



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Ahamad Al-Sabah, in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received visiting British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon and his accompanying delegation at Seif Palace yesterday. The meeting was attended by Director of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikhha Etemad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lt General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khodher.— KUNA

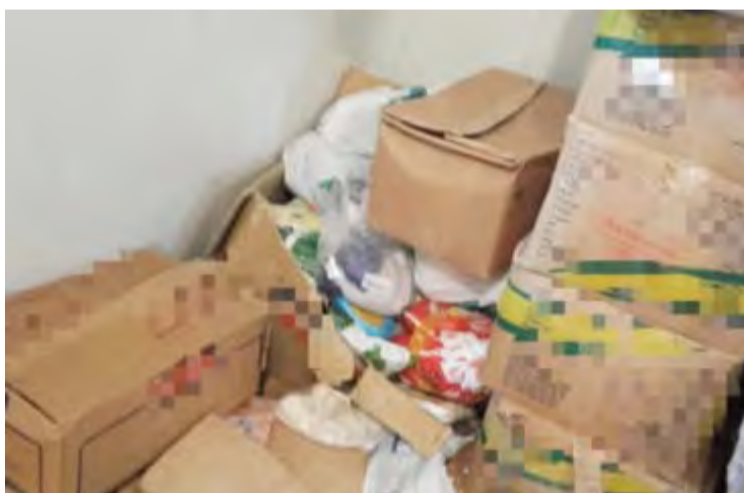
FOOD SAFETY REMAINS A MAJOR CONCERN

KUWAIT: Food safety is a major concern among citizens, especially with the recent discovery of tons of expired food unfit for human consumption. Despite destruction of more than 50 tons of damaged food in three provinces by Kuwait Municipality, many citizens believe that the municipality's violations are no longer a deterrent for selling expired food products. In this regard, the municipality's inspection teams have been carrying out round-the-clock inspection campaigns in all six governorates nationwide to ensure food safety and validity, and worked to apprehend those who are engaged in illegal trades.

Although Kuwait government is attempting to improve the safety of the food supply, the occurrence of foodborne illness remains a significant health issue in the country. Moreover, Kuwait Municipality has recently launched a three-month inspection campaign titled "With Your Cooperation, We Make It Beautiful" with the aim of improving public cleanliness in the governorates and tighten controls on street hawkers, illegal advertisements, violation of cleaning companies and encroachments on state properties.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Municipality officials carry out round-the-clock inspection campaigns in all six governorates nationwide to ensure food safety and validity.— KUNA photos



EPA, KUWAIT NAVAL FORCES SIGN MOU

By Meshaal Al-Enezi, Agencies

KUWAIT: EPA Chairman Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah signed a memorandum of cooperation with Kuwaiti naval forces represented by Maj Gen Khaled Al-Kandari to operate EPA's research vessels.

Court cases

The Public Prosecution yesterday released Najat Al-Qallaf and Ali Al-Thuwaini, who are currently detained over charges of leaking documents about recruiting expats, on KD 1,000 bail each. Also, the Court of Appeal yesterday suspended the administrative court's decision to return withdrawn citizenships to 46 citizens belonging to one family.

Digital services

Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi announced forming a special committee to use digital services and help issue construction licenses for mega projects included in the development plan in just one day. The committee's work was launched by issuing the fastest two construction licenses to Alghanim Industries company to build an automobile and spare parts showroom and a car wash over an area of 22,000 sq m in Shuwaikh industrial area, in addition to building an automobile and electronics showroom over an area of 8,000 sq m in Fahaheel. Manfouhi stressed that the issuance of such licenses used take 6-8 months earlier, and that the new measures were taken to attract more foreign investors. Alghanim Industries' government relations manager Mohammed Al-Dowaihees highly applauded the new service and stressed that Kuwait really needed such initiatives.

Aid flows into Kyrgyzstan

A Kuwaiti charity delivered its 37th batch of aid to Kyrgyzstan yesterday, helping the central Asian nation's neediest people break the cycle of poverty. Speaking to KUNA via telephone, Director General of Kuwait's Peace Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works Dr Nabil Al-Oun described the latest installment of aid as comprehensive, saying it encompassed diverse philanthropic works. He added that the projects

include the construction of 14 mosques interspersed across three Kyrgyz cities that collectively accommodate some 10,000 worshippers. Al-Oun also revealed that four major water projects will be carried out to meet the needs of around 20,000 people, while three dental clinics have already been up and running. He pointed out that Kuwait, as a nation, is supportive of such gracious endeavors that focus on serving humanity.

KNPC TO SPEND KD 3.5 BILLION IN FIVE YEARS

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Company's (KNPC) expenditure for the next five years is likely to touch KD 3.5 billion (\$11.6 billion), the company's CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi said yesterday. In an interview with local Al-Rai daily, he said that such expenses are earmarked for ongoing projects as well as launching new ones, citing KNPC's total capital for the 2017-2018 fiscal year was at KD 6.1 billion (\$20 billion). On KNPC's total workforce, Al-Mutairi said that 6,281 employees had been registered as of August 13, while the company is expected to hire an additional 377 workers.

He also addressed a current gas line project with a production capacity of 805 million cubic feet per day and a total cost of KD 428 million (\$1.4 billion), which entails sepa-

rating methane and ethane gasses through a highly intricate process. Al-Mutairi also spoke of the construction of new KD 210 million (\$696 million) liquid sulfur treatment facilities in Al-Ahmadi refinery and work to upgrade equipment in those storages.

On the local market's soaring demand for fuel, he noted that a warehouse in Al-Ahmadi area is currently undergoing renovations at a cost of KD 75.6 million (\$250 million), while a new facility will be built shortly in Al-Metla'a area. The KNPC CEO revealed plans to build 100 new fuel stations to ensure adequate power supply amid growing urbanization in the country, saying that Al-Shuaiba refinery is now up for sale after all procedures have been completed.— KUNA

Legalese

TRADEMARK REGISTRATION AND THE OTHER IP RIGHTS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I am sure many of you have heard the term IP rights, short for Intellectual Property rights, that according to the World Intellectual Property Organization, "Intellectual Property refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce". IP rights have become so important with the rise of the internet in past decade since it is easier to use other people's designs or work, therefore it is more important than ever to register to copy-right your work. Today I will be answering questions related to the issue, especially useful for anyone that has a project or business idea coming up in the near future.

Question: Can you please explain more about IP rights? What are they exactly?

Fortunately there is a central office in the gulf for patents. (3) Trade Marks: Trade Marks are used as a mark of quality or origin and are used to inspire customer loyalty for example logo. So essentially Trade Marks are only for commercial use.

Question: If I am a start-up, what do I need to do to register my logo to make sure that it is not infringed?

Fajer: There are two places that you can register in, one is the National Library of Kuwait and the other is with the Ministry of Commerce. The reason you should go to both places to Trademark your logo is that the National Library is a lot more efficient and quicker where the Ministry of Commerce can take up to six months. With that said, the official place for commercial use is at the Ministry of Commerce. Also note there

General documents needed for logo registration:

Document Needed	Number of Copies	Issued by
Filling an application form. (Available at the Library, should be signed by authorised signatory.)	1	National Library of Kuwait
A colored-copy of the logo. (To be printed on A4 paper. Size of logo shall be reasonable, not full-page size image.)	1	
Article of Association of the company.	1	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Company's license.	1	Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Documents required for Ministry of Commerce

Document Needed	Number of Copies	Issued by
An application form for trademark registration. (Available online)	1	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
A stickers of the logo.	4	
Company's license. (Already obtained)	1	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
A certificate from commercial registry for the company. (Already obtained)	1	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
A specimen signature certificate of the company. (Already obtained)	1	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
A certified translation of the trademark; in case of the trademark contains English words.	1	A Certified Translation Center

Fajer: Intellectual Property rights split into three main categories: (1) Copyright: the right a "producer" has to prevent their work from being reproduced. The primary works that can be copyrighted are Literary, Dramatic, Musical, Artistic works. (2) Patents: A patent is a protected inventions, it has to be new, innovative and capable of industrial application for example a machine or an article of man-

are quiet hefty fees for registering at the Ministry of Commerce. I have explained in brief the different IP rights and registration of Trademark in general. Next week we will continue with answering questions related to IP rights.

Questions or comments, email me at ask@fajertlawyer.com



KSC TRANSFORM YOUTH TALENTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Scientific Club (KSC) affirmed yesterday its keenness to pay more attention to youth developments for the sake of refining their talents through various training courses. KSC is working to transform the youth talents into a better future through courses aimed at ages between 4-17 for boys and girls, said Member of KSC's Board of Directors and Chief of Youth and Science Sector Yousef Al-Hamad at the end of the summer sessions.

KSC provides training courses, lectures and seminars as well as administrative and educational courses, he added. He pointed out that KSC will adopt a number of courses according to its needs in each specialization after selecting the best ones through the integration of the curriculum. He said that this will benefit the trainees in a way that suits the level of the scientific club and its needs, budget, capabilities and possibilities, according to its customs and traditions.— KUNA





KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the visiting United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and his accompanying delegation yesterday.



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

AMIR, FM MEET UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday met with visiting United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of existing cooperation between Kuwait, the UN and its agencies, along with the latest regional and international developments. Sheikh Sabah Al-

Khaled extolled the UN chief's efforts to uphold regional and international security and stability.

The UN chief lauded Kuwait's key humanitarian role and support to UN humanitarian and development activities across the world. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the First

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and several other Kuwaiti diplomats. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

Sabah, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received visiting the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and his accompanying delegation. Guterres expressed thanks and appreciation for the leading role played by His Highness the Amir

in the humanitarian domain.

He also praised the role played by Kuwait in the political and humanitarian spheres as well as His Highness the Amir's positive role in the current GCC crisis, extolling the high status of Kuwait among the world countries as a center for humanitarian work and to its persistent quest to hosting various humanitarian and relief conferences.—Agencies



Warbah Island

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLANDS PART OF AMIR'S FUTURE VISION

KUWAIT: Developing and exploiting Kuwait's islands is one of the most important projects that coincides with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's vision to turn Kuwait into a financial and commercial center and activate the development plan (Kuwait 2035). Kuwait enjoys a distinctive geographical location and has strong international relations, which will help to establish a complete economic and multi-purpose free trade zone.

The project will be a significant economic and cultural destination of northern Kuwait and the Gulf area, and will

support economy and boost regional and global competitiveness level. It will also concentrate on the uninhabited five main islands of Kuwait which represent five percent of the total area of the country, including Failaka, Warba, Maskan, Oaha and Bobyan, also part of the Silk Road Project. Preliminary studies indicate that the project will attract foreign and global investments, provide thousands of job opportunities for youth who desire to work in non-government sector as well as strengthening the Gross Domestic Products (GDP) of the state of Kuwait. — KUNA



Oaha Island



Failaka Island



Maskan Island

SME TARGETS YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board and President of the National Fund for Small & Medium Enterprise Development, Abdullah Hamad Al-Jouan said yesterday the fund is currently pursuing a new policy to facilitate procedure for obtaining a license or land under full government support. Al-Jouan said, in an interview with Kuwaiti Daily Al-Anbaa, that the fund's new strategy relies on working with various government establishments to make it easy for the young entrepreneurs to own

their own Business. One of the aims of the fund is to increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of small and intermediate projects, he said, adding that the new procedure for small and medium business requirements has cut the process period by 60 percent, therefore.

He said the fund has so far financed 307 projects, including 178 small businesses till last June. The industrial sector's share is 18 percent. In April 2013, the government had enacted law number 98 of 2013 to

establish a National Fund for SME Development (the SME Fund). The law was intended to help the country make a major stride in the efforts to support the youth, combat unemployment, and enable the private sector to drive economic growth. As an independent public corporation, with a total capital of KD two billion, the SME Fund will finance up to 80 percent of capital for feasible small and medium projects submitted by Kuwaiti nationals. — KUNA

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AMIR, CROWN PRINCE MEET LATE ACTOR'S SONS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, alongside His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the sons of deceased acting legend Abdulhussein Abdulredha at Seif Palace yesterday. Adnan and Bashar Abdulredha thanked His Highness the Amir for his kindness, while His Highness the Amir said that he was proud of the iconic actor's profound contributions to Kuwaiti cinema. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince hailed Abdulredha as an exemplary artist whose works will forever stand the test of time. — KUNA

OVER TWO THIRDS OF EMPLOYERS IN KUWAIT PLAN TO HIRE IN A YEAR

Bayt.com and YouGov Survey

KUWAIT: In an effort to measure hiring potential across the Middle East and North Africa, Bayt.com - the Middle East's #1 Job Site - and YouGov - global online market research company - conducted the latest Middle East Job Index Survey. Results from the survey have revealed that, in the GCC, almost two in three (64%) employers plan to hire within the next year. Even more in Kuwait specifically, more than two thirds (67%) of employers are planning to hire within the next year.

Hiring in months

Within the next three months, almost half (48%) of all GCC employers are planning to hire. In Kuwait, almost two thirds (62%) employers said that they are "definitely" or "probably" going to hire in the next three months. Among companies in Kuwait that plan to hire within the next three months, almost half (49%) are going to hire for a "Junior Executive", followed by 24% who intend to hire a "Coordinator", and another 24% who intend to hire a "Manager". When it comes to specific roles, 16% of employers in Kuwait said they are looking to hire a "Sales Executive", another 16% are looking for a "Marketing Executive", while 14% said they want to hire a "Customer Service Representative."

Certain sectors will be hiring more than others over the next three months. More than half (53%) of the private sector - small/medium local companies, as well as other private sector companies intend to hire, followed by private sector - large local companies (51%) and private sector - multinational companies (49%). In terms of future hiring expectations, even more companies in Kuwait (67%) are planning to hire. Private sector - multinational companies have the highest hiring intentions in a year's time (67%) within the MENA region.

Among employers who were surveyed, 79% claim that their company has hired new employees in the past 12 months. In fact, 48% of employers claim that new hires at their companies were made within the past three months. "In Kuwait, the hiring forecast shows a continuation of a strong job market, with nearly seven in

10 employers in Kuwait planning to hire within the next year and nearly two thirds planning to hire within three months," said Suhail Masri, VP of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com.

"We have also seen that a 41% of those planning to hire in Kuwait within three months are looking to hire for more than five job roles. At Bayt.com, these findings come as no surprise to us: there are more than 10,000 jobs posted on Bayt.com on any given day and thousands of additional vacancies are filled via the CV Search tool. Our mission is to continue working very closely with the region's employers to help them find talent. We are also always enhancing and developing our tools and information that empower and support job seekers on their journey to finding the ideal jobs."

Skills in Demand

When it comes to academic qualification, a large number of employers in Kuwait are looking for Business Management Graduation/Post Graduation (29%), followed by Engineering Graduation/Post Graduation (22%), Commerce Graduation/Post Graduation (19%), as well as Information Technology Graduation/Post Graduation (19%).

In terms of skills in high demand, more than two thirds (70%) of employers in Kuwait are looking for candidates with "good communication skills-Arabic and English" followed by those with an "ability to work under pressure" (46%), candidates who are "teams players/ cooperative / helpful / flexible" (40%), and candidates who are "trustworthy / honest" (40%).

When employers in Kuwait look for experience, 37% look for candidates with "sales and marketing experience", followed by good "managerial" experience - "ability to manage a team" (35%), while 29% seek candidates with "senior level experience" (7-10 years). Masri adds: "We encourage companies and organizations to use Bayt.com features, including our CV Search and Job Postings, when looking to hire new employees. Our tools and database of nearly 30 million CVs can help employers meet their hiring needs and ensure that they fill their vacancies as effi-

ciently and cost-effectively as possible."

Attractiveness of job

More than four in 10 respondents in Kuwait (42%) feel that their country of residence is "more attractive" than other MENA countries as a job market. 42% of respondents also said that their industry is "more attractive" as a potential employer in comparison to other industries. The industries emerging as the ones attracting/retaining top talent in Kuwait include Banking/Finance (38%), Engineering/Design (26%), and Advertising/ Marketing/ Public Relations (26%). When it came to industries attracting/retaining top Graduate talent in Kuwait, 40% of respondents said Banking/Finance, this was followed Business Consultancy/ Business Management/ Management Consulting (25%), and Engineering / Design (23%).

When it came to industries attracting/retaining the top National talent, Banking/Finance (39%) and Telecommunications (23%) were among the most popular. In addition, the majority of respondents said that industries attracting/retaining female talent are Banking/Finance (45%), Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations (39%) and Hospitality/Recreation/Entertainment (30%). "Hiring expectancy is one of the most important areas to study in the MENA region as it can serve as a reflection on the state of the economy and general job availability," said Anjali Chhabra, Senior Research Manager, YouGov.

"In addition to finding out the region's hiring potential when looking at the job market, it is important to have insights on which skills, experience levels and academic qualifications are currently in high demand. With this information, job seekers can more strategically plan their efforts and search activities." Data for the Bayt.com Middle East Job Index survey was collected online between May 19th and July 19th, 2017. Results are based on a sample of 1,474 respondents from the following countries: UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.



AUB SPONSORS THE 'SERVICE IS MY JOY'

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the sponsorship of the "Service Is My Joy" Program within the framework of its strategic partnership with LOYAC Kuwait for the second consecutive year. The Bank's latest alliance reflects its effort to reinforce its extensive range of community activities and underlying support for Kuwaiti society. The 'Service Is My Joy' initiative helps support various social segments. The initiative involves participants aged 16 and above taking part in volunteering committees and collaborating with a number of volunteering centers such as KAACH, Paradise Institute and Abeer 2. Throughout the program, activities range from learning how to perform first aid at the Kuwait Red Crescent Society to providing support services for the elderly.

On this occasion, Richard Groves, AUB's Chief Executive Officer received Fetouh Al-Dalali, LOYAC Kuwait board member, at Ahli United Bank's head office in the presence of Tareq Muhmood AUB's Senior Deputy CEO - Banking Group, Mariam Al-Mudhaf AUB's Head of Employee Relations and Mrs. Ninnar Al-Qames, community services Manager at LOYAC Kuwait. Richard Groves said, "We are delighted with the new partnership agreement between the Bank and LOYAC."

This new tie up will result in a wide range of diversified activities in the near future, to further our objective of supporting Kuwaiti society through meaningful partnerships between financial institutions and a promising younger generation." Groves went on to mention that more activities and initiatives will be undertaken to reflect the Bank's strategic aim in furthering its social responsibility as a financial institution. Furthermore, Fetouh Al-Dalali, said, "We are proud of our renewed partnership with Ahli United Bank, and excited about the team's overall positive spirit. It is evident that the Bank is keen to support and drive positive change by empowering the youth of Kuwait."

For more information on AUB's products and services, customers are invited to visit any of the Bank's branches, call 'Hayakom', the Bank's telebanking service or visit its website on www.ahliunited.com.kw. LOYAC is a nonprofit organization and was established in 2002 as a positive initiative. The founding members of LOYAC recognized that youth can be led towards peace by providing them with opportunities for personal growth; experience the joy of service and developing their professional skills to qualify and enable them to join the workforce.



Dr Salah Al-Enezi

KISR GETS US PATENT

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has registered an unprecedented patent for measurement of glass transition temperatures of polymers. The US Patent and Trademark Office granted Dr Salah Al-Enezi of KISR Petroleum Research, a patent for a device that measures the glass transition temperature of polymers and polymeric composite materials using liquid carbon dioxide as a laxative, KISR said in a statement.

This device is one of the latest technological means to understand thermal properties of polymers under standard and high conditions, as these materials may be exposed to a sudden rise in temperature and pressure similar to oil fields and sudden weather changes of aircraft, KISR said. The invention highlights its importance through the "unprecedented" results recorded by high-accuracy database. KISR stressed keenness to develop and train Kuwaiti citizens and raise the name of Kuwait high in regional and international forums. — KUNA

PUBLIC DEBT BONDS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Central Bank of Kuwait is scheduled to close the issue of its seven-year public debt bonds with a total value of KD 100 million. Meanwhile, deputy PM and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh stressed that Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA)'s net reserves were KD 32.84 billion in three years from March 31, 2014 until March 31, 2017. Saleh also pointed out that he has authorized KIA's managing director to withdraw from and transfer funds to the reserves account.

Reqqa sewage plant

MPW's Assistant Undersecretary for Hygienic engineering Abdul Mohsen Al-Enezi said the Reqqa sewage plant will be handed over for investment according to the PPP system by the beginning of next year, when it would be removed and all sewage lines would be transferred to the new southern plant.

Appointing expats

MP Abdullah Fahad Al-Enezi urged the government to follow wisely well-studied procedures concerning appointing expats in the government sector. Enezi also stressed that the government has been blundering for many years about Kuwait's demography and appointing expats in the government sector, leaving long queues of Kuwaiti youth awaiting employment. He added that the measures should be scientifically studied to avoid any damage to the national economy and at the same time protect Kuwait's image before international organizations.

"Both the government and the parliament should cooperate to limit appointing expats in jobs that cannot be done by Kuwaitis," he added, calling for stopping random expat recruitment, avoiding waste and favoritism, and at the same time, protecting the rights of expats who have served Kuwait for decades and contributed to its development. He also warned of some calls to collectively punish expats.

Enezi expressed amazement at the number of ads published in various Arab countries' media for hiring professors to work at Kuwait University and PAAET, or as highly-paid advisors, while Kuwaitis holding the same qualifications and more experience are still unemployed. "Calls to prioritize appointing citizens are not racist nor against human rights," he stressed, noting that the same policies are followed worldwide and that the parliament should prioritize citizens, then stateless people born and raised in Kuwait, then GCC nationals and finally Arab expats.

Insulting Kuwaitis?

Kuwait lawyer Mejbel Al-Shereikah filed a case with the Egyptian Public Prosecution against an Egyptian citizen named Ashraf Abolela, who used to teach in Kuwait, accusing him of insulting Kuwaitis. Shereikah added that he would file another case accusing Abolela of selling exam papers to his students while teaching in Kuwait, before he was expelled around two years ago. He then founded a so-called 'Expat Teachers Association', which urged expat teachers to sue Kuwait in international courts.



CBK'S YOUTH DAY COMPETITION

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently concluded the competition it launched through the bank's pages on various social media networks on the occasion of the World Youth Day. Ten winners won VIP tickets from Grand Cinema. The World Youth Day 2017 was celebrated on August 12 with more emphasis on youth's role in achieving sustainable development. CBK Tijari saving account is for youth between the age of 14-24.

Crime

Report



Safaa Al-Hashem

'MPS LIVE IN PALACES'

KUWAIT: MP Safaa Al-Hashem reported that a citizen showed up at her house asking to meet her, and that she spoke to him from behind closed doors. She added that the man told her he was heavily in debt and needed her help, but when she asked him to file a plea at her office in the parliament, he got angry and kicked the door, shouting "MPs live in palaces" before leaving.

Drug suspect nabbed

A citizen was arrested on arrival at Kuwait airport with two pieces of hashish he had hidden inside a pack of medicine.

Joggers harassed

A citizen and a non-Kuwaiti were recently arrested for harassing female joggers along Saad Al-Abdullah's walking and jogging track. Security sources said many girls reported the matter, noting that the two suspects were heavily drunk. The suspects were arrested with the possession of a home-made liquor bottle.

3 killed in accidents

An Asian was killed when he was run over by a citizen's speeding vehicle in Fahaheel. In another development, a female citizen was killed and three of her relatives were seriously injured in a collision between four vehicles along Fahaheel coastal road. Also, an Egyptian child was killed and her mother was seriously injured in a collision along the Sixth Ring Road.

2 arrested for fighting

Two brothers were arrested for fighting because of an earlier dispute between their wives.

Man arrested for fraud

An Egyptian son of a Kuwaiti mother was arrested for fraud, said security sources, noting that the suspect had collected over KD 5,000 from several expats, promising to transfer and renew their residency visas.

3 firemen injured

A fire broke out in an under-construction building located over an area of 3,000 sq m in Kabd. Three firemen were injured in the process. — Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

THE PAINFUL ANNIVERSARY

By Abdullah Bowair

August 2, 1990 was not an ordinary date for Kuwait. It will always remain memorable for all Kuwaitis and the people living here at that time. A large army ranked in top positions worldwide invaded our country without having mercy on the children, adults, men, women, doctrines, tribes or sects. They destroyed everything. They punished, looted, raped, killed, robbed and committed the worst forms of crime against everyone with no regards to norms, traditions or the rights towards neighbors and fellow-Muslims.

That regime and its officials are fully responsible for the destruction inflicted upon Kuwait and for the whereabouts of martyrs and people who are missing till this very date. They committed the worst crimes, destroyed Kuwait's government buildings, landmarks and houses. They looted our national archive and our historical documents. Iraq's coverts about Kuwait were not new then, they had come a long way.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah managed to strongly refute all Iraqi radios and press allegations in addition to those stated by Abdul Kareem Qasim using historical and political logic. He managed to strongly express Kuwait ruler, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, the government and the people's determination to defend Kuwait's independence as well as Kuwait's trust in friendly peace-loving and brotherly Arab countries keenness on protecting Kuwait's security and independence.

HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad was keen on preparing Kuwaiti people to face the Kuwaiti-Iraqi crisis in 1961-1963. He did not limit his actions to publishing official documents proving Kuwait's independence but also used many other proofs including history and geography books and the maps taught in Iraqi schools showing clear borders between both countries. He also referred to the customs and visa procedures needed to move between both countries to emphasize that the two countries were separate.

In addition, HH used letters and all forms of correspondence showing Iraqi government's wish to enhance cultural and economic cooperation with Kuwait. Using his powers as minister of information, HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad refuted the Iraqi allegations that only indicated regional expansion ambitions. Kuwait was never subject to the Ottoman Empire that had no representatives in Kuwait throughout its reign in the Arab world. Kuwait has been independent and sovereign ever since inception and officially declared its independence on June 19, 1961.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

THE 3RD CANDLE GOES OFF

By Saleh Al-Shayaji

During the 1963 Spring season, I went camping with some friends and relatives. Our spring camps were much simpler then and matched those beautiful old times. Spring-camping was not so popular then and we did not have the luxury that prevailed in the subsequent decades. At night, we sang chorally and one of us was a good Oud player. We used to accompany him by playing our drums and singing songs of that era. There was another camp housing with a group of youth a few hundred meters away from ours. We became friends with them and visited each other at some nights.

One night, friends from the other camp came over but this time they brought along a guest for the first time. He was a very calm good-natured young man. Once the fun started, that young man sang with the most charming voice. We later knew that he was a student in the music section of the teachers' institute that had been established less than two years earlier. A few

years later, that young man became a very well-known singer and one of Kuwait's prime ones in the 1960's; it was Hussein Jassim who passed away a few days ago.

Later on, being a radio announcer myself and he being a star in singing, we met so often even around the radio building corridors. I knew for sure how highly-mannered and friendly to everyone he was. Fame and stardom never changed him. He remained so modest and good-natured. As far as I recall, all the songs he sang were successful hits and publically accepted. His songs remained memorable in people's minds for over fifty years ever since he started with the 'Ya Elah Al-Kour', 'Ah Ya Ghali Ya Abol Moga', Towni Araftek Zain' and 'Ya Sham'at Al-Jellas'; that Sham'a (candle) that got blown out with demise of the composer, Marzouq Al-Marzouq, then, for the second time with the demise of the lyrics writer, Jassim Shehab and now, the third candle gets blown out by the sad demise of Hussein Jassim, May Almighty have mercy on his soul.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

KFH BIDS FAREWELL TO PILGRIMS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) gave a send-off to pilgrims when they departed for the pilgrimage to the Holy land of Makkah. This initiative comes as part of the bank's social responsibility and efforts to participate in all social, religious and national events that are of interest to the society. The Public Relations team

at KFH received and bid farewell to the pilgrims at the Kuwait International airport wishing them a blessed pilgrimage and safe return home.

KFH's presence at the airport reiterates its commitment towards optimally assuming the corporate social responsibility, while reflecting its collaboration efforts with the concerned authorities. Dr Hadeel Al-Own from the Media Office at

the Ministry of Health praised KFH's initiative, indicating KFH has always been committed to serve the society. She added that KFH provided the pilgrims with helpful instructions in the holy places. She said that a booth of the Media Office at the airport was accessible to pilgrims to offer some medical checkups in addition to some instructions and leaflets that help the pilgrims in their journey.



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Second storm hits Hong Kong, Macau amid typhoon recovery

LEBANON ARMY DECLARES PAUSE IN OFFENSIVE AGAINST IS ON SYRIA BORDER

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ROCKPORT: Damaged boats in a multi-level storage facility are seen following passage of Hurricane Harvey at Rockport, Texas. — AFP

HARVEY UNLEASHES CATASTROPHIC FLOODING IN HOUSTON

TROPICAL STORM TURNS STREETS IN TEXAS' LARGEST CITY INTO RAGING RIVERS

ROCKPORT, United States: Tropical Storm Harvey unleashed catastrophic flooding in Houston yesterday, turning streets in Texas' largest city into raging rivers as trapped residents climbed to higher floors and the death toll rose. Overwhelmed emergency services warned residents to head for high ground or climb onto rooftops—not into attics—so they could be seen by rescue helicopters. "It is bad and growing worse," said Texas Governor Greg Abbott, who said the storm had inflicted billions of dollars in damage in the Lone Star state.

At least two people have died since Harvey crashed ashore late Friday as a Category 4 hurricane, spawning tornadoes and lashing east and central Texas with torrential rains. In Houston, a woman drowned when she left a car which had stalled in high water, local media reported, citing police. Local officials said one person was killed when a house caught fire in the Rockport area, where Harvey made landfall with sustained winds of 130 miles per hour.

The National Weather Service said more than two feet of rain fell in Houston in a 24-hour period, and flooding was expected to worsen as the most powerful storm to hit the United States since 2005 lingers over the area. Harvey slowly weakened as it advanced, but it had the power to rip off roofs, flip mobile homes and leave hundreds of thousands of people in the dark on the Gulf Coast, home to some of the country's most important oil refineries. More than a dozen tornado warnings were issued overnight for southeast Texas, including several in the Houston area.

In Houston, a city of 2.3 million, streets turned

into fast-moving rivers with officials warning residents to stay home. "If the highest floor of your home becomes dangerous ... get on the roof!" the city's emergency management agency warned in a bulletin. Abbott said National Guard troops were deployed overnight in the city, using high-clearance vehicles to help with rescues in inundated areas. Boats and helicopters also were being deployed throughout the area for swift-water rescues, he said.

Hobby International, one of Houston's two airports, announced that all flights were canceled "due to standing water on runways," while George Bush International was operating at limited capacity. Houston officials said their 911 phone system was overwhelmed with emergency calls, mostly from stranded motorists. "Cannot emphasize enough how much flooding there is on roadways you are endangering yourself and our first responders by being out," Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo wrote on Twitter.

Recovery will take years

The governor visited a shelter for coastal evacuees in the state capital Austin and handed out food, describing the damage to homes and property as "sheer tragedy." "Some of them had their homes mowed down. Some of them will not have a place to return to... It is our job to make sure they will be taken care of," he said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said there should be no illusions about the long-term impact. "This is going to be an unprecedented long and frustrating event for the state of



HOUSTON: A truck pushes through floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey in Houston, Texas. — AP

Texas, FEMA director Brock Long told MSNBC. "The recovery from this disaster is going to be years."

Severe blow

Emergency services were struggling to make headway as the rains continued to pour down, although the Coast Guard managed to airlift at least 20 people and a dog to safety. President Donald Trump, aware of the damage to George W. Bush's presidency from his tardy response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, said he was closely monitoring relief efforts from Camp David in

nothing like last night," Corpus Christi store owner Brandon Gonzalez said.

Stuck in place

Brian McNoldy, a hurricane expert at the University of Miami, said a strong ridge of high pressure was preventing the storm from dispersing. "There's no sign of it really moving in a foreseeable future," he said. Coastal Texas is a fast-growing area, with some 1.5 million people moving into the region since 1999. It is also home to a large number of oil refineries and a number of major ports.

US authorities said about 22 percent of crude production in the Gulf of Mexico, accounting for more than 375,000 barrels a day, was shut down as of Friday. But Abbott said the oil industry was well prepared. "They hunkered down and were able to contain the facilities, and they have the ability to ratchet up back up there quickly," he said on Fox News yesterday, predicting a "one- or two-week downturn."

Fear of flooding

In Victoria, a town just north of Rockport, residents were shocked by the storm's intensity. "We didn't know it was going to be a Category Four storm so we thought we'll just ride it out," local resident Robby Villa said. "If I knew it was going to be what it came to be, I might have left sooner," he said. Several locals, including Leslie Warner, worried about flooding. "You know after the storm is done, from Austin and San Antonio, all that water is going to come down here" on the San Antonio and Colorado rivers, she said. — AFP

SECOND MAN ARRESTED AFTER BUCKINGHAM PALACE SWORD ATTACK

LONDON: British police investigating Friday's sword attack outside Buckingham Palace in London arrested a second man yesterday, as the world-famous Notting Hill Carnival kicked off under increased security measures. "The man was arrested on suspicion of being involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of terrorism at 10:15hrs today and he has been taken into custody," a police statement said.

It came hours after Islamic State jihadists claimed responsibility for Friday's knife attack on patrolling soldiers in Brussels, and as authorities in Spain revealed that the death toll from last week's twin attacks in Barcelona had risen to 16. British police said they had arrested a 30-year-old man at an address in West London and were searching a property as part of the inquiry. A warrant for the extended detention of the 26-year-old man involved in Friday's incident has also been granted, the statement said. The suspect, who was arrested under the Terrorism Act, had reached for a four-foot sword upon being challenged by unarmed police officers after deliberately driving at them outside the royal palace.

Scores of UK arrests

Police said the man, who comes from Luton some 30 miles north of London, had repeatedly shouted "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) and was incapacitated with CS gas. In an earlier statement, they said that searches were continuing in the Luton area and that they believed it was a "lone wolf" attack. In Britain, 35 people have been killed in three jihadist attacks in London and Manchester since March. Security measures in the British capital were stepped up to protect the hundred of thousands of revelers expected to flock to the Notting Hill Carnival, Europe's biggest street festival, which kicked off yesterday.

At a briefing ahead of the two-day event, police said it had no intelligence to suggest it could be the target of a terror attack, and said the number of police officers on site would be the same as last year. But it also said that more than 650 people were arrested in the three weeks leading up to festival—compared with 300 last year—and that large quantities of knives and weapons were recovered. Other measures put in place include weapons and liquid checks—to prevent acid attacks—and the use of

facial recognition technology. Friday's assault in London came just two hours after a knifeman attacked patrolling soldiers in Brussels in what authorities said was an "attempted terrorist murder". Belgian prosecutors said the attacker yelled "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) when he rushed at the soldiers from behind and struck them with a knife, prompting one of them to open fire. The assailant—a Belgian national of Somali origin born in 1987 — was shot and died shortly afterwards in hospital, a prosecutors' statement said.

Granted Belgian nationality in 2015 after arriving in the country in 2004, he was not known for any terror-related activities, though he had an assault and battery charge from February on his record, authorities confirmed. Police later raided his home in Bruges, in northwest Belgium. One of the soldiers was slightly hurt in the attack which Brussels Mayor Philippe Close said had been carried out by a "lone individual". Islamic State jihadists claimed responsibility for the attack on Saturday, saying on its propaganda outlet Amaq that "the perpetrator of the stabbing operation in Brussels is one of the soldiers of the Islamic State".



LONDON: A police cordon outside Buckingham Palace where a man has been arrested after an incident, in London. — AP

Europe on high alert

The two attacks came as much of Europe is on high alert following a string of deadly assaults over the past two years. Last week, Spain was hit by twin vehicle attacks on Las Ramblas in Barcelona and in the seaside resort of Cambrils—which left 16 dead and around 120 wounded. The latest victim, a 51-

year-old German woman, died on Sunday morning "after being treated in a critical condition in hospital," authorities said in a statement. Two people were also killed in a stabbing spree on August 18 in the Finnish city of Turku. Four men are still in custody for what is being treated as the country's first terror attack.—AFP

ISRAEL TO PRESS UN CHIEF ON BLINDNESS ON HEZBOLLAH

JERUSALEM: Israel will press UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on what it says is Hezbollah's arms buildup in Lebanon during his first visit to the Jewish state since taking office, the deputy foreign minister said yesterday. Guterres was due to arrive in the evening for meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders and officials, with the visit scheduled to continue through Wednesday. The trip comes as the UN Security Council debates renewing for a year the mandate of its peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, with a vote expected on August 30.

The US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, has blasted the commander of the UNIFIL peacekeepers, accusing him of turning a blind eye

to Hezbollah weapons smuggling. United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric has however said: "We have full confidence in (the commander's) work." Israeli deputy foreign minister Tzipi Hotovely told public radio yesterday: "Haley was right." "We shall not allow this blindness to continue." She said that Hezbollah's deployment along Lebanon's border with Israel would be a "very central issue" in the discussions with Guterres. "He will meet the head of military intelligence and receive a briefing, and also meet the prime minister, and I am sure that he will not leave here with the feeling that the mandate given to the UN is being implemented on the ground," Hotovely said. Beyond meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he is also

expected to hold talks with Palestinian premier Rami Hamdallah in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank tomorrow. Guterres has told the Security Council that he intends to look at ways in which UNIFIL could beef up its efforts "regarding the illegal presence of armed personnel, weapons or infrastructure inside its area of operations".

As US President-elect, Donald Trump dismissed the United Nations as "just a club for people to get together and have a good time" and warned that things would be different after his inauguration. Since taking office in January he has proposed a dramatic cut of 60 percent of US funding for peacekeeping missions. The United States is the biggest contributor to the United Nations, paying 22 per-

cent of the \$5.4 billion core budget and 28.5 percent of the \$7.9 billion peacekeeping budget. Israel has long alleged bias at the United Nations against it and also plans to discuss that with Guterres.

Hotovely said that, as a former prime minister of Portugal, Guterres has sharp political antennae and realizes that under the current US administration there may be a price to pay for what she calls a long tradition of "almost anti-Semitic" UN bias against the Jewish state. "We find in him an understanding that his organization risks losing not only its credibility but also its funding from the world's biggest and most important power, the United States," she said. "I very much hope that we shall see a change of direction in relation to Israel." —AFP

US REPORTER KILLED WHILE COVERING SUDAN CLASHES

JUBA: An American journalist has been killed while covering clashes between government and rebel forces in restive South Sudan, local officials and the US mission in Juba said yesterday. Christopher Allen, a freelance reporter and photographer, was embedded with insurgent troops when fighting broke out in Kaya, near South Sudan's southern border with Uganda. A spokesman for the US embassy told AFP that "an American citizen" had died in the clashes, which also killed 18 others.

"Yesterday we confirmed the name and we confirmed the fact that the person was killed. We are not providing any additional information about the situation," the spokesman added. A spokesman for South Sudan's armed forces said Allen had not been accredited to cover the conflict by authorities in Juba and it was likely he

entered the country through Uganda. A statement from the rebel SPLA-IO forces condemned the fighting that killed Allen as a "monstrous and unnatural act (that) violates international humanitarian law which entitles journalists to all rights and protection during armed conflicts."

Allen had worked for several outlets including Al Jazeera and Vice News and previously covered the conflict in eastern Ukraine. South Sudan's civil war erupted in December 2013 just two years after it obtained independence from Sudan, when President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of plotting a coup. Thousands of people have been killed by the violence, which plunged part of the country into famine earlier this year. Some four million have been displaced, according to UN figures. —AFP



BEIRUT: This file photo shows Lebanese army soldiers sitting atop an armored personnel carrier (APC) as they drive in the eastern town of Ras Baalbek. —AFP

LEBANON ARMY DECLARES PAUSE IN OFFENSIVE AGAINST IS ON SYRIA BORDER

ARMY MAKES MISSING TROOPS 'TOP CONCERN'

BEIRUT: Lebanon's army yesterday announced a pause in its offensive against Islamic State group militants along the border with Syria in exchange for information on troops taken hostage in 2014. The armed forces launched their campaign against IS militants entrenched in the mountainous Jurud Ras Baalbek and Jurud al-Qaa areas on Lebanon's eastern border on August 19.

