Lawmaker Mutairi slams Jleeb as land of outlaws

Russia sends humanoid robot Fedor into space

Finished at 23, eSports players peer nervously into retirement

Documenting Kuwait’s disappearing landmarks
See Pages 4 & 5

The abandoned Mishref Palace captured by the lens of Abdulraouf Murad.
The back-to-school routine is not easy, because during the summer holidays there is laxity in the hours of eating and sleeping for kids. But with the return of students to schools, things don't go back as they were right away. For many families, the back-to-school period is approaching, and it is a good thing that children will be back to a routine, having an early dinner and going to bed at a reasonable time.

For moms especially, back to school is stressful for a variety of reasons. School fees in Kuwait's private schools are sky high and continue to soar. Supplies and uniforms are also expensive and require repeated trips to market and special budgeting.

Preparing for school, whether by returning from travels or buying school supplies like uniforms, bags, notebooks and other important needs are not the only concerns for families, but how ready are the schools to receive students and the readiness of classes too, especially with regards to air conditioning and water coolers, as well as the necessary medical supervision to ensure the safety of students from any diseases or infection.

I think the back-to-school season has become a burden, especially if the family has to pay for additional lessons after school for the children to help them in their studies.

The back-to-school season will begin in Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf very shortly, so it is important to raise awareness of the health risks that can be transmitted among students, especially in the kindergarten and primary levels. School health specialists agree that the school is an environment that provides an incubator for infectious diseases, and that illnesses can be easily transmitted through the integration and accumulation of pupils in classrooms. This is a natural result because of the presence of children in large groups, who are exposed to pathogens including germs and other vectors of infection.

School infections, skin diseases and eye infections are transmitted by viral, fungal and bacterial means.

In any case, early diagnosis and continuous follow-up of the situation of the child, whether by parents or school administrations, is required to avoid problems. I think giving attention to the periodic examination of the skin of schoolchildren and not allowing them to keep their hair and nails too long are effective and vital.

For the prevention of these diseases, several tips are provided by specialized doctors, especially proper nutrition, as it stimulates the immune system and improves the body's ability to fight diseases, including making sure there is no lack of vitamins in the child's daily diet to ensure that the child gets enough of the right foods and enough sleep at night.

I remember when I was young, our parents were keen to make us go to sleep early. We did not have mobiles that we took to our beds that kept us awake for a long time. Delay in sleeping at night leads to stress issues in the morning, which is a big problem for families today.

Social media occupies a lot of time in the lives of people, whether school kids or others, so it is important for parents to set certain hours during the day to let children use their mobile devices, and not allow these devices to go to bed with them. I hope this year we will not witness any cases of disruption of air conditioning in the light of the very hot weather. We need a good start. Welcome back everyone, and wishing you all a great school year!
Ready for the Beach??

Kuwait Times

Subscribe or renew your subscription & get K.D 50

1 Coupon FREE

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait | Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7
Fax: 24835620 - 24835621 | E: info@kuwaittimes.net
Local

Friday, August 23, 2019

Kuwait Times: Tell us about yourself.
Murad: I’m a young Kuwaiti man working in the field of customer service in a private investment company. I love traveling, reading, research, documentation and of course photography. In 2012, I created my Instagram profile to be more like a “travel journal”, where I used to post photos and information about my trips outside Kuwait.

Two years ago, I had a conversation with a friend who claimed that Kuwait is a country where there are only restaurants and cafes! From that moment, I decided to use my profile to explore Kuwait, and recently I have focused more on documenting the urban history of Kuwait and trying to raise awareness of the importance of preserving urbanism, especially with a lack of interest and demolition of Kuwaiti history.

KT: How did you decide to pursue a career in photography?
Murad: I was passionate about photography and documenting happy moments since 2002, when I bought my first digital camera. I was in high school then. That humble camera, with its modest possibilities at that time, contributed to documenting many occasions with friends and family and at school. I still have those pictures and the camera.

KT: Do you prefer to be called an architectural photographer? When did this passion start?
Murad: My passion for architecture started after a visit to Sawaber residential complex in December 2018. The complex’s story and its struggles that ended dramati-
The demolition of the buildings increased my awareness about the importance of preserving the architectural heritage of Kuwait. These historical buildings represent part of Kuwait’s history and identity and have witnessed the development and leadership of Kuwait, and shouldn't be treated like this. I would rather not be described as an “architectural photographer”, firstly because I’m still new in this field, and secondly and most importantly, my photography tours are not limited to urban photography. I had an interesting tour to document Jleeb Al-Shuyukh, and another highlighting the use of public transportation in Kuwait. So I might fit more under the category of “photojournalist.”

**KT:** How would you describe your photographic approach?

**Murad:** I start researching and reading about the subject that I want to photograph. I use books and search engines like Google before the tour, which often starts early in the morning on weekends. I usually take photos using a mobile, but recently I have started using professional cameras. Sometimes when the place is very vast, I make more than one visit. I take a large number of photos and then start working on selecting and editing them. Finally, I collect related and interesting information about the subject of the tour. The end result is posting the tour on my Instagram page.

**KT:** From where do you get your information about the history of the buildings?

**Murad:** Unfortunately, the Kuwait library has scarce information regarding the history of modern urbanism in Kuwait. I mostly use two important books as references - “Modern Architecture Kuwait: 1949 -1989”, which is a significant book by a group of researchers who documented the most important architectural features of Kuwait. The other book is “History of Engineering in Kuwait” by renowned Kuwaiti engineer Sabah Al-Rayes. I also do some online search about the places that I will be visiting.

**KT:** How long does it take to complete the photo shoot?

**Murad:** Photo shooting often takes a day or a single visit to the place for several hours - but it may extend in case the place is huge and full of details. After that comes the process of sorting, selecting and editing the photos, which usually takes hours.

**KT:** What is your favorite photography project and why?

**Murad:** Sawaber residential complex project. When I learned the complex was abandoned and that there were plans to demolish it, I decided to visit it. I used to think that the complex comprised only of a few buildings, but I was surprised by the size of the project, with its facilities, gardens, play areas and walkways connecting buildings. I wandered inside the magnificent abandoned apartments, and imagined how they were before their owners left. I find a special atmosphere in abandoned places - they have a charming and attractive air.

**KT:** How do you protect the rights of your photographs in this online era?

**Murad:** I believe that publishing the photos under the photographer’s profile on social media and on specialized sites is an effective way to preserve their rights. There is also another way to preserve their rights - by saving the photos on CDs and recording them at the National Library of Kuwait. Thus they become officially protected.

**KT:** What advice would you give to photographers who want to pursue a career in photography?

**Murad:** Make sure you have a message and a good cause for your photography - don't be random. Also, I would say that you do not need professional cameras and sophisticated equipment to become a photographer - the mobile camera does the job often. The most important thing is your eye and feeling of the beauty and power of the moment and scene.

**KT:** What do you think about social media? How do you use it in your profession?

**Murad:** I have benefited a lot from social media in terms of exchanging ideas and suggestions with followers, receiving their positive and negative opinions and their interactions with what I publish. This is my biggest motivation for continuity and development, and there is no doubt that social media is one of the most successful ways to express and share your ideas, awareness and knowledge.

**KT:** Anything you would like to add?

**Murad:** In Kuwait, many facilities and buildings have witnessed the antecedence and leadership of the country and its history in the region. I hope that all officials in the state will take care of them and preserve them instead of unnecessarily demolishing and removing them. I also call on all amateur and professional photographers to highlight these places and document them through their lenses to display the unique and beautiful identity of Kuwait, which is way more than just a restaurant or cafe or a shopping mall.

---

Photos by Abdulraouf Murad
PHOTO FEATURE

Residents across Kuwait provide water and feed for animals, especially during the searing summer months. With temperatures regularly above 50+ C even in the shade, many birds for instance rely on the generosity of residents to find fresh water. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat
Kuwait Times
The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf
Oman Sultan Qaboos greets Kuwait’s Amir on recuperation

Kuwait welcomes reconciliation of Somalia’s parties

Deputy FM meets US ambassador

Ukrainian cultural week in Kuwait in Jan
Lawmaker labels Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh land of outlaws

MPs press for road repairs before winter

KUWAIT: Describing Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh as a land of outlaws and total chaos, MP Maged Al-Mutairi yesterday sent a series of questions to the state minister for municipality affairs about government plans for the densely-populated areas for expatriates.

The lawmaker said that the area, which is home to tens of thousands of expatriates, a majority of whom are Asian, looks like an area from a totally different world despite its highly important strategic location near the international airport, the new university and the country's main sports stadium. With its random and chaotic markets which disrupt traffic, the area has become a slum area like the residential areas being removed from major Arab cities, he said. The area is also crowded with single expat unskilled laborers many of whom are law violators, making the area home to outlaws, said Mutairi, adding that construction organization is almost absent from the area making it extremely difficult for any future plan to develop the area.

The lawmaker asked the minister about proposed government plans to resolve the problems of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and the main difficulties facing its execution. He also asked if the ministry has any plans to remove the unlicensed random road markets and if the government has any plans to revamp the whole area. Mutairi asked the minister about the number of single men living in the area and why the ministry has not penalized landlords who lease their buildings to bachelors in violation of the law.

Meanwhile, MPs criticized the government yesterday for failing to make the necessary repairs for the roads hit by last year's flooding and for not paying compensation to people whose property was damaged. MP Yousif Al-Fadlallah said the minister of public works has said that road repairs will be completed in December this year which is a long delay, adding that many roads are not in the best shape. MP Mohammad Al-Hadiya held the ministry officials responsible for failing to develop roads in the country to the best international standards.

56,000 invalid work permits cancelled

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower has cancelled 56,000 invalid work permits. The authority said its action came after making sure about the accuracy of data from the interior ministry. The law allows the authority to cancel a work permit automatically in several cases, including if the worker spends more than six consecutive months out of Kuwait without a permit from the residency affairs department, when the residency permit expires, and if the worker is deported.

350 expat doctors

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry asked the Civil Service Commission for new job vacancies to sign contracts with 350 new expat doctors to meet the needs of new hospitals and medical centers that have opened or will open shortly. Official sources said the ministry asked the commission for a quick response to avoid any shortage in doctors needed by medical centers. They said the health ministry will start interviewing doctors from Jordan and Palestine, who are expected to be contracted before the end of the year. Meanwhile, they said the ministry will also sign contracts with doctors from India, and 500 nurses and technicians from India and the Philippines. The sources said the CSC told the health ministry that expat administrative employees should be replaced by Kuwaitis, especially since there are Kuwaitis registered at the central employment department having certificates in secretarial and administrative specialties.

School catering

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Usama Al-Sultan said it was agreed with Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakery Company to supply pastries and biscuits for the elementary stage with high quality and specifications approved by the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition. He said six local companies will supply dairy products and refreshments. Sultan said the Education Ministry is keen on boosting positive behavior and correct nutrition habits by providing healthy foods that reduce food-related diseases.

Private nurseries

Social Affairs Minister Saad Al-Kharaz issued a decision to form a new department to supervise private nurseries at the social development sector. Acting Social Affairs Ministry Undersecretary Hanaa Al-Hajeri said the aim behind the new department is to monitor the rising number of private nurseries that are more than 600 now and are expected to increase. She said no new applications will be accepted until the new department is ready.

Hawally Municipality processes 380 transactions in July

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said Hawally branch inspection and engineering follow-up department processed 380 transactions in July. Department Director Mubarak Al-Ajmi said the department processed 105 transactions for electronic specifications, 77 transactions to end electronic supervision, 128 transactions for shops, seven for power connections, 23 for electronic power connections, three licenses and renewals for nurseries, institutes and a bank branch, in addition to eight transactions for phone connections.

28 arrested in Sharq police raid

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Twenty-eight people were arrested during a police crackdown in Sharq that targeted illegal residents and other lawbreakers. Capital Security Department carried out the surprise inspection of Shamal Marina Wednesday night in cooperation with the coastguard, resulting in arresting two drunken persons, four in violation of residency law, five with expired residency permits and 19 not carrying IDs. All were sent to concerned authorities.

In other news, Acting Interior Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired a meeting yesterday that included the Acting Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs Maj Gen Abdelaziz Al-Hajeri and a number of concerned directors. The meeting discussed preparations for the new school year and the distribution of traffic patrols on main and side roads to ensure smooth traffic flow.
Offensive puts Turkish troops in peril

Turkish military post cut off by Syrian army advances

ISTANBUL: Syrian army advances in north-west Syria are putting Turkish troops in the firing line and threaten Ankara's hopes of preventing a new wave of refugees on its southern border. The offensive around Idlib, the last major rebel stronghold in Syria, has already forced tens of thousands of civilians to flee towards Turkey. It has also cut off a Turkish military post deep inside Syria as the deal to limit fighting in the region, which the Turkish troops were supposed to be monitoring, collapses.

The breakdown of that deal would be a significant blow to President Tayyip Erdogan, who has steered Turkey closer to Russia in recent years but appears unable to rein back Moscow's support for the Syrian army offensive. Russia, Iran and Turkey agreed in 2017 to set up four "de-escalation zones" to stem fighting between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces and rebels, but the Syrian army has taken three of those areas and is now advancing in the fourth.

It has entered the town of Khan Sheikhoun, effectively cutting off Turkish troops at a military post near the town of Morek, 70 km (45 miles) inside Syria. A Turkish convoy sent to resupply the Morek post was halted on Monday by an air strike, "The situation there is of critical sensitivity," Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Turkey, which supports some Syrian rebel factions, has troops deployed at 12 military observation posts around the Idlib region under the 2017 deal with Moscow and Tehran, which back Assad's government. That agreement, and a Turkey-Russia accord last year aimed at reducing the power of jihadist fighters in the Idlib region, has at best had only a limited impact.

Turkey complained that Syrian and Russia air strikes in the region continued, while Moscow grew increasingly impatient over what it saw as Ankara's failure to stop jihadists from the former Nusra Front taking over much of Idlib. Russia also says the fighters in Idlib and Hama provinces threatened its Hmeimim air base, less than 40 km to the west.

Civilians flee

Turkey insists it has no plans to abandon or move any of the military posts it set up in Idlib, despite Monday's air strike and the fighting around Morek. "All observation posts will continue operations where they are located right now," Kalin said, adding that agreements to halt military operations around Idlib must be respected.

"Otherwise, both the violation of this agreement and the resulting humanitarian drama will be inevitable," the United Nations says more than 500,000 people have been uprooted since the Syrian army began its offensive in late April, most of them escaping deeper into the rebel bastion and towards the border. Turkey, which opened its border at the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011 and now hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees, is determined to avoid another influx of civilians - or fighters.

It has built a wall along the 800 km Syrian border and says it has identified locations inside Syria to shelter a possible wave of people fleeing the fighting in Idlib. "When the risk of conflict rises too much, Turkey will probably retreat," Erdogan will speak to Putin about Idlib as soon as possible, Kalin told reporters after the cabinet meeting. Just last month, Turkish ties with Russia appeared stronger than ever as Erdogan took delivery of advanced S-400 Russian missile defense equipment - despite a threat of U.S. sanctions and strong lobbying by Washington to stall the deal. Six weeks later, Moscow and Ankara's differences over northwest Syria appear irreconcilable and Turkey's Idlib strategy is in peril.

"The end state is clear," said Sinan Ulgen, a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe and a former Turkish diplomat. Pressure on the southernmost Turkish observation posts - those which are the furthest inside Syria - would spread to other Turkish positions as the Syrian army offensive continues, and Turkey would likely pull some troops back. "It was a matter of time," Ulgen said. "To me the surprise is that it happened so soon after the S-400 episode. It proves how little leverage Turkey has gained with Russia." — Reuters
**Ghana draws Afro-American tourists with ‘Year of Return’**

**Cape Coast Castle - a major magnet**

**CAPE COAST:** US preacherocaine Caleb blinked away the tears as she emerged from a pitch-dark dungeon where African slaves were once held before being shipped across the Atlantic to America. “I wasn’t prepared for this. I’m heartbroken,” she said as she toured the Cape Coast slave fort on Ghana’s ocean shore.

“My mind still can’t wrap around the fact that a human being can treat another worse than a rat,” Caleb is among the African-American visitors flocking to Ghana as it marks the “Year of Return” to remember the 400th anniversary of the first slave ship landing in Virginia. The West African nation is banking on commemorations to give a major boost to the number of tourist arrivals as it encourages the descendants of slaves to “come home”.

Cape Coast Castle, 150 kilometers from the capital Accra, is a major magnet for those visiting. The white-washed fort lined with cannons was one of dozens of prisons studying the Atlantic coast where slaves were held before their journey to the New World. A string of prominent African-Americans have headed to the site this year to mark the anniversary since the first slave landing in 1641. Among them was a delegation of Congressional Black Caucus led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that toured last month.

**‘Can’t forget history’**

For those visiting it is an emotional rite of passage. “This has been understanding my history and my roots where I came from,” Caleb said. “I am very thankful I came here as part of the Year of Return.”

Kojo Keelson has spent nine years guiding tourists around the Cape Coast Castle and says 2019 has seen a surge in interest as Ghana looks to rake in tourism revenue of $925 million (830 million euros). “It’s like a pilgrimage. This year we’ve a lot more African-Americans coming through than the previous year,” he told AFP. “I’m urging all of them to come home and experience and reconnect to the motherland.”

**‘Love to come again’**

Alcides Awa Xabio, the official coordinating “Year of Return” events, pointed to high hotel occupancy rates as he said “enthusiasm is very high and we’ve got huge numbers coming from the US and Caribbean”. He insisted that beyond the major economic boost, Ghana was also looking to use the new connections it is forging to convince the descendants of slaves to settle for good and help the country develop. “Human resource is always an asset and we need to see how we can welcome them home to utilise their expertise and networks,” he added.

The African American Association of Ghana brought together those who have moved to West Africa and offers help to integrate them into their new surroundings. President Gail Nkoi praised the “Year of Return” initiative by Ghanaian leader Nana Akufo-Addo and said the country was “setting the stage for future engagements and involvement of African-Americans and other Africans from the diaspora in the development of this country.” — AFP

---

**US marks the arrival of Angela, the ‘Eve’ of enslaved Africans**

**JAMESTOWN:** Carefully raking through soil in suffocating heat at an archeological dig site in historic Jamestown, Charolee Reid is working hard to retrace bits of the life of Angela, who arrived here from Africa 400 years ago. After a terrifying crossing of the Atlantic to America. — AFP

At the time, Portuguese and Spanish slave traders had already been selling Africans as laborers in the Americas - Brazil, for instance - for nearly a century. Originally from the kingdom of Ndongo, in what is now Angola, Angela was loaded onto a Portuguese ship in Luanda, which then headed to Veracruz, in the Spanish colony of modern-day Mexico. Nearly a third of the 350 slaves died before the Atlantic crossing was complete because of the crowded conditions on board the vessel.

And before reaching Veracruz, two privateer ships attacked the Portuguese vessel and snatched about 60 Africans, according to James Horn, president of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation in charge of the dig. The first of the two, the White Lion, arrived in Virginia in “the latter end of August” 1619, wrote John Rolfe, a wealthy English settler who was the husband of Pocahontas, whose father was a powerful native American tribal leader. Arriving at Point Comfort today Fort Monroe, near Jamestown - the privates exchanged “20 and odd” Africans for needed supplies.

The second ship, the Treasurer, arrived soon thereafter, dropping off a small group. The only woman whose name was preserved for history was Angela; “the first documented African woman in Virginia,” said Bly Straube, the curator at the Jamestown Settlement, a living history museum. “To me, the story is sort of like Eve,” Straube said. “She and her fellow Africans who arrived in 1619 are the founding generation of what would become our African-American community today. That’s the beginning.”

Their arrival marks the beginning of a dark period of US history: 250 years of slavery followed by a long period of racial segregation, the repercussions of which are still felt in American society. The enslaved Africans arrived shortly after settlers founded the first local legislature on July 30, 1619 - in what Horn calls a “paradox” of history.

Just weeks after “the first expression of our democratic experiment” came the arrival of people “stripped of their rights, and even their identity,” the historian said. “That’s a fundamental part of our story as Americans.” For Terry Brown, the first black superintendent of the Fort Monroe National Monument, the history of slavery in the United States is “the greatest survival story written in American history.” — AFP

---

**Man arrested in Spain for ‘upskirting’ over 500 women**

**MADRID:** Spanish police said Wednesday they have arrested a man suspected of secretly recording videos of the underwear of over 500 women, some of them minors, on public transit and supermarkets. The man allegedly used a mobile phone concealed inside a backpack which he placed on the ground to take pictures up women’s skirts in Madrid without their consent, a practice known as “upskirting”, police said in a statement.

