Welcome! Maduro tweeted, attaching a video of Maradona again in our beloved homeland!

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro as the Maradona met Tuesday in Caracas with Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah during a National Assembly session yesterday. — Photo by Hassan Al-Darzi

Belarus, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Sudan and that the administration planned to add seven countries shortly”. The Wall Street Journal reported earlier of the new countries would be announced “very quickly”. But a State Department official said that the agreement was set to begin three days of meetings at a hacking of Mr Jeff Bezos’ phone are absurd,” the owner Jeff Bezos, as media reports linked the security breach to a WhatsApp message. “Recent pertinence to the controversial list of states whose administration was preparing to add a “couple of KUWAIT: MPs yesterday overwhelmingly ratified the neutral zone agreement with Saudi Arabia signed last week, voting for the reason of the exploitation of oil reserves in the area after almost five years of stoppage. Fifty-five members, including all Cabinet min-isters, voted for the agreement and only five members opposed it. Faris Al-Yousif, permanent representative to the foreign relations committee at the Kuwaiti parliament, confirmed yesterday that the agreement has green light from a permanent representative of Saudi Arabia in the central zone, and was endorsed by the joint committee shared equally between the two countries. He said the agreement also gives Kuwait total control of its territory in half and nearby areas against paying compensation to Saudi Chevron for buildings it will vacate in the past. He insisted that Kuwait made no financial or territorial concessions under the agreement, which came to reach an agree-ment signed in 1996 and 2000 to democratize and land maritime borders.

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Birds: whichтиюхинки выдалъся настолько взялъся за хлеб, что не смотритъ за другими животными, которые идутъ за нимъ, а не удалился. — AP

MACRON LOSSES COOL WITH ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES

President Emmanuel Macron visited Jerusalem’s Old City yesterday, he also tried in the footsteps of one of his predecessors, Jacques Chirac, by engaging in heated argument with Israeli worthies. The European leader, who was welcomed by the mayor of Jerusalem’s Arab sector, said: “I am not like you who stood in front of me”, an imitated of Maradona’s evident in the way he greeted Argentina’s former football player. However, speaking in English, in the crash to enter the building, which remains French territory under interna- tional treaties. “Get out - outside please!” he added in a raised voice in a scene cap- tured in video footage that quickly spread on social media.

The Roman Catholic church, located at the start of Via Dolorosa in the Old City, Muslim Quarter has been part of its control since the 1960s. The rules that have been in place “for centuries”, Macron told Israeli offcials, “will not change with me. I can tell you very, very, very, absolutely, respect the rules. Network has to preserve itself. France is far from what is happening now. Macron has confirmed that they want to leave little room for negotiations on Macron’s visit earlier yester- day, he also trod in the footsteps of one of his predecessors, Jacques Chirac, by engaging in a heated argument with Israeli worthies.

The 61-year-old academic was accused of inciting to violence last year, he said in remarks read by a government headline on the front page of Al-Akhbar, a daily newspaper close to the powerful Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Ministry of Economy, which should be treated but not at the expense of people.

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Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif speaks with US President Donald Trump at the Swiss Alps. — AP

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Fighting: an Egyptian soldier stands guard outside a mosque in the town of Beni Suef, about 80 kilometers south of Cairo, yesterday. — AP

The death toll from a new SARS-like virus has caused alarm because of its similarity to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which killed hundreds of people in China and around the world in 2002-2003.

The virus has now infected at least 444 people in China, with the majority in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province. The virus spread rapidly, infecting more than 500 cases in less than two weeks. The virus has now infected at least 444 people in China, with the majority in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province. The virus spread rapidly, infecting more than 500 cases in less than two weeks.
Australia thanks Kuwait for support during bushfire tragedy

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Australia Day 2020 was organized at Jumeirah Beach Hotel on Tuesday with Kuwait’s Assistant Foreign Minister for the Americas Hamad Sulaiman Al-Mashaan as the chief guest. Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Jonathan Gilbert thanked Kuwait for its support, especially during the recent wild fires raging in his country. “In difficult times, friends stand by each other, and Kuwait has shown just that,” he said. “I am sincerely appreciate the genuine concern and messages of support that Kuwait including HH the Amir have conveyed to my government about the situation back home.”

Gilbert also took pride in Australia being an integral part of the lives and careers of so many young Kuwaitis “by their engineering, nurses, scientists, entrepreneurs and doctors, He also mentioned that approximately 700 Kuwaitis are currently studying in Australia, and believed this number will grow. He said Kuwaiti university students number is expected to reach 350,000, while the figure of Kuwaitis who own properties or real estate in Turkey reached 9,594. He believed that there are many areas in which the two countries can enhance relations other than politics and economy. In the same context, The Turkish Parliament Speaker said that there are many areas in which the two countries can adopt the same context, where Ghanem is scheduled to hold talks with his Turkish counterpart today.

In this regard, Speaker Sentop referred to trade surplus between the two countries that reached 4179 billion in 2019, expressing hope to increase it to 10 billion in the short term. Regarding tourism, Sentop said that the number of tourists visiting Kuwait reached 330,000, while the number of tourists visiting Turkey reached 35 million, while the figure of Kuwaiti-Turkish friendship committee chairman and members. The top Kuwaiti lawmaker’s accompanying delegation comprises several members of Parliament. The Speaker of the Grand Turkish National Assembly Mevlut Cavusoglu said that Kuwait adopts a successful foreign policy under the guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Speaker said that he has received a letter from his Kuwaiti counterpart today.

\[...\]

Kuwait Amir congratulates Lebanon on forming cabinet

Sheikh Sabah receives Crown Prince, Prime Minister

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received a number of cables of congratulations to Lebanese President Michel Aoun and Prime Minister Hassan Diab on forming a new cabinet.

His Highness the Amir wished ministers of the new Lebanese government success in attaining aspirations of the Lebanese people. He also expressed his readiness to provide support and assistance to the Lebanese government in any way.

His Highness the Amir expressed the importance of cooperation and joint work between the two countries in various fields, including security, education, health, culture, defense, industries, real estate, energy, trade, investment, regional security or multilateral cooperation, pointing to the holding of ministerial meetings, in the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and other international organizations.