"The army command announces a ceasefire beginning at 7:00 am to make way for the last phase of negotiations linked to the fate of the kidnapped soldiers," it said in a statement yesterday. Nine troops are believed to still be held by IS after militants overran the Lebanese border town of Aarsal in August 2014 and kidnapped 30 soldiers and police. The army has said the missing troops were its "top concern" in its offensive against an estimated 600 IS fighters using the hilly border region as a base.

IS has claimed several attacks in Lebanon in recent years, including twin bombings in a densely populated Beirut suburb that killed 44 people. An army source said yesterday that its command had agreed to IS's request for a ceasefire in order to get more information on the missing soldiers. The head of Lebanon's General Security agency

"Abbas Ibrahim has been authorized to negotiate with them for information on the kidnapped soldiers," the source said.

"In the meantime, the battle has stopped. If we find any ulterior motives or if we are dissatisfied with the solution, the army will continue its fight," the source added. Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which launched its own simultaneous attack against IS from the Syrian side of the border, also declared a ceasefire yesterday. The group's War Media channel said the unilateral pause was "in the framework of a comprehensive agreement to end the battle in west Qalamun against Daesh (IS)".

Hezbollah searching for troops

Two sources with close knowledge of Hezbollah's operations in the area said that fighters from the group were searching west Qalamun for the bodies of the missing soldiers. The troops have been missing since August 2014, when IS and then Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front briefly overran Aarsal, a town on Lebanon's restive eastern border with Syria. The groups withdrew under a truce deal, but took 30 hostages from Lebanon's security forces with them.

Al-Nusra and IS each executed two of their hostages, and a fifth died of wounds sustained during the fighting in Aarsal. After months of fraught negotiations, Al-Nusra handed over 16 of the soldiers and police in December 2015 in exchange for prisoners from Lebanese jails in a swap overseen by General Security chief Ibrahim. Lebanese defense minister Yaacoub al-Sarraf told journalists yesterday that there would be a formal announcement once he had "clear information" on what happened to the soldiers.

The army says its nine-day assault has squeezed IS into 20 square kilometers out of 120 held by the jihadists in Jurud Ras Baalbek and Jurud al-Qaa. Six soldiers have been killed since the start of the assault, which the army has insisted is not being coordinated with Hezbollah. Last month, Hezbollah carried out its own campaign further south on the border area against what is now Al-Qaeda's former affiliate, after Al-Nusra broke off ties with the extremist group last year. The six-day offensive ended with a ceasefire under which 8,000 refugees and jihadists were transported to northwestern Syria in return for the release of five captured Hezbollah fighters. —AFP

NEW LAW NEEDED TO ALLOW TORTURE VICTIMS TO SUE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT

KABUL: Human rights activists are urging Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani to expand anti-torture laws enacted months ago to allow victims abused by security forces to seek restitution and compensation. A "Redress Annex" attached to the anti-torture law would allow victims to take the government to civil court, something not currently allowed under the law, say activists. The annex has been drafted and its backers hope Ghani will sign a decree making it an official part of the law.

A spokesman for Ghani's office did not respond to requests for comment. As of now, it is up to the government to investigate and prosecute members of its own security forces who are accused of torture, something activists and investigators say is rare. "The pervasiveness of torture in Afghanistan makes its criminalization and the prosecution of alleged torturers an urgent priority," Human Rights Watch senior researcher Patricia Gossman wrote in a post calling for the annex to be enacted.

"But the government also needs to enshrine in law the rights of torture victims to redress for their suffering." If prosecutors delay, "a compensation system would create a new avenue for holding the government accountable,"

she said. Human rights investigators have praised recent moves by Ghani's administration to criminalize torture, but at a practical level reports of torture continue to be widespread.

In April, a UN report said measures by the government had failed to reduce torture, with nearly 40 percent of conflict-related detainees interviewed by the investigators reporting that they had been tortured or mistreated by Afghan security forces, mostly the police and intelligence services. Among the methods described in the report were severe beatings to the body and soles of the feet with sticks, plastic pipes or cables, electric shocks, including to the genitals, prolonged suspension by the arms, and suffocation.

Allowing victims to sue in civil court would ensure that they receive compensation and create a public record of torture cases, said Shaharazad Akbar, a civil society activist who works on anti-torture causes. "Governments across the world are hesitant to prosecute their employees, so redress creates a civil mechanism for the public to hold government accountable," she said. "This leads to an internal conversation in the government about the responsibility of government entities to prevent torture." —Reuters

IRAQI FORCES POISED FOR VICTORY OVER IS IN TAL AFAR

TAL AFAR, Iraq: Iraqi forces backed by local militia and a US-led coalition were poised yesterday to drive the Islamic State group from the city of Tal Afar, dealing another blow to the jihadists. Just a week after authorities announced an offensive to push the jihadists from one of their last major urban strongholds in Iraq, the Joint Operations Command said Iraqi forces held all 29 districts of the city and were pursuing final clearing operations.

Pro-government fighters could already be seen celebrating, flashing victory signs as their tanks rolled through the streets, waving Iraqi flags and taking down black IS banners from buildings and lamp posts. The offensive comes just weeks after Iraqi forces retook second city Mosul from IS, in their biggest victory since the jihadists seized control of large parts of Syria and Iraq in mid-2014. Much of that territory has since been retaken with support from coalition air strikes and IS is also facing a major US-backed

offensive against its de facto Syrian capital Raqqa.

The loss of Tal Afar, in northern Iraq between Mosul and the Syrian border, will deprive IS of what was once a significant hub for movement between the Syrian and Iraqi components of the self-styled "caliphate" it declared three years ago. On Saturday, Iraqi forces reached Tal Afar's Ottoman-era citadel and took control of the city centre. Government troops and units of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary coalition launched the assault last Sunday after weeks of coalition and Iraqi air strikes.

Progress in Tal Afar has been far more rapid than in Mosul, which fell to Iraqi forces only after a grueling nine-month battle. Officials have said they hope to announce victory by Eid al-Adha, the Muslim holiday set to start in Iraq on September 2. The next target in the area was the town of Al-Ayadih 15 kilometers north of Tal Afar and strategically located on the road between the city and the Syrian border.

Next target

In the whole Tal Afar region, "1,155 square kilometers of 1,655 square kilometers, or 70 percent of the area, have been taken" the JOC said late on Saturday. Pro-government forces faced an obstacle course of roads blocked with earth embankments and strategically parked trucks, as well as sniper fire and mortar shelling during the battle for Tal Afar. Troops also said they discovered a network of underground tunnels used by IS to launch attacks behind lines of already conquered territory, or to escape.

Most of the city's 200,000-strong population had fled after IS seized it. Until its takeover by IS, Tal Afar was largely populated by Shiite Turkmen, whose beliefs are considered heretical by the Sunni jihadists of IS. Officials have said the capture of the city would make it even more difficult for the jihadists to transport fighters and weapons between Iraq and Syria. The jihadist group has lost much of the territory it controlled and thousands of its fighters have been killed since late 2014, when the US-led international coalition was set up to defeat the group.

Once Tal Afar is retaken, Baghdad is expected to launch a new offensive on Hawija, about 300 kilometers north of the Iraqi capital. The coalition has announced carrying out strikes near Hawija in recent days, including two that killed IS fighters and destroyed a command post. IS is also present in the vast western province of Anbar, where it controls several zones along the border with Syria, including the Al-Qaim area. Despite its losses in Iraq and Syria, IS has continued to claim responsibility for attacks carried out by its members or supporters abroad, including this month's deadly attacks in Spain and knife attacks in Russia and Brussels. —AFP



TAL AFAR: Fighters of Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization units) flash the victory gesture as they advance through a street in the town of Tal Afar, west of Mosul, after the Iraqi government announced the launch of the operation to retake it from Islamic State (IS) group control. — AFP

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TRUMP ASKED AG SESSIONS ABOUT DROPPING ARPAIO CASE

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump asked Attorney General Jeff Sessions about dropping a criminal case against controversial ex-sheriff Joe Arpaio, a close ally of the Republican president who has since received a pardon, The Washington Post reported Saturday. Trump was advised that closing the criminal contempt case against Arpaio, who was convicted for ignoring a court order to stop detaining illegal migrants, would be inappropriate, said the Post, citing three unnamed sources with knowledge of the conversation.

The president decided to let the case go ahead, but said he would pardon Arpaio if necessary—one source said Trump was “gung-ho” about the idea, the Post said. Trump has received pushback on the pardon by members of his own party—most recently from the highest ranking Republican in Congress, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. “The speaker does not agree with this decision,” Ryan spokesman Doug Andres said in a statement late Saturday.

“Law enforcement officials have a special responsibility to respect the rights of everyone in the United States,”

Andres said. “We should not allow anyone to believe that responsibility is diminished by this pardon.” Both Republican senators from Arizona, John McCain and Jeff Flake, earlier criticized the presidential pardon. Trump’s reported chat with Sessions over Arpaio stands as evidence of the inability or unwillingness of the 71-year-old billionaire US leader to maintain the traditional distance between the White House and the Justice Department on specific cases.

It also bears similarities to two situations that have dogged Trump for months. One is his alleged bid to influence a federal inquiry into his onetime national security advisor Michael Flynn, and his bid to persuade high-level officials to downplay the possibility of collusion between his campaign team and Russia, which is still under investigation. The 85-year-old Arpaio, a divisive figure who was once dubbed “America’s toughest sheriff,” was granted a presidential pardon on Friday—the first since Trump took office, and one that seemingly did not follow regular protocols. —AFP



WASHINGTON: US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, left, looks up at the partial solar eclipse with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross from the balcony of the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP



BOGOTA: FARC commander Carlos Lozada speaks during an interview with AFP in front of the images of late FARC leaders, left to right, Manuel Marulanda Velez, Jorge Briceno Suarez, Jacobo Arenas and Alfonso Cano in Bogota. — AFP

DISARMED, COLOMBIA'S FARC REBELS SEEK POLITICAL REBIRTH

DELEGATES TO LAUNCH CONGRESS, CHOOSE POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

BOGOTA: Colombia's leftist FARC rebels seek political rebirth yesterday as they move to transform into a party to seek elected office after disarming to end a half-century war. About 1,000 delegates from the freshly demobilized Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia will launch a founding congress to choose their political representatives. They will choose a name for the party and candidates to run in next year's general elections. “We are going to define the character of the political party that we aspire to build,” former guerrilla commander Carlos Antonio Lozada said. He said they will also shape “its structure and name the leaders, at least at national level.”

'What's in a name?'

Another former commander of the force, Ivan Marquez, said he expected the movement to call itself the Alternative Revolutionary Force of Colombia. However, the overall FARC leader Rodrigo Londono canvassed opinion on Twitter and many respondents said they favored the name “New Colombia.” Conflict analyst Frederic Masse of Bogota's Externado University said the debate reflected a “dilemma” in the movement. “Some want to keep the word ‘revolutionary’ while others want to change that to show that this is a new start,” Masse said.

Seeking votes

Regardless of how many votes they may

win, the peace deal signed with the government last year guarantees the new party five seats in each of the two legislative chambers for two terms. “We hope to get enough votes not only to justify those five senate and five lower house representatives, but also we aspire hopefully to achieve an even greater representation,” Lozada said.

Londono has ruled out the new party fielding a presidential candidate. But he said it will support a candidate who guarantees the peace deal the FARC signed with center-right President Juan Santos.

Liberal democracy

The communist FARC formed in 1964 from a peasant uprising for rural land rights. Its members have avoided publicly framing their current discussions on their political future with terms such as “socialist” and “communist” however. Another former FARC commander, Pastor Alape, said they were looking for a broader “liberal democracy” movement. Some ex-FARC leaders have said it will be “anti-imperialist” and “anti-patriarchal” in spirit. Lozada said it would focus on promoting free health and education and environmental protection.

Challenges ahead

After 53 years of attacks and kidnappings, the FARC in its new form faces a struggle for acceptance. Recent polls indicate that more

than 80 percent of Colombians are opposed to it. “There is a long history of grievances weighing against the FARC,” said analyst Angelika Rettberg. Voters narrowly rejected the peace deal in a referendum last year. Santos and the FARC tweaked it and the government pushed it through congress.

“The FARC will face a number of challenges the first is not to betray their support base. The second is to enlarge their electorate,” said Masse. “The third is to show that they are capable of doing politics differently and not letting themselves get sucked into traditional patronage politics.”

History of violence

The FARC has invited other likely potential candidates to its congress, though none has publicly confirmed attendance. It has also invited some 150 international participants. The congress in Bogota runs until September 1, when the party will hold an official launch ceremony in Bolivar Square, the heart of the capital's political district. The Colombian conflict drew in various rebel forces, paramilitary groups and state forces over the decades. It left some 260,000 people confirmed dead, 60,000 unaccounted for and seven million displaced. The government has opened peace talks with the last active group, the 1,500-strong National Liberation Army, in the hope of sealing what Santos calls an “overall peace.” —AFP

'WE CARRY GUNS': ARMED JUDGES IN SPOTLIGHT AFTER OHIO ATTACK

COLUMBUS: More judges are carrying weapons than most people realize, even though attacks on judges remain rare, surveys and experts say. The question of whether judges should be armed got renewed attention this week after an Ohio judge who was carrying a gun was shot outside his courthouse and fired back. Jefferson County Judge Joseph Bruzzese is recovering from the shooting Monday in Steubenville, along the Ohio River roughly 30 miles west of Pittsburgh.

“We carry guns,” a judge said in a survey that was part of the National Judicial College's 2014 analysis of personal and on-site security measures. The report didn't identify respondents. “I now carry an easily accessible handgun with me at all times,” another judge said in the judicial college's April security survey. “I have received firearms training and continue to practice and receive ongoing gun safety and training.” In 2014, four judges in Ohio's 4th District appeals court in southern Ohio issued an order allowing them to carry guns. Whether a judge should carry a gun is a frequent question John Muffler gets at the judicial security seminars he teaches around the country. “There are plenty who are carrying them now because of their position, and they're aware that there are risks associated with the decisions they make and the positions they have,” said Muffler, retired from the U.S. Marshals Service and now director of MOSAIC Threat Assessment Systems for Gavin de Becker & Associates, a private security agency.

Judges should take additional precautions shielding their movements and home addresses when possible, says Muffler and others. They also recommend against judges having guns in courtrooms if other security officials are carrying weapons to reduce the danger of injuries from cross-fire. Judges with guns in courtrooms also raises the risk of objections from defense attorneys, since it could signal judges' fear of a defendant whose case they're overseeing.

A few states ban guns inside courthouses

together, such as Rhode Island, although it does allow police to carry stun guns. Tennessee in 2011 allowed judges to carry weapons into their own courthouses after 16 hours of initial training and eight hours repeated annually. That training requirement was later repealed. Wyoming allows judges to carry weapons and decide if anyone else can bring a weapon into their courtroom, but limits the power of judges to ban guns in courthouses.

Judges have come to the realization they're not immune from violence, said Lake County Judge Eugene Lucci, a former police officer who teaches judges about safety in Ohio and nationwide. Lucci estimates about one in 10 Ohioans have permits to carry concealed weapons, and believes judges carry at a higher rate. He recommends judges with guns undergo the same training as police officers. Investigators are still looking for the motive behind Bruzzese's shooting. The judge was overseeing a wrongful death lawsuit against a local housing authority filed by the suspect, who was shot dead by a probation officer.

Other attacks on judges have had direct links to cases in front of them: Last year, a Florida man was sentenced to more than 300 years in prison for trying to kill federal Judge Timothy Corrigan in 2013 in what prosecutors said was an assassination attempt. The suspect faced going to prison for violating probation previously imposed by Corrigan for a 2008 firebombing attack.

In Texas in 2015, State District Judge Julie Kocurek was wounded by a gunman in an ambush outside her Austin home. Authorities charged three men in the shooting, with federal prosecutors saying the trio believed an upcoming hearing before Kocurek would jeopardize their fraudulent financial schemes.

In 2006 in Reno, Nevada, Family Court Judge Chuck Weller was wounded by bullet fragments and glass after a man whose contentious divorce Weller had handled shot at the judge through his courthouse office window with a high-powered rifle. —AP



OHIO: City of Steubenville manager Jim Mavronatis talks to the media with the Jefferson County Courthouse in the background, in Steubenville, Ohio, after Jefferson County Judge Joseph Bruzzese Jr. was ambushed and shot early Monday morning. — AP

IN BRAZIL'S RIO STATE, 2017 COP DEATH TOLL HITS 100

RIO DE JANEIRO: A police officer killed Saturday in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state was the 100th slain there so far this year—part of a grim surge in violent crime in the region. Officer Fabio Jose Cavalcante was shot dead while on duty in Baixada Fluminense, a poor, high-crime suburb of Rio, which hosted the Summer Olympics last year. In 2016, 146 police were killed in Rio, 100 of whom were not on duty at the time. Since 1995, the force has lost more than 3,000 officers.

A year after the world applauded Rio's successful staging of the Summer Games, Brazil's second biggest city is in

deep financial difficulty and the demoralized police are struggling to contain well-armed drug gangs based in the favelas. President Michel Temer's decision in July to deploy thousands of soldiers to Rio acknowledged that state police have lost the ability to cope with the often bloody struggle against the drug traffickers. Brazil as a whole is one of the most deadly countries in the world. Estadao newspaper recently reported that this year's six-month homicide tally has reached just over 28,000. That is equivalent to 155 killings a day or six an hour around the country of 208 million people. —AFP

DEATH TOLL FROM SPAIN ATTACKS RISES TO 16

MADRID: The number of people killed in twin vehicle attacks in Spain last week rose to 16 yesterday, local authorities in Barcelona said. “This morning a 51-year-old German woman died after being treated in a critical condition in hospital,” said a statement from the region's civil defense. The attacks on Las Ramblas boulevard in Barcelona and in the seaside resort of Cambrils left around 120 wounded.

The woman who died on Sunday was

hurt when a man ploughed a van through crowds of tourists on Spain's most famous street on August 17 — an attack that was claimed by the Islamic State group. Hours later, a car sped into Cambrils some 120 kilometers south, hitting people before crashing into a police vehicle. The five occupants of the Audi A3 jumped out and went on a stabbing spree, killing a woman, before they were shot dead by police. —AFP

FIRST LADY APPEARS TO BORROW PAGES FROM MICHELLE OBAMA'S PLAYBOOK

WASHINGTON: Bare arms and a belted waist, a White House vegetable garden and parents in the residence: Melania Trump is borrowing pages from Michelle Obama's playbook. From public policy to high fashion to family ties, Mrs Trump is keeping alive parts of the former first lady's legacy even as President Donald Trump's administration alters other aspects. Mrs Obama made it

acceptable for first ladies to shun the confining, jewel-toned suits that her predecessors wore like uniforms, and her successor is embracing that same free-wheeling fashion sense.

During President Trump's first overseas trip in late May, the current first lady stepped off of Air Force One in Saudi Arabia wearing a long-sleeved, black jumpsuit accented with a wide,

gold belt. A former model, Mrs. Trump has worn a number of sleeveless and belted outfits since, almost always paired with towering heels. She has kept Mrs. Obama's vegetable garden, and shown interest in women's empowerment, military families and children's issues. Mrs Obama championed all as first lady.

But where Mrs. Obama frequently hosted public events in the garden to encourage healthy eating, Mrs. Trump has yet to hold an activity there. Next month, Mrs Trump will lead the US delegation to the Invictus Games, an Olympics-style competition for wounded military personnel. The Obama White House helped promote the games after Britain's Prince Harry created them in 2014. On the family front, the first lady's parents - Viktor and Amalija Knavs - spent time at the White House after their daughter officially moved in June.

Great respect

They spent Father's Day weekend with the Trumps at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland. The Knavs live in New York and aren't expected to join their daughter in the White House. Mrs Obama's mother, Marian Robinson, lived in the White House during the eight years that Barack Obama was president to help care for her granddaughters. “She really did admire Michelle Obama very much,” Myra Gutin, a Rider University professor and author of “The President's Partner: The First Lady in the Twentieth Century, said of Mrs. Trump. —AP



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama pose with President-elect Donald Trump and his wife Melania at the White House in Washington. — AP

THAI JUNTA UNDER FIRE FROM ALLIES OVER YINGLUCK ESCAPE

BANGKOK: Thailand's junta has come under fire from conservative allies following ousted prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra's escape overseas, with many questioning how the military could have let her flee given she was heavily monitored. Yingluck, whose government was toppled by the military in 2014, pulled a dramatic disappearing act before a scheduled court judgment on Friday in a criminal negligence trial. She faced up to ten years in prison and a lifetime political ban if convicted. But instead she was a no show, with junta and party sources saying she had fled abroad.

Analysts say Yingluck most likely cut a secret deal with the junta to exit the country—a charge the military has denied. The leadership is desperate to avoid instability as it digs in for a long stay. The junta says it does not yet know how the country's first female prime minister managed to slip the net. But key conservative figures, some of whom agitated for the coup that toppled

Yingluck and are seen as political allies of the junta, rounded on the military in a series of statements over the weekend.

"It was clear that security officials followed her closely and took photographs of her everywhere she went, all the time. But she still was able to escape," Panthep Puapongpan, one of the leaders of 2014 protests against Yingluck's government, told reporters. "With Yingluck now escaped, the government, the security forces and the NCPO has to take responsibility," he added, using the official acronym for the junta. Veera Somkwankid, another prominent opponent of the Shinawatra political dynasty, took to Facebook to vent his frustration.

"The government must hunt down the traitors and punish the persons (who might have helped her escape), otherwise the NCPO will end up being the defendant," he wrote. Yingluck frequently complained of being constantly followed by military intelligence since she was ousted from office. Thai media has

been filled with speculation over how she might have escaped, with most suggesting she went to Cambodia either by land or sea in the days before the court verdict and then on to Singapore. A senior junta source said they believed she had fled to Dubai, the base of Shinawatra family patriarch Thaksin, who is Yingluck's older brother.

The Shinawatra political dynasty emerged under Thaksin in 2001 with a series of groundbreaking welfare schemes that won them votes and the loyalty of the rural poor. But their popularity rattled the royalist and army-aligned elite, who assailed successive governments linked to the clan with coups, court cases and protests. Thaksin was toppled in a 2006 coup and fled overseas two years later to avoid jail for a corruption conviction. The period since then—dubbed the "Lost Decade"—has seen frequent deadly street protests, short-lived governments and the return of military rule in 2014.—AFP



BANGKOK: In this file photo, former Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra arrives at the Supreme Court for the last day of her hearing in Bangkok, Thailand.—AP

SECOND STORM HITS HONG KONG, MACAU AMID TYPHOON RECOVERY

BOTH CITIES RAISE A TYPHOON 8 SIGNAL

HONG KONG: A powerful storm lashed Hong Kong and Macau yesterday, just days after a punishing typhoon swept through the region and claimed at least 18 lives. Both cities raised a Typhoon 8 signal—the third-highest warning level—early yesterday as severe tropical storm "Pakhar" made landfall in the region, where emergency workers were still battling to repair Wednesday's damage. A total of 206 flights were cancelled and another 471 delayed because of the latest storm, while 44 flights had to divert, Hong Kong's Airport Authority said.

Cathay Pacific, the city's flagship, said "cancellations, diversions and severe delays" were expected. All ferry services in Hong Kong were suspended until the storm warning was lowered in both cities in the early afternoon. A total of 236 trees weakened by Wednesday's typhoon were brought down by the latest storm in Hong Kong and there were 16 flooding reports. No deaths were reported yesterday but Hong Kong hospital officials said 62 people were injured. In Macau eight people were slightly hurt, a government spokesperson said.

A Chinese cargo ship was sinking east of Hong Kong yesterday morning but all 11 crew members were rescued. Pakhar brought winds of up to 130 kilometers per hour to Hong Kong. Yesterday is a holiday but on a working day the Typhoon 8 signal would have meant the shutdown of the stock market, schools and businesses. In Macau authorities issued fresh flooding warnings as shops that were battered Wednesday remained closed yesterday morning.

Traffic lights stayed blacked out with power yet to return to parts of the city. The water supply has been restored, a Macau government statement said Sunday, but buildings with damaged pumps still lack water. "This is tough but there is nothing we can do," said shopowner Leung Chin-pang, who has been without water since the first storm hit.

Lack of preparation

Pakhar—named after a freshwater fish in the lower Mekong river—arrived as worst-hit Macau



HONG KONG: Pedestrians struggle with their umbrellas during strong winds and rain brought on by severe tropical storm Pakhar in Hong Kong yesterday.—AFP

was still picking up the pieces following Typhoon Hato, the city's strongest typhoon in 53 years according to its government. Hato, which triggered the most severe Typhoon 10 warning, ripped through the gambling hub Wednesday, plunging casinos into darkness and causing destructive floods. The official death toll in Macau reached 10, as the government of the semi-autonomous Chinese city faced recriminations over its lack of preparedness.

A further eight people are known to have died from Typhoon Hato in the neighboring mainland Chinese province of Guangdong, which Pakhar also reached mid-morning yesterday. Dozens of visitors had returned to the main tourist attraction of Senado Square in Macau

yesterday as the clean-up progressed. Streets appeared cleaner after local residents of all ages and around 1,000 troops from the Chinese People's Liberation Army Macau garrison worked to clear piles of debris blocking the streets.

Four Hong Kong journalists covering the impact of the typhoon were barred entry into Macau Saturday on the grounds that they "threatened the stability of internal security," according to the Hong Kong Journalists Association. The group in a statement expressed "deep regret" over the incident and urged Macau's authorities to respect press freedom. Summer is typhoon season for the region including Hong Kong, which can experience storms of such severity that the entire city shuts down.—AFP



BANGLADESH: Relatives mourn for members of their family, whom they believe were killed by Rohingya militants, at Maungdaw hospital.—AFP

BANGLADESH SENDS BACK 90 ROHINGYA DESPITE VIOLENCE

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh: Bangladesh has detained and forcibly returned 90 Rohingya migrants to Myanmar, police said yesterday, just hours after Myanmarese troops on the other side of the border had opened fire on people fleeing the country. Police intercepted a group of 70 Rohingya late Saturday after they crossed the "zero line" border zone, where Myanmar soldiers earlier fired mortars and machine guns at villagers making the dangerous dash from the northern state of Rakhine into Bangladesh.

The villagers were caught roughly four kilometers inside Bangladeshi territory en route to a refugee camp in Kutupalong, where thousands of Rohingya already live in squalid conditions, said local police chief Abul Khaer. "All 70 were detained and later pushed back to Myanmar by the border guards," Khaer said. Police said some of those detained had entered Bangladesh via the Ghumdhum border area—where the Myanmar forces unleashed the barrage of fire just hours earlier.

"They were pleading with us not to send them back to Myanmar," said one policeman on condition of anonymity. Another 20 Rohingya were caught yesterday and sent back after crossing the Naf river, a natural border between Myanmar and Bangladesh, according to Ariful Islam, a commander with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). Another border officer, Manzurul Hassan Khan, said yesterday that fresh gunfire could be heard in villages across the border in Rakhine, a hotbed of religious hatred focused on the stateless Rohingya Muslim minority.

More than 100 people have died since Friday as scores of men purportedly from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) ambushed Myanmar police posts with knives, guns and homemade explosives, killing at least a dozen security force members. Thousands of Rohingya have fled towards Bangladesh, but authorities there have refused to let most of them in, with an untold number of people—mainly women and children—stranded along the border zone. The impoverished country already hosts some 400,000 Rohingya refugees.

Officials in Cox's Bazar, the district bordering Myanmar that is home to several large refugee camps, have been instructed not to allow any "illegal entry" by Rohingya, Abdur Rahman, a senior government official, said. But Rohingya community leaders, local media and an AFP correspondent said despite heavy border patrols, at least 3,000 Rohingya refugees have managed to enter the country and found refuge in camps and villages since Friday.

JAPAN SEARCHES FOR CREW AFTER NAVY HELICOPTER ACCIDENT

TOKYO: Japan's military and coastguard were searching yesterday for three navy personnel who went missing along with their helicopter in a night-time accident, a navy official said. The Maritime Self-Defense Force lost contact with the SH60J patrol chopper carrying four crew around 10:50 pm Saturday, said the official, with the navy handling the search-and-rescue mission. Rescuers found one of the four men and the helicopter's flight recorder shortly after it went missing in northern waters off Aomori Prefecture, the official said.

"There will be an investigation on what happened," he said. "One of them has been rescued and the flight data recorder has been recovered. Analysis will be done on that," he said. The helicopter was still missing, he said without elaborating. The rescued man was uninjured and the helicopter issued a distress signal immediately after it lost contact, according to national broadcaster NHK. Japan's military and coastguard are using a total of seven vessels and 10 aircraft to look for the missing men, the navy official said.—AFP



ROHTAK: Security forces deployed at main junctions stand guard near a jail where controversial guru Ram Rahim Singh is awaiting sentencing, in Rohtak.—AFP

INDIAN CITY BARRICADED AS RAPE GURU AWAITS SENTENCING

SIRSA, India: Supporters of an Indian guru ended a tense standoff with soldiers yesterday after the "godman" was convicted of rape, but authorities are bracing for more trouble on the eve of his sentencing after rioting by devotees left 36 dead. Thousands of followers of Ram Rahim Singh had congregated in the spiritual headquarters of his sect in the northern state of Haryana over the weekend and refused to leave, despite calls from police and troops for them to disperse. Singh's loyalists had gone on a rampage in many other parts of the state after the court decision Friday.

Yesterday, followers began trickling out from the compound in the town of Sirsa one by one under army guard. Hundreds of soldiers and riot police had blocked approaches to the premises spread over 1,000 acres and were urging those holed up inside to surrender peacefully. A curfew imposed in Sirsa, where soldiers patrolled empty streets, was briefly lifted Sunday morning to allow Singh's followers to leave the headquarters as spiritual anthems blared from megaphones. Indian authorities have been on

high alert since rioting and arson broke out minutes after Singh—who has starred in films and claims to have 50 million followers—was found guilty of raping two of his devotees. Police said at least 36 people were killed as tens of thousands of followers took to the streets, attacking television vans and setting fire to dozens of vehicles.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday it was "natural to be worried" as the violence even briefly reached the capital New Delhi. "Violence is not acceptable in the nation, in any form," Modi said in his monthly radio address. "Those who take law in their hands or take to violence will not be spared, whoever they are." But his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which is also in power in Haryana, has come under heavy fire for failing to prevent the outbreak of violence and allowing the 50-year-old guru to travel in a luxury chopper to jail. Critics say state authorities grossly underestimated the risk posed by the 200,000-strong army of Singh devotees who poured onto the streets vowing to defend their spiritual leader who they consider innocent.—AFP

INDIAN VILLAGERS LYNCH TWO MUSLIMS TRANSPORTING CATTLE

KOLKATA: Villagers in eastern India beat two Muslim cattle truckers to death yesterday, police said, in yet another lynching on the pretext of protecting a beast considered sacred by many Hindus. The drivers were transporting cows in West Bengal near the border of Bangladesh when they were stopped by villagers, police said. "The villagers blocked the road and forced them to stop the vehicle. The two men were then dragged out of the vehicle and lynched. The driver of the vehicle escaped," said senior West Bengal police official Anuj Sharma.

It was too early to say whether the murders were motivated by religion or suspicions the men were mistreating the cows, police added. An investigation is underway into the lynching and into whether the drivers had legally purchased the cattle or were smugglers involved in the illicit beef trade. West Bengal permits cow slaughter, unlike many Indian states where possession or consumption of beef is banned, and some where life sentences are imposed for breaking the law.

India has been reeling this year from a spate of vigilante murders, especially targeting Muslims for allegedly killing cows or consuming beef. There has been a surge in attacks by "cow protection" vigilante groups, who roam highways inspecting livestock trucks for any trace of the animal. In June three Muslims were beaten to death in West Bengal after they were allegedly caught stealing cows. That same month Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned killing in the name of cow protection after a Muslim teenager accused of carrying beef was stabbed to death on a train.

In April a Muslim man was beaten to death by a mob in Rajasthan state after they discovered cows in his truck. The man was a dairy farmer transporting milk cows. The following month two Muslims were beaten to death on suspicion of stealing cows. In both cases, police were accused of failing to act quickly enough to protect the victims. Modi's critics say vigilantes have been emboldened by the election in 2014 of his right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, which promised to completely outlaw cow slaughter across India.—AFP

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Focus

KUNG FU NUNS STRIKE BACK AT RISING SEX ATTACKS ON WOMEN

As dawn breaks, the sun edges over the expansive jagged mountains of Ladakh - a remote Buddhist ex-kingdom in the Indian Himalayas bordering Tibet - to reveal a world where time appears to have stood still. The chant of monks in a centuries-old monastery can be heard in the distance. Villagers slowly emerge from whitewashed stone cottages to tend to their wheat and barley fields, and ready their goats to search for pasture. Complete with its picture-perfect temples precariously perched atop rocky mountain outcrops, giant shrines and mantra-engraved walls, Ladakh's age-old Tibetan Buddhist way of life appears almost untouched by modernity.

Until, that is, you hear the energetic yells of scores of young women, clad in sweatpants and trainers. Fanned out in front of a majestic white temple-like structure, they stretch, lunge, jump, kick and punch on the orders of nuns. Meet the Kung Fu nuns - women from an age-old Buddhist sect who are using their martial arts expertise to challenge gender roles in this conservative culture and teach women self-defence, as reports of rapes rise in India.

Unlike other nuns, their chants and prayers are followed by jabs and thrust kicks. Between meditation sessions, they attend gender equality lessons. Even their traditional maroon robes are periodically swapped for martial arts attire, with black belts. "Most people think nuns just sit and pray, but we do more," said 19-year-old Jigme Wangchuk Lhamo, one of the Kung Fu trainers, as she rested after an intense two-hour session in Hemis village, 40 km (25 miles) from the northern city of Leh. "We walk the talk. If we act, people will think if: 'If nuns can act, why can't we?' Kung Fu will make them stronger and more confident," she said, adding that they decided to teach self-defence after hearing of cases of rape and molestation.

Heroes

Wangchuk is one of around 700 nuns globally who belong to the Drukpa lineage - the only female order in the patriarchal Buddhist monastic system where nuns have equal status to monks. Traditionally, nuns are expected to cook and clean and are not permitted to exercise. But this changed almost a decade ago when the leader of the 1,000-year-old sect, His Holiness The Gyalwang Drukpa, encouraged the nuns to learn Kung Fu.

Inspired by his mother to advocate for gender equality, he also gave the nuns leadership roles and helped them study beyond Buddhist teachings to become electricians and plumbers. The nuns are active in the communities where they live, mainly in Nepal and India, treating sick animals and organizing eye care camps for villagers. They trek and cycle thousands of kilometres through Himalayan mountain passes to raise awareness on issues ranging from pollution to human trafficking.

Following a massive earthquake in April 2015 in Nepal, they refused to leave but trekked to villages to remove rubble, clear pathways and distribute food to survivors. Carrie Lee, president of Live to Love International, a charity which works with the Drukpa nuns to support marginalized Himalayan communities, says they are exceptional role models. "The Kung Fu Nuns are heroes of the Himalayas," she said. "They are fiercely compassionate and brave. Not even earthquakes, avalanches, monsoons and cloudbursts can stand in their way."

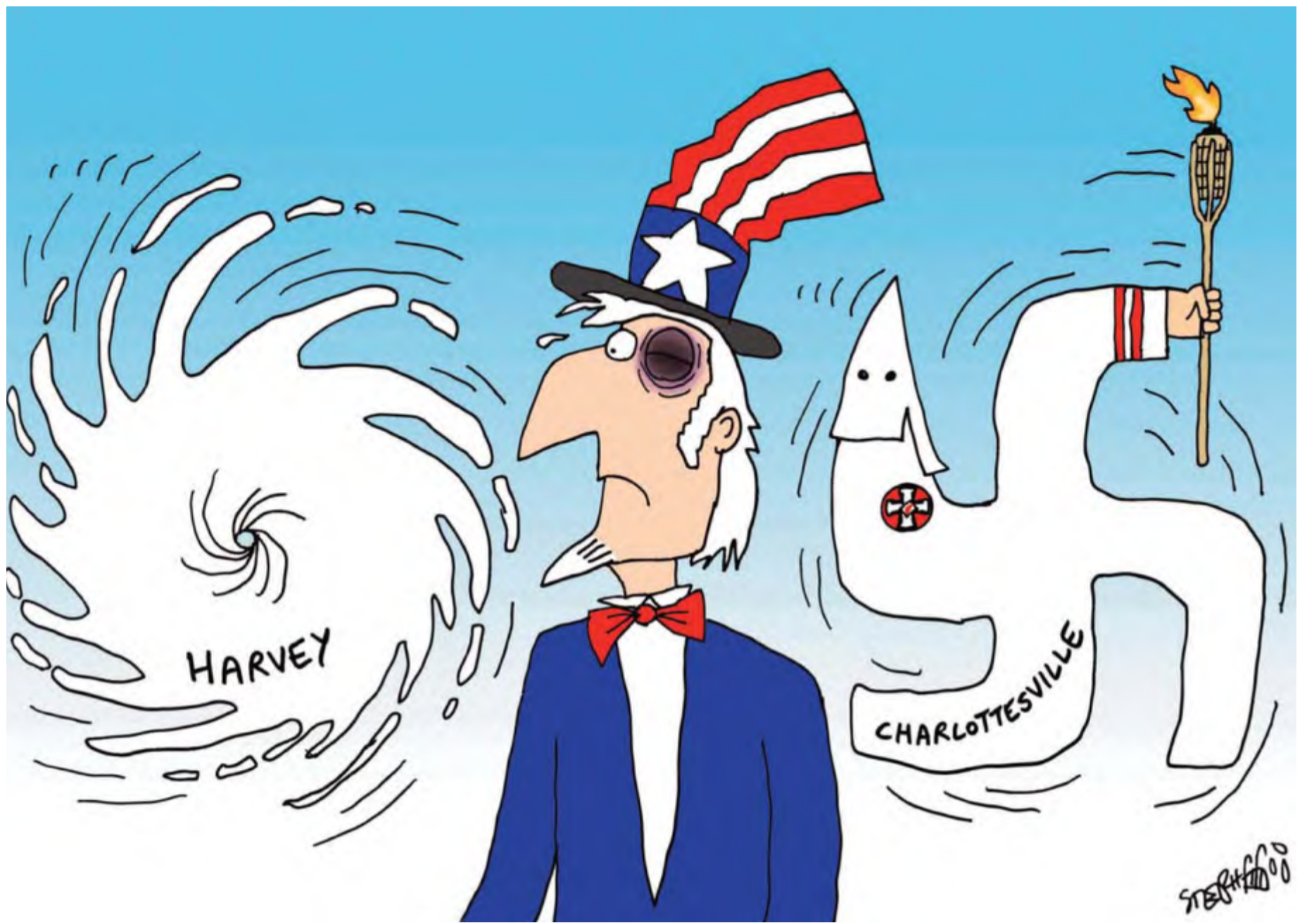
Cat-Calling

Lee isn't far wrong. The nuns are now taking on one of the biggest threats facing women and girls in India today. Rape. Stories feature daily in Indian newspapers and television channels of girls being raped on their way to school, students molested in taxis, and women stalked heading home from work. The National Crime Records Bureau says 34,651 rapes were reported in 2015 - or four rapes every hour - a rise of 43 percent from 2011. There were 82,422 sexual assaults, an 67 percent increase over the same period.

