeastern University, who led the research. The researchers wrote that these devices "have the potential to learn and expose extensive information about their users and their surrounding environment. Much of this information has major privacy implications."

Alan Wolk, co-founder and lead analyst at the consultancy TVrev, said he expects streaming ads to be less intrusive than those which follow users around the internet. "The TV industry has learned from digital that people find that kind of advertising creepy," he said. Wolk said streaming services are aiming for fewer ads compared with broadcast television that will be "less painful" for viewers because they are more relevant. An apartment dweller, for example, might not be interested in a lawn care ad and a 24-year-old may be turned off by messages for retirement. And advertisers will pay more if they know their messages are being delivered to people interested in their products. "The ultimate goal is to be able to get fewer, better targeted ads that brands will pay more money for and consumers are happy to watch," Wolk said.

Limits of targeting

Targeting for television has limits, however. It is never really clear which member of a family is watching a specific show, or whether it is seen

live or recorded. Charles Taylor, a marketing professor at Villanova University, said addressable TV advertising is on the rise, but that platforms are likely to be sensitive to consumer privacy concerns, and aware of new laws including a strict statute in California.

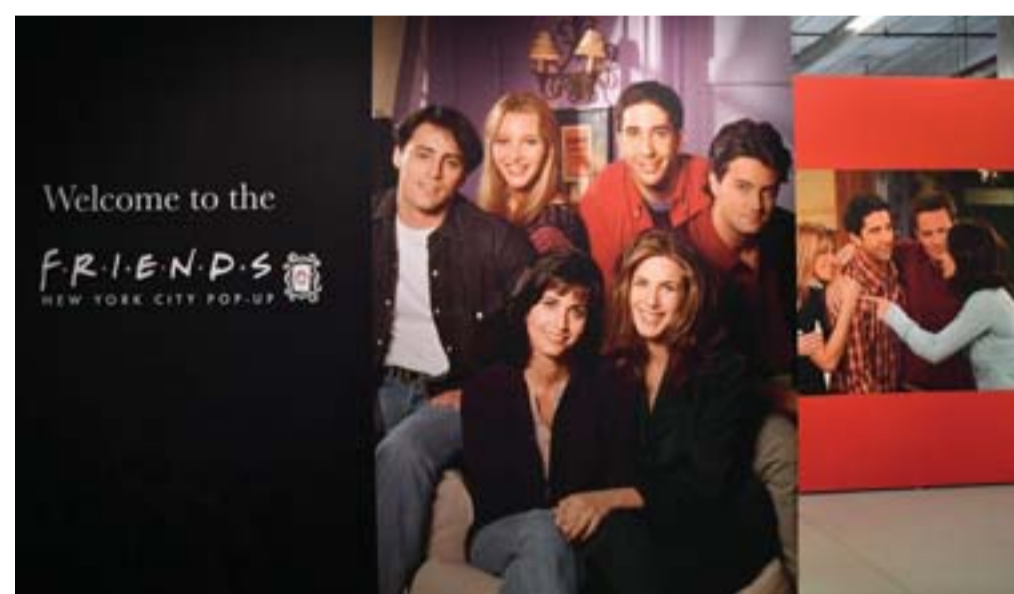
The California law, he said, "won't allow marketers to build data management platforms where they are merging data from various sources." As a result, Taylor said the targeting is likely to be "behavioral," or based largely on viewing habits, without the detailed profiles that Facebook and Google use. "Almost nobody would want health information shared; on the other hand most people don't mind more targeted ads based on their real preferences," Taylor said.

2020 political ads

Addressable TV advertising also opens up a new channel for political ads, potentially impacting spending in the 2020 US election campaign. "I don't think there's any doubt this will play a

role" in the election campaign, Taylor said. "The databases out there are pretty effective at knowing someone's political affiliation and a well-built data management platform should be able to give you a good idea of which voters might potentially be swayed."

Mark Jablonowski, managing partner at the digital ad consultancy DSPolitical, said these new platforms may not be able to get the kinds of details of internet services, but that they may still be useful for candidates. "For now the platforms are well suited to geographical targeting — which can be quite powerful in politics," Jablonowski said. "Candidates running in 2020 would be smart to include these platforms in their media mix because, at the end of the day, political advertising is all about getting in front of voters wherever and whenever possible." — AFP



In this file photo taken on September 5, 2019 posters of the Friends cast are seen during the Friends New York City Pop-Up press preview in New York. — AFP

UK train firm searches for missing rare violin

A British railway company said yesterday it was helping a renowned violinist track down a 310-year-old violin he accidentally left on a train. Southeastern, which runs commuter services to London, is working with police to try to locate the instrument, worth a reported £250,000 (\$321,000, 289,000 euros). Renowned musician Stephen Morris accidentally left the violin, which was made by Roman master craftsman David Tecchler in 1709, on a suburban train last Tuesday.

"We're doing everything we can to find Stephen's treasured violin," Southeastern said in a statement. "Our colleagues have already been going above and beyond to see if we can find out what has happened to it." The train company added its staff and officers from the British Transport Police were reviewing security camera footage from the train as well as stations. Morris was due to

play the violin while leading the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in two Andrea Bocelli concerts at the weekend, according to the BBC. "I was really only its custodian — one of many people who have played it — and I had hoped to pass it on to another violinist eventually. "It is like having my arm cut off," he said. The instrumentalist, who has played on film scores including The Lord of the Rings and James Bond movies, and recorded with David Bowie and Stevie Wonder, has begged for its return. Tecchler was part of the renowned Roman School of Violin Making in the 17th and 18th centuries. Morris said he bought his instrument, which had been recently restored, in 2003 and described it as "a piece of history." — AFP



CHINA FASHION WEEK



Models display the creations from the "Jian Zi" collection by Gao Jianping and the "David Sylvia" collection by Hao Weimin during the China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AFP photos





Chrissy Teigen thinks Halloween celebrations are unacceptable

The 33-year-old model - who has kids Luna, three, and 17-month-old Miles with John Legend - feels like she's currently in the midst of the "longest" Halloween celebrations she can remember. Chrissy wrote on Twitter: "I have never seen a longer Halloween in my life. 'You know when my Halloween party night is? Halloween. 'Also acceptable: night before Halloween. Because there is a lot on Halloween. But from LAST WEEK TIL NOW??? No!!! No (sic)' However, Chrissy insisted she doesn't begrudge anybody any happiness

at Halloween, which will actually arrive on Thursday. She continued: "But also, I'm glad you are having fun, I really am. I've just never seen one THIS LONG (sic)" Meanwhile, John previously claimed his wife gets a "devilish look on her face" before she tweets about him. The chart-topping star - who married Chrissy in 2013 - admitted his wife is much "funnier and cooler" than he is. Appearing on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show', John said: "We'll sit next to each other on the couch and she'll have this devilish look on her face. 'You know, like she's conniving some kind of devious plan,

and then the tweet will go out, and I'll just look over and go [chuckles wryly] 'Uh huh, that's funny.'" Ellen read out some of Chrissy's tongue-in-cheek tweets during the show, all of which left John giggling at his wife's distinctive sense of humor. One tweet read: "I always have a note in my pocket that says 'john did it' just in case I'm murdered because I don't want him to remarry" In another, the model simply wrote: "I like to send John nudes and say 'sorry wrong person!'"

Kerry Washington used her life experiences in new role

The 42-year-old actress - who has kids Isabelle, five, and Caleb, three, with her husband Nnamdi Asomugha - has revealed how she can relate to her own character in the new Netflix drama 'American Son', which tells the story of an estranged couple who reunite to find their missing son. Kerry - who previously played Olivia Pope, a crisis management expert, in the drama series 'Scandal' - told 'Entertainment Tonight': "After playing Olivia Pope for seven seasons, I was having this alternate reality in my real life of becoming a mom and I didn't get to explore any of the feelings around becoming a mom while I was playing Olivia - because she chose not to be one, which is a choice I totally respect. "But to be able to kind of explore how vulnerable parenting makes you is a privilege for me

at this point in my career." Meanwhile, Kerry previously revealed she feels a need to reach out to people and to spread a message of positivity. She explained: "My deepest desire is to create a world where there's room for all of us, where no matter who you are, you get to wake up in the morning and know that you are worthwhile and deserving. If that's the world I want to live in, I have to do the work to make that true for me. "I have to do the work of self-love and affirmation, and say, 'I am a woman, I am a person of color, I am the granddaughter of immigrants, I am also the descendant of slaves, I am a mother, I am an entrepreneur, I am an artist, and I'm joyful.' And maybe in seeing my joy, you can finish your sentence with, 'And I am joyful too.'"



Kim gets her famous pout by 'overlining' her lips

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star and her siblings have been sharing their beauty tips with the world, giving some easy to do hacks to achieve their looks. Speaking to her sister Kourtney Kardashian's lifestyle website, Poosh, she said: "I love overlining my lips with a darker lip liner." Whilst Khloe Kardashian's tip ensures you don't waste any of your make up products, as she advised: "If you shattered one of your bronzers, eye shadows, or really any make-up, do not toss out. Gather up the broken make-up and put it back into its container. Crush up any pieces that haven't completely broken up yet. Add a couple drops of rubbing alcohol to the crushed makeup. Use your finger, the back of a spoon, or anything, really, to rub and smooth out

the alcohol and the makeup. Leave overnight. When you wake up in the morning, your makeup will be good as new and there will be no alcohol smell." Kim and Khloe's mother Kris Jenner also shared her skincare secrets, with her tip revealed as: "Wash your face every night using a hot terry cloth washcloth. It acts as a natural exfoliant by loosening dead skin cells, opens up the pores, and softens the skin, prepping it for your night treatments." Kylie Jenner also has a way to keep your spray tan on for longer. She said: "To make a spray tan last longer, moisturize with body lotion every day - my Kylie Skin Body Lotion is my go-to."