He then uploaded at least 283 of these videos to a pornographic site where they were viewed over a million times. Police arrested the 53-year-old Colombian national while he was in the act of recording up the dress of a woman on the Madrid metro using a strategically placed mobile phone in his backpack, the statement said.

He “acted in a compulsive way, daily, recording all the women that he could,” it added. During one five-day period he recorded 29 different women, police said. The man operated in the metro and commuter trains and “in some cases followed some of the women from the metro to supermarkets to continue recording them,” Rafael Fernandez of the cybercrime unit of Spain’s national police told reporters.

Officers seized a laptop and three hard drives from his home which had videos of hundreds of women whom he secretly recorded. — AFP
Israel eases its rules on cyber weapon exports

Israeli government and industry seek more sales of spyware

TEL AVIV: Israel is easing export rules on offensive cyber weapons, despite accusations by human rights and privacy groups that its technologies are used by some governments to spy on political foes and crush dissent. A rule change by the defense ministry means companies can now export offensive cyber tools to more countries without the government having to be involved in the sale of some products to specific countries, a source close to the cyber sector told Reuters.

Israel, like other big defense exporters, closely guards details of its weapons sales and its export rules are not widely known, but the defense ministry confirmed the change had gone into force about a year ago in response to Reuters' questions. Industry specialists say the change makes a speedier approval process possible for the sale of cyber weapons, or spyware, which are used to break into electronic devices and monitor online communications.

Israel's defense ministry said the rule change "was made to facilitate effective service to Israeli industries while maintaining and protecting international standards of export control and supervision." It said a marketing-license exemption was granted only under "certain conditions related to the security clearance of the product and assessment of the country toward which the export would be made." The companies, including NSO Group and Verint, and defence contractor Elbit Systems, are among the world leaders in the growing global market for cyber weapons. The software tools exploit vulnerabilities in cellphones and other tech products to gain access and covertly monitor users. Some privacy and human rights groups say Israel's controls on the sale of cyber weapons are inadequate, especially this year.

Amnesty said the government should take a tougher line against export licenses that have "resulted in human rights abuses." The Israeli government declined to comment on accusations of rights abuses. Rights groups say neighboring states including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are among the Israeli firms' spyware customers.

Diplomatic considerations can come into play and help speed sales. Tel Aviv University Professor Isaac Ben-Israel, the father of Israel's cyber sector and chairman of its space agency, said there was nothing wrong with using technology to form a bond with neighbors that have shunned formal ties. "This is a legitimate tool in diplomacy," he said. Government officials in Saudi Arabia and the UAE did not respond to requests for comments regarding claims they had purchased spyware from Israeli companies. Israeli companies say they comply with government export rules and vet customers to ensure the technology is used for legitimate purposes.

Growing commercial market

Advanced cyber weapons were until recently deployed only by the most technically sophisticated government spy agencies, such as those in the United States, Israel, China and Russia. But now a robust commercial market for powerful hacking tools and services has emerged, with former government cyber experts from the United States, Israel and other countries playing a big role in the trade.

That has brought new scrutiny to how cyber weapons are bought, sold and deployed, and the actions of governments in regulating the trade. Israeli companies say they comply with government export rules and vet customers to ensure the technology is used for legitimate purposes. The software tools exploit vulnerabilities in cellphones and other tech products to gain access and covertly monitor users. Some privacy and human rights groups say Israel's controls on the sale of cyber weapons are inadequate, especially this year.

Amnesty said the government should take a tougher line against export licenses that have "resulted in human rights abuses." The Israeli government declined to comment on accusations of rights abuses. Rights groups say neighboring states including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are among the Israeli firms' spyware customers.

Diplomatic considerations can come into play and help speed sales. Tel Aviv University Professor Isaac Ben-Israel, the father of Israel's cyber sector and chairman of its space agency, said there was nothing wrong with using technology to form a bond with neighbors that have shunned formal ties. "This is a legitimate tool in diplomacy," he said. Government officials in Saudi Arabia and the UAE did not respond to requests for comments regarding claims they had purchased spyware from Israeli companies. Israeli companies say they comply with government export rules and vet customers to ensure the technology is used for legitimate purposes.

Trump under fire from American Jews over ‘disloyalty’ remark

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump has been hit by a wave of criticism for accusing Jewish Democratic voters of "disloyalty," but his comment also highlighted the unease of some in the community with its traditional party of choice. Trump, who has positioned himself as a staunch ally of Israel, made the remark on Tuesday night while criticizing Democratic politicians who support a boycott of the Jewish state.

"Where has the Democratic party gone?" Trump said, adding: "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty." Asked about the comments before flying to Kentucky the following day, Trump — in typical fashion — doubled down: "You vote for a Democrat, you're being very disloyal to Jewish people and you're being very disloyal to Israel." Members of America's more than five million-strong Jewish community - 80 percent of whom voted Democratic in the 2018 mid-term elections, according to the Pew Research Center - have denounced his notion of loyalty and blamed the president for fuelling anti-Semitism. "It's a bit unclear what the president was trying to say in terms of who Jews are disloyal to... While he wasn't exactly clear about that, I will be exactly clear on what that was anti-Semitic," Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, said on CNN. The president "has no right to tell Jewish Americans he knows what is best for us or to demand our loyalty," said Halie Soifer, executive director for the Jewish Democratic Council of America. Criticism of Trump has multiplied on Twitter under the hashtags #DisloyalToTrump as well as #KingOfIsrael, after the president approvingly tweeted a quote in which he was referred to by that title.

But beyond the latest controversy, some New York Jews say they feel growing unease with certain positions taken by the Democratic Party. Trump "shouldn't have said it," said Ben Mirsky, a retired 80-year-old. "I don't like the Jews to be taken into political party discussions. "But the truth of the matter is, that some Jews, even those who have always voted Democrat like myself, are being disappointed with the Democratic party" because its leadership is not reacting enough to what seems like anti-Semitism from some of its members, he said. — AFP
Iran unvels domestically built long-range air defense system

TEHRAN: Iran unveiled its new home-grown air defense system yesterday at a time of increased tensions with the United States. Iranian officials have previously called Bavar-373 the Islamic republic’s first domestically produced long-range missile defense system. Tehran began making Bavar—which means “believe”—after the purchase of Russia’s S-300 system was suspended in 2010 due to international sanctions.

President Hassan Rouhani attended the unveiling ceremony for the mobile surface-to-air system and ordered it to be added to Iran’s missile defense network, state news agency IRNA reported. “The long-range Bavar-373 missile system is suited to Iran’s geography with a range of more than 200 kilometres (124 miles) ... and competes with Russian and American systems such as S-300 and Patriot,” IRNA said.

The system is “better than S-300 and close to S-400”, Rouhani said in televised remarks after the ceremony, held on Iran’s “national defence industry day”.

Pictures released by his office showed the system mounted on the back of military trucks in Tehran. Iran installed the S-300 system in March 2016 following several years of delays, after a nuclear agreement reached with world powers the previous year allowed the lifting of international sanctions. Yesterday’s unveiling takes place against a backdrop of rising tensions with Washington since President Donald Trump last year withdrew the United States from the nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions. Iran shut down a US Global Hawk drone with a surface-to-air missile in June for allegedly violating its airspace, which the United States denies.

Iran is prepared to work on French proposals to salvage the international nuclear deal that Tehran signed with world powers in 2015 but it will not tolerate US interference in the Gulf, its foreign minister said yesterday. At a time of heightened friction between Tehran and Washington, Iran also displayed what it described as a domestically built long-range, surface-to-air missile defense system.

The United State abandoned the international nuclear deal in May last year and stepped up sanctions on the Islamic Republic. In an effort to prop up the agreement, French President Emmanuel Macron offered on Wednesday to either soften sanctions on Iran or provide a compensation mechanism “to enable the Iranian people to live better” in return for full compliance with the pact.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, speaking at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, said he was looking forward to having a serious conversation with Macron in Paris today. “There are proposals on the table from the French and the Iranian side, and we are going to work on those proposals tomorrow,” he said. Zarif also warned against US efforts to create a security mission, which so far Britain, Australia and Bahrain have joined, to guard shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital gateway for global oil supplies.

“IT’s clear that the US intention...of having a naval presence in the Gulf is to counter Iran...Don’t expect us to remain quiet when somebody comes to our waters and threatens us,” Zarif said.

Several international merchant vessels have been attacked in the Gulf in recent months in incidents that have rocked global commodity trading.

Indonesia cuts off internet in Papua over unrest fears

JAKARTA: Indonesia has cut off internet access in unrest-hit Papua over fears that a stream of offensive and racist online posts would spark more violent protests in the region, the government said yesterday. Riots and demonstrations brought several Papuan cities to a standstill this week, as buildings were torched and street battles broke out between police and protesters in Indonesia’s easternmost territory.

A rebel insurgency against Jakarta’s rule has simmered for decades in the resource-rich but impoverished island, which shares a border with Papua New Guinea. The riots appear to have been triggered by the arrest of dozens of Papuan students in Java at the weekend, who were also pelted with racist abuse.

Indonesia had slowed internet service in recent days to clamp down on hoaxes and provocative comments targeting Papua’s ethnic Melanesian population.

But it shut down service completely late Wednesday, although many users still managed to get around the block. “The amount of racist and provocative content was very high...and it went viral,” communications ministry spokesman Ferdinandus Setu said. Calm appeared to have been mostly restored yesterday after Indonesia sent in 1,200 extra police and military to Papua.

A few dozen protesters were arrested.

Several police officers had been injured, and there are unconfirmed reports of wounded demonstrators. No deaths have been reported.

The unrest came after reports that authorities tear-gassed and briefly detained some 43 Papuan university students in Surabaya, Indonesia’s second-biggest city, on Saturday - the country’s independence day. Police in riot gear stormed a dormitory to force out students who had been urged to rise up against the Indonesian flag, as a group of protesters shouted racial slurs at them, calling them “monkeys” and “dogs”.

“The capital demonstration involved 50 students in a clash with the police,” the manager of a local university said.

Several international merchant vessels have been attacked in the Gulf in recent months in incidents that have rocked global commodity trading.

Alternate lives: Korean orphans’ quests for answers

SEOUL: On a summer’s day in 1985 a seven-year-old boy sat alone at a crowded bus station in Seoul, sobbing as he waited desperately for his mother to return. Jo Youn-hwan was wearing a baseball uniform that his mother had bought him a few days before - the only gift she had ever given him. She told him to wait for her before leaving him at the terminal. So he did, increasingly terrified as day turned to dusk. “I’ll be a really good kid if only she chooses to return,” he promised himself, over and over again. “I’ll be a really, really good kid.”

The United States has blamed Iran, which denies the accusations.

Adding to the fraught mood, British forces seized an Iranian tanker off Gibraltar in July then Iranian Revolutionary Guards detained a British vessel in the Gulf. In her speech in Oslo, Zarif said Iran would not start a war in the Gulf but it would defend itself. “Will there be a war in the Persian Gulf? I can tell you that we will not start the war...but we will defend ourselves,” agencies quoted him as saying.

Several international merchant vessels have been attacked in the Gulf in recent months in incidents that have rocked global commodity trading.

Better life? International adoption from South Korea began after the Korean War as a way to remove mixed-race children, born to local mothers and American soldiers stationed in South Korea from a country that had only known homogeneity. More recently the main driver has been babies born to unmarried women, who still face ostracism in a patriarchal society, and among Americans are often forced to give up their children. Most children remain institutionalized till adulthood as many South Koreans are reluctant to adopt. The country has sent some 180,000 children overseas over the years, mostly to the US.

“This logic of rescue remained strong in the minds of Americans and Koreans alike; rich Americans could give a Korean child a better life than they could ever have in Korea with poor parents or a single mother,” said Arissa Oh, who researches race, family and migration at Boston College in the US. “Among children placed in orfanages, the youngest, most attractive and healthiest were selected for overseas adoption.”

The idea of rescue “erased the consumerism” of international adoption, providing justification for taking children from their country of birth, she added. For many adoptees, that narrative has often led to a sense of alienation in their new lives. “My whole life I have been told-by adopters, colleagues and at school-I should be grateful, and had I not been adopted I would’ve had to live in the streets as a prostitute,” Hanna Johansson, a Korean adoptee in Sweden, explained.

Friday Times
Friday, August 23, 2019
India health ministry proposes ban on e-cigarettes, jail terms

Up to five-year jail terms proposed for repeat offenders

NEW DELHI: India’s health ministry has proposed a ban on the production and import of electronic cigarettes, documents seen by Reuters showed, potentially jeopardizing the expansion plans of big firms like Juul Labs and Philip Morris International. The ministry has proposed that the government issue an executive order banning the devices in the public interest, saying it was needed to ensure e-cigarettes don’t become an “epidemic” among children and young adults. “E-cigarettes and similar technologies that encourage tobacco use or adversely impact public health are hazardous for an active as well as passive user,” the health ministry said in an internal note seen by Reuters that the federal cabinet is expected to consider.

Health officials are proposing jail terms of up to three years, with a penalty of up to 500,000 rupees ($7,000), for repeat offenders against the new rules, according to a draft of the executive order. First-time offenders would face a prison term of up to one year and a fine of 100,000 rupees. Such orders are typically issued in India as an emergency measure when parliament is not in session. It can lapse if it is not approved when parliament reconvenes at the next session, which will most likely be held around November.

It was not immediately clear whether the draft executive order will face changes, or when it will be approved. India’s health ministry did not respond to a request for comment from Reuters. The ministry’s plans would deal a blow to US-based Juul Labs Inc, whose sleek vaping devices that resemble USB flash drives have become a sensation in the United States, has previously said it aims to improve the lives of smokers by offering a “satisfying alternative to combusted cigarettes,” —Reuters

Carrier bag spat erupts as Islamabad moves to ban plastic

ISLAMABAD: When inspectors showed up to investigate reports that a popular Islamabad take-out restaurant was flouting the city’s new plastic bag ban this week, the response was less than contrite. Video footage - which quickly appeared on social media - showed one of the inspectors being grabbed and shoved.

Islamabad’s district commissioner ordered the culprits identified and arrested, and the restaurant was sealed overnight. “We had received complaints that this large restaurant in the Blue Area was continuing to use plastic bags for every item they sell,” said Farzana Altaf Shah, director general of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency. “They are a major contributor to pollution and cause other environmental and health problems. Altaf Shah said. The restaurant has since reopened, after the owner apologized, saying delivery of the needed new biodegradable bags had been delayed by a holiday period. But when inspectors arrived to confiscate the restaurant’s plastic carry bags, “the head of the local traders association showed up with other members and they started behaving violently”, said Altaf Shah said. The restaurant has since reopened, after the owner apologized, saying delivery of the needed new biodegradable bags had been delayed by a holiday period. But the incident suggests that growing efforts in Pakistan - and globally - to reduce plastic waste may not go as smoothly as hoped.

Around the world, a surge of plastic bag bans have been met, at times, with equally enthusiastic efforts to get around them. Kenya, for instance, which banned plastic carrier bags in 2017, has struggled to stop smuggling of the bags over the border from Tanzania and Uganda, which do not have the same restrictions in place. In other places, frustration with the bans - sometimes because good, low-cost green alternatives are difficult to find - has led to everything from faked green compliance certificates to fake biodegradable bags.

WHO: Microplastics in drinking water not a health risk for now

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday the level of microplastics in drinking-water is not yet dangerous for humans but called for more research into potential future risk. In its first report into the effects of microplastics on human health, WHO looked into the specific impact of microplastics in tap and bottled water. “The headline messages to reassure drinking water consumers around the world, that based on this assessment, our assessment of the risk is that it’s low,” said Bruce Gordon, WHO coordinator of water and sanitation.

WHO said that data on the presence of microplastics in drinking water is currently limited, with few reliable studies, making it difficult to analyse the results. WHO has called on researchers to conduct a more in-depth evaluation into microplastics and the potential impact on human health. The organization has also urged a crackdown in plastic pollution to benefit the environment and reduce human exposure to microplastics.

The report said that irrespective of human health risks caused by microplastics in drinking-water “measures should be taken by policymakers and the public to better manage plastics and reduce the use of plastics wherever possible”, WHO said that microplastics larger than 150 micrometres are not likely to be absorbed by the human body but said the chance of absorbing very small microplastic particles, including nano-sized plastics, could be higher, although it said data is limited. —AFP

WHO: Microplastics in drinking water not a health risk for now

Geneva: The WHO has proposed a ban on the production and import of electronic cigarettes, documents seen by Reuters showed, potentially jeopardizing the expansion plans of big firms like Juul Labs and Philip Morris International. The ministry has proposed that the government issue an executive order banning the devices in the public interest, saying it was needed to ensure e-cigarettes don’t become an “epidemic” among children and young adults. "E-cigarettes and similar technologies that encourage tobacco use or adversely impact public health are hazardous for an active as well as passive user," the health ministry said in an internal note seen by Reuters that the federal cabinet is expected to consider.

Health officials are proposing jail terms of up to three years, with a penalty of up to 500,000 rupees ($7,000), for repeat offenders against the new rules, according to a draft of the executive order. First-time offenders would face a prison term of up to one year and a fine of 100,000 rupees. Such orders are typically issued in India as an emergency measure when parliament is not in session. It can lapse if it is not approved when parliament reconvenes at the next session, which will most likely be held around November.

It was not immediately clear whether the draft executive order will face changes, or when it will be approved. India’s health ministry did not respond to a request for comment from Reuters. The ministry’s plans would deal a blow to US-based Juul Labs Inc, which is hoping to launch its e-cigarette in India and has hired several senior executives in recent months. Philip Morris also has plans to launch its heat-not-burn smoking device in India, Reuters has reported.

Advocates for the devices say e-cigarettes are far less harmful than smoking tobacco, because users do not inhale the same dangerous matter. But many tobacco-control activists are opposed to e-cigarettes, saying they could lead to nicotine addiction and push people to consume tobacco. "There is evidence that these products are a gateway to tobacco products and induce adolescents and young adults to nicotine use leading to addiction," the health ministry said in the document.

Lucrative market

India has 106 million adult smokers, second only to China in the world, making it a lucrative market for firms such as Juul and Philip Morris. More than 90,000 people die each year in the country due to tobacco-related illnesses. Sixteen state governments in India have prohibited e-cigarettes but there is as yet no federal legislation to deal with what the health ministry termed the "hazardous product". Justifying its call for a ban, the health ministry argued that e-cigarettes can also be used as delivery devices for other substances such as cannabis, and could promote dual use with conventional cigarettes. "These products have a negative impact on public health," the draft said. Reuters reported in March the health ministry had called for Juul’s entry into India to be blocked, saying such products were "addictive and could potentially undermine our tobacco control efforts". Juul, whose sleek vaping devices that resemble USB flash drives have become a sensation in the United States, has previously said it aims to improve the lives of smokers by offering a "satisfying alternative to combusted cigarettes," —Reuters

WHO: Microplastics in drinking water not a health risk for now

Geneva: The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday the level of microplastics in drinking-water is not yet dangerous for humans but called for more research into potential future risk. In its first report into the effects of microplastics on human health, WHO looked into the specific impact of microplastics in tap and bottled water. "The headline messages to reassure drinking water consumers around the world, that based on this assessment, our assessment of the risk is that it’s low," said Bruce Gordon, WHO coordinator of water and sanitation.

WHO said that data on the presence of microplastics in drinking water is currently limited, with few reliable studies, making it difficult to analyse the results. WHO has called on researchers to conduct a more in-depth evaluation into microplastics and the potential impact on human health. The organization has also urged a crackdown in plastic pollution to benefit the environment and reduce human exposure to microplastics.

The report said that irrespective of human health risks caused by microplastics in drinking-water “measures should be taken by policymakers and the public to better manage plastics and reduce the use of plastics wherever possible”, WHO said that microplastics larger than 150 micrometres are not likely to be absorbed by the human body but said the chance of absorbing very small microplastic particles, including nano-sized plastics, could be higher, although it said data is limited. —AFP

WHO: Microplastics in drinking water not a health risk for now

Geneva: The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday the level of microplastics in drinking-water is not yet dangerous for humans but called for more research into potential future risk. In its first report into the effects of microplastics on human health, WHO looked into the specific impact of microplastics in tap and bottled water. "The headline messages to reassure drinking water consumers around the world, that based on this assessment, our assessment of the risk is that it’s low," said Bruce Gordon, WHO coordinator of water and sanitation.

WHO said that data on the presence of microplastics in drinking water is currently limited, with few reliable studies, making it difficult to analyse the results. WHO has called on researchers to conduct a more in-depth evaluation into microplastics and the potential impact on human health. The organization has also urged a crackdown in plastic pollution to benefit the environment and reduce human exposure to microplastics.