His Highness the Amir wished the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to join in the congratulations to His Highness the Amir and the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addressed cables of identical content to the Lebanese president and prime minister. In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al- Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Sentop considered that bilateral cooperation between the two countries and search for a just solution to promote peace and stability in the region depend mainly on energy sources, therefore the security and stability of the region will generally reflect the same context, where Ghanem is scheduled to hold talks with his Turkish counterpart today.

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KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah yesterday lauded the National Assembly’s approval of two draft laws for manpower in the State and for the representation of Kuwaiti nationals abroad. The move, he said, marked the beginning of a historic moment in the course of Kuwaiti relations with the countries of the region and the world. He also praised the government's determination to ensure the completion of a comprehensive awareness campaign to fight the pandemic, noting that the designation of Kuwait's constitutional holiday as a day of national unity would be an important step in the cohesion of the nation and the achievement of Kuwait's Islamic and Arab identity. He also thanked the National Assembly for approving the two draft laws, which aim to protect the rights of Kuwaiti workers and strengthen the ties of fraternal coexistence. He added that the government was committed to continuing its efforts to improve the living conditions of Kuwaiti citizens abroad. He also emphasized the importance of the campaign to raise awareness of the importance of health and safety and to prevent the spread of the pandemic. He concluded his speech by reaffirming the government's commitment to serving the interests of the nation and the protection of its citizens. -Al-Rai

Kuwait FM praises MPs’ approval of agreement with Saudi

KUWAIT: Kuwait’s Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah yesterday congratulated the National Assembly for approving two draft laws on manpower in the State and for the representation of Kuwaiti nationals abroad. The Foreign Minister, who has been a leading figure in Kuwaiti foreign policy for many years, said that the laws marked the beginning of a new era in Kuwaiti relations with the countries of the region and the world. He called for a new chapter in the relations between Kuwait and its neighbors, and a new era in the representation of Kuwaiti nationals abroad. He said that the laws would be a significant step in the strengthening of relations between Kuwait and the countries of the region and the world. He added that the government was committed to fulfilling its obligations under the agreement and to respecting the laws of the countries concerned. He praised the efforts of the National Assembly, which had played a key role in approving the laws. He concluded his speech by thanking the government for its efforts and reiterating his commitment to serving the interests of the nation and the protection of its citizens.

Inflation in Kuwait up 1.15% in 2019

KUWAIT: Inflation rates in Kuwait rose by 1.15 percent in 2019 as compared to the previous year, according to the Central Statistical Office (CSO). The average inflation rate rose in December, 2019, to 0.31 percent, in contrast to November. Benchmark of the first group of commodities (food and beverages) rose last year by 1.70 percent, compared to 2018. Likewise, many indices of the second group (furniture and tobacco) increased, by 0.39 percent. Clothing climbed 2.27 percent, last year, as an annual basis, while housing services dropped 0.46 percent. Inflation in the fourth group (motor fuel) jumped up by 5.04 percent. Similarly, health, 2.66 percent; as well as transport, 3.86 percent. Communications also increased, 4.51 percent on annual basis; entertainment and culture, 5.32 percent and education, 2.53 percent. The sector of restaurants and hotels climbed by 1.18 percent, last year, as well as commodities and diverse services 0.37 percent — Al-Ank.

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Local

Photo of the Day

KUWAIT: Marina waves at night. — Photo by Abdullah Abuzaid (KUNA)

Museum hosts exhibition by Iranian Islamic calligrapher

KUWAIT: Interpretations of kufi, naskh and other disciplines of Arabic calligraphy were on display as Iranian calligrapher Ali Reza hosted an exhibition of his best works at Kuwait’s Museum of Modern Art on Tuesday. Some 30 murals, mostly depicting verses of the Holy Quran, were showcased amid the artist’s collection. The event is being held as part of Al-Qurain Cultural Festival, in cooperation with the Iranian embassy. — KUNA
Kuwait real estate sector to flourish in 2020: Experts

Up to KD 3.4 billion traded in real estate in 2019

KUWAIT: Kuwait’s real estate sector witnessed a flurry of transactions in 2019, particularly in private and commercial properties, indeed reflecting a recovery throughout the year. Security of real estate investments has been the safe haven for investors coupled with increasing demand on private, investment and commercial properties. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, contributing to this upward trend, adopted some regulations that would prevent fraud by some companies in real estate exhibitions as well as implementing electronic brokerage.

Traders also hoped a law mortgage law would see light soon to enable financing of private houses which will ultimately revive the market, banks and construction’s sectors.

Up to KD 3.4 billion ($11.5 billion) were traded in the real estate sector in 2019, of which around 50 percent in private properties. Investment properties have exceptional returns which exceeded those of the commercial properties, according to a report by Kuwait Finance House (KFH). Investment real estates recorded a 7.3-8.3 percent income in the third quarter of 2019. Experts projected high demand in 2020 because there was not enough private, investment and commercial properties that meet this demand. This factor, they said, contributed to maintenance of prices in 2019. “Local real estate sector saw a noticeable improvement in 2019 when we compare it to 2016 and 2017, the two years that witnessed a remarkable decline in this sector,” said Sulaiman Al-Dulaijan, of Al-Dulaijan Real Estate brokerage office. He added that the real estate sector attracted a large segment of investments because it has a yearly yield of 7-8 percent. Demand on housing sector in the higher in Kuwait, added Dulaijan, making up 50 percent of total transactions. Investors, he noted, were after private houses which were in the range of KD 250,000 and KD 500,000 ($850,000 and $1.7 million) for a secured income.

Maitham Al-Shahid, Director of Athra Real Estate Company, said traders in the real estate sector were awaiting projects in the north of Kuwait and Al-Harir City, part of New Kuwait 2035 vision. He said real estate sector was the safest investment with high and guaranteed revenues. Shahid hoped real estate laws be modified to facilitate transactions. — KUNA

NBK participates in 6th ‘Innovation Challenge’

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced that it will be participating in the sixth edition of the Innovation Challenge Program organized by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in collaboration with the Wharton University of Pennsylvania. A ceremony was held to welcome the new program participants with the attendance of Salah Al-Fulaij, CEO - NBK, and Emad Ahmed Al-Ablani, General Manager, Group Human Resources at NBK.

The four-months program aims to develop innovative human capabilities in the private sector and foster a culture of creativity and knowledge growth in transforming Kuwait’s economy into a knowledge-based economy. The program covers numerous topics and activities including the successful implementation of innovative initiatives, business model innovation, innovative delivery models and innovation tournament workshops. Moreover, participants will visit Silicon Valley companies in San Francisco, USA.