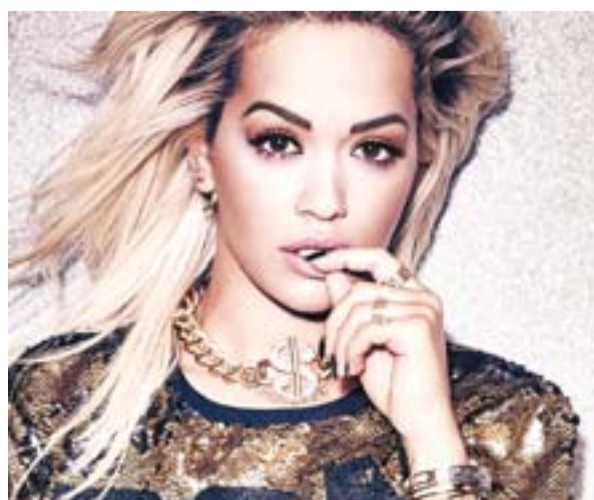
Jamie Lee Curtis doesn't 'like to be frightened'



The 60-year-old actress is known for starring as Laurie Strode in 1978 classic horror flick 'Halloween' - as well as returning to the role several times, including for the 2018 reboot of the franchise - but Jamie has admitted she hates being scared in real life, and can think of nothing worse than sitting down to watch a horror movie. She said: "I scare very easily. I know that might seem a stupid thing to say, because in many ways I've made my living from being scared. But in real life, I don't like to be frightened. I find nothing charming about it and I'd hate to watch a horror movie." Jamie - who will also return as Laurie Strode in the 2020 movie 'Halloween Kills' - says she always "sleeps like a baby" at night and doesn't want to ruin her perfect sleep schedule by being scared. She added: "I sleep like a baby at night and I like it that way. I sleep curled up in a ball like a very content child, and I want to continue doing so. The only thing that'd keep me awake would be something scary, and I don't want that." The actress is even scared of surprise parties, and made her husband Christopher Guest promise never to throw her one when they said their vows at their 1984 wedding. Speaking to the Daily Mail newspaper's Weekend magazine, she said: "I've always been this way. In our wedding vows, my husband and I promised we wouldn't give each other surprise parties - a surprise party would send me to hospital!" — Bangshowbiz

Rita Ora has split from Andrew Watt again

The 28-year-old singer and the record producer were believed to have rekindled their romance earlier this year after first giving love between them a go for two years, before splitting in September last year. But now, it seems they've called time on their relationship once again, as The Sun on Sunday reports the couple are no longer together. According to the publication, Andrew has been telling pals: "This time it's for good." The 'Let You Love Me' hitmaker and the musician, also 28, were believed to have given their romance another try in March this year, when they were reported to "know what they have is the real deal". A source said at the time: "Rita and Andrew split because they were so busy, but they've realised they want to make things work. "Both of their schedules are crazy - Rita with her 'Phoenix World Tour' and Andrew as one of the most in-demand producers in pop. "But they re-connected this year and are making time to see each other when they can. They know that what they have is the real deal. "Their friends all get on with each other and it just seemed crazy to them to throw away what they had." After splitting from Andrew in 2018, Rita went on to have a short romance with 'The Amazing Spider-Man' star Andrew Garfield, but she and Watt remained "good friends". The insider added: "Her string of dates with Andrew Garfield really put things in perspective. She and Andrew Watt have always remained good friends." Rita has also been romantically linked to the likes of Calvin Harris and Rob Kardashian in the past.



Bella Thorne's relationship with Benjamin Mascolo is 'great'

The 22-year-old actress - who previously dated internet personality Tana Mongeau - has opened up about her burgeoning romance with the Italian singer, admitting she's feeling really positive about their relationship. She said: "Things are great. Me and Ben are really happy." Bella and Benjamin both have busy working schedules, which means they often spend prolonged periods of time apart from each other. But the 'DUFF' actress revealed they'll be reunited in Los Angeles in November. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "He comes to LA the first week in November, which will be fun. He's on tour doing his album release right now, so it's just a lot of work for him and a lot of work for me in separate places." Earlier this month, meanwhile, Bella claimed to be in a polyamorous relationship, meaning that she and Benjamin were both dating Alex Martini. Bella announced the news via Instagram, sharing a picture of herself cuddling her new girlfriend - although Alex's face was hidden in the images. The 'Famous In Love' actress wrote alongside the picture: "She's very cute, first girl I have dated that's camera shy (sic)" Benjamin then commented: "You girls are cute", and Bella replied: "see u soon baby", alongside three heart emojis. Prior to that, Bella revealed she identifies as pansexual, after initially coming out as bisexual on social media in 2016. She said: "I'm actually pansexual, and I didn't know that. Somebody explained to me really thoroughly what that is. "You like beings. You like what you like. Doesn't have to be a girl or a guy or a he or she or they or this or that. It's literally you like personality. You just like a being."

John Cena thinks the key to a successful relationship is appreciation

The professional wrestler - who is now romancing Shay Shariatzadeh following his split from Nikki Bella - has shared his relationship philosophy with the world, insisting he doesn't believe it is "gender-specific" as he thinks men want to hear the same as women. He told Entertainment Tonight: "If I have a connection with someone, I believe we're defined by our actions, and how you treat them is a reflection on how you will treat them in the future. I think when anyone was a connection with someone, and someone says like, 'Hey, there's something here, and by the way, I appreciate who you are, I appreciate who you want to be, I appreciate how you live your life.' I don't think that's gender-specific. I think that's something we all want to hear." Meanwhile, John previously confessed he thinks Shay is "beautiful". Speaking at the premiere of his new movie 'Playing With Fire', he said: "What's truly special about this one is that, no matter what projects I'm involved in the future, this one will always have a special meaning because I got to film a special project and meet someone special." And John has been thinking about his WWE retirement and at the age of 42 is already preparing for the moment he officially decides to call time on his two decade career. He said: "I think an individual's career is up to the individual, I think that's pretty much the way I can describe that. I've been having the same conversation with myself. I'm only 42 but it's something we've got to address each day. It's individually specific - when those people are ready to stop they'll stop."



Oszy thought he was going to die after health scares

The Black Sabbath rocker was hospitalized with pneumonia at the beginning of this year, and shortly afterwards suffered a fall at his LA home, which dislodged the metal rods in his spine that had been put in after a quad-bike accident in 2003. And Oszy says the fall led him to believe he was going to die, because he thought he was paralyzed and knew the injuries were bad. He said: "I went to the bathroom in the night, lost my balance and landed flat on my face. I saw this big white flash when I hit the floor and I thought, 'You've finally done it now. I knew it was bad, I thought I was paralyzed, so very calmly I said, 'Sharon, I can't move. I think I've done my neck. Phone an ambulance.' " The 70-year-old musician underwent three separate operations that left him in hospital for three months. Oszy was in "constant" pain, and even believed his wife Sharon Osbourne was lying to him when she said he wasn't going to die. He added: "The pain is constant. The first six months I was in agony. I'd say, 'Sharon -

you're not telling me the truth. I'm dying, aren't I?' I thought I'd got some terminal illness because the improvement was so slow. "I'm getting better, but after the surgery the nurses asked me on a scale of one to ten how much pain I was in, and I said, '55!' Six months of waking up in the morning and being unable to move is a miserable existence." Thankfully the 'War Pigs' hitmaker is on the mend following his scary year, but he's joked he already has his funeral planned. Speaking to the Daily Mail newspaper's Weekend magazine, he said: "I've cheated death many times and I've got away with it for years, yet since I hit 70 everything's happened. But then I thought I'd be dead by 40, so I've still got a few of my nine lives yet. "When I die and they're nailing the lid on my coffin," he says, "I'm thinking of having them play a recording of my voice at the service, shouting, 'I'm not dead yet! That'll scare them!'"



New Dubai city pushes for green revolution in desert

DUBAI: Fenced off by a wall of trees, about 20 km from the high rises towering over Dubai's city center, there lies a small solar-powered settlement aiming to become a green oasis in the desert. Renowned for its glitzy skyscrapers, air-conditioning-blasting shopping malls and indoor skiing facilities, the emirate of Dubai has long been the antithesis of sustainability to environmentalists.

But the United Arab Emirates (UAE) plans to change that reputation, with a range of projects aimed at having more than 40 percent of the country's energy come from renewable sources and cutting consumption by the same margin by 2050. Opened to the first residents in 2016 and to be fully completed next year, the initiative dubbed Sustainable City is a private settlement on the outskirts of Dubai designed to use as little energy and water as possible.

Comprising 500 low-lying villas that are home to nearly 3,000 people, as well as commercial spaces and a mosque, the city aims to be a "net-zero" settlement, producing all the energy it needs from renewable sources on site. "The Sustainable City is a living laboratory for testing future technologies and solutions," said Karim El-Jisr, head of SEE Institute, the research arm of the city's developer, Diamond Developers. When the project started six years ago, building a zero-energy development "seemed a bit like a dream", he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Today it is not difficult anymore, tomorrow everybody will have to do it," he added.

From neighboring Masdar City to the Qatari capital Doha, it is one of several developments launched across the region in recent years that aim to serve as a model for environmentally-friendly living in the Middle East. Houses, offices and other buildings are responsible for about 40 percent of planet-warming

emissions globally, according to the think tank World Resources Institute (WRI).

Green desert

The issue is particularly relevant in the UAE, said Emma Stewart, who leads WRI's urban efficiency and climate program, with World Bank data showing that the country has one of the highest per capita carbon footprints in the world. About 75 percent of all electricity produced in the UAE is sucked up by buildings, mainly to fuel air-conditioners that keep locals fresh during the scorching summer months, Stewart said. "They have an immense need for cooling to keep the population within their comfort range," she said in a phone interview.

In the Sustainable City, residents zigzag through the streets on bicycles or aboard small electric carts, under the shade of the palm trees flanking the strips of square, white houses. Cars are banned from most of the area. All buildings and parking spaces are topped by solar panels which feed the energy they produce into the grid, allowing residents to pay only the difference between what they produce and consume, according to the developer.

Residential units designed to avoid direct exposure to the sun and covered in paint that reflects sunlight to keep the heat out, while wastewater is recycled to irrigate green areas, Jisr said during a visit to the site. Resident Belinda Boisson said she paid more rent than the Dubai average but, besides sustainability, the development offered a family-friendly environment and sense of community that was rare to find among Dubai's high rises. "(Children) can play outside without me worrying about my daughter being hit by a car,"

said Boisson, a 46-year-old expat from South Africa.

Zero-carbon wave

The Dubai settlement is the first in the region - which is particularly vulnerable to extreme heat, droughts and rising sea levels, according to the World Bank - to become fully operational, says its developer. In neighboring Abu Dhabi, the state-sponsored Masdar City was touted as the world's first emissions-free city and designed to house up to 50,000 people. After breaking ground in 2008 the settlement remains behind schedule and sparsely populated.

In Qatar, the Msheireb area of Doha is also undergoing a carbon-cutting makeover. Developers of the 76-acre regeneration zone, which aims to become "one of the largest sustainable cities in the world", are outfitting it with green features, from rainwater harvesting to shady overhangs that make walking outside cooler. A similar city extension based on the Msheireb project is being planned in Muscat, Oman, while Diamond Developers is building another "sustainable city" in the emirate of Sharjah which will be about twice the size of the one in Dubai.

