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Lawmaker calls for expatriate quota system, remittance tax

MPs make more threats to grill ministers over number of issues

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Khalil Al-Saleh, who heads a National Assembly committee to find jobs for Kuwaitis, yesterday called on the government to introduce a quota system for expatriates and to tax their remittances to their home countries. The lawmaker said expatriates are spending less in the country compared to their large remittances, and accordingly, taxes must be imposed on their remittances.

Saleh said on his Twitter account that the government must take stern measures against visa traders and implement the so-called quota system on expatriates.

The quota system, which calls for imposing a cap on various expat communities, has been already proposed a number of times in the Assembly but was never debated. Based on various proposals, the system calls to limit the size of any expat community to around five percent of the population, which means that large numbers of Indians, Egyptians, Bangladeshis and Filipinos must be forced to leave.

The lawmakers said that it was illogical that some 20,000 Kuwaitis are jobless, adding that replacing expatriates employed in government jobs has become a popular and parliamentary demand and a necessary decision. Saleh said that the presence of a large number of

unskilled or marginal expat manpower eats up the country's resources.

Meanwhile, MP Riyadh Al-Adasani reiterated yesterday that he will file to grill Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah over a number of issues and warned Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf that his grilling is very near. The lawmaker charged that detectives who questioned him over a case at the public prosecution have faked the outcome of the investigation, saying that the decision to grill the interior minister is irreversible.

Adasani was referred for investigation after a former lawmaker sued him for accusing him of receiving money from the prime minister's office. Adasani said that he only

repeated what the ex-MP had himself said on TV, and charged that the interior ministry has manipulated the investigation. The lawmaker also said that he learned that the public prosecution has shelved cases against a number of MPs, former MPs and businessmen who were under investigation for their inflated bank accounts and suspected money laundering.

Adasani called on the finance minister to appeal against the shelving of the cases, otherwise he will file to grill him. MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaiei said that he will announce on Sunday that he will file to grill the minister of social affairs and labor for suspending social aid to around 3,000 Kuwaiti women in violation of the law.

Trump accuses Iran of 'bloodlust' in UN speech

UNITED NATIONS: US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to intensify sanctions on Iran, despite European leaders' hopes for a last-minute breakthrough at the United Nations to reduce tensions. The leaders of France, Germany and Japan were all meeting separately with Trump and Iran's Hassan Rouhani, fanning speculation that the pair - whose nations have been arch-enemies for four decades - could have a historic encounter in New York.

But in a speech to world leaders full of praise of unilateralism and criticism of China, Trump made clear he would not ease economic pressure on Iran - a condition set by Rouhani for any meeting. "As long as Iran's menacing behavior continues, sanctions will not be lifted. They will be tightened," Trump told the General Assembly. Trump denounced Iran for an attack earlier this month on Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure - a day after European powers agreed with US findings that

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NEW YORK: (Left) US President Donald Trump speaks during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters yesterday. (Right) Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan holds up a map of Israel since 1947 showing changing proportion of territory under Israeli rule while addressing the UN yesterday. —AFP photos



First Arab set for ISS says voyage will make history



Hazza Al-Mansoori

MOSCOW: The Emirati astronaut who will make history by becoming the first Arab on the International Space Station said yesterday he had received support from around the world before his "dream" mission. Hazza Al-Mansoori, 35, is set to blast into space accompanied by Russia's Oleg Skripochka and NASA astronaut Jessica Meir onboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur in Kazakhstan today. Mansoori, who will spend eight days on the ISS, will be the first Emirati astronaut and the first Arab on the orbiting laboratory, but not the first Muslim.

"It is really an honor and we are looking forward to make this mission successful and to come back with a lot of knowledge," the pilot told a pre-flight news conference. He said the trip was a milestone for his country and the Arab world. "This achievement will be in history and it will be continued," he said. "The dream has come true."

Mansoori said that he would record his prayer routine on the ISS and broadcast it to people on Earth. "As a fighter pilot I already prayed in my aircraft," he said, explaining that he had experience of prayers at high speed. Mansoori also plans to conduct experiments and said he would take Emirati food with him to share with the crew.

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Johnson vows to pursue Brexit despite court blow

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday vowed to press ahead with his plans for Brexit on Oct 31 despite a momentous Supreme Court ruling that found his decision to suspend parliament unlawful. The judgment dealt a huge blow to Johnson's authority, coming after a series of defeats in parliament that have curbed his plans to leave the European Union even if there is no divorce deal with Brussels. The Speaker of

the House of Commons, John Bercow, immediately announced MPs would reconvene today.

The Conservative leader, who is currently in New York, told British media he "strongly disagreed" with the decision but said he would respect it. Johnson also renewed his call for an early election to end the standoff with parliament. He said it was "the obvious thing to do". Johnson had argued that shutting down parliament until Oct 14 was a routine move to allow his new government to set out a new legislative program.

But critics accused him of trying to silence MPs. Delivering the unanimous verdict of 11 judges, Supreme Court president Brenda Hale said "the decision to advise Her Majesty (Queen Elizabeth II) to prorogue was unlawful".

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LONDON: A still image of footage shows President of the Supreme Court Brenda Hale reading the court's judgment yesterday. — AFP

Mumbai fears for homes, lives amid rising seas

MUMBAI: Huge swathes of Mumbai's beaches have already been lost to rising seas. Now shanty dwellers fear for their homes and critics say India's largest metropolis - like other world mega-cities - is not doing enough to hold back the waves. During the monsoon, near-daily storms regularly flood Dharavi, one of Asia's biggest slums and home to some of the coastal city's most vulnerable residents. "The situation has been getting worse every year, with our homes knee-

deep in water," Venkatesh Nadar, 38, who has lived in the shanty settlement his entire life, told AFP.

Nadar said authorities have not told him what might happen to his home as sea levels rise, or if they are doing anything to help his family move. "It's dangerous and worrying for our children's future, and leaves every family living here at God's mercy," he said. If a dire UN prediction saying that the sea could rise by one meter in the century up to 2100 because of global warming comes true, one academic report suggests a quarter of Mumbai could be affected.

Even a 20-cm rise would more than double the frequency of flooding in tropical zones such as the Mumbai coast, according to a 2017 report by US experts.

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MUMBAI: In this photograph taken on Sept 14, 2019, a man stands next to a home built next to the sea during high tide. — AFP

In Lebanon, return of 'collaborators' reopens old wounds

QLAYAA, Lebanon: "Collaborators not welcome" reads a roadside placard in southern Lebanon, where debate has flared once again over the return of thousands who collaborated with Israel's 22-year occupation.

The warning stood next to the road leading to Qlayaa, a village nestled among lush, green fields and flowing olive groves. It was once a bastion of the South Lebanon Army, a Christian-led militia allied to Israel and opposed to the now-dominant Shiite Hezbollah movement.

When the Israeli army withdrew from southern Lebanon in 2000, thousands of SLA members and their families chose to cross the border too and settle in Israel or elsewhere. In Qlayaa, those residents who remain don't like to talk to journalists, and many homes are abandoned. "There's more than 100 of them that are shuttered up," says one man, refusing to give his name.

"Entire families left and we haven't heard from them since." When they die, "only a few bodies get repatriated to be buried in the village", he says.

For some, including Hezbollah supporters, SLA members are traitors. Others, mostly from Christian parties, say they are exiles who should be allowed to return. Ever a hot-button issue, the argument erupted again this month when a notorious former SLA member unexpectedly entered Lebanon. Amer Al-Fakhoury, who had been a senior warden at the infamous Khyam prison, went into exile more than two decades ago and was sentenced

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Local

Kuwait Amir's appreciation note gathers countless signatures

Sheikh Sabah receives call from Jordanian King



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis sign a letter of appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: People from all walks of life yesterday put their signatures on a letter of appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who is due back home soon after undergoing medical treatment in the US. Teams of youngsters gathered signatures from citizens and residents nationwide in an initiative that encapsulates the sheer ecstasy felt by Kuwaitis to welcome back His Highness

the Amir safe and sound, said Dr Yousef Al-Tandeel, who is taking charge of these groups. The endeavor is the brainchild of Kuwaiti youngsters who wanted to express their admiration for His Highness the Amir, he added, saying the letter will be delivered to His Highness the Amir upon his triumphant return to the nation.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday

received a phone call from King Abdullah II of Jordan. The Jordanian Monarch inquired about His Highness the Amir health condition after recovering from a recent setback and undergoing regular medical checkups, wishing wellness for His Highness. His Highness the Amir expressed deep gratitude to the Jordanian King and his warm sentiments. He has also appreciated this brotherly gesture that depicts depth

of the good relations between the two brotherly countries and peoples. He has also expressed identical sentiments for King Abdullah and wished the Hashemite Kingdom great progress and prosperity.

Kuwaitis are ecstatic to welcome home His Highness the Amir who will soon return to the country after undergoing medical treatment in the United States. Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth

Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said on Monday. To celebrate the joyous occasion, a myriad of activities and events will be held nationwide to demonstrate Kuwaitis' sheer elation over "His Highness the Amir's full recovery," Jabri told reporters. With Kuwait's national celebrations right around the corner, the minister said preparations are also underway for these national galas that stir up patriotic fervor, added the minister. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Sager Al-Raisi. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Sheikh Nawaf receives letter from Abu Dhabi Crown Prince

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif palace yesterday the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Sager Al-Raisi. During the meeting, Ambassador Al-Raisi delivered a written letter from

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to His Highness the Crown Prince including an invitation to attend the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix cere-

mony. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. Earlier yesterday, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad received at Seif Palace His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Kuwaiti FM takes part in UN climate change, religious freedom summits

NEW YORK: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah headed the Kuwaiti delegation to the UN climate change summit in New York on Monday at the invitation of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The summit discussed ways to address the impact of climate change-related disasters on international peace and security, and the framework of international cooperation and coordination to take concrete measures to face the consequences of this phenomenon. It also tackled the implementation of principles of the Paris Agreement on climate change in accordance with the national priorities and capacities. It also urged the international community to support the efforts of the UN in this regard.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled took part in the summit of protecting religious freedom. The meeting was held upon a call from US President Donald Trump as part of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly held in New York. The gathering discussed means of tackling discrimination based on religion and cooperation frameworks towards promoting respect and maintaining religious freedoms. It called on the international community to take required measures to face challenges caused by persecution against religious minorities across the globe.

Furthermore, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled attended a high-level function to commemorate 70 years of the Geneva Conventions, entitled 'Investing in Humanity Through Multilateralism'. The event was held under the joint patronage of Switzerland President Ueli Maurer, International Committee of the Red Cross President Peter Maurer, China's State Counselor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor. The event shed light on the necessary commitment of adhering to the contents of the Geneva Peace Accords, which represent one of the most important humanitarian achievements in history. It also urged working to achieve the



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah heads the Kuwaiti delegation at the UN climate change summit in New York on Monday. — KUNA

goals, these accords were designed to reach, after two devastating World Wars.

In addition, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled headed Kuwait's delegation at Arab League consultative talks held on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly session on Monday. The meeting, chaired by Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Hakim, discussed numerous matters on the General Assembly talks' agenda, predominantly Palestinian affairs and the Middle East peace process. Arab League cooperation and Security Council cooperation on the matter, coordination between Arab states on facing current regional challenges and the latest regional and international developments also formed part of the discussions. Kuwait's delegation consisted of Assistant Foreign Minister for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Permanent UN Representative Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

In the meantime, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with the President of the UN General Assembly of the 74th Session Tijjani Muhammad-Bande. During the meeting, Bande underlined the UNGA program priorities during his presidency of the 74th session, particularly those related to sustainable development, promotion and protection of human rights, poverty eradication and education support. The meeting also addressed the topics and issues on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also met Sudan's Foreign Minister Asmaa Abdullah on the fringes of his attendance of the United Nations General Assembly session on Monday. The deputy foreign minister wished all the best for the Sudanese government in achieving growth and prosperity and ensuring security and stability. The meeting also touched on the historical brotherly relations between the two countries and the two peoples, along with issues of mutual significance. — KUNA

Defense Minister to tackle common concerns with US Defense Secretary



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday tackled with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman issues of common concern and topics ahead of Sheikh Nasser's forthcoming meeting with US Secretary of Defense Mark T Esper. A press release by the Ministry of Defense said the upcoming meeting was in response to an

invitation made to Sheikh Nasser by Esper, which would focus on His Highness the Amir's New Kuwait Vision 2035. Sheikh Nasser praised exerted efforts by the US ambassador prior to ending his tenure in the country, and his relentless work to strengthen ties between the two countries. The minister expressed best wishes and success to the ambassador in his next task. — KUNA

Kuwaiti Speaker points out 'worrying rise' of hate speech

NUR-SULTAN: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem called on Asia and Europe to focus on the common concerns of their nations, stressing the need to address hate speech and work hard to resolve the most critical world issues, especially the Palestinian issue. Ghanem made his remarks yesterday in a speech during the fourth meeting of Speakers of the Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, in Kazakhstan's capital Nur-Sultan. He pointed out to the worrying rise of hate speech that incites hatred, urging the European and Asian nations to focus on the vital issues of unemployment, energy and water problems, and development dilemmas in both continents. He confirmed centrality of the Palestinian cause, saying that Palestinians are still mourning the loss of their lands, homes, identity, and country 71 years ago. Ghanem called to put pressure on Israel and stand by Palestinian people in defending their just cause by activating "the mechanisms of political, human rights and moral deterrence."

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti MPs said that issues of peaceful coexistence, renunciation of terrorism, mutual cooperation and trust-building among countries are the most vital topics addressed at the fourth meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments. This came in statements made by MPs Mohammad Al-Dallal and Safaa Al-Hashem to the press on the sidelines of the meeting. Dallal said that the meeting aims to achieve rapprochement between European and Asian countries, enhancing

cooperation in developmental and economic fields. The idea of holding this meeting was supported by Kuwait for promoting international peace and security, he said, pointing to the Kuwaiti parliament's stances on enhancing cooperation with other parliaments and supporting all just Arab and Islamic issues, such as the Palestinian cause. Speeches addressed at the meeting dealt with several issues related to ties, trust-building among countries, countering terrorism and how to deal with it, he said.

Hashem said in a similar statement that the delegations' speeches at the general meeting focused on peaceful coexistence, renouncing terrorism, building infrastructure for future generations and living with different ethnic sects. Hashem underlined need for a serious vision to achieve peaceful coexistence and move forward in this direction, especially with the large number of attendees at the meeting including delegations of about 54 countries. She noted that Kazakhstan succeeded in establishing the principle of peaceful coexistence among all religions, hoping that the participating parliaments will convey this vision to their countries and apply it among their nations.

In the meantime, Ghanem discussed yesterday with his Kazakh counterpart Nurlan Nigmatulin a number of topics addressed at the Eurasia meeting and other issues that would be examined at the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference due in Serbia in October. — KUNA

Local

Court hands life sentences to two suspects in human trafficking case

Lawyer, defendant fight inside courtroom



The Palace of Justice.

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday sentenced a Kuwaiti and an Egyptian businessman to life and four others - two Egyptians, a Saudi and a Syrian - to three years in jail over human trafficking charges. The court accused the defendants of selling visas to 400 expats for KD 1,500 each. Separately, the public prosecutor yesterday remanded in custody a gang specialized in money laundering pending further investigations, said security sources, noting that the gang members are facing fraud charges. And in an unusual incident inside a Kuwaiti court, a female lawyer fought with a defendant at the Palace of Justice in which she used her shoats, said informed sources, noting that another female lawyer was unintentionally beaten when she intervened in an attempt to stop the fight.

In the meantime, Ministry of Social Affairs' official spokesperson and manager of its public relations depart-

ment Abdullah Al-Hamdan announced a final court order seconding the ministry's decision issued in 2017 to dissolve Kaifan Co-op Society's board of directors over committing several administrative violations and failing to protect public funds. In a press release, Hamdan said another verdict was issued imprisoning a number of the co-op's employees for three to five years, fining them KD 10,000, ordering them to return the sums they had stolen and deporting them after doing their time.

In other news, despite Kuwait Municipality's rejection of a proposal to ban shisha in indoor public places, the Municipal Council's technical committee members Hamad Al-Medlej, Fuhaid Al-Muwaizri, Humoud Al-Enezi, Abdullah Al-Roumi and Mohammed Al-Raqeb approved the proposal pending further discussion during the council's main session. If the proposal is passed during a council session, it will be sent to State Minister of Municipality Affairs Fahad Al-Shoula for final approval or rejection.

recent visits to the Air Force Operations Center and the Air Defense Forces to review the General Staff of the Army's measures to boost the state's security and stability in light of the delicate regional situation. Sheikh Nasser stressed that all army units should be in a state of readiness and vigilance due to the ongoing developments in the region.

On the occasion of the Saudi national day, the Cabinet congratulated Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and the Saudi people on the dear national occasion. The Cabinet lauded the Kingdom's remarkable success in dealing with repercussions of the Aramco's two oil facilities in record time despite the serious damage caused by last week's attack. It voiced confidence in the wisdom and ability of the brothers in the Kingdom to respond firmly and forcefully to such terrorist acts. The Cabinet reiterated Kuwait's firm support to the Kingdom in all the measures to retain its security and stability, wishing it everlasting security and stability under the wise leadership of King Salman.

Regarding the recent regional developments, the Cabinet denounced the suicide attack in Karbala governorate that resulted in many deaths and injuries, while also strongly condemned this terrorist act that threatened the stability and security of Iraq. It also expressed sincere condolences to the victims of two terrorist bombings in Afghanistan: one took place in the capital of Kabul and another in Parwan province. It reiterated Kuwait's rejection of all forms of terrorism. It prayed for the victims and their families and wished the wounded swift recovery. — KUNA

Kuwait Cabinet approves govt sukuk bill

KUWAIT: The Cabinet discussed and approved a government sukuk bill, which aims to complete the legislative and regulatory framework for the Islamic finance industry in Kuwait. It referred the bill to His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It also mulled and endorsed a draft decree of the bylaw of the board of the Public Authority for Social Insurance. Furthermore, the government reviewed several reports on the implementation of the state annual plan during the period from April 1 to June 30, 2019; the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (2030) in the GCC States, the state agencies handling of the oil spill off Asherij beach last June, and progress in the building of the Al-Mutlaa housing city.

The Kuwaiti Cabinet had held its weekly session on Monday at Seif Palace under chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Following the session, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh stated that the Cabinet was briefed by Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah about his



KUWAIT: Tareq Muhmood receives Lama Al-Othman in the presence of Sahar Dashti and a number of AUB and KRCS representatives.

AUB donates tuition fees for 5 AOU students

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it is sponsoring five low-income students by covering their tuition fees in different majors at Arab Open University (AOU). This initiative is an extension of the ongoing humanitarian partnership between AUB and Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS).

On this occasion, Tareq Muhmood, AUB Acting CEO received Lama Al-Othman, the KRCS Director of Resources Development Department. Other attendees included Sahar Dashti, General Manager of Customer Protections and a number of executives at the bank.

Muhmood said: "AUB is very proud to be part of this humanitarian initiative that aims to provide support to a number of students whose families are unable to afford their tuition fees in Kuwait. The humanitarian and community role of the bank puts education on the top of its priorities and concerns. This initiative is considered a contribution by the bank to support the development of an

informed, educated generation capable of dealing with challenges and achieving a better life."

Othman said: "We are very delighted of our humanitarian partnership with AUB, which we consider a good role model in leadership and giving back to the community. Through this cooperation, we aspire to contribute significantly to the development of these students, and support them to achieve their hopes and aspirations. KRCS is an umbrella for all types of purposeful humanitarian efforts within and outside Kuwait, which is a mutual thing with AUB."

Dashti, who also heads the CSR Team, affirmed that this contribution was provided by AUB as part of its commitment to the development of the society by providing educational opportunities to these students to prepare them for the job market, which contributes to their practical and material advancement, as well as provides support to both them and their families.

Dashti noted that the AUB CSR program puts youth on the top of its priorities as it focuses on both youth and environment in line with the 'New Kuwait 2035 Vision' of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Undoubtedly, education is the best weapon for youth as it contributes to supporting their capabilities, helps them improve their knowledge and awareness. Therefore, investing in education is one of the tangible foundations for the development and building of societies.

Schengen exemption negotiations reach advanced stage

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait has reached an advanced stage in negotiations with the European Union to exempt Kuwaiti nationals from the Schengen visa, said well-informed government sources. The government has been working hard for a while now to secure free travel in European countries by getting the Schengen visa exemption. The sources added that Kuwait's foreign ministry had been conducting constant contacts and that the EU would issue a decision on exempting Kuwaitis from the Schengen visa soon as most EU countries would vote for the proposal within the next year. The sources explained that an EU meeting will

be held soon to study all exemption applications including that made by Kuwait, adding that the committee in charge has already reviewed it, pointing out that all Kuwaiti visitors go to Europe for tourism, medical treatment, education or business, and that none of them has ever been reported as a refugee.

In other news, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) issued a resolution regulating the violations and penalties to be followed for non-financial businesses and professions regarding money laundering and terrorism funding. A press release issued by MoCI explained that the charter includes 12 violations concerning policies and procedures, the appointment and authorities of an auditor, appointing and training employees, risk assessment, bookkeeping, violating Kuwaiti financial investigation regulations, foreign ministry, Security Council and MoCI regulations and those concerning gold, precious stones and metals and real estate brokerage. MoCI added in case suspicions of money laundering or terrorism funding are proven, relevant authorities will be notified to take legal actions as per article number 15 of law number 106/2013.

132 delivery bikes impounded in police raid

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The traffic department carried out a campaign targeting food delivery motorcycles, resulting in issuing 168 citations and impounding 132 bikes.

Separately, a woman in her early 20s was lured by a friend to a birthday party. She was then given a Lyrica pill "to have fun". The woman said she fell unconscious, and later discovered she was sexually assaulted by a person she suspected to be the boyfriend of the friend who lured her. Police considered the case a felony and are investigating, Al-Rai reported.

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti man accused a compatriot of swindling him, reported Al-Rai. In his statements to police, the complainant said that the suspect took KD 2,000 from him in a partnership to bring goods from an Asian country and sell them for good profits, but did not deliver.



KUWAIT: Food delivery motorbikes impounded during the raid.

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Kuwait Times Celebrates 58th Anniversary



Abdelhak Mehdi, Marketing Manager, MAKI and Toufic Salloum, Operations Manager, MAKI present a gift to Kuwait Times Marketing Manager Talib Kanjo on the occasion. Many well-wishers congratulated Kuwait Times yesterday as it marked the 58th anniversary of its establishment in 1961. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Aya Joudeh, Senior Account Executive, Action Global Communication and Laila Al Tarawneh, Account Manager, Action Global Communication present a gift to Kuwait Times Marketing Manager Talib Kanjo on the occasion.



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri sent flowers to Kuwait Times yesterday on the occasion of its anniversary.



Flowers sent by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



Flowers sent by Al-Anbaa daily newspaper.



Fadi Issa, Cluster Sales Manager, Sheraton Hotel (left), presents a gift to Kuwait Times Marketing Manager Talib Kanjo on the occasion.

'Kuwait in 400 Years' definitive documentation of country's history

KUWAIT: The 'Kuwait in 400 Years' book, to be released by Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's Lulua Publishing, contains more than 1,320 documents and photos revealed for the first time both Arabic and English. The book's white-colored cover displays the photos of Kuwait's leaders in the past 400 years. The introduction pages is filled with what resembles the national spirit and long lasting relation of the Kuwaiti people and their land, said Sheikha Intisar, adding that nations are not just defined by borders, but with passion and feelings. Sheikha Intisar pointed out that this idea of the book came about six years ago, adding that she wanted to publish a book that would provide a more definitive history of the country.

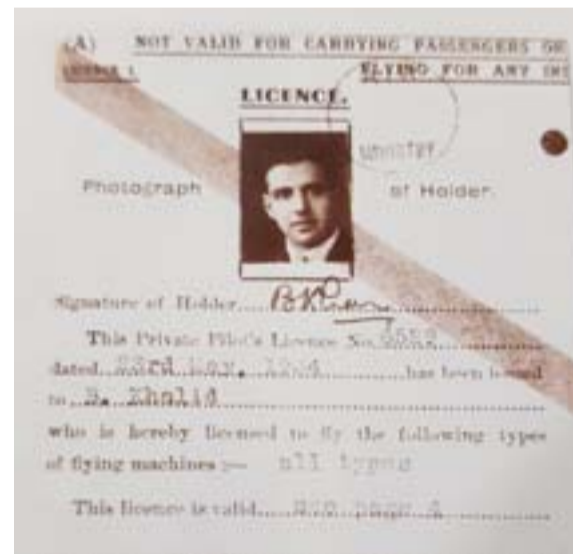
Throughout her readings in Kuwait's history and discussions, she found out that many Kuwaitis from the younger generation were unfamiliar with the country's history despite the availability of numerous books and publications. The book took more than five years of research to put it together, looking into the most prominent photos and documents along with a number of editorial reviews of the text and history by experts to end with a final draft. Sheikha Intisar revealed that she visited various ministries and institutions along with public and private libraries to document and gather materials for the book. Dr Hamad Al-Qahtani reviewed the book after the process of citation and referencing. Sheikha Intisar said she was looking forward to distribute the book to Kuwaiti embassies and diplomatic missions around the globe, adding that there were plans to publish the book in both French and Spanish as requested by the Ministry of Information.

In the introduction, a number of old maps of Kuwait between 1504 and 1505 — drawn up by Nicola Caverio — provide a documentation of the country's boundaries. The explorer Carsten Niebuhr also mentions Kuwait in 1765. Rare texts from Colonial Sir Lewis Baily in 1863 pointed out to Kuwait's establishment in 1613. The first to refer to Kuwait by its name and speak about its infrastructure and economy was Damascene traveler Murtatha bin Alwan in 1709. The book documents the history of Kuwait's leaders, starting with the first ruler and founder of the country Amir Sabah bin Jaber (1718-1762). Under Kuwait's reign of second ruler the Amir Abdullah bin Sabah bin Jaber (1762-1891) (Al-Salimi) was hoisted on Kuwaiti Ships in 1762. A book by the German explorer Carsten Niebuhr mentioned Al-Qurain and Kuwait in 1772.

Succeeding as Kuwait's third ruler was the Amir Jaber bin Abdullah bin Sabah 1813-1859 during a



KUWAIT: Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah poses with a copy of her book 'Kuwait in 400 years.'



Piloting license of Kuwait's first aviator Bader Khaled Al-Bahar awarded by British authorities.



First ambulance purchased during the era of Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos

period, which labeled him as "Jaber Al-Khair" and saw the building of Kuwait's second Soor in 1814 and the signing of the first marine agreement with the Britain. Between 1859 and 1866, Amir Sabah Bin Jaber bin Abdullah bin Sabah Kuwait's fourth ruler witnessed rise in business shown in maps and documents of business transactions of Kuwaitis with India and Al-Basra.

As Kuwait's fifth leader — between 1866 and 1892 — Amir Abdullah bin Sabah bin Jaber bin Sabah ruled during a period that witnessed many events such as the issuing of Kuwait's first currency and establishment of the first official schools for the memorization and correct recitation of the Holy Quran. Amir Mohammad bin Sabah bin Jaber bin Sabah (1892-1896) was Kuwait's sixth ruler during a

four-year period that saw the establishment of the first meat and bakers markets.

The book also goes through the period of the seventh ruler Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (1896-1915) during the establishment of the modern State of Kuwait and the construction of both the Red and Seif Palaces, along with the opening of the first regular school and the rising of the first national flag. Despite Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah's short period of ruling between 1915 and 1917 business boomed and Dasman Palace was constructed. The ninth ruler Sheikh Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (1917-1921) followed Sheikh Mubarak. During his reign, the first geological survey of Kuwait was taken.

During the tenth rule of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (1921-1950), the period witnessed a rise in education and the establishment of Al-Ahmadiya School and the first Shurra Council along with the first educational scholarship delegation outside of Kuwait. Then came Kuwait's eleventh ruler Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (1950-1965), an era with many important events such as the independence of Kuwait, the issuing of first official Kuwaiti currency, Constituent Assembly elections, promulgations of the constitution, and establishment of the first ministry in Kuwait. Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (1965-1977) Kuwait's twelfth ruler's era saw the establishment of the first scientific university, Organization of Arab oil producing countries, and the first station in the middle east for satellite communications.

The book also focused on the constructional and cultural renaissance that was witnessed under the ruling of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (1977-2006) which witnessed the opening of the Media complex, TV and Broadcasting building, Kuwait International Airport, Kuwait Towers, and much more. Photos in the book documented the most important parts of Kuwait's fourteenth ruler Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (2006) who was given the names Lion of the liberation, liberation hero, and the Fatherly Amir. The second to last part of the book shows the most significant historical events of Kuwait's fifteenth ruler His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his role in strengthening Kuwait's importance internationally. The book final pages give a brief summary of Kuwait and data of its population and citizens from 1765 to 2016 along with its climate, territorial waters, and the names Kuwaitis gave to the wind and rain. — KUNA

Kuwait shares Saudi optimism on overcoming divided zone issue

Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad congratulates Saudi Arabia on national day



KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and other officials attend the ceremony. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: Kuwait shares Saudi Arabia's optimism over ending the difference in opinion over the divided oil-producing zone "in the near future," Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said on Monday. The Deputy Foreign Minister mentioned "positive statements" made by the Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the matter, while giving remarks to reporters at a Saudi Embassy National Day function. He also expressed Kuwait's keen-

ness towards "turning over a new leaf" on the affair. The Saudi Energy Minister had earlier stated that "positive" talks were highlighted by a political will to resolve the matter, adding "all will be clear over the next two months," in regards to the resumption of output.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah expressed his sincere congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the 89th anniversary of the National Day. Sheikh

Nasser also wished the Kingdom and its people further progress and prosperity under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz. This came in statements to reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony organized by the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait on Monday on this occasion.