The Innovation Challenge program launched by KFAS for the first time in 2015 is one of the most prominent executive training programs held annually, bringing together a small group of selected companies to collaborate with prestigious business schools as they seek to develop new initiatives and projects that foster a culture of interaction within each company following the competitive application process, parties have the opportunity to learn and share their experiences. The program also came to Kuwait in 2016 where 11 Kuwaiti companies were selected to participate. Participants were able to visit Silicon Valley companies as well as interact with experts in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship.

NBK always strives to develop its human capital and enrich their experiences as they are the main pillar for the bank’s excellence and leadership. This is accomplished through constantly providing the world’s best specialized training programs that meet the highest international standards in order to encourage professional development and successfully position our workforce to take charge as future leaders.
On the menu at China virus market: Rats and wolf pups

SARAH CHONG

The live market where China’s deadly virus surfaced was unregulated and unhygienic, raising questions about regulations at the wholesale market and how authorities had been warning about such risks for years. The SARS epidemic of 2002-03, which infected more than 8,000 people and killed more than 700, was linked to similar markets in southern China. Since then, authorities have stepped up oversight of such markets, but the wholesale market in Wuhan is known to be a major hub of focus for authorities.

The wholesale market on the outskirts of Wuhan where the virus emerged has been closed for the past six days. Yet market officials and local authorities have been insisting that the market is disinfected and reopened each day, despite the fact that it has been confirmed that the virus is highly infectious and can spread rapidly.

While some scientists have suggested that the virus may have originated in bats, others have argued that it could have spilled over from wildlife to humans through intermediate hosts such as pangolins or civets. The WHO has not yet determined the exact origin of the virus, but it is clear that the market played a role in its spread.

The wholesale market in Wuhan is known to be a major hub of focus for authorities.

As the virus continues to spread, the need for better regulation and oversight of such markets becomes even more urgent. The world must learn from this experience and take steps to ensure that similar incidents do not occur in the future.
ANSA, Tripoli: Even days before the sun starts to set in Tripoli, Lebanon has hit the headlines again, this time over a deadly blaze in an attempt to divert attention away from the street in the southern port of Sidon. The recent series of violent protests in Tripoli, Lebanon, has forced the government to step up efforts to contain the situation.

The violence in the region of Beirut and the surrounding areas has been escalating since the beginning of the year, with a series of attacks and clashes between security forces and protesters. The situation has been further complicated by the ongoing economic crisis and the lack of effective government response.

"The government is not in control of the situation," said a government official, adding that the authorities are struggling to contain the violence.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has called for an immediate end to the violence and for the protection of civilians. The UN has also urged the Lebanese authorities to ensure the safety of international organizations and their staff.

"We call on all parties to refrain from using violence against civilians," said a UN official. "We call on all parties to respect the human rights of all citizens."
The two sisters were only a year apart – 48 and 49 – and had always lived next to each other, in each of them, when they were the youngest. As they passed their old primary school, Natalia saw her father. He was sure, "the whole city has hit us. We lost our childhood friends, she makes us say so.

I had told myself that I would go to every religious ceremony, but people are not worried about the streets. In the morning, the president spoke about the crisis. It was a shame, not all the people who want to save the earth. Our little island is now important to the economy. It is important for them to protect it.

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India supreme court declines to suspend divisive citizenship law

Govert given four weeks to respond to 144 petitions against disputed law

NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court declined calls to suspend the implementation of a new citizenship law on Tuesday, saying that a constitutional bench of five judges must decide whether the law has ignited violence and has led to the displacement of the minority Muslim community in India. The court heard arguments for and against the law in a constitutional bench of five judges, which has sparked protests across the country. The court will now hear arguments from the government on whether to suspend the law while it considers the petitions.

Supreme Court judge Sanjeev Khanna on Wednesday said that the court will hear arguments from the government on whether to suspend the law while it considers the petitions.

The court's decision is a setback for the government, which has been seeking to implement the law without any delay. The government has been under pressure to suspend the law and investigate the allegations of violence and displacement of Muslim minorities.

The petitioners argued that the law is discriminatory and violates the constitutional rights of Muslims. They also claimed that the law has led to violence and displacement of Muslim minorities.

The government argued that the law is constitutional and does not violate the rights of any group. It said that the law is intended to recognize the citizenship of people who have been living in India for decades and have a valid claim to citizenship.

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After four decades of war, Afghan widows battle for homes

For her husband was killed and her home in Gahraman province, threatens to Afghanistan. For a

Khalil, who is 45, and wears a burqa that covers her from head to toe when she steps outside the home. "It has been hard in life. For the last 15 years I have been having a hard time. It was never willing to give a home to a single woman," she said. "I have not received any help from any organization, even those who are supposed to help the needy.

Kuwaiti women have made major strides in the conservative country since a ban during Taliban rule of 1996 to 2001

According to government authorities, those who returned refugees and female-headed households is a problem. Women's rights groups say that growing numbers of women are living without male relatives, so it can be hard for them to claim their legal rights. For

Abdulrahman Al-Alyan, Founder and Publisher

The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

Editor-in-Chief

President Donald Trump looks back as a question from the press is shouted after a press conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland yesterday. — AFP

US President Donald Trump looks back as a question from the press is shouted after a press conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland yesterday. — AFP

strangely, he pushed the pledge to contribute to the billion trees - a project of the World Economic Forum for

Ikeda, who founded the firm Ajinomoto to sell the product

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He shoots, he scores!

Putin's hockey passion shapes Russian elite

When Vladimir Putin announced his new government this week, several top officials had some

Rumours of a coup, or of a power struggle, have been circulating

Putin of the USA

Putin arrived in Davos on Thursday, January 23, 2020

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UK says to proceed with digital tax despite US threat

Davos, 3 Jan 2020 (Reuters) - A senior German official threatened a major trade offensive against Europe yesterday threatening to hit the EU with damaging auto tariffs if Europeans failed to agree a long-delayed trade deal. With observers warning that global harmony on trade was crucial to the health of the world economy, Trump said at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that he had already "waited for too long". 

"The US would like to see a strong, successful European Union. We would like to see a European Union that's going to be good for the United States, and it's working very well for us," Trump said. "We would like to see a strong European Union, but we must also have a fair deal." 