These figures are just the tip of the iceberg, say activists, as many victims are afraid to report cases, scared they will be blamed and shamed by their family and community. A wave of public protests after the fatal gang rape of a woman on a Delhi bus in 2012 jolted many in the world's second most populous country out of apathy, and forced the government to enact stiffer penalties on gender crimes. Since then, a spike in media reports, government campaigns and civil society programs have increased public awareness of women's rights and emboldened victims to register abuses.

But with reports continuing every day, and many women feeling increasingly concerned about their safety, the Drukpa saw an opportunity to help in their own way. "We thought we must share what we know with others," said 28-year-old nun Jigme Yeshe Lhamo at a five-day workshop at Naro Photang - a majestic Buddhist palace-like building belonging to the centuries-old nearby Hemis monastery. Almost 100 women aged between 13 to 28 followed a rigorous 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. schedule during the course in August. — Reuters

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CYCLONES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: CONNECTING DOTS

Scientists freely acknowledge they don't know everything about how global warming affects hurricanes like the one pummeling southeast Texas. But what they do know is enough to keep them up at night. The amplifying impact of sea level rise, warming oceans, and hotter air - all incontrovertible consequences of climate change - is basic physics, they say. Likewise accelerated shifts in intensity, such as the sudden strengthening that turned Harvey from a Category 2 to a Category 4 hurricane - on a scale of 5 - just as it made landfall Friday.

What's missing is a detailed track record of hurricanes past, the kind of decades-long log of measurements that climate scientists need to discern the fingerprint of human influence. Starting in the 1970s, satellite data allowed for a better tally, but even that wasn't enough. "It is awfully difficult to see climate change in historical data so far because hurricanes are fairly rare," Kerry Emmanuel, a professor of atmospheric science at MIT in Boston, told AFP.

Experts, in other words, do not disagree on the potential of manmade global warming to magnify the destructive power of the tropical storms known variously around the world as cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons. Rather, they are confounded - for now - by a lack of information. "Just because the data don't allow for unambiguous detection yet, doesn't mean that the changes haven't been occurring," noted James Kossin, a scientist at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Center for Weather and Climate in Madison, Wisconsin.

Kossin figured out that cyclones have drifted poleward in their respective hemispheres over the last three decades, a finding hailed by other hurricane gurus as the most unambiguous evidence so far that global warming has already had a direct impact.

Like a tsunami

When it comes to cyclones and climate change, there are many points of near "universal agreement," said Emanuel. One is the consequence of rising seas. "The most lethal aspect of hurricanes - wherever they occur in the world - is storm surge," he said in an interview. "It is physically the same phenomenon as a tsunami, except that it is excited by wind rather than a sea floor shaken by an earthquake."

If Hurricane Sandy - which caused \$50 billion in damage - had happened a century earlier, it probably would not have flooded lower Manhattan because sea level was about 30 cm lower, he pointed out. Global warming is likely to add roughly a metre to the global watermark by century's end, according to recently revised estimates. "The surge from these storms will be more devastating - higher and more penetrating," said James Elsner, an atmospheric scientist and hurricane expert at Florida State University.

A second point of consensus is that hurricanes will hold more water, raising the threat of lethal and destructive flooding. "We calculate that one degree Celsius of warming translates into a seven percent increase in humidity in the atmosphere," said French scientist Valerie Masson-Delmotte, co-chair of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The US National Hurricane Center predicts that Harvey could dump more than 100 cm by the time skies clear.

Hurricane Mitch - the second deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record - left some 19,000 dead in Central America, "all from fresh-water flooding," noted Emanuel. "The irony is that hurricanes are known for wind, yet wind is third on the list of lethal aspects," after storm surges and flooding caused by rain.

'Fewer but stronger'

Earlier this year, Emanuel published a study pointing to yet another worrying climate "signal" emerging from the noise of raw data. Scientists have made great progress in anticipating the path a storm will follow, extending their predictive powers from a day or two to about a week. At the same time they have made scant headway in forecasting hurricane strength. "The thing that keeps forecasters up at night is the prospect that a storm will rapidly gain strength just before it hits land," Emanuel said, citing Harvey as an example.

In 2015, Hurricane Patricia in the Pacific Ocean intensified more rapidly - "It just went 'Boom!'" - than any storm on record. "Global warming can accentuate that sudden acceleration in intensity," Emanuel said. A finding oft cited as evidence that the jury is still out on whether climate change will boost cyclones is that scientists don't know if there will be more or fewer such storms in the future. But even if there are fewer, which seems likely, that misses the point, the experts interviewed agreed.

Since 1971, tropical cyclones have claimed about 470,000 lives and caused some \$700 billion in damages globally, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters. But most of that death and destruction is attributable to a relative handful of storms. Just three, for example, have caused well over half of all storm-related deaths in the US since 1900. So even if the number of mostly smaller storms diminishes, that's not what counts. "The idea of 'fewer but stronger' seems to be the fingerprint of climate change on tropical cyclones," Elsner concluded. — AFP

IRAN VP'S NEW CHADOR LOOK DRAWS CRITICISM

Just a couple of weeks into her appointment, the new Iranian vice president's decision to abandon her fashion style for the all-encompassing black chador is raising questions among women in the Islamic Republic - especially after she said President Hassan Rouhani personally asked her to wear the traditional women's garment. Although Laaya Joneidi typically used to wear a hijab - the headscarf that is mandated by law in today's Iran - and a long coat with pants, her switch to the more conservative chador serves as a political statement in and of itself in the Islamic Republic.

And coming after Rouhani failed to nominate any women to serve as ministers in his Cabinet, some are questioning the moderate cleric's campaign promise to bring more women into the government. "Not only could Rouhani not appoint a woman minister, but also he could not appoint a vice president who does not wear the chador either and forced her to wear the chador," tweeted Hamid Mashayekhi Rad, an Islamic seminary student and activist.

The controversy began when a government website posted a photograph of Joneidi, who earned a doctorate from Harvard in comparative law and international commercial arbitration, wearing the long black chador, exposing only her face. Social media exploded with posts referring to her as a "chadori". The controversy only grew after Joneidi, one of two female vice presidents in Rouhani's new government, gave an interview to the reformist daily newspaper Sharq. "Mr Rouhani, because of the protocol of the Cabinet, asked me to wear the chador," she told the newspaper. "I respected his demand."

The criticism then found a target in Rouhani, whose re-election campaign promised women spots in his 18-minister Cabinet. The cleric had no women ministers in his first term, and when he announced appointees for his second term, earlier in August, there were again no women among his picks. The following day, Rouhani named two women as vice presidents, including Joneidi. "Mr Rouhani, based on which law or your protocol

forced Laaya Joneidi to wear the chador?" tweeted Amene Shirafkan, a journalist who works at "Zanan-Emrooz" or "Today's Women" magazine.

The chador controversy underscores the unwritten protocol rules for those in public office and government in Iran - rules that also affect men. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif famously wore a goatee before entering Rouhani's government, but later grew the full beard common for those in power. The chador has a long history in Iranian politics. The sisters of Shah Reza Pahlavi famously tossed theirs away in public in the 1930s, before it was outlawed. In the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women who took to the streets to rally in

support of the clerics embraced the chador. After the revolution installed the clerics in power, the hijab became law.

In theory, women not wearing the chador are to wear baggy clothes and coats as to not accentuate their form. However, in Tehran today, some fashionable young women wear tighter clothes with a scarf loosely covering their head, technically meeting the requirements of the law while drawing the ire of conservatives. Morality police enforce the government-mandated Islamic dress code, while others have protested the requirement on social media.

Women in government find it tougher to resist the demand to wear the chador.

Masoumeh Ebtekar famously gave up her style for a chador when she became a vice president under former President Mohammad Khatami in 1997. In 2000, a lawmaker threatened to beat Elaheh Koulaii, a hijab-wearing lawmaker from Tehran, if she didn't wear a chador. She stood her ground and refused.

Soroush Farhadian, a Tehran-based political analyst who backs reformists, says that not wearing a chador remains a taboo in Iranian politics. By asking Joneidi to wear one, Rouhani was trying to avoid a confrontation with hard-liners, he said. "The taboo was broken by Koulaii in the parliament, but it is not broken at the government level yet," Farhadian said. — AP



Iran's Vice-President for Legal Affairs Laya Joneidi (center) Assistant to President on Citizenship Rights Shahindokht Molaverdi (right) and Justice Minister Alireza Avaei attend a cabinet meeting in Tehran on Aug. 20, 2017. — AP



View of the Atacama Desert in the Huasco region, some 600 km north of Santiago, on Saturday. A gigantic mantle of multicolored flowers covers the Atacama Desert, the driest in the world. In years of very heavy seasonal rains a natural phenomenon known as the Desert in Bloom occurs, making the seeds of some 200 desert plants to germinate suddenly some two months after the precipitations. — AFP

POLICE: CONCRETE SLAB MAY HOLD REMAINS OF US WOMAN

MILTON, Pennsylvania: Investigators hope tests on a three-ton hunk of concrete will soon solve the 1989 disappearance of a young mother, by determining whether her remains were fed through wood chipper and then entombed in the basement of a Pennsylvania duplex. Sunbury Police Chief Tim Miller announced earlier this month that preliminary results showed the concrete contained wood chips, and he's waiting to see if they also hold the remains of Barbara Elizabeth Miller.



Barbara Elizabeth Miller

A forensic pathologist is "dissecting the walls, so to speak, piece by piece, hammer-and-chisel type, looking for the smallest of clues," Miller, no relation to Barbara Miller, said last week. He called it "mere speculation if a wood chipper was or wasn't used. Obviously the presence of wood chips in a concrete wall is highly suspicious." An affidavit used to obtain a search warrant for the Milton home disclosed that investigators believe the woman may have been killed by her ex-boyfriend, a one-time Sunbury policeman named Joseph Walter "Mike" Egan. Egan "is and has been the lead suspect in this case since 1989," the chief wrote in the affidavit.

Egan, a Northumberland resident who trims trees for a living, on Friday flatly denied he had anything to do with Barbara Miller's disappearance. "They're way off base," Egan

said, then promised to have his lawyer provide additional comment later in the day. He declined to name his attorney, and no one called back. The police affidavit said that several people have said that over the years, Egan would talk about driving past his sister's home in Milton to "visit" his "old lady," the same building where police seized the massive chunk of cement currently being examined.

Egan, 69, who in 1988 was paroled after serving six years in state prison for receiving stolen property and other offenses, a crime he committed as a police officer, reported her missing five days after she disappeared, then moved into her home. The affidavit says Barbara Miller, then 30 years old, had complained to police in the months before she disappeared about Egan, and days before she vanished, told friends she feared for her life.

Her teenage son, Eddie Miller Jr, said she and Egan had a fight on June 30, 1989, the night she disappeared, over her plans to attend a friend's wedding without him. Eddie Miller also recalled that the morning after the wedding, Egan was driving his mother's car, and the tires were covered with yellow clay that he thought was related to concrete work. "Let me tell you something," Egan said Friday before ending the brief interview. "It was my car, not her car."

People's attention

Seventeen years later, a judge declared Barbara Miller dead, but in recent years the Sunbury Daily Item began looking at the case again, and encouraged Tim Miller to investigate after he became police chief last year. "This is most action this case has ever seen, and you can't ask for more than that," said Daily Item reporter Francis Scarcella. "There's no miracle, but we've got the attention of people now."

Tim Miller said an informant told him in May that Egan's sister, Cathy Reitenbach, who in 1989 rented from a judge the Milton home where the concrete slab has been recovered, told the informant in about 1990 that Reitenbach had been one of the last people to see Barbara Miller alive. Reitenbach died in January.

The chief found a 2009 report in department files that Barbara Miller's remains were in the Milton home, but apparently the tip was not pursued. He also located a 2004 report "that Egan put a body inside the wall of a home," and three people who have said Egan would "get high on cocaine and drive by a home in Milton to check on his old lady," Tim Miller wrote in the affidavit.

The Milton home's current owners let investigators into the basement, where they found "highly suspicious construction," including a concrete floor that was added on, with portions of what appeared to be hand-mixed concrete. A small room in the basement, Tim Miller wrote, "was very peculiar," with thick concrete walls and an exhaust fan. Another informant, the chief said in the affidavit, told him that Reitenbach's close friend, Harry Catherman, once told someone that if they did not pay a drug debt, they would "end up just like Barbara Miller did in Cathy's basement." Catherman hung up when contacted for comment.

In early June, police brought in more than a half-dozen cadaver-smelling dogs, and they all separately alerted that human remains may be present in the basement or in material taken from the basement. During a subsequent weeklong dig, police hauled the massive rectangular chunk of cement from the basement, leading to last week's announcement that it contains wood chips.

Barbara Miller's former home in Sunbury was also searched, and investigators are keeping quiet about what they found in a metal barrel recovered during an Aug 10 search of a nearby pond. — AP



MILTON, Pennsylvania: In this 2017 photo, police officers look over a slab of concrete pulled out of the basement of a home. — AP

AMIR'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS, MEDIATION...

Continued from Page 1

stalemate that has seen violence spill into Sanaa. "We are doing our best to create the conditions for the present stalemate to be overcome," Guterres said after talks in Kuwait. His comments come after tension between Yemeni ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh and his ally Abdul Malik Al-Houthi, who control the capital Sanaa, escalated into armed clashes that left two rebels and a pro-Saleh colonel dead late Saturday.

Since 2014, the Saleh-Houthi alliance has fought the UN-recognized government of Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi for control of the impoverished country. Witnesses in the capital said the ex-president's forces had spread in southern parts of the city near the presidential offices, which Saleh still holds despite resigning in 2012. A Saudi-led coalition supporting the Hadi government imposed an air and sea blockade on all rebel-held territory in March 2015 and tightened it in August last year saying it was the only way to stop weapons smuggling.

Guterres said the UN was trying to facilitate the reopening of the country's main international airport in Sanaa as well as the Hodeida port, a key entry point for

aid also in rebel-held territory. "We will be working very closely with the (parties) to see when and how a new strong initiative will be possible," he told a news conference. Guterres said both places needed to be operated fully, saying Yemeni people were "suffering in such a terrible way". More than 8,400 civilians have been killed and 47,800 wounded since the Arab coalition joined the war in 2015, according to the World Health Organization. Another 2,000 people have died of cholera in a deadly outbreak that has spread across Yemen since April. Long the poorest country in the Arab world, millions of Yemenis now stand at the brink of famine, according to the United Nations.

Guterres also said the UN faces "no pressure" from the Saudi-led coalition over a draft UN report on child deaths in Yemen, amid rising concern over civilian casualties from the alliance's air raids. "We are not facing any pressure and we consider that no pressure would lead to anything, but we are not having any pressure," he said. "There is a technical work being conducted, and in the end, that will be presented to me and I will take the decision according to what I will feel is the right thing to do." — Agencies

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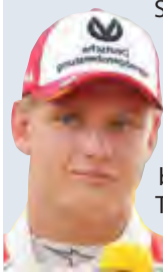
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SCHUMACHER'S SON MARKS 'VERSARY WITH EMOTIONAL LAP

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Michael Schumacher's teenage son Mick marked the 25th anniversary of his father's first Formula One victory with an emotional lap of the Spa-Francorchamps circuit yesterday. Just hours ahead of the Belgian Grand Prix, the 18-year-old, who is this season competing in the European Formula Three series, drove the Benetton B194 car which carried the seven-time champion to glory in 1994. The 1992 car, in which Schumacher won his maiden race, was not available for him to use, but the 1994 car was the one in which Michael claimed his first drivers' championship two years later. "It was great, it was a pleasure for me," said Schumacher, representing his family and his father who suffered serious head injuries in a ski accident in the French Alps in December 2013. "For me to be able to do this, to drive this is emotional, fun and amazing. There is a lot of history with it and I was really happy that I was able to drive it. —AFP



SEA GAMES

THAIS TAKE DIG AT MALAYSIA OVER MEDALS

KUALA LUMPUR: Thailand took aim at table-topping Malaysia for stacking the sports programme in their favour as they conceded defeat in the Southeast Asian Games medals race.

Thailand dominated the last edition of the 11-nation competition in 2015, when they claimed 95 gold medals to finish clear of hosts Singapore on 84.

But with the Games closing on Wednesday, Thailand are fourth on the current table with 44 gold medals, well behind home country Malaysia on 83.

"We have missed several gold medals and our situation does not look good," said Thailand's delegation chief Thana Chaiprasit, according to the Bangkok Post.

"I think we will get around 80 gold medals which would be about 20 percent

below our target of 109 golds."

One distinctive feature of the Games, which started as the South East Asian Peninsula Games in 1959, is the policy of revamping the sporting programme each time. It means host nations traditionally do well, finishing top of the medals table in six of the last 10 SEA Games, which take place every two years.

But Thana complained that Malaysia's decision to drop women's boxing, and include sports such as squash and figure skating, had hit Thailand hard.

"They organise sports they are good at and do not organise sports other countries are good at," he said.

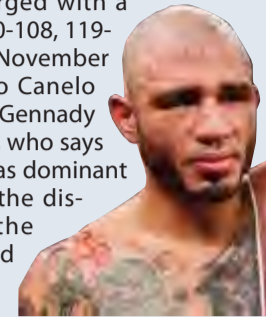
"When we return home, we have to look at our mistakes and solve problems seriously," added Thana. —AFP

CHINA STILL TOP, SAYS MALAYSIAN DIVING CHAMP

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian diving queen Cheong Jun Hoong dismissed her historic world title as "luck" yesterday as she braved a back injury to claim Southeast Asian Games gold. Cheong, who upset Chinese opposition to win Malaysia's first diving world title in July, scored 268.55 points for victory yesterday in the 1m springboard category in Kuala Lumpur. The 27-year-old, competing on painkillers and restricted to only one event because of her back problem, beat team-mate Jasmine Lai by 35.55 points. Cheong teamed with Pandeleda Rinong to win Olympic silver in the 10m platform synchronised last year, before stunning China's Si Yajie and Ren Qian to secure the 10m individual world title in Budapest. She is at the forefront of an impressive Malaysia team who are attempting to sweep all 13 SEA Games diving golds and could threaten China at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. —AFP

COTTO PUNISHES KAMEGAI TO WIN SIXTH WORLD TITLE

LOS ANGELES: Puerto Rican great Miguel Cotto battered back the determined challenge of Japan's Yoshihiro Kamegai on Saturday to claim the vacant World Boxing organization junior middleweight world title. In an action-packed bout in an outdoor ring at the StubHub Center in suburban Los Angeles, Cotto emerged with a unanimous decision, winning it by scores of 120-108, 119-109, and 118-110. Cotto hadn't fought since November 2015, when he lost the middleweight title to Canelo Alvarez, who later vacated the title to take on Gennady Golovkin on September 16. But the 36-year-old, who says he'll retire after one more fight in December, was dominant as he improved to 45-1 with 33 wins inside the distance. Kamegai came right at Cotto from the opening bell, backing him into the ropes and sneaking in rights. —AFP



SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Winner Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates on the podium after the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Spa yesterday. — AFP

MOTOR RACING

HAMILTON WINS BELGIAN GP TO TRIM VETTEL'S LEAD TO 7 PTS

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Lewis Hamilton celebrated his record-equaling 68th pole position with victory at the Belgian Grand Prix yesterday, trimming championship leader Sebastian Vettel's lead to seven points. Hamilton clinched his fifth win of the season and 58th overall, having equaled Michael Schumacher's pole record.

Vettel finished second, about 2 seconds behind Hamilton. "Sebastian was very, very close. He was very consistent throughout," said Hamilton, after his 200th GP. "That's what racing's about." Hamilton was in good form all weekend, topping every part of qualifying. "Really brilliant," Mercedes head of motorsport Toto Wolff said. "Hamilton's drive was really fantastic." Although it was a comfortable win for the British driver, it got a bit tense toward the end. "I was waiting for Lewis to make a mistake and he didn't," Vettel said. With about 10 laps left, Vettel almost overtook his challenger as they emerged from behind the safety car.

Vettel got his Ferrari alongside Hamilton on a long straight, but Hamilton edged his Mercedes into the corner just in time. "I'm not entirely happy," said Vettel, adding that he got his approach slightly wrong. Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo was third - for his sixth podium of the season - finishing ahead of Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen, with Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas fifth.

Ricciardo showed great race intelligence and opportunism to pass Bottas after the safety car incident. After 12 races, four-time F1 champion Vettel has 220 points to three-time champion Hamilton's 213 heading into next weekend's Italian GP in Monza. "The positive thing is that we had really good race pace," Vettel said. "I'm looking forward to next week." The Spa track, nestled in the Ardennes forest, is the longest in F1 at 7.1 kilometers (4.3 miles) and the race is often full of incident, especially when it rains. It stayed dry, but there was one heated clash between Force India drivers Sergio Perez and Esteban Ocon, prompting the safety car to come out after they made contact with each other on lap 8, sending debris onto the track.

FAILED TO FINISH THE RACE

Their tense relationship is degrading fast. Earlier, they touched wheels as Ocon moved on the outside, with Perez responding by squeezing the Frenchman against the barrier. Hamilton made a good start to the race on the long climb up to Eau Rouge, with Vettel on his tail. But Max Verstappen's hopes of a first win this season ended on lap 8 when his Red Bull lost power. "I can't believe this," Verstappen said. His exasperation was understandable - it is the sixth time this season he has failed to finish the race, and some 80,000 Dutch fans had crossed the border to cheer him on.

The 19-year-old Verstappen secured a podium with third place in China but has been hit with reliability issues since. Two-time F1 champion Fernando Alonso lacked pace in his car and retired on lap 27 - the latest setback as McLaren continues to struggle with Honda engines. The Spanish driver has completed only three races so far. Halfway through the 44-lap race, Hamilton led Vettel by 1.3 seconds, with Bottas seven back. Behind the leaders, the Ocon-Perez rift deepened. After bumping on the track at the Azerbaijan GP in June, they did it again, with Ocon's front wing flying away and a tire dropping off Perez's car.

This prompted a furious, expletive-laced outburst from Ocon, who was already unhappy that his team had pitted Perez for new tires ahead of him. After both cars pitted for repairs, Ocon finished ninth but Perez had to retire just before the end.

The safety car stayed out for four laps, which was too long for Hamilton's liking, and he used an expletive of his own to complain. "There was

hardly any debris about," Hamilton said afterward. "They did a good job cleaning the track."

Drivers worry that their tires lose heat if they stay behind the car too long. "I just couldn't keep

the temperatures and (Vettel) was on a quicker tire," Hamilton said. But Vettel failed to capitalize. "Maybe that was the problem, my restart was too good," Vettel said. "I was too close." — AP

EIGHT WOMEN EYE TOP SPOT AT UP-FOR-GRABS US OPEN

NEW YORK: Serena Williams is about to have a baby and Victoria Azarenka will stay home with her infant son as she battles for custody-leaving the US Open women's field in total suspense over who might win.

Eight players have a chance to leave the year's last Grand Slam with the world number one ranking, making the Flushing Meadows fortnight that starts today a tennis thriller, even without two of the sport's top stars. Williams, who won her 23rd Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, announced in April she was pregnant and would miss the rest of the year. "Serena is always the favorite when she plays and she's at a level on her own when she's playing her best tennis," Denmark's fifth-ranked Caroline Wozniacki said.

"But we're here and I think everyone has a shot if they play their best. It's all about playing well for two weeks." Two-time Australian Open winner Azarenka revealed she is battling with her son's father for custody, and the child thus cannot leave California, so she opted to stay. Former world number one Maria Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam champion, will play as a wildcard in her first major tournament since a 15-month doping ban after testing positive for meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open. And while the Russian's return has been hit by forearm and thigh injuries, she remains a threat.

Just ask Romania's second-ranked Simona Halep, who faces her in the first round having lost all six of their prior meetings. Czech world number one Karolina Pliskova, Halep, Wozniacki, Wimbledon champion and world number three Garbine Muguruza, Ukraine's fourth-ranked Elina Svitolina, Britain's Johanna Konta and Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova all have a chance to become world number one at the US Open. Evergreen Venus Williams, the 37-year-old American who has won seven Grand Slam titles and was runner-up this year at Wimbledon and the Australian Open, is ranked ninth but also could become number

one again-by winning the title.

Defending champion and sixth-ranked Angelique Kerber of Germany can't finish the week atop the rankings but she could hoist the crown again as the only past winner from the past decade in the field. Muguruza has made herself an oddsmaker's darling after taking last year's French Open, last month's Wimbledon crown and last week's Cincinnati title. But she hasn't gone past the second round in four tries at New York. She said in the past, she struggled to find her rhythm at Flushing Meadows. "I want to change that. I want to find the recipe maybe this year, maybe that I have a little bit more confidence," she said. Pliskova has taken titles at Brisbane, Doha and Eastbourne this year but has never won a Grand Slam. She reached her only Slam final last year at New York. "The energy of the city is huge. Obviously love to be coming back there, especially after the fantastic last year," she said.

'MY FIGHTING SPIRIT IS BACK'

An early Cincinnati exit sent Kerber tumbling down the rankings race, but the 2016 US and Australian Open champion is feeling the same drive she did a year ago.

"I'm thinking that my fighting spirit is back and I'm feeling that it's getting better and better," Kerber said. Halep has lost three matches this year when playing for the world number one ranking. But that didn't dim her hopes of claiming a first Slam title at the US Open.

"I will go to New York with the confidence up," Halep said. "I played (a) really good few months. So I don't have negatives to take." Svitolina, the youngest in the favored pack at 22, has won titles this year at Toronto, Rome, Dubai, Istanbul and Taipei, and matched her best Grand Slam showing with a French Open quarter-final run. Wozniacki, the 2014 US Open runner-up and three times a semi-finalist, has lost six finals this year since taking her last title in Hong Kong last year. —AFP



NEW HAVEN: Daria Gavrilova, of Australia, holds the trophy after her 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Dominika Cibulkova, of Slovakia, in the final of the Connecticut Open tennis tournament in New Haven, Conn., Saturday. — AP

TENNIS

NADAL, FEDERER, SHARAPOVA TAKE SPOTLIGHT AT US OPEN

NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer will try to add another Grand Slam success in their age-defying seasons while Maria Sharapova takes her comeback to the highest stage when the US Open begins today.

World number one Nadal, back on top after more than three years, captured his 10th French Open in June for his 15th Grand Slam title while third-ranked Federer took the Australian Open and Wimbledon crowns, raising his record Slam total to 19.

"It's something that probably you and we don't expect to have that much success, but here we are," Nadal said. "And we worked well. We worked with passion and we played well. So let's see how we finish season."

Nadal, 31, and Federer, 36, have never faced each other on the New York hardcourts but could meet in the semi-finals. "That would be fun for everybody involved," Federer said. "There's like 60-plus players in between us that don't agree we should make it to the semis. We have our work cut out there. I don't think we're both thinking that far ahead."

Federer opens against US teen Frances Tiafoe tomorrow, the same day Nadal meets Serbian Dusan Lajovic in his first-round match. "Ten victories to have that match. A lot of points and games to play," Nadal said of a possible semi-final with Federer. "Now is not the moment to think about that. For me, I think about Lajovic. That's my goal."

Nadal could face Bulgarian seventh seed Grigor Dimitrov, coming off his biggest career title two weeks ago at Cincinnati, in the quarter-finals while Federer's last-eight opponent could be Austrian sixth seed Dominic Thiem. Until this year's revival, Federer had not won a Grand Slam title since Wimbledon in 2012. Nadal's most recent major crown was at Roland Garros in 2014. "You could foresee maybe Rafa and me would be back in some shape or form but maybe not quite like this," Federer said. "I think we're all a bit surprised, all the players, all the media, all the experts and fans. "It has been a great year and I hope we can

keep playing like this."

SHARAPOVA'S GREAT MEMORIES

For Sharapova, the Broadway stage shines a spotlight on her comeback and controversy. She served a 15-month ban after testing positive for the blood boosting drug meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open.

Her comeback began in April at Stuttgart, although many rivals were unhappy she was given wildcards into events. The French Open denied her a wildcard and she missed Wimbledon with a thigh injury. Sharapova played only one US Open tuneup match before a forearm injury sidelined her, but she has practiced on the courts and taken inspiration from past success, notably a 2006 US Open title.

"Overall I think the inspiration is being here, really," Sharapova said in a video on the US Open website. "So many great memories of the tournament, being a champion, coming back to it." The 30-year-old Russian has missed three of the past four US Opens, reaching the fourth round in 2014 in her most recent appearance.

Sharapova faces a difficult test Monday in the night feature match at Arthur Ashe Stadium against world number two Simona Halep of Romania. But Sharapova is 6-0 lifetime against Halep, 10-0 in US Open first-round matches and has won 22 Grand Slam first-round matches in a row since the 2010 Australian Open.

"It's going to be a big challenge, first round of a Grand Slam, to face her," Halep said. "She beat me six times. Maybe I will change this. I just want to do my best to try to win and of course to enjoy it. It's a big match." On the men's side, Germany's fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev faces Darian King of Barbados in his Grand Slam main draw debut while Croatian fifth seed Marin Cilic meets American Tennys Sandgren.

US 10th seed John Isner, the top-ranked player in his quarter of the draw thanks to a reshuffling when Britain's Andy Murray withdrew due to a hip injury, opens against France's Pierre-Hugues Herbert. — AFP



NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal of Spain returns a shot while practicing prior to the start of the 2017 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Saturday in the Queens borough of New York City. — AFP



BOSTON: Boston Red Sox's Mitch Moreland runs on a single in front of Baltimore Orioles' Caleb Joseph during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Boston, Saturday. —AP

BASEBALL

GAUSMAN SHARP IN ORIOLES' WIN OVER RED SOX

BOSTON: Kevin Gausman pitched four-hit ball into the eighth inning and Tim Beckham hit a three-run homer as the Baltimore Orioles routed the Boston Red Sox for the second straight day, 7-0 on Saturday. It was the third straight win for the Orioles, who pounded Boston 16-3 a night earlier. Jonathan Schoop added a solo homer and posted his 95th RBI, a club record for second basemen, surpassing Roberto Alomar's 94 in 1996. The AL East-leading Red Sox dropped their third straight and saw their lead sliced to 3 1/2 games over the second-place New York Yankees. Gausman (10-9) struck out five and walked three. He gave up four singles in 7 2/3 innings. Eduardo Rodriguez (4-4) allowed five runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings, striking out seven.

YANKEES 6, MARINERS 3

Greg Bird reached base three times in his long-awaited return to the Yankees' lineup and Jacoby Ellsbury homered and drove in four runs, leading Sonny Gray and New York over Seattle. Bird singled, walked twice and scored in his first game since May 1. He has been hobbled by ankle and foot problems. Ellsbury hit a three-run homer and an RBI single. He connected off Yovani Gallardo (5-10) in a matchup of playoff contenders. Gray (8-8) struck out nine in seven innings and allowed one run on three hits, including a homer by Carlos Ruiz. It was the 11th straight start Gray hasn't permitted more than two earned runs, the best string by anyone in the majors this year. Five of those games have come since he was traded from Oakland to the Yankees on July 31. Dellin Betances worked the ninth for his 10th save.

BLUE JAYS 10, TWINS 9

Josh Donaldson had three hits, including a two-run homer, Kendrys Morales added a solo shot and Toronto withstood a late rally by Minnesota. Max Kepler hit a grand slam and Eduardo Escobar had a two-run drive for the Twins, who began the day with a slim lead in a crowded race for the second AL wild card. Minnesota lost for the 11th time in 13 meetings with the Blue Jays. Donaldson keyed a six-run fifth inning with his 23rd homer as the Blue Jays opened an 8-2 lead. After Kepler cut it to 8-7 with his slam off

Ryan Tepera in the eighth, Donaldson's RBI double off John Curtiss in the bottom half gave Toronto a two-run cushion. Donaldson later scored on a wild pitch to make it 10-7. The 2015 AL MVP, Donaldson owns a .376 (50 for 133) career batting average in 35 games against Minnesota, with 15 doubles and 14 home runs. Marco Estrada (6-8) allowed three runs in six innings to win for the second time in 16 starts since May 27. Roberto Osuna earned his 34th save in 42 chances. Dillon Gee (1-1) took the loss in his second start with the Twins.

NATIONALS 8, METS 4

Adrian Sanchez drove in three runs, including an RBI single moments after he took a pitch to the chest while trying to bunt, and made a diving play to help Washington beat New York. With second baseman Daniel Murphy getting some rest before a pinch-hitting appearance, Sanchez filled in well with a two-run single during a big first inning and ranged to his left to help pick up Gio Gonzalez (13-5) in the seventh. More remarkably, after taking a 96 mph sinker in the chest from Mets reliever Jeurys Familia that was called a foul ball, the rookie from Venezuela laced an RBI single to give the Nationals a valuable insurance run. Mets rookie Robert Gsellman (5-6) allowed six runs (two earned) and nine hits in four innings. He was sent to the minors after the game.

ATHLETICS 8, RANGERS 3

Chad Pinder homered twice to help Oakland top Texas, ending Cole Hamels' five-game win streak. Jed Lowrie drove in three runs for the A's, who put back-to-back victories together for the first time since Aug. 5-6 at the Los Angeles Angels. Adrian Beltre had three RBIs for the Rangers, who lost their second straight after winning 11 of 15. Sean Manaea (9-8) won for the first time since July 16, ending his three-game slide. He gave up two runs in five innings. Hamels (9-1) left a game trailing for the first time all season. He was nicked for six runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings, matching his shortest outing of the year.

PIRATES 1, REDS 0

Gerrit Cole ended his career-long futility

against Cincinnati by hitting a solo homer and pitching seven innings for Pittsburgh. Cole (11-8) was 0-6 against the Reds in nine starts, including a loss earlier this season. He broke through by holding down a lineup that had scored nine runs the previous night. Cole gave up five hits, didn't walk a batter and fanned six. He also connected for his first homer of the season and the third of his career off Luis Castillo (2-7) in the sixth, getting around on a 95 mph inside fastball. It was Cole's first homer since May 26, 2016, against Arizona at PNC Park. Cole is 8-0 in his last nine road starts. The last Pirates pitcher to win eight straight road decisions was Don Robinson in 1982. Juan Nicasio and Felipe Rivero completed the five-hitter, with the left-hander getting his 15th save in 16 chances. The Pirates won for only the third time in 13 games against their Ohio River rivals this season.

BREWERS 3, DODGERS 0

Zach Davies pitched seven dominant innings for his second scoreless start against Los Angeles this season, and Orlando Arcia hit a two-run homer for Milwaukee. Davies (15-7) also held the major league-leading Dodgers (91-37) without a run over six innings in a June 4 win at Milwaukee. Los Angeles went with a bullpen game, using six relievers. All were effective but Josh Ravin (0-1), who gave up a leadoff single to Manny Pina in the fifth and then Arcia's 13th home run. Davies allowed only three hits. He did not walk a batter and struck out seven. Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 28th save.

DIAMONDBACKS 2, GIANTS 1

A.J. Pollock and J.D. Martinez homered off San Francisco ace Madison Bumgarner, and that was enough for Arizona. Bumgarner (3-6) allowed five hits in seven innings against the Diamondbacks, who have won four of five and lead the NL wild-card standings. Taijuan Walker (7-7) was just as good, yielding one run and four hits in 6 1/3 innings. He retired his first 11 batters before Jarrett Parker homered in the fourth. Three relievers combined to hold the Giants to one hit in 2 2/3 innings. Fernando Rodney worked a perfect ninth for his 32nd save in 37 opportunities.

CARDINALS 6, RAYS 4

Tommy Pham hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning and St. Louis rallied to beat Tampa Bay. It was Pham's first career walk-off homer and the fourth this season for the Cardinals. Matt Carpenter beat out an infield single before Pham hit a 2-2 pitch from Brad Boxberger (3-4) for his 17th homer of the season. The Cardinals tied it at 4 in the eighth with two runs off the Rays' bullpen. Yadier Molina's two out, run-scoring single off Tommy Hunter scored Pham, and singles by Jedd Gorko and Stephen Piscotty loaded the bases. Boxberger gave up an RBI single to Kolten Wong. Tyler Lyons (2-0) pitched the ninth to earn the win. Lucas Duda, Corey Dickerson and Adeiny Hechavarria homered for Tampa Bay.

INDIANS 4, ROYALS 0

Mike Clevinger pitched six sharp innings and rookie Bradley Zimmer made a sensational catch in center field before ending Jason Hammel's bid for a perfect game, lead-

ing Cleveland over Kansas City. Roberto Perez hit a two-run homer off Hammel (6-10), and Edwin Encarnacion and Carlos Santana also connected as the defending AL champions moved a season-high 16 games over .500 at 72-56. The Royals fell eight games back in the AL Central and were shut out for the second straight night. They have not scored in 25 innings. Clevinger (7-5) struck out a career-high nine and matched Hammel pitch for pitch before giving way to Cleveland's bullpen. Hammel was perfect for 5 1/3 innings before Zimmer singled.

CUBS 17, PHILLIES 2

Anthony Rizzo and Tommy La Stella homered twice, Kyle Hendricks pitched seven strong innings and Chicago easily overcame another home run from Philadelphia rookie Rhys Hoskins. Kris Bryant and Ben Zobrist also went deep for the NL Central-leading Cubs, who tied their season high for homers and hits (17) while setting new marks for runs and margin of victory. Rizzo had five RBIs and La Stella added four. Hendricks (5-4) earned his first victory since May 24, limiting the Phillies to two runs and six hits with eight strikeouts and no walks. He also had a single and a two-run double in Chicago's seven-run seventh. Hoskins has 10 home runs in his first 17 games, the fastest a player has reached double digits in major league history. Ben Lively (1-5) gave up six runs and five hits, including four homers, with eight strikeouts in five innings.

ANGELS 7, ASTROS 6

Andrelton Simmons hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and Los Angeles rallied late from five runs down to beat Houston. Kole Calhoun singled home Mike Trout with two outs in the eighth to make it 6-4. Simmons then slipped and finished his swing on one knee but still drove a slider from Tyler Clippard (2-8) over the left-field fence, sending Angel Stadium fans into a frenzy. Los Angeles snapped a three-game skid. The Angels and Seattle Mariners are a half-game behind Minnesota in a packed race for the second AL wild card. Blake Wood (2-4) worked a hitless inning and Blake Parker got three outs for his second save. Jake Marisnick and George Springer homered to back Brad Peacock's six strong innings as the AL West-leading Astros raced out to a 6-1 lead. Calhoun hit a solo homer in the second. Los Angeles pushed across two runs in the seventh to make it 6-3.

MARLINS 2, PADRES 1, 11 INNINGS

Miguel Rojas hit a one-out sacrifice fly in the 11th inning, and Miami won for the 12th time in 15 games by beating San Diego. The

Padres kept Giancarlo Stanton stuck on 49 homers. He singled twice and struck out twice in four at-bats. Derek Dietrich led off the 11th with a double against Jose Torres (7-4). Dietrich advanced on a sacrifice bunt, and with the Padres deploying five infielders, Rojas hit a drive that forced right fielder Jabari Blash to retreat to make the catch, allowing Dietrich to score easily. Miami slugger Marcell Ozuna hit his 31st homer off the Marlins Park home run sculpture. Ichiro Suzuki singled for his 22nd pinch hit of the season, breaking the Marlins record set by Ross Gload in 2009. Five Marlins pitchers combined to allow only six hits. Junichi Tazawa (3-3) pitched around a leadoff single in the 10th. Cory Spangenberg stole home on the front end of a double steal for the Padres, who were mathematically eliminated from the race for the NL West title with 33 games left.