The report said that irrespective of human health risks caused by microplastics in drinking-water “measures should be taken by policymakers and the public to better manage plastics and reduce the use of plastics wherever possible”, WHO said that microplastics larger than 150 micrometres are not likely to be absorbed by the human body but said the chance of absorbing very small microplastic particles, including nano-sized plastics, could be higher, although it said data is limited. —AFP
Immigration to Britain falls to 5-year low

LONDON: Net immigration to Britain sank to its lowest since 2013 during the year to the end of March, driven by a sustained fall in the number of immigrants from the European Union since 2016's Brexit referendum, official figures showed yesterday. Rising immigration was a major public concern when Britain voted to leave the EU, though it has since dropped down people's list of worries. Nonetheless, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government plans to introduce restrictions on EU migration after Britain leaves the bloc on Oct. 31. Some 622,000 people moved to the United Kingdom during the 12 months to March, while 385,000 people emigrated, reducing net immigration to 236,000, its lowest since the 12 months to the end of December 2013, the Office for National Statistics said. The data is based on a new experimental series that aims to reduce previous flaws that led to an undercounting of EU long-term immigrants and overestimating how many non-EU students remained in Britain after their studies.

Even after these adjustments, net inflows of non-EU migrants remain close to the record high of 236,000 set in the 12 months to September 2018. It is one of the lowest figures in the past 10 years, though comparisons are approximate as the ONS has so far only applied its latest, more accurate estimation techniques to EU migration data from before June 2016.

Debt crisis

Immigration to Britain from the rest of the European Union surged after the euro zone debt crisis in 2012, as southern Europeans sought better job opportunities in Britain, on top of east Europeans seeking higher wages. Madeleine Sumption, director of the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory, said the data pointed to a return to the pre-financial crisis trend in net EU migration, and welcomed departures of current EU residents in Britain looked unlikely. "EU emigration (is) still significant but now stable - and not the 'mass post-Brexit exodus' some talked about. Hopes not surprising - most EU citizens (are) now resident here for a while, so are quite settled," she said.

Immigration from outside the EU, which Britain's government has much more legal control over, has steadily risen after a dip in the middle of the decade, despite a British government goal to cut total net immigration to under 100,000 a year. Johnson has said that after Brexit, future immigrants from the EU will be subject to a "skills-based" test similar to that applied by Australia, as well as criminal record checks.

MigrationWatch, a group that wants less immigration, said after yesterday's figures that inflows of immigrants were still "far too high" and that Brexit was a "golden opportunity" to impose greater controls. A June 2019 poll by market researchers ICM showed that 53% of Britons wanted to reduce immigration, while only 13% wanted an increase. However, only 21% of respondents had a strongly negative view of immigration - slightly fewer than were strongly positive - and most were fairly indifferent. —Reuters

Too late for a new Brexit deal, France's Macron tells Johnson

'No-deal' Brexit would be UK's fault

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron told Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday that there was not enough time to wholly rewrite Britain’s Brexit divorce deal before an Oct 31 deadline. Johnson met Macron at the Elysee Palace a day after talks in Berlin with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who challenged Britain to come up with alternatives to the agreed safety net provision for the UK-Irish land border.

More than three years after the United Kingdom voted to quit the European Union, it is still unclear on what terms - or indeed whether - the bloc's second largest economy will leave the club it joined in 1973. Macron left the door open to Britain seeking a solution to the Irish "backstop", but said any alternative must respect both the integrity of the EU single market and stability on the divided island of Ireland. "I want to be very clear: in the month ahead, we will not find a new withdrawal agreement that deviates far from the original," Macron said after a warm handshake with Johnson's government plans to introduce restrictions on EU immigration.

Johnson told Macron that he believed it was still possible to agree one in time for Oct. 31 deadline, and that he had been "powerfully encouraged" by what he had heard from Merkel on Wednesday. "Let's get Brexit done, let's get it done and not the 'no-deal' scenario, but would be ready if it happened. The political crisis in London over Brexit has left allies and investors puzzled by a country that for decades seemed a confident pillar of Western economic and political stability.

Many investors say a 'no-deal' Brexit would hurt the economies of Britain the EU and the wider world, roll financial markets and weaken London's position as the pre-eminent international financial centre. Macron said that any new solution to the problem of the Irish border had to be found in the next month. Signalling that the ball was in the UK's court, he said: "If we cannot find alternatives, then it will be because of a deeper problem, a political one, a British political problem. "And for that, negotiations can't help. It will be up to the prime minister to make that choice, it won't be up to us."

Irish border

After Brexit, the frontier between Ireland and the UK province of Northern Ireland will be the only land border between the EU and Britain. The EU wants to ensure that it does not become a back door for goods to enter the EU's single market - which guarantees free movement of goods, capital, services and labor. Ireland for its part says checks could undermine the 1998 Good Friday agreement, which brought peace to Northern Ireland after more than 3,600 died in a three-decade conflict between unionists who wanted the province to remain British and Irish nationalists who want it to join a united Ireland ruled from Dublin. The backstop, negotiated by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May, provides for Ireland to remain in a temporary customs union with the EU after Brexit, avoiding the need for any hard border infrastructure, until a better solution is found. —Reuters

US man arrested for castrating man he met on eunch website

MIAMI: A man has been arrested in Florida for castrating a companion who submitted to the procedure voluntarily after they met on an internet fetish site specializing in eunchs. "This one is a little... let's just say sensitive. You could even say it's kinda nuts," the Highland County Sheriff's Office said in a statement posted on Facebook after the arrest. Gary Van Ryswyk, 74, came to the door when sheriff's deputies knocked on Sunday and told them he had just castrated a man, who was bleeding heavily on a bed with a towel over his groin. A pink container nearby held "two body parts that had recently been much closer to the victim," the sheriff's office said. The victim, who was not identified, was taken to hospital and later flown to a regional medical center where he was in stable condition. According to the sheriff's office, Van Ryswyk had outfitted the bedroom as an operating theater with medical equipment and a video camera to record the procedure. He told deputies he met the victim through a site for people with castration fetishes, and that it wasn't the first time he had attempted the procedure.

He said a castration attempt that he performed in a motel a few years ago "turned out pretty much like this one," with the man ending up in the hospital. Van Ryswyk told the victim he had experimented on animals and even removed one of his own testicles in 2012, according to the sheriff's office. —AFP

PARIS: Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (right) speaks during a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. —AFP

Friday, August 23, 2019
Somalia’s Jubbaland president wins new term amid rift with central govt

Jubbaland critical to counter-insurgency operations

**GAROWE:** The president of Jubbaland, a Somali region critical to East Africa’s fight against al Shabaab militants, won a fresh term yesterday, the parliamentary speaker said, amid a growing rift between the federal government and its semi-autonomous states.

Ahmed Mohamed Madobe, a top security partner for neighbouring Kenya, which helps Somalia fight the militant group, won 57 of the 74 votes cast by lawmakers in the regional parliament, speaker Cabdi Maxamed Abdirahmaan said.

The bitter local contest has stoked tensions between Kenya and Ethiopia, longtime allies who both have large contingents of peacekeepers in the country and see Jubbaland as a buffer zone against Islamist attacks in their own countries. Kenya supports Madobe, while Ethiopia has grown increasingly close to the federal government in Mogadishu.

“I am ready to sit and speak with all people, including the opposition. I will speak and work with anyone who has a complaint,” Madobe told parliament after the vote. There was no immediate reaction from the central government in Mogadishu to the result, Mogadishu said on Saturday it would not recognize the result, saying the candidate selection process had violated the national constitution.

It has assured Madobe of interfering in the process and has backed opposition candidates, who were rejected by the electoral commission when they attempted to register. Not all of Somalia’s stakeholders have confidence in the process and there is a risk that the vote’s outcome will not be widely accepted, the United Nations mission in Somalia said last week.

The president, who has been in power since 2012, must exert greater control over Jubbaland and the other regions ahead of national elections next year and that he does not see Madobe as a viable partner.

**Militant threat**

Jubbaland is the third of the country’s seven semi-autonomous regions to hold presidential elections before next year’s national presidential vote. With lush farmland, good seasonal rainfall and a strategically important port in Kismayo, it is seen as the breadbasket of Somalia. Its shoreline delineates a hotly contested maritime zone claimed by both Somalia and Kenya with potential oil and gas deposits.

But Shabaab controls swathes of territory and towns in Jubbaland and it may exploit the split over the election, analysts say. The militants, who want to overthrow the Somali government and impose Islamic law, have killed hundreds of civilians across East Africa and thousands of Somalis in a decade-long insurgency.

The political divisions could benefit Shabaab if Jubbaland’s military is distracted by feuding off “enemies” including Ethiopian troops supporting the central government, proxy groups backed by Somalia’s presidency, and even federal troops, said Faisal Roble, a Horn of Africa analyst. “Jubbaland will be pressed hard by all these fronts.” Somalia has been trying to claw its way out of the embers of the civil war that engulfed it in 1991, when clan warlords overthrew a dictator and then turned on each other. — Reuters

India faces defiance in ‘Kashmir’s Gaza’

**SRINAGAR:** Young men sit beside a pile of rocks and a bonfire, protecting the only entrance to a besieged neighborhood they call “Kashmir’s Gaza” as a mosque loudspeaker broadcasts slogans of liberation.

In an act of defiance against New Delhi’s controversial decision to strip the Muslim-majority region of its autonomy, Soura neighborhood on the outskirts of Kashmir’s main city of Srinagar has sealed itself off from security forces. Since early August, residents have erected ramshackle barricades of tin sheets, wooden logs, oil tanks and concrete pillars, and dug trenches to keep soldiers out.

“They can only enter Soura over our bodies,” Mufeed, a resident who volunteers to guard the neighborhood at night said. “Just like Gaza is resisting Israel, we will fight for our motherland with all our might.”

Mufeed added. Kashmir has waged a three-decade-long armed rebellion against Indian rule with tens of thousands of lives, mostly civilians, lost in the conflict.

Ahead of the announcement, India rushed tens of thousands of extra troops to the restive region to join 50,000 already in the valley, and imposed a strict clampdown fearing further unrest. But protests have broken out, with the lower-middle class Soura leading the way. At least 15,000 people rallied on August 9 - the biggest demonstration in Kashmir so far. They were met by security forces firing live ammunition, tear gas and pellet guns to disperse the crowds, with more than 20 people reportedly injured.

‘Go India, go back’

Soura, a crammed lakeside community of more than 2,000 homes, is surrounded by security forces on three sides. The renowned mosque Jnana Saab has become an assembly point for thousands of protesters in the neighborhood. Every night, residents march through its narrow lanes, carrying torches and raising graffiti with the words “Freedom for Kashmir” and “Go India, go back.” Locals pass along messages if they spot any police movement on the main highway just beyond Soura. — AFP

**Tiger by the tail:**

Pakistan’s militant challenge in Kashmir

**MUZAFFARABAD:** Pressure is mounting on Pakistan to contain militants itching for a fight with arch-nemesis India amid growing calls for action in its escalating dispute with New Delhi over Kashmir.

Just last week, hundreds rallied in Pakistani Kashmir, calling for armed retaliation over India’s decision to revoke the special autonomy granted to its portion of the Muslim-majority region.

Delhi’s move earlier this month upended a decades-old para
digm with nuclear-armed rival Pakistan, which also claims the for
ter princely state, and left Islamabad scrambling for international support against the move. But in the mosques and marketplaces of Muzaffarabad in Pakistani-administered Kashmir, the calls for jihad are gaining momentum — even as analysts warn that any militant violence could backfire on Islamabad.

“If India doesn’t stop the oppression then, God willing, it will find us there with guns,” protester Tariq Ismail told AFP at a march organised by the US-designated terrorist group Hizb-ul-Mu
jahideen.

Residents elsewhere in the city suggested that India’s move is set to radicalise a new generation, years after the insur
gency that began in the 1980s in Indian-held Kashmir claimed the first of tens of thousands of lives. “I have six children. I will send them for jihad... God willing our morale is gaining momentum,” said Muhammad Amjad, a 47-year-old former militant.

Bilouri Begum, 41, lost her husband, cousin and nephew to the emergency that began in the 1980s in Indian-held Kashmir. "I have six children. I will send them (for jihad) and will also go with them,“ she told AFP, tears rolling down her cheeks. The sentiment is not limited to the fringes. Pakistan’s most high-profile news anchor, Hamid Mir, hosted three former Pakistani diplomats on his show on Geo News this week, all of whom supported violent resistance in Indian-held Kashmir.

“If even people go from Pakistan (to join) a legitimate resistance, that’s legal,” argued former ambassador to the US Ashraf Qazi.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since independence in 1947. They have fought two full-scale wars and countless skirmishes over it. Washington and New Delhi have long accused Islamabad of fanning the insurgency in Indian
held Kashmir, and of weaponising jihadist groups as proxies to attack India.

The deadliest such attack came in Mumbai in 2008, when mil
ants from Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba killed more than 160 people. Any fresh militant attack at this delicate moment “will have severe implications for Pakistan”, security analyst Amir Rana said. Insurgents nearly triggered an all-out war in February after a suicide bombing claimed by Pakistan-based militants in Indian Kashmir sparked tit-for-tat air strikes — the first ever between nuclear-armed powers. — AFP
Italy’s PD raises the bar for possible govt with 5-Star

President seeks swift end to weeks of political turmoil

ROME: Italy’s centre-left Democratic Party yesterday set tough new conditions for forming a coalition with the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, making a deal between the traditional foes look more elusive and raising the chance of snap elections. The euro zone’s third-largest economy is in political turmoil after its government, riven by months of infighting, collapsed this week, forcing Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to resign just as Rome was to begin preparing the 2020 budget.

The collapse was triggered by the right-wing League party whose leader Matteo Salvini declared a coalition dead two weeks ago, saying he could no longer work with 5-Star, his coalition partner. Salvini, the interior minister, called for elections, aiming to cash in on his surging popularity to return to power as prime minister with a mandate to launch a big spending spree next year and challenge the European Union’s fiscal rules.

However his move could backfire because the head of state, Sergio Mattarella, will only dissolve parliament if no other coalition can be formed, and now 5-Star and the PD are looking at a possible tie-up to sideline Salvini. Mattarella was consulting with the main parties in parliament yesterday and telling them he wants a deal within the next few days if they want to avoid snap elections, a source close to the matter told Reuters.

Markets have rallied on hopes that a deal was in the offing, dismissing stumbling blocks such as the lack of any agreement between the parties over who should be prime minister. On Wednesday, PD leader Nicola Zingaretti laid down five conditions that should form the backbone of any accord: “loyal membership” of the European Union; giving parliament a central role; economic development based on environmental sustainability; a change in handling migrants and a change to economic policy to boost investment.

Those seemed low hurdles for 5-Star to clear, but Zingaretti then added that he would also not accept giving a fresh mandate to the outgoing Conte, a technocrat who is close to 5-Star. Yesterday he raised the stakes further with three more specific conditions: 5-Star must agree to repeal laws on security and immigration passed during its coalition with the League, revise a plan to cut the number of lawmakers to 600 from 945 and immediately commit to a framework agreement with the PD on the 2020 budget.

5-Star’s support has slumped over the last year and it does not want a return to the polls but it has warned the PD that it should not push too hard.

“We will not accept the PD’s vetoes, they can’t say we must accept their five points or it’s no deal, that Conte must go or it’s no deal,” said Marullo di Stefano, a junior foreign minister and one of 5-Star’s most prominent lawmakers. Mattarella is due to meet 5-Star’s delegation at 1500 GMT, after which its leader Luigi Di Maio is expected to set out his party’s position. —Reuters

Things to know about the Amazon

SALVADOR: The Amazon is the largest tropical forest in the world, covering 5.5 million square kilometers, an ecological treasure threatened by escalating deforestation and forest fires.

Sanctuary of biodiversity

The Amazon basin, spanning 7.4 million square kilometers, covers nearly 40 percent of Latin America and is spread across nine countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. About 60 percent of it is in Brazil. The Amazon forest, of which 2.1 million sq km are protected zones, is home to a biodiversity sanctuary that is unique in the world. A quarter of the Earth’s species are found there, namely 30,000 types of plants, 2,500 fish, 1,500 birds, 500 mammals, 550 reptiles and 1.5 million insects, according to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

The past 20 years, 2,200 new species of plants and vertebrates have been discovered there.

‘Lungs of the earth’

The Amazon contains a third of the world’s primary forests and, via the Amazon River and its tributaries, provides 20 percent of the Earth’s unfrozen fresh water. The Amazon is the world’s largest river and—by some accounts since new research was carried out in 2007—the longest, running for up to 600 kilometers. The forest acts as a carbon sink, absorbing more CO2 than it emits while releasing oxygen, and storing 90 to 140 billion tons of CO2, which helps regulate worldwide global warming, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). But deforestation is reducing this capacity for absorbing CO2.

Ancient monkey skull reveals secrets of primate brain evolution

WASHINGTON: The remains of a prehistoric primate that lived high in the Andes 20 million years ago and was so small it could fit in your hand is helping scientists learn more about how human brains evolved. In a study published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances, researchers in China and the US used high resolution imaging to examine the only known fossilized skull of the extinct Chilecetus, a New World monkey that scammed around ancient mountain forests, feeding on leaves and fruit. One key finding: the brain size of primates, long assumed to have increased progressively over time, now appears to have followed a more roundabout path. Primates are broadly split into two groups: Old World, from which our own species descended, and New World species of the Americas and Oceania.

“We see multiple episodes of expansion of the brain in each of these major groups, and we see several episodes of actual reduction of relative brain size in certain groups,” co-author John Flynn of the American Museum of Natural History told AFP.

Flynn said the research hore testament to the secrets that could be unlocked from well-preserved ancient fossils. “We can go out into the mountains and make this remarkable discovery 10,000 feet up in the Andes and be able to make insights about the evolution of our history, be able to test previous hypotheses... (and) be able to understand the evolution of brain complexity in primates.” —AFP
S Korea to scrap intelligence-sharing pact with Japan amid history feud

From drones to social media, big data helps confront Asia disasters

India’s ex-finance minister arrested in a dramatic raid

SEUL: South Korea said yesterday it will scrap an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, a decision that could escalate a dispute over history and trade and undercut security cooperation on North Korea. With the decision not to extend the pact, the political and trade disputes between South Korea and Japan now extend into some of the most sensitive national security issues in the region.

The arrangement was designed to share information on the threat posed by North Korea’s missile and nuclear activities. The decision to end it comes after North Korea launched a series of short-range ballistic missiles in protest against what it sees as military build-ups in South Korea.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was due to be automatically renewed tomorrow, unless either side decided to cancel it. The decision was announced after an hour-long discussion within the presidential National Security Council (NSC). South Korea’s fast-track export status, for which it can discuss trade with the United States and develop the alliance, "raised security cooperation between the two countries," said Kim You-geun, a deputy director of the NSC.

South Korea’s trade status. "Under this situation, we have lost trust in Japan," Kang Kyung-wha, emphasized that the decision is likely to be met with disappointment in the United States, which fears weakened security cooperation. South Korea’s won currency extended losses against the dollar in offshore non-deliverable forward trade, falling by some 0.4% against the dollar in five minutes after the announcement on concern that trade disputes with Japan could be drawn out.

Intelligence sharing is key to developing a common defense policy and strategy, and all three countries are safer when they work together, Pentagonal spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Dave Eastburn said. "We encourage Japan and Korea to work together to resolve their differences," he said in a statement. "I hope they can do this quickly," South Korea’s foreign minister, Kang Kyung-wha, emphasized that the decision to end the intelligence pact was because South Korea had lost trust in Japan.

"We will continue to strengthen cooperation with the United States and develop the alliance," she told reporters in Seoul. South Korea’s defense ministry said that regardless of the end of GSOMIA, it would maintain a "stable" joint defense posture based on a robust alliance with the United States. One Western military source said the intelligence-sharing was sometimes limited, but nevertheless an important area of cooperation in the face of threats from North Korea.

NEW DELHI: High drama unfolded in New Delhi late Wednesday as officers from India’s equivalent of the FBI scaled the walls of a former finance minister’s home to arrest him on corruption charges, local media reported. Earlier in the day, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had alerted airports to prevent Naveen Jindal, India’s ex-finance minister from 2004-2008 and again from 2012-2014, from leaving the country.

The officers broke into the house of Chidambaram, 73, earlier this week failed to secure bail and had not been seen since Tuesday, until he showed up at the headquarters of the opposition Congress party on Wednesday to proclaim his innocence. At a news conference, he called his accusers “pathological liars.” Driving then to his home in the upscale Jor Bagh neighborhood, he was tailed by around 30 CBI officers who knocked at the doors before scaling the boundary walls, the Press Trust of India reported. Once three officers were inside, they opened the gates to allow team members to enter, while others rushed to the back door to secure all exit points, PTI reported. After Chidambaram was arrested, party supporters gathered outside the home to protest. Some jumped on the car in which the politician was taken away, the agency said.