Furthermore, Jarallah greeted the Kingdom on the National Day, describing it

as a glorious day for the Arabian Gulf states and their peoples, especially Kuwait. Jarallah added that this day recalls Saudi people's achievements on their march towards building, development and peace. He stated that Kuwaitis recall with great pride the historical and heroic stance of the late King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who "contributed greatly to Kuwait's liberation from the Iraqi invasion." He praised the role of the Kingdom and its contributions at the regional and international levels as well as

its "constructive and important" role in supporting the Arab and Islamic nations, particularly the Palestinian people, as well as its role in enhancing the role of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In his turn, the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud affirmed the depth of "historical and brotherly" relations between the two countries and their peoples. Prince Sultan said the national day of the Kingdom was a joy for the people of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. — KUNA



Officials cut the cake during the ceremony.



Kuwait's National Security Bureau chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah greets Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud.



Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan greets Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Sabah greets Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud.



A traditional performance featured during the ceremony.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Sabah greets Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud.



Assassination of land activists spike under Philippines' Duterte

Ghana police arrest suspects over 'plot' against government

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LONDON: A black London taxi cab is driven past the Houses of Parliament in central London yesterday after the judgment of the court on the legality of Boris Johnson's advice to the Queen to suspend parliament for more than a month, as the clock ticks down to Britain's October 31 EU exit date. —AFP

Queen Elizabeth II left exposed

UK court ruling leaves Queen in 'hideous' position

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II was left exposed yesterday to suggestions that Boris Johnson used her as a political pawn by having her approve a suspension of parliament that the Supreme Court has unanimously ruled broke the law. Constitutional experts say the 93-year-old head of state had no choice but to give royal assent to Johnson's request to slash the number of days parliament meets before Britain is due to leave the European Union on October 31.

Britain has functioned for centuries as a constitutional monarchy in which the sovereign can only act on the prime minister's advice. In other words: the monarch has authority in name only while her prime minister wields the political power that counts. "It's the oldest rule in the constitution," Durham University constitutional expert Robert Craig said. Yet

the five-week suspension she signed off on looked suspiciously long from the start. The court noted yesterday that most prorogations last for a matter of just days.

These are required when parliament's session draws to an end and the prime minister prepares to set out the agenda for the year ahead. And the one Johnson had asked for came in the politically-explosive run-up to Britain's scheduled withdrawal from the European Union on October 31. "This is a hideous moment for the palace," BBC royal correspondent Jonny Dymond wrote. It also raises even bigger questions as Brexit day nears and the debate over the monarch's role in UK politics rumbles on. "For decades, for centuries, (Britain's constitutional monarchy) has been governed by convention and precedent, and an unspoken agreement not to push things

too far," Dymond said. "Boris Johnson blew that apart."

Breaking conventions

University of Liverpool law professor Mike Gordon speculated before the ruling that Johnson's "government might advise the queen not to give the royal assent" to the parliamentary law ruling out the possibility of Britain's crash exit from the EU. "And at that point we'll be in difficult constitutional territory," said Gordon. "The convention she gives the royal assent to anything parliament will pass clashes with the convention she acts on ministerial advice."

The last monarch to refuse royal assent - signing a bill into law - was queen Anne in 1708. But much of what has been happening in UK politics has not been recorded in history for centuries. It is hard

to imagine anyone better-versed in the sovereign's duties than Britain's longest-serving monarch - on the throne since 1952 and holding a special place in most Britons' hearts. The sovereign is usually only approached by ministers when their attempts to sort out the various political debates among themselves all fail.

The closest this queen has come to being drawn into politics was during the 1975 constitutional crisis in Australia. Her governor-general John Kerr had sacked Australian prime minister Gough Whitlam and the queen refused to get involved in the political furor that followed. Former British prime minister John Major said he hoped the queen is spared any more possible blushes by Johnson. "No prime minister must ever treat the monarch or parliament in this way again," Major said. —AFP

Rockets hit near US embassy in Baghdad

BAGHDAD: Two rockets landed near the US embassy in Baghdad overnight, security sources said yesterday, with foreign diplomats there reporting emergency sirens repeatedly going off. The latest attack within the walled-off Green Zone, which hosts foreign embassies and Iraqi government buildings, comes amid heightened tensions between Baghdad's two main allies, Tehran and Washington. A foreign security source inside the Green Zone said two 100mm rockets hit close to the US embassy and a third fell into the Tigris River, which the embassy overlooks.

"One hit about three meters (ten feet) inside a gate on the embassy compound," the source told AFP. An Iraqi security source confirmed to AFP that two Katyusha rockets landed near the embassy shortly before midnight. They were found to have been fired from an area in southern Baghdad where Iraqi paramilitary forces close to Iran hold sway. The Iraqi military said two projectiles hit the edges of the Green Zone. None of the sources mentioned any casualties and no group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Foreign diplomatic sources within the zone said US embassy sirens wailed across the area twice, and stopped shortly before 1:00am local time yesterday morning. The last rocket attack on the Green Zone took place on May 19, just days after the US announced an "ordered departure" of all non-essential diplomatic staff in Iraq. After decades of back-to-back conflicts, Iraq has enjoyed a period of relative stability since declaring victory over the Islamic State jihadist group in late 2017.

In a sign of the improving security situation, Iraqi authorities have been working since last year to loosen security restrictions around the Green Zone. Concrete blast walls have been removed and through-traffic has been allowed for the first time in over a decade, but the US embassy remains one of the most highly-secured areas in the zone. Baghdad has also tried to position itself as a potential mediator between the US and Iran, which have been at loggerheads since Washington unilaterally withdrew from the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran last year.

Since that move, tensions have spiraled between the two countries, with Iraq - where both countries enjoy significant political and military influence - caught in the middle. The risk of a proxy war seemed particularly high this summer, when a string of mysterious blasts hit weapons depots and other bases used by pro-Iran paramilitary forces known as the Hashed Al-Shaabi. The Hashed blamed the US and Israel, with its political branch calling the attacks "a declaration of war" and resuming its calls for US troops to leave the country. —AFP

What does the ruling by Britain's Supreme Court mean?

LONDON: Yesterday's ruling by the UK Supreme Court, which found Boris Johnson's decision to suspend parliament unlawful, is a humiliating blow for the prime minister and has momentous implications for Britain's constitutional order. Johnson announced the behind-closed-doors suspension decision - known as a prorogation - on August 28 while most MPs were still away on their summer holidays. It caused widespread outrage as it was widely interpreted as a bid to limit the scope for MPs to have a say on Johnson's headline Brexit strategy. Multiple legal challenges were announced almost immediately, culminating in yesterday's ruling by the highest court in the country. Here is a rundown of the main questions it raises:

What did the court decide?

The court's 11 judges decided first of all that they had the power to issue a ruling since "the courts have exercised a supervisory jurisdiction over the lawfulness of acts of the government for centuries". It then ruled that Johnson's decision was "unlawful because it had the effect of frustrating or preventing the ability of parliament to carry out its constitutional functions without

reasonable justification". It said the advice that Johnson had given to Queen Elizabeth II, who as head of state formally issued the prorogation order, was "unlawful, void and of no effect".

Why is this significant?

Suspending parliament was a key part of Johnson's plan to deliver Brexit by October 31, even though MPs managed - in the short time they were able to meet after their summer break - to pass a law that could undermine this. The decision also sets precedent, meaning that Johnson will face legal difficulties in trying to suspend parliament again. In constitutional terms, it means that the court's powers to allow parliament to have its say are stronger than an order issued by Queen Elizabeth II. The court said that the circumstances were "exceptional" because of the looming prospect of Brexit, calling it a "fundamental change" for the country. Parliament "has a right to have a voice in how that change comes about".

When will parliament convene?

The ruling said the prorogation order was "void and of no effect" and that it was up to House of Commons speaker John Bercow and House of Lords speaker Norman Fowler to decide when to meet "as soon as possible". Bercow has asked parliamentary authorities to make preparations for MPs to resume their proceedings from 1030 GMT today. He said the judges had "vindicated the right and duty of parliament to meet at this crucial time to scrutinize the executive and hold ministers to account". The court said it was "not clear" whether any steps would be required from Johnson but if they were, "the court is pleased that his counsel have



LONDON: A protester wearing a mask resembling Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and holding a 'guilty' sign sits on a wall outside the Supreme Court in central London yesterday. —AFP

told the court that he will take all necessary steps to comply with the terms of any declaration made by this court".

Will Boris Johnson resign?

The ruling is a huge embarrassment for Johnson, who has insisted his suspension of parliament was entirely legal because it was time for a new session to deal with his ambitious domestic agenda. But it is unlikely the prime minister, who has only been in power since July, will step down. Although his position in parliament is weak, opinion polls suggest his battles with MPs and judges over Brexit may actually be making him more popular with voters. —AFP

International

Adrift in Iraq: Deportees from US describe fear and isolation

Dozens of people of Iraqi origin deported since 2017

BAGHDAD: Since being deported from the United States in January, Ilani Al-Bazoni has spent most of the past eight months in a small room in the Iraqi city of Basra, waiting for his sister's daily visits. Some days, he says, he struggles to get up from his mattress on the floor. On others, he looks at pictures of his wife and seven children, all US citizens: his eldest is a cadet in the US Marines, his youngest is three. "I am too afraid to leave the house," Bazoni told Reuters. "I don't know anyone here and I don't have any money."

Bazoni is one of dozens of people of Iraqi origin deported from the United States since 2017, when Iraq agreed to take back its citizens with criminal convictions as part of a deal to remove itself from President Donald Trump's travel ban targeting people from several Muslim-majority countries. US congressmen, lawyers and human rights activists say Iraq, still riven by sectarian divisions 16 years after the US-led invasion, remains unsafe for such returnees.

As a refugee in the 1990s, Bazoni moved to the United States, where he spent time in jail on assault charges. He also worked as a translator for the military. That job leaves him vulnerable in Iraq, where influential Iranian-backed militias oppose the presence of US troops. His family won't let him go outside, scared that paramilitaries might round him up. Prior to 2017, Baghdad had refused to allow such repatriations, citing political, logistical and human rights concerns. "I never thought I'd come back to Iraq," Bazoni

said. "I lost my job, I lost my family, I lost my kids. And maybe soon, I'm going to lose my life."

Following the 2017 deal, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested hundreds of the 1,400 Iraqis eligible for deportation because they had criminal convictions, which would have prevented them from gaining US citizenship. It said at the time it was arresting people with convictions for violations from homicide to drug charges who had been ordered removed by an immigration judge. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sued on their behalf. Though initially successful in stalling deportations, the case was overturned after appeals, and deportations picked up in April.

ICE said 61 Iraqis were deported in the year to Sept 30, 2017, and 48 in the following 12 months. The ACLU said it had been told by ICE that 30 Iraqis have been deported so far in 2019. Many of the more than 370 arrested since 2017 now await deportation. "Deportees are treated with immediate suspicion, simply caused by their association with America," said Daniel Smith, a human rights researcher who has been an expert witness in dozens of deportation cases.

Some arrive in a country they haven't seen in decades, with no network, no identity documents and little Arabic. Their vulnerability leaves them open to accusations of spying, kidnapping for ransom and harassment from militias, Smith said. Neither the authorities in Baghdad nor the

White House responded to requests for comment for this story. The State Department referred questions to the Department of Homeland Security. The DHS and ICE did not respond to requests for comment.

'Persecution, torture or death'

In interviews with Reuters, nine men sent back to Iraq described their struggle to reintegrate. Separated from families and jobs, they said they were depressed, suicidal and feared for their safety. Several claim mistreatment by ICE, which they said coerced them into signing deportation orders or stole money they were arrested with. ICE did not comment. One of the men, Nash, 55, who asked Reuters not to use his full name, said he spent two days sleeping on a bench in Baghdad airport with nowhere to go after his deportation, until a stranger lent him a phone so he could find a place to stay.

He found a roommate, Jimmy Aldaoud, a fellow deportee from Michigan. Both were from minority Christian communities, which the Trump administration has said it wants to protect. Aldaoud was born in a Greek refugee camp to Iraqi parents and had never been in Iraq before his deportation. The 41-year-old had mental health issues and diabetes. He died last month because he couldn't get access to care in Iraq, his family has said. He was buried in Michigan two weeks ago.

"There will be more Jimmy Aldaouds if this continues,"

said Congressman Andy Levin, a Democrat from Michigan who says the deportations violate US law and is seeking bipartisan support for a bill to stall them. Levin's district has the highest number of Iraqi-born residents in the country, eight of whom have been deported since April, his office said. Most deportees committed their crimes young, and signed plea deals they hadn't understood would get their green cards revoked, Levin said.

"Most of these people they don't speak Arabic, they were never in Iraq or haven't been since childhood. They're totally Americanized," Levin said. "You're basically sending them back to persecution, torture or death. Our policy doesn't allow that." Nash, who worked as a roofer, was convicted in 1989 on a petty drug charge. An immigration court found him deportable in 1994, and his green card was revoked. He earned several stints in prison in the ensuing years for non-violent, drug-related charges.

Levin, lawyers and human rights activists argue that if deportations can't be halted, the US and Iraqi governments should at least give deportees proper documents. Most no longer have their original Iraqi papers and said their US documents were taken by ICE in detention. Iraq allows them to be deported on one-way travel documents, which last six months. "These are not considered by local authorities to be an adequate proof of identity," said Smith, which he said meant they were left vulnerable to arrest by Iraqi authorities. — Reuters

Reburying the dead: Cases of controversial leaders and dictator

PARIS: Settling on a final resting place for deceased controversial leaders, such as Spain's dictator Francisco Franco, has long been troublesome for many countries. Spain's Supreme Court yesterday gave the government the go-ahead to remove Franco's remains from a grandiose mausoleum to a more discreet family tomb. Here are some similar cases from the past:

Soviet Union: Joseph Stalin

On his death in 1953, Stalin was buried in the Moscow mausoleum of his predecessor, Vladimir Lenin. Eight years later a process of "de-Stalinisation" was launched to dismantle the dictator's personality cult. His remains were quietly transferred to a more modest resting place near the Kremlin, which still attracts diehard communists.

Albania: Enver Hoxha

The authoritarian communist ruler of Albania for 40 years was buried as a national hero in the Martyrs' Cemetery after his death in 1985. But after the fall of communism, Hoxha's remains were exhumed in 1992 and transferred to an ordinary public cemetery in a suburb of the capital Tirana. A pyramid-shaped complex in his honor served for a while as a cultural centre but today lies in ruins.

Romania: Nicolae Ceausescu

Communist dictator Ceausescu and his wife Elena were arrested after a popular uprising in 1989, summarily judged and executed by firing squad. Amid fears their graves might be desecrated, they were surreptitiously buried at night under crosses bearing false names. The bodies were exhumed in 2010 to dispel doubts about their identity and reburied at Ghencea cemetery in Bucharest, this time together. Rising nostalgia for the communist era prompted some Romanians to visit the red marble grave in January 2018 to mark the 100th anniversary of Ceausescu's birth.



MADRID: People shout outside the Supreme Court yesterday in Madrid, as the court gave the green light for the government to remove the remains of Francisco Franco from a grandiose state mausoleum, rejecting an appeal against it by the late dictator's descendants. — AFP

Ethiopia: Haile Selassie

The remains of the last emperor of Ethiopia were discovered in 1992 and exhumed from a grave in Addis Ababa, where they had been cast by leaders of the 1974 revolution. It was only in November 2000 that Selassie, who died in 1975 in mysterious circumstances, was finally had a church burial in the presence of the imperial family.

Iraq: Saddam Hussein

The Iraqi president, who ruled from 1979, was arrested by US-led forces in 2003, hiding down a hole north of Baghdad. After his execution in 2006 for crimes against humanity, his body was buried in a mausoleum he had built for himself in the village where he was born. The tomb became a place of remembrance for his family and supporters but around 2014 it was mysteriously destroyed. Some suggested an attack by the Iraqi air force was responsible, while others said it had been blown up with dynamite. The whereabouts of the body, including whether

it remains in the ruins, is a subject of much speculation.

Libya: Muammar Gaddafi

Killed during the Libyan revolt in October 2011, the dictator for nearly 42 years was buried in a secret desert location after a religious ceremony. The military said it wanted to avoid Gaddafi's grave site becoming a rallying point for supporters. One official said the aim was to follow the example of what happened to Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, whose body disappeared after his suicide as Soviet troops stormed Berlin in 1945.

Germany: Rudolf Hess

The remains of Hitler's right-hand man, who died in prison in 1987, were exhumed in secret in 2011 in Bavaria and his grave destroyed to be rid of Germany's biggest neo-Nazi pilgrimage site. Hess's remains were placed in another coffin which was incinerated and his ashes scattered at sea. — AFP

7 children among 16 killed by air strikes in Yemen

DUBAI: Air strikes allegedly carried out by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Iran-backed rebels in Yemen yesterday killed 16 people including seven children, an official and a doctor said. The raid came days after the Houthi insurgents offered to halt drone and ballistic missile attacks on Saudi Arabia as part of efforts to end a war that has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine.

The rebels claimed responsibility for the September 14 attacks on Saudi oil installations that knocked out half of the OPEC kingpin's production and sent shockwaves through energy markets. The United States and Saudi Arabia have however blamed Iran, saying the strikes were carried out with advanced cruise missiles and drones. Yesterday's air strikes in Qatabah in Daleh province in south Yemen, partly controlled by the rebels, marked the first major attack believed to have been carried out by the coalition since the Houthis' offer.

"Sixteen people, including women and children, were killed and nine others injured" in a "coalition" air raid targeting a residence in Daleh, a local official told AFP on condition of anonymity. A doctor at Al Thawra hospital in Ibb province where the bodies of those killed were taken said seven children and four women were among the dead. The Houthi rebels condemned the coalition for its "continued aggression" against the Yemeni people, according to their Al-Masirah television.

The coalition could not be immediately reached for comment.

Cautious response

Saudi Arabia gave a cautious response on Saturday to the Houthis' offer. "We judge oth-



SANAA: Yemeni men stand with Kalashnikov assault rifles during a tribal meeting in the Houthi rebel-held capital Sanaa, as tribesmen donate rations and funds to fighters loyal to the Houthis along the fronts. — AFP

er parties by their deeds, actions and not by their words, so we will see (whether) they actually do this or not," said Saudi minister of state for foreign affairs Adel Al-Jubeir. "And regarding what prompted them to do this... we have to do more intensive studies," he said at a press conference in Riyadh. The UN Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths welcomed the rebels' offer, saying it could bring an end to the bloody conflict.

Implementation of the initiative by the Houthis "in good faith could send a powerful message of the will to end the war", he said. Andreas Kreig, a professor at King's College, London, however said the rebels could be trying to confuse the international communi-

ty. "The Iranians are using this peace offer to sow confusion in the international community," Kreig told AFP. "Because amid this peace offer the UN will try ... and prevent any escalatory retaliation from the US or Saudi," he said.

Tens of thousands of people, most of them civilians, have been killed since Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in March 2015 in support of the beleaguered government after the rebels captured the capital Sanaa. The fighting has displaced millions and left 24.1 million more than two-thirds of the population in need of aid. The United Nations has described Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. — AFP

Singapore detains Indonesian maids for 'funding IS'

SINGAPORE: Singapore has detained three Indonesian maids without trial under tough security laws over allegations they donated funds to support the Islamic State (IS) group, authorities said. It is the latest case of allegedly radicalized foreign domestic helpers arrested in the city-state, and the government said it highlighted the continued appeal of the jihadists' "violent ideology". The trio, who worked as maids for between six and 13 years in Singapore, became supporters of IS after viewing online material last year, including videos of bomb attacks and beheadings, the interior ministry said.

Anindia Aliyanti, 33, Retno Hernayani, 36, and 31-year-old Turmini became acquainted around the time they were radicalized and developed a network of foreign contacts online who shared their pro-IS ideology. "The three of them actively galvanized support online for ISIS," said the ministry in a statement late Monday, using an alternative name for IS. "They also donated funds to overseas-based entities for terrorism-related purposes, such as to support the activities of ISIS and JAD. Turmini believed that her donations would earn her a place in paradise."

Officials did not say how much they contributed. JAD refers to Indonesian militant outfit Jamaah Ansharut Daulah, which has pledged allegiance to IS. The women are being held under the city-state's Internal Security Act, which allows for detention without trial for up to two years. IS lost the last scrap of its self-declared "caliphate" this year but remains influential. There are fears that foreign fighters returning from the Middle East could rejuvenate terror networks elsewhere, including in Southeast Asia. There has been a steady stream of such cases reported in Singapore, which is majority ethnic Chinese but has a sizeable Muslim minority. Before the latest three cases, authorities had detected 16 radicalized foreign domestic workers since 2015, though none were found to have plans to carry out violent acts in Singapore. — AFP

Greece police free Lebanese man due to mistaken identity

ATHENS: Greek authorities have released a Lebanese man who was arrested last week accused of involvement in a 1985 plane hijacking, after concluding they had the wrong person, police said. The 65-year-old was detained on Thursday on the island of Mykonos based on a European arrest warrant issued by Germany for his suspected involvement in the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 and the murder of an American passenger. Lebanese officials had said on Monday that the arrest was a case of mistaken identity as the man's name is nearly identical to that of the suspected hijacker, but his father's name does not match that of the suspect.

Greek police said their investigation, carried out in collaboration with German authorities, was unable to establish that the man was the wanted hijacker. On Monday afternoon, "German authorities said that they would not request extradition as identification has not been possible," a Greek police statement said after a German investigator had gone to the island of Syros, where the man was being held, to question him. On Sunday, an Arabic-speaking investigator from the Greek counter-terrorism police conducted a second interrogation that was also inconclusive.

The Greek prosecutor therefore requested his immediate release, which took place late on Monday, police said. TWA Flight 847 was travelling from Cairo to San Diego with stops in Athens, Rome, Boston and Los Angeles. It was hijacked on June 14, 1985 after take-off from Athens. Over a horrific 17 days, TWA pilot John Testrake was forced to

crisscross the Mediterranean with his 153 passengers and crew members, from Beirut to Algiers and back again, landing in Beirut three times before he was finally allowed to stop.

The hijackers' demands included the release of Shiite Muslims held by Israel. On June 15, 1985 during the first stop in Beirut, one of the passengers, 23-year-old US Navy diver Robert Stethem, was severely beaten, shot point blank in the head and his body thrown onto the tarmac. Greek media said the real wanted man had been arrested in Germany two years after the hijacking but was later exchanged with two Germans who were abducted in Beirut. He has remained a fugitive ever since. — AFP



BEIRUT: This file photo taken on June 19, 1985 at the Beirut airport, shows former TWA pilot John Testrake answering journalists' questions with a gun pointed near his head during a tense two-week standoff, when two Lebanese hijackers diverted a Trans World Airlines Boeing jet carrying 153 passengers and crew. — AFP

International

UK's intel files shed new light on famed Cold War spy cases

Fresh details on biggest Cold War spy scandals

LONDON: Fresh details of some of Britain's biggest Cold War spy scandals, including the network of Soviet agents who stole naval intelligence secrets, emerged in newly released secret files yesterday. The Portland spy ring, believed to have helped the Soviet Union build a new class of submarines in the 1960s, marked a turning point in Cold War espionage in Britain, say historians.

The network was run by Konon Molody, a deep-cover KGB officer posing as a Canadian businessman named Gordon Lonsdale. Since he lacked the diplomatic immunity given to intelligence personnel using genuine identities, he was arrested and sentenced to 25 years in prison for espionage in 1961. This was the first time Britain's MI5 domestic intelligence service unearthed an "illegal" spy running other operatives.

MI5 files released by the National Archives reveal how, during a series of prison interviews, Molody offered to disclose information and even to become a double agent, in return for his release. "He wished... to make a deal with us," said a 1961 MI5 memo. "Lonsdale's own idea was that he might be exchanged for some British agents held by the Russians, or even that he might be allowed to escape." Officials declined his offer, but in 1964 Molody was part of the most high-profile spy swaps of the Cold War, trading places with a Briton, Greville Wynne, held in Moscow. It later turned out that he had not been telling his interrogators the whole story.

Over cherries or strawberries

Molody/Lonsdale was questioned in prison by MI5 officer Charles Elwell in early 1961. Elwell had done the most to catch him, said Professor Christopher Andrew, a historian of Britain's intelligence agencies. The pair struck up a cordial relationship, sharing bags of cherries or strawberries as Molody described his disillusionment with life as an "illegal" KGB spy. But Molody never revealed the true extent of his activities to Elwell - for he had briefly run Melita Norwood, another Soviet agent embedded in Britain, who later became known as the "great-granny spy".

Norwood has been described as the most important British female agent ever recruited by the KGB. She passed on secrets believed to have helped the Soviets speed up development of the atomic bomb. Her identity remained hidden for decades more, and she was only exposed when KGB archivist Vasili Mitrokhin defected to Britain in 1992, bringing thousands of files he had meticulously copied. The British authorities decided not to prosecute her and she died in 2005 having escaped any punishment.

'An incompetent fool'

The Portland network was named after a southwest English Royal Navy base for "underwater detection" research. It unravelled after local police received a tip-off from staff that a clerk, Harry Houghton, was "acting sus-

piciously". Investigators discovered that he and another clerk Ethel Gee - who were having an affair - were passing copies of classified documents to his handler Lonsdale/Molody.

Molody took a dim view of the spy's skills, the MI5 files show. "Lonsdale regards Houghton as an incompetent fool, who was incapable of even operating the camera (he) had given him," Elwell wrote. An American couple, Morris Cohen and his wife Leontina, were also caught. Masquerading as anti-quarian booksellers Peter and Helen Kroger, they had managed communications with Moscow from a bungalow in suburban northwest London.

Arrested in January 1961 and jailed, they were sent to Moscow eight years later as part of another spy swap, getting a heroes' welcome in Moscow. In the MI5 files, Cohen was described as "a sententious bore... whose life appears to be governed by a rancid idealism and who swims about in aura of glutinous bonhomie and bookish sentimentality". His wife was deemed "even less alluring" and "the dominant figure in the marriage... (who) looks and probably behaves like an embittered crazy fanatic".

'Communist friends in Cambridge'

The National Archives also disclosed details on Arnold Deutsch - "the ablest of all the Soviet illegals", according to Andrew. Deutsch is credited with having recruited



MOSCOW: In this file photo, a woman looks at personal belongings of British KGB agent Kim Philby during the exhibition 'Kim Philby in espionage and in life' at the Russian Historical Society. — AFP

MI6 officer Kim Philby and the other members of the notorious "Cambridge Five" spying in the mid-1930s. His file contains Philby's account of his recruitment in London's Regent's Park in 1934, told 30 years

later to an MI6 colleague just before he dramatically defected to Moscow. "One of my earliest tasks was to give him details of all my Communist friends in Cambridge. This I did," the memo said. — AFP

News in brief

12 killed in jihadist attacks

MAPUTO: Twelve people were killed late Monday in fresh attacks by suspected jihadists in northern Mozambique ahead of elections next month, officials said. Ten people were murdered in the village of Mbau, in Mocimboa da Praia district, and half of the homes in the locality were burned down, along with the offices of the ruling Frelimo party, a local official said yesterday. "They entered the village and came across a group of young people who were drinking alcohol. Many were killed," the official, Assane Issa said. "The villagers then fled into the forest." Police then intervened, forcing the assailants out after a gun battle that finished at around 1 am, Issa said. Earlier Monday, suspected jihadists attacked the village of Mindumbe, a few dozen kilometers to the south. "The rebels came across two men in their fields - they killed them and then decapitated them," a villager said. — AFP

Morocco mass wedding

IMILCHIL: High up in Morocco's Atlas mountains, three dozen young Berber couples gathered for a traditional group wedding to the sound of drums and ululating. Near the lakeside village of Imilchil, hundreds flocked to attend the singing and dancing from last Thursday to Sunday under a bright blue sky. The wedding parties hailed from different villages, the brides wearing long colourful dresses, some embellished with embroidery, jewelry or shimmering sequins. They and their grooms waited patiently inside a large tent pitched over rocky terrain for a visiting religious man to legalize each union. Dubbed the "engagement season", this ancestral custom of Morocco's Amazigh-speaking people was once intended to make peace between rival clans. "It's an ancient tradition and a very important event for the region," said organizer Lhousain Oukhatar. But "the new generation doesn't care much about traditions", he said, missing the "radiance of years yonder". — AFP

Migrant road crash kills six

ANKARA: Six people died in Turkey after a military vehicle carrying migrants for deportation overturned near the Syrian border, officials said yesterday. Another 27 people including two soldiers were injured in the crash in Reyhanli district, southern Turkey, the local governor's office said in a statement. It said the "illegal" migrants were due to be deported but did not give their nationalities. In recent months, Turkish authorities have cracked down on unregistered migrants, arresting thousands. Some Syrians have reported being returned to Syria against their wishes. The government says it has only deported people who have voluntarily chosen to return. Turkey is home to more than 3.6 million Syrian refugees and up to 300,000 Iraqis, as well as an increasing number of Afghans. It remains a transit country used by people fleeing war and poverty to try to reach Europe. — AFP

Facebook to buy CTRL-labs

CALIFORNIA: Facebook Inc said on Monday it bought New York-based CTRL-labs, a start-up that is exploring ways for people to communicate with computers using brain signals, in a deal that CNBC said was valued at \$1 billion. Facebook Vice President of AR/VR Andrew Bosworth announced the deal in a Facebook post. CTRL-labs will join Facebook Reality Labs team, Bosworth said, without giving any financial details. Facebook said it intends to use the neural interface technology of CTRL-labs in developing a wristband that connects to other devices intuitively. "The vision for this work is a wristband that lets people control their devices as a natural extension of movement," Bosworth said. "We hope to build this kind of technology, at scale, and get it into consumer products faster," he added. — Reuters

Biden road to the White House marked by family tragedy

WASHINGTON: One of the youngest senators in US history, vice president for eight years and now frontrunner for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination - Joe Biden has had a storied career. But Biden's life in politics has also been intertwined with personal tragedy, in some ways defining him in the public eye. And now his troubled youngest son has been thrust into the glare of a bitter White House race. Biden's first wife, Neilia Hunter, and one-year-old daughter, Naomi, died in a car crash in 1972 while Christmas shopping, just weeks after Biden had defied the odds and won election to the Senate from the tiny eastern state of Delaware.