ROCKIES 7, BRAVES 6

Charlie Blackmon hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the ninth inning off Arodys Vizcaino, and Colorado held on to beat Atlanta. DJ LeMahieu added two solo homers and Trevor Story had a two-run double as the Rockies improved to 6-12 since Aug. 6. Colorado began the day with a 3 1/2-game lead for the second NL wild card, but had lost 24 of 31 on the road. Vizcaino (3-3), who had a 1.42 ERA in his last 41 games, was not in a save situation, but the Atlanta closer allowed three runs and three hits without recording an out. He was pulled after LeMahieu's sixth homer made it 7-4. Pat Neshek (4-3) pitched a perfect eighth to get the win. Jake McGee got a game-ending double play for his second save.

TIGERS 6, WHITE SOX 3

Justin Upton and Miguel Cabrera hit back-to-back homers in Detroit's three-run third inning, sparking the Tigers to a rainy win against Chicago. Cabrera finished with three hits as Detroit won for just the fifth time in 20 games. Buck Farmer (3-1) pitched into the sixth inning after he was recalled from Triple-A Toledo for his first major league start since June 18. Shane Greene got five outs for his fifth save. With two outs and a runner on second, Upton connected against Carlos Rodon for his 28th homer. Cabrera followed with a drive to right that just cleared the glove of a leaping Avisail Garcia, giving the Tigers a 3-2 lead. It was Cabrera's first home run since July 28 against Houston and No. 14 on the year. Yolmer Sanchez hit a two-run drive for the White Sox, who had won three straight and six of nine. Rodon (2-5) was charged with five runs and seven hits in five innings, his worst start in a month. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

Milwaukee 3, LA Dodgers 0; Arizona 2, San Francisco 1; Cleveland 4, Kansas City 0; St. Louis 6, Tampa Bay 4; Colorado 7, Atlanta 6; Detroit 6, Chicago White Sox 3; Miami 2, San Diego 1 (11 innings); Chicago Cubs 17, Philadelphia 2; Pittsburgh 1, Cincinnati 0; Baltimore 7, Boston 0; Washington 9, NY Mets 4; Oakland 8, Texas 3; Toronto 10, Minnesota 9; NY Yankees 6, Seattle 3.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB	
Boston	73	56	.566	-	Washington	77	50	.606	-
NY Yankees	69	59	.539	3.5	Miami	65	63	.508	12.5
Baltimore	64	65	.496	9	Atlanta	57	70	.449	20
Tampa Bay	64	67	.489	10	NY Mets	56	72	.438	21.5
Toronto	61	68	.473	12	Philadelphia	47	81	.367	30.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	72	56	.563	-	Chicago Cubs	69	59	.539	-
Minnesota	66	63	.512	6.5	Milwaukee	67	63	.515	3
Kansas City	64	64	.500	8	St. Louis	65	64	.504	4.5
Detroit	56	72	.438	16	Pittsburgh	62	68	.477	8
Chicago White Sox	51	77	.398	21	Cincinnati	55	75	.423	15
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	78	51	.605	-	LA Dodgers	91	37	.711	-
Seattle	66	64	.508	12.5	Arizona	72	58	.554	20
LA Angels	66	64	.508	12.5	Colorado	70	59	.543	21.5
Texas	64	65	.496	14	San Diego	57	72	.442	34.5
Oakland	57	72	.442	21	San Francisco	52	79	.397	40.5

JAPAN'S OKUHARA WINS HISTORIC WORLD TITLE

GLASGOW: Nozomi Okuhara became the first Japanese player to win a world badminton singles title with a magnificent deciding-game win over India's Pusarla V Sindhu in Glasgow yesterday. In the longest match of the World Championships, the 22-year-old won 21-19, 20-22, 22-20 in 110

minutes. Earlier, Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan became the first gold medal winners at the World Badminton Championships in Glasgow yesterday. In the women's doubles final, the Chinese number four seeds beat Japan's Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota 21-18, 17-21, 21-15. — AFP

DEMBELE ARRIVES WITH POTENTIAL TO STEP INTO NEYMAR'S SHOES

MADRID: Only two years ago, Ousmane Dembele was playing in France's lower divisions with modest club Rennes. On Friday, he became the second-most expensive player in soccer history when Barcelona picked him to replace Neymar in a deal that could reach 147 million euros (\$173 million).

The talented 20-year-old French forward suddenly turned into a star by joining the Spanish powerhouse in a transfer surpassed only by the Brazilian star's recent move to Paris Saint-Germain. Now the pressure is on Dembele to prove his worth and show that Barcelona did the right thing by choosing him to play alongside Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.

Barcelona is hoping to re-establish its successful attacking trio, so it's probably no coincidence that there is a lot of Neymar in the young Dembele - from the quickness to the nifty skills to the audacity to the ability to dazzle.

Barcelona is already calling him the "prince of the dribble," someone who can amaze fans with his "sublime skill and gutsy flair." The club boasted Dembele as one of the "most promising young stars in European football," a player who has a "golden future." And it praised him as being "versatile, spectacular and efficient," someone "almost impossible" to be stopped by the rival defenses.

"He is a player who generates a lot of

excitement and a lot of expectations," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "We expect a lot from him." Dembele has already shown signs that he has the potential to shine and one day reach the same heights of someone like Neymar.

He scored the winner when France defeated England 3-2 in a friendly back in June, in what was his seventh appearance with the French national team. One dazzling moment in that game gave fans a glimpse of Dembele's talent. Early in the second half, he picked up a loose ball on defense and flicked it past England defender Kyle Walker - one of the quickest in the Premier League - and left him trailing on a pulsating 60-meter run toward

the goal. Although slight in build, Dembele has huge upper-body strength, enabling him to ride heavy challenges and use his body to hold off opponents running alongside him. He is a constant threat with his assists, and can play well on both flanks of the field and through the middle.

GREAT COMPETITOR

"You can't tell if he's right-footed or left-footed, he can strike with both feet," Julien Stephan, Dembele's coach in Rennes' reserve team, said in an interview on the club's website. "He's a great competitor and he is not bothered by the pressure. He plays naturally whether it's in front of 3,000, 30,000 or 100,000 people."

It's been a rapid rise for the lean forward since he was first spotted by a Rennes scout as an 8-year-old in the northern city of Evreux. The club monitored him closely and brought him to its youth academy by the time he was 13. Coaches were quickly impressed, and he was promoted to Rennes' reserve team in the beginning of the 2014-15 season. "Everyone was talking to me about another player his age, but I only saw him," said Armand Djire, the Rennes recruiter who got a first look at Dembele. "We brought the family to Rennes and took care of their professional and personal needs. We did everything possible so Ousmane could arrive at (main team) in the best possible conditions."—AP

EPL Table

LONDON: English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Man Utd	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	Stoke	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Liverpool	3	2	1	0	8	3	7	Everton	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Huddersfield	3	2	1	0	4	0	7	Swansea	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Man City	3	2	1	0	5	2	7	Newcastle	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
West Brom	3	2	1	0	3	1	7	Leicester	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Chelsea	3	2	0	1	6	4	6	Arsenal	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Watford	3	1	2	0	5	3	5	Brighton	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Southampton	3	1	2	0	3	2	5	Bournemouth	3	0	0	3	1	5	0
Tottenham	3	1	1	1	4	3	4	Crystal Palace	3	0	0	3	0	6	0
Burnley	3	1	1	1	4	4	4	West Ham	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

HEGAZI BLUNDER ENDS WEST BROM'S 100% START

 West Brom	1
 Stoke City	1

WEST BROMWICH: Ahmed Hegazi's error brought West Bromwich Albion's perfect start to the Premier League season to an end yesterday as Tony Pulis's men were held 1-1 by Stoke City. Jay Rodriguez scored his first West Brom league goal to put the hosts ahead in the 61st minute, but Hegazi's fluffed clearance allowed Stoke substitute Peter Crouch to head the visitors level 13 minutes from time.

West Brom were left in fourth place in the table. Their failure to claim maximum points means leaders Manchester United are now the only team with an unblemished record in the division. It was only the second time in seven games that Pulis has failed to beat Stoke since he left the club in 2013.

A predictably attritional first half at a sun-soaked Hawthorns yielded only one

notable attempt on target. After cutting in from the right, Stoke centre-back Kurt Zouma let fly with a left-foot shot that took a huge deflection off Gareth Barry, obliging West Brom goalkeeper Ben Foster to leap and tip the ball over the bar.

The second period was similarly uneventful until Rodriguez struck to put the home side in front. Allan Nyom whipped a cross into the area from the West Brom right and after the ball bounced inside the six-yard box, Rodriguez threw himself in front of Zouma at the back post to head the ball past Jack Butland.

Hegazi, who is on loan from Egyptian club Al Ahly, threatened to swell the hosts' lead with a header that was touched over by Butland, only then to prove West Brom's fall guy at the other end. In attempting to volley clear a cross from his Egypt teammate Ramadan Sobhi, Hegazi succeeded only in diverting the ball past goalkeeper Foster, enabling Crouch to stoop and head the ball into an empty net.

The latter stages saw Pulis hand a debut to Scottish winger Oliver Burke, who joined West Brom from RB Leipzig on Friday for a reported fee of £15 million (\$19.3 million, 16.2 million euros). — AFP



LONDON: Chelsea's Willian, right, goes for the ball with Everton's Ashley Williams during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Everton at Stamford Bridge stadium in London, yesterday. — AP

SOCCER

FABREGAS AND MORATA PUT CHELSEA ON CRUISE CONTROL

 Chelsea	2
 Everton	0

LONDON: Chelsea lifted Antonio Conte's spirits ahead of the crucial final days of the transfer window as goals from Cesc Fabregas and Alvaro Morata sealed a comfortable 2-0 victory over woeful Everton yesterday.

Conte has spent the last few weeks grumbling about Chelsea's failure to land his top transfer targets, and with the window closing next week, the Blues boss is hoping to bolster his depleted squad with several signings. Against that troubled backdrop, it was essential Chelsea signed off before the international break with three points to keep in touch with Premier League pace setters Manchester United.

The champions achieved that aim with ease as Fabregas opened the scoring in the first half at Stamford Bridge before Morata bagged his second goal since his club record £58 million (\$74 million) move from Real Madrid. Conte's men have now won two in a row following their shock opening-day defeat against Burnley, but they won't have many less demanding victories than this one against a lethargic Everton side who barely broke sweat. Although Morata scored again, the Spain striker was a confident figure for long periods and Conte knows Chelsea's hopes of more silverware rest on him being given extra options to juggle the demands of a gruelling season. Everton's first league defeat of the season was a frustrating end to what had been a positive week for Ronald Koeman's men after they drew at Manchester City and qualified for the Europa League group stages. Back from suspension, Fabregas came in for Tiemoune Bakayoko and was immediately in the thick of the action when Everton midfielder Idrissa Gueye escaped with a yellow card after catching the Spaniard with a crude studs-up lunge.

Quickly monopolising possession, Chelsea threatened an early goal as William's penetrating run teed up Morata in the penalty area. But Morata opted to pass and the chance was gone when Pedro lifted an ambitious bicycle kick over the crossbar. David Luiz took a direct approach moments later, bringing Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford into action for the first time with a low strike from just outside the area. Pedro followed suit with another long-range effort that had Pickford sprawling to his right to save.

KILLER BLOW

Chelsea's relentless pressure was rewarded in the 27th minute. Fabregas flicked a pass to Morata and timed his run perfectly to receive the Spaniard's headed return ball in stride, nudging in front of Leighton Baines to guide a deft finish past Pickford for his first goal of the season. Although Everton had a draining Europa League assignment at Hajduk Split on Thursday, even that couldn't completely excuse a desper-

ately uninspired display.

It was only a matter of time before Chelsea made them pay again and it was Morata who delivered the killer blow in the 40th minute. After referee Jon Moss played the advantage following a foul on Victor Moses, Cesar Azpilicueta had time and space to whip over a pin-point cross and Morata punished the flat-footed Everton defence with a header beyond Pickford from 10 yards.

Pedro almost made it three just after half-time with a curling effort that whistled wide

before Everton finally carved out a chance. Sandro Ramirez had only Thibaut Courtois to beat when he raced onto Wayne Rooney's pass, but the striker's miscued shot was in keeping with his side's limp performance.

Normal service was soon resumed as Chelsea peppered Pickford's goal, with Pedro shooting wide and Moses firing too close to the keeper. Despite Chelsea's commanding position, Conte remained typically hyperactive on the touchline. A calmer head will be required when he returns to the transfer maelstrom. — AFP

BURNLEY'S WOOD PROLONGS SPURS' WEMBLEY JINX

 Tottenham	1
 Burnley	1

LONDON: Chris Wood scored his first goal for Burnley to rescue a 1-1 Premier League draw yesterday as Tottenham Hotspur's Wembley Stadium hoodoo struck again. Spurs looked on course for a first victory since moving to their temporary home while White Hart Lane is being rebuilt when Dele Alli gave them a second-half lead. But Wood slotted home two minutes into injury time to earn Burnley a point that means Tottenham have won just two of their 12 games at the national stadium since it reopened in 2007.

Spurs appeared to have done enough to respond to last week's defeat against Chelsea, but it was far from the free-flowing football their fans have come to expect under Mauricio Pochettino. Tottenham were without Victor Wanyama due to a knee injury as Son Heung-Min started, while club-record signing Davinson Sanchez was on the bench despite receiving a work permit and international clearance. It was Burnley who started the game the better and Robbie Brady's curling effort nearly caught out Hugo Lloris, who managed to push his effort away at the last moment. James Tarkowski then headed over from a Brady corner as the Lancashire

side continued to cause early problems.

Tottenham were struggling to break Burnley down, but England striker Harry Kane appeared to be the man most likely to find the net. He went close with two deflected efforts and headed over from a Ben Davies free-kick. Eric Dier was next to go close when he nodded over from Christian Eriksen's cross, but Burnley continued to create chances, with Tarkowski missing the target from another Brady corner. Tottenham were rewarded for a bright start to the second half.

BOOS AT FINAL WHISTLE

Alli converted from Eriksen's corner in the 49th minute after Ben Mee failed to clear and the England midfielder's initial effort came back to him off team-mate Mousa Dembele. Kane has never scored a Premier League goal in August and his poor form in front of goal continued as he missed another chance, having been sent up by Eriksen. After Burnley sent on record signing Wood for his Premier League debut, Stephen Ward shot over on the half-volley when well placed inside the area. The visitors continued to cause Spurs difficulties on the break as Brady's powerful drive was pushed wide by French goalkeeper Lloris.

Kane's misfortune went on, with England team-mate Tom Heaton keeping out his left-foot effort from a Davies pull-back. He was then denied on the line by Steven Defour, who kept out his header from Eriksen's corner. Eriksen's drive was saved by Heaton as Tottenham found some fluency at last. — AFP



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane is tackled by Burnley's English defender James Tarkowski during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Burnley at Wembley Stadium in London, yesterday. — AFP

CRICKET

BANGLADESH SPINNERS SPOIL STRONG DAY FOR AUSTRALIA

DHAKA: Bangladesh's spinners spoilt a strong day for Australia yesterday, claiming two quick wickets after the hosts had been dismissed for 260 on the first day of the first Test. Pat Cummins, Nathan Lyon and Ashton Agar took three wickets each to wrap up the Bangladesh innings despite half-centuries from Tamim Iqbal and Shakib al Hasan.

But there was redemption for Bangladesh-meeting Australia in a Test for the first time in over a decade when their spinners took two scalps in the final moments of the session. A third batsman was run out, leaving Australia precariously placed on 18-3 at stumps.

David Warner was given a reprieve by the third umpire from a lbw decision off Mehedi Hasan, but the spinner trapped the left-hander the same way with the very next ball. Soumya Sarkar was responsible for a brilliant run out to remove Usman Khawaja for one in the next over, before left arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan dismissed nightwatchman Lyon for a duck. Opener Mat Renshaw remained unbeaten on six at stumps along with skipper Steve Smith, not out three. When the match got under way Australia looked unstoppable as Cummins rattled Bangladesh's top order with a fiery opening spell.

Cummins struck in his first over when he dismissed Soumya Sarkar for eight, beating the left-hander with a short-pitched ball that took an edge and flew to Peter Handscomb at gully. In his next over he removed Imrul Kayes and Sabbir Rahman for nought off successive deliveries to reduce Bangladesh to 10 for 3. But Shakib and Tamim came together to add 155 for the fourth wicket and lift the home team's score towards respectability.

Tamim lofted Lyon for a six over extra cover, growing in confidence as he built the partnership with Shakib. Occasional spinner Glenn Maxwell finally broke it when he forced Tamim to cut one loose at backward point, where David Warner took the catch.

Tamim, who like Shakib was playing his 50th Test, made 71. Shakib scored 84 includ-

ing 11 fours before he was dismissed by Lyon on the stroke of tea, with Smith taking a sharp catch at first slip. Agar then trapped Mushfiqur Rahim leg-before for 18, a decision which the Bangladesh skipper unsuccessfully reviewed. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi cricketer Shakib Al Hasan plays a shot during the first day of the first Test cricket match between Bangladesh and Australia at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Hamilton wins Belgian GP to trim Vettel's lead to 7 points



Fabregas, Morata put Chelsea on cruise control



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GAUSMAN SHARP IN ORIOLES' WIN OVER RED SOX

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LAS VEGAS: (R-L) Floyd Mayweather Jr throws a punch at Conor McGregor during their super welterweight boxing match on Saturday at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Inset) Floyd Mayweather Jr poses with the Money Belt after he speaks to the media after his TKO of Conor McGregor in their super welterweight boxing match. — AFP



MAYWEATHER STOPS BRAVE MCGREGOR TO WIN SUPERFIGHT

LAS VEGAS: Floyd Mayweather outclassed Conor McGregor to win their money-spinning superfight by technical knockout here late Saturday, securing his place in boxing history to head into retirement with a record 50th straight victory. Former welterweight boxing champion Mayweather, who had come out of a two-year retirement to take on the Irish mixed martial arts star, bided his time before exerting his superiority from the middle rounds onwards at the T-Mobile Arena.

The end came in the 10th round with a tired McGregor doubled over on the ropes as Mayweather landed two hard left hooks, prompting referee Robert Byrd to intervene as a 14,623 crowd with A-list celebrities roared their approval.

"He's a lot better than I thought he'd be," a jubilant Mayweather said of McGregor. "He's a tough competitor, but I was the better man tonight." Mayweather led comfortably on all

three judges' cards when the fight was stopped. The American boxer said he had deliberately taken his time in order to take advantage of a fatigued McGregor. "Our game plan was to take our time, go to him, let him shoot his shots early and then take him out down the stretch," he said. "I guaranteed to everybody that this wouldn't go the distance."

CLINICAL DISPLAY

McGregor meanwhile suggested the fight could have been allowed to go on, but praised Mayweather's clinical tactical display. "He's composed, he's not that fast, he's not that powerful, but boy is he composed," McGregor said.

"I thought it was a bit of an early stoppage. I was just a little fatigued. He was just a lot more composed with his shots. I have to give it to him, that's what 50 pro fights will do for you." It was an explosive finale to their much-hyped contest which proved surprisingly competitive in the ear-

ly rounds, as McGregor managed to land a string of scoring punches.

But once Mayweather began to find his range and McGregor wearied, it was clear who the winner would be. The 40-year-old American scored at will after the early rounds, snapping back McGregor's head with a series of stinging blows.

McGregor, 29, somehow survived an onslaught in the seventh round when a right counter from Mayweather staggered him badly. Finally McGregor's resistance broke in the 10th when a Mayweather right sent him lurching across the ring.

'A WIN IS A WIN'

A hard left put him on the ropes and another hook saw him bent over and helpless, prompting the stoppage. The fight had followed a largely expected script-but McGregor, in his first ever boxing appearance, by no means embarrassed himself.

Mayweather will now head into what he says is a permanent retirement with a perfect 50-0 record, one better than heavyweight legend Rocky Marciano. He rejected suggestions that his 50th win, against a novice boxer, would be destined to have an asterisk against it.

"A win is a win, no matter how you get it," Mayweather said. "Rocky Marciano is a legend and I look forward to going into the Hall of Fame one day. "This was my last fight tonight. For sure. Tonight I chose the right dance partner to dance with." Mayweather is also expected to be around \$200 million wealthier, taking his career earnings to around \$1 billion. McGregor, who was an unemployed former plumber four years ago before emerging as one of the biggest stars of the Ultimate Fighting Championship, is expected to earn around \$100 million.

If pay-per-view television targets are met, the fight could become the most lucrative in history. The start of the bout had been delayed by sever-

al minutes as anticipation built to fever pitch and television providers struggled to cope with the surge in demand from pay-per-view customers.

Anticipation had built steadily at ringside as an array of stars from the sports and entertainment worlds took their seats, including Bruce Willis, LeBron James and Mike Tyson. Ever since the fight was announced in June the boxing community dismissed it as a farce and a freak show. But fears of a one-sided massacre failed to materialize, and McGregor finished with some respectable statistics. The Irishman's 111 landed punches were 30 more than Manny Pacquiao managed against Mayweather in their 2015 "Fight of the Century."

McGregor said later he was open to venturing into the boxing ring again. "People ask me what's next, I'm not quite sure. I've multiple titles in the UFC to think about," he said. "I could also continue in the boxing game. I'm sure there'll be options in boxing." — AFP

DAZZLING LIVERPOOL ROUT WENGER'S SORRY ARSENAL

	Liverpool	4
	Arsenal	0

LIVERPOOL: Arsenal's early-season problems mounted at Anfield yesterday after they were condemned to a miserable 4-0 defeat by Jurgen Klopp's rampant Liverpool. Not even the return of Alexis Sanchez could inspire Arsene Wenger's side as they fell to goals from Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah and Daniel Sturridge.

Salah's third goal, after 57 minutes, summed up Liverpool's mastery of the opposition as Arsenal managed to concede from an attacking corner. After the ball was headed clear, Hector Bellerin misjudged the bounce and Salah sprang past him before sprinting over half the length of the field and converting clinically.

Substitute Sturridge got in on the act with just his third league goal of 2017, completing the rout with a far-post header from Salah's cross after yet another unstoppable counter-attack 20 minutes later. The opening goal had come in the 17th minute after wave after wave of Liverpool attacks.

Finally, on a rapid break, young full-back Joe Gomez delivered a superb, hanging right-wing cross and Firmino sprinted in at full speed to head past Petr Cech from six yards. The warning signs had been there for Wenger, even before Firmino's opener.

On 10 minutes, Emre Can and Firmino

had combined effectively for the former to cross to the far post, where Salah looked certain to score until Cech scurried across his goal to make a brilliant block. Moments after taking the lead, Liverpool should have doubled it as Firmino freed captain Jordan Henderson, whose poor touch preceded a shot that flew well off-target. Klopp's decision to axe regular first-choice goalkeeper Simon Mignolet from his squad had raised eyebrows, although Arsenal made an equally significant move in dropping club-record signing Alexandre Lacazette to the bench.

WRETCHED

Despite recalling Sanchez for his first Arsenal start since the FA Cup final in May, the Gunners looked close to complete disarray at times. Still, they might have taken the lead after just seven minutes when Sanchez surged through and played in Danny Welbeck, who could only hook his shot over under pressure from Gomez.

But once in front, Liverpool played with increasing confidence, while Arsenal's visibly drained. When Henderson's 31st-minute cross was headed out of the area, Mane volleyed it, first-time, narrowly wide of the right-hand post. Liverpool's control was complete in the 40th minute when Mane claimed a second goal that had been a long time coming. To sum up Arsenal's wretched half, it came from one of their own attacks, which was broken up in the Liverpool area by Gomez.

Liverpool broke upfield at electrifying pace, Can to Firmino to Mane, and the forward calmly cut inside Rob Holding before curling an unstoppable finish past the div-

ing Cech. Wenger brought on Francis Coquelin for Aaron Ramsey at the interval and the visitors at least started to threaten, with Mesut Ozil shooting wide and Sanchez seeing his shot blocked on the edge of the area.

The relief was short-lived, however, with

Can soon heading a Salah free-kick just wide and Salah's pacy run clean through on goal drawing another good save from Cech. The third and fourth goals were fully deserved for the hosts and only another good stop by the beleaguered Cech denied Mane a second goal in between them. —AFP



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Spanish defender Alberto Moreno (L) vies with Arsenal's French striker Olivier Giroud during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Arsenal at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

INDIA BEAT SRI LANKA TO CLINCH ODI SERIES

PALLEKELE: Opener Rohit Sharma's sublime century combined with a maiden five-wicket haul by pacesman Jasprit Bumrah powered India to a series-clinching win against Sri Lanka in the third one-day international yesterday. Chasing 218 for victory, Sharma hit a 145-ball 124 not out to steer the visitors home in 45.1 overs, although unruly crowd behaviour delayed their six-wicket win in Pallekele.

Angry home fans threw water bottles onto the field and play stopped as players walked off with India needing eight runs to win. The visitors rode on an unbeaten 157-run fifth-wicket stand between Sharma and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who made 67, to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

But it was Bumrah who set up the win for India after his career-best figures of 5-27 restricted Sri Lanka to 217-9 in 50 overs. Sri Lankan fast bowlers hurt India's reply with two early strikes including skipper Virat Kohli for one, leaving the visitors at 19-2.

Sharma and Lokesh Rahul, who made 17, then tried to steady the chase with their 42-run partnership before spinner Akila Dananjaya turned on the heat. Dananjaya got Rahul and Kedar Jadhav for nought in his first two overs. But Sharma, who made 54 in the team's previous win, kept his cool amid the madness to register his 12th ODI hundred as he paired with Dhoni to thwart the Sri Lankan bowling attack.

Earlier, Sri Lanka's Lahiru Thirimanne scored a 105-ball 80 to give the total some respect after stand-in-captain Chamara Kapugedera elected to bat first. The fourth ODI is slated for Thursday in Colombo.

Scores:

India 218-4 in 45.1 overs (Rohit Sharma 124 not out, Mahendra Singh Dhoni 67 not out; Akila Dananjaya 2-38) def.

Sri Lanka 217-9 in 50 overs (Lahiru Thirimanne 80; Jasprit Bumrah 5-27) by six wickets. —Agencies

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INVESTORS SEEK GEMS AMONG UNLOVED SMALL-CAPS

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LESQUIN, France: An aircraft of British low-cost airline EasyJet takes off from Lille Airport in Lesquin, northern France on August 25, 2017. —AFP

EUROPEAN AIRLINES FLYING TOWARDS CONSOLIDATION

ALITALIA-AIR BERLIN DOGFIGHT HERALDS A NEW SHAKE-UP

PARIS: A dogfight over the assets of troubled Alitalia and Air Berlin heralds a new shake-up in the European airline industry but unless other carriers cut costs they may meet a similar fate themselves, analysts warn.

Facing insolvency after key investor Etihad threw in the towel after years of trying to keep them flying despite losses, both airlines may now be snapped up whole or carved up by rivals interested in getting hold of their planes and airport landing slots.

But the overhaul is unlikely to end there. "The sector will continue to consolidate because the business models are in the process of changing," said Stephane Alberne, managing partner at Archery Consulting.

"It is an underlying trend in Europe and the United States, where four 'consolidators' are in the lead: American, Delta, United, and low-cost Southwest."

For Europe, consultant Jerome Bouchard at Oliver Wyman believes that eventually "there

will be an oligopoly centered around Lufthansa, IAG and Air France-KLM."

International Airlines Group is the parent company of British Airways, Aer Lingus, Iberia and Vueling. Before major consolidation can take place, however, Bouchard believes the airlines need to find a business model where they are no longer operating on the brink of bankruptcy. Alitalia and Air Berlin had both been operating at losses for years. Low-cost airlines had eaten away at Alitalia's market share in particular, with Ireland's Ryanair having eclipsed it as the largest operator in Italy. They were spared by Etihad, which took equity stakes in both as the flush Gulf airline tried to buy its way into Europe, but it lost its gamble that it could turn them around.

"Etihad's exit from Alitalia's capital will contribute to the acceleration of consolidation," Alberne said. "Alitalia will very likely join, either in whole or in part, Air France-KLM, Lufthansa, IAG, or even easyJet or Ryanair."

Low-cost Ryanair has soared to become Europe's top airline by number of passengers. Fellow budget operators easyJet and Norwegian are also major players.

While former flag carriers still offer a full range of services on both medium- and long-range flights, low-cost airlines offer fewer services and until recently have focused mostly on shorter journeys. "It is the never-ending battle between a super generalist and super specialist," said Bouchard. The situation is similar in Asia, where carriers such as Cathay Pacific and Japan Airlines have seen profits plunge amid intense competition from lower-cost rivals.

Australia's Qantas was able to staunch the red only by undertaking in 2014 a major restructuring that saw it axe thousands of jobs, sell off dozens of aircraft and defer orders for new ones.

'Cost reduction is paramount'

The pressure on former national carriers

will only continue as low-cost airlines push into the long-haul segment, which has until now been an area where they enjoyed comfortable profits. With profit margins already tight, airlines are going to have to attack their high fixed costs on planes, fuel and labor.

"Worldwide competition is so fierce with yields declining continuously that cost reduction is paramount," said Mark Bobbi, an analyst at IHS Markit.

In this context "mergers, takeovers and joint ventures will be increasingly important," said John Strickland, director of JLS Consulting. Airlines took their first step towards consolidation in the 1990s with alliances which allowed them to share flights and run joint loyalty programs.

But "in the end the expected synergies didn't really happen," said Bouchard. Airlines in the alliances kept their own separate fleets of planes and their own maintenance operations, thus not making much in savings in two large

cost areas. Alliances didn't even address the delicate issue of salaries. Wages are a major competitive drag for former flag carriers. For example, the salaries of Air France pilots are 20 to 25 percent higher than those of low-cost easyJet, according to industry experts.

Airline alliances may be about to get a bit tighter. Air France-KLM recently decided to allow Delta and China Eastern, both partners in the Sky Team alliance, to take stakes in its equity capital. The equity stakes make the airlines "more cooperative on their business model" and "more interested in synergies," said Bouchard. Air France-KLM also took a stake in Virgin Atlantic alongside Delta to gain market share in the competitive North American and Asian markets. With global traffic growing by four percent per year, there could be room for both former flag carriers and low-cost airlines, said Bouchard, but he warned "positions are changing quickly" and high fixed costs "don't leave any room for mistakes". —AFP

LABOR WANTS TO KEEP UK IN SINGLE MARKET IN TRANSITION

LONDON: In a major policy shift, Britain's main opposition Labor party now backs staying in the European single market for a transitional period as the country leaves the EU. "Labor would seek a transitional deal that maintains the same basic terms that we currently enjoy with the EU," Keir Starmer, the party's Brexit spokesman, wrote in The Observer newspaper yesterday.

"That means we would seek to remain in a customs union with the EU and within the single market during this period. It means we would abide by the common rules of both," he said, meaning unimpeded immigration from the EU could continue. The comments represent a major policy shift for Labor, which had previously been ambiguous on whether it would seek to retain single market and customs union membership, arguing only that it wanted a "jobs-first Brexit".

Labor are in a powerful position after making strong gains in June's general election, stripping Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservatives of their majority in parliament and forcing them to make a deal with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party to govern.

As Starmer unveiled Labor's new approach, a government source said the European Union should not "drag its feet" in negotiating Brexit. "Both sides must be flexible and willing to compromise when it comes to solving areas where we disagree," the source said.

"As the EU itself has said, the clock is

ticking so neither side should drag its feet," the source added, just days ahead of a fresh round of UK-EU divorce talks in Brussels. In a statement, the government's Brexit ministry also called for the European Commission to be "more flexible", as British negotiators push for talks on future trade ties. Last month, it announced that Britain would try to keep as many aspects of its EU membership in place as possible during a transition period of up to three years.

"Many things will look similar" and goods will continue to flow between Britain and the EU in "much the same way as they do now," even after the scheduled departure date of March 2019, Philip Hammond, Britain's finance minister, said at the time. But he also said that EU nationals would have to register with the authorities starting from the expected departure date of March 2019 as the government comes up with a new immigration system.

But the EU has said it will not address Britain's proposal for a temporary customs union or start trade talks until "sufficient progress" has been made on a number of key issues. These include the status of EU nationals in Britain, the bill for the divorce and the future of Northern Ireland's border with the Republic of Ireland. Britain voted to leave the EU in a referendum last year and Prime Minister Theresa May issued a formal notification in March, starting a two-year negotiating timetable to exit. —AFP

MEYSAN A.T. PARTNERS ADVISES ZAIN ON SALE OF 9.84% OF ITS SHARES TO OMANTEL

KUWAIT: Meysan A.T., acted as exclusive advisor for Mobile Telecommunications Company (Zain), a leading telecom pioneer in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, in a transaction for the sale of Zain's entire block



Bader El-Jaan

of treasury shares, representing 9.84 percent of Zain's fully paid up and issued share capital, to Oman Telecommunications Company for a transaction value that may exceed KD 255 million.

This transaction will significantly enhance Zain's strategic and financial flexibility at a time where it continues to seek opportunities in the digital space and invest in upgrading its modern networks to enhance the mobile experience for its customers. This transaction demonstrates

the extent of expertise and capability that Meysan A.T. could mobilize for major cross-border transactions. The transaction involved sensitive M&A, and Capital Markets elements that marked a precedent in the practice in Kuwait. Meysan A.T. Partners M&A team was led by senior partner Bader El-Jaan and partner Michael Yadgar, and Capital Markets senior partner Abdulaziz Al Yaqout, and partner Tarek Yehya.



KARACHI: Goats are seen at an animal market ahead of the Muslim festival Eid Al-Adha in Karachi on Saturday. Muslims across the world are preparing to celebrate the annual festival of Eid Al-Adha, or the Festival of Sacrifice next week. —AFP

HOW TO CREATE A FUN OFFICE ENVIRONMENT

Bayt.com weekly report

Time and time again, it's been proven that great companies hire great talent. The more attractive your brand and your culture, the higher the caliber of talent your company will attract. So how do you ensure this great company culture from all angles?

There are many different elements that contribute to an attractive company culture, from great branding, to open communication channels, and flexibility for your employees. Now, let's take a look at a couple of simple ways to incorporate fun into the workplace, all without decreasing productivity. If anything, by making your office an enjoyable place to be, you can increase productivity, motivation and of course loyalty, making it easier for your company to hire great talent, as well as retain existing employees.

Here is what we recommend at Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site:

Employees spend the majority of their days in the office, so they need to be comfortable, pleasant, and of course, fun. That doesn't mean you need to install a jungle-gym in the conference room, but do introduce unique design elements that reflect your company's culture. Paint the walls with exciting colors. Open up the space and seating plan. Get rid of white fluorescent lighting. Provide fun spaces, such as creative thinking rooms or game rooms. Scatter bean bags around the office. The options are endless.

You can turn this into a double-win situation, by turning it into a fun team activity as well. Ask your staff what THEY want. Have them brainstorm and suggest ideas that they'd like to implement in the design. Let them decide what they want from their office. Empower them to make these decisions.

room for your teams to have lunch in, be away from their desks and task-lists, and be able to recharge their batteries. Also consider leaving the office for lunch every now and then. Communal lunch is fun. Not only does it encourage better team relationships, it also improves socialization between different teams, which helps building a more cohesive workforce all together.

You could even organize a monthly potluck. Assign every person a different category, appetizer, main and dessert, and come together as a team, department, or even an entire company. With all the different foods to try, and so many questions and conversations revolving around who made what and how, by the end of the potluck everyone will be full, happy, and refreshed and motivated for the day.

together as a company and celebrate. Make it a point to have at least one thing to celebrate every month. For example, you can have one celebration a month for all of your employees with a birthday during that month. Celebrate the personal milestones, such as one of your employees having their first child or completing their master's degree.

By doing this, you are certainly hitting multiple birds with one stone. You are motivating your employees to keep up their good work, you are reinforcing their belongingness to the company, and you are creating more fun occasions for your company in general.

You can also break the routine while remaining productive too, for example, do you have a weekly team meeting? Hold these somewhere outside of the office. Bring in guest speakers and trainers that your employees admire and recommend. Introduce regular workshops that are engaging and insightful. If your budget allows, send your employees to that conference they've been very keen to attend.

Remember, everyone needs a healthy balance of work and play. Take that extra step to show employees that you truly care about their wellbeing and watch your employee engagement improve in leaps and bounds. On top of that, you will be greatly enhancing your employer brand, which will make it far easier for you to attract top-caliber talent.

Don't forget to highlight your unique fun office culture through your online company profile, your job descriptions, and even your daily communication with job seekers and followers.

1. Fun through Design

Introduce fun through office design!

2. Fun Through Food

Make sure you have a proper break-

3. Fun Through Celebration

Birthdays, marriages, promotions, and national holidays are all reasons to come

4. Fun Through Learning

Organize events every once in a while that break the regular routine. Cook offs, sport days or even scavenger hunts. A little competition never hurt anyone and events like these help people break out of their shells and build camaraderie within the organization.

GLOBALIZATION'S CASTAWAYS HAUNT CENTRAL BANKERS

FREE TRADE STILL THE KEY FOR MORE JOBS, GROWTH?

MASSENA, New York/JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming: After a turbulent year of anti-globalization backlash, central bankers still argue open borders and free trade are the key to more jobs, growth and prosperity. But when they meet for the US Federal Reserve's annual research conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, this week, it will be with the growing recognition that the world economic order they helped create could unravel unless the benefits of globalization can reach those left behind.

That means addressing the concerns of people like Grace Paige, a grandmother of seven from the struggling St. Lawrence County in northern New York state. When Donald Trump promised to revive "middle America" by rolling back decades of globalization, Paige decided to give him a chance. The otherwise dependable Democratic voter sat out the election, contributing to the county's swing from a 57-percent majority for Barack Obama in 2012 to a 51-percent vote for Trump's economic nationalism.

"My grandkids need jobs," she said, counting out the ways her county has been abandoned over the last decade with the shuttering of a General Motors car factory, an aluminum plant, and the Sears department store where Paige once worked.

Central bankers reject Trump's economic nationalism, including renewed threats to tear up the 23-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, if it leads to more protectionism.

But officials at the Fed in particular have in recent months broadened their policy debates to include issues such as racial disparities in labor markets or the fate of geographically or technologically isolated communities in an economy that is in many ways doing well.

"Frankly as economists ... we haven't probably paid enough attention to the transfer from one economy, where you aren't as globalized, to another," Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland President Loretta Mester told Reuters ahead of the Aug. 24-26 international gathering dedicated to securing global growth.

"Globalization and technological change is here to stay. And the promise of those is very good - we know that it can raise standards of living," Mester said. "It's just how do you make sure that it's distributed in a way so that the majority of people benefit." Policymakers acknowledge, however, that there is no quick and easy way to help those whose jobs were moved overseas or were replaced by software and robots, or to tackle the political challenge that poses.

Hal urban, half rural

A Reuters analysis of US voting, jobs and demographic data shows that it was in areas like St. Lawrence - neither clearly in the orbit of the globally-connected cities that drive economic growth, nor fully rural - that were key to Trump's success. They represent about a third of the



JACKSON HOLE: Central bankers attending a meeting in Jackson Hole pose for a group photograph after the meeting.

roughly 3,100 counties in the continental United States and around 12 percent of the US population, according to census data. Trump outperformed the 2012 Republican candidate Mitt Romney the most in those counties, which proved vital to his triumph in key swing states.

St. Lawrence - with its smattering of dairy-farm villages, college towns, and shuttered industrial sites - was also among 63 counties where votes swung by 10 percentage points or more to Trump from Obama. Similarly, areas of Britain on the edges of big cities had an outsized effect on the narrow June 2016 vote to leave the European Union. Recognizing the challenge, Fed Governor Lael Brainard has made at least 10 visits from Appalachia to Mississippi studying why communities get left behind, extensive travel for a Fed governor outside the usual circuit of civic club and university speeches.

"We really do have to be focused on the kinds of policies that can reconnect those people to the workforce," Brainard said in a recent speech.