This second green city hopes to improve on the first, where not everything has worked according to plan, Jisr said. A grey-water system set up to use water from showers and washing machines to feed the city's artificial lake was decommissioned when developers realized the phosphates from the soap were fuelling unsightly blooms of algae, he said. The water is now used for irrigation, but the city still relies heavily on water from Dubai's energy-intensive desalination plants, Jisr added.

And the settlement still consumes more energy than

it produces, he explained. In a bid to reduce consumption, new motion-activated lighting is being installed and the developers are looking for new ideas to improve efficiency, said Jisr. "It is not enough to design, build and then walk away," he added. "You always have to make adjustments."

Testing ground

Low-carbon projects like Dubai's Sustainable City are useful testing grounds for cities looking to go green, said Abdulla Al Basti, the head of Dubai's executive council. But they are no magic bullet against global warming, said Alessandro Melis, an architecture professor at Britain's University of Portsmouth. "They are good experiments that can tell us many things, but at this moment in time it would be more important to focus on how we can transform the urban fabric that we already have," Melis said in a phone interview.

Stewart of the WRI agreed, saying that building new developments, however sustainable, can be less efficient than retrofitting existing ones. Construction works account for on average about 10 percent of all emissions generated by a building's lifecycle, she noted. However, by showing what is possible, new builds could inspire policymakers to take bolder action, she said.

In September, the UAE pledged that by 2030 all new buildings will produce no more emissions than they can absorb, and all existing buildings will meet that goal by 2050 - a promise Melis said was ambitious but technically feasible. And if a group of desert emirates can find a way to go green, it could prove a powerful example to other cities, said Stewart. "If this can be done in a desert environment that is difficult for humans to inhabit... it can be done everywhere," she said. — Reuters



HIROSHIMA: An undated handout photo taken through a microscope lens shows a Podocerus jinbe, a newly discovered shrimp-like creature found living in the mouth of a whale shark. — AFP

New species found in whale shark's mouth

TOKYO: A whale shark's mouth might not seem like the most hospitable environment for a home, but Japanese researchers have found there's no place like it for a newly-discovered shrimp-like creature. The tiny inhabitants - dubbed podocerus jinbe - are a variety of gammaridea, a species known for their hardy ability to live in environments ranging from high mountains to the deep sea. But lead researcher Ko Tomikawa, an associate professor at Hiroshima University, said he was "surprised" to find them living in the mouth of an animal.

"This creature, which is usually 3-5 centimeters long, is amazing because they can live in so many different kinds of environment," Tomikawa told AFP. "But I didn't expect we would find one inside the mouth of a whale shark." Gammaridea are a type of crustacean, a group that includes water fleas. The researcher said the new variety has a brown-colored body of about five mil-

limeters long and hairy legs, which help catch organic substances for food.

Whale sharks are known as jinbe zame in Japanese, inspiring their newly discovered residents' name. And Tomikawa said there were some good reasons the species might choose such an unexpected location. "The mouth of the whale shark is probably a good habitat because fresh seawater, which is necessary for them to breathe comes in regularly, and food flows in too," he said. "And it also provides a safe place without any predators."

The new variety was discovered after Tomikawa was contacted by an aquarium in southern Okinawa prefecture curious to know what appeared to be living in a whale shark there. About a thousand of the creatures were found inside the gills of the shark's mouth, he said. — AFP

Trump booed at World Series...

Continued from Page 1

Trump has been on the back foot for weeks as the Democrats push ahead with their impeachment inquiries, and as he faces widespread and bipartisan condemnation of his Syria policy. It was an unusual excursion for the president and first lady - who arrived earlier at the Nationals Stadium, and sat in a suite behind home plate - in liberal-majority Washington.

Prior to the Nationals-Astros showdown, Washington manager Dave Martinez said he hoped

Trump "enjoys the game". When asked if the team was excited for his arrival, Martinez replied, "We haven't really talked about it. We're focused on playing baseball." Trump later left the stadium an inning before the end of the game, which was won by the visiting Astros. Trump won just 4 percent of the vote in the District of Columbia in the 2016 presidential election. The US capital is hosting its first World Series since 1933.

Trump did not throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the game, as many previous presidents have done. That task fell instead to Spanish-American celebrity chef Jose Andres, a vocal critic of Trump's controversial immigration policies and Puerto Rico hurricane relief efforts. Andres also canceled plans to run a restaurant in Trump's Washington hotel because of Trump's disparaging comments about Mexicans, which led to a legal settlement. — Agencies

more than 150 percent in Lebanon and Sudan. "Having built over many years, the cost of public debt burdens has become sizeable, preventing investments critical to the region's long-term economic future," it said.

The IMF said that Iran, which is subject to crippling US sanctions, has entered a steep economic recession and faces a battle against spiralling inflationary pressures. The Islamic republic's economy is projected to contract by 9.5 percent this year after posting negative growth of 4.8 percent in 2018. Iranian authorities must align "the exchange rate close to the market rate and also reform the financial sector... and try to address some of the implications of the high level of inflation," Azour said.

As a result of the sanctions, Tehran is believed to be exporting only around 500,000 barrels per day of crude, down from over two million bpd before the sanctions. The IMF said that oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, led by Saudi Arabia, are expected to grow by just 0.7 percent this year from 2.0 percent in 2018 due to lower oil prices and output. "GCC economies need to diversify and grow out of oil and this requires them to accelerate the reforms that have been started in the last four to five years," Azour said. — AFP

Octogenarian tries to burn mosque in France, shoots 2

PARIS: An 84-year-old man shot and seriously wounded two other men in their 70s when they surprised him trying to burn a mosque in Bayonne in southwest France, police said. The octogenarian opened fire when the two men, aged 74 and 78, came upon him trying to set fire to the mosque's door on Monday afternoon, the police department said in a statement. The victims were brought to a nearby hospital with serious injuries, while the suspected shooter was later arrested near his home. The mosque has been cordoned off for investigations. After the incident, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner offered his "solidarity and support to the Muslim community".

The incident came just hours after President Emmanuel Macron had urged France's Muslim community to step up the fight against "separatism" in the wake of the latest attack by an Islamist radical on French soil, in which a police employee stabbed four colleagues to death. There have been intermittent attacks on mosques in France since 2007, when 148 Muslim headstones in a national military cemetery near Arras were smeared with anti-Islamic slurs and a pig's head was placed among them.

In June this year, a gunman wounded an imam in a shooting at a mosque in the northwestern city of Brest, but police ruled out a terror motive. In March, workers building a mosque in the small southwestern town of Bergerac found a pig's head and animal blood at the entrance to the site - two weeks after a gunman killed 50 Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand, in a shooting spree at two mosques.

Tharoor expounds on politics...

Continued from Page 1

and we will be back next time'. So, the party was unprepared for his departure. And during those eight or nine weeks, the party was almost paralyzed and that did not do us much good," he said.

Tharoor said the best way to deal with structural flaws or problems within the party is through internal elections, as the party currently is in an anomalous position where even the so-called elected members of the working committee are nominated by the president. "But many in my party feel that this would only add to divisiveness and they prefer not to support this. At the moment, there is no sign of any proper election process taking place," he said.

Tharoor said the ruling party - the BJP - was able to sell hyper-nationalism during the parliamentary elections, but in the recent state assembly elections, voters thought much more about their daily lives. Asked if polarization is happening in India, he said it is only because the ruling party establishment wants it to happen.

"The ruling party still continues to attempt to polarize public opinion. But I would say most Indians prefer an inclusive India that celebrates diversity and truly believes in pluralism. I think that is the India the Congress party stands for. Certainly, 72 years of independence have been spent in celebrating India's inclusiveness, and to be honest, I remain a passionate voice for that because that is the India I value. I want to fight for that India within the Indian political space," Tharoor told Kuwait Times.

Asked about his interactions with Kuwaiti diplomats during his long tenure at the UN, Tharoor said Kuwaiti diplomats are very professional, extremely hardworking and great at people skills. "One of the things you need in international diplomacy is the ability to get along

Mosques were also targeted after the killing of 12 people at the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine in 2015 by Islamist radicals. Dozens of mosques were attacked by arsonists, others with firebombs, grenades or gunfire.

Macron, a centrist whose main political rival at home is far-right leader Marine Le Pen, has sought to show he is serious in cracking down on Islamist radicalism in France. In a pre-recorded interview with RTL radio broadcast yesterday, Macron said he planned to fight, alongside Muslim leaders, against religious sectarianism and resistance among some French Muslims to integrate.

"It is a fact that a form of separatism has taken root in some places in our Republic, in other words a desire to not live together and to not be in the Republic," he said. "It is in the name of a religion, namely Islam," he said. Macron yesterday hosted representatives of the French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) to press for joint efforts between the government and Muslims to crack down on radicalism.

Castaner, who attended that meeting, told AFP Macron had urged the CFCM leaders to "fight alongside the state" against sectarianism and Islamism. The president told them he wanted to see a "change in rhythm" from the council, to wage a genuine fight against radicalism. CFCM Vice President Anouar Kbibech, who was present at the Elysee talks, said the council would now make "very strong announcements" on the fight against radicalism at an extraordinary meeting called for today.

There has been an ongoing debate in France in recent years about the role of Islam in a republic built on staunchly secular values where Muslims now make up some 10 percent of the population. The controversy intensified following a string of deadly attacks carried out by Islamist militants in 2015, including the massacres at the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine and Bataclan music venue. — AFP

with people with various kinds of beliefs and points of view. And I must say that the Kuwaiti ambassador, for example, during the notorious time of the Iraqi invasion, was very skillful in working with all other ambassadors to get united condemnation and support for his country. I would say that Kuwait has had a succession of skillful diplomats and able people and whenever Kuwaiti diplomacy gets a chance to prove its worth, it does so very well. This is one of the reasons that Kuwait has no enemies around the world and has only friends," he said.

A voracious writer, Tharoor has authored 18 best-selling works, both fiction and non-fiction, since 1981. He recently completed a new book with coauthor Samir Saran. "I rarely write books with other authors. This one was partially because it has been a hectic year with elections and all that. The book is called 'The New World Disorder and the Indian Imperative', and it is about how the world has been organized and run since the Second World War," he said.

"The fact is that old governance models are no longer working and there are some real issues about allowing old systems to continue. We need to have a new approach including one in which India would play a bigger role. The book is coming out in January and we are looking forward to sharing it with readers in this part of the world as well, because you have been in many ways victims of the global governance model as well as beneficiaries of it," Tharoor pointed out.