The accident left his two sons, Joseph "Beau" Biden III, 4, and Robert Hunter Biden, 2, badly injured, and the 30-year-old Biden was sworn into the Senate beside his sons' hospital beds. While serving in the Senate, Biden would commute 120 miles (200 kilometers) by train every day from Washington to his home in Wilmington, Delaware, a practice he would continue during his 26 years in Congress. Biden met his second wife, Jill Jacobs, a schoolteacher from Pennsylvania, in 1975 and they married two years later.

She helped raise his boys and they have a daughter, Ashley, born in 1981. Both boys recovered from their injuries and Beau eventually followed his father into politics, becoming the attorney general of Delaware and contemplating a run for state governor before dying of brain

Brexit: From leave shock to Court ruling

LONDON: From the Brexit referendum result to the Supreme Court's ruling that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's suspension of parliament was illegal, here are the milestones on Britain's road out of the European Union.

Britain votes to leave

In a referendum on June 23, 2016, Britons choose to leave the 28-nation EU by a 52-48 percent margin. Conservative prime minister David Cameron, who called the referendum but led the campaign to preserve Britain's four-decade membership in the bloc, resigns the next day.

May becomes prime minister

Theresa May, the remain-backing interior minister, becomes prime minister on July 13. On January 17, 2017 she sets out her Brexit strategy, saying Britain will leave Europe's single market and control EU immigration.

Exit process triggered

On March 29, 2017, the government starts a two-year timetable for withdrawal, with a letter to the EU Council formally announcing Britain's intention to leave. The Brexit deadline is set at March 29, 2019.

Lost majority

To strengthen her hand in Brexit negotiations, May calls a snap election for June 8, 2017. But the Conservatives lose their parliamentary majority and are forced to strike a deal for support from Northern Ireland's hardline Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

Draft deal agreed

On November 13, 2018, British and EU negotiators reach a draft divorce agreement. EU leaders approve the accord on November 25. "This is the only deal possible," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker insists. May faces an angry backlash from her own party over the deal's terms, which they fear could leave Britain's inextricably trapped in EU trade rules.

British MPs reject deal

In the first parliament vote on the deal on January 15, 2019, MPs vote 432 to 202 against, the biggest government defeat in British parliamentary history. The next day the government narrowly survives a vote of no confidence called by the main opposition Labor Party. New talks are launched with the EU, which refuses to reopen the deal. The deal is rejected again on March



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, Joe Biden is greeted by his wife Jill and sons Beau (right) and Hunter (2nd-left) following his inauguration as US Vice President in Washington, DC. — AFP

cancer in 2015 at the age of 46. Joe Biden was serving as vice president to Barack Obama at the time and he renounced a presidential bid in 2016 in part because he was still grieving over his son's death. Biden recounted Beau's agonizing final year in a book, "Promise Me, Dad: A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose."

Hunter Biden

The 76-year-old Biden frequently references his painful family history on the campaign trail, particularly the loss of his first wife and the struggle to raise two young boys on his own. Biden's younger son, Hunter, earned a law degree from Yale University and has had a checkered career as a lawyer and lobbyist.

Hunter has struggled with alcohol and drug addiction, a battle he candidly recounted in a profile published in The



LONDON: Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow speaks to the media outside the Houses of Parliament in central London yesterday. — AFP

12 by 391 to 242. On March 27, May promises to resign if her Brexit deal is adopted. They vote against it for a third time on March 29, by 344 to 286, leaving May's leadership in peril.

Brexit delay

The EU agrees to delay Brexit until May 22 and then-at an April 10-11 summit-until October 31, the current deadline. The delay means Britain is obliged to organise European Parliament elections on May 23, which are won by the Brexit Party of anti-EU populist Nigel Farage.

May resigns, Johnson elected

The European election defeat prompts May to announce on May 24 that she will step down as Conservative leader on June 7, making way for the election of a new prime minister. On July 23 Brexit figurehead Johnson is voted new Conservative leader, becoming prime minister the next day. He promises to take Britain out of the EU on October 31 with or without a deal, "do or die".

Parliament suspended

To prevent MPs from trying to hinder his strategy, on August 28, Johnson forces the suspension of parliament in the second week of September until October 14. On September 9, Queen Elizabeth II gives her formal approval to a law, initiated by opposition MPs and Conservative rebels, that would force the government to delay Brexit if it is not able to strike a divorce deal with Brussels.

Suspension 'unlawful'

On September 14, Britain's Supreme Court rules the decision to suspend parliament was 'unlawful' and that parliamentarians could reconvene "as soon as possible". Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn calls on Johnson to resign. — AFP

New Yorker in July. It has included several stints in rehab. Following his brother Beau's death, Hunter became briefly romantically involved with Beau's widow, Hallie Olivere, and his wife of nearly 25 years, Kathleen Buhle, filed for divorce. It is Hunter's business ventures in China and Ukraine that have put him in the spotlight of the 2020 presidential race and at the center of the latest political scandal swirling around President Donald Trump.

Trump has been accused of pressuring Ukraine's new President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Hunter's business dealings in Ukraine, where he served on the board of the Ukrainian gas company Burisma Holdings while his father was vice president. Trump reportedly pressed Zelensky about eight times during a July 25 telephone call to investigate possible corruption involving Burisma and Hunter, who has not been officially accused of any wrongdoing.

The phone call in question came to light after an unknown whistleblower sounded the alarm and filed a complaint with the inspector general of the US intelligence community. Joe Biden said over the weekend that Trump's actions appeared to be "an overwhelming abuse of power," and Democrats in Congress have ramped up calls to impeach the Republican president. Trump shrugged off the impeachment threats on Monday, said he had done nothing wrong and doubled down on his attacks on the Bidens.

"What Biden did is a disgrace. What his son did is a disgrace. The son took money from Ukraine and from China," Trump said without providing any evidence. Biden for his part said he has "never spoken" to Hunter about his overseas business dealings and that those who have looked into them have "said there's nothing there." "Trump is doing this because he knows I'll beat him like a drum and using abuse of power and every element of the presidency to try to do something to smear me," Biden said. — AFP

Ghana police arrest suspects over 'plot' against government

ACCRA: Ghana's security forces have arrested at least three suspects over an alleged plot to destabilize the government, the information minister said. "The joint operation was to neutralize an elaborate plot targeted at the presidency, and with the ultimate aim of destabilizing the country," Kojo Oppong Nkrumah said in a statement Monday.

He said those arrested last Friday included a medical doctor whose premises - Citadel Hospital, in the capital, Accra - were being used to manufacture weapons for the alleged plot. The security agencies had been monitoring the activities of the suspects including their contacts with some soldiers over the past 15 months, he said. "We also have in custody military persons and an officer in connection with these plots. We are not taking anything for granted in this case," Nkrumah told AFP by telephone from Washington on Tuesday.

He assured the public that "state security agencies remain vigilant, and will work to safeguard national security and public safety". Ghana is viewed as a bulwark of stability in a region characterized by insecurity and turbulence. The West African nation has been run by democratically elected governments since 1992 and is gearing to hold fresh polls late next year. Incumbent Nana Akufo-Addo looks set to face a challenge from former leader John Mahama for the top job.

The statement on the alleged plot sparked further questions in the country. Security analyst Festus Aboagyehe called for more information and warned that the authorities appeared too quick to conclude the suspects were plotting to destabilize the government. "I cannot put words in the mouth of government but the agencies involved are expected to be professional enough to explain exactly what this group was about," the retired army officer told local media. "I do not exactly understand what targeting the presidency means," he added. — AFP

International

Afghans fear violence, fraud as presidential election looms

Record numbers of people killed as troops, insurgents battle

KABUL: Ordinary Afghans are divided on whether to defy the Taliban's threats and cast their ballots in a presidential election this week, and even those who are willing to vote fear the poll will be tainted by fraud. "It is a chance to bring changes," says teacher Mohsen Karimi, 30, from the western city of Herat near the Iranian border.

The country's fourth presidential elections since the Taliban's fall from power in 2001 will be held as increasing uncertainty grips the country. Fighting between the government and insurgents is killing record numbers of people, while the collapse of US-Taliban talks earlier this month has raised fresh questions about how long Washington plans to keep troops on the ground.

Civilians continue to pay a heavy price in the nearly 18-year-long conflict. More than 1,500 civilians were killed or wounded in July, according to the UN, the highest monthly toll this year. The Taliban have already threatened to target the polls. "In most areas, people cannot vote due to the Taliban threats. Even if a candidate is elected, it is not the

absolute choice of all Afghans," said Mohamad Qasim from the southern province of Kandahar.

Among the students, shopkeepers and teachers interviewed by AFP in Kabul and provinces across Afghanistan, several said they did not plan to vote on Saturday. "I want to vote, but I'm scared," said Samim from the eastern city of Jalalabad, which is frequently targeted by both the Taliban and Islamic State militants. However it is fraud that deters the 33-year-old shopkeeper the most. "The last election was full of irregularities. If I was sure there would be no fraud in this election, then I would vote and call on my friends to vote," he said.

The 2014 presidential election was so badly tainted by fraud allegations that it required US intervention. A power-sharing deal brokered by then US secretary of state John Kerry was needed to prevent confrontation between Ashraf Ghani, who was handed the presidency, and Abdullah Abdullah, who became chief executive. Following a bitter five-year partnership, the two rivals are squaring

off again and are seen as the main contenders to lead a country where more than half the population lives in poverty, making under two dollars a day.

'I will vote'

Candidates have done little campaigning in the run-up to this year's contest, which was largely overshadowed by talks seeking a potential US-Taliban deal. Many thought the talks would delay the poll but they have since been suspended. "I have not decided whether to vote or not," explained Abdul Ahmad, a 56-year-old businessman in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

"I also don't know if any good government would come to power." Meanwhile, fears of more attacks on campaign events and polling centers are swelling. The first day of campaigning saw the Taliban target President Ghani's running-mate Amrullah Saleh in an attack that killed 20 people in July. Last week, another 26 people were killed in the central province of Parwan

near Kabul when the Taliban targeted a Ghani campaign rally. Many residents of Kabul, one of the deadliest places for civilians in the country, were split on whether to vote. While laborer Mohammad Akbar, 51, said none of the candidates seemed "right" to him and he would stay away from the polls, restaurant manager Mohamad Sadeq, 53, said he was ready to vote. "Although there will be many security challenges, people will still get out and vote and I will go and vote as well," added Arash Rasuli, an insurance executive.

Zainab Sepehri, 20, a student in Herat, hoped her vote would help "change the lives of the women in this country" - a sentiment echoed by fellow student Monisa Qarizada, 22. "I will vote. Because as a woman, I don't want to go back, I don't want women to be oppressed again," she said from Mazar-i-Sharif. For some Afghans, voting is the only voice they have. "Don't let others decide for you," said Karimi, the teacher from Herat. "You must vote to have a say in your country." — AFP

It is not only about sex: The Indonesian divisive criminal bill

JAKARTA: Tens of thousands of people have protested across Indonesia this week over a proposed new criminal code that would outlaw sex outside marriage, among other things, and which has now been put on hold by President Joko Widodo in the face of public pressure.

What does the bill say?

It includes a maximum one-year prison term for a couple who has extra-marital sex and a maximum six-month prison term for unmarried couples who live together. A prosecution can only proceed if a village chief files a complaint, and parents or children of the accused do not object. Although it does not explicitly outlaw homosexuality, some fear the criminalization of extra-marital sex and new obscenity laws could form a legal basis for persecuting gay people. While the proposed ban on extra-marital sex has grabbed headlines abroad, the bill covers 628 articles in total and opposition in the country of 260 million people is based on a much wider set of concerns than sex. The bill also penalizes people who criticize the president's honor: teachers of Marxist-Leninist ideology; and women who have abortions in the absence of a medical emergency or rape. It gives local governments the right to introduce so-called "living laws" not covered in the penal code, including sharia-inspired regulations such as the mandatory wearing of the hijab, or Islamic scarf.

Why is it being introduced?

Indonesia currently uses a version of the criminal code drawn up by Dutch colonists. It took effect in 1918. There has been discussion on changing it since independence in the 1940s. Widodo first brought it to parliament in 2015. Initial attempts to revise it collapsed, but it gained traction after this year's general election with the terms of current MPs due to expire this month. A parliamentary vote had been expected this week, but Widodo put it on hold for further discussion in the face of public pressure and after headlines abroad on the possible ban on extra-marital sex sent a scare through the tourist industry.

Who opposes the bill?

It is not entirely clear-cut, in that some people support some aspects of the bill but oppose others. Rights groups



BANDUNG: Indonesian protesters set a fire during a demonstration in Bandung yesterday. Police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse protesters outside Indonesia's parliament as thousands demonstrated nationwide over plans to outlaw pre-marital sex, and weaken the anti-corruption agency. — AFP

say that it is an affront to basic human rights. Many opponents of the bill say that it deepens conservative Islamic influence in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, which nonetheless has substantial Christian, Hindu and Buddhist minorities. Opponents also argue that it reverses liberal reforms enacted after democracy was restored in 1998, when strongman leader Suharto stepped down. Critics say some articles were rushed and that implementation is unclear.

Who supports it?

The bill has the support of some Islamic groups in a country where conservatism has been on the rise. One group, Nahdlatul Ulama, said the revisions reflect "the character and the personality of the Indonesian people and the nation". Several religious-based parties have endorsed the more conservative elements of the bill, seen as likely to appeal to their constituents. Some conservative groups want to seize on the momentum to promote stricter interpretations of Islam in the legal system. One advocate

last week said she wanted the bill strengthened to specifically outlaw all expressions of homosexuality.

What would it mean for economy?

The ban on extra-marital sex is a big concern for the tourist industry. Australia already warned visitors to Bali of the risk they could face from extra-marital or gay sex should the law be passed. However, officials have pointed out that prosecutions of foreigners under the bill - even as it stands - are unlikely. There has to be not only proof that extra-marital sex happened, but also a complaint from a family member.

What happens next?

Parliament had been due to vote on the bill on Tuesday and a vote could still take place before the end of the month. However, Widodo has said the bill should be delayed until the new parliament is in place and in order to get more input on "what the people want". That means it could be delayed for a long period or even indefinitely. — Reuters



MANILA: Campaigner Ben Leather (centre right) from international rights watchdog Global Witness, along with indigenous peoples, campaigners and their supporters, holds up a newly released human rights report during a press conference in Manila yesterday. — AFP

Assassination of land activists spike under Philippines' Duterte

MANILA: Murders of environmental activists and land defenders in the Philippines have risen sharply under President Rodrigo Duterte, an international rights watchdog said yesterday, alleging his speeches and policies have "emboldened" the killers. Campaigners who challenge powerful logging, mining and fruit growing interests have long faced deadly violence in the Philippines, but the recent increase marked a "disturbing" jump, according to a report from Global Witness.

In July, the group said 30 killings in the Philippines last year made it the deadliest country in the world for land defenders - a first since the group began reporting such deaths in 2012. "Since President Duterte came to power, there's been a huge increase in the killings of land and environmental defenders including indigenous activists," senior Global Witness campaigner Ben Leather told AFP.

The report said the toll was at least 113 since Duterte became president in mid-2016, while no fewer than 65 were killed in the three years before his rule. "The president's aggressive rhetoric against defend-

ers, coupled with the climate of violence and impunity fostered by his drugs war, has only made things worse," Leather added. Duterte's presidency has been marked by his internationally condemned anti-drugs campaign that authorities say has resulted in more than 5,500 dealers or users being gunned down by police. Rights groups say the true toll is at least four times as high.

The president also threatens enemies in his frequent, rambling public statements that are peppered with profanity and are part of his popular appeal in the Philippines. "The president's brutal 'war on drugs' has fostered a culture of impunity and fear, emboldening the politically and economically powerful to use violence," the report added. Duterte's spokesman, Salvador Panelo, rejected the allegations that the president's words had played a role in the murders, saying they were investigated to see whether they were linked to the activists' cause or a personal matter.

The report cited a series of killings carried out since Duterte won a landslide election victory on his promise to fight crime and corruption. — AFP

Indonesian forest fires put 10 million children at risk: UN

JAKARTA: Air pollution from Indonesian forest fires is putting nearly 10 million children at risk, the United Nations warned yesterday, as scientists said the blazes were releasing vast amounts of greenhouse gases. The fires have been spewing toxic haze over Southeast Asia in recent weeks, closing schools and airports, with people rushing to buy face masks and seek medical treatment for respiratory ailments.

Jakarta has deployed tens of thousands of personnel and water-bombing aircraft to tackle the slash-and-burn blazes set to clear agricultural land. The fires are an annual problem but this year are the worst since 2015 due to dry weather. Almost 10 million people under 18 - a quarter of them below five - live in the areas worst affected by fires on Indonesia's Sumatra island and the country's part of Borneo island, UN children's agency UNICEF said.

Small children are especially vulnerable due to undeveloped immune systems while babies born to mothers exposed to pollution during pregnancy may have problems such as low birth weight, they said. "Poor air quality is a severe and growing challenge for Indonesia," said Debora Comini from UNICEF. "Every year, millions of children are breathing toxic air that threatens their health and causes them to miss school - resulting in lifelong physical and cognitive damage." Thousands of schools have been closed across Indonesia due to poor air quality, with millions of youngsters missing classes.

Blood-red skies

Pictures circulating on social media have shown the sky turning blood-red over hard-hit Jambi province, on Sumatra, in the middle of the day due to the haze. Schools were forced to shut across Malaysia last week as smog from its neighbor clouded the skies, while Singapore was also shrouded in haze during the weekend's Formula One motor race.

Air quality improved in Malaysia yesterday and was at "moderate" levels on an



JAMBI: Children get a dose of oxygen from a Red Cross volunteer at a village in Jambi yesterday. — AFP

official index in most places with the skies looking largely clear, while the haze had lifted from Singapore. A regional forecasting centre said the number of "hotspots" - areas of intense heat detected by satellite which indicate a likely fire - had fallen sharply on Sumatra. Fires on the island are usually blamed for belching smog over Malaysia and Singapore.

There have been a series of wildfire outbreaks worldwide, from the Amazon to Australia, and scientists are increasingly worried about their impact on global warming. The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, part of the EU's Earth observation program, said this year's Indonesian fires were releasing almost as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as blazes in 2015, the worst for two decades. From the start of August to mid-September, the fires emitted about 360 megatons of the greenhouse gas, compared to 400 megatons over the same period four years ago, the service said. One megaton is equivalent to one million tons.

At the peak of the 2015 crisis, the fires were emitting more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere each day than all US economic activity, according to environmental watchdog the World Resources Institute. Major forest fires are a double blow to the climate. — AFP

News in brief

'This is earth not Mars'

JAKARTA: While smoke from forest fires in Indonesia often simply obscures visibility with a choking haze, parts of Sumatra island recently witnessed blood red skies due to the interaction of sunlight on particles from smoke in the air. The Southeast Asian country has spent months battling fires, often caused by slash-and-burn farming practices, as an El Nino weather pattern exacerbates the annual dry season and helps create a haze across the region. Yunita, a resident who filmed the crimson sky on Saturday, said there had been "strong winds, and the smog was thick. The event lasted from noon until evening, breathing was quite hard on that day". The event quickly went viral on social media, with one video notching up over 600,000 views on Instagram in three days. In order for a red sky to occur aerosols must be present in the air, AR Ravishankara, a US-based scientist was cited in an article posted on the website of Scientific American. — Reuters

Iran 'behind Saudi attack'

UNITED NATIONS: The leaders of France, Germany and Britain on Monday agreed that Iran carried out this month's attack on Saudi Arabian oil infrastructure and called on Tehran to choose dialogue over further "provocation." French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson backed the conclusion of the United States on the blasts at the Abqaiq and Khurais facilities. "It is clear to us that Iran bears responsibility for this attack. There is no other plausible explanation," they said in a joint statement after meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. But the three countries - which remain party to a nuclear deal with Iran from which President Donald Trump withdrew the United States - said the solution was diplomacy. "We urge Iran to engage into such a dialogue and refrain from choosing provocation and escalation," they said. — AFP

Kremlin slams Washington

MOSCOW: The Kremlin accused Washington yesterday of violating its international obligations by denying visas to a Russian delegation due to attend the UN General Assembly, and threatened "tough action" in response. "It's a worrisome situation, and such actions are not acceptable," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "This is a direct violation of Washington's international obligations, this is not a bilateral visit." Washington's actions called for a "tough reaction" from Moscow, Peskov said. He urged the United Nations, which holds the General Assembly at its New York headquarters, to react as well. Foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Facebook yesterday that "a number of members of the official Russian delegation" had not received their US visas. The Russian foreign ministry summoned the deputy head of the US mission in Moscow and handed him a protest note, Russian media reported. — AFP

Quake kills 22, flattens buildings in northern Pak

MUZAFFARABAD/ISLAMABAD: An earthquake shook northern Pakistan yesterday, destroying buildings, cracking roads, killing 22 people and injuring nearly 200 more, government and police officials said. Photos and video carried by local media showed dozens of collapsed buildings and homes, uprooted trees and cracks in roads large enough to swallow cars in Mirpur, a town on Pakistan's side of the disputed territory of Kashmir near India.

Muhammad Salfar, 60, who lives near Mirpur, said he was in his house when it suddenly started shaking. "We saw walls and the roof developing cracks and ceiling fans and other articles falling down, and we rushed out into an open field," he told Reuters by telephone. "I have never seen such a devastating earthquake in this area in my life."

The magnitude 5.8 quake struck 23 km north of Jhelum, roughly 120 km southeast of Pakistan's capital Islamabad, at a relatively shallow depth of 10 km, the United States Geological Survey reported. Ramzan Ahmad, 65, who suffered a head injury and bleeding nose, said that he was with his family of seven when his house collapsed. "We all got injuries," he said. "I saw dozens of houses razed on my way to hospital."

District commissioner Mohammad Tayyab, a local government official, and district police chief Irfan Saleem said 22 people were dead and nearly 200 injured. Further away from the earthquake zone, the chief of Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, Lieutenant General Mohammad Afzal, said at a briefing in the capital Islamabad that he could confirm 10 deaths. — Reuters

Analysis

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In remote Amazon, indigenous married Catholics pray and spread the gospel

Just before dawn, Shainkiam Yampik beats a drum carved from a tree trunk at the start of a Roman Catholic prayer service in Wijint, a hamlet of matched-roof huts in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon. Whispering "Jesusan namanguinde," or "the body of Christ" in the tongue of the indigenous Achuar people, Yampik gives communion bread to villagers in a small chapel amid a loud chorus of birds and insects outside.

A tribal elder with 10 grown children, Yampik, 48, is a leading Catholic figure in one of the Church's most remote outposts. But because Yampik is married, he cannot become a priest. He is an ordained deacon, a lower rank. That means he cannot hear confessions or, more importantly, say Mass, the key sacrament that villagers in Wijint must go many months without because of a lack of priests. The communion bread he distributes is consecrated beforehand by a priest in another town.

But Yampik and other Achuar Catholics in this vast region are hopeful a historic meeting at the Vatican next month will change that. On Oct 6, Pope Francis will open a three-week synod of Amazonian bishops where one of the most keenly awaited topics will be whether to allow Yampik and other married men to be ordained as priests in parts of the Amazon, a proposal that would break centuries of Roman Catholic tradition.

The idea is to allow older married men with grown children and a strong standing in the Church - "viri probati" or proven men - to join the priesthood and help fill a gap in their communities. "I feel it in my heart. I want to be a priest," Yampik, who like other Achuar in the region was converted by Catholic missionaries decades ago, told Reuters in Wijint. A three-day boat ride from the nearest town with paved roads, Wijint is one of 827 native communities in the Vicariate of Yurimaguas, a region nearly the size of Panama ministered by just 25 priests, the vicariate's administrator, Reverend Jesus Maria Aristin said.

"It's impossible to reach them all," Aristin said, recalling a recent visit to a village that required a four-day trek through jungle marshlands. At least 85 percent of villages in the region cannot celebrate Mass every week, a ritual in which Catholics believe communion bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Jesus. Yampik is one of four married "viri probati" Achuar deacons who will be discussed for the priesthood at the synod, said Aristin, who will attend.

Celibacy or sacrament?

The synod will also discuss protection for the Amazon after a global outcry over forest fires this year. But the "viri probati" proposal could be more explosive within the Church, where Francis is already under attack by its conservative wing. The synod's working document, branded heretical by its critics, says men could be ordained in the priesthood "even if they already have an established and stable family, in order to guarantee the sacraments."

Opponents of the reform say it will introduce a slippery slope leading to the abolition of the Church's rule on priestly celibacy, which became obligatory in the 12th century in part to keep children of priests from inheriting Church property. The Church teaches that by remaining celibate and unmarried, a priest can devote himself entirely to God and the Church. But the requirement has cramped efforts to recruit priests to minister to all its current members - much less expand - in traditional strongholds like Latin America, where evangelical Christians are making inroads.

"Viri probati" proponents also say the Church cannot neglect faithful in places like Wijint, a village with no electricity or running water where the Achuar grow cassava root and bananas and hunt wild pigs in surrounding forests. "What's more important, celibacy or the Eucharist, the center of Christian life?" said Aristin. Just four decades ago, the Church's presence in this far-flung region was growing, thanks to Italian priest Luis Bolla's success in converting isolated Indians in Peru and Ecuador.

A Salesian missionary, Bolla lived among the Achuar for decades, adopting their customs and language, and leaving a void when he died in 2013. Today, it is hard to get outsiders to stay in Achuar villages, said Yampik. "A priest outside of this culture can give himself to us but just for a season. Then he says, 'I can't get used to this. I can't learn the language. I can't talk,'" Yampik said. "An Achuar priest would be ours. Where's he going to go?"

The Vatican has allowed some leeway before. Some Anglican priests who were already married when they converted to Roman Catholicism were able to continue to serve as priests. But it has not made an exception to its celibacy rule for the purpose of addressing shortages of priests. It is a discipline, though, not a dogma, and therefore can be changed. — Reuters

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The General Assembly Hall is seen during the Climate Action Summit 2019 at the United Nations on Monday. — AFP

Struggle to ditch fossil-fuel 'status quo'

Closing his climate action summit in New York on Monday, UN chief Antonio Guterres told countries they still had "a long way to go" - a judgement echoed by environmental groups and aid agencies, which were generally disappointed with the outcome. While they pointed to bright spots - including pledges by some small island states to go carbon-neutral and new aid for poor countries - many of the big emitters were absent or glossed over how they would ramp up efforts to tackle global warming.

In 2020, governments have agreed to submit improved national plans to reduce heat-trapping emissions and adapt to a changing climate - and Monday's lacklustre performance hikes the pressure on them to deliver that promise, researchers and analysts said. "While countries were expected to come to the summit to announce that they would enhance their climate ambition, most of the major economies fell woefully short," said Andrew Steer, head of the World Resources Institute, a US-based think-tank. "Their lack of ambition stands in sharp contrast with the growing demand for action around the world," he added.

The UN gathering came a few days after some 4 million people hit the streets across the globe, led by students, demanding urgent moves to rein in rising global temperatures that are super-charging wild weather and boosting sea levels. Yet despite rousing opening comments by Swedish teen activist Greta

Thunberg - where she told leaders young people would not forgive them if they failed to act on the climate crisis - the excitement faded fast.

