Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sign deal to resume joint oil output

Agreement also inked on demarcation of land and maritime borders

By Faten Omar and Agencies

KUWAIT: Saudi Arabia and Kuwait signed agreements yesterday to resume pumping at two major oilfields in a shared neutral zone that shut for five years due to a bilateral disagreement. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud inked the deals. Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Mohamed Al-Falih and the Saudi minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz met the Gulf leaders on the sidelines of the oil deals’ signing ceremony.

The new Cabinet members yesterday took their oath in Assembly amid walkouts.

By Ri Zeak

KUWAIT: The new Cabinet members yesterday took the oath of office to become members of parliament, as three opposition former MPs walked out of the session during the ceremony. MPs Adel Al-Damkhi, Mohammad Al-Mutair and Hayef and Mohammad Al-Mutair were protesting at the inclusion of Ghader Arouri as minister of social affairs and labor, who had blocked its support of anti-government protests in Bahres and called on Gulf troops to pull out of the nation. The opposition MPs had threatened protests in Bahrain and called on Gulf troops to pull out of the nation. The opposition MPs had threatened protests in Bahrain and called on Gulf troops to pull out of the nation.

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Chinese Ambassador praises strong Kuwaiti-Chinese ties


KUWAITI-Chinese relations are heading in the right direction, Chinese Ambassador Li Minggang said.

Li, who is also the Kuwait representative of the Belt and Road Initiative, said the two countries should cooperate and coordinate their efforts in various fields, including infrastructure, commerce, trade and energy, to achieve mutual benefits.

He noted that China has been prioritized as one of the most important trade and investment partners in the Middle East, with bilateral trade reaching more than $30 billion last year.

Li also highlighted the importance of cultural exchange, saying that the Chinese government has implemented a number of cultural programs to promote cultural exchanges with Kuwait.

Li thanked the Kuwaiti government for its support in the implementation of Chinese cultural projects in Kuwait, adding that the Chinese government has granted Kuwait a $100 million loan to finance cultural programs in the country.

He also expressed hope that the Cultural and Media Council will play a key role in promoting cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Amiri receives senior Kuwaiti officials, Saudi energy minister

Sheikh Sabah mourns Indonesia bus crash victims

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed his deepest sympathies yesterday over the lives lost when a bus plunged into a ravine in Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing at least 25 people. His Highness the Amir extended his condolences to the President of Indonesia Joko Widodo, saying he was distraught over the tragic loss of life caused by the transport tragedy.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Indonesian president.

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti banks will close on Wednesday, January 5, 2020, the statement added. —KUNA

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The State of Kuwait stands by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it said, adding that the Saudi court rulings in the case of Saudi citizen Jamal Khashoggi reflected the kingdom’s understanding of the principles of law and its commitment to upholding them, as well as safeguarding its security, stability and domestic tranquility.

The statement added that the kingdom has always been committed to upholding the principles of law and the rights of the individual, adding that the kingdom’s understanding of the principles of law and its commitment to upholding them, as well as safeguarding its security, stability and domestic tranquility, will continue to be upheld.

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KUWAIT: Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Li Minggang (fourth from left) speaks during the symposium. —KUNA

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Seven injured in Bneid Al-Gar apartment blaze

Violations hindered firemen’s work, KFSD says

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Seven people were injured in a fire reported in a Bneid Al-Gar apartment yesterday. Kuwait Fire Service Department (KFSD) said the blaze was on the ground floor of a 10-storey building, prompting 80 firemen and technical rescue teams to respond. Power supply was cut and the building was evacuated of about 90 residents.

Among the seven injuries, two people were taken to hospital – a fireman suffering from smoke inhalation and a woman with hand burns. The other five were treated onsite.

Meanwhile, Municipal Councilmember Bander Al-Assaaf said he had contacted Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manhalo, who confirmed suspending a previous decision to demolish the historical ‘Awazem Cafe,’ which has been operating for over 80 years in Souq Gharaballi cal ‘Awazem Cafe,’ which has been operating for over 80 years.

Municipality inspection reveals violations in Hawally

By Marjolijn Al-Resli

Hawally municipality inspection team toured various governorate areas to remove state property violations. Head of Hawally municipality inspection team Ahmad Al-Sabaan said inspectors work round the clock to detect any violations. He also urged every- one to report municipal failures to avoid fines. Chief inspector Ibrahim Al-Sabaan said the tour resulted in filing 36 citations, removing five flowerbeds. Sabaan added a total of 25 meters of chains used to close state property violations were detected.

KUWAIT: Hawally municipality inspection team yesterday toured various governorate areas to detect any violations and the procedures followed by the defense ministry in those deals. ‘The Audit Bureau is an independent body capable of making a suitable report that can be trusted. The truth shall come out of the trial,’ the sources added.

A number of violations were detected. Parking spaces were removed, and seven total of 25 meters of chains used to close the buildings were removed. Sabaan added a total of 28 circuits were removed, and seven state property violations were detected.

Further, the sources said the government might suggest having the State Audit Bureau financially investigate the matter rather than a case being heard in court. Instead of turning it into a political issue into case details in a way that might affect the judiciary and the legal process, they called for forming a parliamentary inquiry committee to probe the case details instead of turning it into a political issue.

The Audit Bureau is an independent technical body capable of making a suitable report that can be trusted. The truth shall come out of the trial,” the sources added.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a source revealed that the government prepared a report into the case details in a way that might affect the judiciary and the legal process. But firemen said the blaze due to violations and the procedures followed by the
Secretariat continues efforts to boost joint Gulf action: GCC chief

RIYADH: New Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Al-Hajraf pledged to work with the Secretariat staff to continue the sincere efforts aiming to push ahead the joint Gulf action. Hajraf made the statement on Monday while he was received by his predecessor, the outgoing Secretary General Dr Abdullatif Al-Zayani.

The statement said that during the meeting, Hajraf thanked Zayani for the warm reception, expressing his pride for his leadership role and his contribution in the development of the GCC. Hajraf emphasized the efforts of the GCC leaders in pushing ahead the joint Gulf action.

Zayani congratulated Hajraf on being appointed as GCC chief, wishing him all success in the duties and responsibilities he will take to promote the joint Gulf action and to continue the sincere efforts by the GCC leaders.

The statement noted that during the meeting, Hajraf made a presentation on the joint Gulf action and the main strategic goals as well as local, regional and international challenges facing the joint Gulf action. He underlined the importance of the GCC secretariat’s role in promoting the joint Gulf action.

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AUB: great success of ‘Fun Run’ event

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) concluded the ‘Fun Run’ race held under the slogan ‘Plant Palm Trees with Your Steps.’ This success stems from the Bank’s active role and its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, which sets youth and environment on the top of its priorities in alignment with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s ‘New Kuwait Vision 2035.’

On this occasion, Jehad Al-Humaidhi, Acting CEO of Ahli United Bank said: “We are pleased with our success in this event, which further solidifies the role of AUB in community participation through this activity, which attracted a large number of participants who gathered to spread awareness on the importance of following a healthy lifestyle, preserving the environment and supporting those in need. Under the slogan ‘Plant Palm Trees with Your Steps,’ all proceeds from this event will be allocated for planting palm trees, and the produced dates will be dedicated to continuously support needy families. This achieves several community noble goals that make us feel pride and encourage us to sustain our purposeful community programs.”

Humaidhi congratulated all participants and organizers who made this event a great success, which became a milestone for outstanding community programs, especially after the growing success achieved year after year.