Asked about his fascination of using obscure words like 'flocinaucinihilipilification', he said "it has become somewhat of a joke these days". "It is not a good thing as language is meant to communicate ideas, and if a certain choice of words contributes to unintelligibility, it's not doing the job. Growing up in an intellectual climate without the intrusion of mobile phones and new media, playing with words was something we did in college purely for intellectual curiosity. I have always sought out books for both entertainment and escape and these vocabulary influences come not through studying the dictionary but through extensive reading," he concluded.

Sports

Boston Bruins top Rangers with Patrice Bergeron's hat trick

Islanders defeat Flyers for seventh straight win

NEW YORK: Patrice Bergeron netted a hat trick, and Brad Marchand added two goals and three assists as the Boston Bruins won 7-4 on Sunday in the New York Rangers' 2,000th regular-season NHL game at the current Madison Square Garden, which opened in 1968. David Pastrnak had a five-game goal streak snapped but contributed five assists as Boston's top line accounted for 13 points. Charlie Coyle and Zdeno Chara also had goals for the Bruins, who have at least a point in seven straight games (5-0-2). Goaltender Jaroslav Halak made 25 saves. Micheal Haley, Pavel Buchnevich, Chris Kreider and Brady Skjei scored for the Rangers, who dropped to 1-5-1 in their last seven. Goalie Henrik Lundqvist stopped 27 shots before being relieved with New York trailing 4-1 after two periods. The Bruins were coming off an emotional 3-0 victory Saturday at home against St. Louis, the team that defeated them in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final last spring. After trailing 1-0 through the first period, Boston came out strong in the second with two goals in the opening 1:08 and two more later in the period while outshooting New York 21-5 in the frame.

ISLANDERS 5, FLYERS 3

Anders Lee had a goal and an assist, and five different New York skaters scored in a win over Philadelphia in Uniondale, N.Y., stretching the Isles' winning streak to seven. Mathew Barzal, Derick Brassard, Ross Johnston and Ryan Pulock each contributed a goal for the hot Islanders, who set a season-high for goals scored. New York started the season 1-3-0 but hasn't lost since, matching the franchise's longest single-season winning streak since 1990. Islanders goaltender Semyon Varlamov made 28 saves. Jakub Voracek, Travis Konecny and Claude

Giroux scored a goal apiece for the Flyers, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

PANTHERS 6, OILERS 2

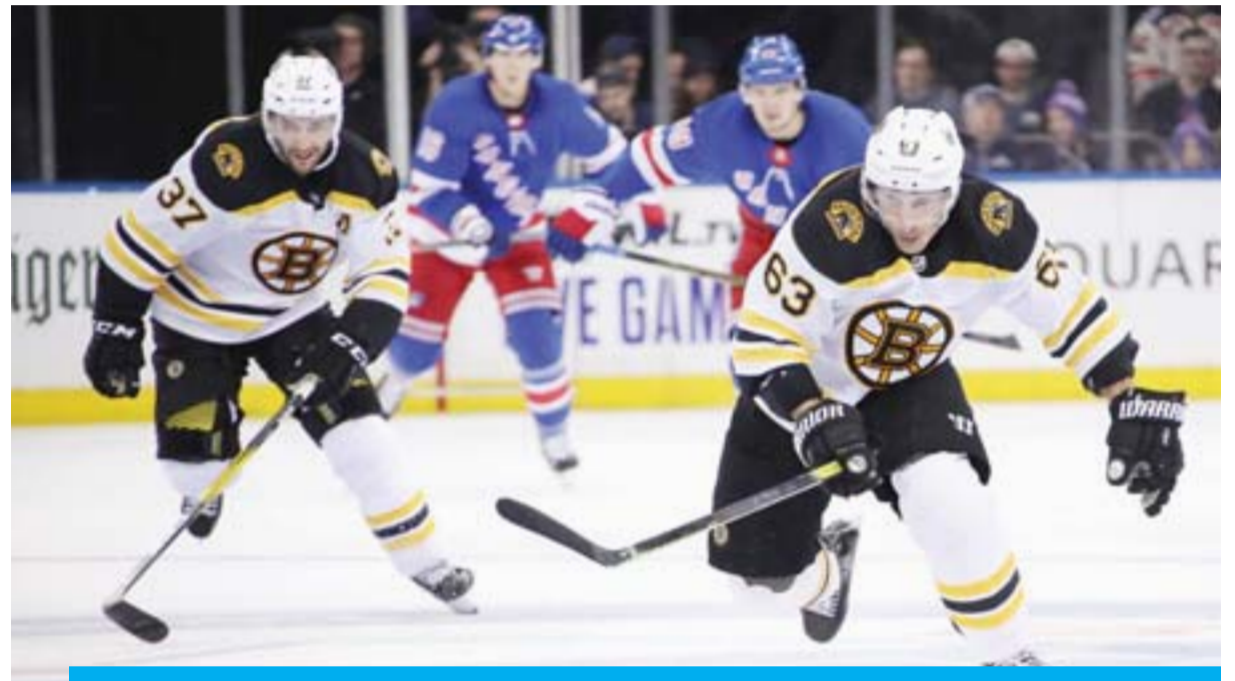
Florida scored on its first three shots of the second period and recorded at least one point for the eighth straight game with an easy win in Edmonton. Aaron Ekblad, Brian Boyle and Noel Acciari netted markers in a span of 125 seconds near the start of the second period for a 3-0 lead for the Panthers, who last failed to get a point in a 6-3 loss to Carolina on Oct. 8. Leon Draisaitl contributed a goal and an assist, and James Neal also scored for Edmonton, which lost for the first time at home after opening with five wins.

BLUES 5, RED WINGS 4 (OT)

David Perron scored at 1:28 of overtime as St. Louis Blues stormed back after blowing a two-goal lead to hand host Detroit its eighth consecutive loss. Ryan O'Reilly had two goals and two assists to lead the Blues. Schemm and Zach Sanford also scored for St. Louis, while Jordan Binnington made 29 saves. Tyler Bertuzzi and Dylan Larkin each had a goal and an assist for Detroit. Filip Hronek and Valtteri Filppula also scored. With the Blues leading 3-1 after two periods, Detroit scored three times before the 12-minute mark in the third to take a lead. O'Reilly tied the game at 15:42 to force the extra period.

BLACKHAWKS 5, KINGS 1

Dylan Strome tallied two goals and an assist, and Chicago pulled away for a win over visiting Los Angeles. Alex DeBrincat also enjoyed a three-point night with a goal and two assists for the Blackhawks, who snapped a four-game losing streak. David Kampf and Drake Caggiula scored one goal apiece for



NEW YORK: Brad Marchand #63 of the Boston Bruins skates against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The Bruins defeated the Rangers 7-4. — AFP

Chicago. Sean Walker scored the lone goal for Los Angeles, which has dropped three in a row and six of its past eight games.

SENATORS 5, SHARKS 2

Nick Paul had two goals and an assist for the first multi-point game of his NHL career in his 62nd game as host Ottawa beat San Jose. Brady Tkachuk finished

with a goal and two assists. Connor Brown had a goal and an assist, Anthony Duclair also scored, and Craig Anderson made 34 saves for the Senators. Evander Kane and Kevin Labanc scored, Brent Burns had two assists and Aaron Dell made 18 saves on 22 shots for the Sharks before he was replaced by Martin Jones at the start of the third period. Jones finished with seven saves on eight shots. —Reuters

Final competition in Asian bowling championship for both gender



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The gold medals of the total points for men and women of the 25th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championship will be distributed today at the Kuwait Bowling Center in Salmiya.

The previous gold medal of the same event was won by Hong Kong's Michael Mak in 2016 during the Hong Kong championship while South Korean Jung Dawun won the women's gold at the same championship. There will also be the first round of the final competition which is the Masters for both gender.

UAE team coach former world champion Mika Koivuniemi said he is impressed with Kuwait bowling center adding that it is among the best in the world if not the best. He added that he visited more than 70 countries as a professional during which he saw

many tournaments and Kuwait's is the best and can host the best and strongest championships in the world.

He said the UAE team is going through major changes at the players' level and is not as strong as it used to be adding "we need luck and surprise to win a medal". He said South Korea and Malaysia are considered the best and closer to get the medals. Egypt's manager Dr Mohammad Al-Kurdy said the championship is among the strongest in the world as far as level and competitions are concerned. He said the success elements came together through the availability of a facility of international standards as well as accurate organization and finally the scores that are being recorded by players. Al-Kurdy thanked President of International and Asian Bowling federations Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad for inviting the Egyptian team.



(10th), what we have achieved in terms of Six Nations and Grand Slams." Gatland added of Friday's match: "It's my last game in charge of Wales and it will be monumental. I would love to beat the All Blacks. That is one I have not achieved."

Regardless of Friday's result, Gatland will end his time with Wales as one of the most highly respected coaches in world rugby, having led the Welsh to four Six Nations titles since taking over in 2007.

Appointed as the 20th Welsh national coach in November 2007, he could hardly have had a better start, leading Wales to the 2008 Six Nations championship title and the nation's 10th Grand Slam. The Kiwi also oversaw the British and Irish Lions' series victory in Australia in 2013 and the drawn series against New Zealand in 2017, but has come in for criticism for his poor record against southern hemisphere teams. As a player, the former hooker featured in 17 non-international matches for New Zealand, but never won an international cap. He racked up a record 140 appearances for Waikato before retiring in 1995.

He first touched down in Europe as player/coach for Irish side Galwegians, opting to stay on after the 1989 New Zealand tour. In 1996, he took over at unfashionable Irish province Connacht and succeeded Brian Ashton in 1998 as coach of Ireland, with whom he had a record of 18 wins, one draw and 19 losses. From Ireland, Gatland joined Wasps, winning a hat-trick of Premiership titles in 2003, 2004 and 2005, the European Challenge Cup in 2003 and European Cup in 2004.

Returning home, he won the 2006 Air New Zealand Cup title with Waikato's provincial side before joining the Waikato Chiefs Super 14 team and then moving to Wales.

Not only was there a Grand Slam in 2008, but a second in 2012, a Six Nations title in 2013, and a third championship clean sweep last season.

Cynics in Wales, however, will point at Gatland's poor record against the southern hemisphere trio of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, although that has slowly changed.

While Wales have never beaten the All Blacks in his reign, they have notched up four victories over the Springboks

and three over the Wallabies. The team's fourth place in the 2011 World Cup came after just one victory over a major power, Ireland, in the quarter-finals.