Bangkok: Technological innovations – from unique digital identifiers for drought-hit farmers to use of data from drones and social media – can better predict increasingly complex disasters in the Asia-Pacific region and limit their impact on vulnerable people, the United Nations said in a report yesterday.

Rising global temperatures have increased the frequency and intensity of floods, cyclones and droughts in the region, making it harder to accurately forecast and monitor them, according to the report by the UN’s Asia-Pacific social agency (UNESCAP). But big data innovations – using the large data sets from mobile phone tracking to satellite platforms - reveal patterns, trends, and associations of complex disaster risks, said Armida Alisjahbana, UNESCAP’s executive secretary.

"These help us understand, monitor and predict the risk of extreme and slow-onset events, and address the key challenges of the new climate reality," she said. The Asia-Pacific region is particularly vulnerable to climate-related threats, with more fatalities and greater economic damage from disasters. Since 1970, natural disasters in the region have killed two million people - 59% of the global death toll for that period, according to UNESCAP.

Disasters also cause more damage in Asia and the Pacific, measured as a percentage of GDP, than the rest of the world, and this gap has been widening, the report showed. But technological innovations are already reducing some of that vulnerability, the report said. “Technology can help identify and locate those most at risk, to warn them ahead of a disaster, and deliver targeted relief afterwards,” said Tiziana Bonapace, director of UNESCAP’s disaster risk reduction division in Bangkok.

"While extreme weather is the new normal, the number of deaths from climate-related events is decreasing due to advances in technology, including better early warning systems and measures to mitigate impact," she said. Big data refers to the analysis of very large data sets to reveal patterns, trends and associations. The data can come from a range of sources, including satellite imagery, drone videos, simulations, crowdsourcing, social media and global positioning systems.

Flood and cyclone forecasting now relies on computer simulations, with machine learning helping predict the location and severity of floods. Sensor webs and the Internet of Things have enabled efficient earthquake early-warning systems, while remote sensing via satellites and drones provide quick assessments of damage and people affected, and help prioritize relief efforts.

"The substantial reductions in mortalities and economic losses due to typhoons in north and east Asia over the last three decades can be attributed to big data applications," Alisjahbana said. Similarly, India’s digital ID system has helped deliver targeted benefits to millions of small and marginal farmers affected by drought, she said. The system assigns a unique identity number to Indian citizens, linked to their biometric data, and has been used to help reduce fraud and improve efficiency in getting government benefits to those in need, backiers say.

Such technological advances are expected to become more important as warming temperatures cause a rise in the number and duration of heat waves and droughts, particularly in semi-arid and arid areas in north and central Asia, the UNESCAP report said. Cyclone intensity and flooding is also expected to increase, with serious impacts for coastal areas in southeast Asia, and extreme rainfall also a threat for south Asia.

FRIDAY TIMES

Friday, August 23, 2019
Alternate lives: Korean orphans’ quests for answers

See Page 21
Sparks fly on big screen as Depardieu meets Houellebecq in (booze-free) French spa

Controversial meeting between France’s most notorious and controversial novelist Michel Houellebecq and most notorious and controversial actor Gerard Depardieu in a luxury spa. Ban them from beverages and cigarettes, and film the results. This is what French director Guillaume Nicloux has done in his new film “Thalasso,” bluffing the line between fiction and documentary and offering fresh insight into two of modern France’s best-known but provocative figures. In the movie, which hit French cinemas on Wednesday, Depardieu, 70, celebrated for his talent as much as his love of excess, meets Houellebecq, 63, famed for his polemical and visionary novels, at a thalassotherapy seawater spa in Normandy.

Both men, who play themselves, are not in the least convinced by the spa treatment and are particularly frustrated by the ban on smoking and alcohol at the facility. Houellebecq meets Depardieu while he is smoking in secret and, clad in regulation white fluffy dressing gowns, they begin meeting in their rooms to enjoy good beverages and discuss life, death and politics.

‘Being more themselves’

“I wanted both Michel and Gerard to go into a creative process that is very particular. There was a script, a written document, but also everything that happened on the sidelines,” Nicloux told AFP. “What interests me is exploring areas that are ambiguous and sometimes troubled, and the advantage of this process is it gives them the chance to be even more themselves than if I had made a documentary.”

Nicloux has worked with both men before and in 2014 made a film called “The Kidnapping of Michel Houellebecq” where the author is kidnapped during a promotional tour. In “Thalasso” Houellebecq again meets with his cinematic abductors. The pair become an unlikely comic duo, with the cynical, mordant humor of Houellebecq and the robust, fratic態度 of Depardieu’s extravagant panache. “I should have been a candidate in the elections,” muses Houellebecq, sitting on a bounger by the pool. “I did not know that (President Emmanuel) Macron would mess us up so fast. I think I would do better.” “All this politics is shit,” interjects Depardieu, his dressing gown open to reveal his ample chest. “I don’t want to be their stooge. They are all the same, they say the same things.”

‘Shame of France’

Houellebecq shot to fame with nihilistic novels depicting misogynistic men trapped in loveless existences and hooked on casual sex. His latest novel “Serotonin” — about a hard-drinking and depressed employee at the agriculture ministry in Paris who discovers the hardship of rural France — became an instant bestseller after it was published earlier this year. His previous novel “Submission”, published in French on the same day jihadists attacked the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo on January 7, 2015, predicts that France will elect a Muslim president in 2022 and be subject to Sharia law.

But in a sign of his importance within the cultural establishment that he nominally scorns, Macron in April awarded Houellebecq the Legion d’honneur, France’s top honor. Depardieu, the star of classic French films “The Last Metro” and “Cyrano de Bergerac”, has in recent years been in the spotlight as much for his private life as for his career. Prosecutors in June closed a case into allegations Depardieu raped a young actress due to lack of evidence. He had always maintained his innocence. — AFP

---

Slipknot announce 2020 UK and European tour

Slipknot have announced a 2020 UK and European tour. Corey Taylor and co-knocked Ed Sheeran off the number one spot with their comeback LP ‘We Are Not Your Kind’ — their first number one record since 2001’s ‘Iowa’ — as it dethroned the ‘Shape of You’ hitmaker’s ‘No 6 Collaborations’ last week, and now they have announced a lengthy tour for next year in support of the acclaimed album. Frontman Corey said: “It feels good to be coming back for an extensive tour of Europe and the UK. ‘No matter how many times we come there, it always feels like we can never get enough, nor play ALL the cities we want to.”

“But one thing’s for certain: the audiences are ALWAYS some of the best in the world.” (sic)” The extensive run kicks off in Dublin on January 14, and includes a stop at The 02 in London on January 25. The heavy metal legends will then tour throughout Europe, with the last schedule show currently in Helsinki on February 24. The band are currently touring their Knotfest festival across the US in support of ‘We Are Not Your Kind’, and percussionist Shawn ‘Clown’ Grash recently revealed while the band are keen to bring the metal extravaganza to the UK, they don’t want to rush and ‘mess things up’.

Billie Eilish: Being strong-willed has helped avoid music industry manipulation

Billie Eilish says being “strong-willed” has helped her to avoid being “used and manipulated” in the music industry. The 17-year-old singer/songwriter has opened up about her first meeting with music management when she was 13 years old, and recalls people saying she is “going to be used” in the industry and look at her as if to say she was going to have a “horrible career”. She said: “There has been a whole world of young, especially female artists, and every artist (not just young) being used and manipulated by the stereotypical label or industry. “There’s kind of this weird name on everything now where it’s like, people expect that.”

“I remember the first time I had any sort of meeting with a label or management, I was 13. I think the only people that didn’t look at me like I was going to have a horrible career were the people that I ended up working with. Everyone was just like, ‘Oh, you’re 13, yes, you’re going to be used,’ and this and that. “And I am like, ‘Yo, y’all are the people that would use me in the situation you are talking about’. So, I don’t know what that is supposed to mean. The only people who didn’t say that s**t were the people that I felt an energy and connection with.”

But Billie feels “really lucky and grateful with the support she has received from her team, because she has “never had any issues” with people attempting to “pull her in different directions”. Speaking to Pharrell Williams for V Magazine, she added: “I am really, really lucky and grateful that I have had the experience that I had with my label and with my team and everyone, because I never had any issues with people trying to pull me in a different direction, one in which I would not want to be headed.”

“I think that might just be because I have always been the kind of person that knows what I want, and if it’s not what I want, then I am not going to do it.” — BangShowbiz
Dwayne Johnson returns to top of Forbes best-paid actor list

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has reclaimed his position as the world's highest-paid actor, according to a Forbes rich list otherwise dominated by the cast of Marvel's record-breaking "Avengers" films. Former professional wrestler Johnson raked in $89.4 million over 12 months, rising back to the number-one spot he last held in 2016. He placed second in both of the last two years. The prolific actor, 47, scored a major hit with family-friendly reboot "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," a sequel is on the way and has starred in multiple "Fast and Furious" films including this month's "Hobbs & Shaw."

"He has just become the go-to bankable star," said Comscore analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "And he's always working-he's relentless." Using his A-list clout to secure lucrative profi-sharing movie deals on top of eight-figure fees, Johnson also appears on HBO television show "Ballers," hosts NBC game show "Titan Games" and has his own lucrative line of fitness clothing, among other endorsements. "He's a multi-platform, cross-promoted brand unto himself like no other," added Dergarabedian.

Chris Hemsworth took second place with $76.4 million—one of several actors from Marvel's superhero universe to appear in the top 10. The list covers the period June 2018 to June 2019, during which Marvel Studios released "Avengers: Endgame," the highest-grossing film of all time. Hemsworth, who plays fan favorite Thor, is followed by Robert Downey Jr (Iron Man) in third, Bradley Cooper (Rocket) in sixth, Chris Evans (Captain America) in eighth and Paul Rudd (Ant-Man) in ninth.

However, most of Cooper's $57 million payday came from producing, directing and starring alongside Lady Gaga in musical drama "A Star is Born," Forbes said. Perennial fixtures on the list including Jackie Chan, Will Smith, Adam Sandler and Bollywood star Akshay Kumar all returned. But last year's number one George Clooney dropped out of the top 10, having banked his $1 billion deal for his tequila company the previous year.

The top 10:
1. Dwayne Johnson ($89.4 million)
2. Chris Hemsworth ($76.4 million)
3. Robert Downey Jr. ($66 million)
4. Akshay Kumar ($65 million)
5. Jackie Chan ($58 million)
6. Bradley Cooper ($57 million)
7. Adam Sandler ($57 million)
8. Chris Evans ($43.5 million)
9. Paul Rudd ($44 million)
10. Will Smith ($35 million)—AFP

Alternate lives: Korean orphans’ quests for answers

On a summer's day in 1985 a seven-year-old boy sat alone at a crowded bus station in Seoul, sobbing as he waited desperately for his mother to return. Jo Youn-hwan was desperate for his mother to return. Jo Youn-hwan was wearing a baseball uniform that his mother had bought him a few days before—the only gift she had ever given him. She told him to wait for her before leaving him at the terminal. So he did, increasingly terrified as day turned to dusk. "I’ll be a really good kid if only she chooses to return," he promised himself, over and over again. "I’ll be a really, really good kid."

She never did. Jo was taken into South Korea's orphanage system, but even though the country was for decades one of the world's biggest exporters of children, he was already too old for most adoptive parents' preferences. Never chosen by a new family, he spent the rest of his childhood in what he describes as a vicious and rigidly hierarchical institution, before "aging out" at 20. Children died of curable illnesses and older ones abused younger ones on a daily basis, he said. "When a new kid arrived and cried because he was scared, the ritual was to cover his body with a blanket and beat him with a bat until he stopped," he told AFP. Rooms and clothes were filthy, the food often rotten and inedible.

For years, he wondered what would have happened if he had been adopted. "My whole life I have been told-by adopters, colleagues and at school-I should be grateful, and had I not been adopted I would've had to live in the streets as a prostitute," he said.

"That could've been me"

"This logic of rescue remained strong in the minds of Americans and Koreans alike: rich Americans could give a Korean child a better life than they could ever have in Korea with poor parents or a single mother," said Arissa Oh, who researches race, family and migration at Boston College in the US. Among children placed in orphanages, the youngest, "most attractive and健康" were selected for overseas adoption, Oh told AFP.

The idea of rescue "erased the consumerism" of international adoption, providing justification for taking children from their country of birth, she added.

For many adoptees, that narrative has often led to a sense of alienation in their new lives. "My whole life I have been told-by adopters, colleagues and at school-I should be grateful, and had I not been adopted I would've had to live in the streets as a prostitue," she said. "When you are experiencing difficulties growing up on an every-day basis, ... you begin to wonder what things would've been like in Korea where you would've looked at least like everyone else."

A part of his latest project, Side by Side, is an attempt to answer that question, interviewing 12 Koreans who "aged out". Two of them were in the same orphanage where they stayed before being sent to the US. Both disabled, they told him of life on the streets, without a steady job, their next meal always in question. "When you are experiencing difficulties growing up on an every-day basis, ... you begin to wonder what things would've been like in Korea where you would've looked at least like everyone else."

"That could've been me"

"This logic of rescue remained strong in the minds of Americans and Koreans alike: rich Americans could give a Korean child a better life than they could ever have in Korea with poor parents or a single mother," said Arissa Oh, who researches race, family and migration at Boston College in the US. Among children placed in orphanages, the youngest, "most attractive and healthy" were selected for overseas adoption, Oh told AFP.

"That could've been me"

Born in Seoul in 1960, Korean-American filmmaker Glenn Morey was abandoned as a newborn, and adopted at six months by a white American couple. Growing up in Denver, Colorado, he was the only non-white student at any of his schools and struggled to fit in. "Being Asian made me different, and it made me the subject of name-calling, bullying, and social exclusion," he said. "When you are experiencing difficulties growing up on an every-day basis, ... you begin to wonder what things would've been like in Korea where you would've looked at least like everyone else."

A part of his latest project, Side by Side, is an attempt to answer that question, interviewing 12 Koreans who "aged out". Two of them were in the same orphanage where they stayed before being sent to the US. Both disabled, they told him of life on the streets, without a steady job, their next meal always in question and regularly encountering violence. One told him: "I just want to have a normal life." "Every time we played it just ripped my heart," said Morey, who hasn't been able to track down his birth parents. "By the same token that could've been me, and those struggles could've been mine." —AFP
Swift teams up with Stella McCartney for Lover range

Taylor Swift has teamed up with Stella McCartney to release a line of ready-to-wear and accessories. The 29-year-old pop star has joined forces with the British fashion designer - the daughter of former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney - to create a collection of pieces to mark the debut of her new album 'Lover' after they met and hit it off at one of her concerts in London. Speaking in the September issue of Vogue magazine, Taylor said: “When I started spending more time in London, Stella and I would go on walks, have cocktails, and talk about life. “So when it came time to write this album, I name checked her in one of my songs, and when I played her the album, I said, ‘Should we do something?’”

And for 47-year-old Stella - who designed the Duchess of Sussex’s second wedding dress for her reception - it was a no brainer as she loves how well she and Taylor “complement each other.” She explained: “I couldn’t believe that my name is in a Taylor Swift song (what???) and after Taylor played me the entire album it gave me such incredible inspiration for the collaboration and it really revolved around the music. When Taylor asked me, or even thought to come and do this with me, what I love is how we really complement each other in what we generate creatively together.”

The collaborative collection will be revealed to the public on August 22 during Taylor’s YouTube Live and fans can expect to see jackets, tops, and bags - inspired by her style - in the range. The line will also follow Stella’s standards of sustainability meaning there will be no fur or leather. Stella explained: “At Stella McCartney we are so serious in how we manufacture and how responsible we are. We are always looking at sustainability and not killing animals, it means we have such a serious undertone in the everyday runnings morally of how we conduct ourselves as a brand. “So I always have to counter that with having a lightness of heart and have a sense of humor and not make people feel terrible.” — Bang Showbiz

Designer Manish Malhotra (third right) greets the audience after presenting his creations at Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) Winter Festive 2019 as Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif (center) and other models applaud in Mumbai. — AFP photos
Millie Bobby Brown has launched her own cruelty-free beauty brand. The 15-year-old actress - who is best known for her role as Eleven in the hit Netflix science fiction series 'Stranger Things' - has dropped a brand new beauty line of projects inspired by her great grandmother Florence. The line - which will include products such as Light Skin Tint, Eye Gel Pads, will be PETA-certified, vegan and cruelty-free and Millie insisted she wanted her line to be based around “individuality and bravery”. In an interview with WWD, she said: "I felt like a brand about individuality and bravery and being truthful should be named after somebody who was all of those things."

The ‘Modern Family’ star went on to explain that the range is aimed specifically at young people, using the knowledge she’s gained having started her acting career at the age of ten. She said: “I’ve been in a make-up chair since I was 10, 11 years old, and I have really been introduced to all types of products. “I’ve had special effects on my face, blood, all different types of foundation...I wanted to come into the space because there was a gap in the market for young people.” The range will be available at Ulta Beauty in the US and Boots in the UK and will be budget-friendly with prices starting at $10 up to $34, and products will also be available online. A section of proceeds made will go to the Olivia Hope Foundation, which aims to honor Millie’s late friend Olivia Hope LoRusso who died following a 15-month battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. — bangshowbiz
Only five other people live in Galina Yermolova’s tiny Siberian village Pikhtovoye, isolated from the world by the dense taiga-swampy coniferous forest—and a swamp. One of the other people is her husband. Every week, she travels 16 kilometers (10 miles) through the forest to the nearest post office in a larger village to collect the post, supplies and pensions for her neighbors. “We used to go by tractor. It would take us three hours,” the 56-year-old said. But recently, the couple’s son gave them a life-changing gift: a huge-wheeled monster truck built by a friend that can plough through the muddy tracks much faster.

With her husband at the wheel, Yermolova can now reach the post office in an hour. It’s still a bumpy ride and in the summer she holds onto the open roof, laughing, while her husband is refreshed by the breeze of a fan attached to the side of the vehicle. Once in the bigger village of Imshegal, home to around 100 people, she climbs down from the machine using a makeshift cloth step hanging from the back.

Cows roam outside the post office, one of the largely wooden village’s few brick buildings. There, Yermolova loads basic goods such as sugar, washing-up liquid and shampoo, which have already come from a town some 100 kilometers away.
Postwoman Galina Yermolova reads a newspaper at her home in a village of Pikhtovskiy.

More than a postwoman

Being a postwoman has given Yermolova the opportunity to socialize. “There are only six of us here,” she said. “For me, this job is about being able to talk to people.” But Yermolova remembers different times. In the late 1980s, around 450 people lived in Pikhtovoye. By the mid-1990s, the local school closed down and mainly elderly villagers remained. In busier times, Yermolova worked as a teacher, then as a librarian and a shop assistant. “When all those professions ceased to exist (in the village), I had to join the post office,” she said.

Yermolova and her husband, who works in forestry, are the only villagers with a job. For her neighbors, Yermolova—who they call “Galya”, the affectionate version of her name — is much more than a postwoman. In an isolated community 400 kilometers from the southern Siberian regional hub of Omsk—three time zones away from Moscow—Yermolova also brings something valuable with her: the news. “Galya finds out what’s going on in neighboring villages, if something has happened,” said 58-year-old villager Vladimir Negoyev, perched on a haystack while smoking. “Otherwise what would we do? We have TV’s with 120 channels, but how would we know what happens here?” — AFP

Postwoman Galina Yermolova gets on her homemade off-road vehicle as her husband helps her, in the village of Pikhtovskiy.

Vladimir Negoyev, a 58-year-old villager, phones at a post office in the village of Pikhtovskiy.

Postwoman Galina Yermolova gets on her homemade off-road vehicle in the village of Pikhtovskiy.

Postwoman Galina Yermolova with her husband drive their homemade off-road vehicle in a forest outside the village of Pikhtovskiy.
Healthy breakfast on a busy school morning? It’s not so hard

By Melissa Rayworth

Breakfast, as you may have heard, is the most important meal of the day. That’s especially true for kids returning to school, who need fuel for energy and learning. But serving a healthy breakfast can feel like one more challenge for parents trying to get themselves and their kids out the door on time.

Never fear. With a bit of planning, breakfast can be a great opportunity to get dairy, fiber, fruits and even vegetables into a child’s diet. And it doesn’t have to be complicated. “It’s not like there’s one perfect breakfast,” says Jessica Jaeger, a registered dietitian at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York.