The trading partnership, which includes the United States, is worth an estimated $2.4 trillion and has been under pressure for years as the US has accused Europe of being too protectionistic with its tariffs. 

Trump's threat to impose tariffs came as the US and Europe were expected to announce a new trade deal this week that would see the US drop its current tariffs and the EU lift some of its own. The deal would also see the US and EU work together on broader trade issues. 

"I don't want to use tariffs. I want to use trade deals and trade agreements. But if we don't get a good deal, we will use tariffs," Trump said. "We're not going to stand for this any longer. We're going to do what we have to do." 

The US president's comments were met with concern by European officials, who said they were considering retaliatory measures. 

"We can't allow the US to dictate the terms of our trade relations," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. "We need a fair and balanced trade agreement that respects the rules of the World Trade Organization." 

The US and EU have been engaged in a series of trade negotiations since 2016, when the US first threatened to start imposing tariffs on European products. The talks have been stalled by disagreements over how to address the trade imbalance between the two countries. 

US officials have said they will not negotiate a trade deal with the EU unless the EU agrees to reduce its tariffs on US products. 

"We are open to negotiations, but we will not accept any deal that is unfair to the US," said US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. "We are prepared to discuss a variety of issues, including agriculture, steel and aluminum, and digital services." 

European officials have said they are willing to negotiate on some of these issues, but they do not want to be forced into a deal that is not in their best interests. 

"We are not going to negotiate unless we are treated fairly," said European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmstrom. "We will not accept any deal that puts our industries at a disadvantage." 

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Business

KAMCO OIL MARKET REPORT

Oil prices post biggest gain in 3 years in 2019 on improving demand outlook

US-China trade dispute, Iran sanctions compound market volatility

THEWAD: Oil prices closed 2019 with the biggest gain in three years with an increase of 34 percent to close the year at $64.3/b. The surge was driven by a nervous market on the back of hopes of better economic outlook in Asia and China which closed to a trade deal. The rally was also spurred by the broader commodity moves with the US-China trade dispute and Iran sanctions.

The year 2020 started with oil prices trimming almost 4 percent after concerns about the coronavirus and some unexpected rise in Iranian oil imports and Iranian crude in the US during the week-end 15-Jan-2020 with higher stock increases the most in a week in four years.

The demand for gasoline in the US has remained weak recently and this translated into higher inventories at the start of the year. Nevertheless, demand data for the week ending 30-Dec-2019 showed a decline of 2.5 million barrels, although gasoline inventories remained close to adding 6.7 million barrels during the week.

On the supply side, the start with crude production in the US was the biggest m-o-m decrease in over 10 years, according to EIA. The report also said that OPEC+ countries output in January has continued its production cut. Saudi Arabia, Iraq and UAE reduced production by 1.7 mb/d, 0.3 mb/d and 0.4 mb/d respectively during January.

Production by OPEC producers declined slightly during December-19 as compared to November-19 and increased around 0.3 mb/d. The decline in production by Saudi Arabia, Iraq and UAE during the month was partially offset by increases in production by Russia and Kuwait. The OPEC+ countries cut production by 1.8 mb/d during December-19 which equalled the 1.8 mb/d cut targeted in the latest joint deal. The OPEC countries plus Russia and other non-OPEC producers continued to cut production but this time the OPEC+ countries plus Russia cut production by 1.8 mb/d which was the target and the non-OPEC producers continued to cut production by 1.0 mb/d which was the target. The OPEC+ countries cut production by 1.8 mb/d which was the target and the non-OPEC producers continued to cut production by 1.0 mb/d which was the target.

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SARS fears virus fuels new Global markets

Business

SARS fears virus fuels new Global markets

Syria cracks down on exchange firms to halt currency collapse

Global markets on alert as killer virus fuels new SARS fears

LONDON: World stocks responded yesterday as increasing evidence of a dangerous virus outbreak in southern China took the region last week against worsening conditions. In rare demonstrations in government-controlled areas that have not seen anti-Western protests, business leaders said. The moves helped bring down the Chinese currency. It hit a new record low against the US dollar 25 percent lower to just a touch below the 1,000 mark. The Syrian pound hit last week a new record low by 18 percent after trading at around 1,250 last week, exchange dealers contacted from Damascus said. But dealers and traders said the move was unlikely to bring a rapid recovery to the battered currency.

"People are afraid and don’t know what to do," said a senior banker who requested anonymity saying popular merchants were now taking stock of the impact of the measure. With growing public anger over the rise in basic hardship as many ordinary Syrians struggle to afford the currency has driven up inflation and aggravated the price of goods in the days ahead. The crumbling of a ban on commercial dealings in the dollar on imports which was lifted on Tuesday as part of several measures to stem the currency that has in recent weeks weakened the impact of a long-running slowdown-also enjoyed a reverse. With growing public anger over the rise in basic hardship as many ordinary Syrians struggle to afford the currency has driven up inflation and aggravated the price of goods in the days ahead. The crumbling of a ban on commercial dealings in the dollar on imports which was lifted on Tuesday as part of several measures to stem the currency that has in recent weeks weakened the impact of a long-running slowdown-also enjoyed a reverse. With growing public anger over the rise in basic hardship as many ordinary Syrians struggle to afford the currency has driven up inflation and aggravated the price of goods in the days ahead. The crumbling of a ban on commercial dealings in the dollar on imports which was lifted on Tuesday as part of several measures to stem the currency that has in recent weeks weakened the impact of a long-running slowdown-also enjoyed a reverse.
Audi Kuwait displays latest models at the annual Kuwait Motor Show

This year’s line-up includes all-new Audi A6 sedan and A7 Sportback models

AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER GLOOM WORSENS AMID BUSHFIRE

SYDNEY: Australian consumer confidence slumped in January as households fretted about the economic impact of the devastating bushfires, which have killed 28 people, millions of animals and destroyed more than 2,000 homes.

The Melbourne Institute and Westpac bank survey recorded a 1.8 percent fall in January to 89.8, the lowest level since last August, with expectations for the next 12 months falling by 4.3 percent to 44.8 and confidence continued to outstrip optimism. The free-fall in sentiment, which was helped by a 0.25 percent fall in Australia’s official cash rate, and could hit growth in Australia’s $1.9 trillion economy, next 12 months sub-index slipped 5.4 percent from 24.1 to 18.7 in December, the lowest level since December 2015.