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By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Al-Bustan Hearing-Impaired Children’s Nursery held a seminar entitled ‘Hearing and Balance Issues’ this past Monday at the Women’s Cultural and Social Society in Khaldiya. The seminar was presented by Dr Ahmad Khater, audiology consultant at the Faculty of Medicine at Zagazig University in Egypt, and a consultant at the Ear, Nose, and Throat Medical Center in Riyadh- Saudi Arabia.

On the sidelines of the seminar, Dr Khater told Kuwait Times that the event was held to spread awareness amongst mothers of children who have hearing problems. “The seminar [was held to give an presentation] on the cochlear implant hearing aid and how to decide to implant it,” he said.

Dr Khater discussed during his seminar how to decide when is the best time to implant the cochlear implant hearing aid, and how to maintain it. He said that early diagnosis of hearing impairment has a lot of benefits for the child, where the ‘golden period of language acquisition’ is from one year to four years of age. “The earlier hearing impairment is diagnosed, the better the result in language acquisition would be,” he said.

He talked about how cochlear implants can help children in acquiring language, and how to develop their speech skills. “[Hearing impairment] is a main cause of delayed speech among children,” he explained. “Therefore, it is necessary to perform hearing examination early and decide whether a child needs a cochlear implant or not to develop speech skills.”

Al-Bustan Hearing-Impaired Children’s Nursery, founded in 1998, established by Women’s Cultural and Social Society. It was the first of its kind in the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) area. Its objective is to identify children with hearing disabilities to acquire the maximum educational experience according to their abilities and needs. The nursery develops a unique curriculum for each child and adopts the most recent methodologies in terms of special education requirements, as well as use of modern educational aids and computers.
Gaza Christians say few Israeli permits granted for Christmas travel

Gaza: Fewer than half of Christians from Gaza who sought Israeli permits to visit holy sites such as Bethlehem and Jerusalem at Christmas have so far had their applications granted, members of the small community and Palestinian officials said yesterday. Israel had said on Sunday it would issue permits to only 500 Palestinians, mostly from the Greek Orthodox and Coptic denominations, to celebrate Christmas in the West Bank, after months of negotiations and delays.

Gaza has around 1,000 Christians, mostly from the Greek Orthodox denomination who celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7, and a major Muslim population of 2 million Palestinians.

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India beefs up security amid outrage over Indian law, anger against police

Govt approves funds for population survey amid protests

Lok Sabha has approved Rs 116.29 crore for the 2021 census, a year after the Supreme Court directed the government to conduct the population census.

The amount includes Rs 115.85 crore for the survey, and Rs 0.44 crore for legal, technical and other expenses.

Union home minister Amit Shah said that the survey would be conducted from April 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021.

India remains locked in a bitter dispute with Pakistan over the 2019 Pulwama attack in which 40 Indian soldiers were killed. The attack led to a major military operation by India in Kashmir, which Pakistan否认.

India's security forces are on high alert after a series of terror attacks in recent weeks, including a suicide bombing in Assam that killed 19 people.

The government has also been criticized for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has left millions of people without access to basic necessities.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said the survey would be conducted in a transparent and fair manner, and that it would be used to improve public services and infrastructure.

The survey is expected to provide a more accurate picture of India's population, which is estimated to be around 1.3 billion people.

Paralyzing in Iraq as protesters harden position

Baghdad: Iranian protesters stepped up their demonstrations yesterday with the authorities in Baghdad making it clear that they are not going to budge.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called for a million-strong demonstration in solidarity with Iraq.

Iranian-backed militia groups have been leading the protests in Iraq, which started in October.

The Iraqi government has not responded to the Iranian calls for mass demonstrations.

Iran has repeatedly denied casualty figures in the protests, and has accused the US and its allies of trying to undermine the Iraqi government.

Meanwhile, the US has pledged to provide $50 million in aid to Iraq to help with the protests.

Turkey: Three men died in the blast and more than 100 people were injured.

The US has also imposed sanctions on Iran's foreign minister.

Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that Turkey is ready to help Iraq in any way it can.

However, the US and the EU have both condemned the attacks in Iraq, and have called for an immediate end to the violence.

Meanwhile, the UN has also condemned the attacks in Iraq, and has called for an immediate end to the violence.

Iran has denied any involvement in the attacks, and has called for an immediate end to the violence.
No more US sniffer dogs to Egypt, Jordan after deaths

‘Dogs play a critical role in our counter-terrorism efforts’

WASHINGTON: The United States has temporarily stopped sending working detection sniffer dogs to Jordan and Egypt, punishing the two countries after they were found to have executed or mistreated canines in their custody.

The dogs, a critical component of US counter-terrorism efforts, play an important role in protecting American citizens and interests abroad. In a never-before-seen move, the US Department of State announced on Monday that it had decided to halt the program due to “unacceptably high levels of abuse or neglect”.

The State Department said it had a “substantial number” of unexplained deaths of sniffer dogs in both countries, with at least 10 deaths in Jordan alone since 2013. The US government, which had a contract with 20th Century Fox to provide dogs for its movie “Ice Age”, has faced criticism for its handling of the dogs.

“Unacceptably high levels of abuse or neglect are unacceptable, and we cannot continue to support programs that fail to protect and care for these highly trained and critical working animals,” the State Department said in a statement.

The announcement comes after reports that a number of sniffer dogs had died in Jordan and Egypt in recent months. In Jordan, at least 10 dogs have died in the past year, with some reportedly being killed by their handlers. In Egypt, at least five dogs have died in recent days, with local media reporting that some had been shot by their handlers.

“The dogs are a critical component of our counter-terrorism efforts, and we cannot continue to support programs that fail to protect and care for these animals,” the State Department said.

The move is likely to further strain relations between the US and its Middle Eastern allies, who have been increasing their reliance on US military support in the region. Jordan, in particular, has been a key US ally in the fight against the Islamic State group. However, the US government has said it will continue to provide financial aid and military training to Jordan to help it respond to the threat.

In a statement, the US Department of Defense said it was “deeply concerned” about the incident and had taken immediate action to address the situation.

The State Department said it would continue to work with Jordan and Egypt to improve conditions for their sniffer dogs, as well as to ensure that they are treated humanely and effectively.

“We will work with both countries to address these issues and ensure that our sniffer dogs are treated with the care and respect they deserve,” the State Department said.

The announcement comes as the US is facing increased pressure to reduce its military footprint in the region, with some lawmakers and officials calling for a withdrawal of US troops.

The US government has said it would continue to support its allies in the region, and that it would work with them to address the threat posed by extremist groups.

In the statement, the State Department said it would continue to work with Jordan and Egypt to improve conditions for their sniffer dogs, as well as to ensure that they are treated humanely and effectively.

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**International**

**Tropical storm ruins Christmas plans for thousands of Filipinos**

Hundreds stranded after authorities ask residents to leave coastal areas

**MANILA.** Thousands of people in typhoon-prone central Philippines have left their Christmas plans behind after the country was hit by a powerful tropical storm.

Residents of towns and cities along the island chain were warned to leave their homes and head for safer areas as strong winds and heavy rains battered the country.

**Tropical storm Vamco**

The tropical storm, named Vamco, made landfall on the island of Mindoro in the central Philippines on Tuesday morning, packing maximum sustained winds of 145 kilometers per hour (90 miles per hour) and gusting to 195 kilometers per hour (121 miles per hour).

Rescue operations were being conducted in affected areas, with officials saying that power and communication lines were down and that some residents were trapped in their homes.

** Evacuation orders**

Philippine disaster response authorities have issued evacuation orders for around 1.6 million people living in areas at risk of landslides and flooding.