Just try to include a mix of proteins, complex carbs from whole grains and healthy fats. “This helps stabilize blood sugar and appetite,” Jaeger says. Diane Dembicki, an associate professor of nutrition who works with Jaeger at Adelphi, suggests involving kids in decision-making, and even in prep work the night before. Avoid the packaged frozen breakfast sandwiches and “breakfast bars” that have names that suggest nutrition but are often high in sugar and fat, Dembicki says. A few strategies for planning good breakfasts on school mornings:

**EGGS CAN BE EASY**

Try make-ahead egg cups or breakfast burritos. Kirsten Clodfelter, a mom of three from Louisville, Kentucky, does meal prep on Sunday nights with the help of her oldest, who is 7. They scramble eggs with a variety of chopped additions (sausage with diced onion and peppers, or perhaps bacon and spinach), and then put the eggs in a tortilla with a bit of cold cheese and wrap it in foil (for reheating in the oven the next morning) or plastic wrap (for reheating in the microwave), and freeze it. You can cut the burrito in half for little kids. Choose whole-grain tortillas or flatbread.

Another make-ahead option: Fill the cups of a muffin tin with a mix of egg, veggies and meat, then bake. Once they’ve cooled, pop them out and freeze or refrigerate the individual egg cups. Then quickly microwave them at breakfast time, served with a piece of fresh fruit. For easy eggs prepared in the morning, Kate Wehr, a mother of four in Montana, suggests combining some chopped veggies and perhaps meat with a well-whisked egg and a bit of butter or olive oil in a ceramic bowl. Cover with a paper towel and microwave for about 45 seconds. The eggs will be ready to scoop into a whole wheat wrap, and breakfast is ready. If you’re running late, wrap it in wax paper and your child can eat it on the way to school.

**GRAINS CAN BE QUICK**

Try topping whole-grain toast or a whole-grain waffle with natural nut butter, sliced bananas or other fresh fruit on top, and perhaps a drizzle of honey. Use natural peanut butter or another natural spread, rather than a brand that’s high in sugar. “I found that starting my kids early with natural peanut butter meant they really didn’t ask for the sweeter stuff,” says Sarah Shemkus, of Gloucester, Massachusetts.

This breakfast hits the macro-nutrient goals of protein, whole grain and healthy fats, and the fruit adds vitamins. A hard-boiled egg made the night before can provide extra protein. Dembicki also recommends avocado, which has healthy monounsaturated fat and is high in vitamins. Consider a quick avocado toast on whole-grain bread, served with a hard-boiled egg and piece of fruit.

Another whole-grain option: overnight oats made in a Mason jar, or oatmeal set up the night before in a slow-cooker. Let kids choose their ingredients, including fruits and nuts. By flavoring the oatmeal yourself rather than buying pre-flavored, the sugar is kept low. Shemkus sometimes cools quick oats in a bowl in her microwave with grated carrot and raisins, then tops it with maple syrup, cinnamon and milk: “We call it ‘carrot cake oat bowl,’” and the 3-year-old loves it.

**COLD BREAKFAST CAN BE COOL**

For kids who prefer a cold breakfast, try Greek yogurt with flaxseed, granola and fresh fruit mixed in, and perhaps a bit of honey. Hard-boiled eggs also go well with this. Some families pack an entire breakfast into a blender to create smoothies. Fresh fruit, yogurt or milk, peanut butter and even greens can go in. Clodfelter got her kids to embrace spinach in smoothies by adding it to a berry blend and calling them “Christmas smoothies,” since the green flecks of spinach were combined with red berries.

Or bake healthy muffins in advance. Search for recipes with plenty of fruit or nuts and whole grains. Make a large batch and freeze them. Veggies can be hidden in many muffin recipes, and are front-and-center in recipes like carrot-raisin muffins. And don’t forget dinner for breakfast: Not every kid likes typical American “breakfast foods,” and that’s fine, Dembicki says. If they have favorite dinner meals, make extra and pack leftovers in small containers for easy reheating the next morning.
A fresh, herb-packed chimichurri sauce complementing rich, smoky grilled steaks is an Argentine favorite. We think it’s a perfect meal for summer evenings outside with friends and family. To translate the Argentine grilling method to our smaller American steaks, we rubbed the boneless strip steaks with salt and used the freezer as a dehydrator to evaporate the surface moisture; this, along with rubbing the steaks with cornstarch, helped them develop a substantial browned exterior on the grill. Covering the grill for the initial cooking jump-started the flavoring process.

**Ingredients**

**Servings: 6-8**

| Start to finish: 1 hour 30 minutes (plus 30 minutes salting time) |
|-------------------|-------------------|

**Chimichurri Sauce:**

- 1/4 cup hot water
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/3 cups fresh parsley leaves
- 2/3 cup fresh cilantro leaves
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

**Steaks:**

- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- Salt and pepper
- 4 (1 pound) boneless strip steaks, 1 1/2 inches thick, trimmed
- 4 medium wood chunks, unsoaked
- 1 (9 inch) disposable aluminum pie plate (if using gas)

**Preparation**

For the chimichurri sauce: Combine water, oregano, and salt in small bowl and let sit until oregano is softened, about 15 minutes. Pulse parsley, cilantro, garlic, and pepper flakes in food processor until coarsely chopped, about 10 pulses. Add water mixture and vinegar and pulse to combine. Transfer mixture to bowl and slowly whisk in oil until combined. Cover and let sit at room temperature for 1 hour. (Chimichurri sauce can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.)

For the steaks: Meanwhile, combine cornstarch and 1 1/2 teaspoons salt in bowl. Pat steaks dry with paper towels and place on wire rack set in rimmed baking sheet. Rub entire surface of steaks with cornstarch mixture and place steaks in freezer, uncovered, until very firm, about 30 minutes.

For a charcoal grill: Open bottom vent halfway. Light large chimney starter filled with charcoal briquettes (6 quarts). When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour evenly over grill. Using tongs, place wood chunks directly on top of coals, spacing them evenly around perimeter of grill. Rub entire surface of steaks with cornstarch mixture and place steaks in freezer, uncovered, until very firm, about 30 minutes.

For a gas grill: Turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot, about 15 minutes. Leave all burners on high. Place wood chunks in disposable aluminum pie plate and set on cooking grate. Close lid and heat until wood chunks begin to smoke, about 5 minutes.

Clean and oil cooking grate. Season steaks with pepper. Place steaks on grill, cover, and cook until beginning to brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Flip steaks and cook, uncovered, until well browned on first side, 2 to 4 minutes. Flip steaks and continue to cook until meat registers 115-120 F (for rare) or 120-125 F (for medium-rare), 2 to 6 minutes longer. Transfer steaks to carving board, tent with aluminum foil, and let rest for 5 to 10 minutes. Slice each steak 1/4 inch thick. Serve, passing chimichurri sauce separately.
Germany is a combination of cutting-edge cool and timeless tradition, wrapped in a package of spectacular landscapes, vibrant metropolises and idyllic half-timbered villages, architectural masterpieces and fairytale palaces.

Indeed, the toughest thing about your first-time venture into Germany may be deciding your route. Its cities are high-tech hubs with an infectious energy, happening cultural and dining scenes. The great outdoors deliver cinematic changing scenery, from wind-battered coasts to sky-scratching Alpine peaks. You can visit castles and cathedrals built before Columbus set sail or take in the latest trends in street art. Wherever you go, Germany is here to charm, enlighten and surprise you.

BERLIN

Since the fall of the Wall in 1989, Berlin has been on a breathless journey to turn itself into one of the world’s most vibrant capital cities. Go ahead and snap those selfies with the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie and other famous landmarks. And yes, do stand in awe of the monumental antiquities in the Pergamon Museum or the eternal beauty of Queen Nefertiti at the Neues Museum. But then tap more deeply into this cauldron of cultural experimentation by checking out those ‘only-in-Berlin’ places.

Hit the Tempelhofer Feld, a former airport turned urban frolicking zone for everyone from kite-surfers to community gardeners. Across town, get a bead on the contemporary art scene at the Boros Collection in a WWII-era bunker or treat your ears to a concert at Silent Green, a crematorium reborn as a cultural centre. On a hot summer day, there are few better places for cooling off than the Badeschiff, a cargo barge up-cycled into a beach
club. Or scope out Berlin’s vibrant street art scene on a walking tour led by an actual spray-can meister before popping into Urban Nation, the world’s first street art museum. All of Berlin itself is still an unfinished canvas.

WEIMAR & DESSAU
The year was 1919. Germany was in turmoil, struggling deeply with post-WWI trauma and chaos. But order was restored in Weimar, an idyllic town in the Thuringian countryside. Not only did it give birth to the Weimar Republic, Germany’s first experiment with democracy, but also to the Bauhaus, the design school whose ‘less is more’ credo would revolutionise 20th-century aesthetics. A new museum in Weimar will soon pay tribute to this midwife of modernism that entered its seminal phase after moving to Dessau in 1925. In this city on the Elbe, you can take a spin around the original school building, then pop into the Meisterhäuser, the private homes of some of its famous teachers – Walter Gropius, Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky among them. Wrap up a Bauhaus tour in Berlin, where the school was quashed by the Nazis in 1932. Fortunately, plenty of modernist buildings survive, including the horseshoe-shaped Hufeisensiedlung, one of half a dozen 1920s housing estates granted UNESCO world heritage status.

HAMBURG
Germany’s second-biggest city is poised to blow you away, and not just because of the brisk North Sea winds. A trading powerhouse since the Middle Ages, Hamburg is a captivating mosaic of contemporary culture, architecture, music and wickedly fun nightlife. Start by scanning the city skyline from the outdoor viewing platform of the wave-inspired Elbphilharmonie, the city’s spectacular new concert hall and gateway to the HafenCity, a former docklands area turned futuristic waterfront quarter. Break for coffee in the canal-laced Speicherstadt, a UNESCO-recognized warren of red-brick warehouses that also shelters the truly mesmerising Miniatur Wunderland, the world’s largest model railway. Grab a fish sandwich at Brücke 10 in the harbor and chase it down with a beer while counting container vessels from a beach chair in the funky Strandvoll Park.

No visit to Hamburg would be complete without a night on the Reeperbahn, Hamburg’s gloriously lawless nightlife and red-light district where the Beatles once cut their teeth. Drift away from this neon-lit mecca of mischief to party with the locals, perhaps by catching an up-and-coming band at the Golden Pudel Club or sipping a smooth martini at Chug Club.

MUNICH
The Bavarian capital is always happy to deliver on the clichés visitors to Germany expect. Yes, Munich is indeed a city of Beemers, dirndls and beer halls with oompah bands. But beneath the cutesy veneer lies a sophisticated, proud and wealthy town.

Gobble up canvas candy from Rembrandt to Richter in the trio of Pinakothek museums or in the exquisite Lenbachhaus with its new Foster-designed wing. Connect with Germany’s soccer obsession by scoring tickets to a home game of the FC Bayern Munchen, Germany’s superstar team that plays in the spectacular Allianz Arena. Gear heads should make a beeline to the BMW museum, plant and showroom while royal groupies can take a spin around the rambling Munich Residenz. Daredevils can surf the Eisbach wave or take a screaming zip line ride over the Olympic Stadium.

MOSELLE VALLEY
German wines don’t get nearly enough credit, but if you worship at the altar of Bacchus (the Roman god of wine), a trip down the serpentine Moselle River should quickly turn you into a convert. Incidentally it was the Romans who first
fermented grapes here some 2,000 years ago. They also founded the city of Trier (making it Germany’s oldest town) where you can zoom in on their ancient amphitheatres, thermal baths and the famous Porta Nigra town gate. Trier is also perfect for kicking off a driving or cycling tour along the river. En route to Koblenz, you’ll clap eyes on Europe’s steepest vineyard, legend-shrouded medieval castles and historic wine warehouses. Half-timbered Bernkastel-Kues, Belle-Epoque-flavored Traben-Trarbach and romantic Beilstein are all inviting villages to pause in and sip fine Rieslings and other classic German beverages.

**BAVARIAN ALPS**

Like Atlas carrying the world on his shoulders, the Bavarian Alps hoist up the rest of Germany. A lyrical landscape of forests, brooks and meadows smothered in wildflowers unfolds at the foot of these broad-shouldered mountains, making it prime terrain for all sorts of outdoor pursuits.

Topping the sightseeing hit list is Schloss Neuschwanstein, the world’s most famous palace whose turreted magic truly unveils itself at night after the day trippers have left. Bavaria brims with churches and even non-pious types will likely rejoice at the exuberantly rococo Wieskirche that rises serenely from an Alpine meadow. Peak baggers are drawn to Garmisch-Partenkirchen for its famous ski slopes and breathtaking cogwheel-train ride to the top of the Zugspitze, Germany’s highest mountain. If you’re into dark tourism, confront Germany’s sinister past in Berchtesgaden, home to the Eagle’s Nest, Hitler’s mountaintop retreat, and the Dokumentation Obersalzberg, an exhibit about the town’s stint as the Nazi party’s southern headquarters.

**BLACK FOREST**

Steeped in timeless mystique, the Black Forest is a sylvan slice of Germany where patches of woods are indeed so dark and thick that one might expect to stumble upon the witch’s house in the Hansel and Gretel fairy tale.

Unfolding east of the Rhine between the Swiss border and elegant Baden-Baden with its glorious thermal baths and casino, the region is gourmet central with more than two dozen Michelin-starred restaurants. It’s also the birthplace of the black forest cake, a creamy kirsch-drenched confection; Cafe Schrolls in Triberg has some of the best. Triberg also happens to be Germany’s cuckoo clock capital with two house-sized versions plus Germany’s tallest waterfalls. From here, it’s just a short hop to Freiburg, a charismatic university town with a grand minster and lively, cafe-rimmed squares.

**MAKE IT HAPPEN**

Frankfurt and Munich are the most popular airports, but there are dozens of others, many of them served by budget airlines like easyJet, Ryanair and Eurowings. Germany has an excellent train network that links pretty much all towns, large and small. Check schedules and buy tickets at www.bahn.de.

Travelling around by car buys flexibility and makes it easier to get off the beaten track, especially in rural areas. All major international rental agencies have offices in the main cities. Plot routes, toll and fuel costs with www.michelin.com. The cheapest way to get around is by long-distance bus. Check which operator goes where, when and for how much at www.busradar.com.

It’s perfectly possible to travel in Germany without speaking a word of German, but it helps to master a few simple phrases. People are more likely to speak English in big cities, in the western part of the country and in tourist hotspots. Peak season is July and August but some holiday weekends in May and June can be busy too. Check www.publicholidays.de for dates, and book ahead during busy times. Bring an umbrella, a coat and closed shoes – rain is a possibility any time of year. — (www.lonelyplanet.com)
Yesterday's Solution

Christmas

Friday, August 23, 2019

**TV Listings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Robbie Coltrane’s Critical Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Homicide: Hours To Kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>The First 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>22:00</td>
<td>The Daily Show With Trevor Noah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>23:00</td>
<td>E! News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>The Jenner Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>Ultimate Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>Vet On The Loose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Horror Stories Of Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>22:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>06:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>135</td>
<td>22:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>24:00</td>
<td>Storage Wars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BBC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>The Witness For The Prosecution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>Kabul City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>Inside No. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>03:00</td>
<td>EastEnders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>Father Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>Death In Paradise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>06:00</td>
<td>EastEnders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>07:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>The Detectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comedy Central**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>The Daily Show With Trevor Noah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>The Daily Show With Trevor Noah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fox**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>Fox News At Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>Fox News At Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>Fox News At Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>03:00</td>
<td>Fox News At Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>Fox News At Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>Fox News At Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>06:00</td>
<td>Fox News At Night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NBC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>NBC News Nightly News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>NBC News Nightly News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>NBC News Nightly News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>03:00</td>
<td>NBC News Nightly News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>NBC News Nightly News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>NBC News Nightly News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ESPN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>ESPN News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>ESPN News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>ESPN News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>03:00</td>
<td>ESPN News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>ESPN News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>ESPN News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Syfy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>Syfy News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>Syfy News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>Syfy News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>03:00</td>
<td>Syfy News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>Syfy News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>Syfy News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TNT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>TNT News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>TNT News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>TNT News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>03:00</td>
<td>TNT News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>TNT News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>TNT News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AMC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>AMC News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>AMC News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>AMC News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>03:00</td>
<td>AMC News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>AMC News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>05:00</td>
<td>AMC News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Show Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>FOX News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

This is a beneficial time that will accommodate your efforts to achieve a balance between the physical and the emotional parts of your life. If you find it too difficult to initiate the changes that are needed for this balance, find some counseling or a business advisor for yourself. Compromise is the order of the day in the workplace. Instead of deciding you are not going to do something, think it through and try to find a beneficial end result. You may find that both your personal growth and your career may depend upon how you can handle the challenges that may be coming up. The power of organization on a social scale—business, politics and such—seems to take on a major importance to you in making your day run smoothly. Obstacles are short-lived.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

You may find yourself working closely with someone that you always thought you would like to work. Your work groove seems to take on the same momentum and it is a sign that your own concepts of work are happy to follow. Concentrating on pleasing this person is not your goal but learning and asking questions is bringing you forward. You may wonder if you will ever feel enough to do the things you readily throw and you may well certainly getting down to the essential work process is most important now. Much can be accomplished now. Your thoughts are brought to a sharp focus. This evening you and a friend may decide to work on the making of a movie. Progress around this project or some similar project is good.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

Concentrated effort is important with your work just now—staying away from emotional issues is a very wise plan. Practice diplomacy when dealing with the public. Do not let emotional griefs get in the way of clear judgment. Later today there will be time to do a little research perhaps at the local library or at a local bookstore. This research will either help you in making a decision or in completing some project. You are learning that education wasn’t as dull as you thought and the fun of discovery may point your way into a field of more education ... Or at least, a few classes. Look beyond surface meanings for the insights you seek. Loved ones may give you support and, in some way, help you gain a focus this afternoon. Involve yourself with a relaxing activity this evening.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

The power of organization on a social scale, such as business or political affairs, seems to take a larger-than-life feeling now. It’s as if ambition and authority are answers in themselves, rather than means to an objective. Political affairs, seems to take on a larger-than-life feeling now. It’s as if ambition and authority are answers in themselves, rather than means to an objective. This can lead to ambitious schemes that tend to become lost along the way.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

You have an inner urge for order and organization and a great sense of responsibility. You are competent, ambitious and cool. This marks the coming of a good time as far as career and social life are concerned. If you have not discovered this already, it seems your time of paying dues is over as real accomplishment and focus are possible now. You are a very hard worker and are driven to accomplish whatever is set out for you. You like to manipulate a situation for its own benefit and would make a natural supervisor. You can handle the challenges that may be coming up. The power of organization on a social scale—business, politics and such—seems to take on a major importance to you in making your day run smoothly. Obstacles are short-lived.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Big changes affecting your career, status and reputation are likely at this time. During is a bit daunting yet now and you can handle the challenges that may be coming up. The power of organization on a social scale—business, politics and such—seems to take on a major importance to you in making your day run smoothly. Obstacles are short-lived.

**Capi cor (December 22-January 19)**

Your ambition is strong. Things seem to fall into place and progress is good. Following the trends of business and investments in the world, you may have some interesting ideas for your own business. You are wise to save a bit of time to follow up on facts and confirm costs. You will prosper through an independent point of view. Bickering of success and what is nonessential may also be a key move to better working opportunities. Some interest in a subject that is fascinating to you may have you doing a bit of shopping at your favorite bookstore as well as study through the internet. You may even stand up for a bit this evening to read and learn about this new subject. Your work and your private life are becoming increasingly stimulating.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

You may have to abandon your own ideas today but it is a commendable move that you take. Do not worry—your actions have not gone unnoticed. Your self-confidence gets a boost today. Use this cycle to get ahead professionally. Have no fear of the future challenges you see ahead. Your appreciation for hard work and discipline is natural and lifelong. Your professional standing improves. You actually love responsibility and tend to take on the work. A positive change in financial status is possible soon. A part-time job or second job may be what you and many other people do at this time of year in order to enjoy the upcoming holidays. A cultural event involving friends and associates is quite helpful this evening. There is now information to absorb.