The 2015 World Cup saw Wales dramatically beat hosts England in pool play but go down to South Africa in the quarter-finals. But critics aside, there is no doubt Gatland has transformed the Welsh XV into viable contenders in Europe with a tight-knit group of players based around some individual excellence.

In 2021, Gatland, in his reprised guise of Lions coach, will likely come up once more again Rassic Erasmus, the Springboks director of rugby who has stepped into the head coach role in the lead-up to this World Cup.

"Warren is an absolute legend of the game. You very seldom see him in a mouth fight and mudslinging before Test matches," said Erasmus. "I've got a lot of respect for him as a person." Erasmus added: "I will see Gatland in the future. We will definitely compete again, and it is always a pleasure competing with him because he is a gentleman on and off the field, and he deserves all the credit that goes his way." — AFP

England want all bases covered against Springboks

TOKYO: England hope to have all bases covered should "cunning" South Africa coach Rassie Erasmus try to spring a tactical surprise in the World Cup final. While England won through to Saturday's showpiece match in Yokohama with a dynamic 19-7 win over New Zealand that ended the All Blacks' eight-year reign as world champions, South Africa ground out a 19-16 semi-final victory over Wales in a turgid set-piece contest dominated by box-kicks.

Nevertheless Jones, who together with England defence coach John Mitchell was among a crowd that saw the Springboks edge out Wales on Sunday, said: "They won a tough semi-final, and when you are in the final of a World Cup you have done a lot of things right."

"They are a massively aggressive physical forward pack, they probably played their stronger team in the second half as opposed to the first. They are going to be a difficult side to beat."

Wales were drawn into a kicking contest but if England can replicate the high-tempo yet physical game that stunned the All Blacks they will pose problems for the Springboks.

"We are going to enjoy the preparations this week, getting ourselves right," said Jones, the coach of his native Australia when England beat the Wallabies in the 2003 World Cup final.

"We know a couple of areas that we think we can expose in them and we'll make sure we are well-prepared in those areas," he added. "Rassic is a cunning coach, a good coach and has done a great job with the Springboks. We're prepared for the unexpected."

Jones highlighted the skills of South Africa half-backs Faf de Klerk and Handre Pollard as proof of the variety within the Springboks' game. "They can play in different ways. You saw Faf de Klerk do 15-20 box-kicks in the game but we know Pollard is an excellent kicker."

"The way he goal-kicked was fantastic," said Jones of Pollard's 14-point haul, which included four penalty goals and a conversion. "He was smooth, nice touch on the ball and that is a wonderful advantage for them."

But asked during a news conference on Monday if he had taken many notes while watching the match, Jones reverted to typical wise-cracking form. "I actually forgot my pen last night so I had to go for the high technology, the iPad, which I'm not that flash on. So there wasn't too many notes there."

Saturday's match is a repeat of the 2007 World Cup final when Jones was a consultant to the Springbok side that beat England 15-6 in Paris. And the England coach said he expected South Africa to utilise their traditional forward strength in the climax of this edition.

"We know they can play differently and we're aware of that, but we also know that they are going to come through the front door. There are not many Springbok teams that don't come through the front door. So we've got to be ready at the front door and have enough cover at the back door too." — AFP

Gatland to leave Wales in credit, targets Boks with Lions

TOKYO: Warren Gatland will bow out from his 12-year stint as Wales coach having earned the respect of the sport's powerhouses, but never reaching a World Cup final and with just one more chance to notch up a win over his native New Zealand. Wales went down 19-16 to South Africa in Sunday's Rugby World Cup semi-final in Yokohama, leaving them a third-place play-off with the All Blacks, who were beaten 19-7 by England on Saturday.

"The biggest thing I am proud of is that we have earned respect from the rest of the world in terms of what we have achieved in the last 12 years. I am not sure it was there before that," said the 56-year-old Gatland.

"World rankings, where we were at

Sports

Host Grizzlies sink Brooklyn Nets on Crowder's buzzer-beater

Thunder roll to victory over defenseless Warriors

MEMPHIS: Jae Crowder drained a 3-pointer as time expired in overtime to lift the host Memphis Grizzlies to a 134-133 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday. Brooklyn appeared poised to record its second win in three outings after Memphis rookie Ja Morant failed to connect with Kyle Anderson on an inbounds pass with 8.1 seconds left. Spencer Dinwiddie made one of two free throws to push the Nets' lead to 133-131, but Morant set up Crowder for the game-winning shot at the top of the arc. Morant scored 17 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and pushed the game into overtime with a well-timed block of Kyrie Irving as time expired. Dillon Brooks made 9 of 15 shots from the field for 21 points as the Grizzlies overcame an eight-point deficit with 3:20 remaining in the fourth quarter to record their first win of the season.

THUNDER 120, WARRIORS 92

Dennis Schroder scored 22 points as host Oklahoma City blew out Golden State, which has averaged 130.5 points allowed in back-to-back losses to start the season. The Thunder dominated from the start, scoring the game's first eight points. The margin was less than double digits for only about six minutes of game action. Oklahoma City led 70-37 at halftime. Danilo Gallinari added 21 points, and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander 19 in the win. The Thunder made 15 3-pointers, four by Gallinari. Stephen Curry led Golden State with 23 points but was just 2 of 9 from behind the 3-point line. The Warriors shot just 15.2 percent from behind the arc (5 of 33).

TRAIL BLAZERS 121, MAVERICKS 119

Carried by 35 points from CJ McCollum, 28 from Damian Lillard and 20 from Rodney Hood, Portland overcame a sluggish first half to pull out a clutch victory at

Dallas. Lillard's lefty layup with 26.8 seconds to go — after a Mavericks shot-clock violation — put the Blazers ahead for good. Kristaps Porzingis led Dallas with 32 points, adding nine rebounds and five assists, while Luka Doncic had 29 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists.

LAKERS 120, HORNETS 101

Anthony Davis scored 25 of his 29 points in the first half as host Los Angeles defeated Charlotte. Davis also had 14 rebounds and three blocks. LeBron James scored 20 points, dished out 12 assists and grabbed six rebounds. Dwight Howard delivered a solid effort off the bench, scoring 16 points on 8-of-8 shooting, grabbing 10 rebounds and blocking four shots for the Lakers. Miles Bridges led the Hornets with 23 points. Cody Zeller finished with 19 points, 14 rebounds (seven on the offensive end), three blocks and three steals. Terry Rozier also scored 19 points, while Dwayne Bacon added 15 points for the Hornets.

TIMBERWOLVES 116, HEAT 109

Andrew Wiggins scored 16 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter — including three straight 3-pointers at one point — to lead Minnesota past Miami in Minneapolis. In a span of just over four minutes, Wiggins scored 16 of Minnesota's 17 points, as the Wolves went from a 96-93 deficit to a 110-101 lead. Prior to that stretch, he had been 0-for-5 on 3-pointers in the game. Then, he made five straight shots, including four threes, during the 17-5 run. Timberwolves big man Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 11 rebounds. But he was fairly quiet after a 15-point first quarter. Miami was led by rookie guard Kendrick Nunn, who scored 25 points. He is off to the best three-game rookie scoring start in Heat history. — Reuters



MEMPHIS: Kyrie Irving #11 of the Brooklyn Nets shoots the ball against the Memphis Grizzlies at FedExForum in Memphis, Tennessee. — AFP

Hamilton hopes to avoid hit-man Verstappen in Texas showdown

MEXICO CITY: Lewis Hamilton hopes to steer clear of Max Verstappen at next weekend's United States Grand Prix in Texas, where he aims to clinch his sixth drivers' world championship. Like Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel who said he also concedes extra space to the Dutchman, Hamilton believes that when racing against the Red Bull driver there is a higher possibility of contact and an accident.

In the wake of his perfectly-executed strategic triumph for Mercedes in Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix, in which he made contact with Verstappen on the opening lap, Hamilton said he believed there was a higher risk of an

accident while racing against him than others. "Every driver is slightly different," said Hamilton, answering a question in the post-race news conference. "Some are smarter and some are very smart aggressive. Some are silly with it..."

"Through those experiences with racing with people, you give some more space than others, but, yeah, (with) Max, it's very likely you'll come together with Max — if you don't give him extra space.

"Most of the time you do. In my experience (in Sunday's race), I didn't have extra space to give him, but I don't think it was intentional. Nonetheless, I managed to keep the car in a straight line..."

Hamilton survived his brush with Verstappen to make full use of a well-judged one-stop strategy and claim the 83rd victory of his career and his 10th in 18 races this year, leaving him needing to finish in the top eight in the United States to take his sixth title.

Verstappen was chasing a hat-trick of Mexico victories, but undid his chances on Saturday in qualifying when he was punished for ignoring yellow flags following Valtteri Bottas' crash and then told a news conference that "it doesn't matter."

He was penalised three grid positions, losing pole position, and started fourth alongside Hamilton. The pair tangled and then Verstappen clashed with Bottas, who finished third in the second Mercedes. Verstappen suffered a puncture and pitted. He re-joined last, but charged through the field to finish sixth.

His surging and dramatic drive, packed with daring passing moves, was thrilling for his fans, but demonstrated why he is dubbed 'Mad Max' and given a wide berth by his rivals. "He got a puncture from that," said Bottas of Verstappen's hopeful failed lunge to pass him. "I couldn't really avoid him. I think he earned his own puncture. Definitely..."

Vettel, who finished second, smiled as he listened to Hamilton's responses before being posed the same questions about Verstappen. "Yes and yes," he replied, nodding his agreement with Hamilton's views. "Just copy and paste... It's true."

The four-time champion German smiled as he sat alongside defending five-time champion Hamilton with Bottas nearby. Verstappen, 22, a victim of his own impetuosity, was hardly in any position to argue after an afternoon that demonstrated his crowd-pleasing skills but also left another dent in his reputation. — AFP

Federer withdraws from Paris Masters

BASEL: Roger Federer clinched his 103rd career title at Basel on Sunday but admitted that he may skip the opportunity to win a 104th at the Paris Masters. The 38-year-old won his 10th Basel trophy, smothering young Australian Alex De Minaur 6-2, 6-2 to secure what the Swiss legend described as "an unbelievable" success at the home-town tournament where he used to work as a ballboy.

He is now just six short of the record 109 ATP titles won by American Jimmy Connors but may be tempted to skip Paris, the final event of the regular season, to conserve his energy ahead of the ATP Finals in London.