Schools and offices were closed, and officials urged residents to stay indoors and avoid unnecessary travel.

**Emergency services**

Rescue teams were deployed to affected areas, and officials said that they were prepared to handle any situation that might arise.

**Philippine Red Cross**

The Philippine Red Cross has deployed teams to the affected areas to provide medical assistance and other support.

Local governments have also activated their disaster response plans, and officials have urged residents to stay informed and follow instructions from authorities.

**Christmas plans**

Many residents had planned to celebrate Christmas with family and friends, but the storm has disrupted these plans.

**Philippine climate**

The Philippines is prone to tropical storms and typhoons, with the country averaging 20 storms per year.

**Vamco's impact**

Vamco is expected to weaken as it moves inland, but officials are urging residents to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions.

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**Missing from India's citizenship law:**

**100,000 Sri Lankan refugees**

**KOLKATA:** Nearly 100,000 Sri Lankan refugees living in India have been denied citizenship under a controversial law, sparking warnings that the government is effectively deporting them.

Indian authorities have refused to grant citizenship to the refugees, who fled their homeland during and after the Sri Lankan civil war, which ended in May 2009.

The refugees, who mostly live in Tamil Nadu state, have been denied citizenship despite having lived in India for decades and having children who are Indian citizens.

**Refugee advocacy**

Activists have accused the Indian government of violating the refugees' human rights and have called for their inclusion in India's citizenship register.

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**At least 25 dead in Indonesia bus plunge**

**PASEUMAN:** At least 25 people died when a bus plunged into a ravine in Indonesia, rescue workers said.

The bus carrying dozens of passengers toured a popular area in Paseumang Timur, a rural district in North Sumatra province, before it hit a concrete barrier and plunged into a ravine.

The accident occurred on a remote and mountainous road in the village of Tumpang, which is near the Phinisi mountain range.

Rescue workers and police are still searching for survivors.

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**Australian PM announces leave for public servant firefighters**

**SYDNEY:** Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison yesterday announced four weeks paid leave for public sector firefighters who are fighting bushfires across the country.

Morrison said firefighters would be able to take an extended leave to attend to their families and community.

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**German minister says he’s to leave India after joining protests**

**BERLIN:** A German foreign minister has announced his resignation after joining protests against the Indian government's citizenship law.

The minister, who is the first to resign over the law, said he was withdrawing from his post to join the protests, which have sparked widespread outrage in India.

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**Senan Afghan soldiers killed in Taleban attack**

**KABUL:** Seven Afghan soldiers were killed in a suicide attack by the Taleban, officials said.

The Taleban militants launched the attack on a military base in the eastern province of Nangarhar, killing seven soldiers and wounding several others.

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7 uses of facial recognition that sparked debate

For identifying voters in Afghanistan to speeding app service for law firms in India, the use of facial recognition technology has carved a place for itself in the fast-changing world of surveillance and online safety. From the growing concerns over misuse to the periodic tightening of regulations, there are more areas of use for this biometric technique than ever. Here are seven uses of facial recognition that sparked debate recently.

1. **AFGHANISTAN - VOTING:** In Afghanistan, authorities have used facial recognition in polling stations to verify the identity of voters. However, the technology suffered from low accuracy, with low-light conditions and face masks hindering the process. The use of facial recognition in voting has raised concerns about privacy and the possibility of data misuse.

2. **INDIA - POLICE: **Facial recognition technology has been used to identify suspects in criminal cases. However, the accuracy of the technology has been questioned, and there have been reports of false positives leading to wrongful arrests.

3. **SOUTH AFRICA - CRIMES:** Facial recognition has been used by law enforcement agencies in South Africa to identify suspects in crime. However, the technology has been criticized for its accuracy and the potential for false positives, leading to wrongful convictions.

4. **UK - BANKS:** Some banks in the UK have started using facial recognition technology to verify customers' identity. However, there have been concerns about the security of the technology and the potential for misuse.

5. **UNITED STATES - AIRPORTS:** Facial recognition technology has been used to identify passengers at airports. However, there have been concerns about the accuracy of the technology and the potential for misuse in border control.

6. **CHINA - WILDLIFE:** In China, facial recognition technology has been used to monitor wildlife in national parks. However, there have been concerns about the impact of the technology on the environment and the potential for misuse.

7. **OTHERS:** Facial recognition technology has been used in various other contexts, including schools, hotels, and gyms. However, there have been concerns about the accuracy of the technology and the potential for misuse.

**Facial recognition technology has been used in various contexts, raising concerns over its potential for misuse and privacy issues.**

10

Analysis

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

WhatsApp's war over India protests divides families

WhatsApp has faced increasing pressure from governments around the world to cease the use of end-to-end encryption, a technology that allows users to communicate securely. However, the government of India has not been the only one to express concern. In this article, we explore the impact of WhatsApp's war on India protests on families and the potential for further violence.

Families of Sudan protest 'martyrs' await justice

Sudan has celebrated the one-year anniversary of the protest movements that culminated in the ouster of President Omar al-Bashir. However, the families of those who lost their lives in the protests are still waiting for justice. The government has not taken any meaningful steps towards investigating the violent crackdown on protesters.

Exodus casts pall over Christmas in southern Syria

Christmas is usually a time of celebration and joy, but this year, the residents of southern Syria are marking the occasion with a sense of loss and sorrow. The town of Qamishli, which is home to a large number of Syrian Christian communities, has seen a significant decrease in the number of residents this year.

EXODUS CASTS PALL OVER CHRISTMAS IN SOUTHERN SYRIA

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On Saturday, Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara said colonialism and past French meddling were under fire. Even the name of the currency itself, are a dividend of the former relationship, he said.

West Africans divided over CFA franc reform

Deal seeks to provide currency stability for 8 countries in WAMU

Dakar: Plans to overhaul the CFA franc, a Franco-backed currency used by former colonies in West Africa, have drawn reactions ranging from skepticism to cautious optimism. Some experts in the region questioned whether the proposed changes were too distant, while others thought it a step forward, although total independence for the West African countries was unlikely.

Introduced in 1945 during colonial times, the CFA is linked to the euro at the rate of €1 = 100 francs. Critics say it has been a source of corruption and opacity.

Divided opinion

Despite general agreement that the change is necessary, there is disagreement on whether the reform will make a real difference. Some economists would welcome any move away from the CFA, a France-backed currency used by 17 former colonies in West Africa.

However, experts warn that the change could be a step forward but not a solution to the problems of the CFA. The currency regime, which should be sorted out at some point in the future, is transitional. Senegalese economist Nubukpo said: “The outside world has changed, but inside, nothing has moved.”

Some economists agreed塞内加尔的经济学家。Nubukpo said: “It's important to free our minds from the French, provided there's no trap. Shoe trader Mamadou Sall said: "If we could realize a step forward but not a solution to the problems of the CFA, we have to be aware of the problems we face.”

Critics said the deal was an attempt by France to maintain its influence in the region. “At the present time, this reform is a victory for French interests and a step forward for the West African countries,” said the economist Nubukpo.

The IMF in October slashed its forecast for 2019 by nearly a full point to 6.1 percent, while cutting the outlook for the next two years to 5.6 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively.

"At this stage, the IMF says, "we can't be sure if the government has enough room to maneuver." In the coming months, the country's economic slowdown will continue, with growth forecasted at 4.5 percent for 2019, 4.1 percent for 2020, and 4.0 percent for 2021.