The leaders of the United States, Brazil and Australia did not speak at the summit, and there were few headline-grabbing announcements by other presidents and prime ministers. Nonetheless, Guterres said the roughly 60 government leaders who did step up to the podium - alongside CEOs, mayors and other high-profile figures - had "delivered a boost in momentum, cooperation and ambition". The United Nations noted 77 countries had committed to cut their emissions to "net zero" by 2050 as scientists have advised, while 70 announced they would boost their climate action plans by 2020 or had started the process of doing so. Climate Action Network (CAN) International, a coalition of green and development groups, said Chile and Britain - hosts of annual UN climate talks this year and next - must ensure governments deliver an "adequate response" that puts the world on course to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Current promises to reduce emissions will lead to warming of at least 3 degrees this century, scientists warn. "Countries should not wait until 2020" to upgrade their plans and step up action, CAN said in a statement. "They should start now by stopping coal and other fossil fuels, and investing in a just transition to renewable energy and climate resilience."

Fresh funding

More positively, many hailed a series of global initiatives launched or expanded at the summit, bringing in governments, businesses, development banks and other organizations. They ranged from nearly \$800 million in funds to bolster the harvests and incomes of 300 million developing-world farmers struggling with unpredictable weather, to efforts to speed up energy efficiency by 3% per year, and make buildings and cities zero-carbon.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, a Delhi-based international partnership that will offer expertise to build safer hospitals, schools, housing and other public utilities. Nine countries, meanwhile, made fresh pledges to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which channels money to developing countries to reduce emissions and adapt to climate shifts, raising the amount promised so far for its first refill to \$7.3 billion, from close to \$6 billion before the summit. "The new climate finance resources announced this week as well as those already made will help GCF provide urgently needed support to the most vulnerable communities facing the climate crisis," said its executive director Yannick Glemarec. Campaigners are pressing donor countries to double their initial contributions to the GCF - which topped \$10 billion - this year, but the United States and Australia are not expected to come up with new money under their current leaders. — Reuters

In Trump's Ukraine flap, opportunities and risks for Biden

The growing flap over whether President Donald Trump used his office to seek re-election help from his Ukrainian counterpart poses political risks, and some opportunities, for Democratic White House front-runner Joe Biden. Biden, the former vice president, has become ensnared in the political furor over reports that Trump pressured the Ukrainian president to investigate Biden and his son, an issue that has intensified Democratic calls for Trump's impeachment.

While Trump admits he discussed Biden with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a July phone call, he has deflected questions about it and focused instead on raising unsubstantiated charges that Biden improperly tried to halt a Ukrainian probe of a company with ties to his son Hunter. "Joe Biden and his son are corrupt," Trump told reporters on Monday when asked about the controversy on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York. He did not provide any evidence.

There has been no evidence so far that Biden used his position as vice president to help his son, and he said in Iowa this past weekend that he had never discussed

Hunter Biden's business in Ukraine with his son. In the short term, the uproar has given Biden and his campaign a chance to portray Trump's strategy as evidence the president sees him as the likely winner, and most dangerous opponent, among the 19 candidates seeking the Democratic nomination to face him in the November 2020 election.

But in the long term, Biden's candidacy and perceptions of his electability could be hurt by the possibility that Trump's repeated charges of corruption could stick to Biden and undercut Democratic arguments about Trump's abuses of power. While Biden's Democratic rivals have so far refused to dive into specific questions about his family and instead directed their criticism squarely at Trump, they may also benefit from Trump casting Biden as a symbol of a corrupted establishment.

"If there is one thing Donald Trump can do well, it's label and isolate a message that is memorable. He's a salesman," said Joel Payne, a Democratic strategist who worked for Hillary Clinton in 2016. "He's trying to create this corruption, D.C. insider storyline about Biden," he said. "It allows him to dust off the play-book and run the same campaign against Biden that he ran against Clinton." The Republican National Committee sent reporters on Monday a memo headlined: "Quid Pro Joe," trying to make the case that Biden had a history of "swampy dealings."

In a Democratic race driven heavily by voter perceptions of electability and each contender's perceived chances of beating Trump, that could help turn what has been a strength for Biden into a potential liability. But

Democratic voters will automatically discount most of what Trump says, said Patrick Murray, a pollster at Monmouth University. What could be more telling, he said, is Biden's response.

How does he fight back?

"That's where the electability question comes in. Does Biden have what it takes to fight back when Donald Trump throws a punch? It could certainly help Biden," Murray said. Biden and his campaign seemed to take that sentiment to heart. After a hesitant response when the story broke on Friday, they kicked in later with a furious reaction, with Biden telling reporters that Trump knows "I'll beat him like a drum."

Even in an increasingly contentious Democratic nominating race, however, his presidential rivals are unlikely to criticize Biden over Ukraine for fear of standing on the same side as Donald Trump. "First of all, I don't think we should give Trump the power to change the subject from him doing something as nefarious as what he did," Democratic contender Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, told reporters in Iowa on Monday. "Secondly, I haven't seen any evidence of anything there anyway. And third, we have to remember that he will either find a vulnerability or make one up," he said of Trump. US Senator Kamala Harris of California, another of Biden's rivals, said it was "long past due" that impeachment proceedings were begun against Trump. At a campaign stop in Los Angeles, she accused Trump of trying to collaborate with the Ukrainian president to influence the 2020 election. — AFP

Boris: Gaffe-prone Brexiteer with ruthless ambition

Since coming to power, Boris Johnson has belied his image as a jovial mophead by revealing a ruthless streak - but that has failed to protect him from a series of humiliating blows against his authority. His high-stakes approach of pledging to leave the European Union on Oct 31, come what may, has led to a series of defeats in parliament, prompting him to fire several MPs from his own party. His decision to suspend parliament in the run-up to Brexit was on Tuesday ruled "unlawful, void and of no effect" by Britain's Supreme Court.

That has prompted opposition calls for him to step down after just two months in office. The man with a life-long ambition to be prime minister - or "world king" in the words of his sister Rachel Johnson - could end up becoming Britain's shortest-serving leader. With a colorful and chequered career in politics and journalism, Johnson was already the country's most recognizable politician when he took power in the midst of Britain's deepest political crisis since World War II. Born Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson in New York in 1964, he is the embodiment of privilege, having attended the elite Eton College and

Oxford University. He started out as a journalist, writing for The Times, before being sacked for fabricating quotes. He went on to become Brussels correspondent for the Daily Telegraph and eventually editor of the Spectator magazine.

'Element of winging it'

He became an MP in 2001, but was sacked as Conservative Party arts spokesman in 2004 for lying about an extra-marital affair, demonstrating a fast-and-loose relationship with the truth that has dogged him throughout his career. His personality-driven approach and appearances on a TV satire show helped him develop a celebrity status and to score an unlikely victory by becoming the Conservative mayor of multi-ethnic, Labour-voting London. But it has led to frequent criticism over his attention to detail and his ability to govern, particularly during his poorly-received spell as foreign minister. A former colleague, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP he could master the detail when required but, on some issues, "there's an element of winging it".

Johnson is proud of his record in London, pointing to low levels of crime, the success of the 2012 Olympics and investment in transport and housing as proof of his ability to get things done. But critics cite expensive projects such as a cable car across River Thames, an aborted garden bridge and his decision to buy second-hand water cannons that police were not permitted to use.

It wasn't, however, until he successfully spearheaded the 2016 campaign to leave the European Union that he was transformed from a political sideshow into the deeply



US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson (left) hold a meeting at UN headquarters in New York yesterday. — AFP

polarizing figure who now leads the country. He made his first tilt at the Tory leadership shortly after the referendum but failed after his closest ally betrayed him. The winner, Theresa May, made him foreign secretary, but "where gravitas and grasp of detail were needed, Johnson supplied bon mots", the Chatham House think-tank said. The gaffes that had helped burnish his popularity in lower office were no longer a laughing matter. He resigned a year ago in protest at May's EU strategy, cementing his position as the champion of Brexit. — AFP

Business

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DUESSELDORF: This picture shows the interior hall of the airport in Duesseldorf, western Germany, yesterday. As British tour operator Thomas Cook declared bankruptcy, some 600,000 tourists from around Europe had their holidays disrupted. —AFP

UK repatriates 10% of Thomas Cook customers

53,000 Britons stranded in Spain • Nordic arm to continue operations

LONDON: Britain has repatriated ten percent of nationals who were stranded abroad after the collapse of travel firm Thomas Cook, authorities said yesterday, as anger erupted over excessive management pay. The Civil Aviation Authority regulator, which is managing the UK's biggest repatriation since World War II after Thomas Cook's dramatic bankruptcy, said in a statement that it flew back 14,700 of the 150,000 stranded Britons on Monday.

The CAA added that it hoped to bring back another 16,500 people yesterday.

The dramatic collapse of Thomas Cook left 600,000 customers of all nationalities stranded in popular tourist destinations dotted around the globe, including Cancun, Kos, Las Vegas and Lanzarote.

"Following the very sad news ... that Thomas Cook had stopped trading and its aircraft were grounded, we launched at the government's request our operation to return more than 150,000 people to the UK," said CAA Chief Executive Richard Moriarty. The collapse of Thomas Cook has affected 53,000 Britons in Spain, Spanish Acting Tourism Minister Reyes Maroto told reporters yesterday. The ministry has been in touch with German and Swedish authorities to ensure Thomas Cook subsidiaries continue to operate at least for the winter season, she added.

'Unprecedented'

Moriarty added: "A repatriation of this scale and nature is unprecedented and

unfortunately there will be some inconvenience and disruption for customers. "We will do everything we can to minimize this as the operation continues.

"We want people to continue to enjoy their holiday, so we will bring them back to the UK on their original departure day, or very soon thereafter." Meanwhile, criticism is mounting over the pay of Thomas Cook's management, who steered the 178-year-old company into the rocks with vast debts. The Sun tabloid newspaper slammed Thomas Cook's "fat cat bosses", adding that the group's last five chief executives had "pocketed" a total of £47 million (53 million euros/\$58 million) in pay and bonuses since 2007. The failed company's Swiss chief executive Peter Fankhauser, who apologized for his group's failure on Monday, has been paid £8.4 million since 2014 according to the paper. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has questioned whether failing management should receive huge salaries.

'Questions' over pay

"I have questions—for one about whether it's right that the directors, or whoever, the board, should pay themselves large sums when businesses can go down the tubes like that," said Johnson, quoted by British media in New York where he is attending the UN General Assembly.

Quizzed about tougher rules, Johnson added: "I think that you need to have some system by which tour operators properly

insure themselves against this kind of eventuality."

Thomas Cook, which had struggled against fierce online competition for years and blamed Brexit uncertainty for a recent drop in bookings, declared bankruptcy after failing to secure £200 million from private investors. Monday's bankruptcy followed a lengthy period of chronic financial turmoil after a disastrous series of mergers left it burdened with soaring debt, a large branch network and high costs.

Nordic business

Thomas Cook's Nordic business said yesterday it would continue to operate as it is a separate legal entity from its London-listed parent, which collapsed on Monday, and it was looking for new owners. The Nordic arm of Thomas Cook said on Monday all its flights would resume on Tuesday, although some disruptions were reported. "Since we are an independent and profitable part of the business, we are already able to continue our operations with support from our banks, lenders and guarantors," Magnus Wikner, managing director of Thomas Cook's Nordic business, said.

Hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers were stranded by the collapse of the world's oldest travel firm, sparking the largest peacetime repatriation effort in British history. The company's British fleet was grounded immediately after the parent group became insolvent to comply with

operating licence requirements.

In the Nordics, close to 35,000 holidaymakers were travelling at the time of Thomas Cook's announcement, which resulted in the cancellation of flights on Monday. Thomas Cook's Nordic business consists of two legal entities, Thomas Cook Northern Europe and Thomas Cook Scandinavian Airlines, and is also known as Ving Group. The business operates under several brands: Ving in Norway, Spies in Denmark, Tjoreborg in Finland, as well as Ving and Globetrotter in Sweden.

The liquidation of Thomas Cook, which marks the end of a British company that started in 1841 running local rail excursions and grew to pioneer the family package holiday, has sent shockwaves across the global tourism industry. In Spain, the country's Acting Tourism Minister Reyes Maroto told reporters that the ministry has been in touch with German and Swedish authorities to ensure Thomas Cook subsidiaries continue to operate at least for the winter season.

And it has left questions over which parts of the Thomas Cook empire can be salvaged from the wreckage, including the Nordic business.

"Several potential buyers have taken an interest in acquiring the Nordic business," Ving Norway spokeswoman Siri Roehrfeldt said. "The talks on a sale are administered from London by those who are in charge of liquidating the Thomas Cook Group." —Agencies

Jeddah airport's new terminal opened in tourism push

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman opened Jeddah airport's new terminal yesterday, state media said, part of a push to increase foreign visitors to the kingdom and diversify its oil-based economy. Jeddah is the main airport where pilgrims arrive before travelling on to Mecca to perform the religious haj and the umrah, the year-round lesser pilgrimage.

The inauguration of the new Terminal 1 of King Abdulaziz International Airport brings the airport to 810,000 square metres with the capacity to handle 30 million passengers annually, state news agency SPA said.

The airport operates flights to three international destinations and 21 domestic ones. Economic reforms pushed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman aim to make the country an entertainment destination and a tourism hub. They are also trying to lift domestic and foreign tourism spending to \$46.6 billion in 2020 from \$27.9 billion in 2015, when the reform plan was announced. Pilgrimage is the backbone of a plan to expand tourism under the crown prince's economic reform program, announced a year ago to diversify the economy away from oil.

Pilgrims comprise the bulk of Saudi Arabia's 20 million annual foreign visitors, apart from workers and business travellers. Officials aim to increase the number of umrah and haj pilgrims to 15 million and 5 million respectively by 2020, and hope to double the umrah number again to 30 million by 2030. The government has approved plans to issue electronic visas for foreign visitors to attend sporting events and concerts, and is expected to announce details this month. —Reuters

German downturn 'taking a breather' but recession looms: IFO

BERLIN: German business morale rose in September for the first time in six months but Europe's largest economy is still likely slipping into recession as the US-China trade conflict and Brexit bite, the Ifo economic institute said yesterday.

Ifo's business climate index rose to 94.6 from 94.3 in August, snapping a run of five consecutive falls. September's reading compared with a consensus forecast for 94.4. "The downturn is taking a breather," Ifo President Clemens Fuest said in a statement. But he added: "In manufacturing, the business climate has only one direction:

downward."

Germany's export-reliant economy is suffering from slower global growth and business uncertainty caused by US President Donald Trump's 'America First' trade policies and Britain's planned, but delayed, exit from the European Union. Ifo's current conditions index rose to 98.5 from 97.4 in August but its expectations index fell to 90.8 from 91.3. Ifo economist Klaus Wohlrabe said the German economy is likely to shrink again in the third quarter.

That would put it in recession - usually defined as a period of at least two consecu-

tive quarters of contraction - after it shrank by 0.1 percent in the second quarter.

"This is not the start of a change of trend," Wohlrabe said of yesterday's firmer overall sentiment reading. "The slowdown is only taking a break," he told Reuters, adding that no signs of improvement were to be seen for German industry. Economy Minister Peter Altmaier, speaking immediately after the release of the Ifo data, said Germany's growth dynamics have deteriorated but insisted: "We are not in a recession." Much of the German economy's fortunes are tied up in factors beyond its con-

trol: mainly weaker global growth, developments in the US-China trade conflict and the question of whether Britain can achieve an orderly exit from the European Union. US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Monday that he and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer would meet with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He for trade talks in two weeks. On Brexit, EU negotiator Michel Barnier struck a downbeat note yesterday, saying there was no reason to be optimistic that Britain and the bloc will find a solution to the thorny question of the Irish "backstop". —Reuters

Business

Al-Jarrah: Banking industry is faced with many economic and political challenges

Bukhamseen: Conference perfect opportunity to bring together bank representatives and fintech firms



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah (second right), Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Dr Mohammed Al-Hashel (right), KIB Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah (second left) and other CBK officials during the International Banking Conference: Shaping the Future on Monday.



KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) participated in the 'International Banking Conference: Shaping the Future' which was held on Monday by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). Held under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and in the presence of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed, the conference took place at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait. The conference aimed at discussing the economic and social challenges that the banking industry faces, as well as the opportunities and risks of technological innovations with a focus on developing the industry and supporting sustainable development.

During the conference, KIB was represented by a group of senior management headed by the Chairman of the Bank, Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, as well as Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Raed Jawad Bukhamseen. The conference was attended by a group of economic figures, governors of central banks, heads of regulatory and supervisory bodies, a wide range of senior-level participation from the banking sector and international credit rating agencies, as well as a number of international organizations and representatives of international standard-setting bodies, banking experts and representatives of fintech companies from around the world.

On this occasion, Governor and Chairman of the Central Bank

of Kuwait, Dr Mohammed Al-Hashel, said: "The global banking industry is at a major inflection point, and it cannot continue with the same decades-old approach. Now, it must converge in a way that is compatible with the future. The three main challenges currently facing the industry are: the current state of the global economy, the fintech revolution, and the rapidly evolving needs and expectations of customers. Banks should not be concerned with fintech firms, but instead with the likes of Facebook, Amazon, WhatsApp, and Alibaba." Al-Hashel also pointed out that banks must win five crucial battles if they are to survive, namely: customer loyalty, value, efficiency, resilience, and talent. Additionally, he added that banks should not only use available data to improve performance and planning, but to also better understand and meet customer wants and preferences. Banks also need to enrich their talent pool to include new talents who are equipped with skills required for the future, better understand the industry's transformation and changes in customer preferences.

Moreover, Al-Hashel noted that the future cannot be shaped by one bank on its own. Change must be supported by a number of stakeholders, including educational institutions and supervisory entities. He pointed out that the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) is working to develop the Kuwait National Payments System (KNPS) to establish a digital economy that consists of eight

advanced systems. On this occasion, Al-Jarrah said: "We are delighted to participate in this conference, which seeks to contribute to the development of the banking industry by discussing the best ways to develop the industry and face its challenges; thereby leading to economic, social and sustainable development."

Al-Jarrah also pointed out that the banking industry is currently faced with a number of economic variables, market volatility, regional political conditions, as well as banking technologies that are affected by changing customer needs and expectations of financial and banking institutions.

Bukhamseen also commented saying: "This conference provides the perfect opportunity for bank representatives and fintech firms to meet and discuss current and new developments in the banking industry and sustainable development. This allows us to develop a more advanced interface and easy-to-use products and services that meet the needs of our customers. We would also like to thank the Governor and Chairman of the CBK and all its staff for their tremendous effort in organizing this notable conference, which has attracted a large group of people as well as prestigious economic figures." During the conference, over 40 exhibitors from local and international banking institutions participated in the Fintech Exhibition, in addition to the participation of major regional telecommunications companies and various fintech companies.



CBK participates in international banking conference

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) participated in the International Banking Conference: 'Shaping the Future', organized by the Central Bank of Kuwait under auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on Monday in Kuwait. Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, the Central Bank Governor Dr Mohammed Al-Hashel, GCC central bank governors

and economic experts also attended the conference.

Speaking on the occasion, CBK Chief Executive Officer, Elham Mahfouz said that the CBK's participation in the conference comes out of its keenness in taking part in such events due to their implications on all financial and banking institutions.

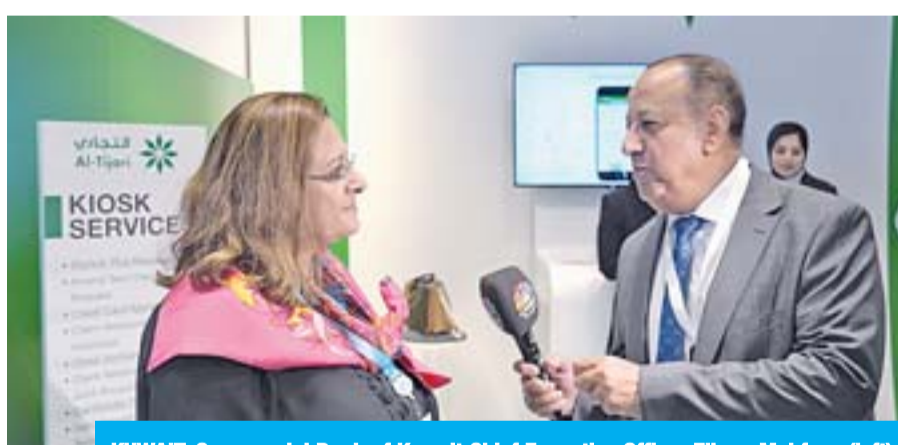
Mahfouz also spoke about CBK's most important digital services through its website, CBK mobile application, Mobile CBK, T-Pay, Code QR and Tijari-Pay. Mahfouz added that the Smart Kiosk system is successfully used in all CBK branches and that CBK had recently issued its E-GOV cards specially designed to meet the clients' needs.



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah (center) and the Central Bank Governor Dr Mohammed Al-Hashel with Commercial Bank of Kuwait team during their visit to CBK booth.



KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait Chief Executive Officer Elham Mahfouz (left) outlines the various digital services being offered by the bank.



KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait Chief Executive Officer Elham Mahfouz (left) outlines the various digital services being offered by the bank.

Cross-Channel trade put to no-deal Brexit test in Calais

CALAIS, France: French customs officials yesterday carried out their third dress rehearsal for a no-deal Brexit in as many weeks, submitting trucks in Calais to border checks, which exporters fear could act as a brake on cross-Channel trade.

The exercise in Calais, the busiest port in Europe for passengers and trucks crossing the Channel by ferry, is part of a month-long operation by France to showcase its preparations for a possible disorderly British exit from the EU on October 31. France has spent some 40 million euros (\$44 million) and hired 600 extra customs officers to prepare for the prospect of an abrupt end to free trade between Britain and its EU neighbors.

"Twenty-five years of no border that will disappear overnight," Eric Meunier, head of the customs service for northern France told reporters.

Like travelling to the US

Over the past year the French government has been scrambling to get exporters up to speed on the procedures they will need to follow to keep their British customers if trade barriers are re-established. The deputy head of the operator of Calais port, Benoit Rochet, compared the change for companies that do business with Britain to the situation of Europeans travelling to the United States, who have to apply for a visa or visa waiver ahead of travel. "When you travel to the US you don't arrive at the airport with your hands empty." Similarly for trucks arriving in Calais "if you don't have any customs documents, don't come to the port," he warned.

The French government has assured that its new "smart border", which links the license plates of trucks heading to Britain to shipping documents filled out online by exporters, will avoid chaotic scenes of massive tailbacks on roads leading to Calais.

On Tuesday, 20 trucks—a tiny fraction of the 5,000-6,000 that travel between France and Britain each day — were put to the Brexit test, using fake documents provided by the customs service.

Drivers arriving to board a DFDS ferry for Britain in the driving rain were asked to hand over shipping documents containing a bar code, which was



CALAIS: During a day of test in case of Brexit shows a view of the terminal Ferry In Calais, northern France yesterday. —AFP

scanned and forwarded along with the truck's registration number to the French and British customs service.

Not surprisingly, given that the customs service provided the test documents, no trucks were pulled out of the line because the documentation they were carrying was incomplete—a real prospect after Brexit. Trucks arriving from Britain, meanwhile, also face possible delays, with those identified as requiring veterinary, sanitary or tariffs

checks directed by new orange overhead signs towards border controls.

'We're ready'

Around 100,000 French companies trade with Britain, which is the sixth-biggest destination for French exports. The exercise for trucks crossing the world's busiest shipping route by ferry yesterday comes a week after a similar test involving trucks that use the Channel Tunnel. —AFP

EU loses big Starbucks tax case, wins on Fiat

LUXEMBOURG: An EU court struck down an order by Brussels that Starbucks pay 30 million euros (\$33 million) in back taxes Monday, in a decision with major significance for Apple, which is fighting a similar case.

In a separate decision, however, the same court said Fiat must pay roughly the same amount to Luxembourg, upholding a similar EU order from 2015. The split ruling will be closely watched by the iPhone-maker, which was ordered to repay Ireland 13 billion euros in 2016, a decision that is also making its way through EU courts. The court result is a mixed blessing for the EU's anti-trust supremo Margrethe Vestager, one of the EU's highest profile officials who made her name by slapping mega-fines on Google.

In a statement she said the decisions "gave important guidance" and that the EU would continue its fight against "aggressive tax planning".

"The judgments confirm that, while member states have exclusive competence in determining their laws concerning direct taxation, they must do so in respect of EU law, including state aid rules," she said in a statement. The cases can now be appealed at the EU's highest court, the European Court of Justice, a process that could take years.

Starbucks in a statement said the ruling "makes clear" that it "did not receive any special tax treatment from the Netherlands." In her landmark ruling, Vestager had said Dutch authorities must recoup unpaid taxes from Starbucks because it illegally allowed an elaborate tax set-up that allowed the pumpkin latte and espresso maker to shift revenue abroad.

"This decision proves that the Dutch tax authorities treated Starbucks like any other company, and no better or different," Dutch secretary of state for finance Menno Snel said in a statement.

The Starbucks and Fiat cases are dwarfed by the blockbuster order in 2016 that Apple repay Ireland 13 billion euros. That case drew global attention, and infuriated Apple CEO Tim Cook who called it "total political crap". EU member states such as Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands have attracted multinationals over many years by offering extremely favourable tax deals to generate jobs and investment.

The issue hit close to home in 2014 with the LuxLeaks scandal which revealed that European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's native Luxembourg gave companies favorable tax deals while he was prime minister. Luxembourg has also been ordered by Brussels to recoup 250 million euros from Amazon and 120 million euros from French energy giant Engie. The government on Tuesday said it took note of the Fiat decision and underlined its adherence to tax reform at the OECD, the club of rich nations. —AFP

Business

Huawei advances AI, gears up for 5G expansion at GITEX Week 2019

4th annual Huawei Middle East Innovation Day on October 7

DUBAI: At this year's GITEX Technology Week, Huawei - a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) - will preview how the deeper integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as well as 5G ecosystem development is helping businesses to stay connected in a digitally-driven world. Huawei's exhibition will be held under the theme 'Building a Fully Connected, Intelligent World' located at Stand Z2-A10 in Za'abeel Hall 2. Within this theme, Huawei will focus on end-to-end solutions and global case studies revolving around 'Advance Intelligence' - how AI enables an intelligent world - and '5G, Gear Up' - how 5G provides infinite possibility for connectivity.

As more companies have come to realize the value of AI, Huawei is demonstrating how AI is enabled by the latest state-of-the-art chipset and used in new products such as campus and data center networks, storage and data center facilities, cloud, and CCTV. The company is also highlighting how these come to life across a range of industry applications - from energy to transportation, fintech, smart cities, and government. In addition to on-site technology demos, real-world case studies from Huawei regional and global customers will highlight the evolution of the company's full-stack, all-scenario AI portfolio, which was originally unveiled at GITEX 2018. These capabilities are now making AI more inclusive, affordable, effective, and reliable for everyone.

According to Huawei's own Global Industry Vision 2025 report, global data volumes are predicted to increase from 32.5 ZB in 2018 to 180 ZB in 2025, with enterprise demand for AI computing power doubling every three months and adoption rising to 80 percent by 2025. As a result, organizations are now seeking a means to access the full computing power of AI through easy-to-use platforms that weave intelligence into the cloud, network edge, or an individual device.

In parallel, GITEX comes at a critical point as large-scale 5G network launches are now imminent.

Visitors will benefit from Huawei's unparalleled expertise in the 5G arena having already secured more than 50 commercial 5G contracts while shipping more than 200,000 base stations worldwide. Huawei will be previewing its own vision for expanding a competitive and beneficial 5G ecosystem while nurturing new 5G services. That will include sharing best practices from existing 5G projects - such as those in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait - along with an update on global 5G commercial progress.

Visitors will also be able to see a showcase of Huawei's leading end-to-end solutions for 5G growth - from new standards to products and 5G business models. The impact of 5G is also being demonstrated beyond the telecommunications sector, with references to how 5G is bolstering new applications not only in virtual reality, cloud gaming, and robotics, but also industry.

Charles Yang, President of Huawei Middle East, said: "We are building a fully connected, intelligent world. When many people think of Huawei, they think connections. It's true we have been investing in connectivity for the past 30 years, but our work doesn't stop there. Both connections and computing are key - they're inseparable. Today this combination is delivering more advanced intelligence across every touchpoint of the digital economy, and is being accelerated with the launch of 5G networks. As leaders in both AI and 5G technologies, GITEX visitors will be able to see how Huawei is working to bring digital to every person, home and organization."



Charles Yang



Huawei @ GITEX 2018

Huawei Innovation Day

In parallel to the main GITEX exhibition, Huawei will be hosting its Huawei Middle East Innovation Day 2019 on October 7th. The event will include three sessions: a 5G Ecosystem Conference under the title "5G, Gear Up"; an AI Conference under the theme "Advance Intelligence"; and a "Huawei Developer Day Dubai 2019" session which is focused on building a better ecosystem. The AI Conference will focus on

how enterprises and governments across the region are using Huawei's latest technologies to support industry AI innovation. A series of talks from Huawei's regional customers and partners will offer attendees a glimpse of how more open, collaborative, and sustainable ecosystems are being built to enable digital transformation. The agenda will also include case studies of extraordinary regional projects in which organizations are working to apply AI advancements locally.

Focus Softnet taps Tata Communications' cloud platform to boost expansion

DUBAI: Focus Softnet, the leading software development and enterprise applications provider, today announced that it is partnering with Tata Communications, the leading global digital infrastructure provider to host its cloud-based ERP solutions on the IZO (tm) Private Cloud platform. Tata Communications' IZO Private Cloud platform is enabling Focus Softnet to offer its cloud-based ERP solutions either as a public cloud SaaS solution or as a private cloud option.