Monetary policy geared to an entire economy is ill suited to fix such problems, but the Fed's regional role in community development, as well as the bully pulpit shared by its policymakers, have prompted them to focus on possible options. For example, in a trip to El Paso, Texas, Brainard explored how the Fed's bank oversight and interest rate policy might improve financing for basic infrastructure and job training, according to regional Fed staff who helped arrange the tour. At the regional level, Minneapolis Fed president Neel Kashkari in January set up a research institute on income inequality, and said recently that social considerations in part led him to want to pause on raising interest rates. "If we can keep people from being lost permanently, boy that's a real positive for society," Kashkari said.

Montreal suburb

The diverging fortunes of St Lawrence and nearby Clinton County, which shares a similar demographic profile, show how often factors such as location can make all the difference, and how hard they are to overcome. Clinton County, which backed Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016, shares a transportation corridor with Montreal, Canada's second-largest city in the neighboring Quebec province, allowing it to reap the benefits of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"Our business is to make Quebec successful, to help Quebec with its exports. Now there's a novel idea," Garry Douglas, president of the North Country Chamber of Commerce, said in June of the NAFTA renegotiation talks at a forum in Plattsburgh attended by New York Fed President William Dudley. Plattsburgh, Clinton County's hub, bills itself as "Montreal's US Suburb," 15 percent of the county's residents work for subsidiaries of Canadian firms such as Bombardier, and more than \$1.5 billion flows south across the border in annual investment.

Only 35 miles (56 km) east lies St. Lawrence. With less convenient road, rail and air connections it is just outside Montreal's economic orbit, while still-patchy broadband coverage also work against it. The county's unemployment rate is 1.5 percentage points higher than in Clinton, and 2.5 points above national average. Despite the abundance of good colleges and universities, graduates often leave because of the lack of opportunities. Census data show a net of 4,200 people left the county between 2010 and 2016. Mairin Merna, a single mother from Ogdensburg, the county's largest city of about 11,000, said job prospects remained dim and would probably force her to move with her daughter to Albany, the state capital 220-miles away. —Reuters

NO END TO BRITISH WAGE SQUEEZE DESPITE TUMBLING JOBLESS RATE

LONDON: Britain's economy faces a paradox. Unemployment has fallen to its lowest since 1975 but no end is in sight to the longest squeeze on pay in more than 100 years. Businesses and trade unions think workers are unlikely to see the 3 percent increase in average earnings that the Bank of England predicts for next year, despite record employment levels and widespread reports of shortages of skilled workers.

Wage growth has been weak in many countries over the past decade, but in Britain the break with what was the norm before the 2008-09 global financial crisis has been particularly acute.

Shifting employment patterns have weakened workers' ability to demand a greater slice of the pie from employers - and the size of that pie is growing more slowly than before because of a slump in productivity growth. One top BoE official has even questioned whether Britain is returning to the wage stagnation that dogged the country for centuries before the 18th century Industrial Revolution.

For Larry Joyce, chairman of metal foundry Kimber Mills, keeping a tight grip on wage costs is essential.

Four percent annual pay rises were typical in Britain before the financial crisis. Now Joyce tries to raise wages by no more than the BoE's inflation target of 2 percent. During the worst of the crisis, pay was frozen. In good years, most staff can expect a bonus from a profit sharing scheme. "But it's for one year. So if things dip back down again, you are not saddled with a level of wages you can't sustain," he explained. Weakness in British wages pre-dates last year's vote to leave the European Union but concern about Brexit is among factors that make Joyce doubt wages will rise faster in future.

Most British companies take a similar view. The Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development, a professional body for human resources staff, said 2 percent is the most common annual increase in basic pay in the private sector. In the public sector, pay rises have been capped at 1 percent since 2013 as part of government austerity measures. "Employers are not under pressure to raise wages," CIPD labour market analyst Gerwyn Davies said.

The result is that after inflation is taken into account, average pay in Britain last year was 2.7 percent lower than at its peak in 2007, according to figures from the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) think tank. By contrast, average pay rose nearly 18 percent in real terms between 2000 and 2007. The 2.7 percent fall puts Britain in bottom place among the world's seven largest advanced economies. In Europe only Greece and Portugal have fared worse.

Britain's shortfall looks set to worsen this year because of the pick-up in inflation since the Brexit vote. Pay grew 2.1 percent in the second quarter, but inflation was up 2.7 percent.

Jobs, but not as you know it

What makes Britain different to Greece and Portugal is that, on the surface, its labour market appears to be booming. Unemployment fell to 4.4 percent in the three months to June, its lowest rate since 1975. Unlike in the United States, where unemployment is similarly low, there are not large numbers of people who have given up looking for a job.

However this masks a big fall in job security for many Britons, and a weaker bargaining position for others. The number of workers on "zero-hours" contracts, which offer no guaranteed work and in practice often tie them to a single employer, peaked at 905,000 late last year. One million part-time workers also want full-time work.

"Workers do not feel confident enough to ask for a pay rise," said Kate Bell, a senior official at Britain's Trades Union Congress. Bank of England data show rates of trade union membership are the lowest since the 1930s, while the proportion of British workers who are self-employed is the highest since records began in the mid-19th century. It was in this context that the BoE's chief economist, Andy Haldane, highlighted similarities between the weak response of wages to falls in unemployment since 2013, and a much longer period of stagnation between 1500 and 1700.

"Prior to the Industrial Revolution ... most workers were self-employed or worked in small businesses. There were no unions. Hours were flexible, depending on what work was needed to collect the crops, milk the cows or put bread on the table," he said in a speech in June.

Turning point?

It is however possible Britain's labor market is nearing a turning point, and some of the post-crisis factors bearing down on wages are beginning to ease. The number of workers on zero-hour contracts has fallen in the past six months, employers report increased skills shortages and some recruiters are finding they must offer big pay rises to tempt candidates.

The effect of a weaker pound since the Brexit referendum in June 2016 and concerns about Britain leaving the EU make this a particular issue for sectors such as construction that rely on foreign workers. "We'll advertise for people and unless we put these increased rates on the advert, people won't reply," said Simon Noakes of Bespoke Recruitment, who now offers bricklayers 210 pounds (\$269) a day, up from 160-170 pounds last year. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.759
Indian Rupees	4.746
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.981
Singapore Dollar	223.020
Hongkong Dollar	38.695
Bangladesh Taka	3.737
Philippine Peso	5.988
Thai Baht	9.127

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.787
Qatari Riyal	83.207
Omani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.482

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.200
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.972
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	127.210
Jordanian Dinar	427.490
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	32.414

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	356.940
Sterling Pound	395.540
Canadian dollar	239.710
Turkish lira	85.890

Swiss Franc	316.020
Australian Dollar	240.230
US Dollar Buying	301.550

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.950
Canadian Dollar	242.654
Sterling Pound	390.491
Euro	361.575
Swiss Frank	290.436
Bahrain Dinar	801.398
UAE Dirhams	82.600
Qatari Riyals	83.421
Saudi Riyals	81.380
Jordanian Dinar	427.117
Egyptian Pound	17.061
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Indian Rupees	4.716
Pakistani Rupees	2.865
Bangladesh Taka	3.737
Philippines Peso	5.915
Cyprus pound	17.968
Japanese Yen	3.757
Syrian Pound	1.584
Nepalese Rupees	2.947
Malaysian Ringgit	71.535

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.867
Thai Bhat	10.068
Turkish Lira	88.047

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.383969	0.393969
Czech Korune	0.005804	0.017804
Danish Krone	0.044414	0.049414
Euro	0.355412	0.364412
Georgian Lari	0.134643	0.134643
Norwegian Krone	0.034996	0.040196
Romanian Leu	0.081514	0.081514
Russian ruble	0.05125	0.005126
Slovakia	0.009002	0.019002
Slovenia Krona	0.033943	0.038943
Swiss Franc	0.309977	0.320977
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.231923	0.243923
New Zealand Dollar	0.213112	0.222612
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.237152	0.248152
US Dollars	0.298200	0.302620
US Dollars Mint	0.298700	0.302620
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003240	0.003824
Chinese Yuan	0.043853	0.047353

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036766	0.039513
Indian Rupee	0.004154	0.004842
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002685	0.002865
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067216	0.073218
Nepalese Rupee	0.003016	0.003186
Pakistan Rupee	0.002688	0.002978
Philippine Peso	0.005802	0.006102
Singapore Dollar	0.217632	0.227632
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001594	0.002174
Taiwan	0.009987	0.010167
Thai Baht	0.008754	0.009304
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795076	0.803576
Egyptian Pound	0.014330	0.020238
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.421764	0.430764
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020783	0.044783
Omani Riyal	0.778775	0.784455
Qatar Riyal	0.078744	0.083684
Saudi Riyal	0.079527	0.080827
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.120536	0.128536
Turkish Lira	0.082387	0.092687
UAE Dirhams	0.080880	0.082580
Yemeni Riyal	0.000982	0.001062

US DEBT CEILING LOOMS OVER WASHINGTON

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: There was a sense of uneasiness in financial markets last week after President Donald Trump stated "If we have to close down the government, we are building that wall" causing both the dollar and US equities to fall back while gold moved higher immediately. The Treasury Department stated that the ceiling must be elevated by September 29. If not, the government would be unable to borrow more money to pay its bills, including its debt payments. That could impair the US credit rating, causing financial turmoil.

The cost to protect against a US default over the next five years by purchasing credit-default swaps has risen to about 26 basis points from 20 basis points a month ago. Moreover, the rate on Treasury bills jumped on Thursday in the largest intraday move since March. Furthermore, the rates on Treasury bills maturing in October were higher than those due in September and November. On the ratings front, Moody's Investors Service claimed it would contemplate to strip the US of its top-notch rating in the case of a default, not over late payments on non-debt obligations. Moody's also claimed chances that the debt ceiling would not be raised in time are "low" despite how contentious it has been recently to achieve a borrowing increase.

On the currency front, the DXY depreciated by 0.61% on Monday, however the downward movement was short lived due to the weakness of the single currency. The greenback entered into positive territory until President Trump's comments of a government shutdown changed the DXY's direction. The index opened the week at 93.441. On Friday, the greenback came under pressure as Janet Yellen refrained to comment on the future of the Fed's monetary stance in the closely watched Jackson Hole Symposium.

The Euro on Tuesday reversed its gains made the previous day after the disappointing German economic confidence pressured the single currency. The EUR/USD rose to a high of 1.1940 and closed the week at 1.1924 as Draghi failed to comment on the Euro's recent strength fuelling traders to continue buying the single currency.

The Sterling pound took a beating last week and fell to the lowest level since June 27 on Thursday as a reaction to uncertainties related to the UK government's stance on the Brexit negotiations and disappointing local data. UK growth hit the market with a 0.3 percent rise, bringing the yearly rate at 1.7 percent, indicating the nervousness surrounding Brexit. The GBP/USD began the weekly session at 1.2871 and depreciated to a low of 1.2770. The pair ended the week at 1.2887.

Looking at the safe haven yen which was still in demand at the start of the week due to uncertainty stemming from the political crisis surrounding Trump and the potential conflict between North Korea and the US. On Tuesday, the USD/JPY snapped four consecutive days of losing streak as investors risk appetite was slightly improved. After the release of inflation data for Japan's economy on Friday the yen retreated slightly against its US counterpart during the Asian trading hours. The pair opened the week at 109.39 and closed the week at 109.34.

In the commodities complex, the yellow metal was trading sideways last week and price changes were minimal ahead of the Jackson Hole meeting. Gold opened on Monday at \$1,282.60 and ended the week slightly higher at \$1,291.03.

Diminishing housing demand

New home sales in the US plummeted 9.4 percent to 571,000 in July, the largest drop in nearly a year as the median price of a new home increased 6.3 percent in July from a year ago to \$313,700. In contrast, annual wage growth has struggled to break above 2.5 percent. On the inventory front, new homes on the market expanded by 1.5 percent to 276,000, the highest level since June 2009. In addition, the price premium for newly built homes compared to existing homes has more than doubled since 2011.

Home resales also followed the downward trend to their lowest monthly level of the year. On a monthly basis existing home sales fell 1.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.44 million. The average price of an existing house was \$258,300, a 6.2 percent rise from one year ago, reflecting the insufficient quantities of properties.

The third-quarter sales figures are starting out significantly below the second-quarter average, and many other housing reports have also shown the same downward trend. The housing market overall is mostly healthy, however sales have fallen this summer due to a lower supply causing prices to rise. The rising prices have made homes too expensive for some buyers,

recording its 28 months high, which accounts for almost 80 percent of US economic activity.

Worries of a stronger euro

The Germany economic confidence decreased for a third consecutive month in August to 10 from 17.5 points. The main factors weighing on the index were weaker exports, ongoing scandals in the automobile industry and concerns that the strengthening euro will dampen export prospects and weigh down on the eurozone's largest economy. Monthly exports in July dropped unexpectedly by 2.8 percent after rising for five consecutive months.

On the other hand, current economic situation in Germany remains robust as did the ZEW President Professor Achim Wambach expressed that overall the country's economic outlook "remains relatively stable at a fairly high level." More importantly the preliminary GDP data for Germany in the second quarter increased surprisingly to 2.1 percent year-on-year, posting the highest growth since August 2016. The assessment of the current economic situation in Germany increased slightly by 0.3 points in August.

The European momentum

The Eurozone economy maintained its



expansions, even as healthy hiring has lowered the unemployment rate to a 16-year low at 4.3 percent. The weak sales pace suggests that the housing sector could remain a drag on economic growth in the third quarter.

A mixed bag of data

Latest manufacturing data from the US indicated a poor start to the third quarter for manufacturers. The index fell slightly from 53.3 to 52.5. The sector was pressured by weakness in exports which declined for the second successive month, although the dollar recent depreciation may start to improve conditions within the next few months.

Looking at the overall composite index which was elevated to a 27 months high in August bolstered some optimism over the American economy. The index rose from 54.6 to 56.0. The flash services index jumped to 56.9,

expansions, even as healthy hiring has lowered the unemployment rate to a 16-year low at 4.3 percent. The weak sales pace suggests that the housing sector could remain a drag on economic growth in the third quarter.

On the other side of the lever, euro zone services activity dipped to 54.9 from 55.4, the weakest in seven months. The service sector growth has been somewhat weaker recently, but the fundamentals for continued strength in the second half of 2017 are still there. Even with a 12 percent appreciation of the euro so far this year does not appear to have dented manufacturing for now.

Rates - 27 August, 2017

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1752	1.1729	1.1940	1.1923	1.1815	1.2110	1.1984
GBP	1.2871	1.2770	1.2916	1.2887	1.2690	1.2965	1.2924
JPY	109.39	108.61	109.84	109.34	107.60	110.10	108.88
CHF	0.9651	0.9549	0.9696	0.9566	0.9380	0.9640	0.9501

Weak growth in British economy

The British economy expanded 0.3 percent in the second quarter of 2017 as expected by markets. The second quarter figure was an improvement on the 0.2 percent growth in the first quarter. However, the data still indicates that the British economy is experiencing the slowest growth among the G7 economies. In the second quarter the GDP rose 1.7 percent on an annual basis. Last month, the IMF stated it predicts the British economy to grow by 1.7 percent this year, compared with the 2 percent forecasted in April.

Looking at the components of the GDP, consumer spending, exports and business invest-

of rebalancing in the second quarter, with both business investment and net trade making no contribution to economic growth.

Japanese manufacturing

Japanese factory output readings signaled that despite the soft figures in June and July, manufacturing activity has managed to rebound as the Japan Flash Manufacturing PMI came in at 52.8 for the month of August from 52.1 in July. The report also showed factory output, new orders and employment all grew at a faster pace than the previous month. Paul Smith, Director at IHS Markit, which compiles the survey commented on the report saying that "Expansion continues to be supported by a mix of strengthened demand from both domestic and external sources. The latest figure provides additional support on the health of Japan's manufacturing sector."

Can BoJ achieve inflation Target?

Price growth moderately accelerated in July, largely driven by higher fuel costs, while subdued wage growth discouraged consumers from increasing their spending. Japan's national core consumer prices rose 0.5 percent in July on an annual basis marking its seventh straight monthly gain. It is a sign the economy is making steady but painfully slow progress toward meeting the central bank's 2 percent inflation target. Core inflation in Tokyo swelled 0.2 percent in August coming at 0.4 percent year to year.

The absence of higher wages even as the jobless rate being at multi-decade lows, should keep underlying price pressures limited in the economy. Moreover, the BoJ has had to push back the timing of its price target six times since it deployed a massive stimulus program in 2013. The bank predicts inflation to reach its 2 percent target by March 2020, arguing that a tightening job market and solid economic growth will gradually push up prices. Overall, the labor market is tight and business sentiment is high, but wage growth has been tepid and efforts to lift inflation have fallen flat despite years of aggressive monetary easing by Japan's central bank.

A vast majority of firms are opposed to the idea of further radical monetary easing. The data compiled by a Reuters survey showed that Japanese firms believe the central bank's inflation goal will either take more than three years to achieve its 2 percent goal or is an impossible target. Firms have had to continually cut prices in order to sell more goods, the survey showed. One firm manager wrote: "Under the current circumstances where effective demand is declining, pursuing an ultra-easy monetary policy including negative interest rates hardly produces positive effects. Instead it causes side effects to materialize."

Kuwait
Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30145
The USD/KD opened at 0.30145 yesterday morning.

THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IS GETTING STRONGER

By Hayder Tawfik

Great momentum is building up for the global economy to deliver faster and stronger growth in the coming few years. It is already showing relative strength comparing to the past couple of years. Luckily this economic growth expansion is broadly based. Economies from Japan to Europe are bouncing back from years of timid growth. Hopefully this higher economic growth can be sustained as it is not accompanied by higher inflation.

The global economy is in a much better shape than it has been for several years, helped by low interest rates, falling unemployment and strained wage growth. This has been one of the longest economic cycle that is characterized by steady growth with no risk of slow down or recession. Also, it has been investor friendly, thanks mainly to the action taken by the central banks over the past few years. It is a sort of Goldilocks scenario. Investors are getting rewarded by global economic recovery that is strong enough to generate good corporate profits without added costs. Also, it is not threatening higher interest rates as inflation is still below most central banks official targets.

Based on the latest economic forecasts, the global gross domestic product is projected to increase by 3.4 percent in 2017 and 3.5 percent in 2018. These figures are a bit lower than the estimated 4 percent plus pace in the second quarter of this year but they still represent a clear acceleration from last year's 3.1 percent advance. The encouraging signs are that the acceleration in the global economic activities are broadly based with coordinated upswing across most advanced economies. Recently, The International Monetary Fund confirmed that world trade growth has picked up, with volumes projected to grow faster than global output in the next two years. The pick-up in global economic growth has been paced by good signs of rebounds in Europe and Japan, the two economies that until now had been drags on the global economy.

The euro-area economy is starting to

build momentum. The expansion accelerated to 0.6 percent in the second quarter, and it's more evenly spread across the 19-nation region than in the past. Strong economic growth has been reported throughout the European Union, from Italy, Spain, Netherlands and France. This is all good and encouraging news for the European Central Bank. It has been patient with its accommodative policies for a while and that has been paying off recently. Inflation or the lack of it is still the only factor that is still causing concern for the European Central bank and some others in the developed economies.

Whereas the Japanese and the European economies are showing good solid growth, the world biggest and second biggest, the US and China are yet to show strong pick up in their economic activity. I believe it is a matter of time before we see the US and the Chinese economic growth getting strong boost for the strong global economic recovery. US economic statistics and future indicators are pointing at possible growth acceleration in the coming years. US consumers are benefiting from a strong jobs market and healthy balance sheets while companies are enjoying a revival in profits and very low borrowing costs. Concern about the US Federal Reserve raising interest rates in the coming months is way overblown. I don't think the Federal Reserve chairwomen, Janet Yellen is going to risk the economy at the time when she is going to be replaced shortly. Anyway, she has no strong argument to act aggressively on its tightening policy.

International investors should take comfort from the acceleration in the global economic growth at least for the coming couple of years and be assured that inflation and central banks are on their side when they need them. There is a strong and good foundation to build on for the next couple of years. @Rasameel



HOT TOPIC OF NEXT FED CHAIR NOT ON PROGRAM AT JACKSON HOLE

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming: This year's gathering of the world's central bankers had a theme as lofty as the Grant Teton Mountains which loomed over their meeting place - "Fostering a Dynamic Global Economy." But while many hours were devoted to sitting in a windowless conference room dissecting the symposium's academic papers on how to bolster lackluster global growth, one hot topic was not on the program - who will President Donald Trump nominate to be the next leader of the Federal Reserve once current Chair Janet Yellen's four-year term is up next February.

Trump has said he is considering picking Yellen for a second term despite the harsh things he said about her during last year's presidential campaign. But he has also said Gary Cohn, the head of Trump's National Economic Council and the man overseeing the selection process, is in the running as well.

On the record, current Fed officials were very diplomatic about the possible change. Robert Kaplan, president of the Fed's Dallas regional bank, did not want to talk about specific candidates, only saying, "We are a very resilient organization so I am very confident about our ability to be effective" whoever is chosen. Esther George, president of the Kansas City Fed, the host for the conference, also didn't want to discuss potential candidates for the top job or the other vacancies on the seven-member Fed board. "These are important jobs," she said in an interview on CNBC. "So you want people who understand that full mission and are prepared to roll up their sleeves and come to work."

Given the discussions outside the conference room, the bottom line is that no one here had any idea what Trump might do or when he might do it. Trump said in an interview last month that he expects to wait until the end of the year to make a decision, a timeline which many thought was risky given that whomever Trump picks will have to clear the Senate confirmation process and Yellen's term as chairman will be up on Feb 3. The mystery surrounding Trump's choice for Fed leader pervaded not only the hallway discussions but also the analysis of the speeches at the confer-

ence. As is customary, Yellen, as the current Fed chair, was the lead-off speaker on Friday morning. She devoted her comments to a vigorous defense of the financial regulatory overhaul that a Democratic Congress and Barack Obama, a Democratic president, put in place in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. She said the changes had made the financial system more resilient and she rejected arguments that Republicans critics have made that the changes have lowered bank lending and hurt economic growth.

Her remarks prompted a number of financial market analysts to opine that Yellen's strong defense of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, which Trump during the campaign called a "disaster," had lessened the chances that Trump would select her for a second term.

But Yellen's supporters noted that she signaled in her speech that the Fed was prepared to be flexible in making minor changes that would lessen regulatory burdens, particularly on small community banks. Cohn, the other front-runner for the Fed job, was not present for the conference, but a number of other prominent economists who have been mentioned as potential candidates were here. John Taylor, a Stanford University economist famous for the "Taylor Rule" that lays out a rules-based approach to setting monetary policy, participated in all the conference discussions. Also present was Glenn Hubbard, dean of the Columbia University Business School, who chaired the Council of Economic Advisers in the George W. Bush administration and has often been mentioned when the Fed's top job has come open. In his July interview with the Wall Street Journal, Trump said he had other candidates in addition to Yellen and Cohn but he declined to name them. Randall S. Kroszner, a professor at the University of Chicago who played a key role as a member of the Fed's seven-member board during the 2008 financial crisis, is also viewed as someone Trump might decide to choose. He chaired the conference's final session on Saturday. While Kroszner stuck to the traditional role of moderating the discussions and keeping the symposium running on time, it couldn't hurt that he had a prominent role at



In this Aug 25, 2016 file photo, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen arrives for a reception on the opening night of the annual conference of the world's central bankers, north of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. — AP

a conference attended by the Fed's top officials as well as central bank leaders from countries spanning the globe. One group at Jackson Hole did not have a spot on the official program, but they were the most vocal in terms of expressing their opinions on who should be the next Fed chair. Fed Up, a group representing community activists, labor unions and liberal policy groups, held a rally Friday on the grounds of the mountain lodge where the conference took place and presented petitions signed by 20,400 people urging Trump to pick Yellen for a second term. Some protesters dressed as Janet Yellen super heroes complete with green capes and Yellen's signature white hair to show their support.

The protesters said they believed Yellen would be far superior to Cohn, who spent 26 years on Wall Street as a top executive at Goldman Sachs. "Yellen Yes, Wall Street No," one of their signs read. — AP

INVESTORS SEEK GEMS AMONG UNLOVED SMALL-CAPS

WALL STREET WEEK AHEAD

NEW YORK: US small-cap stocks, highly sensitive to the fate of President Donald Trump's policy ambitions, may face more selling pressure, leaving small-cap investors scrambling for quality names and more resilient sectors.

Small-caps, which are more reliant on US policy and economic conditions than are large multinationals, have fallen recently on rising doubts that Trump can deliver on pro-business promises such as tax cuts.

After outperforming in late 2016 after

Trump's election, the S&P 600 index of smaller companies has fallen 1.4 percent in 2017 while the Russell 2000, which includes smaller firms, is up 1.4 percent versus the S&P 500's 9.2 percent rise. With Russell 2000 and S&P 600 multiples above historical averages, small-cap investors are carefully picking their steps.

"There's a lot of value in small-cap land if you can look through the rubble," said St. Denis Villere III, portfolio manager at Villere & Co in New Orleans, LA.

Some strategists are bearish on the small-cap sector as a whole, citing a patchier earnings outlook than for multinationals as well as doubts about Trump's agenda. And small-cap indexes, which are typically more volatile than the S&P 500, may face high volatility in coming months as US lawmakers debate controversial issues such as the debt ceiling. Smaller companies are "much more at risk than the large and more internationally exposed companies," according to Michael Purves, Chief Global Strategist at

Weeden & Co, who cited concerns about the lack of a "cohesive mood" in Washington. The S&P 600 price/earnings ratio is currently 19.7 compared with its long-term average of 17.3, while the Russell 2000 forward P/E is 25.4 compared with its 21.3 historical average.

As a result, Jefferies equity strategist Steven DeSanctis says, the Russell 2000 could fall 10 percent or more, bringing it below where it was before Trump's Nov. 8 election as valuations are high and "volatility is on the rise."

but is wary of retailers, real estate, utilities and materials. "Financials are a longer-term trend. This is not a thing that's six or 12 months," he said, citing higher rates and slow deregulation for banks. Villere is wary of utilities and energy companies but likes technology and some consumer companies. There is a divergence of performance between some individual small-cap sectors and their larger counterparts, potentially opening a value opportunity for investors. For example, the S&P 600 financials sector is down 6.7 percent year-to-date compared with a 6.2-percent increase for its S&P 500 counterpart. But the S&P 600 financial sector's forward P/E ratio of 15.9 is below its long-term average of 17.4 while the S&P 500 financial sector's multiple of 13.8 compares with a long-term average of 12.8.

In comparison, the S&P 600 utilities sector has risen 15.8 percent so far this year and its forward P/E of 23 is well above its long-term average of 16 versus a 12.8 percent rise for the S&P 500's utility index, which has a P/E of 17.9 compared with its long-term average of 13.9.

Such divergences are making small-cap investors wary. "It's prudent to not get out of the market but move to higher quality. Try to invest in a more discerning way," said Chris Zaccarelli, Chief Investment Officer at Cornerstone Financial Partners, in Huntersville, NC. — Reuters

Exercise caution

The bearishness is sending investors to seek value in specific small-cap sectors and stocks that still look cheap but have strong growth prospects. For example smaller financial and information technology stocks are strong value contenders while utilities and consumer staples stocks are out of favor among many investors.

"Given that the economy is better, we're more cyclical biased. That leads us to companies from technology to industrials," said Michael Corbett, chief investment officer at Perritt Capital Management in Chicago, who focuses on small-caps. "Valuations within staples look expensive today, whether it's food or utilities."

Jefferies' DeSanctis is bullish on the technology sector because of its exposure to strong overseas growth and he also likes financials and travel and leisure bets

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report							Global						
Sunday 27 August 2017													
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing				Volume			Value (KWD)			
Price index	▲ 29.10	6,914.27	6,885.17				74,496,236			13,396,071			
Weighted Index	▲ 0.92	430.46	429.54				Number of Trades			2,819			
KSX 15	▲ 7.41	987.97	980.56										

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	875	841	7,335	6,235	25	875	▲ 35.0
ENERGYH	34.7	33.0	59,375	1,989	14	33.1	▼ -1.8
GPI	38.9	38.6	417,194	16,195	20	38.8	▼ -0.1
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	▼ -0.0
Oil & Gas	483,904	24,389	59	1053.25	▲	18.10	
KFOUC	300	296	12,611	3,785	7	300	▼ -10.0
BPCC	630	612	513,371	321,582	29	630	▲ 23.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▼ -0.0
ALQURAIN	356	351	293,382	103,979	31	355	▲ 4.0
Basic Materials	819,364	429,325	67	1315.13	▲	7.70	
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	▼ -0.0
CABLE	505	497	107,510	53,772	15	501	▼ 9.0
SHIP	216	215	30,000	6,470	3	216	▼ 0.0
PCEM	966	966	9,105	8,795	2	966	▼ -4.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	▼ -0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	▼ -0.0
ACICO	264	264	1,682	444	1	264	▲ 1.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▼ -0.0
NICBM	175	175	3,788	659	1	175	▼ -3.0
EQUIPMENT	48.0	46.2	301,570	14,139	20	47.8	▼ -0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▼ -0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▼ -0.0
SALBOOKH	62	62	1,550	95	1	62	▲ 0.3
AGLTY	885	872	450,067	395,593	42	881	▲ 8.0
EDU	337	323	74,300	24,429	19	327	▼ -4.0
CLEANING	50	48.5	195,000	9,585	14	48.5	▼ -1.3
KGL	58	57	32,728	1,883	6	58	▲ 1.0
KKPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	165	▼ -0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,250	4,250	800	3,400	1	4,250	▲ 195.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▼ -0.0
GFC	72	72	10	1	1	72	▲ 12.0
SHOOTING	27.1	26.7	433,108	11,679	9	27.1	▲ 0.4
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	▼ -0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▼ -0.0
UPAC	715	665	1,365	926	2	715	▼ -0.0
ALAFCO	380	380	60,600	23,028	9	380	▼ -2.0
MUBARRAD	72	71	105,000	7,463	7	72	▲ 1.4
LOGISTICS	55	54	2,000,500	109,642	47	55	▲ 0.6
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▼ -0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	▼ -0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	▼ -0.0
FCEM	79	79	22,000	1,738	2	79	▲ 1.3
RKWC	82	82	2,970	244	1	82	▼ -3.0
SPEC	104	99	545,596	55,658	55	104	▲ 1.0
Industrials	4,379,229	729,643	258	1901.40	▲	32.00	
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▼ -0.0
CATL	298	267	240	64	2	298	▲ 3.0
DANAH	72	71	236,260	16,804	11	71	▲ 0.1
FOOD	2,000	1,830	10,017	20,033	5	1,995	▼ -0.0
Consumer Goods	246,517	36,901	18	1068.18	▲	6.40	
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	▼ -0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▼ -0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	▼ -0.0
Health Care	0	0	0	0	0	1618.89	▼ -0.00
KCIN	1,200	1,200	306	367	1	1,200	▲ 79
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▼ -0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▼ -0.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0	▼ -0.0
IFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	865	▼ -0.0
YFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	▼ -0.0
OULAFUEL	126	125	17,173	2,157	7	125	▼ -0.0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▼ -0.0
JAZEERA	570	559	116,897	66,277	23	565	▼ -0.0
SOOR	124	124	16,138	2,001	12	124	▼ -2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	123	▼ -0.0
ALRAI	127	126	10,148	1,289	2	126	▲ 1
Jiyad	51	41.3	53,110	2,194	7	41.3	▼ -9
Mezzan	800	791	41,510	32,951	9	800	▲ 1.0
Consumer Services	255,282	107,236	61	1048.24	▼	-1.70	
ZAIN	504	495	5,760,842	2,888,746	238	496	▼ -8
OOREDOO	1,160	1,160	467	542	1	1,160	▼ -2.0
AAN	40.1	39.2	257,100	10,206	13	39.2	▼ -1
VIVA	807	802	40,641	32,632	49	803	▼ -0.0
Telecommunications	6,059,050	2,912,126	301	609.98	▼	-5.70	
NBK	744	740	708,986	526,063	38	744	▲ 4
GBK	242	241	196,520	47,463	8	242	▲ 1
CBK	398	368	43,000	17,114	3	398	▼ -2
ABK	309	305	59,600	18,179	6	309	▼ -1
ALMUTAHED	419	417	211,845	89,577	17	418	▲ 1
KIB	243	241	1,674,786	406,135	41	241	▼ -2
BURG	372	371	7,384	2,744	5	372	▼ -0
KFIN	592	586	4,211,655	2,485,903	238	591	▲ 6
BOUBYAN	437	432	246,463	107,312	34	436	▲ 4
AUB	220	218	8,585,491	1,880,216	78	219	▲ 1
ITHMR	41.4	40.4	383,630	15,645	50	41.2	▲ 1
WARBANK	267	264	289,647	76,736	130	266	▲ 2
Banks	16,619,007	5,672,088	648	968.73	▲	4.00	
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265	▼ -0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	950	▼ -0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	445	▼ -0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▼ -0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	▼ -0.0
FTI	58	58	20,000	1,160	1	58	▼ -1.9
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	▼ -0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▼ -0.0
Insurance	20,000	1,160	1	1172.68	▼	-3.70	

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	51	49.4	2676866	135,928	66	51	▲ 1.1
KRE	64	63	1,329,694	83,873	37	63	▼ -1.1
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	▼ -0.0
NRE	123	120	1,415,722	169,952	52	121	▼ 0.0
SRE	368	355	13,000	4,622	3	368	▲ 7.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	404	▼ -0.0
AREEC	151	151	73,000	11,023	7	151	▲ 1.0
MASSALEH	43.0	39.0	58,200	2,355	4	39.0	▼ -2.0
ARABREC	36.4	35.9	380,699	13,732	15	36.4	▼ -0.5
ERESCO	42.9	42.4	413,100	17,596	29	42.5	▲ 0.4
MABANEE	799	790	52,000	41,220	9	790	▼ -8.0
INJAZZAT	85	85	19,734	1,677	1	85	▼ -4.0
INVESTORS	24.4	23.9	802,500	19,438	17	24.0	▼ -0.3
IRC	35.0	32.5	1,944,501	64,630	35	34.0	▲ 2.7
ALTIJARIA	97	94	1,608,548	153,842	54	97	▲ 0.8
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.0	▼ -0.0
AAYANRE	81	81	91,657	7,424	6	81	▼ -0.1
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	▼ -0.0
ALAQARIA	39.0	39.0	108,100	4,216	5	39.0	▼ -1.5
MAZAYA	114	113	178,000	20,162	9	114	▲ 1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▼ -0.0
TJAJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	55	▼ -0.0
TAAMEER	37.4	36.6	1,095,235</				

CHALLENGING THE LIMITS OF SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

HUAWEI LEICA DUAL CAMERA

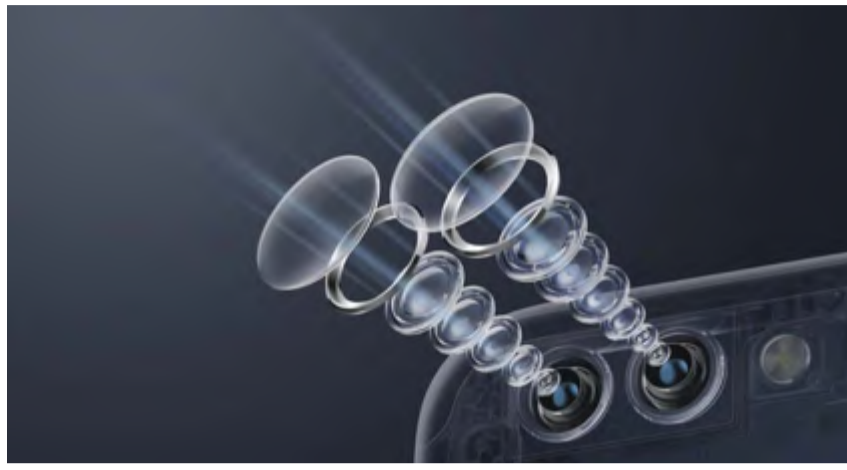
KUWAIT: In today's world, armed with a mobile device, anyone can become a photographer, recording their life and capturing every worthy moment. And the age of social networks, where hundreds of millions of photographs are uploaded and shared across the world, mobile phone photography is replacing portable digital cameras as one of the most effective mediums of communicating information.



Mate 9, Leica dual lens camera

We have seen that innovations in smartphone photography were focused on clarity and speed of the pictures. Consumer preference has now shifted beyond the usual megapixel count where higher quality of focus, better perspective, and more visible depth of field is not just 'nice-to-have', but a prerequisite.

Redefining the limits between professional and amateur photography, Huawei's partnership with premium



Nova 2 Plus dual lens

camera manufacturer Leica offers new and improved dual-lens camera technology that sets a new standard in smartphone photography. By leveraging the unrivalled capabilities of Leica, the leader in the world of imaging for more than 100 years, users of the Huawei smartphones can now enjoy more accurate colors, more refined interaction between light and shadow, and more life-like pictures. Huawei has taken dual camera technology to the next level.

How did this come about? To make dual cameras work, Huawei invested in several research and specialized teams. The joint efforts of a professional camera customization team in Japan, a top-notch dual camera algorithm team at the Huawei Mathematics Research Center in France and Max Berek Innovation Lab, and an ISP (image signal

processor) team, have created the most acclaimed Leica dual lens camera used in the Huawei flagship smartphones.

Since the launch of the first dual camera system co-developed with Leica in April 2016, Huawei have upgraded the dual lens technology every six months in an effort to deliver image quality that is consistently in line with the high standards of professional photography.

The Leica standard puts extremely high requirements on mobile phone components, ISP algorithms and post-processing which Huawei's R&D teams have responded to with around-the-clock testing, continuous re-engineering and tangible quality improvements. Today, Huawei has the biggest lineup of smartphone models with dual lens technology - at least 10 models with a dual camera system - which is featured



Richard Yu at Mate 9 launch event in Munich

in all flagship smartphones such as HUAWEI P10 & P10 Plus, Nova 2 Plus, and Mate 9.

Most recently, the HUAWEI Mate 9 series has been upgraded to feature 12MP RGB and 20MP monochrome rear cameras. When taking photos one camera captures the color while the other captures light in low-light conditions, the two cameras will work simultaneously, and mimic the rods and cones of human eyes.

So the real breakthrough Huawei and Leica have achieved with the latest dual-lens camera technology is not simply on the level of technology, but more importantly it is about transforming mobile phone photography from a mundane everyday activity into an authentic art form, infusing with emotion the mere act of capturing an

image. What the partnership brings to its consumers are image stories with warmth, self-expression filled with emotions, and thoughtful gentle human interactions. As the most legendary brand in the history of photography, Leica provides the smartphones with not only professionalism, but also more possibilities into the future.

Indeed, Huawei's recent win at the 2017 European Imaging and Sound Association (EISA) Awards for 'EISA Smartphone Camera 2017-2018' celebrates the outstanding user experience of the Leica dual-camera. This appropriate accolade by the world's largest independent collaboration of experts in multimedia technologies and consumer electronics will no doubt spur Huawei on to keeping revolutionizing the world of smartphone photography in our lifetime.



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI DRAW

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Naeem Ahmad Hussain
2. Saeed Abdulhafiz Al-Haj
3. AbAulaziz Abdulrazaq Kamal
4. Tala Khaled Aloum
5. Khaznah Sulaiman Al-Enezi

In addition to the daily draw, Borgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Borgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win. Established in 1977, Borgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in

Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Borgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Borgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

Borgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.

VIVA LAUNCHES 'ALLO' WELCOME PACKAGE FOR PREPAID CUSTOMERS

PACKAGE STARTS WITH KD 5; 5GB EACH FOR FIRST 3 MONTHS

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the unrivalled "allo" welcome package for prepaid customers, promising a new prepaid experience in Kuwait, through an all-in-one prepaid line and more.