This would be a victory for the region's economies, which have been struggling to diversify away from oil and gas. The IMF forecasts that the region's economic growth will slow to 4.5 percent in 2019, 4.0 percent in 2020, and 3.5 percent in 2021.

But the government needs to continue its efforts to diversify the economy, including by taking steps to reduce its dependence on oil and gas. "The country's economic growth is very weak," the IMF said. "We need to keep up the fight against corruption and poverty, and to create jobs for young people."
Emirates to bring its crowd-puller flagship A380 to the Kuwait Aviation Show 2020

Airbus A380 to be decorated in blue livery, representing ‘mobility’ theme of Expo 2020

KUWAIT: Emirates, the world’s largest international airline and operator of the world’s only double-deck passenger aircraft, is delighted to invite Airbus A380 to visitors and spectators at Expo 2020 Dubai. This iconic aircraft, currently operated by Emirates Airlines, has already been decorated twice with blue and white livery to celebrate Expo 2020, and spreading awareness about the world’s largest gathering of nations. The A380, representing the ‘mobility’ theme of Expo 2020, will be showcased to visitors and spectators on 15 January at the Middle East, North Africa and South Asian (EXPON 2020) Dubai 2020 will be held between 20 October 2020 and 10 April 2021. Al-Mahmood Yousef President, Commercial Operations-Middle East, North Africa South Asia and India, Emirates, said: “Emirates is proud to be part of the Kuwait Aviation Show 2020, an event that welcomes aviation enthusiasts, industry stakeholders to pledge his partnership and support to the Expo 2020 mission to suspend production of the 737 MAX 8, the aircraft involved in the Ethiopian Airlines and Lion Air accidents last year. In May, Boeing announced that Calhoun would shift his focus to end crisis measures economic Alert. In order to get the notifications, make sure your device’s Bluetooth is on. If you have previously declined this service, you can still manage it by going to the NBK Mobile Banking App settings and selecting “NBK Geo Alerts”.

Once you update the NBK Mobile Banking App, a notification message will appear on your screen. Promotional ‘Geo Alerts’ will give you access to the latest promotions and offers through the NBK Mobile Banking App.

We are maintaining our well-established position as a provider of the most disruptive digital banking services as well as a customer service management software provider. By using transformation strategies, which enhances clients, we are also operating our latest world-class products to Kuwait, including its latest Boeing 787 Dreamliner with the Game Changer First Class suite.

Anticipated to be popular with aviation enthusiasts as well as the general public, the Emirates A380 will feature a luxurious first-class cabin, 76 first-class seats in Business Class and 423 spacious seats in Economy Class, keel-seats in Business Class and the airline’s signature First Class Private Suites.

Emirates has already been decorating the A380 to the Kuwait Aviation Show 2020 to show its commitment and contribution to Expo 2020 Dubai. The A380’s rigid transport system and high-capacity fuselage provide unique advantages in the context of accessibility and mobility as a facilitator of transportation to and from Expo 2020 Dubai and the UAE.

Emirates has been serving Kuwait for 39 years, and today operates to the country’s capital with 9 weekly flights, providing business professionals and leisure travelers with choice and connectivity to over 150 global destinations from Kuwait, including its latest Boeing 777-200 with the Game Changer First Class suite.

NBK launches NBK Geo Alerts service

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has launched the NBK Geo Alerts service, through which customers can set up location-based notifications about offers, discounts and promotions via the NBK Mobile Banking App while shopping. The new service’s launch in line with the bank’s commitment to continue to improve the NBK Mobile Banking App through providing the top-notch digital solutions to satisfy the customers’ needs.

NBK customers can activate the new service when they download or update the NBK Mobile Banking App, as they will be asked to define the service area on their phones with shopping The new service is available to all NBK customers in Kuwait, the bank said.

“We are committed to introduce new updates to the NBK Mobile Banking App in line with the needs of our customers, to be able to offer them an outstanding banking experience and embrace a full-fledged and enhanced mobile banking services,” said Abdoos Al-Bahnani, Deputy General Manager of Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait.

The NBK Geo Alerts is a location-based notification service and one of the features activated with the new version of the NBK Mobile Banking App in December 2019. The new service allows customers to get real-time notifications about offers and promotions that are available in any NBK branch or ATM machine in Kuwait, as well as in NBK branches abroad.

The service will give you the opportunity to receive real-time offers and promotions at your location. This is a huge benefit for NBK customers, who can enjoy an outstanding banking experience and access the latest promotions and offers through the NBK Mobile Banking App.

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Argentine economy measures to end crisis

Buenos Aires: Argentina’s center-left government approved on Monday a package of emergency measures aimed at limiting the South American country out of its worst economic recession. Argentina is in a recession caused by a currency shock that struck in mid-August of 2019 and has continued to grow ever since.

Poverty levels in the country of 44 million top 40 percent of the population in the region. The government has announced plans to end the recession by August 2020, aiming to limit the impact of the recession. The government says the tax cuts will not affect the upper and middle classes. The bill passed the lower house of Congress on Friday and the Senate on Saturday. Fernandez has described this crisis as the most severe in the country’s history.
Global markets fly out of holiday lethargy on Boeing CEO shakeup

Festive world markets pause for breath near record highs

NEW YORK: The surprise announcement that Boeing ousted its embattled CEO invigorated Wall Street, while Trump on Saturday, which spurred Wall Street to new all-time highs.

“The market was looking for the news that US-China tensions are starting to cool,” said a trader at Oanda in Singapore. “It’s been a good few weeks for investors, spurred primarily by the de-escalation in the trade concerns and the recent run of gains kept investor confidence high.”

Equity rally and signs the US Federal Reserve has paused rate cuts have put a damper on Federal Reserve expectations for a rate cut. Brent oil futures ticked up 0.2 percent on Friday, and in contrast with the Bank of Japan’s meeting prompted money markets to erase rate cut expectations. Brent oil futures ticked up 0.2 percent on Friday, and in contrast with the Bank of Japan’s meeting prompted money markets to erase rate cut expectations. Brent oil futures ticked up 0.2 percent on Friday, and in contrast with the Bank of Japan’s meeting prompted money markets to erase rate cut expectations.

The US dollar held near a two-week high against a basket of major currencies, while the euro was near a four-month low against the dollar.

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The importance of quality management in Islamic banking

Abdul Aziz Al-Ramez

It is impossible to understand the importance role that quality management plays in the banking industry. The New York Federal Reserve Bank and the American Bankers Association have done their parts to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the importance of quality management in the banking industry.

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AUB holds seminar on UK real estate tax update, impact of Brexit on British taxes

Bank continues its commitment to financial clarity to its clients

**AUB** As part of its continuous efforts to disseminate and develop financial and banking knowledge to its clients, AUB held a seminar titled “UK Real Estate Tax Update & Developments,” as part of its commitment to provide updates and added services. The seminar was held to enhance awareness among customers in the UK market regarding new developments in Brexit and its effects on buying and selling real estate.

The seminar was lead by Shaima Jilloud, Partner at Boodle Hatfield in London and is designed to allow this series of seminars regularly to keep our clients up to date on all changes in this area in order to keep them aware of the changes in their economic and real estate areas.

In his opening speech, Senior Manager for Private Banking - Head of Commercial Tax at Boodle Hatfield, Shaima Jilloud, said: “By informing our clients, we provide them with guidance and services that will enable us to make sound and well-informed decisions. We recognized that a seminar on the private banking and Wealth Management customers’ interest and highlighted the importance of having a tax efficient structure for all property transactions.”

Jilloud added: “The advice that AUB provides to its clients helps them make better and more informed decisions when buying or selling real estate.”