"We are proud to partner with Focus Softnet, who is moving their Focus 9 solution to our IZO Private Cloud, after a successful proof of concept on the Tata Communications cloud platform. During the six months of operations after startup, Tata Communications has been actively helping Focus Softnet onboard 40+ new customers," said Rajesh Awasthi, Associate Vice President - Managed Hosting & Cloud Services, Tata Communications.

"Customers globally have common demands such as flexible operational payments, scalability requirements, usage agility, and the option of global delivery anywhere and anytime, which are now met by the IZO Private Cloud platform," explains Ali Hyder, Group CEO of Focus Softnet. "We now have a single point of contact to support our ERP software solutions. With the cloud service, we know immediately if there is a problem and can quickly fix it remotely. There is no need for on-premise visits. Tata Communications' enterprise-grade service and support and its global footprint were deciding factors in our decision to migrate to IZO Private Cloud platform," he adds. Prior to the migrating to Tata Communications' IZO Private Cloud platform, Focus Softnet was offering customers onsite perpetual licensing and was looking for a suitable partner for global hosting of its cloud-based Focus 9 application. With Tata Communications' IZO Private Cloud platform, Focus Softnet is able to offer customers scalability and agility with its cloud software licensing, which is a flexible pay as you go model, and can deliver anytime, anywhere.

Focus Softnet can now provide end to end solution and round-the-clock support for its global customers. When new customers are onboarded, Tata Communications' engineers work closely to understand their needs and size the IZO Private Cloud offering accordingly. Depending on the customer requirements, Tata Communications can offer either a dedicated virtual machine or shared cloud model. "With Tata Communications' IZO Private Cloud, there are no bottlenecks and it is affordable to our small and medium business (SMB) clients. Faster set-up and greater network performance have opened the door to business expansion. We adopted a flexible multi-cloud model to offer the best experience to our clients. This helps cement their loyalty while opening new, recurring revenue streams. The move to Tata Communications' IZO Private Cloud means we get better support everywhere. Their resources make a distinct difference," Hyder reiterated.

Due to its global reach, Tata Communications matched the requirement of having its cloud nodes closest to Focus Softnet's customers, thereby reducing the latency or sluggishness of response to application refresh. The company's customers in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Singapore, Malaysia and India are using Focus Softnet's solutions on the IZO Private Cloud platform. Focus Softnet has adopted a multiple business cloud model from Tata Communications to offer the most stable and cost-effective cloud experience to its current and future global customers.



Ali Hyder

NBK Mega Day to be held on Sept 27 at The Avenues

KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the date of the much awaited annual NBK Mega Day, which will be held on Friday 27th September at the Grand Avenue, The Avenues. This annual event is part of the bank's continued efforts to reward customers with unique campaigns and prizes.

NBK ensures it organizes this special event to invite customers to participate in

the draws of major campaigns launched during the year in addition to announce the upcoming campaigns. The NBK Mega Day will comprise a full day of entertainment for every member of the family, with activities starting from noon and till 8 pm.

During the event, NBK will reveal the winner of KD 250,000 in Al-Jawhara account's quarterly draw under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the supervision and audit of Deloitte. Ten winners will also be revealed as part of the 2019 Summer Campaign, as well as the winner of the GAC car in the NBK Mobile Banking campaign and the winner of the Honda car in the campaign held specifically for Al-Shabab customers.

Speaking of the annual NBK Mega Day, Mohammed Al-Othman, General Manager of Consumer Banking Group, National

Bank of Kuwait said, "NBK organizes this exciting event every year to reward its customers and announce the winners of its largest campaigns of the year, in an aim to constantly communicate with them and remaining the bank of their choice thanks to its superior and advanced products and services." Al-Othman invited everyone to participate in the NBK Mega Day which has become an awaited event for the bank's customers, not only for its raffle draws and grand prizes, but also for the engaging activities that entertain every member of the family. He added that NBK strives to offer its customers unique products and services, complementing them with exclusive draws and prizes that aim at enriching the banking experience received by each customer and their family as well.

NBK provides customers with a wide range of products and services



Mohammed Al-Othman

that suit their lifestyles and offers them benefits and advantages that include the NBK Rewards Program and NBK Miles Program, as well as discounts, ongoing campaigns and many other international services.

The new Renault Master - Boost your business performance

KUWAIT: Renault Middle East recently launched the all new Renault Master in the GCC. Renault Master offers a range of practical features for business owners. The New Renault Master offers 4 different versions that will facilitate and optimize loading capacities for all kind of businesses. The front-wheel drive panel van is available in 2 different dimensions L1H1 and L2H2. The rear wheel drive panel van is available in L4H3. The chassis cab is designed to handle large loads and can accommodate several types of bodyworks.

With this van, all kinds of transports are possible. The diversity of the Master range brings Renault fans an exceptional array of possibilities, from panel vans to chassis cab: tipper, dropside, box unit, ambulances, to name a few.



Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 22nd September 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 15-19 September 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:
Fadhel Abdullah Ghuloum Haidar

The New Master offers an engine adapted to the needs of all professionals. The 2.3L Diesel 125 hp Single Turbo engine is particularly well suited for highway and urban use while supporting important loads. The dynamic performance of the Renault Master makes it one of the best on the market.

In the FWD versions, Renault Master prioritizes usable cargo capacity and road transport. In the RWD version, it is capable of supporting much heavier loads and can adapt to all types of terrains. With its strong and dynamic front end, the New Master embodies efficiency. Expressive lights, grille, dynamic logo, updated lines and a wide bumper maximizing the bodywork protection, the New Master is modernity personified.

A practical and versatile interior

- Renault Master's cockpit is designed for a driver's and 2 passengers' comfort
- Ergonomic controls, adjustable seat and steering wheel to adapt the driving position, air conditioning, optimized soundproofing, multiple storage compartments... Even long journeys are pleasant and relaxing
- The New Master is a true office on wheels with numerous storage areas. All the comfort of a passenger vehicle in the cockpit and modern features: storage on upper center console, glove box, storage on the center

backseat with a rotating tablet ...

- 270 degrees opening rear cargo doors (L2H2 & L4H3), bulkhead with or without window
- For navigation and communication, Renault Master brings the Media Nav2.0, a simple, functional system, with an integrated 7" touch screen.

High-level of safety

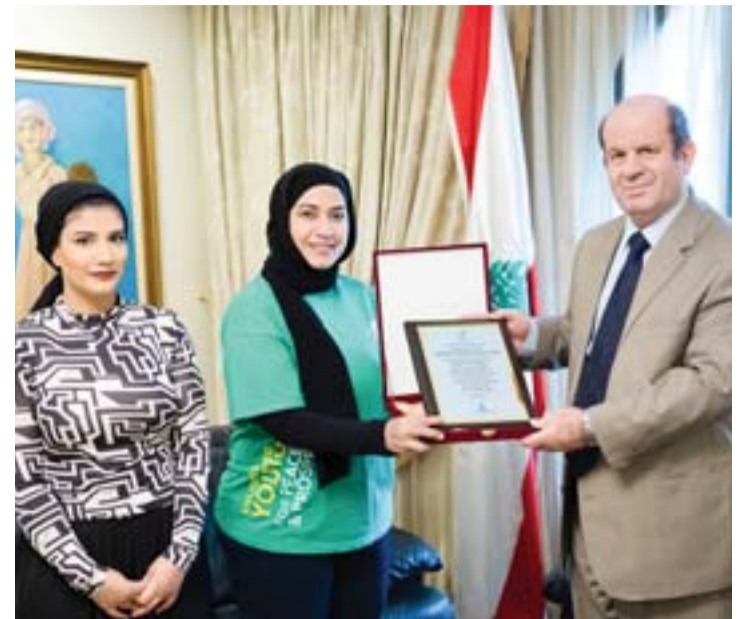
The latest-generation ESP comes as standard on the whole New Master range and has been combined with recent innovations such as Extended Grip and Hill Start Assist. Extended Grip optimizes the road-holding ability on loose road surfaces such as sand and mud. Hill-start assist helps the driver to pull away smoothly even with a full load.

Master offers even more dynamic comfort with the load adaptive control where the ESP takes into consideration whether the vehicle is empty or partly or fully loaded. With the electrohydraulic power-assisted steering, the electro-pump unit improves the vehicle's maneuverability at low speeds and reduces the amount of effort required.

The Renault MASTER has an optimum passive safety system: driver and passenger front airbags, driver side airbag, height-adjustable 3-point seat belts, rear parking sensor and reversing camera.

ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of 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.

What's On



LOYAC celebrates World Peace Day



In celebration of World Peace Day and sponsored by Al-Ahlia Insurance Company, LOYAC volunteers visited a group of embassies of brotherly and friendly countries to express their gratitude and support for efforts to empower youth and contribute to the development of our communities.

The volunteers visited the Embassy of the United States of America, the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, the Embassy of the Republic of Lebanon and the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen.

On her part, Yousra Al-Essa, Director of

the Community Service Department at LOYAC stressed the importance of communication and cultural interaction, and the strengthening of communication and dialogue among peoples, which promotes the principle of peace, which achieves the vision of our humanity leader HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



GUST hosts leadership, master class workshop

By Ben Garcia

The Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) in collaboration with the US Embassy in Kuwait hosted a two-day leadership and master class workshop with American business coach Tom McCarthy. The event 'Win the Game 2019 Event' kicked off yesterday was held from 5 pm to 9 pm at university's main auditorium attended by students, start-ups and budding entrepreneurs.

US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman graced the occasion and said he was happy talking to young Kuwaiti budding entrepreneurs. "Tom McCarthy is here to crystallize their ideas and help them create business plans and market their ideas; I admire these young people for their enthusiasm to learn and create; the priority of the US embassy is to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in Kuwait. These are all essential elements to Kuwait economy," he said.

Silverman pointed out that in Kuwait entrepreneurial skills are strong, yet more needs to be done to encourage them to continue to facilitate their idea forward. "The issue is not about the money, because they have money, but

maybe easing business creation process or permits, to get rid of any red tape or delays, so that people can help share their ideas and make it a reality as quickly as possible. Just by having a good facilitated environment you actually encourage people to create ideas and services. We are also very much into protecting intellectual property, that ideas must be protected so they can get the benefits they deserve. We can see progress in the new laws and regulations," he added.

On his part, Tom McCarthy noted how the government here helps their people to become business entrepreneurs. "I am happy that Kuwaiti government really helps facilitate their young people's desire to create business. However, as many of them would say, the bad side is that they are not creating their own, they copy products of others. Example many are into restaurant business, if one will have restaurant another will open almost similar concepts and so many of them failed or do not succeed," he said.

"We must create something unique, something creative and different and something that your heart should be in it. It's a challenge now here. It's a hard work, but we have to accept that tough times are there and we need to overcome. We have to get the very best people, we need to mold people into better team and work together. How do you handle ups and downs of people where we encounter daily, we must be aware that when people struggle we must be able to help them held their hands and lift them up," he added. Win the Game 2019 Event was hosted by LAUNCH Marketing and management Consulting Company under the leadership of Khalid Al-Zanki.



The Director and the Board members of Diplomatic Women's Committee (DWC) met with the spouse of the Ambassador and the Cultural Attache of the People's Republic of China to present their program for cultural, social and heritage season of 2019/2020, where as DWC events and activities will be focusing on the history of the Silk Road.

DWC programs and monthly events will be aiming to promote and highlight the role of countries that enjoyed historical and geographical links with the history of the Silk Road and to reinforce and coincide with the vision of HH the Amir for 2035 to make "Kuwait a financial center linked to the world through the global project and to make Kuwait a future global financial and cultural center".

Fluffy Pancakes

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups all purpose plain flour
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar or sweetener
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 large egg

INSTRUCTIONS

Combine together the flour, sugar (or sweetener), baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large-sized bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the milk, slightly cooled melted butter, vanilla and egg. Use a wire whisk to whisk the wet ingredients together first before slowly folding them into the dry ingredients. Mix together until smooth (there may be a couple of lumps but that's okay).

Set the batter aside and allow to rest while heating up your pan or griddle. Heat a nonstick pan or griddle over low-medium heat and wipe over with a little butter to lightly grease pan. Pour 1/4 cup of batter onto the pan and spread out gently into a round shape with the back of your ladle or measuring cup.

When the underside is golden and bubbles begin to appear on the surface, flip with a spatula and cook until golden. Repeat with remaining batter. Serve with honey, maple syrup, fruit, ice cream or frozen yoghurt, or enjoy plain!



NOTICE

The TIES Center cordially invites you to another session on the Stories of Prophets on September 26 at 7 pm. In this class, we will discuss the various punitive measures Pharaoh was subjected to, their purpose, and his response. We will also see how he taunted Musa (AS) and why it took so long for Pharaoh and his establishment to be dealt a deadly blow. We will also learn about the Islamic ruling regarding men wear-

ing gold and silken garments, the wisdom behind it, and how it is connected to the lesson. We will see how and why Pharaoh fooled his followers, examine the general identity of those who believed in Musa (AS), why the majority of them hid their faith, the strategy they adopted to flee Egypt, and Pharaoh's reaction when he finally learned about their escape. Come and learn more about the life and times of Prophet Musa (AS) in a serene and relaxed environment.

South Korea confirms fourth case of African swine fever

Virus also keeps spreading in North Korea

SEOUL: South Korea confirmed yesterday its fourth case of African swine fever at a hog farm in a town 40 km north of its capital Seoul, just a week after the deadly disease was first discovered in the country. The agriculture ministry confirmed the fourth case of swine fever in the town of Paju, near the border with North Korea, after reporting the county's third case late on Monday. Since South Korea's first outbreak of African swine fever was discovered on Sept. 17, more than 15,000 pigs have been culled, according to data from the agriculture ministry, or about 0.1% of the country's pig population of 12.3 million pigs.

South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy, has raised its animal disease alert to the highest level following the outbreak and ramped up disinfection measures to try to keep the virus from spreading further. Kim Hyeon-soo, the country's agriculture minister, said, however, that South Korea's quarantine controls had not been strong enough.

He said the government has imposed a transport ban for pig farms across the country for 48 hours from yesterday noon (0300 GMT), but might lengthen the ban. Kim also said the country would increase disinfection efforts in areas bordering North Korea, including in zones controlled by the military. African swine fever was

first discovered in North Korea in May, and it has continued spreading there as well, a South Korean lawmaker said yesterday, despite the impoverished country's efforts to cull pigs and ban distribution of pork.

After North Korea's first outbreak of the highly contagious virus four months ago, it imported disinfectants from overseas, but it has not been able to contain the disease, the lawmaker, Lee Eun-jae, told reporters after being briefed on the matter by the South's spy agency yesterday. In North Korea, which faces chronic food shortages, swine fever has killed all pigs in North Pyongan province, the Yonhap News Agency reported, citing South Korea's intelligence agency. South Korea has yet to determine how or from where African swine fever entered the country, although it is conducting an investigation.

It has also proposed to work together with North Korea to keep the virus from spreading in both countries, but Pyongyang has no responded yet, according to the Unification Ministry in South Korea. African swine fever, nearly 100% fatal to pigs though not harmful to humans, has spread throughout Asia - including to both Korea and to Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines - since first being detected in China in mid-2018, resulting in large-scale culls and lower output of pork. — Reuters

France may face sperm shortage

PARIS: France risks a shortage of frozen sperm if lawmakers approve new legislation that allows single women and lesbian couples access to in-vitro fertilization (IVF) and abolishes the right of sperm and egg donors to keep their identities secret, clinicians said. Lawmakers in the country's National Assembly yesterday start debating a bioethics bill that unwinds some of western Europe's strictest rules governing medically-assisted pregnancies, a campaign promise of President Emmanuel Macron.

Under existing law in France, IVF is available only to opposite-sex couples, and only for reasons of infertility or the risk of transmission of a disease or medical condition to the child or either parent. Health Minister Agnes Buzyn forecasts a roughly two-thirds increase in demand for IVF procedures, with an extra 2,000

women annually registering for treatment.

Couples already wait an average of 12 months from registration to their first attempt at IVF. Clinicians at France's network of public sperm banks (CECOS) said the supply of cryopreserved sperm only just meets demand. Moreover, they predict lifting donor anonymity could prompt three-quarters of registered male and female donors to deny clinics the use of their sperm and eggs under the new rules. "To say 'everything is going to be ok' would be burying your head in the sand," Nathalie Rives, president of the CECOS federation, told Reuters.

"There will be a period of instability, with increased demand and the need to recruit new donors. We don't know how long this instability will last and whether there will be a shortage." The bioethics bill, which would also allow women to freeze their eggs for non-medical reasons to enhance their chances of having children, is Macron's first major societal reform. Medically assisted reproduction - such as IVF - is widely available to all women in countries such as Britain, Belgium, Spain.

But in France, it has fed into a broader debate about the commercialization of healthcare and gay rights. "The right to know one's origins is a vital right, a fundamental right," said Arthur Kermavezen, 35, who turned to DNA tests to track down his biological father and has campaigned for the lifting of anonymity. The legalization of gay marriage in France six years ago sparked massive street protests even though the influence of the Catholic Church was thought to be in decline.

In a sign France has become more socially liberal, polls show a majority of French people back the bioethics reform. Professor Rachel Levy, who runs the CECOS centre at the Tenon Hospital in Paris, said donor anonymity would remain in place for 13 months after the legislation comes into effect in an effort to help sperm banks build up stocks. There would then be a second phase during which existing donors would say if they consent to their cryopreserved sperm being used under the new rules. The samples of those who refuse will be destroyed later. "It's a challenging situation," Levy said. — Reuters

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- 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

مسشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

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

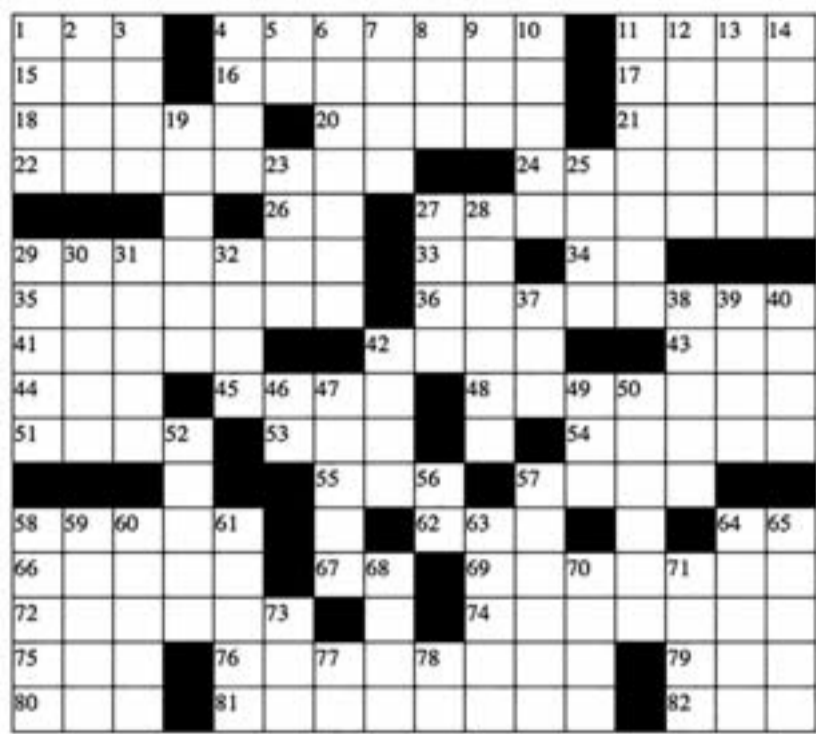
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2316



ACROSS

1. (usually followed by "to") Naturally disposed toward.
 4. Type genus of the Osmeridae.
 11. Occurring widely (as to many people).
 15. The syllable naming the first (tonic) note of any major scale in solmization.
 16. A person who plays the piano.
 17. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
 18. The state prevailing during the absence of war.
 20. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
 21. The outermost (and toughest) of the 3 meninges.
 22. Smearred with something that soils or stains.
 24. Away from the mouth or oral region.
 26. An associate degree in nursing.
 29. Not capable of being swayed or diverted from a course.
 33. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
 34. Half the width of an em.
 35. A republic in West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea.
 36. Of or relating to or characteristic of Bahrain or its people or language.
 41. An utterance expressing pain or disapproval.
 43. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
 44. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
 45. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
 48. Build up to a level by depositing sediment.
 51. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
 53. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
 54. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
 55. An acute inflammatory disease occurring in the intestines of premature infants.
 58. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
 62. Hormone released by the hypothalamus that controls the release of thyroid-stimulating hormone from the anterior pituitary.
 66. The act of using.
 67. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
 69. Regional and archaic.
 72. A shrub or tree of the genus Rhus (usually limited to the non-poisonous members of the genus).
 74. A loose cloak with a hood.
 75. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
 76. An island republic in the west central Pacific just south of the equator.
 79. The first month of the year.
 80. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
 81. Discharge from the external ear.
 82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- DOWN**
1. A system of one or more computers and associated software with common storage.
 2. A composition written in metrical feet forming rhythmical lines.
 3. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
 4. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
 5. A complete metric system of units of measurement for scientists.
 6. Deep purplish red n l.
 7. A town in north central Oklahoma.
 8. (usually followed by "of") Released from something onerous (especially an obligation or duty).
 9. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
 10. A violin made by Antonio Stradivari or a member of his family.
 11. The mother of Jesus.
 12. Earlier a god.
 13. Lean end of the neck.
 14. Relative darkness caused by light rays being intercepted by an opaque body.
 19. A Ukrainian peninsula between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.
 23. A Loloish language.
 25. A coffin along with its stand.
 27. A small cake leavened with yeast.
 28. A port city in southwestern Iran.
 30. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
 31. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
 32. A river in central Italy rising in the Apennines and flowing through Florence and Pisa to the Ligurian Sea.
 37. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
 38. Complacently or inanely foolish.
 39. A quantity of no importance.
 40. The content of cognition.
 42. Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
 46. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
 47. United States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
 49. A change in the electrical properties of the skin in response to stress or anxiety.
 50. A deceitful and unreliable scoundrel.
 52. God of wealth and love.
 56. A New England state.
 57. Marked by excessive self-indulgence and moral decay.
 59. Occurring or encountered or experienced or observed frequently or in accordance with regular practice or procedure.
 60. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
 61. Any of various small chiefly tropical and usually nocturnal insectivorous terrestrial lizards typically with immovable eyelids.
 63. A Hindu prince or king in India.
 64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
 65. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
 68. A person who is entitled by law or by the terms of a will to inherit the estate of another.
 70. English essayist (1775-1834).
 71. A Hindu prince or king in India.
 73. A successful stroke in an athletic contest (especially in baseball).
 77. An artificial language for international use that rejects rejects all existing words and is based instead on an abstract analysis of ideals.
 78. A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are eager to share good some good news. Achievement, ambition and authority are things that take on greater importance. Organizing and administering people and projects will become central to your lifestyle. Career choices and the obvious path that is opening up for you now may grate against your own sense of freedom; there is something to be learned here and listening to that small voice inside your head may be the best path to walk. Some middle road could be found if you search a little more. You make a lot of money for other people through your advice and through your accounting abilities.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a low-energy day that allows you to revise some of your plans, straighten out problems and refurbish your energies. You can work to your best advantage at this time. Planning and setting things up to work in your favor is a positive. You attract money today and have good choices when it comes to investments. Any uncertainty concerning relationships can become better understood. This may mean that a family member needs more control over his or her own life and you could be more encouraging. Matters of freedom are discussions for this evening: freedom of an individual and the responsibility it entails.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your reputation can grow due to your expertise and knowledge. Think about expanding your horizons and opening up to possibilities that you have never considered before. Your timing may not be right when it comes to expressing yourself; meditate. Health and work goals take on greater importance for you now. It may be better to hold off, if at all possible, on decisions concerning career or practical advice to others. You may find this a beneficial time for working, research, music, creative writing or low-key communication with those around you—especially with the very young. Lighthearted entertainment can be appreciated this evening. Perhaps you are surrounded by others whose ideals are similar to your own.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This may be a challenging day. You can, however, use your skills to solve problems. Sorting things out and getting things and people organized keep you busy most of this morning. There is a lot of mental energy churning around all day and it may be hard to put it to work—perhaps list making will help. Circumstances may prove difficult regarding communication, writing, ideas, etc. Things can get tight and you may find it hard to think or study during this time. Walk away from the work at hand by taking your breaks—move, climb stairs, view the sky, etc. You are successful in becoming more practical and conscientious.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There could be a few challenges today as circumstances may block you or bring you to a standstill. It may be easy to work at cross-purposes to your own interests. This is a good time to step back and reevaluate your goals. Taking care of the necessary underpinnings of life—health, work and such—is important. Sorting things out and getting them organized keeps you busy. This afternoon you may find yourself invited to join a competitive group. This could be in performing for others or in some sports activity. The performing would be easy and since high school you have wanted to act in a play or to take a class. As far as the sports, you are good at whatever you set your mind to achieve. Give this opportunity some positive thought.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Being in touch with ideas and people on a large scale is something you enjoy diving into today. You may figure out resolutions to opposing views and you will certainly encourage better relations between people. You may have some real insight into world peace as well. Keep a log of your ideas and send them to your state representative—really! There is a greater than usual interest in social connections now. A cycle of romance and family is present today, emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. You take a survey among family members and friends to discover who might be available for the big turkey day next month.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is an excellent time to concentrate on project planning, education, publishing or the import-export business. Others may seek your expertise. You seek the time to plan some sort of vacation during the holidays. You enjoy snow sports and might consider this time of year, your time. Sometimes the planning is just as much fun as the vacation itself. A feeling of being at peace and stable on the emotional level comes to your attention and you tend to become more relaxed as vacation time is getting close. This may only mean that you will take a few ski trips over the long weekends this winter. You are moved to appreciate and discover new and admirable things about someone you love—perhaps a parent, perhaps a long-time friend.



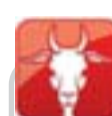
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You know a secure opportunity when you see one and are willing to put forth the work it takes to see the results of growth and stability. With a good mind for business and a strong desire to become financially secure, you might enjoy working in the world of finance. Financial speculation can be risky, but offers big rewards. Big changes are present where your creative processes are concerned—as if you are tearing things down to rebuild them anew. You are intense—perhaps driven. Romantic relationships have a fated, charismatic element about them now. Someone you love, or are infatuated with, is changing in fundamental ways.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You like organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. There are motivating energies to feel better, to gain more energy and to generally improve regarding work issues and the physical body. Health goals are important and you may look into optional avenues to better health; it is good to have a choice. Do an inventory, seek advice and enjoy busying yourself with new ideas for all of the above. There could be positive changes affecting your sense of security, self-confidence and family. You may find yourself with home improvement projects this winter—working through the rough edges and getting down to lasting values.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. Your analytical abilities are at a high point. Statistics are a big part of your workday. Ideals and a sense of belonging to something bigger than the merely personal become a greater focus this afternoon. You enjoy friendships and taking part in group activities that center on optimistic goals. Meeting yourself in another person is the keynote of a new cycle that begins for you now. Relationships—romantic, business, social—are the arena where this drama could be played. In coming to know the other person, forging ties that bind two people, you come to a better understanding of yourself.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job. Your management abilities are in high focus. You could be most persuasive with others at this time. You feel inspired and this is an excellent time to follow your creative muse. Look for ways to eliminate unnecessary or nonproductive situations from your life. Take a well-defined position in ethical matters. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions concerning group issues.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your intelligence is the key ingredient to instigating a change in the workplace. You are able to draw or list examples that will encourage employees or customers to move the merchandise right off the shelf. Business is profitable and is showing no signs of slowing down. It could be a few new inventions have hit the marketplace. If you need a loan, this is a good time to apply for a loan or begin a project. Take the time to read all contracts and let things develop slowly. Material things and the whole concept of value take on an appeal. Financial security and enjoying the finer things in life, appreciating and creating things others long to have assume a high priority. You and your loved one may enjoy attending a social function this evening.

Wordsearch Puzzle

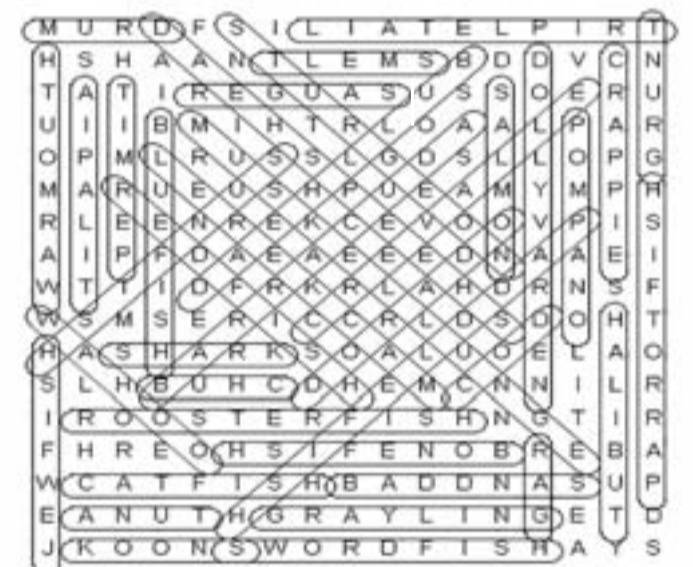
Fish 2

Find and circle all of the fish that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Benjamin Franklin quotation.



- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| AMBERJACK | CROAKER | PICKEREL | SOLE |
| BASS | DOLPHIN | PIKE | SPEARFISH |
| BLUEGILL | FLounder | POLLOCK | STEELHEAD |
| BONITO | GOLDFISH | PORGY | TARPON |
| BOWFIN | GROUper | PUMPKINSEED | TROUT |
| BUFFALO | HADDOCK | ROCKFISH | TUNNY |
| BURBOT | HOUNDfISH | SAILfISH | WALLEYE |
| CARP | LINGCOD | SHAD | WEAKFISH |
| CHAR | MARLIN | SHEEFISH | WHITEFISH |
| CISCO | PERCH | SNAPPER | YELLOWTAIL |
| COBIA | | | |

Fish 1



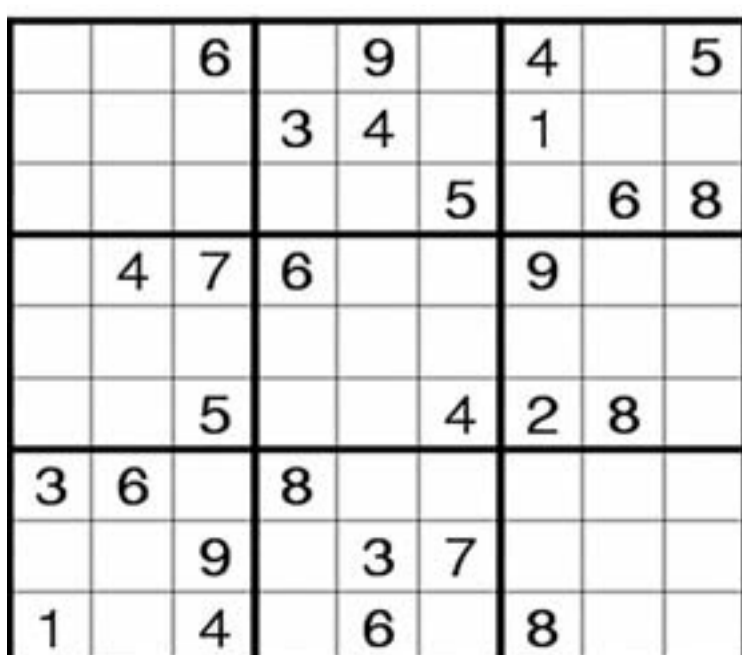
- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| BARRACUDA | DORADO | PARROTFISH | SMELT |
| BLUEFISH | DRUM | PERMIT | SNOOK |
| BONEFISH | GAR | POMPANO | STURGEON |
| BULLHEAD | GRAYLING | REDFISH | SUNFISH |
| CATFISH | GRUNT | ROOSTERFISH | SWORDFISH |
| CHUB | HALLIBUT | SALMON | TILAPIA |
| COD | JEWfISH | SAND DAB | TRIPLETAIL |
| CRAPPIE | MACKEREL | SAUGER | TUNA |
| CREVALLE | MUSKELLUNGE | SHARK | WAHOO |
| DOLLY VARDEN | PADDFLEFISH | SHEEPSHEAD | WARMOUTH |

The hidden sentence is: FISH AND VISITORS SMELL IN THREE DAYS

Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019



Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex dance as they arrive for a visit to 'Justice desk,' an NGO in the township of Nyanga in Cape Town.

Harry and Meghan join S Africa's fight against gender violence

Prince Harry on Monday urged South African men to turn their back on toxic masculinity as his wife Meghan applauded girls for "standing up for what's right," as the British royal couple launched their first official tour since becoming parents in May. The pair joined campaigners in Cape Town fighting South Africa's stratospheric rates of violence against women on the first stage of a 10-day swing through southern Africa. Prince Harry, Meghan and baby Archie landed by commercial flight from London before heading to Nyanga—a township crippled by gang violence and the highest murder rate in the country, and a far cry from Cape Town's image for pristine beaches and rolling vineyards.

A small excited crowd gathered to greet the royal pair as they arrived to visit Justice Desk, a human rights charity, where they surprised young girls in the middle of a self-defense class. South Africa is one of the world's most dangerous places, particularly for women. At least 137 sexual offenses are committed per day, according to official figures. In August alone, more than 30 women were killed by their spouses. President Cyril Ramaphosa has vowed to crack down on perpetrators after "femicide" protests flared across the country this month.

Prince Harry, clad in a light-blue linen shirt and sneakers, joined Meghan, in a patterned black-and-white dress, as they hugged children and danced with them before entering the charity premises. Surprised girls yanked off their boxing gloves to hear the couple speak. "Touching

on what your President said last week—no man is born to cause harm to women," said Prince Harry. "It's about redefining masculinity, it's about creating your own footprints for your children to follow in, so that you can make a positive change for the future."

Meghan, a mixed-race American who has been advocating women's rights long before marrying Harry in 2017, congratulated girls "standing up for what's right in the face of adversity". "While I'm here with my husband and as a member of the royal family, I am here as a mother, a wife, a woman of color and your sister," she added, prompting cheers from the crowd. Demonstrations in South Africa have been mounting over the rising toll of murders, rapes and abuse of women and girls, and a sense of impunity that surrounds it.

A walk through history

The couple later toured District Six museum, a memorial to the expulsion of some 60,000 non-white residents from the city centre during apartheid. The Duke and Duchess—who describes herself as "half black and half white"—were thrust into South Africa's history and life under the apartheid regime, which classed and divided people according to their skin color. Those defined as "black" or "coloured" were considered second-class citizens and only allowed in "white-only" areas provided they had a pass.

"To have the royal couple here helps to unite people

and... look past the pain, especially because we're a diverse culture," Gabriela Wiener, a spokeswoman for District Six, told AFP. Crowds lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the pair. For some in South Africa, the presence of a royal with mixed heritage could make this visit particularly special. "My mom really wanted to be here, that's why we came. Meghan is a role model to me and my sister," said Shazia Ebrahim, a 22-year-old architect student standing outside District Six.

Her mother Mishkah Ebrahim, 55, told AFP she regularly followed the couple's life. After the tour, Harry and Meghan walked to an annex of the museum built for former residents to share memories and cook together. "Meghan came over, took my hands in her hands and looked me in the eye. It felt so natural, it was a very special moment," said Mishkah.

Archie Ntsika

While he has yet to make an appearance, the trip marks Archie's first major public outing since his birth in May. At less than five months old, the baby will become one of the youngest royals to take part in an official visit. The duke and duchess have largely kept their son out of the spotlight, and some royal fans felt cheated when his christening was held privately. He last appeared in public on the sidelines of a royal charity polo match in July. Justice Desk posted a video message on Twitter to welcome the baby.

"We know the Duke loves South Africa, and as a

proudly South African gift to baby Archie we want to give him the name 'Ntsika'... which means bold and brave." The family is to remain together until Wednesday, when Harry will travel alone to Botswana, Angola and Malawi. He will visit conservation and HIV prevention projects, and a cleared minefield in Angola through which his late mother Princess Diana famously crossed in 1997.

Therapy beach

Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, on the second day of a whirlwind African tour, plan to spend yesterday morning at Monwabisi beach near Cape Town meeting young surfers who use the ocean as therapy for youth at risk. Harry will later in the trip rekindle memories of the couple's courtship in Botswana and of his mother Diana in Angola. Prior to Monday's event, Meghan, a former actress, had only one official engagement since giving birth to son Archie in May.



Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex attend a dinner at the District Six Homecoming Centre in Cape Town.

Waves for Change (W4C), founded by avid surfer Tim Conibear as a small surfing club in Masiphumelele township in 2009, uses surfing as a way to build trust and confidence among youth living in poor and violent communities. After visiting the W4C compound, which also houses the Lunchbox Fund charity benefiting from public donations made when the royals' son Archie Mountbatten Windsor was born, Harry will meet members of Cape Town city's marine unit to learn more of their efforts in fighting rampant abalone poaching along the Cape Peninsula.

Harry, Queen Elizabeth's grandson and sixth in line to the throne, has been visiting southern Africa for two decades for holidays and conservation work. He will travel on alone for a working visit to Botswana, where the couple went shortly after they began dating in July 2016 and returned in 2017 for a romantic getaway to celebrate Meghan's 36th birthday. Harry then heads to Angola, visiting the landmine clearance project that featured in some of the most famous photographs of his late mother, Princess Diana. He ends the solo section of his tour in Malawi, where he will meet President Mutharika, before rejoining Meghan and Archie in South Africa for another township visit, this time near Johannesburg. —Agencies



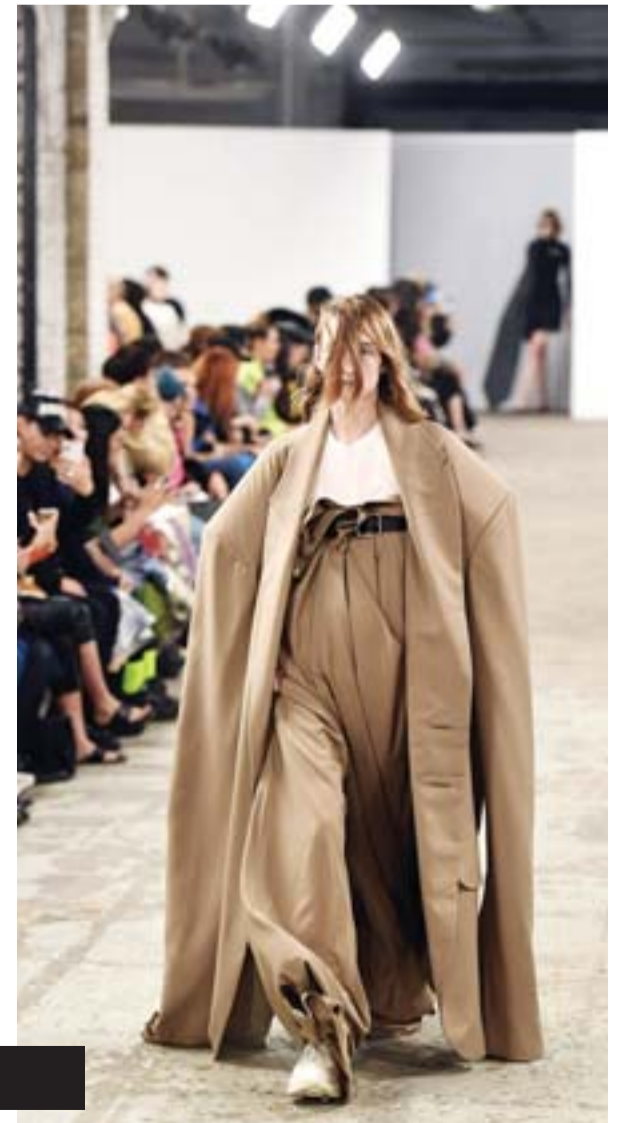
Prince Harry (up, 5th left), Duke of Sussex and Meghan, center, Duchess of Sussex, pose with members of 'Waves For Change' NGO at Monwabisi Beach outside of Cape Town. — AFP photos



Korean-born Paris-based designer Kiminte Kimhekim acknowledges the crowd after the Kimhekim fashion show during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



PARIS
FASHION WEEK



Models present creations by Kimhekim during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.



Models present creations by Marine Serre during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.



Models present creations during the Alexandra Moura Spring-Summer 2020 fashion show presented in Milan.

PORTUGAL'S MOURA PAYS TRIBUTE TO COD FISHERMEN AT MILAN FASHION CLOSE

Portuguese designer Alexandra Moura closed Milan Fashion Week on Monday with a tribute to her country's cod fishermen, presenting a spring collection for women and men inspired by the sea. With the sound of seagulls as a backdrop, Moura unveiled designs that reflected the fishermen's work and lifestyle in the line called "Gadidae", the name given to the family of codfish. Square jackets were matched to cargo shorts or cropped wide-leg trousers and, like dark-colored dresses and skirts in the Spring/Summer 2020 collection, were adorned in pockets and zips giving a practical feel to the clothes.

Some dresses had small detachable pouches on them. There were also anoraks in block colors and two-tone denim jacket and short combinations, and the odd gingham print. Dresses came in floral tapestry-like prints, reminiscent of the carpets hanging outside fishermen's homes, show notes read, where the codfish, a Portuguese culinary specialty, usually dry out in the sun.

Other dresses were white and in lighter cotton and linen, with unfinished hems, or black and see-through. One see-through evening coat appeared as a lighter version of a nautical jacket. "This collection is driven by the contrast between different fishing techniques and its people throughout the 20th century," the show notes read. "Influences of working clothes' utilitarian details and the fishermen's everyday clothes counteract today's oversized fitting and sportswear clothes."

Moura used a color palette of mainly cobalt and dark blue, black, orange, red and dark earthy tones. Footwear consisted of trainers that were given a worn feel, and one bag came fish-shaped. Milan Fashion Week was the third leg of the month-long Spring/Summer 2020 womenswear catwalk calendar that began in New York and also includes London and Paris. The six-day event, where the likes of Italian fashion power houses Prada, Giorgio Armani, Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci and Versace presented their latest designs on the runway, also included the Green Carpet Fashion Awards on Sunday night.

The awards are aimed at promoting environmental sustainability in the fashion industry, where an increasing number of brands are seeking to improve their



Portuguese designer Alexandra Moura acknowledges applause at the end of her Spring-Summer 2020 fashion show presented in Milan. — AFP photos

green credentials amid more ecologically aware consumers. Winners included veteran Italian designer Valentino Garavani, 87, who was given the Legacy Award while British designer Stella McCartney, who is known for her animal-friendly fashion ethics, received the Groundbreaker Award. Fashionistas now head to Paris, the last stop for this season.—Reuters



Lifestyle | Features



In these photos Afghan breakdancers take part in a practice session at the French Cultural Centre in Kabul. — AFP photos

The breakdancers of Kabul: Afghan youth busting moves

In the land of suicide bombings, burqas, and unending war, a group of Afghans have turned to breakdancing for stress relief and self-expression—even as fears the Taliban could yet return to power fuel worries of a renewed crackdown on the arts. At the French Cultural Centre in Kabul, the group takes turns practicing the basics—toprocking, headspins, and freezes, while watching YouTube videos on their phones of famous b-boys like Lilou and Hong Ten for inspiration.

"Breakdancing keeps us away from stress and war. It gives us freedom. It frees our minds from the stress of living in Kabul and we forget about the war and killings," explains Murtaza Lomani, 23, from the Top Step crew. Still, breakdancing is a rare sight in the fiercely conservative Islamic society, where traditional folk music mostly dominates the radiowaves and dancing takes place mainly at gender-segregated weddings.

The cultural centre is one of the few places in the Afghan capital where the mixed-gender Top Step crew are able to practice and feel relatively safe, Lomani says. But even here there are risks. Just five years ago, the centre was attacked by the Taliban as it hosted a play about suicide bombings, where Lomani was among the injured.

Breaking barriers

For Heja Aalia, who says she is one of just four female breakdancers in Kabul, there are other worries. "If I train outdoors in our society, people insult you," says Aalia, adding that many young women are interested in breakdancing but are unable to get permission from their families to try it out. "It's really difficult for a girl to practice breakdance, especially in Afghanistan where people think dance is against Islamic culture."

The sport first originated in New York's Bronx borough in the 1970s, where "breaking" along with rap music and graffiti art formed the pillars of hip hop culture that has gone on to dominate everything from pop music to fashion



worldwide in the ensuing decades. But while the rest of the world was quick to embrace that culture, decades of war and hardline Taliban rule in the 1990s prevented the phenomenon from taking root in Afghanistan.

"Afghan society has changed a bit in recent years, the generations have changed and people are thinking positively," says Lomani, who admits that many laughed at their dance moves when they first started in 2011. "But we have convinced some youth and now it is really good that we practise," he adds. Fellow Top Step member Obaidullah Koofi, 24, says he first got interested in breakdancing after seeing videos online. "We learn our new moves from YouTube, and YouTube is our mentor because we do not have any trainer here to... teach us," he says. However

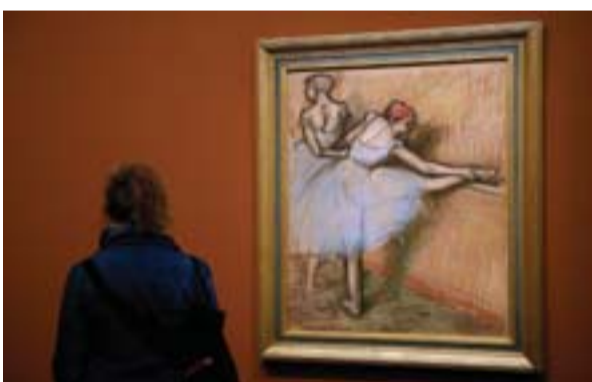
there are fears that it all may change soon.

Taliban shuffle

After 18 years of war, the United States spent the last year locked in negotiations with the Taliban, seeking a deal that could see a gradual withdrawal of US-led forces from Afghanistan. The deal was, temporarily at least, taken off the table after President Donald Trump declared the talks "dead" earlier this month. Instead, Afghans are now gearing up for a presidential election set for Saturday, when incumbent Ashraf Ghani and main rival Abdullah Abdullah will be seeking a strong mandate to negotiate with the Taliban as they seek a lasting peace.

However Washington's desire to end its longest war has

been made clear, and Afghans are still apprehensive that a hasty US exit—with or without a deal—might allow the long-feared Islamists, who have been resurgent on the battlefield in recent years, to regain some semblance of power in Kabul. "If the Taliban come none of us can continue," says Aalia. But despite those fears, and the backlash against female breakdancers, she has vowed to continue. "One day if the Taliban comes, we can stop this publicly," she says. "But we will practice breakdancing underground or secretly."—AFP



Visitors look at paintings made around by French painter Edgar Degas, during the press visit of the exhibition 'Degas at the Opera' at the Museum of Orsay, in Paris. — AFP photos

Degas and his dancers: New show demolishes myth

It has always been assumed that Edgar Degas worked in the wings and rehearsal rooms of the Paris Opera to produce his staggering pictures of its dancers. But, like the ballets themselves, it turns out that his behind-the-scenes masterpieces were a brilliant illusion. "All his scenes of the Opera are phantasmagoric," said Henri Loyrette, former head of the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

A huge new show at the Orsay put together by the French art historian reveals that Degas hardly ever sketched in the theatre, never mind backstage. While "the painter of dancers" haunted the opera and its ballet for nearly 40 years, drinking in all the glamour and the grime, the socially awkward introvert remained mostly in the shadows. It was from there that he observed dancers and their predatory "patrons" as well as the mothers who often pimped their daughters to rich and powerful men, Loyrette said.

In fact, experts cannot find any evidence that Degas got a backstage pass until later in his life. Instead he created "his own Opera... through the filter of memory and his imagination" back in his studio, Loyrette told AFP, hiring the opera's dancers—its "little rats" as they were called—as models. His genius was to give the impression you are there, witnessing reality, said Loyrette, chief curator of "Degas at the Opera", which opens Tuesday.

'I am a little ashamed'

"Things that seem truer than nature were completely invented," he added, constructed from moments the wealthy Degas witnessed from his box or front-row seat. Degas admitted as much himself in a letter to a friend: "I have done so many of these dance examinations without ever seeing them that I am a little ashamed." "Even if he

didn't go into these spaces he creates a reality that feels so true and honest that it becomes reality," said co-curator Kimberly Jones, of the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, where the show will transfer next March.

While his Impressionist peers painted in front of the action, Degas scorned their attempts at realism. "We see what we want to see," the artist wrote. "It's false, and that fakeness is art." Yet his unflinching depictions of the dancers and how they suffered for their art caused a scandal at the time. His hyper-realistic sculpture of the "Little Dancer Aged Fourteen"—whose subject Marie Van Goethem probably went straight from the stage to the brothel—was condemned as "frightfully ugly... and marked by the hateful promise of every vice."



Jones said that it was clear from his work that Degas respected the dancers' sweat and sacrifice. While other rich men tried to use them as sexual playthings, Degas "was a gentleman, never rude or crass. He wasn't pinching their bums, it was always very professional."

Predators in the wings

If they had any complaint it was the long hours they had to spend before his easel and sketchpad so he could immortalize every gesture and detail of their tortured bodies. Often dismissed as a misogynist who had a "scorn and loathing" for women, co-curator Marine Kiesel believes that Degas may have cultivated a forbidding front "so he would be left alone". In fact, he had a long record of treating female artists like Mary Cassatt and Berthe Morisot as equals, of even championing them, she said—"something that could not be said of most of his contemporaries."

Degas' "depiction of the dancers shows an uncommon regard for the female body and for their lives. He shows them with their predators and unmasked" the trap many found themselves in, she told AFP. Jones said that today Degas might be regarded as "asexual or demisexual". "I don't think sex was very important for him. He put all his passion into the art. "He was a difficult person, and he could be cruel. But he wasn't so much a misogynist as a misanthrope," she added.

"He did have close relationships with women and counted many in his circle of friends, but there wasn't a physical component to it." Having dedicated most of his life to the Paris Opera, Degas appears to have quit it forever in 1892. Although he never liked its gilded new Belle Epoque home in the Opera Garnier, it was the "Sturn und Drang" of Wagner's operas that drove him away, Loyrette reckons.

"He was quite patriotic and Wagner had said some not very nice things about France during the Franco-Prussian war" of 1870, which Germany won. But even as he lost his eyesight, the opera remained his great theme, the historian said, and it "haunted his work till the end". "The opera was to Degas what Tahiti was to Gauguin," he said.—AFP



Classifieds

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

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 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 24/09/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	32 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	27 °C			
ABDALY	44 °C	26 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	45 °C	31 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	44 °C	32 °C			
AHMADI	38 °C	33 °C			
NUWAISIB	45 °C	27 °C			
WAFRA	46 °C	24 °C			
SALMY	44 °C	25 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	09/25	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	43 °C	24 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	09/26	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for mist/fog/mist at night	43 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Friday	09/27	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	42 °C	22 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Saturday	09/28	Hot	46 °C	25 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:18
Sunrise	05:38
Zuhr	11:40
Asr	15:07
Sunset	17:43
Isha	19:00

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	25 °C
MAX. RH	85 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	N 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHD HUSSAIN REZAYE, (Civil ID no. 271012401914) have changed my name from NASER ABBAS REZA to MOHD HUSSAIN REZAYE, hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5594) 25-9-2019

FLR-2, Ashok Niwas, Nawroji RD-5, Mumbai-400009. At present residing in Kuwait hereby declare that henceforth my name is read as given name: MIRAHUSSAIN ABDUL LATIF and surname: ALVI. (C 5678)

I, Harpreet S/o Dalip Kumar R/o V. Khojewala, Po. Khaira Majja, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab, India. Have changed my name from Harpreet to Harpreet Kumar. (C 5677) 24-9-2019

Airlines	
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 25/9/2019					Departure Flights on Wednesday 25/9/2019				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	KAC 614	Bahrain	12:30	NIA	1504	Asyut
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	MSR 610	Cairo	12:45	KIS	6033	Mashhad
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	CLX 7912	Luxembourg	12:45	TBZ	6606	Mashhad
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	UAE 871	Dubai	12:45	IAW	158	Dubai
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KAC 774	Riyadh	13:35	RBG	554	Alexandria
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR 212	Jeddah	13:45	JZR	115	Doha
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	RBG 213	Sohag	13:55	SAW	702	Damascus
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	KAC 672	Dubai	14:00	MSR	611	Cairo
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	UAE 877	Mashhad	14:05	THY	767	Istanbul
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR 152	Riyadh	14:10	UAE	872	Dubai
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC 512	Bahrain	14:15	CLX	7912	Hanoi
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:15	RBG	218	Asyut
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:15	KNE	382	Taif
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	FDB 059	Dubai	14:20	GFA	222	Bahrain
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	QTR 1078	Doha	14:25	KAC	673	Dubai
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC 364	Colombo	14:35	JZR	103	Bahrain
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	KAC 286	Dhaka	14:35	FDB	060	Dubai
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KAC 304	Mumbai	14:45	UAE	878	Dubai
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	JZR 222	Riyadh	14:45	QTR	1079	Doha
JZR	502	Lahore	02:55	KAC 562	Amman	14:50	SVA	501	Jeddah
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:55	KAC 618	Doha	14:50	JZR	125	Dubai
KAC	784	Amman	03:05	KAC 540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	KNE	530	Jeddah
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC 788	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	105	London
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC 512	Mashhad	14:55	KAC	563	Amman
NIA	1604	Luxor	03:10	KAC 118	New York	15:00	JZR	405	Kochi
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:05	KAC	743	Dammam
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC 412	Bangkok	15:10	KAC	775	Riyadh
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	KAC	128	Sharjah
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	OMA 645	Muscat	15:20	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:35	OMA	646	Muscat
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	785	Jeddah
RBG	1153	Asyut	04:10	JZR 222	Riyadh	15:50	KAC	619	Doha
ETH	3424	Bahrain	04:15	KAC 562	Amman	15:50	SVA	501	Jeddah
KAC	796	Madinah	04:25	KAC 618	Doha	16:00	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	KAC 540	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:00	KNE	530	Madinah
JZR	1738	Cairo	04:45	KAC 788	Jeddah	16:10	SVA	505	Dubai
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	MSR 575	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:10	FDB	052	Doha
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	KAC 502	Beirut	16:15	QTR	1073	Bahrain
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	QTR 1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	361	Colombo
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10	SAW 705	Damascus	17:00	KAC	155	Istanbul
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	JZR 116	Doha	17:05	KAC	503	Beirut
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	JZR 116	Doha	17:05	UAE	858	Dubai
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	OMS 225	Muscat	17:10	KAC	283	Dhaka
RBG	215	Sohag	05:35	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:10	OMS	226	Muscat
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	343	Chennai
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	JZR 214	Jeddah	17:35	KAC	381	Delhi
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	KAC 158	Istanbul	17:50	SAW	706	Damascus
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR 104	Bahrain	18:00	SVA	511	Riyadh
JZR	708	Luxor	06:15	QTR 1080	Doha	18:10	KAC	615	Bahrain
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	MSR 620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	721	Alexandria
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	UAE 875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	216	Bahrain
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	FDB 063	Dubai	19:05	JZR	127	Dubai
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	403	Hyderabad
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	RJA 640	Amman	19:05	JZR	733	Cairo
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	JZR 306	Istanbul	19:20	JZR	253	Amman
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:20	QTR	1081	Doha
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC 744	Dammam	19:25	MSR	621	Cairo
JZR	724	Alexandria	07:50	KAC 674	Dubai	19:45	FDB	064	Dubai
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:45	GFA	218	Bahrain
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	FDB 057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC 104	London	20:00	ABY	124	Sharjah
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	KAC 166	Rome	20:00	RJA	641	Amman
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KNE 381	Taif	20:00	FDB	058	Dubai
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	OMA 647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	351	Kochi
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	NIA 1503	Asyut	20:10	JZR	401	Mumbai
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:10	UAE	876	Doha
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:15	MEA 402	Beirut	20:15	KNE	232	Riyadh
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	JZR 126	Dubai	20:20	KAC	353	Bengaluru
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	KAC 620	Doha	20:30	DLH	624	Dammam
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	QTR 1088	Doha	20:40	OMA	648	Muscat
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	RBG 217	Asyut	20:55	NIA	1406	Sohag
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	KAC 172	Frankfurt	21:00	MEA	403	Beirut
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	KLM 445	Amsterdam	21:00	KAC	301	Mumbai
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:10	RBG	214	Dubai
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE 859	Dubai	21:15	QTR	1089	Doha
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	JZR 128	Colombo	21:15	DHX	171	Bahrain
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC 168	Paris	21:20	KAC	205	Islamabad
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:00	THY 764	Istanbul	21:30	KLM	445	Bahrain

8 babies killed in Algeria hospital fire

ALGIERS: Eight babies were killed when a fire ripped through a maternity hospital in eastern Algeria before dawn yesterday, emergency services said. "We managed to rescue 11 babies, 107 women and 28 staff" after the 3:50 am (0250 GMT) fire in the hospital in Oued Souf, 500 km southeast of Algiers, spokesman Captain Nassim Bernaoui told AFP. "Unfortunately we regret the deaths of eight babies, some from burns and others from smoke inhalation," he said, adding that the entire hospital had been evacuated.

Dozens of fire engines were deployed to bring the blaze under control. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear, Bernaoui said. According to Algerian public television, preliminary enquiries suggested an electric anti-mosquito device short-circuited and caused the fire. Images of charred children's wards were published by local media. Private television channel Ennahar TV aired footage of Oued Souf residents protesting outside the hospital watched by the security forces.

An Ennahar TV presenter read poignant testimony from a father of two of the babies killed: "After seven

months of marriage, my wife gave birth to twins in the night, (they) died in the early morning." This was the first time "in memory" that infants had died in a hospital fire, several doctors told AFP. It was the second blaze to hit the maternity hospital in Oued Souf in 16 months. A fire in May last year caused significant damage but no casualties.

Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui ordered an inquiry and sent Health Minister Mohamed Miraoui to the scene, Algerian television reported. Bedoui offered his condolences to the families. The health minister ordered the suspension of the district health director, the director of the hospital and the hospital's security team, Algerian television reported.

A quarter of Algeria's budget is allocated to the health sector. It has 70,000 public hospital beds and 10,000 private ones, for a population that passed 43 million in January. For the past four years, Algeria has experienced a baby boom, with nearly a million newborns a year. The resurgence of the birth rate comes after a sharp fall during the 1990s, when a decade-long civil war killed 200,000 Algerians. — AFP



OUED SOUF, Algeria: An image grab from footage yesterday shows firemen at the scene of blaze at a maternity hospital in this eastern town. — AFP

Businessman roils Egypt from exile with viral videos

CAIRO: Viral videos posted online by an Egyptian businessman this month accusing President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and the military of corruption have sparked rare and spontaneous protests opposing his rule, and led to hundreds of arrests. Mohamed Aly, 45, a fledgling actor alongside his construction business, claimed in his first video on Sept 2 that Egypt's military under Sisi's direction has misspent millions of Egyptian pounds in public funds. He also alleges the military owes him hundreds of millions of pounds for

projects his company Amlaak Group was assigned to build, including palatial residences for Sisi.

Aly - who says he fled to Spain a year ago - has not provided any hard evidence to back up his claims. And Sisi has rejected the allegations as "lies and slander". In a fresh one-minute clip on Monday, Aly said he is on the run for his explosive accusations, after pinpointing some locations of the luxurious guesthouses and palaces in Cairo and other Egyptian cities on the Mediterranean. And he has gradually upped the ante with his videos.

After the small-scale demonstrations erupted at the weekend, he implored Egyptians to join a "million-man march" on Friday to unseat Sisi. "This is a people's revolution... We have to link up together as one... and organise going down to the major squares," he said in a Facebook appeal. His 30-minute-long videos viewed and shared by millions mainly on Facebook and YouTube have spurred

fierce debate online about the military's vast economic interests. The discussion spilled over into rare, scattered protests gathering several hundred people in various cities on Friday and Saturday chanting "Leave Sisi".

Egypt has effectively banned protests since a law was passed following the military's ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013. But hundreds heeded Aly's calls to take to the streets after a highly anticipated football derby last Friday between rival Cairo powerhouses Al Ahly and Zamalek. It took authorities by surprise. Security forces responded firing tear gas and rubber bullets in Suez the following night and arresting over 500 people nation-wide over the last week according to human rights groups.

In almost daily installments of his videos, Aly appears with his shirt unbuttoned halfway and furiously smoking Marlboro cigarettes mocking Sisi in rambling expletive-filled monologues. Referring to Sisi in his first video on

September 2, he alleged: "You are throwing away billions and your men are wasting millions". In a July profile in the Spanish edition of Vanity Fair magazine, the mercurial businessman is described as a "Catalan Pharaoh" who came from humble beginnings in Cairo. Aly divulged ambitious plans to build a university on the Spanish coast in the shape of a glass Pyramid.

In many videos, he says he worked for the Egyptian military for around 15 years. Pictures of completed projects carried out by his firm for the armed forces can be seen on his company's website. AFP has repeatedly reached out to Aly's media representatives in Barcelona, but has not received a reply from him. The former headquarters of Amlaak Group, a two-storey villa in an upmarket Cairo suburb, was abandoned when AFP inspected earlier this month. It was cleared out two years ago according to the landlord who said he had limited dealings with Aly. — AFP

In Lebanon, return of 'collaborators'...

Continued from Page 1

in absentia for collaborating with Israel. He was detained shortly after his arrival.

A committee comprised of relatives of exiled SLA members estimates that between 2,400 and 2,700 Lebanese still live in Israel, around 1,200 of them Christians from Qlayaa. Others moved on from Israel and resettled in third countries including Sweden, Germany and Canada. Most of them had left Lebanon as the Israeli

army retreated, for fear of reprisals from the groups they once fought - particularly Hezbollah.

Years have passed but cross-border tensions still run high between Hezbollah and Israel, such as a cross-border exchange of fire early this month that sparked fears of a broader conflagration. Those who sided with the occupation are not widely welcomed in the south. Some residents claim they have severed all ties with their exiled relatives because they "don't want trouble" and fear being accused of spying.

"Every Lebanese has the right to return to their homeland," argued Amin Said, a local official from Qlayaa who has relatives in Israel. "Let those who have blood on their hands face trial, whatever their affiliations." But Said admitted that his case is rarely heard. "The issue of the exiles is a forgotten one," he says. "We have no leverage

here, nor do we represent any kind of electoral opportunity." In 2011, parliament passed a bill enabling the return of Lebanese citizens residing in Israel, but its implementation mechanisms are still under scrutiny at the justice ministry.

Less than five kilometres from Qlayaa lies Khiyam, a mostly Shiite village where Israel and its SLA proxy used to run the prison whose name became a by-word for abuse and torture. The prison now lies in ruins and Fakhoury is in detention. Survivors and relatives of former detainees accuse him of torture against Lebanese and Palestinian inmates.

The SLA was formed in 1976 as a splinter from the Lebanese army, whose ranks were divided a year after the start of the civil war. Initially it was called the Free Lebanon Army. The conflict shifted dramatically when Israel invaded the south in 1978 and the militia started

taking its orders from the Israeli army. The wounds that created, especially in the south, are still fresh.

Fakhoury's return to Lebanon immediately prompted protests, including one in the yard of the old Khiyam prison where demonstrators denounced "the return of the collaborators". "They're not exiles, they're traitors," snapped Sekna Bazzi during the small protest, which was held on Sept 15, four days after Fakhoury's arrest. A woman now in her fifties, she was detained in the Israeli-run prison for four years for "collaborating with the resistance" - a reference to Hezbollah - and eventually released in 1991. "All those who call for their return are also traitors," Bazzi told AFP, wearing a headscarf and a long black garment. "They have no right to return. We don't want them here, and we don't want their children." — AFP

First Arab set for ISS says voyage...

Continued from Page 1

Skipochka, first-time flyer Meir and Mansoori will join a six-member crew on the ISS and for a brief peri-

od of time the ISS will be home to nine astronauts. Meir, 42, said it was "quite an achievement" for the United Arab Emirates to have a man in space, given that its program is so new. She said the crew communicated by using "Runglish" - a mixture of Russian and English. "We still need to work on our Arabic," she joked. Mansoori is set to return to Earth with NASA's Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinnikov on Oct 3. Skipochka and Meir are set to remain on the ISS until the spring of 2020. — AFP

He also said the United States was watching China's handling of Hong Kong, the financial hub where protesters have taken to the streets against attempts to infringe on its special status. "The world fully expects that the Chinese government will honor its binding treaty... (and) protect Hong Kong's freedom and legal system and democratic ways of life," he said.

Trump renewed his attack on international governance. "The future does not belong to globalists. The future belongs to patriots," Trump said. Backing Trump was Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right bugbear of environmentalists who rejected criticism of wildfires that have raged in the Amazon. "It is a fallacy to say that the Amazon is the heritage of humankind, and a misconception confirmed by scientists to say that our Amazon forests are the lungs of the world," Bolsonaro said. The Amazon serves as a vast carbon sink, sucking up emissions that have contributed to fast-rising temperatures, but rising deforestation to make way for agriculture risks aggravating climate change.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, opening the summit, renewed his call for more ambitious action to fight climate change. "What was truly called climate change is now truly a climate crisis, and what was once called global warming has more accurately become global heating," Guterres said.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said nuclear power should either be free for all states or banned completely, and warned that the "inequality" between states who have nuclear power and who do not undermines global balances. Turkey signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1980, and has also signed the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which bans all nuclear detonations for any purpose.

Erdogan has hinted in the past that he wanted the same protection for Turkey as Israel, which foreign analysts say possesses a sizable nuclear arsenal. Israel maintains a policy of ambiguity around the nuclear issue, refusing to confirm or deny its capabilities. "The position of nuclear power should either be forbidden for all or permissible for everyone," Erdogan told the United Nations General Assembly.

In his speech, Erdogan also called on the international community to help securing peace and safety in the Syrian city of Idlib, adding that establishing a "safe zone" in northern Syria will save millions of lives. Turkey, which hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees, controls parts of northern Syria where it says 350,000 Syrians have already returned. Turkey plans to resettle 1 million refugees in northern Syria and has warned that it may reopen the route for migrants into Europe if it does not receive adequate international support for the plan. — Agencies

Mumbai fears for homes, lives...

Continued from Page 1

Mumbai, which British colonial rulers formed by joining seven small islands, is already vulnerable to floods because so much of it is below the high-tide line. The shore has retreated by more than 20 m at some Mumbai beaches over the past 15 years, according to studies by the Watchdog Foundation activist group.

Hundreds have died and billions of dollars of damage caused in floods over the past two decades - and one storm alone in 2005 left 500 dead. Floodwaters already overwhelm Mumbai's decrepit drainage system every monsoon. The Maharashtra state government's response has concentrated on building 20 sea walls - including four off Mumbai - and a huge mangrove planting campaign along the state's 720-km coast. Offshore reefs and beach restoration plans are also being considered. Mangroves act as sponges to soak up excess rain and stormwater, and hundreds of thousands of saline-resistant trees and shrubs have been planted in a bid to create tropical tidal forests that act as a buffer against sea surges.

Forestry officer D R Patil and his 300 staff waded through knee-deep water to plant the trees and make sure they are protected. "Mangroves are the first line of defense against flooding and we don't have any other options," Patil told AFP at the Airoli mangrove plantation on Mumbai's fringe.

Johnson vows to pursue Brexit...

Continued from Page 1

She said this was "because it had the effect of frustrating or preventing the ability of parliament to carry out its constitutional functions". As a result, the suspension was "void and of no effect", Hale said, adding: "Parliament has not been prorogued."

Bercow subsequently announced he would reconvene the Commons at 11.30 am (1030 GMT) today, while the upper House of Lords said it would return the same day. The judges "have vindicated the right and duty of parliament to meet at this crucial time to scrutinize the executive", Bercow said. A small group of protesters outside the court hailed the decision, with one, Gareth Daniels, telling AFP: "This is a great day for democracy."

Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the main opposition Labour party, led calls for the prime minister to step down. "I invite Boris Johnson, in the historic words, to consider his position, and become the shortest serving prime minister there has ever been," he told his party's annual conference. He brought forward his concluding speech to the meeting in Brighton, southern England, from today to yesterday to allow him to return to parliament.

Some opposition MPs called for a confidence vote in Johnson, and Bercow indicated he would allow time for this if a formal request were made. But Corbyn indicated he would only table a motion of no-confidence once

"Even a boundary wall cannot protect the city as much as mangroves."

Maharashtra authorities have given mangroves protected status, and have powers to stop development on wetlands, remove slums and build walls. Patil said there are now more than 30,000 hectares of mangroves after boosting cover in the state by 82 percent between 2015 and 2017. Environmentalists, however, say the action is a half-hearted response. While mangroves are important, the loss of natural drainage systems such as rivers and creeks was also crucial, said activist Nandkumar Pawar. He said some laws meant to protect the coast have been "relaxed" so that new buildings had crept closer to the shore, covering rivers and creeks that also provided an escape route for floodwaters.

Climate scientist Roxy Mathew Koll of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology believes that the increased frequency of flooding in the mega-city calls for extra defenses - as well as a warning system to protect the growing population. "We need to have a long-term vision," Koll told AFP. Amid all the criticism, Maharashtra Maritime Board deputy director Jitendra Raisinghani said hard-pressed state authorities were working on a coastal management plan. "We are doing the best as per our capacity and resources," he said. "There is never enough and you can do more."

Stalin Dayanand, an outspoken activist with the Vanashakti environmental group, said there had to be more natural defenses. "We are using measures which will increase conflict with nature by relying on civil engineering solutions like building walls," he said, adding that more deaths and damage were inevitable. — AFP

he was sure the Brexit Oct 31 deadline was delayed should no compromise agreement with Brussels come through. "This crisis can only be settled with a general election," he told a party conference. "That election needs to take place as soon as this government's threat of a disastrous no-deal (Brexit) is taken off the table."

Meeting the British leader on the sidelines of a United Nations meeting in New York, US President Donald Trump, a strong Johnson and Brexit supporter, said it would be "terrible" if his plan for getting out of the EU was blocked. "It takes a man like this to get it done," Trump said of Johnson, adding: "I think he is going to get it done."

Opinion polls suggest Johnson's battles with MPs over Brexit are actually making him more popular with voters. Johnson only took office on July 24 but has endured a torrid few weeks in office as he fights a hostile parliament over Brexit. Three years after the 2016 referendum, he insists Britain must leave the EU next month whatever the circumstances. But lawmakers fear the disruptive impact of leaving without a deal, which the government itself has admitted could cause food and medicine shortages, and civil unrest.

In the week between returning from their summer holiday and prorogation on Sept 10, MPs passed a law aiming to stop "no deal". The law obliges Johnson to ask to delay Brexit by three months if he has not agreed a divorce deal by an EU summit on Oct 17 and 18. Johnson said Tuesday he hoped he can agree new exit terms to replace those struck by his predecessor Theresa May, which was rejected by MPs. But EU leaders are not as hopeful, accusing London of failing to come up with serious alternatives to the current agreement. — AFP

Sports

Chicago Bears break out early, defeat Washington Redskins

Brown back to university after being banished by Patriots amid rape allegations

LANDOVER: Veteran safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix had an interception return for a touchdown, wide receiver Taylor Gabriel caught three touchdown passes from Mitchell Trubisky, and the Chicago Bears recorded a 31-15 win over the Washington Redskins on Monday night in Landover, Md.

Chicago (2-1) jumped to a 28-0 lead and held on for its second consecutive victory on the road. The Bears' defense combined for three interceptions, two fumble recoveries and four sacks. Wideouts Terry McLaurin and Paul Richardson had one touchdown reception apiece from Redskins quarterback Case Keenum. Washington (0-3) is off to its worst start since 2013.

The Bears opened the scoring on a pick-six by Clinton-Dix with 9:42 to go in the first quarter. He intercepted an overthrown pass from Keenum and weaved 37 yards through traffic for his first career touchdown. Trubisky then put the Bears on top 14-0 with his first passing touchdown of the season. He rolled left and made an easy toss to a wide-open Gabriel for a 3-yard touchdown with seven minutes left in the second quarter.

Another dominant defensive play set the stage for the Bears' third touchdown. Pro Bowl linebacker Khalil Mack sacked Keenum and forced a fumble, which defensive tackle Akiem Hicks recovered at the Washington 11-yard line.

Three plays later, Trubisky found Gabriel again for a 1-yard score that made it 21-0 with 5:42 left in the half. Gabriel hauled in his third touchdown on a high-light-reel play with 43 seconds to go before the break. He relied on skillful body control as he twisted toward the ball and got two feet in bounds just inside the front-right pylon.

The Redskins snapped the shutout on a 35-yard field goal by Dustin Hopkins as time expired in the half. In the second half, Washington pulled within 28-9 on a 15-yard touchdown strike from Keenum to

McLaurin. The rookie out of Ohio State has caught a touchdown in each of his first three games.

The Redskins' comeback bid continued when Keenum flipped a 2-yard touchdown pass to Richardson to cut the deficit to 28-15 with 13:11 remaining in the fourth quarter. Chicago stopped a two-point attempt for the second time. Chicago made it 31-15 on a 38-yard field goal by Eddy Pineiro with 1:50 to go. Gabriel (concussion) and Hicks (knee) each left the game in the second half for the Bears.

Meanwhile, Antonio Brown, the NFL star cut by the New England Patriots amid rape and sexual assault allegations, revealed on Monday that he's going back to university. Brown, who said he was finished with the NFL after being dumped by the Super Bowl champions, shared a four-class schedule at his alma mater, Central Michigan University, on his Instagram story.

The university then confirmed to the Detroit Free Press that Brown is currently enrolled in online degree completion coursework. The image shows that Brown is enrolled in Introduction to Management and an English class on Technical Writing, with two more classes scheduled to start in October.

Brown did not graduate from Central Michigan before he declared for the NFL in 2009. His re-enrollment comes after he was cut by the Patriots on Friday after playing just one game for them.

The Patriots picked up Brown after he was released by the Oakland Raiders, and three days later his former trainer, Britney Taylor, filed a civil lawsuit in US District Court in Miami accusing Brown of two incidents of sexual assault in June 2017 and rape during a May 2018 incident in Brown's Miami home.

Brown has maintained any sexual contact with Taylor was consensual and described the legal action as an extortion attempt. More claims against Brown came to light Friday in a Sports Illustrated article. The report said a woman who was asked to paint a mural in Brown's home and had accused him of an unwanted



LANDOVER: Vernon Davis #85 of the Washington Redskins attempts to hurdle over Prince Amukamara No 20 of the Chicago Bears during the second half at FedExField in Landover, Maryland. —AFP

sexual advance in 2017 received intimidating text messages from Brown on Wednesday night — after the magazine published a story detailing her allegations.

Brown reacted angrily to the Patriots' move on Twitter, vowing his days in the NFL were over and indicating he would pursue action to claim the \$29 million (26.4 million euros) in guaranteed money from

his Raiders contract and a \$9 million signing bonus from the Patriots.

"These owners can cancel deals do whatever they want at anytime we will see if the @NFLPA hold them accountable sad they can just void guarantees anytime going on 40m 2 months will see if they pay up!" Brown tweeted. —Agencies

GAZOO Racing achieves clean sweep with victory at Rallye Deutschland



BERLIN: The GAZOO Racing (GR) World Rally Team (WRT) claimed a historic clean sweep of the podium places recently at Rallye Deutschland in Germany. Ott Tanak secured victory in the No. 8 Toyota Yaris WRC to increase his lead in the drivers' championship to 33 points, with team-mates Kris Meeke and Jari-Matti Latvala also joining him on the podium. The result represents the first time in four years that a single manufacturer has filled all spots on the podium on a WRC round, and brings the team to within eight points of the lead in the manufacturers' championship.

Tanak led the rally almost from start to finish in the No. 8 Toyota Yaris WRC as he and co-driver Martin Jarveoja notched up their third win in as many years on the demanding German asphalt event. The afternoon of the third day saw an intense battle, with Meeke in the No. 5 Toyota Yaris WRC and Latvala in the No. 10 Toyota Yaris WRC building a gap during the fearsome Panzerplatte stages to move into podium positions.

The three crews protected their positions on the fourth and final day, with Tanak ultimately winning by 20.8 seconds in the No. 8 Toyota Yaris WRC as he clinched his fifth victory of the year. Meeke and co-driver Seb Marshall claimed second place in the No. 5 Toyota Yaris WRC, their first podium finish for GR, while third for Latvala and Miikka Anttila

in the No. 10 Toyota Yaris WRC represented a repeat of their strong result during the previous round in Finland. Together, they produced a perfect result at the home event of Toyota Motorsport GmbH, which is based nearby in Cologne and was responsible for developing the engine of the Toyota Yaris WRC.

Akiyo Toyoda, Team Chairman, commented: "All six GAZOO Racing WRT drivers and co-drivers stood on the podium at Rally Germany, and it was a great sight! Thank you very much to the drivers, co-drivers, team members, and all of the fans who are pleased with this result. Tanak and Jarveoja, thank you very much for your two consecutive wins, and your win in Germany, the home of the Yaris WRC engine. Let's keep fighting for the remaining four events this season, and let's do our best to keep delivering the best sights for the fans! To all the fans, I thank you for your continuous support for GAZOO Racing WRT."

Ott Tanak, Driver of the No. 8 Toyota Yaris WRC, said: "It's an amazing result for the team, but we still have four more rounds to go, so we need to stay focused and give our maximum. The championship is still tight, and we've seen in this race that nothing is coming easy. We were not always the fastest but we were more consistent, and, in the end, we managed to get the victory. The main job was done on the third day of the race, and on the final day,



we just had to bring home the 1-2-3."

Kris Meeke, Driver of the No. 5 Toyota Yaris WRC, said: "I'm delighted. To be on the podium and to bring a big haul of points to Toyota with a perfect score, a 1-2-3, it's special to be part of this race. To take maximum points for the manufacturers' championship is really important. I felt good in the Yaris throughout the race, it gave me great confidence, and I definitely was able to drive at a good speed and be comfortable."

Jari-Matti Latvala, Driver of the No. 10 Toyota Yaris WRC, said: "If you finish 1-2-3, you cannot ask for more. This is the most perfect of perfect results. We had a really nice weekend without any problems, and the car worked perfectly. I was slightly too cautious on the first stage of the last day, but I realized that I needed to give a bit more attack and after that it was fine. It's a great feeling to be on the podium for the second time in a row."

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nurburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established GAZOO Racing (GR), to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand.

Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' GR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, GR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

The next event of the season is Rally Turkey, which will take place from 12 to 15 September around Marmaris on the Mediterranean coast. With its rocky gravel roads and high temperatures, drivers can expect a grueling weekend at the fourth-last event of the season.

Race Notes:

- No. 8 Toyota Yaris WRC (Ott Tanak & Martin Jarveoja)
 - Position: 1st
 - Time: 3h15m29.8s
- No. 5 Toyota Yaris WRC (Kris Meeke & Seb Marshall)
 - Position: 2nd
 - Time: 3h15m50.6s
- No. 10 Toyota Yaris WRC (Jari-Matti Latvala & Miikka Anttila)
 - Position: 3rd
 - Time: 3h16m5.8s.



Top Russian athlete hits out at Moscow sports officials

MOSCOW: Russian high jump champion Mariya Lasitskene yesterday hit out at Moscow's sports officials ahead of this month's world championships in Doha, saying she will not let them stop her from going to another Olympics.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on Monday gave Russia three weeks to explain "inconsistencies" in a cache of laboratory data handed over to investigators, raising the possibility of a fresh ban on the country in the build-up to the Tokyo Olympics.

Lasitskene, a two-time Olympic champion, is one of the Russian athletes who has been allowed to compete under a neutral flag while others have been banned from sport since November 2015 over a vast doping scandal.

She was barred from taking part in the 2016 Rio Olympics, and said she has "no certainty" that Russian athletes will be allowed to take part in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"I do not intend to miss a second Olympics in a row because of some strange people that cannot do their job honestly," the 26-year-old wrote on Instagram, referring to Russian athletic officials.

She vowed that Russian athletes will "fully defend our rights to take part" in the Tokyo games.

In June, Lasitskene said athletes were fed up with promises to reform the country's doping-tainted coaching while blaming their failures on an anti-Russian conspiracy.

Russia stands to be declared non-compliant by WADA if it fails to explain why evidence of some positive tests handed over by a whistleblower does not show up in data provided by Moscow's anti-doping laboratory in January.

In another blow on Monday, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) maintained a ban on the Russian athletics federation pending analysis of the data.

Though the Russian federation has been banned since November 2015, athletes from Russia have been competing as neutrals and 118 are due to participate in the World Athletics Championships which get underway in the Qatari capital on Friday. —AFP

Sports

Fidow fires Samoa to bruising win over Russia at Rugby World Cup

Samoa move on to face Scotland in their next game

KUMAGAYA: Marauding winger Ed Fidow bagged a quickfire double as Samoa beat Russia 34-9 in a bruising Rugby World Cup encounter marked by three yellow cards yesterday. Fidow provided the spark in a tempestuous Pool A clash after the Pacific islanders were reduced to 13 men in the first half for two reckless tackles in steamy Kumagaya. Russia's Kirill Gotovtsev was sin-binned later in the game.

"To lose two players, go down to 13 men and we didn't lose on the score... really proud of the effort," said Samoa coach Steve Jackson. "We knew we would come out after half-time and the boys were still fresh — we had plenty left in the tank. I'm just glad we got over the line." Russia coach Lyn Jones bemoaned his team's short, four-day turnaround following their 30-10 defeat by hosts Japan in the tournament-opener last Friday. "It affected us tactically and mentally," said the Welshman.

"We played a World Cup final for our boys on Friday night and it's more the mental thing that's hurt us," added Jones. "We just weren't there tonight and lacked the motivation compared to what we had against Japan."

Samoa, World Cup quarter-finalists in 1991 and 1995, began the game pumped up after a passionate performance of their 'siva tau' war dance. And they went ahead after 15 minutes when a superb pass from Tim Nani-Williams — cousin of All Black star Sonny Bill — found Alapati Leiua to crash over for the first of his brace.

But Russia fly-half Yuri Kushnarev, making a record-extending 111th appearance for the Bears, kicked a pair of penalties to give the Bears a 6-5 half-time lead which should have been more after Samoa played almost 10 minutes with 13 men.

Centre Rey Lee-Lo was lucky to escape with a yellow

card for a high tackle on Russia captain Vasily Artemyev before hooker Motu Matu'u followed him to the sin bin after another dangerous challenge on Artemyev.

Russia let Samoa failed to capitalise on their numerical advantage, but Jones refused to criticise French referee Romain Poite. "We were expecting more severe penalties than what were given," he admitted.

"Of course it would have changed the game. Two red cards in two minutes and the world's a different place." Refereeing was in the spotlight after World Rugby issued an unusual rebuke earlier on Tuesday about officiating standards at the tournament, following several controversies in the opening days.

SAMOA FIREPOWER

Pisi, who at 37 became the oldest player to represent Samoa at a World Cup, had a kicking game to forget, missing four of six attempts with the boot. However Samoa, playing their first game of the tournament, ultimately had too much firepower for the exhausted Russians.

Scrum-half Dwayne Polataivao failed to come out for the second half after taking a blow to the head, but the Samoans hit back when Afaesetiti Amosa bulldozed over five minutes after the restart.

Russia's Kirill Gotovtsev was yellow-carded for a high tackle attempting to block Amosa, who was stretchered off after twisting his knee. A superb drop goal from Kushnarev pulled Russia back to within a point before Fidow grabbed Samoa's second try in the 49th minute, bursting through after a clever pass from replacement hooker Ray Nuiua.

Fidow extended Samoa's lead shortly afterwards with the bonus-point try as the Russian began to wilt



KUMAGAYA: Samoa's fly-half Tusi Pisi (L) is tackled by Russia's prop Valery Morozov (2L), Russia's centre Dmitry Gerasimov (3L) during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool A match between Russia and Samoa at the Kumagaya Rugby Stadium in Kumagaya yesterday. —AFP

to make it 10 tries in nine appearances for his country. Fortunate perhaps to still be involved in the game, Lee-Lo made up for his yellow by adding Samoa's fifth try before Leiua added the icing just before the

buzzer to give the score a slightly flattering hue.

Samoa move on to face Scotland in their next game while Russia, still searching for their first-ever World Cup win, take on Ireland. —AFP

Bullish Japan can 'beat anyone' at Rugby World Cup

HAMAMATSU: World Cup hosts Japan are confident of "beating anyone", livewire scrum-half Yutaka Nagare said ahead of their crunch Pool A match against Ireland on Saturday. Four years ago Japan shocked the sport by pulling off a thrilling 34-32 victory over South Africa and it is a measure of just how far the Brave Blossoms have come that their players believe they can push one of the northern hemisphere's best teams.

"We're confident of beating anyone in the world," said a defiant Nagare, who edged out Super Rugby veteran Fumiaki Tanaka for a starting role in Japan's 30-10 victory over Russia in Tokyo on Friday.

"When we reviewed the Russia game, it was actually better than we thought. There was a lot of pressure and we got a little flustered, but we played quite well. It's all now about belief in what we've accumulated in training. We need to demonstrate intent and attention to detail."

Nagare added: "This is a World Cup, you always need to give 100 percent to be able to win, as was the case for Russia and will be the case for Ireland. My mindset is that we need to beat them to make the last eight."

Joe Schmidt's Ireland, however, will be a different proposition from what was in essence a very limited Russian side that briefly made the most of a very nervy start by Japan under the watchful glare of a home support with large expectations.

The Irish, briefly World Rugby's number one ranked team in the build-up to the World Cup, kicked off their campaign with a comprehensive 27-3 victory over Scotland. "Ireland don't make many mistakes and they're very resilient, a very strong, quality side who don't panic," acknowledged Nagare.

"We need speed in our game and to maximise space when it comes. We expect them to kick so we also need to utilise the ball they kick our way in a productive manner." Nagare pinpointed the half-back pairing of Conor Murray and current World Rugby player of the year Johnny Sexton as "key players".

"If we let them play comfortably they'll dominate the game so it's important we put immense pressure on them early on so they feel as uncomfortable as possible!" The scrum-half added there had been no need for motivational talks based around that victory over the Springboks four years ago. —AFP

World Rugby issues rare rebuke to own referees at WCup

TOKYO: World Rugby issued a rare criticism of refereeing standards at the World Cup yesterday after a number of controversies in the tournament's opening days. The governing body said there had been "initial challenges" with technology and communications between match officials at the tournament in Japan.

Several incidents have been missed by officials

No Parisse as Italy ring changes for Canada

TOKYO: Italy announced 10 changes on Monday for their Rugby World Cup match against Canada and rested talismanic captain Sergio Parisse, with an eye on sterner tests against New Zealand and South Africa.