VIVA welcomes all new "allo" line customers starting KD 5 with an extra 15GB of internet over the first 3 months; 5GB each month. VIVA continues to give more to its customers by allowing all "allo" new and current customers can double up on their existing benefits, as follows: KD 3 (100 local minutes on net and 4 GB internet), KD 5 (200 local minutes on net and 10 GB internet), KD 8 (300 local minutes on net and 50 GB internet), KD 12 (unlimited VIVA to VIVA calls, 600 local minutes and 100 GB internet), KD 18 (unlimited local minutes and 400 GB internet).

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things Possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's



quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art,

nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.

HARDY ZIMBABWEAN FARMERS TAKE ON NIGERIA'S CHALLENGES

ILORIN, Nigeria: Farming in Nigeria is not for the fainthearted. Intermittent electricity means generators are needed half the time. Chronically potholed roads make transport slow and expensive. Fake fertiliser has previously devastated crops, while toxic feed ruined one dairy farm.

But for a group of 13 hardy farmers from Zimbabwe, the opportunity was too good to pass up. "When it comes to agriculture, there's a lot that can be done here," said Piet du Toit, a weather-beaten 64-year-old farmer from Zimbabwe, as he swung open the gate to his lush garden in Kwara state, western Nigeria.

"But it's got a long way to go and it's not going to happen overnight." Fourteen years ago, after Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe seized white-owned farms in a controversial land reform program, Du Toit took up an offer from the Kwara state government to take his skills to Nigeria.

He established a 1,000-hectare (nearly 2,500-acre) commercial farm in the virgin bush, two hours by car north of the state capital Ilorin. Since then, the gruelling conditions have slashed the size of the original group from 13 to five. Du Toit, who grows maize and soy, had to shift his focus to poultry farming this year after the plunging naira currency caused the cost of crop production to skyrocket. Yet for all the challenges, he says business is booming.

"It's profitable," said Du Toit, showing off his 21 chicken sheds and beaming with pride. "There's big investment coming into the country." But Nigeria is in the grip of its worst recession in 25 years after a plunge in oil prices.

Now the West African powerhouse is seeking to slash its dependency on crude revenues and wean itself off costly imports. President Muhammadu Buhari's government backs farming as one driver of recovery-but the reality has proved far more complicated, with farmers struggling to access credit.

Banks' lending to the agriculture sector has risen from about one percent of their total credit to just four percent in over three years, said FBN Quest, a Lagos-based investment banking firm. "This will not bring about the rapid growth in the agro-industry underpinning the federal government's strategies," it said in a recent note. Most farming is done by subsistence smallholders which complicates efforts to standardize market prices and product quality, while depriving the government of much needed revenue. — AFP



A photo shows a broiler room full of chickens on one of the farms associated with Valentine Chicken on July 11, 2017. Farming in Nigeria is not for the fainthearted. Intermittent electricity means generators are needed half the time. Chronically potholed roads make transport slow and expensive. — AFP

CBK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT



KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on Al-Najma Account yesterday at the bank's head office to select 5 winners to win a cash prize of KD 7000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Abdulaziz Ashkanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:-

1. Hasan Adel Abo Abas
2. Mustafa Shabbir Electric Wala
3. Abbas Khalaf Nief Mohammad
4. Elham Wajeeh Saleem Shaded
5. Bashar Yousef Al Ateya

Al-Najma Account allows its customers to win a daily prize of KD 7,000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the Account offers quarterly draws that provide

customers with opportunity to get their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a credit card against the customer's account along with enjoying all other banking services.

The Bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts with the Bank. Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce & Industry's significant role and its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly and transparently organized.

AUB SUPPORTS CBK TO LAUNCH ATMS TO DISPOSE EIDIYA DURING EID

KUWAIT: On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, may God shower our Islamic nation with blessings. Ahli United Bank (AUB) is pleased to announce its participation in the initiative created under the patronage of the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Banking Association and The Shared Electronic Banking Services Company (KNET) to launch a number of new ATMs providing new banknotes of KD 1 and KD 5 denominations at The Avenues, Sulail Al-Jahra and Gate Mall from 24th August until 2nd September 2017. This makes it convenient for customers to prepare for Eidiya without having to visit bank branches, in addition to providing an added convenience for mall visitors and those residing nearby to withdraw new currency. In addition to this initiative, which further



helps customers enjoy this happy occasion, AUB offers its customers the opportunity to obtain new banknotes in various denominations through its network of branches located across Kuwait.

AUB values highly the efforts of the Central Bank to launch this initiative which will help reduce congestion in Banks's branches for those seeking Eidiya and helps to respond to the expected increase in demand for new banknotes on the occasion of this Eid."

UPGRADED UX IN LG V30 ENABLES MORE PERSONALIZATION OPTIONS

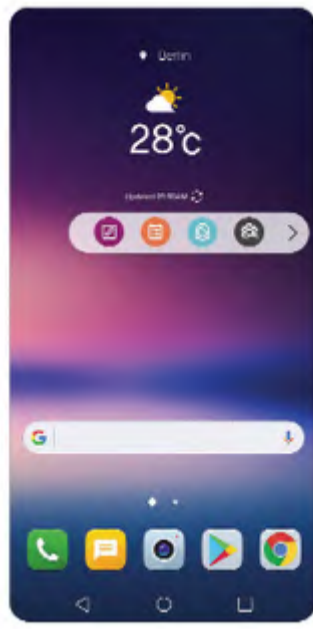
MULTIMEDIA EXCELLENCE, INTUITIVE USEFULNESS AT HEART OF LG'S NEW SMARTPHONE UX

DUBAI: The new UX 6.0+ to make its debut in the upcoming V30 from LG Electronics (LG) is an advanced version of LG's UX that has been optimized to work even better with the immersive 18:9 OLED FullVision display while offering more personalization options for a more intuitive user experience. Featuring the company's first OLED FullVision display and an advanced dual lens camera, the LG V30 is a powerful multimedia tool and the new UX is designed so that users can leverage its advanced capabilities to the fullest.

Graphy, which can be accessed in the camera's Manual Mode, gives any shutterbug professional quality photography capabilities. With Graphy, users can choose from among a portfolio of professional shots, each with a different style and mood or they can download photos taken by professionals from the Graphy website or mobile app and apply those metadata presets -

such as white balance, shutter speed, aperture and ISO - to photos taken with the V30. Different shooting modes such as auto, grid shot, snap shot and match shot are conveniently grouped under one menu for ease of selection. GIFs can be quickly created in the Gallery menu while the Create Movie option allows for the creation of movie using photos and/or video files which can then be edited in the included Quick Video Editor.

The Second Screen in the LG V20 has evolved to become Floating Bar on the V30. The semi-transparent Floating Bar allows for quick access to frequently used functions and can be dragged completely off the FullVision display when not needed. When powered off, the Always-on Display is even more customizable than before. The AOD now not only shows the clock, it can also be set to display Quick Tools, Music Player or a personal photograph as well.



Security features in the LG V30 are also more advanced than in LG's previous smartphone UX. Using Face Recognition, the V30 can be unlocked instantaneously using the front facing camera even when the phone's display is off. And there is no need to press the power button first, unlike on other phones. Voice Recognition uses a combination of the user's voice and self-generated keywords (ideally three to five syllables combined) to unlock the V30 without the need to press a button or swipe the screen. It is supported by Qualcomm Aqstic voice UI technology for always-on, always-listening capabilities that requires very little battery power.

Even the feel of the UX can be tailored to users' preference. Haptic feedback on the LG V30 can be customized with various included vibration combinations that can be matched to the phone's ringtone.

AIRPORT OF FUTURE: FACE SCANS AND ROBOT BAGGAGE HANDLERS

NEW TECHNOLOGY COULD TURN THIS VISION INTO A REALITY



SINGAPORE: This photograph taken on July 25, 2017 shows the self-baggage check-in machine being demonstrated to journalists during a media tour of the newly built Changi airport terminal 4 in Singapore. —AFP

SINGAPORE: Passengers' baggage is collected by robots, they relax in a luxurious waiting area complete with an indoor garden before getting a face scan and swiftly passing through security and immigration this could be the airport of the future. It's a vision that planners hope will become reality as new technology is rolled out, transforming the exhausting experience of getting stuck in lengthy queues in ageing, overcrowded terminals into something far more pleasant.

The Asia-Pacific has been leading the way but faces fierce competition from the Middle East as major hubs compete to attract the growing number of long-haul travellers who can choose how to route their journey. The regions "are the two leading pockets of technology growth because they are really competing to be the global hubs for air transportation," Seth Young, director of the Center for Aviation Studies at Ohio State University, told AFP.

"If I'm going to fly from New York to Bangalore, do I transfer through Abu Dhabi or Dubai or do I transfer through Hong Kong? That's a huge, huge market."

But the changes also represent major challenges that could upend decades-old business models at major airports, with analysts warning operators may face a hit to their revenues to the tune of billions of dollars. Facial scanning in particular is generating a lot of buzz. Changi in the affluent city-state of Singapore, regarded as among the world's best airports, is set to roll out this biometric technology at a new terminal to open later this year.

Passengers will have their faces scanned when they first check in and at subsequent stages, theoretically allowing them to go through the whole boarding process quickly without encountering another human. Australia announced in July an investment of Aus\$22.5 million (\$17.5 million) to introduce face recognition technology at all the country's international airports, while Dubai Airport is also trialling it.

Robot baggage handlers

Robots are appearing at some major hubs, including at Seoul's Incheon airport, where they carry out tasks including cleaning and carrying luggage, while Changi's new terminal will have robotic cleaners complete with butlers' uniforms. Self-service check-in and printing of boarding passes is already common, with many people printing their passes at home or at airport kiosks, and some hubs are now introducing self-service baggage drop points. The service, which allows passengers to print and tag their baggage and then send it off on the conveyor belt, is available at airports including Australian hubs, Hong Kong, London Heathrow and Amsterdam's Schiphol. Airports are also trying to overhaul their image as dreary places that must be endured in order to get from A to B, to somewhere travellers can enjoy spending time.

Changi is building a new terminal complex called Jewel, a 10-storey development filled with shops and restaurants whose centrepiece will be a 40-metre (130-foot) indoor waterfall surrounded by an indoor garden. The complex will make the airport look more like a shopping mall than a traditional hub, and is aimed at cashing in on transiting passengers. "They are looking at retail, non-aeronautical profits," said Shukor Yusof, an aviation analyst from Endau Analytics.

But while hubs in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East surge ahead, airports in the United States and Europe are being left behind. "Europe and the US were the leading aviation markets for the last 75 to 100 years, and it's very difficult to revolutionize your infrastructure when you are on a foundation that is 75 years old," said Young of the Center for Aviation Studies. He added it was also a matter of "political will", as emerging economies see building cutting-edge airports as a way of raising their status globally.

Ageing hubs

Some US and European airports are nevertheless trying to up their game. New York's ageing airports have long been criticized as old-fashioned, cramped and dirty but JFK, the main international hub serving the city, hopes to shed its dire reputation with a proposed \$10 billion redevelopment. Amsterdam's Schiphol is aiming to become the world's leading digital airport by 2019, and has been testing hand luggage scanners that allow passengers to keep liquids and laptops in their bags. It is also looking at biometric technology. Despite the buzz surrounding new technology, there are concerns that rapid innovation could threaten long-held ways of doing business.

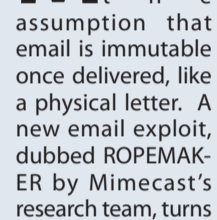
A report from consultancy Roland Berger warned that airport revenues from retail and parking could fall by between two and four billion dollars due to the new innovations. Automated, more predictable check-in procedures threaten retail outlets as passengers are likely to reduce the "buffer" they build in to trips to the airport, meaning less shopping time, while developments such as ride-hailing apps could undercut parking revenues, it said.

Still, the landscape may not transform so quickly as many airports face difficulties in introducing new technology, from resistance to change to availability of financing, said Xavier Aymonod, a transport expert at Roland Berger and lead author of the report. "It's really challenging for airports to launch this digital transformation," he told AFP. —AFP

ROPEMAKER: EMAIL SECURITY WEAKNESS - VULNERABILITY OR APPLICATION MISUSE?

By Matthew Gardiner

Most people live under the assumption that email is immutable once delivered, like a physical letter. A new email exploit, dubbed ROPEMAKER by Mimecast's research team, turns that assumption on its head, undermining the security and non-repudiation of email; even for those that use SMIME or PGP for signing. Using the ROPEMAKER exploit a malicious actor can change the displayed content in an email at will. For example, a malicious actor could swap a benign URL with a malicious one in an email already delivered to your inbox, turn simple text into a malicious URL, or edit any text in the body of an email whenever they want. All of this can be done without direct access to the inbox.



Described in more detail in a recently published security advisory, Mimecast has been able to add a defense against this exploit for our customers and also provide security recommendations that can be considered non-customers to safeguard their email from this email exploit.

So what is ROPEMAKER? The origin of ROPEMAKER lies at the intersection of email and Web technologies, more specifically Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) used with HTML. While the use of these Web technologies has made email more visually attractive and dynamic relative to its purely text-based predecessor, this has also introduced an exploitable attack vector for email.

Clearly, giving attackers remote control over any aspect of ones' applications or infrastructure is a bad thing. As is described in more depth in the ROPEMAKER Security Advisory, this remote-

control-ability could enable bad actors to direct unwitting users to malicious Web sites or cause other harmful consequences using a technique that could bypass common security controls and fool even the most security savvy users. ROPEMAKER could be leveraged in ways that are limited only by the creativity of the threat actors, which experience tells us, is often unlimited.

To date, Mimecast has not seen ROPEMAKER exploited in the wild. We have, however, shown it to work on most popular email clients and online email services. Given that Mimecast currently serves more than 27K organizations and relays billions of emails monthly, if these types of exploits were being widely used it is very likely that Mimecast would see them. However, this is no guarantee that cybercriminals aren't currently taking advantage of ROPEMAKER in very targeted attacks.

For details on email clients that we tested that are and are not exploitable by ROPEMAKER and the specifics on a security setting recommended by Apple for Apple Mail, please see the ROPEMAKER Security Advisory.

Is ROPEMAKER a software vulnerability, a form of potential application abuse/exploit, or a fundamental design flaw resulting from the intersection of Web technologies and email? Does it really matter which it is? For sure attackers don't care why a system can be exploited, only that it can be. If you agree that the potential of an email being changeable post-delivery under the control of a malicious actor increases the probability of a successful email-borne attack, the issue simplifies itself. Experience tells us that cybercriminals are always looking for the next email attack technique to use. As an industry let's work together to reduce the likelihood that the ROPEMAKER style of exploits gains any traction with cybercriminals!

Note: Matthew Gardiner is Senior Product Marketing Manager, Mimecast

SAMSUNG HEIR'S JAILING MAY USHER IN REFORM

SEOUL: The conviction and jailing of South Korea's top business tycoon heralds a drive to reform the country's giant conglomerates and loosen their grip on the economy, analysts said. When Lee Jae-Yong, de facto head of the world's biggest smartphone maker Samsung Electronics, was jailed Friday for bribing South Korea's former president and other offences, the Seoul court condemned "corrupt ties" between business leaders and politicians.

It is far from the first time these links have been made public. South Korea's chaebols, or family-run conglomerates, have long enjoyed close, opaque ties to political authorities.

"There is a well-founded concern that Korean corporations have too much financial influence over the political system through favors and friendships," Robert Kelly, professor of political science at Pusan National University, told AFP.

The chaebols were instrumental in the "Miracle on the Han"-South Korea's rapid transformation from war-ravaged ruin to Asia's fourth-largest economy-during which they received privileges in business and protection from foreign competition.

Several-including LG and Hyundai as well as Samsung-established global reputations while their hundreds of thousands of employees, often effectively hired for life, became the backbone of South Korea's new middle class. But as GDP growth has slowed, public frustration with the chaebols has mounted. They are accused of choking off innovation, distorting markets, and engaging in corrupt practices to ensure founding families retain control. Many young South Koreans feel that no matter how hard they work, they will never see their positions improve as their parents' did.

When millions of people took to the streets to demand president Park Geun-Hye's ouster over a burgeoning corruption scandal, their anger was directed almost as much at the companies that paid her secret confidante Choi Soon-Sil, as at her.

After Park's impeachment and dismissal, new president Moon Jae-In won a sweeping election victory campaigning on a platform of reform.

'Unprecedented jailing'

Samsung is by far the biggest of the chaebols, with its revenues equivalent to around a fifth of the country's GDP.

Lee Jae-Yong's father, who remains Samsung chairman, was previously convicted of bribery, tax and other offences himself, and the scion's grandfather also had brushes with the law, but neither was ever jailed. Chaebol leaders have regularly enjoyed such privileges in the past, with trials ending in light or suspended sentences and courts citing their contributions to the economy. But imprisoning the vice chairman of Samsung for five years-even though the sentence could be reduced on appeal-shows that now no-one is immune, the thinking goes.

Lee was also found guilty of perjury and other offences. "The unprecedented jailing of the head of the country's most powerful chaebol will serve as a catalyst for changing the whole society," said Chung Sun-Sup, who runs specialist website chaebol.com. Kim Joon-Woo, of Lawyers for a Democratic Society, said the Seoul Central District Court's decision was nudging South Korea toward a "more transparent capitalist economy".

"We welcome it as a warning signal over the dishonorable ties between politicians and businesses," he said. Moon plans to loosen the concentration of economic power in the chaebols' hands, curbing unfair trade practices including cross-subsidies between units and implementing tougher regulations. His ruling Democratic Party is seeking to limit acquisitions by subsidiaries of the top 10 chaebols, and prohibit new cross-shareholdings between them-a favourite technique of founding families to maintain effective control with only a small ownership stake. — AFP

CAN COMPUTERS ENHANCE THE WORK OF TEACHERS?

WASHINGTON: In middle school, Junior Alvarado often struggled with multiplication and earned poor grades in math, so when he started his freshman year at Washington Leadership Academy, a charter high school in the nation's capital, he fretted that he would fail.

But his teachers used technology to identify his weak spots, customize a learning plan just for him and coach him through it. This past week, as Alvarado started sophomore geometry, he was more confident. "For me personalized learning is having classes set at your level," Alvarado, 15, said in between lessons. "They explain the problem step by step, it wouldn't be as fast, it will be at your pace."

As schools struggle to raise high school graduation rates and close the persistent achievement gap for minority and low-income students, many educators tout digital technology in the classroom as a way forward. But experts caution that this approach still needs more scrutiny and warn schools and parents against being overly reliant on computers.

The use of technology in schools is part of a broader concept of personalized learning that has been gaining popularity in recent years. It's a pedagogical philosophy centered around the interests and needs of each individual child as opposed to universal standards. Other features include flexible learning environments, customized education paths and letting students have a say in what and how they want to learn.

Under the Obama administration, the Education Department poured \$500 million into personalized learning programs in 68 school districts serving close to a half million students in 13 states plus the District of Columbia. Large organizations such as the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation have also invested heavily in digital tools and other

student-centered practices. The International Association for K-12 Online Learning estimates that up to 10 percent of all America's public schools have adopted some form of personalized learning. Rhode Island plans to spend \$2 million to become the first state to make instruction in every one of its schools individualized. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos also embraces personalized learning as part of her broader push for school choice.

Supporters say the traditional education model, in which a teacher lectures at the blackboard and then tests all students at the same time, is obsolete and doesn't reflect the modern world.

"The economy needs kids who are creative problem solvers, who synthesize information, formulate and express a point of view," said Rhode Island Education Commissioner Ken Wagner. "That's the model we are trying to move toward."

At Washington Leadership Academy, educators rely on software and data to track student progress and adapt teaching to enable students to master topics at their own speed.

Special programs

This past week, sophomores used special computer programs to take diagnostic tests in math and reading, and teachers then used that data to develop individual learning plans. In English class, for example, students reading below grade level would be assigned the same books or articles as their peers, but complicated vocabulary in the text would be annotated on their screen.

"The digital tool tells us: We have a problem to fix with these kids right here and we can do it right then and there; we don't have to wait for the problem to come to us," said Joseph Webb, founding principal at the school, which opened last year. —AP



WASHINGTON: Britney Wray, a math teacher at Washington Leadership Academy, helps sophomore Kevin Baker, 15, with a math problem during class in Washington on August 23, 2017. —AP

MAINE BLUEBERRY CROP FALLS WITH DISEASE, LACK OF POLLINATION



SHERMAN, Maine: A girl holds a handful of wild blueberries picked near Sherman, Maine. — AP

PORTLAND, Maine: Maine's wild blueberry crop is likely to be much smaller this year than in recent summers because the industry is contending with troubles such as disease and a lack of pollination. The New England state is the wild blueberry capital of the US, and in recent years crop sizes have soared and prices have plummeted, bringing uncertainty to a key state industry. The crop grew a little less than one percent last year to almost 102 million pounds (46 million kilograms), while prices hit a 10-year low of 27 cents per pound to farmers.

But it's apparent as the summer harvest nears its end that that's all changing this year, University of Maine horticulture professor David Yarborough said. He said "mummy berry" disease, a crop-killing ailment caused by a fungal pathogen, and other factors could cut the crop as much as

36 percent this summer. "I do expect to see significant reduction in harvest compared to the last few years," Yarborough said. "And it's probably going to end a little earlier than typical." Yarborough said a shortage of pollinators like bees, a lack of rain and some localized frost issues have also held back the blueberry crop. Another factor influencing the crop size is that farming effort appears to be down this year, possibly influenced by the low prices to farmers, he said.

The high crops of recent years have taken a toll on the industry due to oversupply. The US Department of Agriculture approved up to \$10 million to purchase surplus Maine blueberries last month in an effort to prop up prices. The USDA also made a similar move in 2016. One year of lower blueberry yield might not be enough to raise prices, Yarborough said, because so many surplus

blueberries from past years remain in freezer storage. A rise in prices to farmers could eventually impact consumers in the form of higher prices, but it's unclear yet if that will happen any time soon, he said.

It's also unlikely growers will have trouble meeting demand, said Homer Woodward, vice president of operations for grower and processor Jasper Wyman & Son. "I think we're going to have enough fruit to keep everybody happy," he said. The wild blueberries are smaller than their cultivated cousins and they are often used in processed food products and smoothies. The vast majority of the crop is frozen. Canada also has a considerable wild blueberry industry, and competition with the country has been problematic for American growers because of the weak Canadian dollar. — AP

FORTY YEARS ON, VOYAGER STILL HURTTLES THROUGH SPACE

'HELLO, FROM THE CHILDREN OF PLANET EARTH'

MIAMI: Are we alone? Forty years ago, NASA rocket scientists sought to answer this question by launching the Voyager spacecraft, twin unmanned spaceships that would travel further than any human-made object in history. They are still traveling. When Voyager 1 and 2 launched about two weeks apart in 1977 from Cape Canaveral, Florida, scientists knew little about the outer planets in our solar system, and could hardly imagine the scope of their upcoming space odyssey. "None of us knew, when we launched 40 years ago, that anything would still be working, and continuing on this pioneering journey," said Voyager project scientist Ed Stone.

Voyager's main mission was to explore other planets including Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune, but it also carried the story of humanity into deep space. On board each Voyager is a golden record-and record player-that is built to last one billion years or more and contains key information about humanity and life on planet Earth, in case of an alien encounter. The sounds include the calls of humpback whales, the Chuck Berry song "Johnny B. Goode," Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, a Japanese shakuhachi (a type of flute), a Pygmy girls' initiation song, and greetings in 55 languages.

Late American astronomer Carl Sagan, one of the lead scientists involved with the project, also asked his son, Nick, who is now 46, to record his voice on it. "Hello, from the children of planet Earth," says the young American boy. A total of 115 images are encoded in analog form, including the Great Wall of China, telescopes, sunsets, elephants, Jane Goodall with chimps, an airport, a train, a breastfeeding mother, dolphins and images of the human sex organs.

Exploring other worlds

Voyager 2 launched first, on August 20, 1977, followed by Voyager 1 on September 5 on a faster, shorter trajectory that would eventually take it into the lead. The timing of the mission took advantage of a rare planetary alignment that only happens every 175 years, along with "gravity-assist" boosts from passing by planets that minimized the fuel needed. But Voyager faced many challenges from the start, from tight budgets to the limits of modern technology in the 1970s.

One project scientist famously recalled wrapping Voyager's cables in aluminum foil-the store-bought kind for kitchen use-to protect the spacecraft from frying in heavy radiation. Then-president Richard Nixon wanted to contain the mission to a two-planet flyby and a five-year life,

but scientists building Voyager planned for a longer mission just in case. The cosmic duo went on to unveil planetary features unlike anything ever seen, including details about the surface of Jupiter with its raging storm the size of two Earths, known as the Great Red Spot.

"These were, at that point, better pictures than any ground-based telescopes could provide," said Alan Cummings, a senior research scientist at Caltech who worked on the project beginning in 1973. The Voyager mission also discovered the first active volcanoes beyond Earth on Jupiter's moon Io, and signs of a subsurface ocean on Jupiter's moon Europa. Saturn's moon, Titan, turned out to have the most Earth-like atmosphere in the solar system, while Neptune's moon Triton was revealed to be spewing icy geysers.

'Cherish that blue dot'

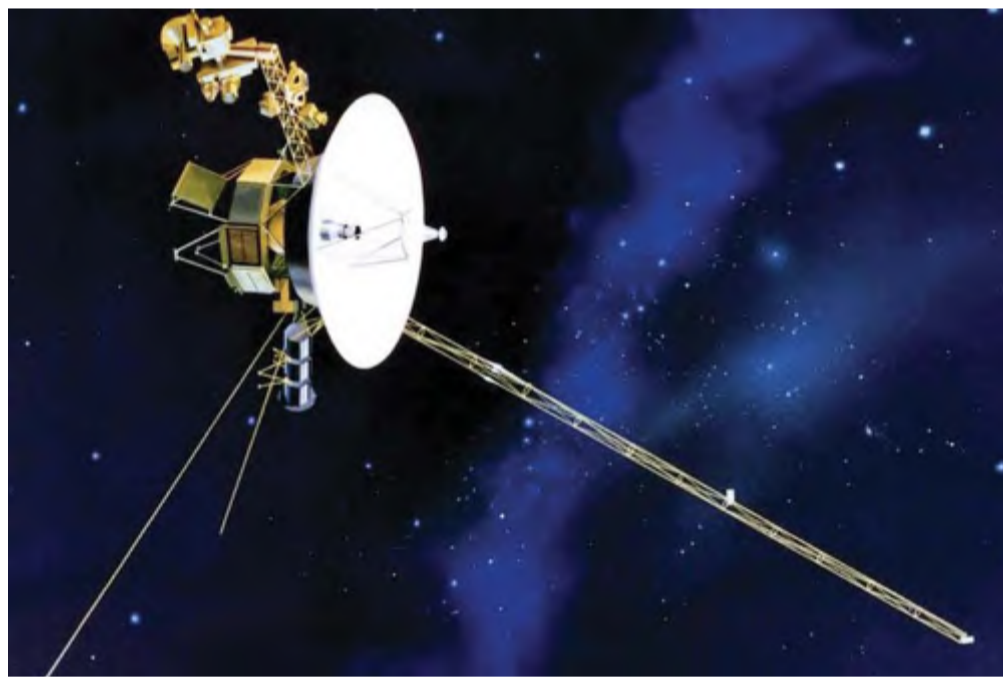
Astronomy textbooks were rewritten on a wide scale, thanks to Voyager, which zoomed past Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus and "revolutionized the science of planetary astronomy," NASA said in an online remembrance of the famed mission. When Voyager had no more planets to be encountered on its trajectory, Carl Sagan pressed to have its cameras turn back

toward Earth for a final snap of the planet that sent it. From four billion miles (6.4 billion kilometers) away, the images were taken on Valentine's Day, 1990.

The Earth appeared as tiny as a speck of dust in a sunbeam, less than a single pixel in the vastness of space. "I think this perspective underscores our responsibility to preserve and cherish that blue dot, the only home we have," Sagan told a press conference at the time.

Where are they now?

Voyager 1 has traveled farther than any human-made spacecraft, and made it to interstellar space, about 13 billion miles away from Earth, in August 2012. Voyager 2 is on its way there too, and is the only spacecraft to have flown by all four outer planets in our solar system. The plutonium-powered spaceships will continue until they finally run out of fuel, and will then orbit in the center of the Milky Way galaxy. Cummings said the cameras stopped working a long time ago, but about five instruments still collect data. Scientists still hear from the Voyager spacecraft daily, and expect to get data for about another decade. "It is still discovering new things because it is going where nothing has been before," said Stone. — AFP



SPACE: This NASA file photo taken on August 3, 2002 shows an artist's rendition of the Voyager spacecraft, which is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its launch. — AFP



Gloversville, New York: Photo provided by Sara Butler, Peanut, a puppy adopted by Butler reclines on a sofa in Butler's Gloversville, New York home. — AP

SICK PUPPIES SPUR NEW YORK SCRUTINY OF NON-PROFIT RESCUES

ALBANY, New York: When Alexis Kozmon and her husband decided to get a dog for their 6-year-old daughter, they chose to adopt rather than buy from a breeder to teach the child the value of rescuing. Four weeks later, the puppy the family named Sugar was dying painfully from distemper, and despite \$3,000 in veterinary treatments, the only humane option was to put her down. Two of Sugar's siblings met the same fate. Kozmon faulted the volunteer-based rescue that had trucked the puppies from Texas, but when she complained to New York's consumer protection agency, she learned such groups are exempt from oversight.

"There was a loophole," said Kozmon, who lives in Middletown, Connecticut, but adopted from a group in southeastern New York. "There was nothing they could do to follow up or investigate." Kozmon is among the animal lovers who pushed for a new law to provide state oversight of non-profit pet adoption groups. It cracks down on everything from shoddy health and record-keeping to unscrupulous pet dealers rebranding themselves as non-profit "rescues" and peddling puppies from the same puppy mills adopters seek to avoid.

The law, signed by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo this month, puts non-prof-

it shelters and rescues under the same state Agriculture and Markets regulations that cover licensed pet dealers and municipal shelters. "You have up to 500 non-profit entities under no regulation whatsoever," said Bill Ketzner, a regional official with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The new law requires the organizations to register with the agriculture agency, follow state documentation and vaccination requirements and disclose the number of animals transported annually. It also gives the agency the authority to craft additional regulations.

More than 35 states have some form of regulation of shelters and rescues, ranging from simple registration to standards of care, Ketzner said. Massachusetts lists state-approved organizations online. Connecticut requires anyone bringing a dog into the state for sale or adoption to be registered with the state and have health certificates for each animal. Ketzner said New York's lack of oversight has spawned a brisk trade in puppies shipped from southern states and overseas to the Northeast, where the local supply has been reduced by aggressive spay-and-neuter programs and bans on pet store puppies supplied by breeders. — AP

CLINIC PAGE



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FIND OUT WHY BEANS REALLY ARE MAGICAL

Do you want to live to be 100-years-old? The answer probably depends on knowing how well you'd feel during those later years. While there's no guarantee, we do know some common characteristics that the world's longest living people tend to share when it comes to having a much lower risk of disease and experiencing more healthy years of vibrant life.

Those longevity-boosting habits include enjoying an active lifestyle; stressing less and resting more; having a sense of belonging, whether it's being involved with family, with the community or through some form of spiritual belief system; surrounding yourself with positive people (I like to say, "Health is contagious, too!"); and eating well.

One way to eat well is to eat plenty of plants, including vegetables and fruits, grains, nuts - and one food that's often overlooked in a healthy diet: beans! Learn why you should be eating more beans and check out these tips on how to incorporate them into your diet. Plus, we've got two easy, healthy bean recipes: bean soup and banana-

walnut muffins with beans hidden inside.

Why beans?

Research published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, has shown that beans are a powerful player in helping promote a long, healthy life. They provide plant protein and complex carbohydrates in one package. Beans also offer fiber, a host of phytonutrients (plant-based nutrients), plus B vitamins that help provide energy, iron, magnesium, potassium, zinc and more. Eating beans regularly may help regulate blood sugar and decrease your risk of diabetes, heart disease, digestive issues like constipation, certain digestive cancers and also help with weight management, according to research. Eating beans frequently has also been shown to help reduce cholesterol, protect brain health and provide energy that lasts. Beans can make you feel full quicker and create a slower rise in blood sugar to stave off hunger. In other words, beans may help you achieve more years and more quality years.



How much?

How often and how many beans should you eat?

Researchers have noted that healthy centenarians tend to consume beans on a daily or near daily basis. And numerous studies have shown various health benefits from eating beans three times a week or more. But the good news is that you can benefit at any point in your life. Aim for about 1/2 cup of beans on most days. Feel free to use fresh, frozen, dried or canned beans, and don't forget about peanuts and soybeans, as well as other legumes like lentils.

10 simple ways to add more beans to your day

Morning, noon and night...beans go great in meals, snacks and even desserts!

1. Add beans to salads - garbanzos (chickpeas), kidney beans and white beans are great options!
2. Combine beans with grain dishes - rice and beans is a classic, but mix it up with other grains like quinoa or bulgur.

3. Spoon a layer of beans into tacos and burritos.
4. Include in soups, stews and chili, like my One-Pot Bountiful Bean Stew.
5. Add them to pasta dishes like penne and vegetables or One-Pot Pasta Fagiolo.
6. Puree and mix into sauces. For example, you can blend or mash cooked beans with a little water and puree with tomato for a hearty sauce in a lasagna.
7. Mix some beans into your salsas or enjoy bean dips like hummus with veggies or whole grain pita chips.
8. Try a bean burger or add beans to your burger meat to add fiber and moisture.
9. Make a grown-up PB&J with whole grain bread or pita, natural peanut butter and all-fruit preserves or even sliced fruit (banana, strawberries, peaches or mango all work well.)
10. Add beans to your baking! Puree beans with about a tablespoon of water and add black beans to brownies, or white beans to banana or zucchini bread and muffins.

DEIVA SEKKIZHAR PERAVAI'S SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY DAY

Deiva Sekkizhar Peravai (DSP-a literary Forum) celebrated its seventh anniversary function along with 71st Indian Independence Day with a lot of enthusiasm at its founder's (Kavisae Sekar) residence in Mangaf. The celebration took place on the evening of 15th August 2017. The function was inaugurated by lighting the traditional lamp by Padmapriya Ayyappan and Pandiselvi Pandi followed by a Tamil Thai Vazhthu rendered by Tamil poet and founder of DSP Kavisae Sekar. Ayyappan Ramalingam (Industrial Hygiene Specialist) opened the Aarivaitaire Arangam followed Jaganathan (past president of the

forum) speech on the history of Saint Aarivaitaire. The Kuwait Nandavanam family association founder Senthai Ravi gave a keynote speech about the organization.

The Kuwait Tamil Muthamil Mandram President and poet Kalipulla cut the Independence Day cake. K Manimozhian was elected as the DSP president of the year 2017-2018. Vijayapriya Ramanan offered an attractive speech about Sekkizhar Pillai Tamil (the last part of Pillai Tamil). Devi Ravi won the quiz contest. The function was concluded with vote of thanks from KOC safety engineer B Sekar.



X-CITE HOSTS LIVE ORIENTAL MUSIC EVENT

In a commitment to constantly engage with customers and the community as a whole, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics held its first live oriental music event at its Al-Rai showroom, hosting the Arabiska band and entertaining customers to the sounds of oriental music played with the unique twist associated with the band.

The event was the first in its series planned by X-cite, to be hosted in its various showrooms, enhancing customer experience and creating a social environment where customers can enjoy shopping for all your needed electronics. X-cite by Alghanim Electronics is Kuwait's largest electronic retail. It has 19 showrooms across Kuwait, as well as offers the convenience of shopping from home with X-cite's free-to-download app as well as the store's official website

www.xcite.com.

Customers can also enjoy many of X-cite's convenient services including Easy Credit, shopping at any of X-cite's selected stores that are open 24/7, extended and accidental warranty programs; in addition to the free delivery and installation services. X-cite also provides its customers with a full-fledged service center that operates six days a week, and a professional field technician team. To stay updated on the latest events, monthly promotions and offers, subscribe to the daily newsletter on xcite.com, follow X-cite's social media channels on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, @xcitealghanim, or Facebook, XcitebyAlghanim and win prizes with their contests, or visit the online store at www.xcite.com.



Aircraft maintenance staff at engineering department, Hangar organized a farewell function for colleagues Salman Arif and Manoj Kumar. The function was organized at Kuwait Continental Hotel in Kuwait City. It was coordinated by the colleagues at Aircraft Maintenance Section. The event was presided by Engineer Khaleel.