Shaima Jilloud during her presentation

**Business**

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**S&P** is the leading group of independent financial services companies providing equity research, ratings, indices and other financial services.

**NEW YORK**: US stocks are poised to close out the quarter in the red, with the benchmark S&P 500, down 2.5 percent in the third quarter. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 3.7 percent, the Nasdaq Composite dropped 3.3 percent, and the S&P 500 fell 2.5 percent. The Nasdaq Composite ended the quarter down 3.3 percent, while the S&P 500 index lost 2.5 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 3 percent.

**Canada**

**Canada economy shrinks for first time in eight months, hit by US auto strike**

**OTTAWA**: Canada’s economy unexpectedly shrunk for the first time in eight months in the third quarter, dragged down by a steep drop in motor vehicle sales, Statistics Canada data indicated on Monday. Economists had expected a 0.1 percent increase.

Manufacturers poll forecast had a gain of 0.1 percent following a 0.5 percent advance in September. Economists had predicted a 0.3 percent increase. However, the data showed a 0.5 percent drop in motor vehicle sales, which are a key driver of the economy. The drop was the biggest since February, partly because of a US auto strike.

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What's On

December 25th 2019 Wednesday - Christmas Day - Masses Holy Day of Obligation
03.00 a.m. Malankara Holy Mass
07.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
08.30 a.m. English Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. Syro-Malabar Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. Korean Holy Mass
12.00 Noon Maronite Holy Mass
02.00 p.m. Tagalog Holy Mass
02.30 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass

December 31st 2019 Tuesday (Morning) - Normal Masses
06.30 a.m. Holy Mass in English (Cathedral)
07.00 a.m. Holy Mass in English (Cathedral)

December 31st 2019 Tuesday New Year's Eve - Masses
05.30 p.m. Malayalam (Latin) Holy Mass
06.00 p.m. French Holy Mass
06.30 p.m. Malankara Holy Mass
07.00 p.m. Tagalog Holy Mass
08.00 p.m. Korean Holy Mass
08.30 p.m. Solemn Pontifical Holy Mass
10.30 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
10.30 p.m. New Catechumenal Holy Mass
10.30 p.m. Coptic Arabic Holy Mass
11.45 p.m. Syro-Malabar Holy Mass
10.00 p.m. Maronite Holy Mass

January 1st 2020 Wednesday New Year's Day - Holy Masses
07.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
08.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
08.30 a.m. English Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
12.00 Noon Maronite Holy Mass
02.00 p.m. Tagalog Holy Mass
02.30 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
03.15 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
04.00 p.m. Tamil Holy Mass
04.30 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
05.30 p.m. English Holy Mass
05.45 p.m. Sinhala Holy Mass
06.30 p.m. English Holy Mass
07.45 p.m. Malayalam (Latin) Holy Mass
06.00 p.m. Spanish Holy Mass
08.00 p.m. Arabic Latin Holy Mass

TIES Centre

The TIES Center cordially invites you to the second session of our repeated course on Purification and Prayer today, December 25th, at 11 am.

In this class, we will learn more about difference between cleanliness and purity from the Islamic point of view, their significance and implications. We will also examine the importance of water for cleanliness and purification, its sources, and properties.

Finally, we will discuss the incident when a Bedouin urinated in a mosque, the reaction of both Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his bona-fide companions, and elicit lessons to implement in our lives. Come and learn the hows and whys of physical and spiritual purity to perfect your prayer.

IWG visits Arab Fund to explore the Jewel of Kuwait

Within the framework of the group activities the International Women Group (IWG), visited the headquarters of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Salmiya on December 19th, 2019.

The Arab Fund is a financial institution established in June 1973 to provide financial assistance to Arab countries. It is headquartered in Kuwait City, and it is a member of the Arab League and the United Nations.

The Arab Fund is one of the largest financial institutions in the Arab world. It provides financing for projects in various sectors, such as infrastructure, energy, education, health, and social services. Its headquarters is considered as one of the most beautiful and unique buildings in the Middle East.

Ahmadi prepares for rainy season

Ahmadi Governor, Sheikh Fawwaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, expressed appreciation of the efforts exerted by relevant bodies in preparation for the rainy season in various Ahmadi governorates.

Ahmadi Chief of Police, Colonel Ahmed Al-Bairami, emphasized that all law and civil defense teams are ready for the season and to provide utmost safety and security for residents of Sabah Al-Ahmed and all other areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmadi roads and grids maintenance manager, Amnash Al-Rashidi, said that work was going according to a plan set by the cabinet and a scientific team headed by MPW undersecretary.

Christmastide program 2019-2020 Holy Family Cathedral

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08.30 a.m. English Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. Syro-Malabar Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. Korean Holy Mass
12.00 Noon Maronite Holy Mass
02.00 p.m. Tagalog Holy Mass
02.30 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass

December 31st 2019 Tuesday (Morning) - Normal Masses
06.30 a.m. Holy Mass in English (Cathedral)
07.00 a.m. Holy Mass in English (Cathedral)

December 31st 2019 Tuesday New Year's Eve - Masses
05.30 p.m. Malayalam (Latin) Holy Mass
06.00 p.m. French Holy Mass
06.30 p.m. Malankara Holy Mass
07.00 p.m. Tagalog Holy Mass
08.00 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
08.30 p.m. Syrian Pontifical Holy Mass
10.00 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
10.00 p.m. Syrian Catechumenal Holy Mass
10.00 p.m. Syrian Arabic Holy Mass
11.45 p.m. Syrian Malabar Holy Mass
10.00 p.m. Maronite Holy Mass

January 1st 2020 Wednesday New Year's Day - Holy Masses
07.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
08.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
08.30 a.m. English Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
12.00 Noon Maronite Holy Mass
02.00 p.m. Tagalog Holy Mass
02.30 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
03.15 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
04.00 p.m. Tamil Holy Mass
04.30 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
05.30 p.m. English Holy Mass
05.45 p.m. Sinhala Holy Mass
06.30 p.m. English Holy Mass
07.45 p.m. Malankara (Latin) Holy Mass
08.00 p.m. Spanish Holy Mass
08.00 p.m. Arabic Latin Holy Mass
08.00 p.m. Syrian Arabic Holy Mass

Ahmadi Governor, Sheikh Fawwaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, expressed appreciation of the efforts exerted by relevant bodies in preparation for the rainy season in various Ahmadi governorates.

Ahmadi Chief of Police, Colonel Ahmed Al-Bairami, emphasized that all law and civil defense teams are ready for the season and to provide utmost safety and security for residents of Sabah Al-Ahmed and all other areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmadi roads and grids maintenance manager, Amnash Al-Rashidi, said that work was going according to a plan set by the cabinet and a scientific team headed by MPW undersecretary.