Economists generally expect the bushfires to drag on throughout the year, with the governments continuing to outspend on the fires and construction. The free-fall in sentiment, which was driven by a 0.25 percent fall in Australia’s official cash rate, and could hit growth in Australia’s $1.9 trillion economy. The free-fall in sentiment, which was driven by a 0.25 percent fall in Australia’s official cash rate, and could hit growth in Australia’s $1.9 trillion economy.

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Commenting on the current market conditions, the Wealth Management banking experience.

The new features, which Gulf Bank will be announcing soon, aim to add even more ease and convenience to their Wealth Management clients.

The Wealth Management clients also enjoy access to exclusive events and services throughout the year. Recently, Gulf Bank organized several events at the Mandarin Oriental Dubai, offering Wealth Management clients access to airport lounges, offers discounts when booking with the hotel, and much more, depending on the venue that suits them best.

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Grand Hyper to open its 19th store in Kuwait

Grand Hyper has announced that it will open its 19th store in Kuwait in Tomorrow's Catering Industry to be promoted by Remon Almoheiri, MHC Catering, competing CEO. Ashish Banerjee, Marketing & Consumer Director of Grand Hyper said, "We are excited to add another store to our expanding network in Kuwait."

The store will be located on the first floor of the newly renovated Arman Building in Kuwait City. It will offer a wide range of products, including fresh produce, meats, dairy products, baked goods, and more. The store will also feature a large selection of home appliances, electronics, and clothing.

The managing director of Grand Hyper said, "We are committed to providing our customers with the highest quality products and services. This new store will help us reach more customers and continue to grow our business in Kuwait."

The new store will create several job opportunities, and the company is looking for qualified candidates to join its team. Interested candidates can apply online through the company's website.

LAPA's new board members

Fahad Al Saqqaf, LOTAAC's board chairman and LAPA's board member, has announced the appointment of a new board of directors for LAPA. The board consists of four new members, as well as two returning members from the previous board.

The new board members are:
- Dr. Amna Al-Saif
- Dr. Khalifa Al-Hajri
- Dr. Khalifa Al-Hajri

The board has been selected based on their expertise and commitment to the goals of LAPA. The new board members will work closely with LAPA's executive director to ensure the success of the organization.

The board of directors will be responsible for setting the organization's strategic direction, overseeing its operations, and ensuring its financial stability.

LAPA has been recognized for its role in promoting cultural exchange and understanding between Kuwaiti and international communities. The organization has hosted several events and exhibitions, including the recent "Arab Art and Architecture" exhibition.

Kuwaiti artist Amira Behbehani recently participated in LAPA's "Arts and Culture" exhibition, where her works were on display.

LAPA is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment that encourages the exchange of ideas and the development of new initiatives. The new board members are expected to contribute to this mission and help LAPA continue its growth and success.
BEIJING: Pharmacies in Beijing and Shanghai were running low on surgical masks and disinfectants yesterday as a deadly new SARS-like virus spread ahead of the busy Lunar New Year travel period. More people than usual were seen wearing masks on the streets and several stores visited had run out of stock.

The rush to step up protective measures against the new coronavirus came after it infected more than 400 people across China. The illness, first discovered in the central city of Wuhan, is spreading just as hundreds of millions of people take to packed trains, planes and buses around the country on their way to reunions with family and friends for the festive period.

An employee at a pharmacy in Beijing said it had run out of surgical masks two days ago. "When it hit close to 300 cases, people realized it was serious," he said, adding that items such as thermometers had also been selling fast. "It happened so suddenly; we didn't prepare any back-up and existing stock was quickly depleted."

"It just fell off a cliff," he added. The store still had other masks at stock but these were not designed for surgical purposes. A batch of masks that arrived yesterday morning sold out in just half an hour, he added. The store still had other masks at stock but these were not designed for surgical purposes.

At another pharmacy in Beijing, a sign on the door said they were also all out of the products. "We get some stock every day, but it is not enough to fulfill demand," said a staff member who did not want to be identified. "We have also run out of disinfectants."

In Shanghai, supermarket staff continually restocked shelves as shoppers snapped up the available products. Some hospitals and clinics in the financial hub set up stations at the entrances to their emergency units to screen people with flu symptoms.

The coronavirus has caused concern due to its genetic similarities with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003. But not everyone is nervous. "The situation doesn't seem as serious as in 2003 during the SARS outbreak. Having experienced that outbreak, people are less panic-y," said a 40-year-old woman in Beijing. "We know how to protect ourselves and ventilate our homes. It's close to the Spring Festival too, and we have to go house-visiting. It's inevitable, after all."

Wang Suping, 50, who works at an arts school, said: "These days, I wear masks even in places that are not too crowded although I wouldn't have done so in the past." She was not anxious as she had medicine and masks at home, she added. "When you can't contain the virus, we have to do what we can to protect ourselves." — AFP

Masks, disinfectants in low supply as China virus spreads

Image 1: A staff member screens arriving passengers with thermal scanners at Hankou railway station in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei province on January 21, 2020.

Image 2: This photo taken on January 21, 2020 shows commuters wearing face masks arriving at the Yichang East Railway Station, in China's central Hubei province.

Image 3: Staff members in Beijing and Shanghai were running low on surgical masks and disinfectants yesterday as a deadly new SARS-like virus spread ahead of the busy Lunar New Year travel period.

Image 4: A sign on the door of a pharmacy in Beijing said they were also all out of the products.
Today you might attend more than one group activity or social event. Inspirations could increase your understanding of them. Don’t fight it! Go with the flow.

Creative inspiration flows freely today, Sagittarius. Enabling you to channel it in more productive and positive ways than usual. You might even come up with ideas or solutions to some of the other issues you have been occupied with. So be prepared for some unusually strong psychic messages.

Cancer (June 21–July 22)

Today’s horoscope is not likely to be on a stable rather than volatile level. Make the phone ring, you might already know who’s on the other end of the line before you pick up. So you could also try to telepathically get the truth from others. Studies and articles about people who have had similar experiences can increase your understanding of them. Don’t fight it! Go with the flow.

Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

If you’re ever thinking about taking up the study of astrology, numerology, alternative medicine, or any other ancient science, you may be content with Aquarian scientific adherence to facts and rules combined with inherent telepathic abilities to bring about a sustainable and systematic future. A new look at the past will enable you to come down. Meditate and take a close look at your inner state.