00:45 Treehouse Masters
05:02 Bad Dog
05:49 Bad Dog
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Gator Boys
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Bad Dog
10:00 North America
11:00 Gator Boys
11:55 Deadliest Snakes Of South Africa
12:50 The Vet Life
13:45 Bad Dog
14:40 North America
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Catching Monsters
18:20 Monster Mako
19:15 Bad Dog
20:10 Gator Boys
21:05 Catching Monsters
22:00 Monster Mako
22:55 North America
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Jessie
14:42 Lolo
14:50 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
15:45 Elena Of Avalor
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 Descendants Wicked World
16:40 Girl Meets World
17:00 Stuck In The Middle
17:30 Bunk'd
18:20 Bizaardvark
18:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:25 Alex & Co.
18:50 Best Friends Whenever
19:15 Sunny Bunnies
19:20 Liv And Maddie
19:45 Mako Mermaids
20:10 Jessie
20:35 Crackle
20:40 Alex & Co.
21:05 Austin & Ally
21:30 Stuck In The Middle
21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
22:00 Bunk'd
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolo

14:15 Future-Worm!
21:00 Jessie
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Kirby Buckets Warped
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Gravity Falls
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Milo Murphy's Law
18:35 Disney11
19:00 Disney11
19:25 K.C. Undercover
19:50 Marvel's Ant-Man
20:00 Milo Murphy's Law
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Kirby Buckets Warped
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

Mysteries Solved
01:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Cities Of The Underworld
00:20 Ice Road Truckers
01:10 Pawn Stars
01:35 Pawn Stars
02:00 Mystery Pickers
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:00 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Big Easy Motors
06:25 Duck Dynasty
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Leepu And Pitbull
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Ozy & Jack's World Detour
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
13:05 Leepu And Pitbull
13:55 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:40 Big Easy Motors
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Pawn Stars
18:05 Pawn Stars
18:30 Mystery Pickers
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Ultimate Soldier Challenge
21:50 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
22:40 Sean Bean On Waterloo
23:30 American Pickers

05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Breadwinners
13:00 School Of Rock
13:24 Hunter Street
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 Henry Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:24 Rabbids Invasion
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
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21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

21:00 Seinfeld
21:30 Seinfeld
22:00 Modern Family
22:30 Modern Family
23:00 The Big C
00:40 Chicago Med
01:30 Still Star-Crossed
02:20 The Unit
03:10 APB
04:00 Quantico
05:00 Bones
06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Chicago Med
09:20 APB
10:10 Quantico
11:00 The Unit
11:45 Chicago Fire
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Live Good Morning America
15:00 Quantico
17:00 APB
18:00 The Unit
19:00 Rosewood
20:00 Chicago P.D.
21:00 Chicago Justice
22:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
23:00 Beyond
23:50 The Strain

10:14 Food Factory
10:38 You Have Been Warned
11:26 Kings Of Construction
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Science Of The Movies
14:28 Kings Of Construction
15:26 You Have Been Warned
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Science Of The Movies
17:50 Kings Of Construction
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Science Of The Movies
22:00 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:50 Kings Of Construction
23:40 Mythbusters

00:25 EastEnders
00:55 The Level
01:45 SS-BG
02:45 Unforgotten
04:20 The Corner
05:05 Death In Paradise
06:00 New Tricks
06:55 Casualty
07:45 Death In Paradise
08:40 Doctor Who
09:30 New Tricks
10:25 EastEnders
10:55 Death In Paradise
11:50 Doctor Who
12:35 New Tricks
13:30 Casualty
14:20 EastEnders
14:50 Death In Paradise
15:45 Doctor Who
16:35 New Tricks
17:30 Casualty
18:20 Casualty
19:10 Death In Paradise
20:05 Ripper Street
21:00 Ripper Street
21:55 Scott & Bailey
22:45 Scott & Bailey
23:35 Casualty



00:00 The Haunting Of...
01:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch
02:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak
03:00 Deadly Wives
04:00 The Haunting Of...
05:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch
06:00 The First 48
07:00 It Takes A Killer
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
11:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
12:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
17:00 Crime Stories
18:00 It Takes A Killer
18:30 It Takes A Killer
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:25 Goldie & Bear
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins
09:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:30 PJ Masks
09:45 Miles From Tomorrow
10:10 Little Mermaid
10:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:25 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
11:50 Goldie & Bear
12:15 Sofia The First
12:40 Miles From Tomorrow
13:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Harry And Hip
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Goldie & Bear
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
20:05 The Lion Guard
20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:00 Goldie & Bear
21:25 Doc McStuffins
21:50 Harry And Hip
22:00 Little Mermaid
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Zou

00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:55 Famously Single
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Mariah's World
04:40 Mariah's World
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 So Cosmo
07:00 So Cosmo
08:00 So Cosmo
09:00 So Cosmo
10:00 Celebrity Style Story
10:30 Celebrity Style Story
11:00 WAGs Miami
11:55 WAGs Miami
12:50 WAGs Miami
13:45 Life Of Kylie
14:10 Life Of Kylie
14:40 Botched
15:30 Botched
16:30 Botched
17:30 Botched
18:30 Celebrity Style Story
19:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Botched
23:00 El News
23:15 Life Of Kylie

00:00 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
01:45 Raw Travel
01:40 Bad Trip
02:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
03:00 Delinquent Gourmet
03:30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
04:25 Chasing The Sun
04:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
05:20 Raw Travel
05:45 Raw Travel
06:15 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
07:10 Bad Trip
08:05 David Rocco's Dolce India
08:30 Delinquent Gourmet
09:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
09:55 Chasing The Sun
10:20 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
10:50 Raw Travel
11:15 Raw Travel
11:45 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
12:40 Bad Trip
13:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
14:00 Delinquent Gourmet
14:30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
15:25 Chasing The Sun
15:50 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
16:20 Raw Travel
16:45 Raw Travel
17:15 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
18:10 Bad Trip
19:05 Chasing The Sun
19:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
19:50 Cooking For Real
20:30 Cooking For Real
21:00 The Kitchen
21:30 The Pioneer Woman
22:00 The Pioneer Woman
22:30 Siba's Table
23:00 Siba's Table
23:30 Siba's Table
24:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
24:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
25:00 Chopped
26:00 The Kitchen
27:00 Cooking For Real
28:00 Chopped
29:00 Iron Chef America
30:00 Restaurant Stakeout
21:00 Mystery Diners
22:00 Mystery Diners
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

00:01 Max & Ruby
00:22 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:44 The Day Henry Met
00:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:17 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:40 Zack & Quack
02:01 Team Umizoomi
02:24 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:57 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:07 Nella The Princess Knight
04:30 Shimmer And Shine
04:53 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
05:16 Zack & Quack
05:27 The Day Henry Met
05:37 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:12 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:06 Paw Patrol
08:31 Shimmer And Shine
08:54 Nella The Princess Knight
09:16 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:21 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:43 Zack & Quack
10:54 Team Umizoomi
11:16 Shimmer And Shine
11:39 Shimmer And Shine
12:02 Max & Ruby
12:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:46 The Day Henry Met
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
14:02 Team Umizoomi
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
14:36 Paw Patrol
14:58 Little Charmers
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16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:55 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
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17:28 The Day Henry Met
17:33 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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00:00 The Royal Tenenbaums
02:05 Spotlight
04:15 No God No Master
06:00 I Am Bolt
08:00 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
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11:55 Spotlight
14:05 Healing
16:10 The Yellow Handkerchief
17:50 A Country Called Home
19:30 Rosewater
21:15 Miller's Crossing
23:15 Child Of God

00:20 The Undateables
01:05 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
01:50 Katie Price's Pony Club
02:35 Outdated: Bussy Quints
03:20 Kate Plus 8
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Ultimate Shopper
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 The Undateables
07:30 Katie Price's Pony Club
08:15 Kate Plus 8
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Married By Mum And Dad
11:40 The Undateables
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK
12:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK
13:10 Sister Wives
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras
14:40 Kate Plus 8
15:25 Married By Mum And Dad
16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 The Parent Trap
17:10 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
18:40 Max Keeble's Big Move
20:10 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
21:45 The Unbeatables
23:25 The Parent Trap

00:00 Still Star-Crossed
01:00 Beyond
01:50 The Strain
02:40 Chicago Med
03:30 Still Star-Crossed
04:20 The Unit
05:20 APB
06:10 Quantico
07:00 Bones
08:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
09:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Chicago Med
11:20 APB
12:10 Quantico
13:00 The Unit
13:45 Chicago Fire
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Quantico
19:00 APB



00:30 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
02:10 Playhouse Masters
03:00 Playhouse Masters
03:50 Finding Bigfoot
04:40 Finding Bigfoot
05:30 Science Of The Movies
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kenny The Shark
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Science Of The Movies
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 My Cat From Hell
12:00 Finding Bigfoot
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15:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
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16:10 Science Of The Movies
17:00 Life On A Wire
17:50 Dirty Jobs
18:40 Mythbusters
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19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
20:45 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
21:10 Life On A Wire
22:00 Dirty Jobs
22:50 Finding Bigfoot
23:40 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records

00:00 Food Network Star Kids
01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
01:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
02:00 Smollett Eats
02:30 Smollett Eats
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Food Network Star Kids
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:30 Barefoot Contessa
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 Cooking For Real
10:30 Cooking For Real
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
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22:00 Mystery Diners
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

00:00 Wicked Tuna
01:00 Year Million
02:00 Jfk: Seven Days That Made A President
04:00 Wicked Tuna
05:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
06:00 The Known Universe
07:00 Inside The American Mob
08:00 Robo-Humans
09:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
10:00 Airport Security: Colombia
11:00 Highway Thru Hell
12:00 Big Fix Alaska
13:00 The Known Universe
14:00 Year Million
15:00 Diamonds, Gold And Guns: Explorer XL
16:00 Airport Security: Colombia
17:00 Highway Thru Hell
18:00 Big Fix Alaska
19:00 Diamonds, Gold And Guns: Explorer XL
20:00 Airport Security: Colombia
21:00 Highway Thru Hell
22:00 Big Fix Alaska
23:00 Diamonds, Gold And Guns: Explorer XL

00:00 Don't Tell The Bride
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
04:20 Tonight At The London Palladium
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:05 Don't Tell The Bride
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
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12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:10 Don't Tell The Bride
15:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
15:40 Deadliest Catch
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Wheeler Dealers
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Hunters
18:20 Storage Hunters
18:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune
21:50 Deadliest Catch
22:40 Devil's Canyon
23:30 Fast N' Loud

00:00 My Life Is A Zoo
01:10 Planet Carnivore: Perfect Killers
02:00 Monster Croc Hunt
02:50 Snakes In The City
03:45 Zambazi
04:40 Soul Of The Elephant
05:35 Monster Croc Hunt
06:30 Snakes In The City
07:25 Zambazi
08:20 Soul Of The Elephant
09:15 World's Weirdest Pets
10:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal 2.5
11:05 Zoo Confidential
12:00 Wild Case Files
12:55 Puma: Lion Of The Andes
13:50 Snakes In The City
14:45 Zambazi
15:40 Secrets Of The Giant Manta
16:35 World's Weirdest Pets
17:30 Dr. K's Exotic Animal 2.5
18:25 Zoo Confidential
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00:00 The Carmichael Show
00:25 The Middle
00:50 Saturday Night Live Syndicated
02:05 The Big C
02:25 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
04:55 George Lopez
05:15 Suburgatory
05:40 Trial & Error
06:05 Making History
06:30 Mom
06:55 Less Than Perfect
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
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13:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
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14:50 Mom
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15:40 Making History
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Seinfeld
17:30 Seinfeld
18:00 The Middle
18:30 The Middle
19:00 Son Of Zorn
19:30 Son Of Zorn
20:00 Wrecked
20:30 Wrecked

00:00 The Half Hour
00:30 The Half Hour
00:55 Tosh.0
01:20 Tosh.0
01:45 The Alternative Comedy Experience
02:10 Live At The Apollo
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Lip Sync Battle
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Disaster Date
05:30 Catch A Contractor
05:55 Catch A Contractor
06:20 Bondi Ink
07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Impractical Jokers
08:55 Ridiculousness
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Ridiculousness
10:35 Disaster Date
11:00 Sweat Inc.
11:50 Disaster Date
12:15 Catch A Contractor
12:40 Catch A Contractor
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Urban Tarzan
14:20 Tattoo Disasters
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Ridiculousness
16:00 Impractical Jokers
16:30 Disaster Date
16:55 Disaster Date
17:20 Ridiculousness
17:45 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:10 Impractical Jokers
18:35 Key And Peele
18:59 Lip Sync Battle
19:22 Lip Sync Battle
19:46 Disaster Date
19:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:34 Ridiculousness Arabia
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The Half Hour
22:00 The Half Hour
22:25 The Alternative Comedy Experience
22:50 Live At The Apollo
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

00:00 WWE Experience
01:00 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights
01:30 WWE Wal3ooha
02:00 Summer X Games Highlights
03:00 Summer X Games Highlights
04:00 WWE Wal3ooha
04:50 Arena Esports
05:00 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights
05:30 X Games Xtraordinary
06:00 Monster Jam
07:00 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights
09:00 WWE Wal3ooha
09:30 X Games Xtraordinary
10:00 This Week In WWE
10:30 X Games Xtraordinary
11:00 Monster Jam
12:00 Formula-E Championship Highlights
13:00 WWE Bottom Line
14:00 Monster Jam
15:00 WWE 205 Live
16:00 WWE Main Event
17:00 Formula-E Championship Highlights
07:00 House Hunters International
07:30 House Hunters International
08:00 House Hunters International
08:30 Boat Buyers
09:00 Life's A Beach
09:30 Island Secrets
10:00 Hotel Impossible
11:00 Flip'n RVs
12:00 Robson Green Grand Slam Fishing
13:00 Building Alaska
14:00 Building Alaska
15:00 The Treehouse Guys
16:00 Lake Life
16:30 Lake Life
17:00 The Vanilla Ice Project
17:30 The Vanilla Ice Project
18:00 Robson Green Grand Slam Fishing
19:00 Hotel Impossible
20:00 Texas Flip And Move
21:00 Mysteries At The Museum
22:00 Expedition Unknown
23:00 Booze Traveler



00:30 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:20 Ghosts Of Shepherdstown
02:10 Evil Lives Here
03:00 Jonben?: An American Murder Mystery
03:48 Your Worst Nightmare
04:36 I Am Homicide
05:24 Murder Comes To Town
06:12 Blood Relatives
07:00 I Am Homicide
07:20 The Locator
11:10 Suspicion
12:00 Bad Blood
14:30 Blood Relatives
15:20 The Locator
16:10 Blood Relatives
17:00 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
21:10 Disappeared
22:00 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris

00:00 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 Idris Elba: Fighter
01:50 Last Chance Hospital
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
04:50 Gold Rush
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Deadliest Catch
06:45 Wheeler Dealers
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
09:00 Storage Hunters
09:25 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Fast N' Loud
10:55 Sacred Steel Bikes
11:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Storage Hunters
13:10 Gold Rush
13:55 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
14:40 Deadliest Catch
15:25 Fast N' Loud
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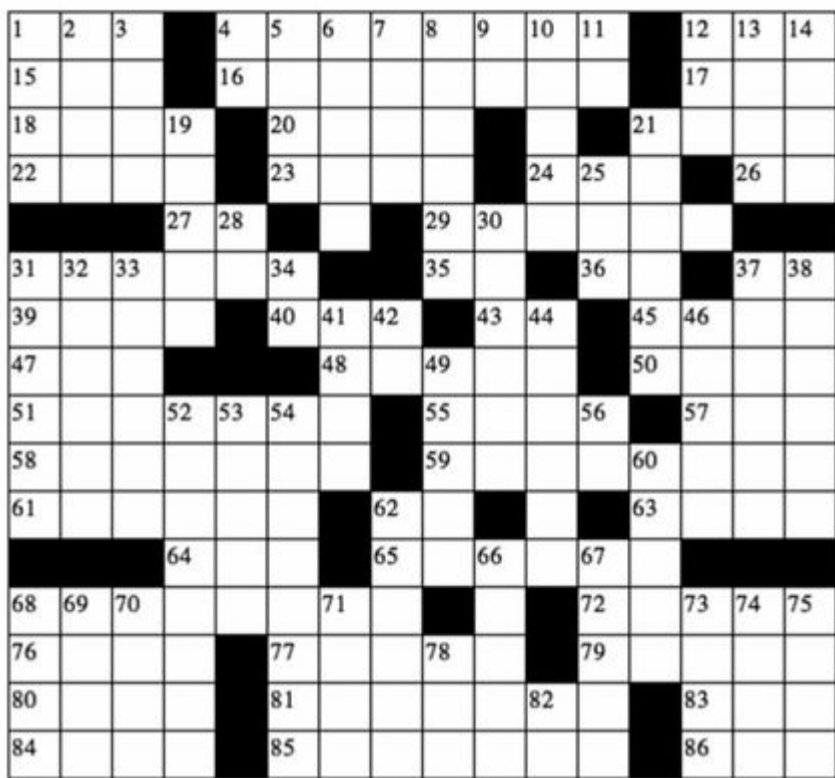
00:00 UFC Ultimate Knockouts
01:00 Legends Football League
02:30 One Weekly
03:00 UFC Soundwaves
03:30 UFC Ultimate Knockouts
04:00 UFC Reloaded
05:30 UFC Fight Replay
06:00 UFC Top 10
06:30 UFC Ultimate Knockouts
07:00 FIA World Touring Car Championship Highlights
07:30 FIA World Touring Car Championship Highlights
08:00 TCR Asia Superbike
09:00 Motul FIM Superbike Highlights
10:00 Goodwood Festival Of Speed
11:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights
13:00 One Championship
16:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights
18:00 Bellator MMA Prelims
20:00 Bellator MMA 182 - Koshkov v Njokuani



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 The Zhuzhus
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Bizaardvark
09:00 Austin & Ally
09:50 Good Luck Charlie
10:40 Alex & Co.
11:05 Lolo
11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:00 Welcome To The Ronks
12:15 Hank Zipzer
12:40 Dog With A Blog
13:05 Star Darlings
13:10 Good Luck Charlie

00:00 Milo Murphy's Law
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Mech-X4
0

CROSSWORD 1697



ACROSS

1. A bachelor's degree in naval science.
4. An ancient branch of the Semitic languages.
12. A pointed tool for marking surfaces or for punching small holes.
15. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
16. Of or relating to or involved in the practice of aiding the memory.
17. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
18. Not only so, but.
20. In bed.
22. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
23. Sudden sharp painful emotion.
24. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
26. A public promotion of some product or service.
27. Unknown god.
29. King of England who was renounced by Northumbria in favor of his brother Edgar (died in 959).
31. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
35. A unit of weight equivalent to 1000 kilograms.
36. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
39. Flat tableland with steep edges.
40. A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
43. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
45. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
47. Hormones (estrogen and progesterin) are given to postmenopausal women.
48. Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).
50. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
51. Roman general who commanded the fleet that defeated the forces of Antony and Cleopatra at Actium (63-12 BC).
55. Flat persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
57. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
58. A conventional name for a fox used in tales following usage in the old epic "Reynard the Fox".
59. (Greek mythology) Fire-breathing she-monster with a lion's head and a goat's body and a serpent's tail.
61. (of tempo) Leisurely n.
63. Acute lung injury characterized by coughing and rales.
64. Either extremity of something that has length.
65. A shop where a variety of goods are sold.
68. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
72. The capital and largest city of Idaho.
76. A cooperative unit.
77. (Greek mythology) A giant Boeotian hunter who pursued the Pleiades and was eventually slain by Artemis.
79. Having come or been brought to a conclusion.
80. Long green edible beaked pods of the okra plant.
81. A Chadic language spoken in the Mandara mountains in Cameroon.
83. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
84. The part of a hammerhead opposite the flat striking surface (may have various shapes).
85. Any of several tropical American trees of the genus Andira.
86. The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

DOWN

1. Common Indian weaverbird.
2. French physicist noted for research on magnetism (born in 1904).
3. A narcotic that is considered a hard drug.
4. Before noon.
5. Strike sharply.
6. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
7. A primeval personification of air and breath.
8. A small low-powered electrically powered vehicle driven on a special platform where there are many others to be dodged.
9. Not out.
10. Having help.
11. A state in southeastern United States.
12. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
13. Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
14. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
19. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
21. Sorting and allocating aid on the basis of need for or likely benefit from medical treatment or food.
25. An overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration.
28. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
30. Cause to be attached.
32. Formed or united into a whole.
33. Deciduous monoecious trees of Europe and Asia and America.
34. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
37. On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.
38. Greek coloratura soprano (born in the United States) known for her dramatic intensity in operatic roles (1923-1977).
41. Wearing or provided with clothing.
42. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
44. Type genus of the Anhimidae.
46. A strong emotion.
49. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
52. A member of western Finnish people formerly living in the Baltic province where Saint Petersburg was built.
53. American Revolutionary leader and signer of the Declaration of Independence (1731-1814).
54. An early symptom that a disease is developing or that an attack is about to occur.
56. The square of a body of any size of type.
60. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
62. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
66. Relating to or of the nature of a zone.
67. At right angles to the length of a ship or airplane.
69. A Chinese breed of small short-legged dogs with a long silky coat and broad flat muzzle.
70. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
71. A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
73. Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
74. 100 sene equal 1 tala.
75. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
78. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
82. A state in New England.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Work seems intense today but you possess a powerful, persistent drive and are a hard, steady worker. Some people find you deep, with a sense of mystery. You are willing to do work today that others would not go near, quietly putting an end to some difficult problems. Later today you might be helping others to learn technical techniques so that you will eventually not be so overburdened. You are able to direct others in your business and this may lead to a leadership position. You busy yourself this afternoon in some project that you had been putting off for some time. You will be creating a new form or format for presentation to some very important people. Some people may wonder how the business could ever get along without you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are friendly and encouraging today. You somehow manage to find a creative environment or the creative in any environment, so as to provide the most beneficial area in which to work or play. Others want to join you in this project. You have a built-in sense of what the public wants and can always come up with just the right image. You find it easy to work with the emotions and feelings of others and with great imagination. You are great with kids and big on animals, sports and the outdoors. You are an instant umbrella of warmth, friendship and self-expression. Clear decisions affecting others could be made easily at this time. These are the attitudes and circumstances in which you find yourself teaching others.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are lots of energy and action this day. Your dreams and imaginings keep bumping into the real and the actual. You quickly pick up on what is expected of you, and you are accountable. You are learning to plan ahead as you see your goals begin to develop. You do the best you can in every situation that you experience. It takes judgment to make the choices that best benefit a situation. Consider this: your powers of perception are particularly sharp at this time, and you would do well now to work out the details of any plans that you have previously made. This evening, you may feel focused and even a bit radiant. You are either entertaining company or being entertained yourself tonight. The snacks are low calorie and nutritional-good for you!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may realize that you may have been stagnating lately. There are opportunities today to rise above the mundane. Saying or writing with style comes naturally as you seek to write a program or progress report. It may seem that you are always writing technical material, and just now there is a desire for variety with some of your work. You may find yourself at a used book store reading all types of subjects. You may even find yourself involved with two books at once. Increasing your vocabulary expertise can be a fun ongoing activity, and you could find a friend to join you. Your ability to discriminate real breakthroughs and to spot new trends makes you able to work in areas at the very fringe of technology these days-more technology to write.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Before work begins this morning, conversations with co-workers could be in the religious realm or at least, spiritual. You have little interest in spirituality that is rampant these days. You could probably bring imagination and religious understanding to physical and scientific studies. Opportunity for further thought regarding the spirit tends to crop up during the day-you are open to new ways of thinking. Continued success on the career level may point to your abandoning some of your dreams. This afternoon, family matters tend to take precedence and you may have to help a young person to understand the word-concentration. You may even think of some fun exercise or game to play with the kids that will help with concentration.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You enjoy working hard and being organized and you exercise skill and discipline in anything that affects your career and reputation. You have the perfect combination to be in a management position at this time. If you think you are ready, this time may be best for pushing through any changes you may want to make in your career. You have good insight into all social activities that are around you and if you are not careful, you may find yourself involved in many club or social group responsibilities. You like to facilitate, compromise and otherwise show your talents-like a coat of many colors. New and creative projects help you to change that feeling of being in a rut. Chatting with neighbors or siblings this evening will help you to relax.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

An emphasis on discipline with regard to work and health is a keynote of the cycle now dawning in your life. Procedures, scheduling, details: you may become weak in some areas unless you take steps to correct any deficiencies. Deficiencies may only be when you fail to meet a deadline. You can do this... You will be pleased with your progress. Otherwise, you will have to run faster just to avoid falling behind. A desire for variety marks this phase and this especially applies to romantic experience and artistic taste. The latter tend to focus on literature and poetry. Communication with distant family members is possible this afternoon. A sociable, congenial, slightly frivolous orientation sets in this evening. A social involvement can be enjoyable.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a good time for promoting yourself and for letting others know what you have to offer. Right now, the key to career moves involves attending to nagging details-whatever you have neglected before. This is a time during which you may be able to move ahead with your ambition and your general life's purpose. You would make an excellent teacher of philosophy or religion-who cannot help but communicate these subjects to others and enchant all who come to know you. Your understanding of the unity behind appearances, along with the ability to put these thoughts into words, is a rare and valuable gift. You would make a good director, photographer, choreographer, etc. You like working with mental images.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities demand you tend to business and forget your friends for the moment. This is one of the best times to make progress, push forward and rise to prominence. It will be hard for you to do wrong-all the cycles are working in your favor. Your career seems to get the support you need and this is one area of life that runs smoothly. You seem to understand what the public wants and mass marketing could be a natural for you. This is also a time when you may marry or take on a new role in the community or with other people. Your mind is ever on communication, how you present yourself, especially when negotiating. Enjoy cooking a new recipe tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Independence on the part of people or events somehow challenges your authority today. Also, the forces of change assert themselves now and again, managing to overrule and overturn whatever you have managed to secure. Observing others, you will find that some people just naturally deal well with upheavals and adjustments-yet others may find much difficulty. You have great discipline and may find it enjoyable to teach young people how to solve difficulties they may uncover. You can demonstrate a good sensitivity and understanding about the needs of others. You know just the right words that will communicate positive messages. This could involve political issues. If not community politics, possibly club politics.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Opportunities may go against your own sense of responsibility. Career choices may require that you temporarily neglect the home. This is a tough call, and some compromise is perhaps the best way to a workable solution. This is a perfect time to be assertive and to move forward in your career decisions. You are driven when it comes to fulfilling your ambitions and carving out a career. There is no lack of energy or drive here, and nothing can stand in your way. Everything is poured into making the right moves-the correct decisions. You are outgoing, enthusiastic and always diplomatic-everybody's favorite. Politics or some other public career seems inevitable. Some experienced politician may tutor you in this process if that is what you want.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You enjoy working with whatever is psychological-the hidden, vulnerable, sensitive areas of the mind and self. You can handle material that is sensitive or taboo without batting an eye. This interest in all that is psychological makes you an excellent teacher. You also have a natural grasp for writing and after you worked with research, reports and projects, you may decide to go in a different direction. The different direction is what today is about. Where could you apply your talents and be the happiest you drive in the area of psychology, meditation, renewals of direction or perhaps, concentration on a focus to improve, may mean an advice column. If you are not with a mate, this may be a time you will meet someone very special.

WORD SEARCH

Pizza

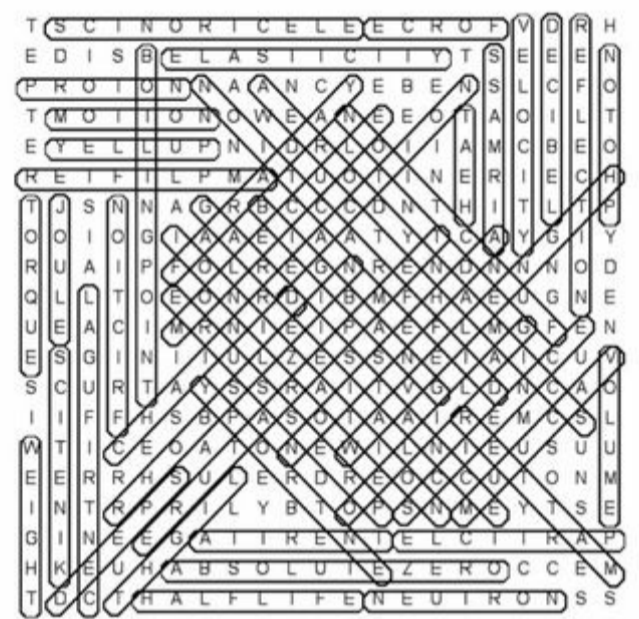
Find and circle all of the pizza ingredients and toppings that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell four additional pizza toppings.



- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| ARTICHOKE HEARTS | CRUST | JALAPENOS | PROVOLONE |
| ASIAGO | EGGPLANT | MONTEREY JACK | RICOTTA |
| ASPARAGUS | FETA | MOZZARELLA | SALAMI |
| BACON | GARLIC | MUSHROOMS | SALUSAGE |
| BANANA PEPPERS | GOAT CHEESE | OLIVE OIL | SHRIMP |
| BASIL | GOUDA | ONIONS | SPINACH |
| BELL PEPPERS | GREEN OLIVES | OYSTERS | TOMATO SAUCE |
| BLACK OLIVES | GROUND BEEF | PARMESAN | TOMATOES |
| BROCCOLI | HAM | PEPPERONI | ZUCCHINI |

Yesterday's Solution

Physics 2



- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ABSOLUTE ZERO | DRAG | IONIZATION | PROTON |
| ADHESION | ELASTICITY | Joule | PULLEY |
| AERODYNAMICS | ELECTRONICS | KINETICS | REFLECTION |
| AIR MASS | ENTROPY | LIGHT | SCIENCE |
| AMPLIFIER | FARADAY | MATTER | SPEED |
| BIG BANG | FORCE | MOLECULE | TEMPERATURE |
| BOILING POINT | FRICTION | MOTION | TORQUE |
| CENTRIFUGAL | FUNCTION | NEUTRON | VACUUM |
| CHAIN REACTION | GALILEO | NIELS BOHR | VELOCITY |
| DECIBEL | HALF LIFE | PARTICLE | VOLUME |
| DIFFRACTION | HEAT | PHOTON | WAVELENGTH |
| DISTANCE | INERTIA | PRESSURE | WEIGHT |

The hidden message is: THE DISTANCE BETWEEN INSANITY AND GENIUS IS MEASURED ONLY BY SUCCESS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS



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Kuwait Times

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 27/08/2017 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	33 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	44 °C	28 °C			
ABDALY	45 °C	28 °C			
BUBYAN	37 °C	32 °C			
JAHRA	46 °C	34 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	39 °C	31 °C			
SALMIYAH	40 °C	32 °C			
AHMADI	38 °C	34 °C			
NUWAISIB	42 °C	27 °C			
WAFRA	44 °C	28 °C			
SALMY	43 °C	29 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	08/28	Hot and	45 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 30 km/h
Tuesday	08/29	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	46 °C	27 °C	VRB-S	08 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	08/30	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	47 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Thursday	08/31	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	47 °C	30 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:00
Sunrise	05:22
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:24
Sunset	18:16
Isha	19:36

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	48 °C
MIN. Temp.	30 °C
MAX. RH	30 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	N 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	177
FlyDubai	22924455
Qatar Airways	22414400
KLM	22423888
Air Slovakia	22425747
Olympic Airways	22423073
Royal Jordanian	22420002/9
Reservation	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22433388
Air France	22425635
Emirates	22430224
Air India	22921555
Sri Lanka Airlines	22438184
Egypt Air	22424444
Swiss Air	22421578
Saudia	22421516
Middle East Airlines	22426306
Lufthansa	22423073
PIA	22422493
Alitalia	22421044
Balkan Airlines	22414427
Bangladesh Airlines	22416474
Czech Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22417901/2433141
Oman Air	22456700
Turkish Airlines	22958787
Aeroflot	22453820/1
	22404838/9

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EMERGENCY 112

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

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 28/8/2017					Departure Flights on Monday 28/8/2017					
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		
MSC	403	Asyut	00:05	KNE 231	Riyadh	14:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	KAC 1078	Doha	14:10	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:15	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC 364	Colombo	14:15	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC 618	Doha	14:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	13:55
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	KAC 352	Kochi	14:20	MSR	2615	Cairo	14:00
KAC	102	Heathrow, London	00:55	FDB 059	Dubai	14:20	FDB	072	Jeddah	14:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	JZR 903	Mashhad	14:25	PIA	206	Dubai	14:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC 512	Jeddah	14:45	MSC	502	Alexandria	15:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:45	MSC	416	Sohag	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KNE 529	Muscat	14:55	THY	773	Istanbul	15:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC 692	Mumbai	14:55	KAC	677	Dubai	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC 304	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	363	Colombo	15:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC 788	Jeddah	14:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	15:15
JZR	553	Alexandria	01:55	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	PGT	859	Istanbul	15:40
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	OMA 645	Muscat	15:10	THY	765	Istanbul	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:10	KAC 562	Amman	15:25	KKK	6505	Istanbul	15:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC 502	Beirut	15:25	KAC	351	Kochi	15:55
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:35	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	15:55
THY	768	Istanbul	02:35	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45	UAE	854	Dubai	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	SAW 705	Damascus	15:50	THY	769	Istanbul	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	RJA 640	Amman	16:00	OMA	644	Muscat	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	FDB 051	Dubai	16:15	QTR	1087	Doha	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR 1072	Doha	16:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	16:20
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR 535	Cairo	16:20	MSR	613	Cairo	16:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR 125	Bahrain	16:25	KAC	417	Manila	16:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC 118	New York	16:25	PGT	861	Istanbul	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	NIA 361	Alexandria	16:50	JZR	560	Sohag	17:05
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KAC 542	Cairo	17:05	QTR	1091	Doha	17:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1077	Doha	17:25
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	17:30
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20	JZR 777	Jeddah	17:35	FEJ	954	Asyut	17:40
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	THY 1282	Dubai	17:45	THY	1465	Istanbul	17:40
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:50	QTR 1080	Doha	17:50	UAE	874	Dubai	17:50
FEJ	933	Sohag	05:00	JZR 483	Istanbul	18:10	RJA	643	Amman	17:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC 1080	Cairo	18:30	THY	771	Istanbul	17:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	MSR 620	Dammam	18:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	18:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC 744	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	173	Munich	18:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	238	Amman	18:20
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	UAE 875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	238	Amman	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	FDB 063	Dubai	19:10	FDB	070	Dubai	18:25
BAW	157	London	06:05	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:20	JZR	164	Dubai	18:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC 174	Munich	19:25	KAC	167	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC 154	Istanbul	19:30	KAC	501	Beirut	19:05
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC 674	Dubai	19:40	KAC	613	Bahrain	19:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC 616	Bahrain	19:40	BAW	156	London	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:45	FDB	054	Dubai	19:20
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC 057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	511	Mashhad	19:40
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC 620	Doha	20:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	OMA 647	Muscat	20:05	JZR	902	GYD	19:50
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KNE 381	Taif	20:10	KAC	161	Geneva	20:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	DLH 634	Frankfurt	20:15	KAC	671	Dubai	20:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	MEA 402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC 662	Abu Dhabi	20:20	KAC	117	New York	20:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC 790	Jeddah	20:25	KAC	165	Rome	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ETD 910	Abu Dhabi	20:40	KAC	691	Muscat	21:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	QTR 1088	Doha	20:40	JZR	534	Cairo	21:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC 166	Rome	20:55	JZR	482	Istanbul	21:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC 564	Amman	21:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC 168	Paris	21:05	KAC	101	London	21:40
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:10	UAE	856	Dubai	21:45
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ALK 229	Colombo	21:15	KAC	561	Amman	21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KLM 445	Amsterdam	21:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	21:55
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	UAE 859	Dubai	21:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	THY 764	Istanbul	21:30	ETD	919	Bahrain/Abu Dhabi	22:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:30	ETD	919	Bahrain/Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:20	QTR 1082	Doha	22:05	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	239	Amman	11:50	ETD 309	Doha	22:10	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:25	KAC 162	Abu Dhabi	22:15	THY	1413	TXZ	22:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:30	KAC 975	Geneva	22:25	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	AIC 975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	BBC 143	Dhaka	22:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
FEJ	953	Asyut	12:55	JZR 241	Amman	22:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR 185	Dubai	23:00	JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
CKS	511	LGG	13:15	RBG 551	Alexandria	23:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
WAN	984	TBS	13:40	RBG 555	Alexandria	23:25	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	MSC 405	Sohag	23:30	WAN	805	Bangkok	23:35
				MSR 2614	Cairo	23:30	KAC	413	Bangkok	23:40
				FDB 071	Dubai	23:35				

GOSSIP

Mendes wrote song about fictional girl



Shawn Mendes wrote 'There's Nothing Holding Me Back' about a fictional character he "fell in love" with. The 19-year-old star has revealed his hit song was inspired by a female character in a movie script, which he read when he was auditioning for a part. Speaking about his hit track, he told MTV News: "I wrote the song actually about a girl in a movie script that I read. I was going to act in a movie and I fell in love with the girl character, and so I wrote a song about her. I mean, it'd be cool if it was a real

girl." It comes after the 'Treat You Better' hitmaker teased he was working on new music. He shared: "I've been listening to some old school rockers; I've listened to a lot of Michael Jackson, and just [am] trying to explore a little bit. I think the album is gonna be not just one particular thing - it's gonna be a kind of exploration of music ... "We're trying to plan everything so that there's time to make music, too. I'll be writing and recording a lot on the road. I want to make sure I have a good amount of time to create the next

album. I think if you're creating music and you love the song, holding it back is just doing it an injustice. Sometimes when the song is right for that time period it's just kinda bad to let it wait and then when you do release it eight months down the road, it's not the same."

Foo Fighters want Tears For Fears collaboration

Foo Fighters want to collaborate with Tears for Fears. The 'Monkey Wrench' rockers reached out to the 80s band's singer, Roland Orzabal, to ask him to appear on a track on their new record, 'Concrete and Gold' and though he never got back to them, frontman Dave Grohl isn't ruling out hope it could happen in the future. He said: "There was a song on the new record that I thought would be amazing if Roland Orzabal sang on or helped produce. I emailed him - and never heard back. It would have been a dream come true, to get together with the singer from Tears for Fears." Tears for Fears hold a special place in Dave's heart because their music struck a chord with him when he was a young teenager. He told MOJO magazine: "My sister had 'The Hurting' and 'Songs From the Big Chair' and I secretly fell in love with Tears for Fears. "That melancholic sense of melody really encapsulated that specific place and time in my life - when you're 13 years old, your nuts are dropping, your voice is changing, you're breaking through puberty, so listening to Tears For Fears somehow soothes the burn. "When 'Songs From the Big Chair' came out and they broke into the mainstream, they were inescapable in America. I still listen to those records often." While the band didn't secure Roland for their new LP, Boys II Men singer Shawn Stockman did lend his vocals to a track. Dave previously said: "The guy from Boyz II Men walking through the parking lot and me saying 'would you sing on our record?' And he does - on the heaviest song on the entire record." "It sounds like Sabbath and Pink Floyd. It's heavy. It's the last song on the record. He built a choir - it's like 40 vocals stacked. It's insane."



Charli XCX hates assumptions she doesn't write her songs

Charli XCX is fed up of the "assumptions" that she doesn't write her own songs. The 'Boys' hitmaker has called out the music industry for their treatment of female songwriters such as herself, Katy Perry or Taylor Swift. She said: "There's an assumption that girls don't write their songs, especially in the pop world. People don't believe that Katy Perry writes, or Taylor [Swift] - or, like, me." And the 25-year-old singer admits her songwriting is "very unstructured" as it reflects her "messy and spontaneous" life. She added: "My songwriting is very unstructured. It reflects my life and lifestyle, which is messy and spontaneous. I see the sound in waves of color and it helps me with my lyric ideas." Charli has also opened up about suffering from panic attacks and admits they are "amplified" because of her status as a musician. She shared to The Sunday Times' Style magazine: "I still get them [panic attacks] every now and again. I don't know, definitely if I've been partying a lot, that will trigger anxiety, but sometimes it's to do with relationships with people, like if there's some kind of weird energy and I have to confront it, that will take me a second. Normal s**t that people just have. Humans are weird, you know. "The thing about being a musician is that it amplifies things. So sometimes, if I have to go to an event or a party, I get nervous energy. I'm not good at putting that away. I'm not good at being 'on' if I don't want to be .. I'd be a terrible sports player. You know when you watch tennis and everyone is really composed. I would not be there, I'd be freaking out the whole time."



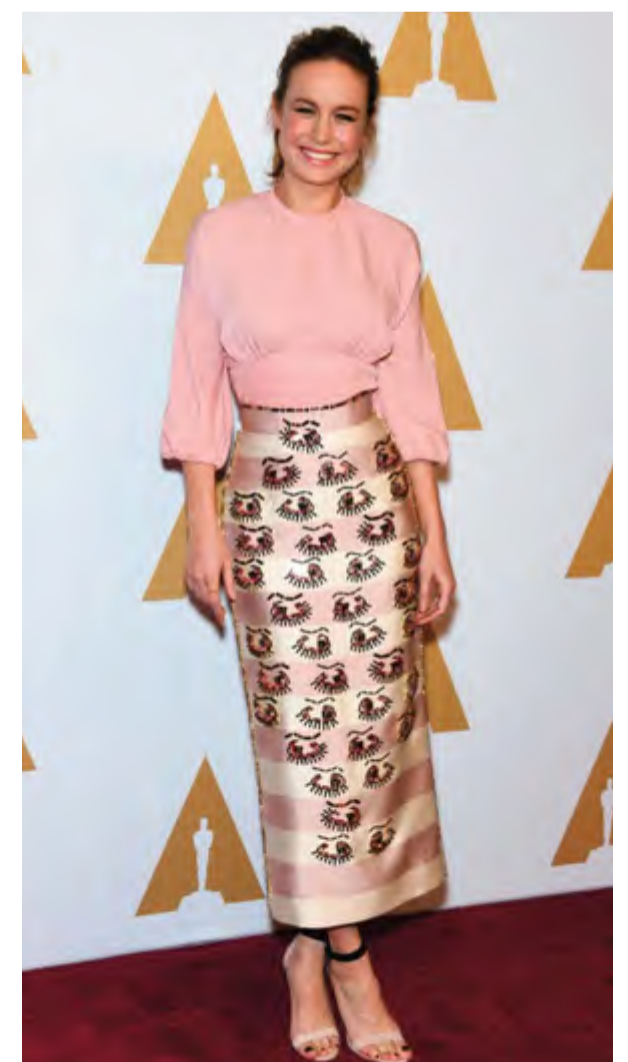
Sean to release 'seductive' new single this year

Jay Sean has teased his new single will be "more seductive" than his previous records. The 38-year-old singer has revealed he will soon be releasing a "brand new single" titled 'Want What You Want', and the star has described the track as "super sexy but rhythmic" and "more throwback", which is unlike any of his other songs. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz about his forthcoming drop, he said: "I've got a brand new single coming out in about a month. It's called 'Want What You Want' and it's super sexy but rhythmic. "I do kind of know what I'm known for and what I like to do. But this is one that is kind of like a bit more throwback-y to the point of like the way I'm singing is not the way I've been singing on recent songs in terms of the high energy, throw-your-hands-up, dance, have fun. This is a bit more seductive. I won't say anymore, I really like it. " And the 'Down' hitmaker has admitted he will "100 per cent" be going on tour in the future, although the string of concerts will need to be "planned right" for them to go ahead as he will only perform at a certain selection of venues. He said: "Absolutely, 100 per cent. With England I try to be very careful when I do a show because it has to be planned right. There's only a few venues that you can do which is respectful and where we people can be 'Ah, he's playing there, I'm going.' I don't just want to turn up or go to like a hot club and get on the mic and sing two songs. When I live in America it's not a good look for me to come here and not give my fans a good show. So yeah we're lining it up." Meanwhile, Jay has silenced rumors he is collaborating with fellow singer Taylor Swift, although they were previously signed to the same record label. He explained: "Me and Taylor used to be signed to the same record company. I did one show with her years back. It was really fun. It was me, Taylor, The Black Eyed Peas and Justin Timberlake and it was just so much fun. She was so sweet, a lovely girl but we've never worked together."