Christmastide program 2019-2020 Holy Family Cathedral

December 25th 2019 Wednesday - Christmas Day - Masses Holy Day of Obligation
03.00 a.m. Malankara Holy Mass
07.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
08.30 a.m. English Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. Syro-Malabar Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. English Holy Mass
10.00 a.m. Korean Holy Mass
12.00 Noon Maronite Holy Mass
02.00 p.m. Tagalog Holy Mass
02.30 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass

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07.00 p.m. Tagalog Holy Mass
08.00 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
08.30 p.m. Syrian Pontifical Holy Mass
10.00 p.m. Konkani Holy Mass
10.00 p.m. Syrian Catechumenal Holy Mass
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Climate change may be death knell for Madagascar lemurs

PARIS: At least two species of Madagascar lemurs facing the brink of extinction because of deforestation could be pushed over the edge by climate change, researchers said Monday. Several other species of lemur, the researchers added, are endangered to one degree or another, probably more than 95 percent of Madagascar’s 101 lemur species. The island nation accounts for five percent of the world’s unique plant and animal species. So far, deforestation has been the biggest threat, but climate change impacts could increase dramatically in the coming decades as temperatures continue to climb, scientists say. To measure the survival prospects of ruffed lemurs, more than 20 researchers led by Toni Lyn Morelli from the University of Massachusetts部门inartmental environmental conservation office examined three sets of data. The first projected changes in rainforest cover cut to September 2020, based on two scenarios: "business as-usual (no change)" and immediate cuts in carbon pollution to business-as-usual (no change). Between 15 and 75 percent. When combined, the impact of global warming and habitat loss becomes devastating, they predicted, with the area in which the lemurs might live reduced by 95 percent. Madagascar has one of the highest rates of poverty in the world, and lacks resources for conservation and natural resource management. - AFP

Rhino poaching rises in Botswana

GABORONE, Botswana: Thirteen rhinos have been poached in Botswana in the last two months, the tourism ministry said, as the government tries to crackdown on hunting of the country’s population has continued with the northern Okavango Delta. “From the beginning of the year, most of them roam the grassy plains of the delta,” the ministry said in a statement issued on the multibillion-dollar illegal wildlife market. Vietnam outlawed the trade in 2016, but the Black-market still persists and has been growing. The authorities in northern Hai Phong province have so far this year seized 7.1 tons of ivory and 1.7 tons of pangolin scales after checking three container shipments from Nigeria, according to the Vietnamese customs department. The international trade in both species is driven by demand in China and Vietnam, where their scales are used as traditional medicine and their meat is bought on the black market. Hanoi has vowed to crack down on the illegal wildlife trade, but authorities say large seizures still occur. Vietnam has the most trafficked animal on the red list. Wildlife authorities in northern Hai Phong province uncovered a rectangular wooden box full of pangolin scales, with elephant tusk fragments as the nominal protection. Since the mid-20th century, Madagascar has lost about 95 percent of its forest cover. The scientists also looked at the likely impact of climate change over the next 50 years, assuming scenarios ranging from optimistic (sleepy and inactive) to high global warming (relax protection). Finally, they looked at how much healthy rainforest would be left in 2070 where the docile mammals might be able to thrive, or just survive. In contrast, the researchers said, “Climate change by itself could shrink the area by between 15 and 75 percent. When combined, the impact of global warming and habitat loss becomes devastating, they predicted, with the area in which the lemurs might live reduced by 95 percent. Madagascar has one of the highest rates of poverty in the world, and lacks resources for conservation and natural resource management. - AFP
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- Treatment of any form of eye infection.
- Different surgical and medical techniques of every lesion.
Aries (March 21-April 19)

Channel your energy into constructive tasks. Look to where your strength can best be put to work. A planned, disciplined approach works best today. One thing to keep in mind is that it’s important to connect with others now. Try doing things alone may seem like the right thing to do, but you’re much more efficient when you enlist the help of others. Don’t be shy about putting your needs first. Be ready to fall from the tree, don’t wrench it off. Wait until the apple is ripe and listen. Don’t force things to come out if they aren’t ready. If the apple isn’t ripe, don’t try to get it off the tree.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be a bit confused today. Other people’s actions may send you into a state of confusion or emotions. You may be sensitive regarding the way that others talk about you. If you can avoid taking things personally, you’ll hold true. Use your words carefully. Friends are waiting in the wings to help you with whatever bothers you. Don’t hesitate to ask for assistance.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Communication is key today. Make your intentions known right away to avoid unnecessary confusion. Be sure you move in the right direction and don’t offend others. The good news is that you can get a lot done when you act in this fashion.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Investigative forces may come into conflict with you today. The good news is that you should be able to find space of peace within your emotions. Seek a mediator who can help you sort out matters that may exist between you and others. Opportunities for harmony and growth can be found if you take a lighthearted approach to the situation, and don’t get too serious about the emotions. The better off you’ll be if you keep your feelings under control by not reading too deeply into the situations of things.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a terrific day for you. Your emotional state of mind is wonderfully tractable. You’ve had the perfect thing to say in every situation. Your adaptability nature will come in handy, as people around you will be quite open and receptive. The most important thing you can do is not let emotions get the best of you. Feel free to be the social butterfly.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A planned, disciplined approach works best today. One thing to keep in mind is that it’s important to connect with others now. Try doing things alone may seem like the right thing to do, but you’re much more efficient when you enlist the help of others. Don’t be shy about putting your needs first. Be ready to fall from the tree, don’t wrench it off. Wait until the apple is ripe and listen. Don’t force things to come out if they aren’t ready. If the apple isn’t ripe, don’t try to get it off the tree.
In Gaza, a somber Christmas after permits row

W ith a shining tree, tinsel and Santa miniatures, Hanadi Missak’s apartment is all ready for Christmas, yet she still feels about spending the holiday at home. The 48-year-old is one of hundreds of Christian Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who applied for Israeli permission to travel to Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Church leaders say the normally straightforward process has this year been incredibly difficult, with only around one in five applications granted.

With time running out until the celebrations begin, Missak had given up on travelling. “I was hoping to go to Bethlehem, but the circumstances did not allow it,” Missak, who is deputy principal at a Christian school in Gaza, told AFP. “There is the real celebration - the prayers, decorations in all the streets and the church,” she said. “The midnight mass is wonderful.”

‘Still hope’

There are barely more than 1,000 Christians in all of Gaza, where two million people live crammed into a territory only 40 km long and a few km wide. It is geographically separated from the West Bank - the Palestinian territory where Bethlehem is located - by Israel, and crossing between them requires hard-to-get Israeli permits. A few hundred Gazan Christians have traditionally been granted permits to attend Christmas festivities in Bethlehem and Jerusalem each year.

This year, Israel initially didn’t announce any permits, prompting criticism from church groups and media. On Sunday, a statement from COGAT, the Israeli military body responsible for the permits, said some would be granted “in accordance with security assessments.” Gaza is ruled by the Islamist group Hamas, which Israel accuses of abusing the permit system to plan attacks against its citizens.

Wadie Abunassar, an advisor to and spokesman for church leaders in the Holy Land, told AFP Monday that out of 951 applications so far, 192 had been granted. “We still hope there will be more to come. We were promised by many Israeli bodies... but Christmas begins tomorrow,” he said. “We are saying this to the Christian folk that should be respected.” Missak said she had travelled to the West Bank multiple times before for Christmas and didn’t know why the permit hadn’t been granted this year. COGAT did not respond to multiple requests for comment regarding the number of permits granted or Missak’s case.

Palestinian children decorate a Christmas tree at a restaurant in Gaza City on Monday.

Palestinian artisans make Christmas toys at Zeina Association and Cooperative for Handicrafts in Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Palestinian youths pose for a selfie by the Mediterranean sea waterfront.

In Gaza, a somber Christmas after permits row

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Palestinian artisans make Christmas toys at Zeina Association and Cooperative for Handicrafts in Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Palestinian youths pose for a selfie by the Mediterranean sea waterfront.
Myanmar child nuns
dream of conflict-free lives

Teenager Dhama Thiri than dreams of becoming an engineer and playing football, but for now she must rise at dawn to clean floors before pounding Yangon's streets to collect alms as one of Myanmar's growing number of child monks feeling refuge from conflict. With shorn heads and swathed in pink robes, the girls of Mingalar Thaikti nunnery six crosses-legged on wooden floorboards as they begin to pray, bleary-eyed and stifling yawns.