Leo (July 23–August 22)

Today, communication with others is more likely to be on a subtle rather than verbal level. When the phone rings, you might already know who’s on the other end of the line before you pick up. So you could also try to telepathically get the truth from others. Studies and articles about people who have had similar experiences can increase your understanding of them. Don’t fight it! Go with the flow.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)

Messages drawn from recent religious or spiritual occurrences could have you writing down accounts of your experiences. Virgos, perhaps with the idea of sharing them. Your perceptions could well be correct, as what you may experience today may not be only creative but therapeutic as well. It will also help to attend classes or workshops or simply to discuss the subject with a friend. Knowledge is essential.

Mondaksh Puzzle

To solve this problem, you need to use logical reasoning to determine the correct order of the words in each row and column. Once you have solved the puzzle, you will see a message or picture as the result.

Yesterday’s Solution

Valentine’s Day

Find and circle all the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a special Valentine’s Day term.

PHILIP HINIFUSCTOAPLCIOUS NORDK RAA RURICOMBIRO TRAS D UNIC S HURI SARCRA S ABEND NO YNTTIAIASOLUTONYM YN MyWIRL UPRENTZTE DEB TLEDPSF FINTWARSAR M ISEVIRFOINAIACIRR R ESEELRDSOOMBDS HCHJACVRTRONUTED TDNTOTIPPOASFSB ESY EYAROLLOFCEF EISDUMBELOVEDPROLO WOODROPAFTION SIFWEPER TRAPNS EAYCNAFOREVERLIKE MOKTINOTLOVED
This photograph shows hot air balloons flying during sun rise over Bagan, an ancient city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. — AFP

Thousands of giant incense sticks, many decorated with dragon heads, line the walls at a Malaysian business where they are made by hand ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday. In the rural town of Kubang Semang, workers spend months using a traditional method to craft the sticks—some as tall as two meters (6.5 feet) — before sending them to stores. Business is brisk ahead of Lunar New Year celebrations towards the end of this month, when people of Chinese descent worldwide burn incense in temples and at traditional ceremonies.

Malaysia is a Muslim-majority country but is home to a substantial ethnic Chinese population, and the holiday is marked in many places. Ong Chin Chye, who runs the business in a series of wood and corrugated iron buildings, said his colorful hand-made sticks look a lot better than those churned out by machines. "With machines, can you make the dragon head like this?" the 60-year-old asked AFP, pointing to his intricately carved creations. Ong's sticks are primarily made from sawdust, using a mix of locally-grown "meranti" timber—a common hardwood in Southeast Asia—and aromatic agarwood. These are combined with water to make a sticky paste that forms the sticks.

The next 12 months will be the Year of the Rat—the first creature in the Chinese zodiac's 12-year cycle—but Ong said his buyers weren't keen on depictions of the whiskered rodent. "People don't want rats. They steal food, and that's not good," he laughed. On the other hand, dragons—are ever-popular symbols of power, strength and good luck in Asian culture. Ong said his sticks typically sell for between eight and 80 ringgit ($2 to $20) apiece, depending on quality and size. As well as Lunar New Year, he makes them for other major Chinese festivities.

He estimated there were at most 30 incense-making businesses like his across Malaysia, adding the industry had been declining in recent years. Young people “don’t want to work these jobs, it’s hard work... there is no air-conditioning,” he said. Many incense sticks sold nowadays in Southeast Asia come from overseas, particularly China. More than 60 percent of Malaysia’s 32 million people are ethnic Malay Muslims, while around a quarter are ethnic Chinese, and the country is also home to a sizable minority of people of Indian descent. — AFP
Virginie Viard finally put her mark on Chanel on Tuesday with a beautifully restrained Paris haute couture show that summoned up the convent girl childhood of the fabled French label's founder. The discreet designer, Karl Lagerfeld's righthand woman in his twilight years, shook the Kaiser's ghost from her shoulder to produce some of the most subtle and refined clothes seen on a Chanel catwalk in quite some time.

Viard quite literally went back to the source, travelling deep into rural southwest France on a pilgrimage to the abbey at Aubazine where Chanel learned to sew, and where her little black dress had its genesis in the nuns' habits. “It was a very touching and inspiring place. I felt good there,” said Viard of her time communing with Chanel's spirit.

While Lagerfeld filled forests, reproduced rockets, ocean liners and the Eiffel Tower almost to scale inside the vast Grand Palais for his legendary Paris shows, Viard recreated the convent's humble little garden gone to wild.

Chic on a budget
Rather than Cecil B DeMille sets, her clothes did the talking. With models in sensibly heeled loafers with built-in white ankle socks, the early looks—almost entirely white—had an Edwardian schoolgirl elegance about them. Chanel tweed suits in black and white,
dresses and pinafores with bertha collars. All appeared terribly simple, ascetic even, until you saw the cut and sparkly sophistication of the flower detailing. Then there was Gigi Hadid, discipline personified, as a kind of mother superior enforcer in a killer black bodice-hemming habit dress worn with a double collar. The American supermodel seemed to lay the rule book conveniently open before the photographer who stepped onto the runway at the last Chanel show. Then came the couture dresses assembled with a rare and restrained ethereal beauty that has embroidered carrying schools of stained glass and filtered ecclesiastical light. Even the Paris weather seemed to have caught some of the chill of Chanel’s convent routine, with Karl Lagerfeld and other models swaddled in thermal but bland, cold-shoulder, heat-retaining blankets backstage. The wedding dress that traditionally finishes haute couture shows had more than a hint of a bride of Christ about it. Haute couture shows happen only in Paris and are regarded as the pinnacle of fashion, with hundreds of hours of work going into every piece painstakingly handmade. Only the world’s richest women can usually afford dresses from the little more than a dozen permanent haute couture houses allowed to use the label under French law. — AFP

Thursday, January 23, 2020

Models present creations by Georges Hobeika during the Women’s Spring-Summer 2020/2021 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos

Models present creations by Giorgio Armani Prive during the Women’s Spring-Summer 2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.
Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Pamela Anderson weds for fifth time to Hollywood mogul

Former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson has tied the knot for the fifth time. Anderson married former Hollywood mogul Jon Peters in a private ceremony at Malibu, California. The couple announced their union via social media.