Lock Dean Budd will skipper the side in Parisse's absence in Fukuoka tomorrow, as the Azzurri look to improve on their unconvincing 47-22 win against minnows Namibia. Only Jayden Hayward, Luca Bigi, Tommaso Allan, Tommaso Benvenuti and Braam

Steyn keep their places and coach Conor O'Shea has also tinkered with the back line, moving Hayward from fullback to inside centre.

The half-back combination of Callum Braley and Tommaso Allan is the 13th different pairing used by Italy since the 2015 World Cup. Even O'Shea admitted after Sunday's Namibia match: "We'll have to move on from that pretty quickly. It wasn't very pretty. There's too many errors in it."

Conditions were tricky at the Hanazono Stadium, with the weather ranging from bright sunshine to torrential rain as the players were unlucky enough to catch the very edge of a typhoon swirling to Japan's west.

Italy, the Six Nations wooden-spooners, should have too much firepower for Canada who are ranked 22, the second lowest side at the Rugby World Cup after Namibia. Italy are aiming to make it into the quarter-finals

announcing his team yesterday.

"There is a risk about him going out on Kobe beach today and it is much better that he plays rugby than goes out to the beach. He loves to play." England's new-look line-up includes four players making their first start of Japan 2019 — wings Ruaridh McConnochie and Joe Cokanasiga, inside centre Piers Francis and lock Joe Launchbury.

Up front, prop Dan Cole will win his 91st cap, becoming England's third-most capped player alongside national hero Jonny Wilkinson. Cole appeared to have fallen out of favour under Jones but the Australian praised the "outstanding scrummager" for getting back into the side.

"Twelve months ago we were probably thinking he would not be going to the World Cup and he has just worked harder on his general play," said Jones.

Cole packs down with Joe Marler and Luke Cowan-Dickie, who scored England's bonus-point try against Tonga. Willi Heinz gets a run out at scrum-half but Ben Youngs, a team-mate of Cole at Leicester, will also equal Wilkinson's England mark if he comes off the bench. The last time England made 10 changes was in 2003, a tournament they went on to win after beating an Australia side coached by Jones, with Wilkinson's drop goal in the dying seconds of extra time sealing victory in a Sydney final.

Even a much-changed England should have too much class for the Eagles and, with little time to recover from their bruising encounter against Tonga, probably have half-an-eye on sterner tests to come.

— and shared widely on social media — since the tournament kicked off on Friday. "Following the usual review of matches, the match officials team recognise that performances over the opening weekend of Rugby World Cup 2019 were not consistently of the standards set by World Rugby and themselves," a statement said.

"But World Rugby is confident of the highest standards of officiating moving forward." Reece Hodge's apparent high shot on Fiji's Pecieli Yato went unpunished at the time, but the Australia wing was later cited and will face a disciplinary hearing today.

Footage of All Blacks captain Kieran Read's head-high, off-the-ball tackle on South Africa's Pieter-Steph du Toit, unnoticed by officials, has also drawn much comment online. And Louis

Picamoles appeared clearly offside when he made a crucial interception in France's narrow 23-21 win over Argentina, whose coach later slammed the officiating.

Just an hour after the World Rugby statement, refereeing was again under the spotlight as Samoa and Russia played out a bruising encounter in Kumagaya that saw three yellow cards. For the first two yellows, both for high tackles, French referee Romain Poite very deliberately followed World Rugby's new protocol for policing high tackles with the help of his Television Match Official (TMO).

In both instances, Poite decided there was a "mitigating" reason against giving a red card, as the player being tackled — fullback Vasily

Artemyev on both occasions — had stooped as the hit was coming in. This saved Samoa's Motu Matu'u and Rey Lee-Lo from a straight red.

The third case, an arm around the neck from Russian prop Kirill Gotovtsev, was more clear-cut and Poite reached straight for the yellow card. "Elite match officials are required to make decisions in complex, high-pressure situations and there have been initial challenges with the use of technology and team communication, which have impacted decision-making," World Rugby said.

"These are already being addressed by the team of 23 match officials to enhance consistency. Given this proactive approach, a strong team ethic and a superb support structure, World Rugby has every confidence in the team." —AFP

Jones sticks with Vunipola as England change 10 for USA

KOBE: England coach Eddie Jones insisted he had no qualms about sending out star No 8 Billy Vunipola for a second Rugby World Cup match in a row as he made 10 changes to his side for their match against the United States on Thursday.

Vunipola came in for some heavy-duty treatment at the hands of Tonga, the team his father and uncle both played for, during England's opening 35-3 Pool C victory over the Pacific islanders in Sapporo on Sunday.

But despite the four-day turnaround, Vunipola is one of five England players who will start for the second time this tournament when England face the USA in Kobe. George Ford, who captains from fly-half in place of benched centre and regular skipper Owen Farrell, fullback Elliot Daly, flanker Tom Curry and prop Joe Marler are all backing up from the Tonga match.

Vunipola is now set to play his 11th consecutive Test at No 8, having started all of England's Six Nations matches and every one of their four World Cup warm-up games. "He loves playing rugby and the best way to keep him fit is to play him, and he is an influential player," said Jones after

for the first time in their history and are targeting the October 4 clash against heavyweights South Africa as their chance to climb out of the pool.

Canada meanwhile named 11 of the team that started in their last warm-up game against the USA. Canada have been to every edition of the World Cup, reaching the quarter-finals in 1991 with narrow wins over Fiji and Romania.

Once the undisputed powerhouse of North American rugby, Canada's fortunes have been on a downward spiral over the past decade and they only scraped into this year's event via the repechage.

They have virtually no chance of repeating their 1991 heroics, as they are drawn in the same pool as southern hemisphere giants South Africa and New Zealand.

Italy (15-1)

Matteo Minozzi; Tommaso

Canada (15-1)

Patrick Parfrey; Jeff Hassler, Ben Lesage, Nick Blevins, DTH Van Der Merwe; Peter Nelson, Gordon McRorie; Tyler Ardron (capt), Lucas Rumball, Michael Sheppard; Josh Larsen, Conor Keys; Matt Tierney, Eric Howard, Hubert Buydens
Replacements: Benoit Piffero, Djustice Duru-Sears, Jake Ilnicki, Luke Campbell, Matt Heaton, Jamie Mackenzie, Ciaran Hearn, Andrew Coe. —AFP



KOBE: England's coach Eddie Jones gives a press conference in Kobe on September 24, 2019, during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup. —AFP

"The four-day turnaround is something we experimented with against Japan last autumn and so the players have had some experience of it," said Jones. "What I see now is players handling it really well but the game on Thursday will be the litmus test."

After the USA match in Kobe, England play Argentina and France in a Pool C that has been dubbed this tournament's 'group of death'. Nevertheless, Jones has warned his men not to take a USA side featuring several England-based players lightly, bizarrely saying it would be like facing "15 Donald Trumps". USA coach Gary Gold

retorted: "I've absolutely no idea what he means by that."

England (15-1)

Elliot Daly; Ruaridh McConnochie, Jonathan Joseph, Piers Francis, Joe Cokanasiga; George Ford (capt), Willi Heinz; Billy Vunipola, Lewis Ludlam, Tom Curry; George Kruijs, Joe Launchbury; Dan Cole, Luke Cowan-Dickie, Joe Marler

Replacements: Jack Singleton, Ellis Genge, Kyle Sinckler, Courtney Lawes, Mark Wilson, Ben Youngs, Owen Farrell, Anthony Watson. —AFP

Sports

Goldschmidt homers in return to Arizona as Cardinals win

Nationals overpower Phils, inch closer to playoff bid

PHOENIX: Paul Goldschmidt had two hits including his 32nd homer in his return to Arizona and Yadier Molina homered and drove in four runs in the St. Louis Cardinals' 9-7 victory over the Diamondbacks on Monday in Phoenix. Tommy Edman had two hits, including a home run, and Harrison Bader also homered for the Cardinals (90-67), who moved 3 1/2 games ahead of the Milwaukee Brewers in the NL Central with five games remaining. The loss eliminated Arizona from wild-card contention.

Christian Walker had three hits including his 27th homer, Josh Rojas had two hits, and Nick Ahmed homered for the Diamondbacks (80-77). Walker took over at first base this season for Goldschmidt, who was a fixture in his eight seasons in Arizona.

The Diamondbacks played a video tribute to Goldschmidt before the game, his first at Chase Field after being traded last winter, and he received a standing ovation in his first plate appearance. St. Louis right-hander Adam Wainwright (14-9) won his fifth straight September start, giving up eight hits and five runs in five innings with six strikeouts and two walks. He had given up only one earned run in four previous September starts, and his ERA for the month is 1.69.

Carlos Martinez entered after Ahmed homered and Carson Kelly drew a walk against John Brebbia in the ninth. Martinez gave up an RBI double to Josh Rojas before finishing up for his 24th save. Marcell Ozuna had two doubles and Goldschmidt and Edman scored three times. Edman hit his 11th homer of the season with one out in the first inning before Goldschmidt walked, Ozuna doubled and Molina hit an RBI groundout for a 2-0 lead.

Adam Jones followed singles by Walker and Jake Lamb with an RBI single to make it 2-1 in the second inning. Edman was hit by a pitch leading off the third inning, and Goldschmidt homered to right-center field for a 4-1 lead, becoming the first player to hit 100 homers at Chase Field. Walker homered in the fourth inning to make it 4-2, before Molina's two-run shot in the fifth gave the Cardinals a 6-2 lead.

Rojas, Eduardo Escobar and Walker had run-scoring singles in the last of the fifth to make it 6-5, and Bader's solo shot in the eighth made it 7-5. Arizona left-hander Alex Young (7-5) gave up seven hits and six runs in five innings, with five strikeouts and two walks.

NATIONALS 7, PHILLIES 2

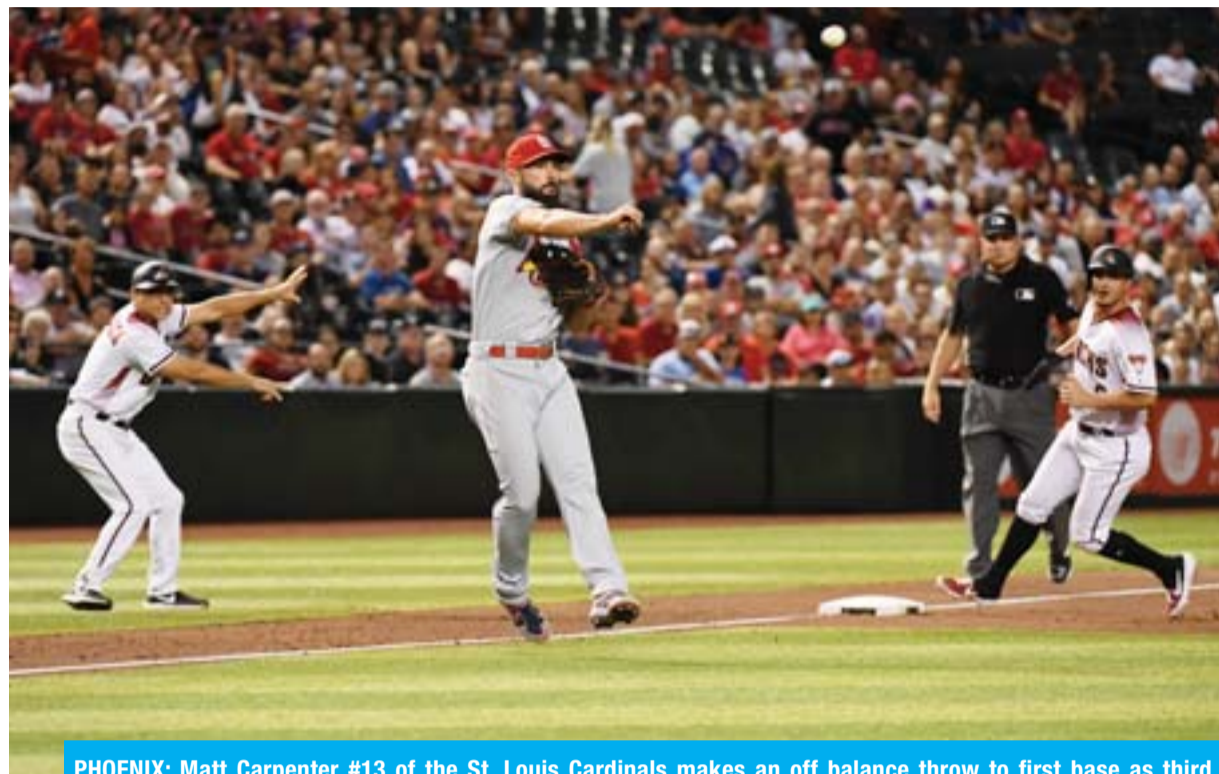
Adam Eaton, Yan Gomes and Trea Turner hit solo homers in the first three innings, and host Washington defeated Philadelphia. Patrick Corbin pitched six solid innings for the Nationals, whose magic number to clinch a playoff berth is three. They lead the idle Milwaukee Brewers by one-half game in the race for the top National League wild card. The Phillies saw their tragic number for playoff elimination slip to one. Eaton had three hits, and Turner and Gomes had two each. Juan Soto drew four walks for Washington. Corbin (14-7) has won four of his last five starts. He allowed one run on three hits while striking out six and walking four. Philadelphia starter Zach Efflin (9-13) gave up five runs on eight hits in five innings with four walks and two strikeouts.

RAYS 7, RED SOX 4

Willy Adames slugged a tiebreaking two-run home run as part of a six-run fourth inning as Tampa Bay rallied past Boston in St. Petersburg, Fla. Ji-Man Choi and Brandon Lowe also homered in the fourth as the Rays came back from an early four-run deficit to win the finale of the four-game series. With the victory, Tampa Bay moved a half-game ahead of the idle Cleveland Indians for the second American League wild card while closing within 1 1/2 games of idle the Oakland A's for the first wild card. Jackie Bradley Jr. had three hits for the Red Sox, and J.D. Martinez notched his 100th RBI of the season.

MARLINS 8, METS 4

Jorge Alfaro hit two home runs, including a grand slam in the sixth inning, as Miami dealt another blow to



PHOENIX: Matt Carpenter #13 of the St. Louis Cardinals makes an off balance throw to first base as third base coach Tony Perezchica #3 of the Arizona Diamondbacks signals for Josh Rojas #9 to stop at third during the fifth inning at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona. — AFP

host New York's flickering playoff hopes. The Mets fell five games behind the Brewers in the race for the second wild-card spot and 5 1/2 games behind the Nationals. Amed Rosario hit a grand slam for the Mets, and J.D. Davis had three hits.

BLUE JAYS 11, ORIOLES 10 (15 INNINGS)

Anthony Alford hit his first career major league home run with two outs in the bottom of the 15th inning to give

host Toronto a walk-off win over Baltimore. The game was tied 9-9 after nine innings, and both teams scored in the 12th. Chris Davis hit his 12th home run, a solo shot, with two outs in the top of the 12th, before the Blue Jays tied it at 10-10 in the bottom of the inning on Jonathan Davis' sacrifice fly. Down two in the bottom of the ninth, the Blue Jays got a sacrifice fly from Cavan Biggio and RBI single from Vladimir Guerrero Jr. against Shawn Armstrong to tie the game with two outs. — Agencies

India's Bumrah out of SA Tests with back injury

NEW DELHI: India's premier paceman Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the upcoming Test series against South Africa with a stress fracture in his lower back, the country's cricket board said yesterday.

Umesh Yadav will replace Bumrah, who tops the bowling chart in one-day rankings and is placed third in Tests, in the 15-man squad for the three five-day matches starting October 2 in Visakhapatnam.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said "the injury was detected during a routine radiological screening". "He will now undergo rehabilitation at NCA (National Cricket Academy) and will be monitored by the BCCI Medical Team," the statement added.

Bumrah, 25, who has an unorthodox sling-arm action, has claimed 62 wickets in 12 Tests and recently claimed just the third hat-trick by an Indian in the longest format in the West Indies. Known for bowling near-perfect yorkers in the death overs, he was India's strike bowler in the recent 50-over World Cup in England, taking 18 wickets from nine matches.

But the quick was not part of the recently concluded three-match Twenty20 series against the visiting South African side who won the final game to draw the series 1-1. The first match was washed out.

India squad: Virat Kohli (capt), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Shubman Gill. — AFP



Jasprit Bumrah

Sri Lanka squad leave for Pakistan

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's depleted national cricket squad left for Pakistan yesterday expressing confidence in security promises by the hosts despite reports that the team could be targeted by militants.

The Sri Lanka team were attacked in Lahore in 2009. Since then most international teams have refused to tour the South Asian country, leaving Pakistan to play nearly all their "home" games in the United Arab Emirates.

Ten senior players citing security concerns have opted out of the tour comprising three one-day internationals and three Twenty20 matches beginning on Friday. But the captain of the Twenty20 squad, Dasun Shanaka, said yesterday he had no misgivings about returning to Pakistan after they played a Twenty20 international in Lahore in October 2017, their first since the 2009 attack.

"I have been there before," Shanaka told reporters just before the team left Colombo where they were blessed by saffron-robed Buddhist monks. "I am satisfied with the security arranged for us and I am happy to lead my team to Pakistan. We hope to give a good fight to our very strong hosts."

ODI skipper Lahiru Thirimanne said he also had no concerns and they had been given assurances of a very



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's cricket captain Lahiru Thirimanne (R) and teammates look on as Buddhist monks chant prayers for their success during a ceremony in Colombo yesterday, prior to the team's departure for a cricket tour in Pakistan. — AFP

high degree of protection in Pakistan, usually reserved for visits by heads of state.

Sri Lanka's cricket board received the all-clear from the defence ministry last week to go ahead with the tour after establishing that there was no threat. The 2009 attack left six players injured when gunmen attacked their bus. Six Pakistan policemen and two civilians were killed.

Tour schedule:

One-day internationals (all in Karachi): September 27, 29, October 2.
Twenty20 internationals (all Lahore): October 5, 7, 9.—AFP

Zidane brushes off criticism as Madrid look to continue recovery

MADRID: Zinedine Zidane claims he has not even thought about the criticism aimed at him in recent weeks as Real Madrid look to build on Sunday's morale-boosting win away at Sevilla. Madrid eased the growing pressure on their coach with a determined performance at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan after they had been beaten 3-0 by Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League four days before.

That loss was Madrid's worst during Zidane's two spells as coach and prompted questions about the Frenchman's future, with Jose Mourinho among those linked with taking charge. Madrid play newly-promoted Osasuna today and could go top of La Liga with a victory.

"It's always the same, there has always been criticism and there always will be," Zidane said in a press conference yesterday. "I don't even think about it. It is what it is, it happens. When we lose, I'm going to get sacked and when we win, I'm the best. You just have to keep working."

"I feel strong but I feel the same as I did a month ago. The important thing is to give 100 per cent and to give my best. I remember playing badly for this team as well but the important thing is to give your best."

Madrid have won three of their six games in all competitions so far this season and, after Osasuna, play Atletico Madrid at the Wanda Metropolitan on Saturday. "We played a good game in Sevilla but most of all we played as a team from the first minute until the last," Zidane said.

"Playing as a team, fighting for each other, that's what we have to do against Osasuna and we have to keep playing like that." Not for the first time this season, Zidane singled out Gareth Bale for praise on Sunday after the Welshman continued his reintegration at the club with another tenacious display.

"I am not surprised," Zidane said. "I'm with him every day and we know he can do a lot offensively but he is helping us defensively too. When we work together we can achieve good things." Madrid will be without Ferland Mendy on Wednesday after the defender injured his hamstring against Sevilla.

It is the second muscle injury Mendy has suffered since joining Madrid from Lyon for 50 million euros in July and leaves Zidane short at left-back, with Marcelo also recovering from a back problem.

Zidane said Marcelo is close to a return, along with Luka Modric and Isco, who have been out with high injuries. Marco Asensio is a long-term absentee after he ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament. —AFP

Hamilton, Kubica keep points after Alfa appeal rejected

LONDON: Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton retained his 65-point lead and Williams kept their sole point of the season when a court rejected yesterday an Alfa Romeo appeal against their drivers' German Grand Prix penalties.

A spokesman for the governing body FIA said the International Court of Appeal in Paris had found the Swiss-based team's protest was not admissible. The 30-second post-race penalties dropped Alfa's Kimi Raikkonen and Antonio Giovinazzi out of the points and lifted Hamilton's Mercedes up to ninth in the July 28 race at Hockenheim, with Williams' Robert Kubica 10th.

The hearing was also attended by representatives of Mercedes, Renault, Red Bull, Racing Point and Haas as interested parties. Five times world champion Hamilton had finished the race 11th on track, a position that would have ended his run of successive scoring races that currently stands at 27. He left Hockenheim with a 41-point lead over team mate Valtteri Bottas, an advantage since extended to 65 ahead of this weekend's Russian Grand Prix in Sochi. Kubica's point is his only one so far in a remarkable racing comeback that is set to end when the season finishes, with the Pole having already announced his departure from Williams.

Raikkonen had finished seventh at Hockenheim and Giovinazzi eighth but were demoted for clutch-related irregularities at the start. "The situation arose during the laps we spent behind the safety car ahead of the standing start," team boss Frederic Vasseur said in a statement at the time.

"We suffered a dysfunction of the clutch that was beyond our control... we respect the FIA's process and the stewards' work, but believe we have the grounds and evidence to have it overturned." Haas's Romain Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen moved up to seventh and eighth respectively on the day as a result of the penalties. Racing Point are one place ahead of eighth-placed Alfa in the constructors' standings, with six races remaining, and in a midfield battle with Red Bull-owned Toro Rosso and Renault. — Reuters

Live		Matches on TV	
		(Local Timings)	
SPANISH LEAGUE			
Real Mallorca v Atletico de Madrid	beIN SPORTS HD 3	20:00	
CD Leganes v Athletic de Bilbao	beIN SPORTS HD 3	20:00	
Valencia C.F v Getafe CF	beIN SPORTS HD 3	21:00	
Real Madrid CF v Osasuna	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:00	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE			
AS Roma v Atalanta	beIN SPORTS HD 4	20:00	
ACF Fiorentina v UC Sampdoria	beIN SPORTS	22:00	
Internazionale Milano v SS Lazio	beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:00	
SSC Napoli v Cagliari Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 5	22:00	
Parma Calcio 1913 v US Sassuolo Calcio	beIN SPORTS	22:00	
Genoa CFC v Bologna FC	beIN SPORTS	22:00	
spal v US Lecce	beIN SPORTS	22:00	
FRENCH LEAGUE			
Montpellier HSC v Nimes Olympique	beIN SPORTS	20:00	
FC Nantes v Stade Rennais	beIN SPORTS	20:00	
Saint Etienne v FC Metz	beIN SPORTS	20:00	
Toulouse FC v SCO Angers	beIN SPORTS	20:00	
Stade Brest 29 v Olympique Lyonnais	beIN SPORTS	20:00	
LOSC Lille v RC Strasbourg	beIN SPORTS	20:00	
Amiens SC v FC Girondins de Bordeaux	beIN SPORTS	20:00	
Paris Saint-Germain v Stade Reims	beIN SPORTS	22:00	

25 Chicago Bears break out early, defeat Washington Redskins



26 Fidow fires Samoa to bruising win over Russia at Rugby World Cup



27 Goldschmidt homers in return to Arizona as Cardinals win



Messi wins FIFA player of the year

Rapinoe wins FIFA's Women's award, Ronaldo skips ceremony



MILAN: Best FIFA Men's Player of 2019, Argentina and Barcelona forward Lionel Messi (L) and Best FIFA Women's Player of 2019, US and Reign FC midfielder Megan Rapinoe pose at the end of The Best FIFA Football Awards ceremony, in Milan. — AFP

MILAN: Lionel Messi won the FIFA Men's Player of the Year award as beaten rival Cristiano Ronaldo stayed away from the star-studded ceremony in Milan's iconic La Scala Opera House on Monday. Barcelona striker Messi's victory was a surprise as he edged out Virgil Van Dijk, who won the UEFA player's award last month after helping Liverpool to the Champions League last season.

Juventus forward Ronaldo had also been shortlisted for the award, but did not attend the ceremony as he was named in FIFA's World 11 best team along with Messi. Both Messi, 32, and Van Dijk, 28, are now in the running for the coveted Ballon d'Or which will be announced on December 2.

"I want to thank those who decided to give me this recognition," said Messi. "The most important thing for me is the collective awards, but today is also a very special night for me." It is the first time that Messi has won the FIFA Best Award which was created in 2016. Ronaldo won for 2016 and 2017, with Croatian Luka Modric beating both last year.

Messi was top scorer in the Champions League last season with 12 goals before Barcelona were dumped out by Liverpool in the semi-finals. The Argentine also won the European Golden Shoe after scoring 36 goals, the La Liga title with Barcelona and helped Argentina to bronze at 2019 Copa America.

Van Dijk had been bidding to become a rare defender to win a FIFA player award, since Italian Fabio Cannavaro won the World Player of the Year, and the Ballon d'Or in 2006.

The Netherlands captain also missed out on completing a treble for Liverpool with manager Jurgen Klopp winning the men's coach of the year award and Alisson Becker the goalkeeper prize.

RAPINOE 'LOST FOR WORDS'

Megan Rapinoe beat fellow World Cup winner Alex Morgan and England's Lucy Bronze to the women's prize, with her USA coach Jill Ellis lifting the women's

coaching award.

Rapinoe, 34, was joint top scorer with six goals at the women's World Cup and won the Golden Boot, also gaining the Golden Ball for the best player and becoming the face of the tournament for her outspoken views on US president Donald Trump and campaigning for LGBT rights.

"I'm a little bit at a loss for words, if you can believe it, it rarely happens to me," said Rapinoe who went on to make a plea against racism and for women's rights. "We have such an incredible opportunity being professional football players.

"We have incredible platforms, the unique opportunity to use this to actually change the world for the better." Klopp won the men's coaching award ahead of two

Halep targets strong finish in Asia

WUHAN: Simona Halep said that winning her first Wimbledon title this year meant "everything", but she was determined to have a better Asian swing than in past years after an emphatic start to her Wuhan campaign yesterday.

Halep suffered opening-round exits in three of her previous five appearances at the Chinese event — including the last two seasons — but was dominant in a 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Wimbledon semi-finalist Barbora Strycova to reach the last 16.

A solid contender for clinching one of the six remaining spots in the WTA Finals in Shenzhen, sixth-ranked Halep also has a shot at finishing the year as

other Premier League coaches — Tottenham's Mauricio Pochettino, who the German beat in June's Champions League final, and Manchester City's Pep Guardiola.

"It is great, nobody expected this 20, 10, five, four years ago that I would be standing here," said the 52-year-old German who joined Liverpool in 2015. "I have to say thank you to my outstanding club Liverpool FC. Those who don't love it don't have a heart.

"As a coach you can only be as good as your team. I'm really proud of being coach of such an incredible bunch of players." Two-time women's World Cup-winning coach Ellis, beat Dutch coach Sarina Wiegman, runner-up in France 2019, and England's Phil Neville for the award.

world number one for a third consecutive time with a strong finish to the season in Asia.

"Very, very tough goals honestly after winning Wimbledon, I was a little bit let's say more relaxed in results, making big results. But I'm still motivated. I'm working hard," said the fourth seed, who next faces Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina for a place in the quarter-finals.

"For this period I just want to be better because every year I promised myself that I will do the best I can, and I couldn't for different reasons. "Now I feel healthy, I feel motivated, I feel fresh. I just want to go there and win every match I play."

Halep recently announced she will be reuniting with coach Darren Cahill from the start of 2020, and the Romanian is convinced they can pick up where they left off last year when the Australian helped her win a maiden Grand Slam title at the 2018 French Open. "I'm really happy and I feel confident that next year I can do some good things again," she said. Halep skipped past Strycova in just 85 minutes on Tuesday, benefiting from her opponent's 30 unforced

"The World Cup really was a showcase, the world fell even more in love with the game," said 53-year-old Ellis, who will step down from the team in October. Leeds United manager Marcelo Bielsa won the fair play award after he ordered his team to allow Aston Villa to score an equaliser during their 1-1 draw in their Championship match in April.

Bielsa's side had gone ahead controversially when a player was injured before the Argentine intervened. Romanian-born Hungarian forward Daniel Zsori won the Fifa Puskas Award for the best goal, beating strikes from Messi and Juan Fernando Quintero.

The 18-year-old forward, on his debut, scored a spectacular overhead kick to win the game for his side Debrecen against Ferencvaros in stoppage time. —AFP

errors. Meanwhile, reigning WTA Finals champion Elina Svitolina took an important step forward to lock down a place in Shenzhen by overcoming Spaniard Garbine Muguruza 7-5, 6-2 in round two in Wuhan.

A semi-finalist at Wimbledon and the US Open this year, Svitolina is competing for a fifth consecutive week — while managing a lingering knee injury — as she continues to chase the opportunity to defend her Finals crown.

"I am not a robot, but I am extremely motivated to play in Shenzhen," said the Ukrainian No.3 seed. "When I step on court, every single match matters". French Open champion Ashleigh Barty clung on to her No.1 ranking by rallying back to defeat Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, and set up a third round with American Sofia Kenin.

A loss for Barty would have seen Karolina Pliskova replace the Australian at the top of the rankings next Monday. The pair are locked in a battle for the summit this week in Wuhan, but Barty's opening victory here means Pliskova must at least reach the semi-finals for a shot at leapfrogging her rival. —AFP