"I've got a team meeting scheduled for Monday to discuss not just Paris but next season. I guess by tomorrow I'll know if I'm going to Paris or not," said Federer after lifting his fourth title of 2019 after Dubai, Miami and Halle. "My fitness is fine, I'm happy with how I feel. I just don't know if I should play next week. I'll figure it out with the team." Federer returned to the Paris Masters last year for the first time since 2015 and reached the semi-finals where he lost a three-set semi-final thriller to Novak Djokovic, who is top seed ahead of Rafael Nadal in the French capital this year.

On Sunday, Federer cut an emotional figure as he was presented with the trophy at the Basel tournament where he once worked as a ball boy. In the crowd of 9,000 were his wife and four children.

"It might be remembering back at all that went into this week, the family of maybe the (coaching) team aspect," said Federer when asked to explain his emotions. "People think I just go out there and do it at will — but it's not that way at all."

"Sometimes I stand there and look back at what I've gone through. The ballkids running onto court (for the trophy ceremony) — that can get me going. Also thanking the fans at the end," Federer said his success at Basel, where he is on a 24-win streak and has won 75 matches against just nine losses, had been "an incredible journey". "It leaves a mark for me," he added after making an appearance at his annual pizza party with all tournament ball boys and girls immediately after the trophy ceremony. "To be able to play in a stadium with people celebrating your tennis it's a wonderful feeling. I've had an incredible journey, it's hit me hard winning in Basel. This is not something that I take as normal. (Winning a title) is something unique and special, even if I've done it a lot." — AFP

Svitolina eases past Pliskova in WTA finals

SHENZHEN: Defending champion Elina Svitolina continued her dominance over world number two Karolina Pliskova with a straight-sets victory at the WTA Finals in China yesterday.

Opening Purple Group, the eighth seed started her title defence impressively with a 7-6 (14/12), 6-4 win in one hour and 53 minutes at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Centre.

It was Svitolina's fourth straight victory over a misfiring Pliskova who had 42 unforced errors. "I was trying to be ready for her big serve and then take on the second serve," Svitolina said after the match. "The surface is a little bit slow and I had more time... it benefited my return."

It was a disappointing result for Pliskova who started well, mixing trademark hard-hitting blows from the base-

line with softer touch — including an exquisite drop shot to capture a break in the first game.

But Svitolina slowly clawed her way back into the match and broke in the fourth game as Pliskova's radar went awry.

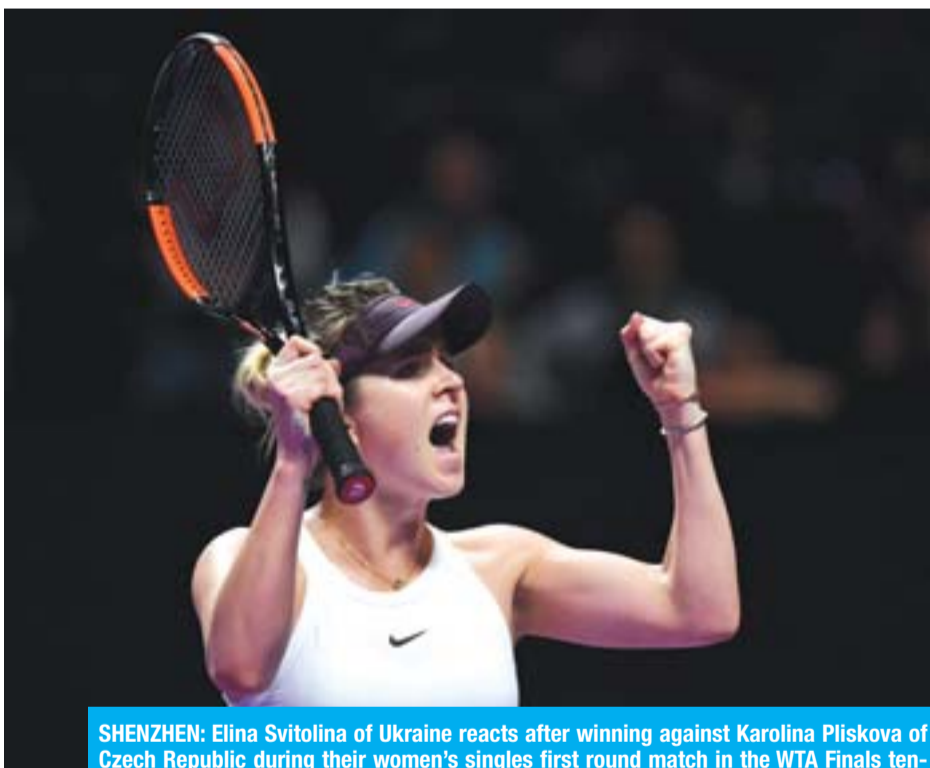
It was a tense contest extending into a nerve-jangling tiebreaker with Pliskova's bold approach saving six set points, but she miscued on the seventh as the Ukrainian finally drew first blood.

A frustrated Pliskova was broken immediately to open the second set and never seriously threatened to stage a comeback against an increasingly confident Svitolina.

The 25-year-old is hoping to end a barren season on a high having not captured a title since last year's WTA Finals triumph.

Pliskova, who has a tour-leading four titles this season, is making her fourth straight appearance at the round-robin tournament and has reached the semi-finals for the past two years.

US Open champion Bianca Andreescu takes on Wimbledon winner Simona Halep in the later match in a battle of the past two Grand Slam champions. — AFP



SHENZHEN: Elina Svitolina of Ukraine reacts after winning against Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic during their women's singles first round match in the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Shenzhen yesterday. — AFP

Emotions spill over as PNG qualify for T20 World Cup

MELBOURNE: Global cricketers hailed one of the sport's "feel good" stories of the year on Monday after Papua New Guinea dug themselves out of a huge hole at a Dubai qualifier to book their maiden appearance at the T20 World Cup in Australia next year.

Emerging cricket nation PNG were 19 for six against Kenya after an early collapse at Dubai International Stadium but ended up thrashing the Africans by 45 runs on Sunday. PNG then had a nervous wait for the result of the Netherlands' game against Scotland, but they ultimately topped their group at the tournament due to a higher net run rate and qualify directly for Australia, their first World Cup in any format.

The PNG players celebrated wildly in the stadium's terraces and their Australian coach Joe Dawes was overwhelmed. "I am feeling a little emotional," former Queensland bowler Dawes told the global

governing body ICC. "It's been a pretty big two years, for them to achieve this is pretty special." Dawes said planning for next year's tournament could wait. "We are just going to enjoy the moment. For them to achieve this is a great thing for us and for the nation," he added.

PNG's automatic qualification came at the expense of the Netherlands, who defeated Scotland but will have to take the playoffs route to reach Australia. Cricket was introduced into PNG in the early 1900s by British missionaries but the national teams have struggled to make an impression on the world stage until recently.

The men's "Barramundis" team were awarded One Day International Status by the ICC in 2014 and they have benefited from development grants from neighbouring cricket power Australia. "The fact that Papua New Guinea have qualified for their first Men's T20 World Cup in 2020 is one of modern cricket's amazing feel good stories," commentator and former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop tweeted. India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin also hailed PNG's entry to one of cricket's biggest global stages. "So PNG qualifies for the T20 World Cup!! It's amazing to see the game expanding globally and will surely bring more young ones to play the great game," he tweeted. — Reuters

Bulletproof vests': World Cup autopsy brutal, says All Black Williams

TOKYO: New Zealand icon Sonny Bill Williams said yesterday that the All Blacks players needed "bulletproof vests" during a brutal analysis of their devastating 19-7 World Cup semi-final defeat by England.

The treble-chasing All Blacks suffered only their second loss in 17 games against the English, who also snapped New Zealand's remarkable 18-match unbeaten run in the competition, one which had dated back to 2007.

Williams, who has two winner's medals, revealed that combing through the wreckage of Saturday's upset by a pumped-up England in Yokohama had stung and that the coaching staff had pulled no punches in a grim post-mortem.

"We went through the review this morning and some of the boys had their bulletproof vests on," said the hulking centre, set to bow out as an All Black after this week's third-place playoff with Wales.

"Now we've just got to get on with it."

"It was a little more stressful yesterday with my little one," added Williams, noting the effect a rare New Zealand failure had on his children. "Didn't sleep well, she was out of whack."

New Zealand, who had not lost at the World Cup since France stunned them in the 2007 quarter-finals, face Wales in

Tokyo on Friday after the Six Nations champions were beaten 19-16 by South Africa on Sunday. It is a match that nobody really wants to play — but Williams insisted it could prove cathartic for the wounded All Blacks.

"It was a tough night, but there were some lessons," said the 34-year-old, who has also won a pair of titles in Australia's National Rugby League and a WBA international heavyweight boxing crown.

"Straight after the game, I didn't really want to play this week — but five or 10 minutes later I flipped the script and thought how good it would be to get through this, play again next week and put those lessons into practice."

With All Blacks head coach Steve Hansen stepping down after seven years, along with captain Kieran Read, it felt like the end of an era for what England boss Eddie Jones described as the "greatest team in sport".

But assistant coach Ian Foster, tipped to take over from Hansen before their crushing defeat, echoed the sentiments of Williams as he promised this week's clash with Wales would mark the start of a healing process for the All Blacks.

"It's a chance to redeem ourselves," he said. "We have players and management that are hurting and we want to go out and show we're better than that, and start this process."

"Energy levels might be low with the quick turnaround but there are players jumping out of their skin (to play)."

Williams, meanwhile, called for a candidate with Pacific island or Maori blood to be considered for the All Blacks coaching set-up. "There are going to be a few guys putting their hands up," said Williams, who is of Samoan heritage.

"I'd like to see a Pacific Islander or a Maori in the coaching system that would have a bit of influence," he added.

"There's a lot of Island boys, a lot of Maori boys playing for the All Blacks — there's a lot of space there for that growth." — AFP

Sports

Coleman, 49ers run over Panthers

Rodgers leads Packers past Mahomes-less Chiefs

SAN FRANCISCO: Tevin Coleman scored three of San Francisco's five rushing touchdowns and added a fourth on a 10-yard reception Sunday afternoon as the 49ers remained unbeaten with a 51-13 shellacking of the visiting Carolina Panthers. Coming off a 9-0 shutout of the Washington Redskins, the 49ers' defense sacked Kyle Allen seven times and forced three interceptions while limiting the Carolina offense to 230 total yards. Allen entered with no interceptions while going 4-0 in four starts this season. The outcome was never in doubt, as the 49ers (7-0) took the opening kickoff and quickly gobbled up 75 yards in 11 plays, capped by a 4-yard touchdown pass from Jimmy Garoppolo to newcomer Emmanuel Sanders. Acquired earlier in the week from Denver, Sanders finished with four catches for 25 yards. Coleman scored from 19, 48 and 1 yards, Deebo Samuel scampered 20 yards on a reverse, and Raheem Mostert capped the scoring on a 41-yard blast in the fourth quarter. The 49ers finished with 232 yards rushing and 388 overall.

