



This photo taken on Monday shows a 145-m-high spokeless Ferris wheel in Welfang in China's eastern Shandong province. The Ferris wheel is made up of 36 pods that can carry 10 passengers each. — AFP

Celebrity elephant kills Thai owner

BANGKOK: An elephant that has starred in feature films and commercials crushed its owner to death in Thailand, zoo officials said yesterday, sparking fresh debate over the kingdom's animal tourism industry. The accident took place Monday morning in the northern city of Chiang Mai, just after owner Somsak Riangngan unchained the five-ton elephant Ekasit. With a mahout, or handler, on his back, Ekasit took a few steps before reversing course and attacking 54-year-old Somsak, who was on the ground.

"The elephant suddenly turned back and used his

trunk to grab the victim. Then the elephant used his trunk to crush him," Wuthichai Muangman, acting director of Chiang Mai Zoo, told AFP. Wuthichai, who described Somsak as an "elephant expert," said the 32-year-old animal was in musth - a state of high aggression accompanied by a hormonal surge - when the accident happened.

Ekasit, who according to a zoo official appeared in Thai and foreign films as well as several television advertisements, was being temporarily housed at the zoo under a contract due to expire in April. The elephant is best known for appearing in the Thai martial arts film series "Ong Bak". Thailand is notorious for its elephant tourism trade that sees the animals performing in circuses, giving rides, or hired out for other forms of entertainment.

A July report by World Animal Protection found that

twice as many elephants are pushed into Thailand's tourism industry as the rest of Asia combined, with most kept in "severely inadequate conditions". Out of 2,923 elephants documented as working in Asia's tourism trade, 2,198 were in Thailand. Wuthichai said Chiang Mai Zoo does not hold elephant shows but allows tourists to feed the animals.

Animal rights campaign group PETA said while the keeper's death was a tragedy, it illustrated the potentially violent consequences of keeping elephants confined. "Is it any wonder that some of these gentle animals eventually become fed up and fight back after being chained while confined to small enclosures that are a fraction of the size of their natural habitats?" it said in a statement. — AFP

Ivanka, feted in India, calls...

Continued from Page 1

Female participation in India's workforce has declined since 2007, particularly in rural areas. Women remain in education for longer, but even college-educated women are staying out of the workplace - just 34 percent of those with a degree are working, the World Bank reported in May. It said India's female labor force participation rate was "uniquely low" for all levels of education. Trump, without directly referring to India, lamented inequitable laws and cultural pressures that in some countries prevent women from working or travelling freely. The 36-year-old White House adviser is in India promoting women's empowerment in business and underscoring the growing friendship between the United States and the South Asian powerhouse. "Indian women continue to lead in different walks of life," Modi told the gathering. "We have provided for not less than one third of women representation in rural and urban local bodies, ensuring women's participation in grassroots-level decision-making," he added. "More than 60 percent of workers in our agriculture and allied sectors are women."

Trump arrived to much fanfare and a red carpet welcome yesterday in the city of some six million people,

which is home to the Indian operations of Google, Facebook and Amazon. Concrete highways were splashed with rainbow paint and giant billboards with the beaming Trump's image were erected across the southern city. Colorful murals and festive lights adorned the streets leading up to the sprawling venue where more than 1,500 delegates from 150 countries have gathered for the three-day event. Police cleared hundreds of beggars off Hyderabad's streets ahead of her visit and spruced up a 16th century mosque that she is likely to visit today.

But not everyone has welcomed the fuss around the Trump scion ahead of the summit, which has been promoted as an opportunity to champion female business leaders and entrepreneurs. "I want to know what criteria was used to select her as our leader. What special contribution has she made?" Sangeeta Agarawal, founder and CEO of a US-based startup, told AFP. "It's being called an Ivanka Trump's event. She has totally overshadowed the cause. It's become only about her. By hogging all the limelight she is putting deserving women last."

But others saw Trump's visit as a source of immense pride. "She is a global figure and we are quite excited about the visit. I hope she gets to see the city landmarks and enjoy local food," said 22-year-old Rubina Bhatt, who volunteered to help at the summit. The visit has been clouded by US media reports questioning Trump's clothing line and its supply chain as well as a snub by Rex Tillerson, the US secretary of state, who has reportedly refused to send senior staff with Trump to India. — AFP

Saudi 'Matchstick' TV host takes over...

Continued from Page 1

shows - will continue to air after Shirian's departure. To get a full measure of its success it is crucial to understand where it is broadcast. Saudi Arabia this year dropped three places to 168th out of 180 countries in an index ranking freedom of the media, prepared annually by Reporters Without Borders.

A recent government crackdown on the elite, ostensibly to fight corruption, ignited new concerns that it could further tighten control. The detained included media moguls such as the owner of MBC Waleed Al-Ibrahim. But the tolerance for public criticism of officialdom appears to have expanded after the so-called Arab Spring - which saw pent-up public anger spilling onto the street across the Middle East.

"A show like that (Al Thamina) is definitely tolerated by Saudi authorities," Najat Al-Saied, author of "Screens of Influence: Arab Satellite Television and Social Development", told AFP. "In fact, the authorities are increasing the scope of freedom in this show... to release the valve for public frustration."

In an interview with AFP ahead of his appointment, Shirian said Saudi Arabia offers "more freedom than you

think" to push boundaries. "Yes, there are red lines such as religion and national interest issues," said Shirian, one of only a few Saudi journalists to interview powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. "For all other matters I am color blind."

Shirian's new job as SBC chief could be at odds with his image of bashing officials on live television. "In the Middle East, talk show hosts say 'your highness this, your excellency that.' I go on a first name or last name basis," he said. "We are the voice of the people." A portrait of Oprah Winfrey hangs in a waiting room beside his studio - the American talk show queen who was clearly not the inspiration for his show. One official waited in nervous anticipation, doodling his thoughts on a paper napkin.

In an otherwise sober media scene, Shirian was entertaining even when he treated officials as a punching bag, often taking questions and cues from live callers on the program. "I feel a sense of relief watching him," a Saudi businessman said in a Riyadh cafe, with Al Thamina playing on a hanging television. "He's like a painkiller."

Shirian also did not shy away from offending hardline clerics. "You are the reason our sons are jihadists, they are in Afghanistan," he said in one episode, blasting two clerics with millions of social media followers. "You talk about going to heaven if you die in jihad. Make your sons go to heaven. Leave us alone!" Many officials refused to appear on the program and some demanded to know his questions in advance. An empty chair was often planted on the show to symbolize an absentee official unwilling to answer impromptu questions. "For people I may be a painkiller," Shirian said. "For officials, I am painful." — AFP

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

GRAND SALE
It's shopping time!

FIRE PLACE HEATERS

<p>ND-186</p> <p>18 KD .500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Metal cabinet • 1800W 	<p>ND-188T</p> <p>24 KD .500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Metal cabinet • 1850W 	<p>EF332S</p> <p>28 KD .500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 heat settings • 900W / 1850W • Safety therma 	<p>NDY-20</p> <p>29 KD .500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Metal cabinet • 2000W
---	--	---	---

بست
AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online: www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

ت / 2017 / 4717 / ن د - ن / 2017 / 4668 - 69 - 70 - 71 - 72 - 73 - 74 - 75 / ن