**Country Codes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Verde</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayman Islands</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England (UK)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frendy Galana</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenland</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guiniana</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guernsey</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland (Netherlands)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These services include, but are not limited to, the below:

- Bone fractures and trauma
- Sports injuries
- Spine surgeries
- Arthroplasty surgeries and revisions
- Foot and ankle surgeries
- Limb deformities
- Pelvic fractures
- Hand surgeries

Dr Sahar Ghannam
Dermatology consultant, skin treatment and laser
Timing: Saturdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 am to 5 pm
Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm
Friday is a holiday.
Address: Fourth Ring Road - Abdallah Fadlallah Street, Meidan Harawy, opposite fire station - block 16, building 31.
Clinic Phone: 26610407/4098
Fax: 26616468
Mobile: 00974754/00166574

To advertise on this Page
Call: 24833199 ext:101, 102
or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com
STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times over some areas north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 10 - 45 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Hot to relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 38 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SFC. CHART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX. EXP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUWAIT CITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUWAIT AIRPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABDALY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUBYAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAHRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAILAKA ISLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALMIYAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHMADI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUWAISIB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAFFRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALMY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Current Warnings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 DAYS FORECAST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>WEATHER</th>
<th>TEMPERATURES</th>
<th>Wind Direction</th>
<th>Wind Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>08/23</td>
<td>Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas</td>
<td>45 °C</td>
<td>29 °C</td>
<td>NW-SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>08/24</td>
<td>Hot and humid specially over coastal areas</td>
<td>43 °C</td>
<td>27 °C</td>
<td>NW-SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>08/25</td>
<td>Hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas</td>
<td>46 °C</td>
<td>28 °C</td>
<td>VRB-SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>08/26</td>
<td>Very hot</td>
<td>48 °C</td>
<td>29 °C</td>
<td>VRB-SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRAYER TIMES

| Fajr | 03:57 |
| Sunrise | 05:20 |
| Zuhur | 11:51 |
| Asr | 15:26 |
| Sunset | 18:23 |
| Isha | 19:43 |

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAX. Temp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN. Temp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX. RH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN. RH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX. Wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Govts struggle to keep pace with industry’s rapid growth

RANGKOK: When an Indian customer of online food delivery service Zomato tweeted that he had cancelled his order because it had been assigned to a non-Hindu worker, and his request for a Hindu denied, thousands weighed in. “Food doesn’t have a religion. It is a religion,” Zomato responded in a tweet that garnered about 95,000 likes and thousands of comments that supported and criticized the company’s stance. Last month’s incident was among a long series of allegations of discrimination related to religion, race, gender or sexual orientation in the so-called gig economy that also includes ride-hailing apps Uber and Ola, and home-sharing platform Airbnb. The platforms are credited with creating millions of jobs, giving homeowners an additional income, and providing mobility in underserved areas and for women who fear harassment on public transport. Yet they are also responsible for entrenching biases and deepening socio-economic divides in cities, and increasing the vulnerability of minority communities, according to analysts. “There is now ample evidence of racial discrimination related to religion, race, gender or sexual orientation in the so-called gig economy,” she said in a recent paper.

 Implicit segregation

MacKenzie’s study in Seattle and Boston found “significant evidence” of racial discrimination, with black riders and those with “black-sounding” names facing longer wait times and more cancellations than white riders or those with white-sounding names. Drivers discriminated by not going to certain neighborhoods; by declining bookings from passengers or cancelling bookings; and by leaving low ratings based on race, gender, or socio-economic status, it showed.

“Discrimination deters certain classes of individuals from using a platform, then that platform will support fewer transactions,” MacKenzie told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. “The thinner market that results could mean fewer options for remaining users, leading to longer wait times for a ride; for example.” Workers also suffer: the “Uberisation” of India’s domestic-work market has entrenched inequality, insecurity and discrimination, and excluded those without smartphones, the London-based Overseas Development Institute said in a report.

Behavior change

Cities have found ways to work around some biases. In San Francisco, long before ride-hailing apps, “homobiles” offered a safe option to LGBTQ+ members frustrated with being denied rides or fearful of being attacked. In several Indian cities, minority religious groups that were denied homes, set up their own housing enclaves. But with more transactions moving online, the on-demand economy exerts enormous influence on how residents in cities live, work, eat and interact with each other, said Surie.

While the companies have fairly strong non-discrimination policies, enforcement is difficult, said MacKenzie. “Legislation and regulation may have a role to play. Another option is to implement stronger penalties for parties who cancel a transaction,” he said. Other suggestions to eliminate bias include limiting the data available - such as numbers rather than names, no profile photographs - and prioritizing minority communities and underserved areas.

Airbnb partnered with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to add more black hosts. Zomato added an LGBTQIA-friendly tag for restaurants on its app. As governments struggle to keep pace with the fast evolving industry, the platforms themselves may be best positioned to force change, said Surie.” They have changed consumer behaviour so quickly, and they have the power to change it further. Perhaps that’s the better way to battle bias,” she said.—Reuters
**Business**

**Stocks edge down as investors crave clarity on Fed stance**

German private sector struggles in August

**OPEC’s market share sinks**

**Indonesia announces surprise rate to offset tepid global growth**

LONDON: OPEC’s share of the global oil market has sunk to 30 percent, the lowest in years, as a result of supply restraint and involuntary losses in Iran and Venezuela, and there is little sign yet producers are waverering on their output-cut strategy. Crude oil from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries made up 30 percent of world oil supply in July 2019, down from more than 34 percent a decade ago and a peak of 35 percent in 2012, according to OPEC data.

Despite OPEC-led supply cuts, oil has tumbled from April’s $65 a barrel to $51, pressured by slowing economic activity amid concerns about the US-China trade dispute and Brexit. The decline in prices, should it persist, and erosion of market share could raise the question of whether continued supply restraint is serving producers’ best interests. OPEC and its allies have a deal to limit supply until March 2020.

The Fed cut rates by 0.25 percent in July. While a “couple” of Fed members supported a deeper cut of half a percentage point, the minutes showed, a larger number favored no change at all. That reluctance to loosen policy seems at odds with the expectations for a cut of over 100 basis points by the end of 2020 that are already priced into markets.

Market players said that the minutes reflected a dissonance between the predictions of easing - fueled by geopolitical concerns and economic weakness in major economies such as Germany - and the apparently solid fundamentals of the US economy.

“New York: Traders and financial professionals work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) at the opening bell in New York City. — AFP”

Friday August 23, 2019
As economic warning signs flash, Trump, Democratic rivals recalibrate messages

Economic fears focus spotlight on Fed’s Powell speech

WASHINGTON: After two years touting a booming economy as his own doing, US President Donald Trump is test driving a new message on the economy: Any chance of a recession is not his fault. But Democrats, who are shifting their message too, seem to be saying “not so fast.”

Trump has moved from touting positive economic indicators since his 2016 election to now trying to blame someone else for a possible economic slowdown, while his advisers and officials are scrambling to insist there is nothing to worry about.

From the moment he was elected, Trump took credit for the strong economy. Until early 2019, advisers saw it as the biggest selling point for his campaign to be reelected president in November 2020. But softer economic data of late is raising concerns the economic message could be going off the rails.

Some of his Democratic rivals for the White House were quick to smell blood, although other candidates and party strategists warned they should be careful so as not to appear to be rooting for economic disaster.

“From the moment he was elected, Trump took credit for the strong economy. Until early 2019, advisers saw it as the biggest selling point for his campaign to be reelected president in November 2020. But softer economic data of late is raising concerns the economic message could be going off the rails,” wrote O’Rourke.

“Then in a matter of weeks he pivoted to a discussion of workers who lived paycheck to paycheck even in a strong economy,” O’Rourke added.

Delaney, another Democratic candidate, was among many who advised Trump to stop blaming the Fed. He said: “You beat this president by having an optimistic economic agenda.”

Former US Representative John Delaney, another Democratic candidate, was more blunt about it. “It feels like some Democrats are cheering on a recession because they want to stick it to Trump,” he told reporters on Wednesday.

Desperate spinning

When the leader of the Federal Reserve speaks, the world listens. But the relentless attacks by US President Donald Trump on Fed Chair Jerome Powell’s speech will today be subject to an even more intense spotlight. Powell is walking a very narrow path as he tries to defend the Fed’s independence from political interference, do the right thing for the economy with limited ammunition, and manage divisions within the central bank itself over the correct course for interest rates.

And as warning signs about a possible recession flash red, any misstep threatens to rob financial markets—which are expecting, even demanding, more rate cuts—and that would be sure to stoke Trump’s anger anew. After some communication misfires, the Fed chief will have another opportunity to send a clear message in a highly-anticipated speech Friday at an annual gathering of central bankers and economists in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who did not address recession fears like most other candidates at the same Iowa forum, said: “You beat this president by having an optimistic economic agenda.”

Former US Representative John Delaney, another Democratic candidate, was more blunt about it. “It feels like some Democrats are cheering on a recession because they want to stick it to Trump,” he told reporters on Wednesday.

Amazon are currently able to book profits in low-tax countries like Ireland and Luxembourg, no matter where the revenue originates. Macron says taxing big tech more is a matter of social justice. The French leader pushed hard for a digital tax to cover European Union member states, but ran up against resistance from Ireland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

What has France done?

After talks on an EU digital tax foundered, Macron’s government imposed its own unilateral tax. The 3 percent levy applies to revenue from digital services earned by firms with more than 750 million euros worldwide. Paris is not alone among European capitals in proposing a tax on big tech. Britain, Spain, Italy and Australia have also announced plans for their own digital levies.

What does Macron want to accomplish at the G7?

The goal now is to secure a broader agreement under the auspices of the G20 and the OECD. Macron wants G7 leaders to agree to the principle of a universal tax to provide impetus to this effort. G20 finance ministers agreed in June to compile common rules to close tax loopholes and promised to “redouble efforts” for a consensus-based solution to be found by 2020. G7 finance ministers agreed the following month that there should be a minimum level of tax to discourage countries from competing in a “race to the bottom”.

“Now the G20 is set to discuss this issue further, there’s not much left for the G7 to do,” a Japanese government official said. “We (Japan) are hoping to keep in step with France. But that doesn’t mean the G7 will decide anything new at this summit.”

What obstacles lie in the way?

Trump, the US president, has already lambasted Macron’s “foolishness” for pursuing a French digital levy and has threatened to tax French wines in retaliation. The row illustrates how digital taxation could open up a new front in the trade spat between Washington and the EU as economic relations between the two appear to sour. Trump’s threat to punish France should not be taken lightly. It followed US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer’s office announcing an investigation into the French tax, which it called an unfair trade practice that penalized US tech companies for their commercial success. Low-tax jurisdictions also have misgivings about Macron’s tax plan because it would make it harder for them to attract foreign direct investment with the promise of ultra-low corporate taxes.

Macron’s quest for an international tax on digital services

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron is pressing ahead with a digital tax in France, a move US President Donald Trump described as “foolishness,” and the French leader is keen to reach an international agreement on taxing big tech companies.

Late on Wednesday, Macron urged the Trump administration to help reform global corporate taxes. Macron will seek common ground with Trump and other G7 leaders at a summit in Biarritz this weekend. Washington has expressed concern that US Internet companies are being unfairly targeted. Here is a guide to the digital tax debate.

What is a digital tax?

The governments of large European countries have been vexed by their inability to tax the profits of multinational tech companies that they believe are derived in their jurisdictions. Internet giants such as Facebook, Google and
NASA pays SpaceX, Boeing $7bn to build launch systems

HOUSTON: A crew of veteran US astronauts and aviators are training in Houston for a manned mission to the International Space Station aboard Boeing’s new Starliner spacecraft, which could also be used to take tourists into space on future missions. The Boeing Starliner mission was originally scheduled for this month, but that has been delayed to at least the end of the year or into 2020 due to technical issues and amid a shakeup in the top echelons of the space agency.

Boeing and rival Elon Musk’s SpaceX are competing with each other to be the first private company to resume human space flight from US soil after the space shuttle program ended in 2011. The companies, with cutting-edge technology, are among those poised to benefit most from the enormous growth opportunities many see in the world’s burgeoning commercial space industry. NASA has been relying for years on Russian rockets and spacecraft to transport personnel to the space station.

The $100 billion science and engineering laboratory, orbiting 250 miles above Earth, has been permanently staffed by rotating crews of astronauts and cosmonauts since November 2000. NASA is paying SpaceX and Boeing nearly $7 billion combined to build rocket-and-spacecraft teams to transport personnel to the space station. Warner was given rare access at Houston’s Johnson Space Center to NASA astronaut Nicole Mann and Mike Fincke, and Boeing astronaut and test pilot Christopher Ferguson, who will crew the ISS mission, along with other astronauts training for future missions.

The exercises included training underwater to simulate space walks, responding to emergencies aboard the space station, and practicing docking maneuvers on a flight simulator. Here’s a closer look at the three astronauts training for the ISS flight.

Ferguson leads mission

Ferguson, a former NASA astronaut and retired US Navy captain, who helped design the way the crew interacts with the automated Boeing CST-100 Starliner, will lead its maiden voyage. “They (Boeing) knew how big it was going to be, how it was going to be powered, but they really thought a lot about what the inside would be and how does the crew interface with the vehicle that’s designed to operate automatically,” said Ferguson.

The design “is a great compromise between keeping it minimalistic yet at the same time giving the pilot the ability to understand where am I, where do I need to be, how am I going to get there, if things go wrong how do I fix them,” “It comes down to watching (the spacecraft) behavior,” said Ferguson, who led NASA’s final space shuttle mission in 2011 and spent more than 40 days in space over his career. “We just want to make sure it doesn’t throw us a curve ball.”

First trip for navy combat pilot

It will be the first trip into space for Mann, 42, a former Navy combat pilot, who said she was looking forward to the excitement a fresh American-based crewed mission to space would create among a young generation that did not grow up watching Apollo and shuttle missions as their parents and grandparents did. “And so I think it’s going to be huge for Americans. It’s going to be huge for the younger generation to see us launching from American soil, that we’re bringing work and industry back to the United States, I think it’ll open up a lot more jobs. It’ll open a lot more innovation for that young generation. And there’s a big future of spacelift in front of us.”

Fincke – laying the groundwork

The Starliner mission will lay the groundwork for Boeing’s commercial flight program, which includes carrying passenger and cargo to the space station, and taking tourists into space, said Fincke, a veteran NASA astronaut who has completed three space flights. “So far, we’ve only had about 500 people go to space. Hopefully, in the next 10 years, we’ll go from 500 to 5,000. And in the next 20 years, maybe 50,000 or more,” said the former US Air Force colonel who served as science officer and flight engineer on a six-month space station mission.

Capture the flag

Eight years ago, when Ferguson led NASA’s last space shuttle mission, he left an American flag aboard the space station for the next crew of US astronauts to collect and bring home. He likes the idea of getting it back himself, traveling on the first manned commercial US spacecraft. “Sort of like a grown-up version of capture the flag,” Ferguson said. And if SpaceX got there first? “I would be very happy for them. Who brings it home is unimportant, but the fact that it gets home is most important. And I would be very proud of Doug Hurley, a NASA astronaut training to fly aboard SpaceX’s Crew Dragon space craft,” although he’s going to lose.”—Reuters

US jobless claims fall in sign of labor market strength

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits fell sharply last week, suggesting the labor market was holding firm despite a manufacturing slowdown and concerns the economy is on a path toward recession. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 209,000 for the week ended Aug 17, the Labor Department said yesterday.

The decline was sharper than expected. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast claims would drop to 216,000 in the latest week. US stock index futures were little changed on news following the data’s publication. The four-week moving average of initial claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it iron out week-to-week volatility, edged up 500 to 214,500 last week. Last week’s claims data falls during the same week the Labor Department conducts surveys used to estimate national employment during the month of August.

The four-week average for new unemployment benefits claims was lower than the corresponding week in July, a positive sign for employment during the month. There are few signs a bitter trade war was spilling over to the national labor market, although growth in manufacturing jobs has slowed this year. While hiring has cooled, the pace of job gains remains well above the roughly 100,000 needed per month to keep up with growth in the working-age population.

The trade war has fueled concerns among investors that a recession looms over the US economy. Some yields on shorter-term Treasury debt have risen above longer-term yields, a development viewed as a classic recession signal. Concerns over the impact of the trade tensions between Washington and Beijing on the US economic expansion, the longest on record, prompted the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates last month for the first time since 2008.

At the same time, minutes for last month’s Fed policy meeting released on Wednesday suggested policymakers were divided over the cut and did not want to give the appearance that they were planning further rate reductions. Yesterday’s claims report also showed the number of people receiving benefits after an initial week of aid fell 54,000 to 1,677 million for the week ended Aug 10. The four-week moving average of the so-called continuing claims fell 750 to 7.10 million.—Reuters
Panel debates policy options regarding lethal autonomous weapons

WASHINGTON: Amazon, Microsoft and Intel are among leading tech companies putting the world at risk through killer robot development, according to a report that surveyed major players from the sector about their stance on lethal autonomous weapons. Dutch NGO Pax ranked 50 companies by three criteria: whether they were developing technology that could be relevant to deadly AI, whether they were working on related military projects, and if they had committed to abstaining from contributing in the future.

“Why are companies like Microsoft and Amazon not denying that they are currently developing these highly controversial weapons, which could decide to kill people without direct human involvement?” said Frank Slipper, lead author of the report published this week. The use of AI to allow weapon systems to autonomously select and attack targets has sparked ethical debates in recent years, with critics warning they could deteriorate international security and herald a third revolution in warfare after gunpowder and the atomic bomb.

A panel of government experts debated policy options regarding lethal autonomous weapons at a meeting of the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in Geneva on Wednesday. Google, which last year published guiding principles eschewing AI for use in weapons systems, was among companies found to be engaging in “best practice” in the analysis that spanned 12 countries, as was Japan’s Softbank, best known for its humanoid Pepper robot. Twenty-two companies were of “medium concern,” while 21 fell into a “high concern” category, notably Amazon and Microsoft who are both bidding for a $10 billion Pentagon contract to provide the cloud infrastructure for the US military. Others in the “high concern” group include Palantir, a company with roots in a CIA-backed venture capital organisation that was awarded a $105 million contract to develop an AI system “that can help soldiers analyse a combat zone in real time.”

“Autonomous weapons will inevitably become scalable weapons of mass destruction, even if the human is not in the loop, then a single person can launch a million weapons or a hundred million weapons,” Stuart Russell, a computer science professor at the University of California, Berkeley told AFP on Wednesday. “The fact is that autonomous weapons are going to be developed by corporations, and in terms of a campaign to prevent autonomous weapons from becoming widespread, they can play a very big role,” he added.

The development of AI for military purposes has triggered debates and protest within the industry: last year Google declined to renew a Pentagon contract called Project Maven, which used machine learning to distinguish people and objects in drone videos. It also dropped out of the running for Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI), the cloud contract that Amazon and Microsoft are hoping to bag. The report noted that Microsoft employees had also voiced opposition to a US Army contract for an augmented reality headset, HoloLens, that aims at “increasing lethality” on the battlefield.

What they might look like

According to Russell, “something that’s currently a weapon, people are working on autonomous versions, whether it’s tanks, fighter aircraft, or submarines.” Israel’s Harpy is an autonomous drone that already exists, “loitering” in a target area and selecting sites to hit. More worrying still are new categories of autonomous weapons that don’t yet exist—the US! These could include armed mini-drones like those featured in the 2017 short film “Slaughterbots.”

“With that type of weapon, you could send a million of them in a container or cargo aircraft—and they are of the constructive capacity of a nuclear bomb but leave all the buildings behind,” said Russell. Using facial recognition technology, the drones could “wipe out one ethnic group or one gender, or using social media information you could wipe out all people with a political view.”

The European Union in April published guidelines for how companies and governments should develop AI, including the need for human oversight, working towards societal and environmental wellbeing in a non-discriminatory way, and respecting privacy. Russell argued it was essential to take the next step in the form of an international ban on lethal AI that could be summarised as “machines that can decide to kill humans shall not be developed, deployed, or used.”—AFP

Russia sends its first humanoid robot into space

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot that will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station. Named Fedor, short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia. Fedor blasted off in a Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft at 6:38 am Moscow time from Russia’s Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The Soyuz is set to dock with the space station tomorrow and stay till September 7.

Soyuz ships are normally manned on such trips, but yesterday no humans are travelling in order to test a new emergency rescue system. Instead of cosmonauts, Fedor, also known as Skybot F850, was strapped into a specially adapted pilot’s seat, with a small Russian flag in hand. “Let’s go. Let’s go,” the robot was heard saying during launch, repeating the famous phrase used by first man on Earth to carry out tasks while the humans are strapped into an exoskeleton. Such robots will eventually carry out dangerous operations such as space walks, Blishenko told the state news agency RIA Novosti.

On the website of one of the state backers of the project, the Foundation of Advanced Research Projects, Fedor is described as potentially useful on Earth for working in high radiation environments, demining and tricky rescue missions. Though initially developed for the emergencies ministry, Fedor can also be seen shooting at targets from two hand-guns in a video posted by Russian space agency chief Dmitry Rogozin.