PATRIOTS 27, BROWNS 13

Despite allowing just its fourth touchdown of the season, New England's defense still played the lead role in beating Cleveland in Foxborough, Mass., staying undefeated and giving coach Bill Belichick his 300th career win. Collecting turnovers on three consecutive plays in the first quarter, the Patriots (8-0) turned them into 14 points, giving them the cushion they lived off all game. New England's offense wasn't flashy while playing in a steady downpour, but did get 259 passing yards and two touchdowns from quarterback Tom Brady. Cleveland (2-5) got 131 yards on 20 carries from running back Nick Chubb, but he lost fumbles on back-to-back snaps that helped the Patriots get off to a fast start. Quarterback Baker Mayfield completed 20 of 31 passes for 194 yards with a touchdown and an interception while taking five sacks.

PACKERS 31, CHIEFS 24

Aaron Rodgers threw for 305 yards and three touchdowns, including 159 yards and two scores to running back Aaron Jones, as Green Bay won at short-handed Kansas City. Rodgers, coming off a perfect passer rating a week earlier against Oakland, was often hounded by a blitzing Chiefs defense but engineered scores on three straight possessions in the second half before running out the clock at the end. The Packers improved to 7-1. Jones also rushed 13 times for 67 yards. Drawing his first start since Week 12 of 2017 with Miami, Matt Moore passed for 267 yards and two touchdowns for the Chiefs (5-3), filling in for injured starter Patrick Mahomes. Kansas City has lost three straight at home.

TEXANS 27, RAIDERS 24

Deshaun Watson engineered two fourth-quarter touchdown drives as injury-ravaged Houston rallied past visiting Oakland. However, the Texans learned after the game that star defensive end J.J. Watt will miss the remainder of the season. Watson passed for 279 yards and three touchdowns, including scoring strikes of 4 and 9 yards to tight end Darren Fells in the final period to lead the comeback. Watson scrambled from pressure on the final touchdown pass to Fells, absorbing a kick through the facemask to his left eye before completing the toss that gave the Texans the lead for good with 6:26 left.

LIONS 31, GIANTS 26

Matthew Stafford threw three touchdown passes, two to Kenny Golladay, and Detroit snapped a three-game losing streak by defeating visiting New York. Stafford passed for 342 yards and was intercepted once for the Lions (3-3-1). Rookie Daniel Jones passed for 322 yards and four touchdowns for the Giants (2-6), who have dropped four straight. New York's Saquon Barkley rushed for 64 yards on 19 carries and caught eight passes for 79 yards, including a 4-yard touchdown with 1:19 left. But the Lions recovered the onside kick to clinch the win.

RAMS 24, BENGALS 10

Jared Goff passed for 372 yards and two touchdowns, and Cooper Kupp had 220 receiving yards and a spectacular score on a trick play as Los Angeles defeated Cincinnati at London's Wembley Stadium. Todd Gurley rushed for a touchdown as the Rams (5-3) won for the second consecutive week after a three-game losing streak. Kupp's 65-yard second-quarter TD came on a double-reverse pitch back to the quarterback and broke a 10-10 tie as Los Angeles took the lead for good. Andy Dalton passed for 329 yards and one touchdown as the Bengals (0-8) remained one of two winless teams in the NFL along with the Miami Dolphins, who play today at Pittsburgh.

SEAHAWKS 27, FALCONS 20

Rookie DK Metcalf caught two touchdown passes from Russell Wilson, and Seattle built a 24-0 advantage and held off a second-half rally to win at Atlanta. The Falcons (1-7) played without quarterback Matt Ryan, whose streak of 154 consecutive starts was snapped because of a sprained ankle. Veteran backup Matt Schaub was 39-of-52 passing for 460 yards, with one touchdown and one interception. Julio Jones had 10 catches for 152 yards. Seattle's Chris Carson rushed for 90 yards and a touchdown, most of it in the first half as



KANSAS CITY: Reggie Ragland #59 of the Kansas City Chiefs tackles Jamaal Williams #30 of the Green Bay Packers in the third quarter at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri. —AFP

the Seahawks (6-2) built a 24-0 lead. Wilson completed 14 of 20 passes for 182 yards and two scores. Tyler Lockett had six receptions for 100 yards.

JAGUARS 29, JETS 15

Rookie Gardner Minshew II passed for 279 yards and a career-high three touchdown passes to lead host Jacksonville over New York and mistake-prone Sam Darnold. The Jaguars (4-4) have alternated a two-game losing skids with two-game winning streaks throughout the first half of the season. The Jets are 1-6 for the first time since 2014, when they opened 1-8. Minshew threw TDs to Keelan Cole, Chris Conley and DJ Chark. Josh Lambo kicked three field goals for and is now 21-for-21 this season. Darnold passed for 218 yards with two touchdowns to Ryan Griffin, but the Jaguars sacked him eight times and picked him off three times.

CHARGERS 17, BEARS 16

Philip Rivers passed for 201 yards and a touchdown, and Eddy Pineiro missed a potential game-winning 41-

yard field goal as time expired as visiting Los Angeles edged Chicago. The Chargers (3-5) exhaled with a victory as the Bears (3-4) sputtered down the stretch. Rivers connected with Austin Ekeler for a go-ahead 11-yard touchdown pass with 8:04 remaining to put Los Angeles ahead by the final margin. Bears rookie David Montgomery rushed for 135 yards and a touchdown on 27 carries, exceeding 100 yards for the first time in his career.

COLTS 15, BRONCOS 13

Adam Vinatieri kicked a 51-yard field goal with 22 seconds left, and host Indianapolis rallied to beat Denver. Vinatieri atoned for a missed PAT and missed field-goal attempt to lift the Colts (5-2) to their third straight win on a day in which quarterback Jacoby Brissett was held in check. Brissett finished 15 of 25 for 202 yards, ran for 34 yards and lost a fumble. Joe Flacco was 20-for-32 passing for 174 yards, taking a sack on the game's final play as time ran out. Phillip Lindsay had 59 yards rushing, and Royce Freeman ran for 40 yards and a touchdown for the Broncos (2-6). —Reuters

Salah fires Liverpool to comeback win over Spurs

LIVERPOOL: Mohamed Salah claimed the 50th Anfield goal of his Liverpool career from the penalty spot as the Premier League leaders restored their six-point advantage at the top of the table after surviving a major scare against Tottenham.

It was a comeback victory that had Liverpool's demanding manager Jurgen Klopp heaping praise on his players for their composure in responding after Harry Kane had shot Spurs into a shock lead with only 47 seconds played.

Salah struck a clinical 75th-minute penalty into the bottom right-hand corner after Serge Aurier tripped Sadio Mane, which took him to a half-century of home goals in just his 58th outing. It completed a second-half comeback, started when Jordan Henderson cancelled out a dramatic opening goal from Kane.

There was more good news for Liverpool supporters after the game when Klopp revealed that Salah, who limped off in the closing minutes with what appeared to be an ankle problem, was only removed as a precaution.

"When we were 1-0 down, we didn't chase it immediately. We just played it," said a delighted Klopp. "Very often the result is the result of the performance. The performance was really, really good. I liked it a lot. Being 1-0 down against Tottenham with the strength they have in counter-attacking is really tough."

He added: "The game I loved, a super game, how football should look, how we should play against a really strong, good organised side."

Kane struck inside a minute, becoming the joint-third highest scorer in the famous club's history with his 174th goal in Tottenham colours. It was also one of the simplest after Moussa Sissoko sparked a scrambling counter-attack and set Son Heung-min racing upfield.

The South Korean's powerful strike from the edge



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum (C) vies with Tottenham Hotspur's French midfielder Moussa Sissoko (L) and Tottenham Hotspur's English midfielder Dele Alli during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England. —AFP

of the area took a wild deflection off the head of Dejan Lovren before striking the woodwork but the rebound fell kindly for Kane to stoop and head into the gaping net.

It was a lead that lasted, somehow, until the 52nd minute when a Henderson cross was headed clear and turned back into the area by Fabinho. Danny Rose appeared to nudge Roberto Firmino in the back but, with referee Anthony Taylor unmoved, the ball continued to the corner of the six-yard area where Henderson hit it on the half-volley into the Spurs goal.

Minutes earlier, Spurs might have doubled their lead when Son was sent clear on the end of a long clearance by keeper Paulo Gazzaniga. He rounded Alisson Becker but could only strike the cross-bar from a tricky angle.

But the equaliser was no more than Liverpool

deserved after a dominant first-half spell in which only an inspired performance from stand-in goalkeeper Gazzaniga maintained the visitors' lead. In one breathless, four-minute spell, Liverpool carved out five excellent chances, with Gazzaniga peerless in dealing with them. "In this season we deserve more points on the table," said Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino, whose side are languishing in 11th spot in the table.

"It's a moment to stay strong, to keep pushing. Of course in a different season this could have finished two or three nil for us. But today for us it is a different way and it is important for us it is to stay calm and take the best decisions for the future."

"I've nothing (critical) to say because after five-and-a-half years it's a moment to be all together and show our support." —AFP

VAR decisions controversially overruled match referee Stuart Attwell.

Reids manager Solskjaer did not dwell too long on the drama after watching his side put in a dominant performance against a Norwich side who had already stunned rivals Manchester City this season.

Solskjaer admitted: "It's been too long but it's great to have it done. But of course the performance was the pleasing thing." United's puzzling form has seen them able to hold their own against this season's Premier League's big hitters, taking eight points from 12 against Chelsea, Liverpool, Arsenal and Leicester.

Yet, until today they had failed to beat Southampton, Newcastle, Wolves and West Ham on the road. The Norwegian said: "This is a difficult place to come to, but when we are as focused and concentrated and on the front foot as we were today then we can beat anyone away from home."

The most positive aspect of the performance was the chaos wreaked on the Norwich defence by in-form England striker Rashford and Martial, who has just returned from a two-month injury lay-off.

They were ably supported by Andreas Pereira and Daniel James, with Harry Maguire at the heart of a solid defence. Solskjaer believes Martial can have a huge impact on United's season if he can stay fit. —AFP

Man Utd end away-day misery despite penalty woe

NORWICH: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer breathed a huge sigh of relief after Manchester United ended their eight-month wait for a Premier League away win as his side beat Norwich City 3-1 on Sunday. Goals from Scott McTominay, Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial capped a stunning United performance in an entertaining game at Carrow Road.