From conflict. With shorn heads and swathed in pink robes, the girls of Mingalar Thaikti nunnery six crosses-legged on wooden floorboards as they begin to pray, bleary-eyed and stifling yawns.

"There was a lot of fighting," Dhama Theingi, 18, told AFP, explaining why her parents sent her hundreds of kilometres from home nine years ago.

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Buddhist nuns from the Mingalar Thaikti nunnery collect alms玩具 for underprivileged children

Buddhist nuns having breakfast at the Mingalar Thaikti nunnery.

This photo taken on October 19, 2019 shows Buddhist nuns from the Mingalar Thaikti nunnery going out to collect alms in Yangon. — AFP photos

"We distribute more than 20,000 toys a year," said Maria Grazia Passeri, head of Salvamamme which also hands out food, napkins and clothes to families with very little means.

The products come from official organisations, hospitals or local parishes. Passeri, wrapped in a red shawl, said that she founded the association 20 years ago to help "all these women who give birth in secret or go through single motherhood out of poverty become volunteers at Salvamamme, Jonathan, a 29-year-old Argentine, arrived in Italy 12 years ago without work or a family to start a new life. "I am very grateful, I will never forget the help I received. All my free time I gave it to the association," he said.

Anna Moticala has a family of five to feed, three of whom are children. She arrived from Moldova to Rome eight years ago and is an unemployed technical assistant, currently working as an association," he said.

People leave batteries in and they oxidate," he said, as he changes those of children who have been through so much smile.

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**What next for ‘Star Wars’ after ‘Rise of Skywalker’ grand finale?**

At the end of the film, the Skywalker saga is definitively ended. Whether you’re a fan or not, it’s a perfect conclusion to this revered epic. But it leaves a significant void in the Star Wars universe. So what’s next for the iconic franchise?

1. **Re-visit Old Characters:** The Skywalker saga has been an immersive journey through the Star Wars galaxy, with multiple generations of characters. With the end of this saga, there are many characters who deserve a solo film or a spin-off. For example, Rey’s backstory could be expanded with a film that delves deeper into her past. Han Solo and Luke Skywalker are two such characters who have been hinted at for a new film, and fans are eagerly waiting for these stories to be told.

2. **New Characters and Worlds:** With a new generation of characters coming into the fold, there’s an opportunity to explore new worlds and create new adventures. The Force has summoned a new generation of powerful individuals who could bring fresh perspectives and exciting stories.

3. **Re-visit Classic Stories:** The Star Wars universe is vast, and there are countless stories that could be told. From the Clone Wars to the rise of the Empire, there’s a wealth of material to explore. The stories of Obi-Wan Kenobi and Leia Organa could be revisited in a new way, adding depth and complexity to their characters.

4. **Non-linear storytelling:** The Star Wars franchise has been known for its linear storytelling, but with the end of the Skywalker saga, there’s an opportunity to experiment with non-linear storytelling. This could be explored through flashbacks, flash-forwards, or alternative timelines.

5. **Fan-Favorite Characters:** There are many fan-favorite characters who deserve their own stories. Characters like Lando Calrissian, Chewbacca, and the Duros could be explored in depth, giving fans a closer look at their backgrounds and motivations.

6. **Fan-Created Content:** With the end of the Skywalker saga, fans have the opportunity to create their own stories. From fan-films to fan fiction, there’s a wealth of creative content that could be produced, offering a new perspective on the Star Wars universe.

**Star Wars** is a franchise that has been around for decades, and with the end of the Skywalker saga, there’s an opportunity to explore new directions and expand the universe in exciting ways. Whether it’s through a new film, a TV series, or a comic book, the possibilities are endless. The future of Star Wars is as bright as ever, and fans are excited to see what’s next.

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**Non-fan View:**

While the Star Wars franchise has been captivating for decades, the end of the Skywalker saga leaves a significant void. With so much potential for new stories, fans are eager to see how the franchise will continue. The possibilities are endless, and it’s exciting to think about what’s next for the iconic characters and the Star Wars universe.

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**Conclusion:**

The end of the Skywalker saga is a significant moment for the Star Wars franchise. With so much potential for new stories, fans are eager to see how the franchise will continue. Whether it’s through a new film, a TV series, or a comic book, the possibilities are endless, and the future of Star Wars is as bright as ever.
Queen admits ‘bumpy’ year in Xmas message

Queen Elizabeth II called 2019 “quite bumpy” in a Christmas message aired on Christmas Day. The broadcast was the first to be made by the ruling monarch since she took on the role in 2014.

The Queen was also rumored to have been disappointed by the treatment of her work as patron of the Orange Order. The organization had been asked to withdraw its support for the Queen, but had refused.

The Queen’s traditional address, to be aired in full on television and radio, also praised the work of the British people and highlighted the importance of unity in a divided world.

The Queen’s speech highlighted the importance of family and friendship, and highlighted her own sense of duty and commitment to the Commonwealth. She also spoke of the importance of respecting others, and the need for unity in a divided world.

The speech concluded with a message of hope and a call for people to come together to face the challenges of the future.

“Spirit of reconciliation”

The Queen has renounced one of Britain’s most popular figures, married to the Queen’s cousin, who reportedly attended a party in the Queen’s private suite.

The Queen’s speech also highlighted the work of the British people, and the importance of unity in a divided world. She spoke of the importance of respecting others, and the need for unity in a divided world.

The speech concluded with a message of hope and a call for people to come together to face the challenges of the future.
Putin accuses Poland of colluding with Hitler

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin took aim in a rare swipe at history on Wednesday against Poland, his country's former ally, accusing it of conniving with Hitler during World War II. "Essentially they colluded with Hitler," Putin said. "This is clear from documents, archival documents, photographs, from many years of research of this so-called historical memories and so forth."

Poland has a long and checkered history of dealing with Russia. Putin's remarks came as Russia's foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, was in Warsaw to meet with his Polish counterpart. Putin's remarks were likely intended to scores of last month's events in Poland, where protestors rioted over an abortion law.

New ministers take oath in Assembly...

Continued from Page 1

MPs also agreed to debate today a deal to acquire a Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant to boost Kuwait's electricity needs. The agreement, which was signed in September, was ratified by the Assembly on Wednesday. The MPs also agreed to form a three-MP committee to investigate the purchase of the LNG plant.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sign deal...

Continued from Page 3

After a meeting with HRH the Amir, the ministers affirmed that what links the two countries is greater than any other factor. "We are not in a rush to resume production. The two countries are not in a rush to resume production from the neutral zone oilfields due to the production cuts agreement so it will take up to six months to resume production," a Kuwaiti official and a Saudi official said.

Established 1961

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

KUWAIT TIMES

Continued from Page 1

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KUWAIT TIMES
Burgan Bank announces its sponsorship to ‘Equestrian Sports Club’

Kuwait continues its domination in Arab Fencing Championship

Mooro to be All Blacks assistant coach

Kuwait continues its domination in Arab Fencing Championship

Dallaglio using rugby to save lost children

Norway’s Windstad storms to first win in Alta Badia parallel slalom

Austria's Leitinger took his first podium finish in third

ALBA IRAQI: Norway’s Hannah Windstad stormed to her first World Cup win in the favourites-studded in the parallel giant slalom at the fantastic Alta Badia in northern Italy on Monday. Windstad finished 0.83 ahead of Greta Mattsson of Sweden and 0.57 ahead of third-placed Alannah Shanti of Australia. The 25-year-old stormed the fall to claim her first ever World Cup win after the giant slalom pinnacle in the head-to-head duel on men’s side that was side-by-side。

Austria's Roland Leitinger took his first podium finish in the parallel slalom, which starts tomorrow, in the Arab Fencing Championship in the head-to-head duel on men’s side that was side-by-side.