On board, the robot will perform tasks supervised by Russian cosmonaut Alexander Skvortsov, who joined the ISS in July and will wear an exoskeleton and augmented reality glasses in a series of experiments later this month. Since Fedor is not trained to grab space station handles to move about in microgravity conditions, its legs will be immobilised on the space station, Blishenko said.—AFP

What does Facebook’s plan to hire journalists mean for media industry?

NEW YORK: Facebook’s plan to hire professional journalists instead of relying solely on algorithms is a positive step but it is unlikely to shake up an embattled media industry, analysts say. The social media giant said Tuesday it would build a small team of journalists to select the top national news of the day “to ensure we’re highlighting the right stories.” It comes as the US media landscape is plagued by job losses and newspaper closures, with organizations trying to figure out how to record profits in the age of free news.

Stories will appear in a section called the “news tab,” which will be separate from the traditional news feed that displays updates and content from users’ friends and relatives. “In theory I see this as a really positive development. It is something quite promising,” Dana Young, a communications professor at the University of Delaware, told AFP. Facebook’s journalists will be curating stories from news sites and won’t be editing headlines or writing content. The California-based company has consistently said it does not want to be considered a media organization that makes major editorial decisions, and this announcement does little to change that, experts add.—AFP

Amazon, Microsoft, ‘putting world at risk of killer AI’
HOUSTON: John Hicks cranked a leadoff home run in the ninth inning, and the visiting Detroit Tigers overcame former ace Justin Verlander’s two-hit complete game with a 2-1 win over the Houston Astros on Wednesday. Hicks' blast, his ninth on the season, enabled the Tigers to snap an eight-game losing skid against Houston and a four-game losing streak overall. Verlander had pitched brilliantly, allowing only one baserunner through eight innings before Hicks drilled a 1-0 fastball out to left field, snapping a 4-1 tie with his 412-foot shot.

The only other hit Verlander (15-5) allowed was Ronny Rodríguez’s solo homer with two outs in the fifth. Verlander struck out 11, extending his club record for double-digit strikeouts games to seven. Detroit capitalized on poor baserunning by Jose Altuve in the eighth inning and by Robinson Chirinos in the ninth, guttering both down at third. Chirinos, who had tied the game with a solo homer in the seventh, made the game's final out trying to stretch a double into a triple.

CUBS 12, GIANTS 11
Chicago overcame a trio of deficits, clubbed three home runs and tallied 14 hits in a wild win over visiting San Francisco. Nicholas Castellanos, Kole Schwarber and Kris Bryant each homered for the Cubs, who won their fourth game in a row, Bryant provided the final turning point with a go-ahead, two-run blast in the eighth inning. Evan Longoria, Mike Yastrzemski, Stephen Vogt and Kevin Pillar went deep for the Giants, who have dropped three games in a row. San Francisco erased deficits of 6-2, 7-4 and 10-9, while the Cubs overcame 2-0, 9-7 and 11-10 deficits. At least two runs were scored in every inning except the fourth and ninth.

METS 4, INDIANS 3 (10 INNINGS)
JD Davis laced the game-winning hit to cap a 10th-inning comeback by New York, which led 11-0 after eight innings. Patrick Corbin pitched eight scoreless innings, and Asdrúbal Cabrera hit a three-run homer as Tampa Bay salvaged the finale of a three-game series against Seattle in St Petersburg, Florida. Following Kiermaier’s homer, to straightaway center field off Mariner’s right- hander Matt Magill (1-4), a single, a double and an intentional walk to load the bases. Magill threw a curveball in the dirt to Tommy Pham. The ball bounced off catcher Omar Narváez and toward the third base dugout, allowing Adames to score the winning run. The Mariners, who saw their four-game winning streak halted, scored three runs off Rays closer Emilio Pagan (3-2) in the top of the ninth. The winning run in the fifth inning as Philadelphia completed a two-game sweep at Boston. Harper’s blast the opposite way over the Green Monster in left field helped the Phillies to their first full-series sweep of the Red Sox since 2000. Boston had owned a 36-18 edge in their matchups since then prior to losing 3-2 Tuesday. Reliever Jared Hughes (4-5) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the fourth and earned the win. Hector Neris converted his second save in two days and 23rd of the season with a perfect ninth.

NATIONALS 11, PIRATES 1
Patrick Corbin pitched eight scoreless innings, and Asdrúbal Cabrera hit a three-run homer as Tampa Bay salvaged the finale of a three-game series against Seattle in St Petersburg, Florida. Following Kiermaier’s homer, to straightaway center field off Mariner’s right- hander Matt Magill (1-4), a single, a double and an intentional walk to load the bases. Magill threw a curveball in the dirt to Tommy Pham. The ball bounced off catcher Omar Narváez and toward the third base dugout, allowing Adames to score the winning run. The Mariners, who saw their four-game winning streak halted, scored three runs off Rays closer Emilio Pagan (3-2) in the top of the ninth. The winning run in the fifth inning as Philadelphia completed a two-game sweep at Boston. Harper’s blast the opposite way over the Green Monster in left field helped the Phillies to their first full-series sweep of the Red Sox since 2000. Boston had owned a 36-18 edge in their matchups since then prior to losing 3-2 Tuesday. Reliever Jared Hughes (4-5) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the fourth and earned the win. Hector Neris converted his second save in two days and 23rd of the season with a perfect ninth.

ROCKIES 7, DIAMONDBACKS 2
Tim McVey had the game of his life while making an emergency start, earning his first major league victory while leading Colorado to a victory over Arizona in Phoenix. The Rockies summoned the 29-year-old right-hander from Triple-A Albuquerque to take the place of scheduled starter Jon Gray, who was placed on the 60-day injured list Wednesday because of a season-ending stress fracture in his left foot. Melville pitched seven innings, allowing one run and two hits — including a line-drive homer by Ketel Marte in the sixth. He struck out four and walked two. Melville also had his first major league hit and drove in two runs while making his first appearance in the majors in almost two years.

ORIOLES 8, ROYALS 1
Jonathan Villar, Anthony Santander, Renato Núñez and Hanser Alberto homered as Baltimore defeated visiting Kansas City in the rubber game of a three-game series, Baltimore has won two straight games after dropping eight in a row. Kansas City lost for the fourth time in five games. The four home runs gave the Orioles seven of their eight runs on the night. Baltimore took an early 3-0 lead and never trailed despite allowing its 228th homer of the season, tying a major league record set by the 2016 Cincinnati Reds.

REDS 4, PADRES 2
Luis Castillo allowed one run over six innings, and Cincinnati’s offense took advantage of an outfield error and three walks to score three runs in the third to beat visiting San Diego. Joe Iglésias hit a fourth-inning homer off Padres reliever Luis Perdomo to give the Reds their final run in the rubber match of a three-game series. Castillo (2-2) permitted five hits and struck out four. Raisel Iglésias pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 26th save.

BREWERS 5, CARDINALS 3
Mike Moustakas blasted a three-run homer to lead Milwaukee to a rain-shortened victory at St. Louis. The game, which was halted in the middle of the eighth inning, brought Brewers manager Craig Counsell relief on his 49th birthday. His team had lost six of its last eight games overall and six straight to the Cardinals. Keaton Huras contributed a RBI single and a run-scoring double to support Brewers starter Adrian Houser (6-5), who allowed three runs (one earned) in 5 1/3 innings.

ROCKIES 7, DIAMONDBACKS 2
Tim McVey had the game of his life while making an emergency start, earning his first major league victory while leading Colorado to a victory over Arizona in Phoenix. The Rockies

BRAVES 5, MARLINS 0
Julio Teheran continued his season-long mastery of Miami, throwing seven scoreless innings in Atlanta’s home win. Teheran (8-8) gave up five hits, walked three and struck out a seas-

son-high nine. He improved to 3-0 with a 0.28 ERA in 32 innings against the Marlins this year. The Braves finished with just three hits, but all drove in runs: Tyler Flowers’ second-inning triple plus two-run homers from Ademys Hechavarria in the second inning and Ronald Acuna Jr. in the fifth.

Mets 4, Indians 3 (10 innings)
Max Muncy had a game-ending home run deep into the seats in right-center field as Los Angeles defeated visiting Toronto. It was the Dodgers’ 11th walk-off victory of the season and improved the club to a baseball-best 50-16 at home this season. Muncy’s game-ending shot came off Tim Mayza (1-3) and was his 33rd of the season. Muncy also tied a Dodgers record by hitting a home run in his fifth consecutive game. The Dodgers were two outs away from victory in the ninth inning before Toronto’s Rowdy Tellez hit a game-tying home run, his 15th of the season, off struggling Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen. Pedro Baez (7-2) pitched a scoreless 10th inning to earn the victory.

Rangers 8, Angels 7
Hunter Pence singed home the game-winning run in the ninth, and Texas beat Los Angeles for its third walk-off win in the four-game series in Arlington. Texas’ Elvis Andrus singled off Trevor Cahill (3-8) to start the ninth. He took second and third on wild pitches before scoring on Pence’s single through the left side. Only one Rangers starter failed to get a hit. Andrus had three hits and scored two runs, Pence had two hits and three RBIs, Nick Solak had two doubles and scored three times, Delino DeShields had two hits and two RBIs, and Willie Calhoun added two hits — including a solo home run — and two runs.

Rays 7, Mariners 6
Kevin Kiermaier homered to lead off the ninth inning to tie the score, and the winning run came across on a bases-loaded wild pitch as Tampa Bay salvaged the finale of a three-game series against Seattle in St Petersburg, Florida. Following Kiermaier’s homer, to straightaway center field off Mariners right- hander Matt Magill (1-4), a single, a double and an intentional walk to load the bases. Magill threw a curveball in the dirt to Tommy Pham. The ball bounced off catcher Omar Narváez and toward the third base dugout, allowing Adames to score the winning run. The Mariners, who saw their four-game winning streak halted, scored three runs off Rays closer Emilio Pagan (3-2) in the top of the ninth to take a 6-5 lead.

White Sox 4, Twins 0
Lucas Giolito allowed just three hits and struck out 12 while pitching his second complete-game shutout of the season as Chicago blanked Minnesota in the rubber game of a three-game series in Minneapolis. Giolito (14-6) threw a season-high 115 pitches in cooling off the hot-hitting Twins, who were shut out for just the third time this season. He didn’t walk a batter while registering double figures in strikeouts for the third consecutive game. Minnesota had rolled up 29 hits in the first two games of the series and had scored double-digit runs in three of its previous six games, winning five of them.

Phillies 5, Red Sox 2
Bryce Harper hit a go-ahead, two-run home run in the fifth inning as Philadelphia completed a two-game sweep at Boston. Harper’s blast the opposite way over the Green Monster in left field helped the Phillies to their first full-series sweep of the Red Sox since 2000. Boston had owned a 36-18 edge in their matchups since then prior to losing 3-2 Tuesday. Reliever Jared Hughes (4-5) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the fourth and earned the win. Hector Neris converted his second save in two days and 23rd of the season with a perfect ninth.

Braves 5, Marlins 0
Julio Teheran continued his season-long mastery of Miami, throwing seven scoreless innings in Atlanta’s home win. Teheran (8-8) gave up five hits, walked three and struck out a sea-

son-high nine. He improved to 3-0 with a 0.28 ERA in 32 innings against the Marlins this year. The Braves finished with just three hits, but all drove in runs: Tyler Flowers’ second-inning triple plus two-run homers from Ademys Hechavarria in the second inning and Ronald Acuna Jr. in the fifth.
**Too hot for lifejackets: Rules loosened at sizzling Olympic sailing test in Japan**

**ENOSHIMA: Sailing authorities have loosened the rules on lifejackets at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic test event to help athletes cool down, the latest sport to take measures to beat sweltering heat in the Japanese capital. Fears over intense heat and humidity in the Tokyo summer have crystallized at several test events in recent weeks, with some competitors and spectators taken ill and other events curtailed.

Competitors in the windsurfing final on Wednesday were permitted to remove their lifejackets, revealed Rio Olympics gold medallist Charline Picon. "The doctors realised that (the heat) was too fierce, that (the jackets) were increasing our heat levels and that it could be dangerous. We took them off. Everyone is feeling their way," said Picon, French team doctor Fanny Mevellec said the heat "requires additional physical effort to achieve equal performance. It also creates significantly more fatigue".

"This year, we are able to wear cooling jackets (with ice packs), and the international federation is changing the lycra we wear, which is too tight and not ventilated and which can provoke heatstroke," said Mevellec. Despite these changes, not everything is "in perfect working order", said the medical expert, who added however that the heat and humidity had not come as a surprise. "We knew exactly where we were going."

The World Sailing federation said it was closely monitoring the situation and could further tweak the rules depending on conditions. "We have to be very careful with the heat, clearly. It’s much hotter than the last two Olympics venues and many of the venues that we are used to," acknowledged Maitland Fox, director of events at World Sailing. "We’re looking at potential rules to put in place next year to keep the athletes safe and not get too hot and unable to compete," added Fox.

Some of the regulations under consideration are a compulsory break for athletes to cool down or an upper limit for water temperature. Marathon swimming — whose water-temperature limit of 31 degrees Celsius (88 Fahrenheit) was nearly breached at a test event earlier this month — has been brought forward to earlier in the morning to avoid the heat. But sailing needs to take other conditions into account, said Fox. "Of course, starting racing earlier in the day is a nice idea but if there is no wind we can’t race."

"You need to accept it" Many athletes said they simply had to come to terms with the heat, "the first thing that you need to do is to accept it," said double Olympic champion Dorian van Rijsselberge from the Netherlands. "They had a lot of trouble with this year’s Tour de France with the heat and they said: ‘We shouldn’t be cycling! You can’t stop the tour de France!’" said the Dutchman. "The Tour goes on and it’s the same with the Olympics. The Olympics doesn’t stop for one day of heat, it goes on. So you have to be better prepared for it.”

Japanese Finn sailor Hajime Kohuniai said there was no need to wear cooling jackets and that he kept well hydrated and protected from the direct sun. "Two or three years ago, it was 45 degrees. This year, it’s not that hot," he said. Meanwhile, the sailing federation appeared to tone down its earlier criticism of the venue that revolved around a potential clash with fisherment. "We’re very happy with the competition and the way that has gone," said Fox. "I think there’s still a lot that needs to be done onshore. We need a lot more work around the venue and athlete services, but I think we are on track to have a great Olympic Games." — AFP

**US athletes warned over Pan Am podium protests**

**LOS ANGELES:** Two US athletes who staged podium protests at the recent Pan American Games have been reprimanded but will not face further punishment by United States Olympic chiefs, USA Today reported on Wednesday. Fencer Race Imboden and hammer thrower Gwen Berry both came under fire after protesting the national anthem while Berry raised a clenched fist before medal ceremonies in Lima.

"We have to be very careful with the heat, clearly. It’s much hotter than the last two Olympic venues and many of the venues that we are used to," acknowledged Maitland Fox, director of events at World Sailing. "We’re looking at potential rules to put in place next year to keep the athletes safe and not get too hot and unable to compete," added Fox.

Some of the regulations under consideration are a compulsory break for athletes to cool down or an upper limit for water temperature. Marathon swimming — whose water-temperature limit of 31 degrees Celsius (88 Fahrenheit) was nearly breached at a test event earlier this month — has been brought forward to earlier in the morning to avoid the heat. But sailing needs to take other conditions into account, said Fox. "Of course, starting racing earlier in the day is a nice idea but if there is no wind we can’t race."

"You need to accept it" Many athletes said they simply had to come to terms with the heat, "the first thing that you need to do is to accept it," said double Olympic champion Dorian van Rijsselberge from the Netherlands. "They had a lot of trouble with this year’s Tour de France with the heat and they said: ‘We shouldn’t be cycling! You can’t stop the tour de France!’" said the Dutchman. "The Tour goes on and it’s the same with the Olympics. The Olympics doesn’t stop for one day of heat, it goes on. So you have to be better prepared for it." Japanese Finn sailor Hajime Kohuniai said there was no need to wear cooling jackets and that he kept well hydrated and protected from the direct sun. "Two or three years ago, it was 45 degrees. This year, it’s not that hot," he said. Meanwhile, the sailing federation appeared to tone down its earlier criticism of the venue that revolved around a potential clash with fisherment. "We’re very happy with the competition and the way that has gone," said Fox. "I think there’s still a lot that needs to be done onshore. We need a lot more work around the venue and athlete services, but I think we are on track to have a great Olympic Games." — AFP

**Australia can win basketball World Cup: USA coach**

**MELBOURNE:** United States coach Gregg Popovich has tipped Australia as a key contender at the upcoming basketball World Cup in China, saying they have the ability to win the tournament. The veteran San Antonio Spurs mastermind offered the praise ahead of two warm-up games between the nations in Melbourne this week. "They are one of the teams that can win the whole thing, without a doubt," Popovich said. "I’m not saying that because I’m here (in Melbourne). It’s just a fact."

The world number one Americans will try to win a third consecutive World Cup next month with a line-up that lacks many of their NBA superstars, with the likes of James Harden, Anthony Davis and Kawhi Leonard among notable absentees. But they boast top young talent and will use the games in Australia to refine their identity. They arrived in Melbourne on the back of a 90-81 victory over second-ranked Spain in Anaheim, California, and will play the Boomers later Thursday, then again Saturday before a final warm-up against Canada in Sydney on August 26.

In contrast to the five-time World Cup winners, Australia have never won a medal. But Popovich thinks this could be their year. "They’ve been close for several years, and they are hungry; They are talented. Coach (Andrej) Lemanis does a good job, and they are a team,” he said on the USA basketball website. “They are together. They know what they are doing. They execute really well, so that’s what it takes. They have the toughness and physicality to go with it. "I think they are one of the top contenders without a doubt.”

While Australia boasts a handful of NBA stars, including Utah Jazz’s Joe Ingles and Patty Mills of the San Antonio Spurs, they suffered a setback on Monday when Jonah Bolden joined his teammate Ben Simmons in pulling out of the World Cup. Other Australian NBA standouts not playing include Thon Maker (NBA commitments), Ryan Broekhoff (birth of his child) and Dante Exum (injury). — AFP
Karunaratne helps Sri Lanka to 85-2 on rain-hit first day

COLOMBO: Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne helped Sri Lanka to 85 for two at stumps on a rain-hit day one of the second Test against New Zealand in Colombo yesterday. Only 36.3 overs were possible after rain washed out the first session and bad light ended play for the day with Karunaratne unbeaten on 49.

Karunaratne, fresh from a match-winning century in the first Test in Galle last week last week, hit six boundaries during his 100-ball stay in overcast conditions. Former captain Angelo Mathews was giving Karunaratne company in the middle to remain unbeaten on 49 after nought after 14 deliveries. New Zealand all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme, who made the XI in place of Mitchell Santner, said the match was "evenly poised".

"There's a bit of more bounce on this track than what we encountered in Galle and that's nice," he said after play ended. "If we can get a couple of early wickets tomorrow morning that will be nice." Karunaratne batted with positive intent despite losing opening partner Lahiru Thirimanne and Kusal Mendis either side of tea. Thirimanne was never comfortable and his 59-minute stay at the wicket produced just two runs.

His misery ended when he pushed a William Somerville delivery and was caught at extra cover by slipper Kane Williamson. He had been earlier dropped by wicketkeeper BJ Watling off Somerville. Mendis looked good as he reached 32 with four fours and put on 50 runs with Karunaratne to steadily the batting. De Grandhomme got Mendis caught behind on a seaming delivery outside the off stump and Watling gloved the catch.

"I was just trying to be patient and stay for a longer period operating in the same line until I made a mistake and he did that, and we were glad to claim that wicket just before close of play," de Grandhomme said. The hosts only need a draw to clinch the two-match series. Both teams made one change from the first match.

Sri Lanka included veteran spinner Dilruwan Perera in place of Akila Dananjaya, who was reported for a suspect bowling action after the first Test. The entire opening session and another hour was lost due to persistent rain and the toss took place at 10:40 (0740 GMT). The afternoon session went uninterrupted but play was again delayed by 28 minutes after tea due to rain. After 7.3 overs in the evening session, play was called off due to bad light. Play will resume on day two at 10 am (0700 GMT).

India's Chand confident of making Olympic cut

MUMBAI: Dutee Chand, India's first openly gay sports star, has fought many battles off the track in recent years but for the next 12 months the sprinter is hoping to focus entirely on her running as she builds towards the Tokyo Olympics. Her battle against the IAAF gender testing rules to come out as a lesbian in what is still a highly conservative country, Chand is used to making headlines and she was praised for her courage but the revelation soured national sentiments by some in her homeland continued unabated, however, and in May she cut herself open to more abuse from social conservatives.