"We could not be more thrilled and honored to announce our marriage to each other," Peters said in a statement. "We have known each other for almost 20 years and have been inseparable for the past few months. We are in love and looking forward to building a new life together as husband and wife."

Peters, 82, is a former Hollywood executive who oversaw the release of movies such as "A Star Is Born" and "Batman" during his tenure at Warner Bros. Anderson, 52, is best known for her role as Pam Richardson on the TV show "Baywatch."

"Pamela and Jon are in love and looking forward to building a new life together as husband and wife," Peters told THR. "There are beautiful girls everywhere. I could have my pick, but for 35 years I've only wanted Pamela."

Peters and Anderson were first spotted together in the 1990s while filming "Baywatch." They later reunited and have been involved on-and-off ever since.

The couple's wedding took place at a private residence in Malibu, and only a select few guests were invited.

Osbourne reveals battle with Parkinson's disease

Legendary British rock star Ozzy Osbourne has revealed he has Parkinson’s disease. Osbourne, 71, announced the condition in a statement released on Thursday.

"A year ago next month, I was in a shocking state," said Osbourne. "I was on a host of medications for the symptoms, which were affecting both my body and my brain. Now I have Parkinson's. And I just hope they (fans) hang in there. I feel better now. I have owned up to the fact that I have Parkinson's. And I just hope they (fans) hang in there."

Osbourne, who is known for his energetic live performances, has canceled several tour dates due to the condition. He has been advised to take a break from touring and focus on his health.

"I feel better now," Osbourne added. "I feel better now because I have known for a while that I have Parkinson's. I have been told that I have Parkinson's for a while. I have been told that I have Parkinson's for a while."

The announcement comes days after Osbourne and his family shared details of his battle with Parkinson's disease. Osbourne said he was diagnosed with the condition in late 2018, and has been advised to take a break from touring and focus on his health.

"I feel better now," Osbourne added. "I feel better now because I have known for a while that I have Parkinson's. I have been told that I have Parkinson's for a while. I have been told that I have Parkinson's for a while."

The news of Osbourne's diagnosis comes as he prepares to release his new album, "The Ultimate Collection," later this year. The album features remastered versions of Osbourne's greatest hits, as well as new songs.

"I feel better now," Osbourne added. "I feel better now because I have known for a while that I have Parkinson's. I have been told that I have Parkinson's for a while. I have been told that I have Parkinson's for a while."

In this file photo British rock star Ozzy Osbourne gestures during a photocall at the Grand Palais in Paris. —AFP

British royal satire featuring 'modern Aunt Meghan' coming to HBO Max

A British royal family satire featuring a cartoon version of "modern Aunt Meghan" is coming to HBO Max, the streaming platform to debut in February. The animated comedy will be based on popular Instagram account "Modern Aunt Meghan," which imagines a younger, less entitled version of Meghan Markle.

British actor Greg Davies voices "Modern Aunt Meghan," while British actress Anna Soderstrom voices "Modern Uncle Harry." The show will be produced by the same team behind "Blockchain," the HBO Max series about a cryptocurrency specialist.

"We're thrilled to bring this new comedy series to life," said HBO Max president and COO Richard Plepler. "This is a fresh take on a familiar theme, and we're confident it will resonate with audiences around the world."
### Airlines

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### Arrival Flights on Thursday 23/1/2020

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<tr>
<td>BUIYAN</td>
<td>18 °C</td>
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<tr>
<td>JARBA</td>
<td>23 °C</td>
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<tr>
<td>TARIQ</td>
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### 4 Days Forecast

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### PRAYER TIMES

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**Important Notice:**

1. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all travelers are advised to check the latest travel restrictions and protocols before departure and upon arrival.
2. Passengers are required to wear protective masks and follow social distancing measures at all times.
3. Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout the airport for passenger convenience.
4. Baggage drop-off points and check-in counters are located near the specified gates.
5. Recommended departure times for flights are provided to ensure smooth boarding and minimize congestion.

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**Contact Information:**

For further assistance, please contact the Kuwait Airport Hotline at 171 or the Civil Aviation Authority hotline at 177.

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**Automated Enquiry about the Credit card is 1889988**

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**For labor-related inquiries, use the following hotline:**

1245
China virus toll hits 17; call to...  
Continued from Page 1

MOMBA: A new global public health emergency over the disease, which has been detected in the United States, Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea and Macau. The Chinese government has classified the outbreak in the same category as the SARS epidemic, meaning countries must step up their monitoring of passengers from Wuhan.

Passed between people. However, animals are suspected to be the primary source of the outbreak. A World Health Organization (WHO) mission to China has identified a few cases of transmission from animals to people, and the potential to implement quarantine measures.

The virus can live for hours on hard surfaces. It has not been able to confirm the exact source of the virus. "We will step up our research efforts to identify the origin and transmission of the disease," said Gao Fu, director of the Chinese center for disease control and prevention. He added that "this is a starting point and monitoring is needed".

Health authorities are urging people to wash their hands regularly, avoid crowded places, get plenty of fresh air, wear masks when they have to go out and avoid handshakes, which are starting to sell out at pharmacies and on social media.

"Exposure to nicotine can have long-lasting, damaging effects," the WHO said, strengthening initial warnings it made in 2019. "Nicotine is highly addictive and young people are particularly vulnerable when used by adolescents," it said.

"Ends pose risks to users and non-users alike. Exposures to e-cigarette fumes were harmful, pointing to serious health consequences linked to e-cigarette use, WHO said. Yet the horsetrading between traditional political factions during lengthy government formation talks was the longest in Lebanon's history. The new cabinet is mostly made up of new faces, which some governments as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes. And it said that "for pregnant women, the WHO said, "Ends are likely to be a substitute for traditional cigarettes. But in a strongly-worded series of questions and answers about e-cigarettes, the report says there is "no doubt that..." — Agencies

Previously, the US health agency had warned against e-cigarettes after reports of major health problems linked to e-cigarette use. The report was published in the journal Tobacco Control.

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Previously, the US health agency had warned against e-cigarettes after reports of major health problems linked to e-cigarette use. The report was published in the journal Tobacco Control.

"Exposure to nicotine can have long-lasting, damaging effects," the WHO said, strengthening initial warnings it made in 2019. "Nicotine is highly addictive and young people are particularly vulnerable when used by adolescents," it said.
Chris Froome will make his competitive return to the sport this month, according to British sprinter Mark Cavendish, who has won 30 Tour de France stages.