After last weekend's gritty draw at Old Trafford ended Liverpool's 100 percent start to season, the thought of a block of four straight away league and cup games must have had Solskjaer squirming.

Yet his side, still missing Paul Pogba, saw off Partizan Belgrade in the Europa League on Thursday to clear the first hurdle.

With Norwich now also put to the sword, United will travel to Chelsea and Bournemouth in the coming week with a spring in their step. It could have even been worse for the hosts if Canaries keeper Tim Krul had not saved penalties from Rashford and Martial after two

Doubles for Icardi, Mbappe as PSG outclass old rivals Marseille

PARIS: Mauro Icardi and Kylian Mbappe both scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain demolished their old rivals Marseille 4-0 on Sunday in a game that further laid bare the gulf that exists between the sides and allowed the reigning champions to extend their lead at the top of Ligue 1.

Icardi scored twice in the first 26 minutes at the Parc des Princes and Mbappe, on his return to the starting line-up after a recent struggle with injury, added a brace of his own before the interval against Andre Villas-Boas's hapless visitors in the 'Classique'.

Again preferred to all-time club record goal-scorer Edinson Cavani in attack, on-loan Inter Milan striker Icardi now has seven goals in PSG's last five games. "Coming to PSG, I knew I would have to score goals. That is what I have always done and that is what I wanted to do here," Icardi told Canal Plus.

"I have played with some really great players but this is clearly the best team I have played in." Mbappe, scorer of a hat-trick in the 5-0 win at Club Brugge in the Champions League in mid-week, has six in his last three matches — he scored a hat-trick as a substitute in Belgium before starting here for the first time in two months.

PSG are eight points clear already at the top of Ligue 1, with this win coming after second-placed Nantes lost 1-0 at home to Monaco on Friday. Another league title already looks inevitable, with Thomas Tuchel's team once more far too strong for one of the clubs seen as their most likely challengers at the beginning of the campaign.

PSG were again without the injured Neymar, while Idrissa Gueye — their most impressive midfielder this season — was also sidelined, but neither was missed. There remains much hype around this fixture in France as it brings together the country's two best-supported clubs, yet it is a long time since Marseille have been a match for their rivals from the capital.

For a period in the 1990s, the sides were fighting it out with one another for the title. Now, with PSG transformed into the dominant force in Ligue 1 since the Qatari takeover of the club in 2011, Marseille simply cannot compete.

They have not beaten PSG since November 2011, with American owner Frank McCourt in attendance here to see their winless run in the intervening period stretch to 20 matches.

"I was very proud of the way we played in the second half but the result doesn't interest me against this team," admitted Villas-Boas, whose team remain seventh, two points adrift of the top three. "Our objective remains the podium." This game may have been very different had Valere Germain converted an excellent chance in the 10th minute. Instead, PSG went straight up to the other end of the field and seized the lead. —AFP

| Live | | Matches on TV | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| | | (Local Timings) | |
| Everton FC v Watford | beIN SPORTS | 22:45 | |
| Manchester City v Southampton FC | beIN SPORTS HD 2 | 22:45 | |
| Burton Albion v Leicester City | beIN SPORTS | 22:45 | |
| Crawley Town v Colchester United | beIN SPORTS | 22:45 | |
| Oxford United v Sunderland | beIN SPORTS | 22:45 | |
| SPANISH LEAGUE | | | |
| Deportivo Alaves v Atletico de Madrid | beIN SPORTS | 21:00 | |
| FC Barcelona v Real Valladolid | beIN SPORTS HD 3 | 23:15 | |
| ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE | | | |
| Parma Calcio 1913 v Hellas Verona FC | beIN SPORTS | 21:00 | |
| Brescia v Internazionale Milano | beIN SPORTS HD 4 | 23:00 | |

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Tiger equals Snead's 54-year-old record

Woods wins Zozo Championship for his 82nd US PGA Tour victory



CHIBA: Tiger Woods of the US holds a victory trophy during the awarding ceremony of the PGA ZOZO Championship golf tournament at the Narashino Country Club in Inzai, Chiba prefecture yesterday. — AFP

INZAI: Tiger Woods made golf history yesterday when he won the Zozo Championship in Japan for his 82nd US PGA Tour victory — equalling Sam Snead's 54-year-old record and adding to his long list of achievements.

The 15-time major winner held off the challenge of home favourite Hideki Matsuyama to win by three shots at the weather-delayed tournament, his first outing since arthroscopic left knee surgery in August.

Woods broke into a huge smile after he birdied the 18th to complete a three-under final round of 67 and finish 19-under par at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club. "It's just crazy. It's a lot," the 43-year-old Woods said of his 82nd official PGA Tour victory. His first came 23 years ago this month in Las Vegas, when he was 20.

"It's been a long week, five days at the top of the board is a long time. It was definitely stressful," said Woods, who pocketed a cheque for £1.755 million. Woods led from gun to tape in the inaugural US PGA Tour event in Japan, which saw Friday's play washed out by the fringes of a typhoon that dumped almost 10 inches (25cm) of rain on the course 50 miles (80km) from Tokyo, forcing play into an extra day.

"It's about consistency and doing it for a long period of time," Woods said of tying Snead, who died in 2002 four days before his 90th birthday. "Sam did it into his fifties and I'm in my early to mid-forties. I've been very fortunate to have had the career I've had so far." US PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan was watching at home in the US. "It was just one of those 'wow' moments," he told AFP by telephone. "He doesn't fancy ties too much. So he's already on to: 'How do I get to 83?'"

Woods said it was "cool" that, with the addition of his latest title in Japan, he had now won US PGA Tour events in seven different countries. "I've always been a global player. I've always played all around the world and to tie the record outside the United States is pretty cool," Woods told reporters.

Woods resumed his final round, suspended due to

darkness on Sunday, at 7:30 am on the long par-12th but saw his overnight three-shot cushion over Matsuyama immediately cut to two.

Matsuyama inexplicably spurned an easy opportunity to reduce the deficit to one as he missed a four-foot birdie putt on 14, but Woods made no mistake on the same green from 20 feet.

'PRETTY SPECIAL'

Woods missed a further birdie chance, from 10 feet, at the 15th and was watching from the 16th tee 181 yards away as Matsuyama walked in a 20-footer to get to 16-under.

Matsuyama kept up the pressure but on the final hole his bunker shot flew past the flag and when he missed the long putt back his brave challenge ended at 16-under for the tournament after a final-round 67. "This was big," said a smiling Woods. "Hideki made it tight. It was a lot closer than what people probably thought."

"It was a very long week because I was tied for the lead for the better part of five days. I made a mistake right away at 11 and it became a pretty good ball game." Playing partner Gary Woodland said he had been privileged to have a front-row seat for the last two rounds as Woods played "unbelievable" golf. "Obviously the majors speak for themselves, but 82's just a crazy number," said the 35-year-old US Open champion who himself has won four times on the PGA Tour. "You look at the guys that have won 10 times and it's pretty special, let alone to come out here and win 82 times. "To battle through the injuries he's dealt with, gosh, he's young and he's playing unbelievable."

"The ball-striking exhibition I've seen the last two days is a joke. So I don't see him stopping anytime soon. Eighty-two's pretty special. I think there's a lot more in store." World number two Rory McIlroy finished birdie-birdie for a 67 and a share of third place on 13-under par with South Korea's PGA Tour Rookie of the Year Im Sung-jae who carded a fine five-under 65. — AFP

Astros rout Nationals to reach brink of World Series title

WASHINGTON: A masterful pitching performance from Houston ace Gerrit Cole sparked the Astros to a 7-1 victory over the Washington Nationals on Sunday, lifting them to the brink of their second World Series title in three seasons.

Yordan Alvarez, Carlos Correa and George Springer each smacked two-run homers as the Astros seized a 3-2 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final. "If we win in front of our fans, it's going to be so special," Correa said. "I think I'll black out for the first time in my life."

Cole struck out nine and surrendered only one run on three hits over seven innings as the Nationals dropped a third straight home game, having batted only .175 in the span. But after dropping the first two games of the series at home, the Astros are far from overconfident. "These next 27 outs we're going to have to get to wrap this thing up are going to be the hardest we've had to get all year," Cole said. Game six is set for today in Houston, where a seventh game would be played tomorrow if necessary.

"We've got a lot of fight in us left. I know we do," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "We're going to fight. We're going to finish this thing." The Astros can secure a second title in three seasons Tuesday when Justin Verlander takes the mound against Washington's Stephen Strasburg.

The Nationals must win twice in Texas, as they did in the first two games of the series, to capture the first title

in the franchise's 50-year history and the first for Washington since 1924.

"It has been pretty even this series. They are a game up with two games left. Let's worry about today," Martinez said. "I like our chances." The Astros could become only the third team in World Series history to lose the first two games at home and win the title, the first since the 1996 New York Yankees.

In sweeping three games at Washington, where the World Series hadn't been played since 1933, the Astros outscored the Nationals by a combined 19-3 after falling twice by a combined 17-7 in Houston.

Cole allowed five runs on eight hits over seven innings in a game-one loss but mystified Nationals batters Sunday, throwing 71 of his 110 pitches for strikes with only Juan Soto's solo homer in the seventh spoiling a shutout effort. "The stuff was crisper," Cole said. "I thought we executed more pitches." The Nationals suffered a major setback hours before the start when scheduled starter Max Scherzer was pulled due to neck and trapezius muscle spasms, leaving 26-year-old right-hander Joe Ross to pitch on short notice.

Doctors say Scherzer might be available for Washington if the Nats can force a seventh game. "He's going to try to figure something out," Martinez said. "He wants to get himself ready."

Cuban-born 22-year-old Alvarez, who went 3-for-3 at the plate, smashed a two-run homer into the center-field stands off Ross in the second inning after Yuli Gurriel had hit an infield single.

Soto singled and took third on Howie Kendrick's single in the second but Cole struck out Ryan Zimmerman and induced a double play to end the threat. Correa followed an Alvarez single in the fourth with a two-run homer off Ross to left field, lifting the Astros ahead 4-0.

Soto snapped a hitless streak of 5 1/3 innings for the Nationals by smashing a solo homer just over the center-field wall in the seventh, trimming Houston's lead to 4-1. But the Astros answered in the eighth as Springer doubled, took third on Jose Altuve's ground out and scored on a Gurriel single.—AFP