Chand caused a shockwave when she revealed she was coming out from her run-up in eastern Odisha state. She is praised for her courage but the revelation soured ties with her family. Last year India's Supreme Court scrapped a colonial-era ban on gay sex but while it no longer carries a punishment of up to 10 years in prison, same-sex relationships are still considered taboo by many in the country. The revelation did not discourage sponsors - she signed a two-year deal with German sportswear company Puma this month - and Chand said her over- whelming feeling after coming out was one of relief. "I don't feel there has been any pressure on me since I have discussed my personal life openly," she added. "In fact, I have received a lot of support and encouragement for speaking up about my choices. I felt pressured when I was in the hiding. Not anymore. "I am sure my achievements have made things easier for me but I also feel that people in our country have a greater acceptance level now and appreciate honesty over false identities."

In July, Chand clinched gold in the 100m sprint at a global meet when she clocked 11.32 seconds at the World University Games in Naples. "The World University Games Gold medal was a great confidence booster for me, it highlighted my talents, my performance and dedication," she said. "I received a lot of appreciation and support after this win and I look forward to winning more competitions such as these in the future and making my country proud. "Gold medal always feels great. In fact, any appreciation or acknowledgement is a great morale booster. The more medals I win, the more my ambitions and confidence levels increase." — Reuters

Dovizioso confident ahead of Silverstone

LONDON: After claiming victory in Austria, Andrea Dovizioso and Ducati will try to further close the gap on runaway championship leader Marc Marquez at the British MotoGP at Silverstone on Sunday. Last year's race was cancelled due to standing water on the track but the weekend forecast looks to be fine for an event that has been dominated by Ducati and Yamaha in recent years.

Five-time world champion Marquez and Honda will be looking to exact revenge after Dovizioso denied him a win in the close-run Austrian Grand Prix on August 11. Dovizioso is now 58 points behind Marquez with eight races left. Marquez won at Silverstone in 2014 and Dovizioso took the chequered flag there in 2017. Dovizioso said: "Even though the characteristics of the British track are not as favourable to us as Brno and Spielberg, we have already shown that we can also be quick at Silverstone, like in 2017 when we won the race."

But Marquez's hot form in 2019 makes him the favourite, having finished second or better in 10 of the 11 races so far, including six victories. The other big news for Honda is the return of Marquez's teammate Jorge Lorenzo. The three-time MotoGP world champion has been sidelined since breaking his back at round eight in the Netherlands. "It's very good to be back, it has been a long time since Assen. I would have liked to have been back sooner, but the nature of the injury meant I had to take my time," said Lorenzo who has won at the circuit in 2010, 2012 and 2013, and was on pole position last year before the race was cancelled.

Another man to watch is Yamaha's Maverick Vinales, who recorded the first victory of his career at Silverstone in 2016. He is confident that the new Silverstone surface, laid this year, will benefit his team. "In Silverstone I got my first victory in MotoGP, so I have good memories there. I think it's a track that can be very favorable to our bike, and we can be competitive also because of the new asphalt," Vinales said on the Yamaha website. — AFP
Finished at 23, eSports players peer nervously into retirement

SHANGHAI: As the first generation of professional gamers enters retirement, eSports is forced to confront a vexed question: after years spent killing rivals in a virtual world, what next? It is a quandary that comes far earlier than in most sports — in the most frenzied eSports games, players can be finished by 23 because reactions supposedly slow after that.

Millisecondes can be fatal in the online battlegrounds of eSports, a fast-paced and relentless game where the financial rewards are rocketing. There is a record prize pot of $33.7 million — and still growing — this week in Shanghai at The International, a world championship where players compete in Dota 2. In Dota 2, a multiplayer game featuring a “Phantom Lancer” and a “Chaos Knight”, players often talk about a comparatively late cut-off point of age 30.

“People think that at that age you're slow, you're not good enough, but I think it's a mythical number,” Jinyung “Sneky” Wu, 24, of the Newbee team, told AFP. “Michael “NinjaBoogie” Ross, of Dota 2 rivals Mineski, hopes to defy the age barrier. He has spent more than half his life gaming, but at 27, retirement is already looming.

“Hmm, now that's the one thing I've never really thought about,” he said, when asked what he plans to do next.

Burnout

According to those with knowledge of the scene, the “What next?” question is a hot topic among pro gamers. Coaching an eSports team or becoming a commentator or analyst are prime among the options after hanging up their keyboards. But a few say that after spending up to 12 hours a day practicing, and in some cases chewing on the edges and wrists suffering, they are looking forward to escaping the sport.

Duncan “Thorn” Shields, a self-styled eSports historian, said that burnout is a major reason gamers tend to retire early. But he also told his YouTube channel on a segment about retirement that teams have been too quick to dispose of older players and experienced mentors. The good news for the likes of Wu and Ross is that this seems to be changing and retirement ages are creeping up.

“Most people's peak probably was when they were 14 or 16,” said Shields. “But from an objective sense, it's absolutely not true. “The idea that in your late 20s you're just completely done... it doesn't seem to fit with sport.”

Social skills

Kurtis “Aui_2000” Ling said that growing riches in eSports — the best players are multi-millionaires — are keeping gamers playing longer than ever. The 26-year-old has earned close to $2 million, according to esportsearnings.com, and is now coach of Newbee having retired as a player after injury.

“Five or 10 years ago you retired because you wanted to settle down and you couldn't support yourself in eSports,” said the Canadian.

“Now we've clearly reached the point where you can begin to do that support yourself,” Sports players can play into their 40s so don't worry you can't in eSports.” As the scene matures and money tumbles in, there will be growing opportunities for retired gamers in the business, management and media of eSports, said Roman Dvoryankin, general manager of Virtus.pro.

Dvoryankin wants to employ a sporting director but there simply is not a candidate out there because many of the first generation of gamers are still playing. He dismissed accusations that many eSports players lack the social skills to thrive after they stop pro gaming. “They are totally fine at communicating with other people, just not face to face,” he said. "But it's not a unique eSports thing, it's a generational thing. People think they are just sitting at their computers, but the fact is they are talking a lot — but they are just chatting (online).” — AFP

Vito expecting ‘tough’ Top 14 start with scheduling clash

PARIS: Former New Zealand back-rower Victor Vito said it will be tough to begin the new French Top 14 season without four of his La Rochelle team-mates who will be away on Rugby World Cup duty. This year's top-flight competition will play eight rounds before the World Cup in Japan ends on November 2.

England's Premiership as well as the Pro14 league have decided to delay the start of their campaigns unlike France's two professional competitions, the Top 14 and the ProD2. Vito’s club team-mates in Fiji's Kini Murimurivalu and Levani Botia as well as France forwards Gregory Alldritt and Dany Priso are among more than 100 players from France's two professional leagues who will feature at the World Cup.

“It's going to be tough but I feel all the teams are in the same boat but we haven't been affected too much,” 32-year-old Vito, a two-time World Cup winner said. “We have Kini, Levani with the Fijians, we have Greg and Dany with the French boys. They are great players. “We have the depth at the moment. I think by the time they're available again we'll be looking forward to them joining us again.”

Morgan Parra, whose Clermont side host Vito's La Rochelle in their opening game of the campaign on Sunday, complained about the scheduling. Last year's losing finalists could be without as many as 10 squad members for the opening two months of the season. “It's annoying to begin the championship with guys away and not to have the squad together at the start of the championship. It's not good,” the scrum-half said. “Now we have to deal with it, the club knows too. — The club has had to sign some players as cover, they know we'd be without some players during the World Cup. But for me, it’s not normal," he added. — AFP

Is Andreescu the next big thing? Not so fast

TORONTO: When Bianca Andreescu became the first homegrown winner of the Canadian Open in 50 years, the tennis world declared the teenager as the sport’s next big thing. Even the fact that Andreescu was gifted the Rogers Cup title when a tearful Serena Williams was forced to re-sign for the first time due to a shoulder injury. — Reuters
On-loan Nketiah fires Leeds back to top of Championship

LONDON: On-loan striker Eddie Nketiah came off the bench to score a 81st-minute winner as Leeds beat Brentford 1-0 on Wednesday to go back to the top of the English Championship. The 20-year-old, on loan at Elland Road from Arsenal, had only been on the pitch four minutes when he scored from a close range cross from Helder Costa as Leeds went to 10 points after four games in the race for a Premier League place. “We deserved to win the game because we dominated. We didn’t create a lot of chances but we created enough chances to make a difference,” Leeds coach Marcelo Bielsa told the BBC. “It was a physical, demanding game and we took control in the best moment of the game.” Helder Costa is a balanced player who can play on both sides, and Eddie Nketiah can make an impact in the middle. We defended well and our opponents did not have enough clear chances.”

Swansea are second, also with 10 points, after a 3-1 win at QPR. Borja Bastón’s 70th-minute penalty put them back in front in another Huddersfield side. Antony Siewert’s equaliser and Sam Surridge sealed the victory by netting in André Ayew’s cross 10 minutes later. Ivan Cavaleiro struck twice as Fulham went third with nine points after a 4-0 victory over London rivals Millwall at Craven Cottage. Anthony Knockaert and Aleksandar Mitrovic were also on target as the Cottagers registered a third successive win. In a duel between two of last season’s relegated sides, Cardiff edged Huddersfield 2-1 with Junior Hoilett snatching a late winner for the Welsh side. Joe Ralls put the Bluebirds into the lead in the 42nd minute before Trezoh Chabodah levelled early in the second half for a Huddersfield team who sacked coach Jan Siewert last week. —AFP

Coutinho will not start for Bayern tomorrow: Kovac

BERLIN: Brazilian star midfielder Philippe Coutinho will not make his first Bundesliga start when Bayern Munich travel to Schalke tomorrow, said coach Niko Kovac yesterday. Coutinho, 27, has been the talk of Germany since joining Bayern on a one-year loan deal from Barcelona earlier this week. Yet at a press conference on Thursday, Kovac confirmed the Brazilian would begin his first game as a Bayern player on the bench.

“He is not quite at the level of fitness he needs to play for 90 minutes,” said Kovac. “He has said that himself, and we don’t want to take any risks. He has only been training for the last two weeks, so he needs to catch up,” he added, but confirmed Coutinho would be in the matchday squad. “I know a lot of people want us to play him straight away, but everything has to be right.” Kovac said Bayern’s other new attacking signing, Croatian winger Ivan Perisic, could make the starting eleven against Schalke. “Ivan is much further along; he started training at the same time as we did, and played several games for Inter Milan in pre-season,” he said. Bayern are under pressure to pick up three points against David Wagner’s Schalke side, having been held to a draw in their opening Bundesliga game against Hertha Berlin last week.

Neymar back in training, in contention to face Betis

MADRID: Lionel Messi gave Barcelona a timely boost on Wednesday by returning to training with the rest of the squad after a calf injury. Messi trained alone in the morning before joining his teammates in the afternoon, increasing hopes that Barça’s captain could play a role against Real Betis in La Liga on Sunday.

He strained his calf on August 5 in his first training session back following the Copa America and subsequently missed the club’s pre-season. It would be a surprise if Messi started at Camp Nou, but Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde will be eager to have his star available again, particularly after his team suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat by Athletic Bilbao in their opening league game last weekend. Messi’s absence has been compounded by injuries to other strikers. Luis Suarez is expected to be out for around a month after hobbling off with a calf problem against Bilbao. Ousmane Dembélé injured his hamstring and will need five weeks to recover. Antoine Griezmann, who sacked coach Jan Siewert last week. —AFP

Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo admitted on Wednesday his long-time rivalry with Lionel Messi has made him “a better player” and that he enjoys a “healthy” rivalry with the Argentine great. However, Portuguese star Ronaldo, whose influence at Real Madrid mirrored that of Messi at Barcelona before he left for Juventus, admitted that the pair have never socialised together.

“I really admire the career he has had and from his side, he has already talked of the appointment when I left Spain because it was a rivalry that he appreciated,” Ronaldo told TVI in Portugal. “It’s a good rivalry but it’s not unique — Michael Jordan had rivalries in basketball, there was Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost in Formula 1. The thing they all had in common is that they were healthy rivalries.”

Ronaldo and Messi have won the coveted Ballon d’Or five times each, a factor that helps each player flourish. “I have no doubt that Messi has made me a better player and vice-versa. When I am winning trophies it must sting him and it’s the same for me when he wins,” he said. “I have an excellent professional relationship because we have been sharing the same moments for 15 years. He added: “We’ve never had dinner together but I don’t see why we can’t in the future. I don’t see a problem with that.” —AFP

Neymar back in training, in contention to face Betis

In other news, Neymar remains no closer to getting his desired move away from Paris Saint-Germain amid reports Thursday the French club have rejected an offer from Real Madrid of 100 million euros ($111 million) plus players.

French sports daily L’Equipe said Real had offered cash plus Gareth Bale, James Rodriguez and goalkeeper Keylor Navas, but PSG turned it down because “the overall value of the offer did not match their expectations”. Paris paid 222 million euros to sign Neymar from Barcelona two years ago and their sporting director Leonardo is understood to be determined to only sell the forward for a deal considered to be of the same value.

Real have spent the summer trying to offload Bale, while James is unwanted after returning from a loan at Bayern Munich and Navas is no longer the club’s first-choice goalkeeper. Meanwhile, Barcelona remain hopeful of bringing Neymar back to the Camp Nou, but Catalan daily Sport claims an attempt to sign the player on loan with an obligation to buy for 160 million euros at the end of the season has been firmly rejected in Paris.

Sport claims Barcelona feel “it is very clear that PSG are trying to prevent the Brazilian from returning to the Camp Nou in any scenario”. PSG had previously reportedly turned down an offer from Barcelona of 40 million euros plus Philippe Coutinho and Ivan Rakitic. Juventus are also believed to have stated an interest in signing the 27-year-old, who has not featured in any of PSG’s matches so far this season having been frozen out amid the uncertainty over his future. The transfer window closes in France, Spain and Italy on September 2, meaning time is fast running out for a deal to be done. —AFP

EAGLE: Lionel Messi and Philippe Coutinho during their presentation in the stadium. —AFP

Football news: Friday Times

FRIDAY TIMES:

46

SPORTS

Friday, August 23, 2019

Sports

On-loan Nketiah fires Leeds back to top of Championship

Coutinho will not start for Bayern tomorrow: Kovac

Neymar back in training, in contention to face Betis

On-loan Nketiah fires Leeds back to top of Championship

Coutinho will not start for Bayern tomorrow: Kovac

Neymar back in training, in contention to face Betis
Henry’s desire to succeed remains undimmed after Monaco misery

LONDON: France football legend Thierry Henry is keen for another chance to prove he can be a successful manager despite his unhappy brief tenure at Ligue 1 side Monaco. The 42-year-old Arsenal’s record goalscorer told the Daily Telegraph that although his phone did not ring for four months following his sacking, things have picked up since then and he has received five offers.

Henry’s dream return last October to manage Monaco, the club where he established his reputation as a top class striker, turned into a nightmare. Having been part of Belgium manager Roberto Martinez’s backroom team at the World Cup where they reached the semi-finals he lasted just over 100 days after only four league wins.

"Call me crazy if you want, but I love football and I believe I can be a successful coach," he said. "I’m not thinking about the pain, I’m not thinking about failure. I don’t like easy, "I like to lead and it’s on me to make it happen. The same when I joined Arsenal as a player, the same when I went to Belgium with Roberto. It’s an evolution."

"Communication and honesty"

Henry, who was a member of the France squads that won both the 1998 World Cup and the Euro 2000 title, said although he has been contactless over jobs, he has yet to find the right fit. “My phone didn’t ring for four months after I left Monaco and then all of a sudden I got five calls,” he said. “Some were not what I was looking for and some were as a number two. “I won’t do a number two job because I want to be a number one.”

Henry, who has spoken with basketball and athletics coaches since being fired to gain extra insight into coaching top level athletes, says it is frustrating having to wait around for another opportunity but he is convinced football coaching is where his future lies. “I came out of it fully reassured that’s what I want to do, zero doubt about it,” he said. All Henry asks is for transparency from his employers.

"Communication and honesty from the start is key," he said. "What’s the job? Is the job to stay up, is the job to win the League or be in the Champions League? “But how and what is success? Is success improving players? Ultimately, results are the most important thing, but I want to improve players as well.” — AFP

Brazilian Elkeson earns landmark China call-up

SHANGHAI: China named Elkeson in their squad Wednesday for their opening World Cup qualifier with the Brazilian poised to become the first without Chinese ancestry to play for the country. The move has divided Chinese football fans and experts, however, as coach Marcello Lippi attempted to guide the nation to only their second World Cup.

Lippi has long complained about the dearth of attacking options and has averted for another opportunity but he is convinced football coaching is where his future lies. “I came out of it fully reassured that’s what I want to do, zero doubt about it,” he said. All Henry asks is for transparency from his employers.

"Communication and honesty from the start is key," he said. "What’s the job? Is the job to stay up, is the job to win the League or be in the Champions League? “But how and what is success? Is success improving players? Ultimately, results are the most important thing, but I want to improve players as well.” — AFP

Sudan plans for a women’s football league

KHARTOUM: Sudan’s first ever women’s club football league will start next month, a federation official told AFP Wednesday. The championship, which will involve 18 clubs separated in three regions, would have seemed unlikely only a year ago when Islamist general Omar al-Bashir was still in power. “The women’s football league will start in the first week of September,” Mirvat Hussein, the top federation official in charge of women’s football, told AFP.

She said a national team was also in the works to represent Sudan in international events. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has no continental cup for women’s club football yet. The announcement came on the same day as the swearing in of a joint military-civilian Sovereign Council in Sudan. The body replaces a military council that took over in April when Bashir was forced from power by months of relentless protests.

In what was seen as a significant advance, the 11-member ruling council, two of the six civilians on the council are women. Many Sudanese have voiced the hope that the three-year transition will see more liberal policies implemented across the country, including measures to advance freedom of speech and women’s rights and promote sport and arts.

Speaking during a training session with her club Tahadi, 22-year-old Rayan Ibrahim Rajab said a women’s league would have been unlikely just a year ago. “In the past, it was difficult for women to play football, there were many complications that prevented women from participating,” she said. “Now everybody is looking for a new reality and has new ambitions,” Rajab added. Sudan joined FIFA in 1948 and established the CAF along with Egypt, Ethiopia and South Africa. But women’s football has faced an uphill fight since the country adopted Islamic sharia law in 1983, six years after which Bashir seized power in an Islamist-backed coup. — AFP

BeIN SPORTS HD 5
FC Koln v BV Borussia Dortmund 21:30

BeIN SPORTS HD 3
Aston Villa v Everton FC 22:00
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

BeIN SPORTS HD 2
Granada CF v Sevilla FC 21:00
SPANISH LEAGUE

BeIN SPORTS HD 3
Levante v Villarreal CF 23:00

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

BeIN SPORTS HD 5
FC Koln v BV Borussia Dortmund 21:30

Khartoum: Rayan Ibrahim Rajab, a 22-year-old footballer, rests on an astro-turf pitch during a training session with her Tahadi women’s football club in the Sudanese capital. — AFP

Shanghai: China named Elkeson in their squad Wednesday for their opening World Cup qualifier with the Brazilian poised to become the first without Chinese ancestry to play for the country. The move has divided Chinese football fans and experts, however, as coach Marcello Lippi attempted to guide the nation to only their second World Cup.

Lippi has long complained about the dearth of attacking options and has averted for another opportunity but he is convinced football coaching is where his future lies. “I came out of it fully reassured that’s what I want to do, zero doubt about it,” he said. All Henry asks is for transparency from his employers.

“Communication and honesty from the start is key,” he said. “What’s the job? Is the job to stay up, is the job to win the League or be in the Champions League?” But how and what is success? Is success improving players? Ultimately, results are the most important thing, but I want to improve players as well.” — AFP

Shanghai: China named Elkeson in their squad Wednesday for their opening World Cup qualifier with the Brazilian poised to become the first without Chinese ancestry to play for the country. The move has divided Chinese football fans and experts, however, as coach Marcello Lippi attempted to guide the nation to only their second World Cup.

Lippi has long complained about the dearth of attacking options and has averted for another opportunity but he is convinced football coaching is where his future lies. “I came out of it fully reassured that’s what I want to do, zero doubt about it,” he said. All Henry asks is for transparency from his employers.

“Communication and honesty from the start is key,” he said. “What’s the job? Is the job to stay up, is the job to win the League or be in the Champions League?” But how and what is success? Is success improving players? Ultimately, results are the most important thing, but I want to improve players as well.” — AFP

Khartoum: Rayan Ibrahim Rajab, a 22-year-old footballer, rests on an astro-turf pitch during a training session with her Tahadi women’s football club in the Sudanese capital. — AFP
eSports players are peering nervously into retirement

SHANGHAI: A screen shows a live image of the Dota 2 eSports match between team Alliance and team RNG during the International Dota 2 Championships. — AFP

See Page 45