Froome set for return at UAE Tour next month

"It's a massive opportunity," Cavendish said. "It's a massive opportunity for him moving forward. So I have to loosen everything else around it." Froome has not competed since the 2020 Tour de France in September and finished with a stage win and a two-week team radio ban for misbehaving with a spectator.

"I think the US guys are going to have to play well to qualify," Cavendish said. "I think they've got all the facts together of what that world championship means. I think they're in the top 15. There's so much golf to be played, a lot of major championships. They have to do well and they have to play well in the build-up to the Olympics this year," asked Andy Farrell when asked by the Scotsman about the effect of joining the RFU.

"It's a massive opportunity. For the Saracens to be able to play in a World Cup final, that's a massive opportunity. It's a massive opportunity for the Saracens to be able to play in a World Cup final," he said. Fraser Nelson, whose squad has won 10 World Cup titles, said: "There are a few things in the background that we're going to focus on. We have to have a good start to the season and we have to get ourselves in the right place for the World Cup."

"I think the UK guys are going to have to play well (to qualify)," Cavendish said. "There's a lot of big events, a lot of major championships. They have to do well and they have to play well in the build-up to the Olympics this year."
Bangladesh appoint Gibson as new pace bowling coach

Dhaka: Bangladesh have appointed Jim Reilly, a former New Zealand international, as their new pace bowling coach.

The 43-year-old Gibson signed a two-year agreement to the role on Sunday, replacing Heath Streak, who stepped down in December as the hosts seek to improve their already formidable pace battery.

Gibson, who has enjoyed two successful spells at a bowling coach with England and has served as head coach of the West Indies and South Africa, will join the squad for the Pakistan tour which begins in early February.

"I bring in tremendous experience, and he will have the advantage, as well as the knowledge of playing all over the world. He has had the opportunity to observe Bangladesh cricket from close. I believe he is capable of taking our team to the next level," Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief Nazmul Hassan said.

"I am sure he will be a very valuable addition to our coaching staff," Reilly said in a statement.

Reilly, who also worked with Bangladesh Premier League side Comilla Victorians, is due to depart on Wednesday for a three-match Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

They will return to Pakistan in February for the first of three Tests and the series will conclude with two One Day Internationals on March 2.

Reilly has previously worked with England, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia as a coach, and the results have confirmed a grade II injury in his lumbar spine’s anterior articulation, said Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "He will be back in a sling and he has been advised rest for some time. He will start his active rehab management in the first week of February at the National Cricket Academy," the BCCI said.

Reilly had suffered a left shoulder injury at the end of last month, but was cleared to train and said he will continue to travel with the squad as a back-up to playmaker. "I have been training with other players and can continue to travel with the squad as a back-up," he said.

New Delhi: South Africa have selected six uncapped pacers for their 10-day tour of India, with the Test series beginning in February.

The South African cricket board announced on Saturday that the tour will consist of four Tests, seven Twenty20s and three one-day internationals, with the first Test set to take place in February, with the second and third Tests to be played in March.

The South African team is expected to arrive in India on January 25, with the first Test set to begin on February 4 at the Greenfield International Stadium in Chennai.

Injured Dhawan out of India’s ODI, T20 squad for NZ

NEW DELHI: Shikhar Dhawan has been ruled out of India’s limited-over teams for their tour of New Zealand after injuring his shoulder in their series-deciding one-day international (ODI) match against Australia in Sydney.

The 32-year-old Mathews brought up his 10th Test fifty before going on to score his third Test century and guiding Sri Lanka to a four-wicket win over Zimbabwe.

After steering their first Test against New Zealand Thursday at the traditional Wanderers Stadium in Harare, Zimbabwe will go down to their third Test against Australia in Sydney, where they have a strong record.
Ten-Man Arsenal hold Chelsea in torrent of late Premier League goals

Southampton climb to ninth in the table with win over Palace

Favre play down Haaland hype

Sports

LONDON: Ten-man Arsenal slowed Chelsea's charge for a place in the Champions League as they held the league leaders to a 0-0 draw at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsenal were reduced to 10 men when David Luiz was sent off for a handball on Tammy Abraham. The defender had already seen a red card against Tottenham last season after a handball on Son Heung-Min in the final moments of a 1-1 draw.

It was a disappointing result for Arsenal, who had been hoping to overtake Chelsea at the top of the table. The Gunners were without Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who was out with a thigh injury, and they struggled to create many chances.

Manager Mikel Arteta praised his team for their resilience in the face of adversity, saying: "We've shown a lot of character today. We were compact, we were disciplined and we didn't concede any chances to the opposition."

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard was disappointed with his team's performance and thought they could have wrapped up the victory.

"I think we could have scored a few more goals today," Lampard said. "We had a few more chances, a few more opportunities, but we didn't take them.

"We had a lot of space in the final third and we didn't finish it. I think the players were tired and they were not at their best today."

The draw leaves Chelsea six points ahead of Manchester United in the table with victory against Crystal Palace, while Arsenal remain in ninth place. The Gunners are looking to avoid a fourth straight home defeat in the Premier League.

In other games, Southampton climbed to ninth in the table with a 1-0 win over Wolves. The Saints ended a run of four straight defeats with a goal from Stuart Armstrong.

Southampton's 2-0 victory against Crystal Palace thanks to goals from Nathan Redmond and Stuart Armstrong, continued a remarkable turnaround for the club. Armstrong has scored six goals in his last 10 games for the Saints.

In the Champions League, Former Norway international and TV pundit Jan Age Fjortoft says back home the nation is "incredibly firesign to their game".

"They make a great impression in training. He always gives his all and wants to win," he said. "But he didn't train from December 20 until the end of the month and missed two weeks of training. So he has to work on his basic fitness — we must not forget that.

"It was his sixth hat-trick of a phenomenal season that had already saw him net 28 goals in 22 games for Dortmund last month for the exciting teen talent.

Dortmund pay Salzburg 20 million euros ($22 million) history to score a debut hat-trick as a substitute when he was through on goal. Jorginho put Chelsea 1-0 in front but Luiz came back on for Arsenal in the second half. We have to be clinical."
Panthers trick lifts

Osaka sets up Coco crunch

Serena, Federer into third round