Leitinger had finished second in the parallel slalom in the Arab Fencing Championship, which started yesterday, in the head-to-head duel on men’s side that was side-by-side.

We must announce that we have reached an agreement with Scotland which will see us return to Norway in June at the conclusion of the club’s European competitions,” New Zealand Rugby’s head of professional rugby Chris Lunn said.

He congratulated the athletes for their achievements, and hoped current efforts be crowned by Yousuf Al-Shatti winning the individual men’s Epee medallist. “There were several injuries because the track
develops, then we will decide whether or not to do an ultra-marathon. “This parallel format does not delight all people. “It’s a lottery but it looks at the athletes, athletes unable to win the first place in the second place in the parallel format in the parallel slalom in the Arab Fencing Championship, which started yesterday, in the head-to-head duel on men’s side that was side-by-side.

Mooro, who will only be six months into a three-year contract with the Lions, will be the first assistant under Foster in the new All Blacks coaching set. It is understood the Lions had put a price tag of around 260,000 euros (approximately 233,000 euro) on the 26-year-old.

Mooro, who joined the club after being part of the light-ning speed of the New Zealand Schools and the Crusaders during their run of three Super Rugby titles, will become an assistant for the New Zealand team.

The sponsorship of the national equestrian tradition continues to thrive in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the success of the equestrian arena witnessed in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the success of the equestrian arena witnessed in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the success of the equestrian arena witnessed in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the success of the equestrian arena witnessed in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the success of the equestrian arena witnessed in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the success of the equestrian arena witnessed in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the success of the equestrian arena witnessed in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the success of the equestrian arena witnessed in the presence of prominent statesmen and women, as well as the 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Red Bull Off-road Junior Program unleashes the champs of tomorrow

The Red Bull Off-Road Team USA junior drivers are set to make their 2020 debut this weekend as they compete in the VooDoo Off-Road Park in Elsinore, CA.

The team set up in Elsinore, CA for its second weekend of 2020 testing. Three members of the program will be racing in junior class — Blade Hildebrand, Mitch Guthrie Jr and Seth Quintero.

The third member of Red Bull Off-Road Team USA, 21-year-old Olivier Pocheux, will compete in the unlimited class. He will race in the Unlimited A class and the Unlimited B class.

Red Bull Off-road Team USA has set its sights on developing and growing its next generation of off-road racers. The program was born after a cooperation between Red Bull and the U.S. Off-Road Racing Association (UORRA). The goal of the program is to provide young drivers with a platform to learn from the best in the business, compete in some of the world’s most prestigious races and develop into the next generation of off-road racing champions.

The Red Bull Off-Road Team USA’s season kicks off with the VooDoo Off-Road Park in Elsinore, CA, which hosts the Red Bull Off-Road Expo.

The team will be racing in the junior class, which is divided into two categories: Junior A and Junior B. The Junior A category is for drivers aged 14-17, while the Junior B category is for drivers aged 18-21.

The Red Bull Off-Road Team USA is a joint venture between Red Bull and the U.S. Off-Road Racing Association (UORRA). The goal of the program is to provide young drivers with a platform to learn from the best in the business, compete in some of the world’s most prestigious races and develop into the next generation of off-road racing champions.

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Tottenham insist any fan found guilty would receive a lifetime ban

"We haven’t lost the consternation as we would have liked the other way but we’ve never gone on a big run like we did towards the end of last season so there will be a reaction, defiantly," Guardiola said. "I feel we are in a good position, we are eight points clear after the first two games and that is how I judged the team to start the season." The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager added: "I think it’s a good position to start the season. We will do everything I can to keep the ball because that’s what we want to go. We want to keep pushing, keep playing, keep getting goals and keep the rhythm." Guardiola said he was proud of his team's performance and that they were "pushing" because Taylor had implemented the first stage of the Premier League's anti-racist protocol because of racism.

A force spokesman added: "Police were made aware of the incident. If the person in question was a supporter of either club, it’s not a racist incident. It’s an exacerbation of that because the referee was called to a racist incident earlier in the game. If the referee deems it is a racist incident, it will be referred to the FA for action." The incident led to the London police force saying they would investigate the matter and the Premier League issued a statement condemning the racist comments.

Guardian ready to back players in racism walk-off

Manchester City have supported the players who walked off the pitch due to racist comments by fans during their Premier League match against Tottenham at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Sunday. The game was halted after Tottenham defender Son Heung-min was sent off for reacting to racist comments by fans.

"No matter what we do, we will continue to work on this," Guardiola said. "In the future, we will have to face these situations and we will not let them affect our performance. We will continue to fight against racism and we will not let it affect our performance." The Spanish manager added: "We have to put ourselves in the shoes of the players and support them in this situation. We will continue to fight against racism and we will not let it affect our performance."
PHOENIX: Jamal Murray had 28 points and seven assists, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Phoenix Suns 113-111 in overtime. Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 10 rebounds as the Nuggets ended their longest losing streak of the season. Will Barton scored 15 points, Jerami Grant had 11 and Paul Millsap added 10 for Denver, which has won seven straight. Rudy Business led Phoenix with 23 points and added nine assists. Kelly Oubre Jr. had 18 points, and Dario Saric and Frank Kaminsky had 13 each. The Suns have lost seven in a row.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS 125 - DETROIT PISTONS 109
Tobias Harris poured in 35 points, Ben Simmons added 21 and Joel Embiid had 17 for Philadelphia, which won its fourth straight game against the Pistons. The 76ers, who have won 10 of their past 11 games, took a 10-0 lead to start the game. Harris made 11 of 21 shots and scored at least 20 points for the 12th straight game.

MIAMI HEAT 107 - UTAH JAZZ 104
Andrei Vooqo scored 26 points and had a game-high 11 assists. James Johnson added 26 points for Miami, which won its fourth straight game. The Heat improved to 22-3 at home and are the NBA's best team in the first half of the season. They have won 11 of their past 12 games.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS 121 - NEW YORK KNICKS 115
Bradley Beal scored 30 points as a depleted Washington squad nearly blew a 10-point lead down the stretch but held on in New York, beating the Knicks for the 20th time in the past 22 meetings. Washington also swapped a three-game losing streak and won for only the fourth time in its last 16 games despite missing three key players to injury and four more on the bench with injury and illness. The Wizards scored 11 points in the first half, setting a career-high for field-goal percentage against the Knicks, who shot 57 percent.

ORLANDO MAGIC 113 - CHICAGO BULLS 95
Terrence Ross scored a team-high 26 points off the bench and Orlando held off a late run from Chicago to win for only the fourth time in its last 16 games. The Magic, who have missed the playoffs the past two seasons, ended their losing streak of 13 straight games.

WASHINGTON: FIFA has banned Bahraini defender Sayed Baqer for 10 matches for discriminatory behaviour during the 27-2 match with Indonesia. The suspension follows a similar one for Indonesia's Teguh Wiyana, who was also banned for discriminatory behaviour during the 27-2 match with Indonesia. The suspension follows a similar one for Indonesia's Teguh Wiyana, who was also banned for discriminatory behaviour during the 27-2 match with Indonesia.

Bahrain’s Baqer gets 10-game ban for racist gesture

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