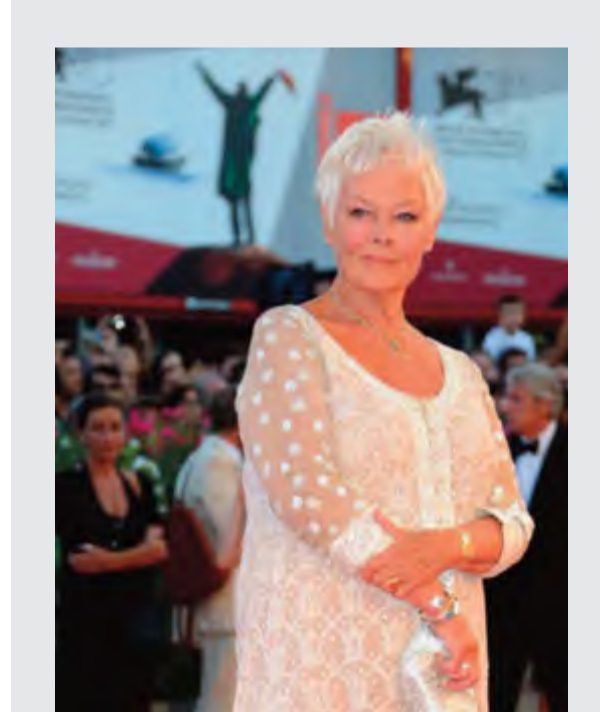
BRIE LARSON'S EASIER LIFE

Brie Larson admits success has made her life "easier". The 27-year-old actress - who is engaged to rocker Alex Greenwald - doesn't live a particularly extravagant lifestyle but she is thankful she never has to worry about being able to pay the bills. She said: "It makes you life much easier on a practical level. Not that I've changed my spending habits dramatically or live differently now from the way I used to, but at least I don't have to worry about money any more. "It's not pleasant having to live under that pressure when you're trying to find good roles and wanting to prove yourself." However, the 'Glass Castle' star does still have some worries, as she's always checking that her career choices are in line with her ambitions. She said: "I guess that, on an artistic level, I still worry about the kind of work that I'm doing and whether I live up to my own ambitions. "I don't think that will ever change when it comes to how I approach things." Brie won an Oscar for her role as a kidnapped woman in 'Room' and she admits the experience of making the film took her back to her own childhood, where she, her sister and single mother shared a studio apartment, and led to an emotional chat with her mom. She told Psychologies magazine: "While we were shooting it, I felt more connected to my past. "We had a pretty tough time after my mother, my little sister and I moved to Los Angeles. "I remember calling my mom in tears and telling her that I understood at last how many sacrifices she had made for me. "She was crying too, during our conversation and she apologized for all the difficulties we went through. It taught me how we all need to be more forgiving of ourselves."



Nicole Kidman savoring the moment

Nicole Kidman is "savoring the moment" right now. The 'Lion' star is thrilled with how her career and life is going at the moment and tries her best to "stay in a consistent place". She told Australia's Stellar magazine: "I'm always just gently moving through life, so I try to not have the massive highs and the massive lows and try to stay in a consistent place. But in terms of just really savoring the moment, yes ... I know when things are good and I savor them." Meanwhile, Nicole previously admitted she wasn't getting the roles she wanted so she "made opportunities" for herself. She explained: "That was the great thing about reading something like 'Big Little Lies' and going, 'We can get this made.' And I have to say for [Reese Witherspoon] and I to have taken that from nothing and all the way to here, we both said, 'We weren't getting the opportunities of great roles.' I mean, sometimes every now and then, but I think now, particularly for women, we're in a position where if it's not happening, you've got to make it happen for you. "You've got to make opportunities for yourself and your friends. And that's pretty much what Big Little Lies was. It was building opportunities for ourselves and our friends, and it just happened to become what it became, but that was because there was an enormous amount of passion behind it as well and optimism, actually."



Dame Judi Dench prefers honesty

Dame Judi Dench likes that her mother was honest with her growing up. The 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' star is glad her mom told her she was "intolerant" as a young girl because she feels it has helped her become a better person. She told The Sunday Times' Culture magazine: "Oh, I don't know. I have a happy nature. I have been very, very unhappy, like everybody, but usually I have quite a sunny nature, which is something you don't manufacture. It's either something you're born with, or you're not. And I think that comes from my parents. They had great, great senses of humor ... "Well, I remember my mother saying to me when I was at art school, 'You are without doubt the most intolerant person I've ever met.' I think I found fault with everything. And I remember not being able to say anything back, and just looking out of the window. She said it to my back. It's very good to be told that early. I hope [I took it on board]. Because I think I am quite tolerant now. To a certain extent." Meanwhile, the 82-year-old actress previously criticized young actors for their apparent lack of interest in theatre greats. She said: "What is so shocking is that young actors don't want to find out about the legacy that we've been left. They don't want to know about David Garrick and Sir Henry Irving and Peggy Ashcroft and Edith Evans, and that seems to me to be a terrible shame. "Because although the fashion now may not be to speak the way that John and Peggy and Ralph Richardson and Sir Laurence Olivier spoke, nevertheless if you listen to Sir John you will always get what Shakespeare means. "They're just not curious. It's just non-curiosity. I think it's terribly important to know the huge history of theatre that we have, why you're in it, what people did before, the lives of actors."

GOSSIP

Jenner thinks she has changed the beauty industry



Kylie Jenner thinks "everyone has teal hair" because of her. The 20-year-old television personality is known for donning an array of different coloured wigs, from candy pink, to bright blue and blonde, and the reality star believes by experimenting with her hair style she has encouraged "weave stores" to expand their options and has inspired her fans to change their aesthetic too. The 'Life of Kylie' star - who recently launched her own 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' spin off show on E! - told V magazine: "All I know is that when I go into weave stores, they have colors that I've worn, which is cool. "Back then, I dyed my hair blue and teal and other colors. I would do meet and greets and every other girl-even guys-had teal hair. They'd be like, 'I did this because of you! Everyone has teal hair now!'" And the Kylie Cosmetics founder has admitted when she alternates her wig or hair color she is given a new boost of confidence. When asked about the reason for her regular beauty makeovers, she said: "[It] gives me a different confidence." Kylie - who is the youngest in the Kardashian/ Jenner gang - was thrust in the limelight when she appeared on the family reality show at the age of nine years old, and the star has admitted being followed by camera has become "normal" to her. She explained: "I don't know what it's like to not be in the spotlight. That's normal to me. There's nothing you can do about it. There are so many great things about life, I'm just trying to focus on that!" And Kylie has had a busy year so far, as she has continued to expand her Kylie Cosmetics range, and has recently added a new Bright Collection with her eponymous brand the Kylie Shop.



Jeremy Scott hails Tom Ford as his 'big brother'

Jeremy Scott has hailed Tom Ford as his "big brother". The 42-year-old fashion designer has revealed he shares a close bond with the fellow creative mastermind, and has likened the 55-year-old as his sibling because he has always been on hand to give him advice. Speaking to ES magazine about the mogul-come-film director, he said: "He's always been like a big brother to me." And Jeremy has revealed the words of wisdom he has received from the 'Nocturnal Animals' creator was to "never" use his own money. Jeremy said: "Tom Ford told me: never use your own money, use other people's." And the star - who is the creative director of the fashion house Moschino, and runs his own eponymous label - has revealed he "loves" to collect "junk", and last year he was obsessed with collating "all kinds of metal elements". He explained: "I love junk. I have a whimsical personality and sense of taste, so I love going to flea markets. Last season I was collecting all kinds of metal elements for a beret collaboration with English icon Judy Blame for the Moschino show." And the style guru has revealed when he was younger he was constantly told he was made to live in London because of his eccentric fashion sense. The Missouri-born star, who studied at the Pratt Institute in New York, said: "I was 21, and I'd always been told I look like a London kid - think punkish kilts. Even my teachers at college in the US were like, 'You should be going to [Central] Saint Martins, what are you doing here?' So I got off the plane in London and was looking around for 'my people' and tourists kept coming up and asking me for a picture."

Miranda Kerr reveals her diet secrets

Miranda Kerr's "favorite thing" to drink every morning is a glass of hot water with lemon. The 34-year-old model has revealed every morning she will make the warm drink to "kick start" her digestion, which is swiftly followed by a nutritious smoothie made from almond butter, fresh fruit and the Noni Skin Food Supplement product from her brand Kora Organics. Speaking in a video with HarpersBazaar.com about her daily routine, the brunette beauty said: "So one of my favorite things to have in the morning is hot water with lemons. It's a really great way to kick start your digestion, it's full of vitamin c. After I've made my hot water and lemon, I'll then make a smoothie, and these are some of my favorite ingredients to include: almond milk, fresh papaya, spinach, blueberries and raspberries, almond butter is a great source of protein. And then last but not least, I also use a little Kora Organics Skin Food Supplement, so this contains noni, contains acai, blueberry, matcha green tea. I used to drink it as a liquid because it's so much easier it's nutritious and delicious!" The catwalk icon - who has six-year-old son Flynn with her former partner Orlando Bloom - will later tuck into a salmon dish for lunch, followed by a roast chicken dinner with sweet potato mash for dinner. She explained: "So for lunch I'm going to have salmon, with a little bit of crushed garlic and turmeric and fresh lemon, with a side salad of sprouts and arugula, cucumber, purple cauliflower and avocado. And then I make a simple salad dressing with olive oil, lemon, a little apple cider vinegar and a little sea salt." And regardless of how hectic the style muse's day is she will always make time to "be present" and enjoy her meals, although she prefers it when she can work from home so she has the chance to cook a proper cuisine for the entire family. Miranda - who married husband Evan Spiegel earlier this year - explained: "No matter how busy I am I really try to take a moment and just really be present with eating and enjoy my food. "I work all over the world and I do have an office at Kora Organic, but it's nice when I get to have those days where I work from home because I get to cook for myself and for my family." As well as Miranda's healthy eating plan, she also works out regularly to maintain her slender frame, which leaves her feeling "energized and grounded". She said: "It's important to do exercise you really enjoy. For me I really enjoy yoga. Just doing a few stretched and yoga poses really helps me feel energized and grounded and ready for my day."

Rubik thinks models can easily 'lose their identity'

Anja Rubik thinks being a model makes you "lose your identity". The 34-year-old model embarked on a career in the fashion business at the young age of 15 and the star has revealed budding catwalk icon's are desperate to do their "job right" they are forced to change to suit the team they work with. Speaking to Net-A-Porter's The Edit, the blonde-haired beauty said: "When you start young - I was 15 - you're still developing. You enter a world where everyone is expecting something from you: the photographer tells you how to be, then the stylist, then you have feedback from casting directors. You want to do your job right, but you lose your identity." But the style muse has revealed she was never "discovered", but after watching the late George Michael's 'Too Funky' music video, which starred Naomi Campbell and Cindy Crawford, she was desperate to do all she could to get signed to an agency. She explained: "I wasn't really 'discovered'. When I was young, I was obsessed with George Michael videos, especially 'Too Funky'. I would look at these women who were strong and sexy, with the world at their feet, and I thought, 'I want to be one of those women.'" And Anja found it harder to break into

the industry because she lived in a "tiny city" in Poland called Rzeszów. She said: "But I lived in a tiny city, my chances of being discovered were none, so I took things into my own hands and sent pictures to competitions." And Anja has hinted she thinks the industry is more cut throat nowadays, and she believes the key to success is feeling confident in your own skin. She said: "There are a lot of young girls now, way more than before, and they come and go faster, people don't really give them a chance to build a career. It's quite sad. Also, since we have such an over-saturation of images and magazines and designers, what you do is not as important as it used to be. "You can have the most beautiful girl walk into the room, wearing the most gorgeous dress, and if she doesn't feel confident, you're not attracted to her. I only started to feel really good in my skin when I was 27. Some people get there earlier, and I envy them. It took me quite some time. When you're a tall, blond model, unfortunately you're still very quickly identified as not very smart with not much to say. But that gives you a kick to break those stereotypes."



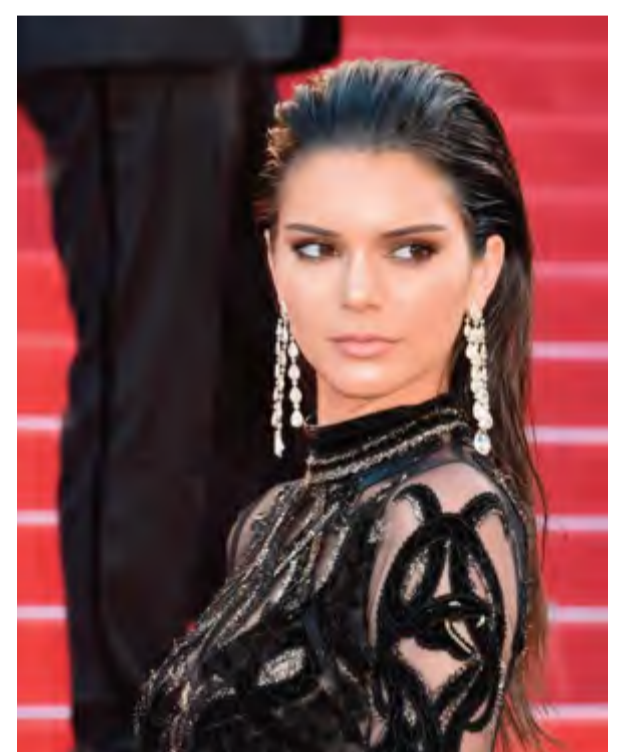
Elizabeth Olsen cries over her red carpet outfits

Elizabeth Olsen cries over her red carpet outfits. The 28-year-old actress has admitted she feels out of her comfort zone when she attends fashion shows, and will feel even more uneasy if she is put on a garment she doesn't feel "great" in, and will sob her heart out on the way to the star-studded bash because of the garment. Speaking to ES magazine, the 'Godzilla' star said: "It's not my comfort zone. I went to a Dior show and ended up getting to wear a look to the premiere in New York. I felt great that night just because I felt like I was in something that I love. Sometimes when I'm not in something that I love I cry on the way to the premiere and I'm posing with my shoulders as far back as they go." But once the star returns home from the do and looks over photographs taken of her, she then realizes she had nothing to worry about because she still looked flawless. She explained: "Then I look at the photos and I'm like, "It did look nice. Why was I crying?"" The American star has revealed she is grateful she has landed a role in the Marvel franchise, which sees her portray Wanda Maximoff in 'Avengers: Age of Ultron', because it has propelled her in the film business. She explained: "It gives you recognition in an international market. You then have more freedom of investors for independent films." And Elizabeth would happily take on a commercial deal to help her have longevity in her career. She said: "People want to be a part of something that's giving back to something else. I would like to be a part of that because it's something that I would be proud of. But it's also something that would help me as an actor trying to get films made."

FREUD'S BRAND WAS INSPIRED BY A BOOK

Bella Freud's eponymous brand was inspired by a book she "loved". The 56-year-old fashion designer launched her knitwear label in 2007, which is known for its slogan detail on the chest, and the star has admitted the collection was largely influenced by the series of texts titled 'Claudine', penned by author Claudine, which followed the life of a "very clever, very naughty" female protagonist. The creative mastermind told Vogue.co.uk: "I started with a small collection of knitwear inspired by a book that I really loved by Colette, called 'Claudine'. 'Claudine' was this very clever, very naughty, very sensuous girl, an interesting mixture of innocent and worldly. She lived in the early 1900s, and I imagine her for now. So instead of having an ankle-length skirt, [I designed] a micro-mini skirt, and instead of the very formal clothes that people wore in those days, I made her wear knitwear." And the mogul has revealed her love for the expression "You wear your heart on your sleeve" also contributed to her signature design. She added: "Since then I've built up the knitwear at the center of my collection and I became interested in putting words on jumpers. I like the expression 'you wear your heart on your sleeve' so for me I wear my heart on my chest, on my jumpers." The fashion guru has recently collaborated with J Brand on a 17-piece capsule, and has also created homeware items because she thinks there is "a lot more to fashion than just clothing". She explained: "In the last five years I've developed my fashion label into candles, perfume and homeware - blankets, cushions. I don't see that as not being fashion - I like the idea that I take the fashion into different worlds. There is a lot more to fashion than just clothing. Your interior life is the most important thing of all and it's how you show people that, it's what you let people see."

Kendall Jenner stars in La Perla's A/W 17 campaign



Kendall Jenner stars in La Perla's Autumn/Winter 2017 campaign. The 21-year-old model first teamed up with the fashion house in November last year, and the raven-haired beauty has joined forces with the label again to model their ready to wear, lingerie and haute couture collections. The Italian brand has taken to Instagram to share a string of images from the campaign. One image of the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star sporting a berry-coloured lace body suit as she lays on the ground amongst flowers in a pre-Raphaelite style, read: "Introducing #LaPerlaFW17 - Through forest boudoirs, where vines creep and wild flowers rule, the enchanted scenery sets the tone for a world of boundless imagination. Explore the full collection at laperla.com @kendalljenner (sic)." The company also uploaded a video of the commercial to their photo-sharing site, which was captioned: "Romance, fantasy and a world of boundless imagination... #LaPerlaFW17 coming soon (sic)." The catwalk icon was captured by fashion photographers Mert Ala? and Marcus Piggott - who are known as Mert & Marcus - as she donned the garments created by Creative Director Julia Haart. Meanwhile, the style muse has revealed she picks up on styling and beauty tips when she is on set of a photoshoot. Speaking previously, she said: "I learn a lot from being on set. "What taught me most about how to do my own make-up is just my own face and finding out what looks good on me and what doesn't." And the star has revealed she doesn't like to overload cosmetic products because she dislikes looking "cakey". She explained: "I don't really like to put too much on, because I hate it when I have cakey make-up on. I've done it in cars in porta potties, I'm not kidding. I like having gloss rather than just matte, and if I don't have gloss I use a chapstick or something."



MUSIC & MOVIES



Emirati filmmaker Abdallah Al-Kaabi speaks to The Associated Press in Dubai after screening his film *Only Men Go To The Grave*. — AP photos



In this still image from the Emirati film *"Only Men Go To The Grave"*, actress Salimeh Yaquob, who plays Arfeh, looks on with concern as her partner's husband comes home.



In this still image from the Emirati film *"Only Men Go To The Grave"*, actress Salimeh Yaquob, who plays Arfeh, stands over Horrieh Al-Kaabi, who plays Fahmeh.

Emirati filmmaker unsettles traditions, exposes hidden lives

An Emirati filmmaker is pushing boundaries and bypassing state censors by delicately unraveling a story about a traditional Arab family grappling with issues of homosexual love, gender identity, sectarianism and women's rights. The movie focuses on a conservative Iraqi family who begin seeing and unearthing one another's secrets after the family matriarch goes blind and dies.

What makes the film *"Only Men Go To the Grave"* particularly

avant-garde is that the homosexual characters are not simply supporting characters or portrayed as Westernized or globalized elites, like past characters in other famous Arabic films. Rather, the film's stars are homosexual lovers who are also traditional Arab mothers, wives and caretakers. The movie, by filmmaker Abdallah Al-Kaabi, also reveals its central male character to be struggling with his masculinity and gender. In possibly the movie's boldest scene, the character dresses in full makeup, a wig, jewelry and a dress.

Most surprisingly, the Arabic film passed state censors to screen at major movie theaters across Dubai this month. The United Arab Emirates, and Dubai specifically, are more liberal and seen as more tolerant than other parts of the Gulf, such as Saudi Arabia, where there are no movie theaters.

Al-Kaabi says he believes the film's handling of homosexuality and gender identity helped propel it to the big screen. "A movie in the end is a story and people don't really have a problem with what you talk about in the story, but they have a problem with how you expose it," he told The Associated Press after a screening of the film. "I think you need to show good taste when you talk about controversial and taboo issues," he said.

Progressive minority

The lovers in his film are never shown being physically intimate. Egyptian cinema - the oldest and most revered film industry in the Arab world - has tackled homosexuality in film since the 1950s, though often portraying it as something that exists among a progressive minority. Gay characters have also been portrayed in some films as psychologically ill or are punished in some way. Tunisian cinema has also depicted homosexuals in movies since the 1970s, while a genre of so-called queer cinema is currently surfacing among Lebanese filmmakers. Egyptian film critic Joseph Fahim said Al-Kaabi's film appears to be the first made by an Arab Gulf filmmaker to tackle the issue of homosexuality in such a candid manner.

"It shows that this is coming from within, especially that the director casts no judgmental eye on it... he treated it in a matter-of-fact way, not as a disease. That is also a major stepping stone," Fahim said. It took Al-Kaabi six years to complete the ambitious project, which was awarded best Emirati film at the Dubai International Film Festival in 2016 - the year it was produced. Al-Kaabi grew up in the smaller emirate of Fujairah along the Gulf of Oman. With little entertainment around him, he would venture out to the emirate's only video store and rent VHS tapes. It sparked in him a love for cinema. "My pastime was to travel and dream through movies so I was watching a lot of



In this still image from the Emirati film *"Only Men Go To The Grave"*, actor Abdolreza Nasari, who plays Jaber, deals with issues of gender identity and questions his masculinity.

Hollywood movies, Egyptian movies and Bollywood movies," he said. After vacationing in Iran, Al-Kaabi was awed with the country's vibrant film scene in the southern city Ahvaz, known for its ethnic diversity. He decided to shoot his debut feature film there using Iranian actors of Arab heritage and actors from Iraq. Across the Gulf, there are varying degrees of censorship and support for independent filmmakers like Al-Kaabi.

Beauty and the Beast

Despite there being no theaters in Saudi Arabia, a handful of films have been shot there in recent years. In Kuwait, which once held the mantle for Gulf theatrical productions, censors pulled Disney's new *Beauty and the Beast* from theaters this year after the public's reaction to what Disney called its first "gay moment" for a character. Homosexuality and cross-dressing are forbidden in the predominantly Muslim Gulf. A popular transgender social media star said she was denied entry to Dubai by airport officials last year because her passport still listed her as "male."

In Saudi Arabia, homosexuals and cross-dressers can be imprisoned, fined and lashed. Earlier this year, Saudi police raided a gathering of men dressed in women's clothing outside the capital, Riyadh. A Pakistani arrested in the raid later died in police custody under unclear circumstances. Though rare, judges in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and a handful of other countries can issue the death penalty in cases of same-sex relations.



In this still image from the Emirati film *"Only Men Go To The Grave"*, actress Horrieh Al-Kaabi, left, who plays Fahmeh, and Salimeh Yaquob, right, who plays Arfeh, are seated on a stairway.

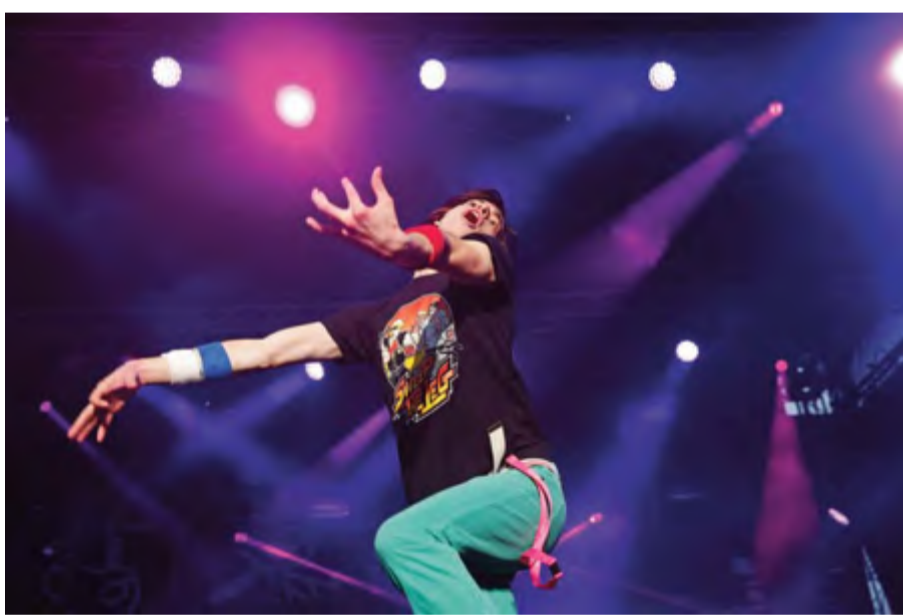
Possibly for this reason, Al Kaabi prefers to describe the relationship between the women in his film as "alternative love."

Still, throughout most of the Middle East, there is a narrow margin of acceptance for transgender individuals and homosexuality so long as it isn't visible to the public. More recently, some Gulf countries have begun considering laws that would permit gender reassignment. In the UAE, two Emirati women are petitioning the courts to be recognized as males. Last year, the UAE approved a law that would allow gender reassignment surgery for those who psychologically identify as the opposite sex. The scene of the male character dressed as a woman, shocking for its raw and rare portrayal of a transgender character, left one young Emirati college student perplexed. "There are things I really didn't understand in the movie, like the man. Why was he wearing these kinds of clothes like woman clothes?" Mahra Al-Nuaimi said after watching the movie. Her cousin, Moza Al-Hamrani, appeared less confused by the filmmaker's motives. As a student of film, she said she hoped to one day have the chance to produce similarly groundbreaking work. "The issues to do with gender identity and sexuality - I thought like 'Whoa, did he really do that?'" But I was also proud that someone finally spoke out about it, because these issues exist but everybody turns a blind eye," she said. — AP



In this film poster for his debut feature film, *"Only Men Go To The Grave"*, Emirati filmmaker Abdallah Al-Kaabi reveals traditional Arab characters grappling with issues of homosexual love, gender identity, sectarianism and women's rights.

AMERICAN HOLDS ONTO AIR GUITAR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE



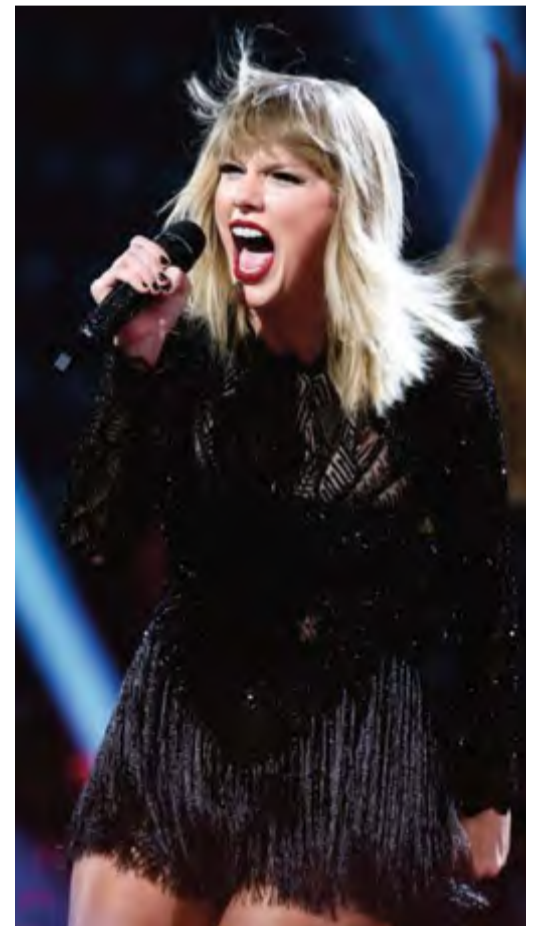
Winner American Matt "Airstotle" Burns, performs during the final of the Air Guitar World Championships in Oulu, Finland. — AP



Winner American Matt "Airstotle" Burns, celebrates during the final of the Air Guitar World Championships in Oulu, Finland. — AP

Matt "Airstotle" Burns is the best when it comes to pretend playing guitar. The American successfully defended his title at the 22nd Air Guitar World Championships in Oulu, Finland on Friday after competing in the finals against 15 contestants from South Korea, Pakistan, Sweden, Britain, Canada and other countries. Burns, of Staten Island, New York, finished ahead of runners-up Patrick "Ehrwolf" Culek of Germany and Alexander "The Jinja Assassin" of Australia, who tied for second place. Japan's 15-year-old Show-Show placed third.

A heavy metal version of "I Will Survive" helped Burns romp away with a score of 35.4. Culek and Roberts each scored 34.6 points, Show-Show 34.5. The Air Guitar World Championships started off as a joke, but has grown into an annual celebration of guitar-miming chordeographers that draws people to Finland from around the world. — AP



File photo shows Taylor Swift performs at the DIRECTV NOW Super Saturday Night Concert in Houston, Texas. — AP

Swift sets records

Spotify says Taylor Swift has set a new global first day streaming record. The music delivery site said Saturday it had logged more than 8 million same-day streams for her new single, "Look What You Made Me Do." The 27-year-old singer dropped the much-anticipated song late Thursday to streaming platforms and iTunes.

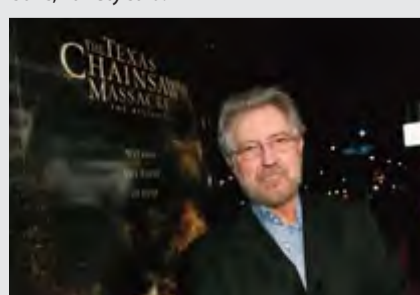
She wrote and produced it with frequent collaborator Jack Antonoff, who performs in the bands Bleachers and fun. It's the first single from her sixth album, "reputation," set to be released Nov 10. The video for the song will premiere Sunday on the MTV Video Music Awards. A clip previewed Friday on "Good Morning America." YouTube said Saturday the song's lyric video broke a record for that site, with more than 19 million same day views. — AP

'Poltergeist,' 'Texas Chain Saw Massacre' director dies

Movie director Tobe Hooper, best known for "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" and "Poltergeist" horror films, died in California on Saturday, US media reported. He was 74. The cause of the director's death in the town of Sherman Oaks was not announced, the Hollywood industry magazine Variety reported. Hooper, a native of Austin, Texas, was a college professor and documentary producer before branching out in 1974 to direct "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre," one of the most influential films of the horror genre.

The film, shot for less than \$300,000, was banned in several countries for its extreme violence but nevertheless was one of the most profitable independent US films of the 1970s, Variety said. Hooper also directed the film's 1986 sequel, "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2," which had a more lighthearted approach. In 1982, Hooper directed "Poltergeist," a film written and produced by

Steven Spielberg. The movie had an \$11 million budget and grossed \$76.6 million, according to the Internet Movie Database (IMDb). The late director is survived by two sons, Variety said. — AFP



This file photo shows US producer Tobe Hooper arriving at the premiere of New Line's "Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning" at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

Japanese prodigy wins prestigious piano prize

A young Japanese pianist has been awarded the prestigious Clara Haskil Prize, organizers said yesterday. Mao Fujita, 18, will receive 25,000 Swiss francs (22,000 euros, \$26,000) after beating Hong Kong-born Aristo Sham and Italian Alberto Ferro to win the coveted award. "With him, one forgets the competition and gives in only to music and grace," a statement on the award's website said.

Fujita, who began playing when he was three years old, has already won a number of international awards for his performances. The Clara Haskil Prize, named after the pioneering Romanian pianist, is competed for every two years, but no one managed to win the prize during the last competition in 2015. — AFP



Mao Fujita

FEATURES



A general view shows painted houses in Beirut's southern Ouzai neighborhood. — AFP photos



Painted houses in Beirut's southern Ouzai neighborhood.



Painted houses in Beirut's southern Ouzai neighborhood.



An artist paints a wall, as part of the "Ouzville" project, in Beirut's southern Ouzai neighborhood.



Street art brings color to rundown Beirut suburb

'Every time, I was sad landing here. I said, 'I'm going to take care of Ouzai'

Seen from the highway out of Lebanon's capital Beirut, the Ouzai neighborhood is a jumble of haphazard construction, but venture inside and its low-slung buildings transform into street art canvases. Artists taking part in the "Ouzville" project have painted walls in brilliant blues, reds, yellows and greens, adorning others with enormous murals, doodles, and cartoon characters. The project is a breath of fresh air for Ouzai, a rundown and largely informal neighborhood on the Mediterranean coast south of Beirut.

It was once a sleepy seaside village, with long stretches of beach that attracted sunbathers from miles away. But during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, civilians displaced from elsewhere built slapdash housing in the area, often without permits, to accommodate their needs. For decades, the neighborhood's chaos of jumbled buildings and the web of electrical wires hanging overhead have been among the first things visible from planes landing at Beirut airport.

Ayad Nasser, the property developer behind the Ouzville project, was born in Ouzai in 1970 but moved overseas during the civil war. He said each landing at the nearby airport was a painful reminder of the neighborhood's decline. "Every time, I was sad landing here. I said, 'I'm going to take care of Ouzai,'" he told AFP.

'Brought joy'

Nasser launched his project 18 months ago, inviting Lebanese and international street artists to beautify parts of Beirut-Ouzai in particular. "I felt that the most abandoned area in Lebanon is Ouzai," Nasser said in English. "It's been 40 years that nobody is taking care of it: not the government, not the local parties, not even the local peoples." He worked with Ouzai residents to identify streets and buildings to be brightened up with bursts of color.

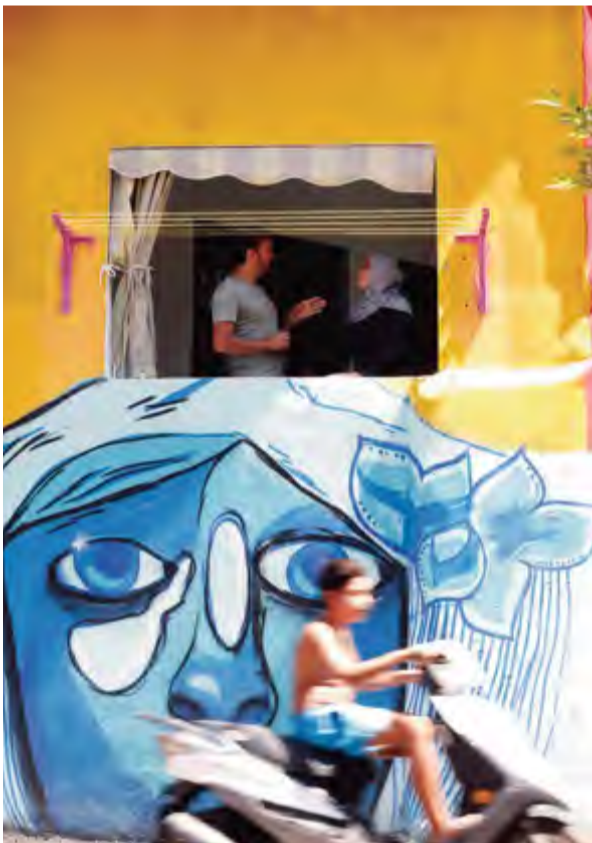
Around 140 buildings have now been painted, with a handful done by the residents themselves. From the street below her first-storey home, Jumana Yunis can be seen preparing green beans for lunch, framed by a large window in the bright yellow outer wall of her building. Below the window is a large mural of a girl's face, rendered in serene shades of turquoise and royal blue. At 38, Yunis has spent her whole life in Ouzai and is raising her four children in the home where she was born.

For her, the Ouzville project has "brought joy" to a neighborhood she loves. "You're happy when you go outside and see the colors, even if sometimes it's strange. You feel that this is a new neighborhood," she told AFP. "Lots of new people came to the neighborhood, and we got to meet strangers. It's really lovely, the neighborhood has flourished with the colors."

Nasser said part of the project's goal is to "break the stereotype" of Ouzai, which many in Lebanon see as a slum to be avoided. Much of the \$140,000 (120,000 euros) he has spent on the project has gone on hosting people elsewhere in Lebanon and abroad at a local fish restaurant to encourage them to engage with Ouzai's residents.



Artists draw a mural on a wall, as part of the "Ouzville" project.



Ayad Nasser (center left), the property developer behind the "Ouzville" project, speaks with a woman inside her repainted house in Beirut's southern Ouzai neighborhood.



Children walk past houses, painted as part of the "Ouzville" project.

'Like Disneyland'

Rania Al-Halabi, an amateur artist participating in the project, admits that Ouzai is "an area that we usually only enter with a car, in the best of circumstances." But she said the project inspired her from the minute she heard about it. "Color can make everything in life beautiful, and this is something that will certainly change everyone's lives," she said, as she daubed green paint around a stark face several meters high.

While residents welcome Nasser's initiative, they note it underlines the relative absence of local services—although municipal workers were digging up a street when reporters visited recently. "It should be the municipality that does this kind of work, not just here in our area," said Zakaria Kobrosly, a 57-year-old fisherman, whose home is meters from the shore. And the project's future will depend on residents' willingness to continue the work. Nasser plans to bow out after he launches a crowd-funding campaign later this month to raise \$35,000 towards continuing the project.

Laila Slim, 51, preparing parsley for a salad next to the salmon-coloured outer wall of her home, gestured to an area where the paint was peeling. "The project is very lovely, but with the humidity, it is damaged already. I hope they will come back again," she said. Kobrosly said the project had improved the neighborhood's social fabric. "People used to socialize in their houses, now you find them out in the street below together," he said. "It has calmed people's nerves... they've started to get to know each other." The best view of Ouzai, he said, is from his fishing boat out in the Mediterranean. "You can see it all together, with all the colors. It's like Disneyland or something!" — AFP



Ayad Nasser, the property developer behind the "Ouzville" project, looks on as he inspects the walls in Beirut's southern Ouzai neighborhood.

On Chinese Valentine's Day, businesses woo 'single dogs'

Alone on Chinese Valentine's Day? Gift yourself a dried flower. Or better yet, indulge in a cake shaped like a "single dog". Eating by yourself? A restaurant will sit a teddy bear across from you. As couples coo over each other during China's version of Valentine's Day today, several businesses will woo a single population that may be unlucky with love but has money to spend. While Valentine's Day is on February 14 in other parts of the world, China celebrates its version during the Qixi Festival, which falls on the seventh day of the seventh month of the lunar calendar.

Couples go on dinner dates and exchange flowers and cards. And then there are the "single dogs", as they are nicknamed in China. Nearly 200 million people are not married in the country of almost 1.4 billion, according to official figures, many resisting family and cultural pressure to settle down. Businesses have something else for them. One of the country's most popular hotpot restaurants, Haidilao, places a teddy bear across from customers who dine alone. The bear can make customers "feel at home... not isolated and treated with warmth", a local Haidilao restaurant manager, Xu Bin, told AFP, adding that this service mainly targets younger customers.

For those with a sweet tooth, the Seven Color Rainbow bakery makes a cake in the shape of a pooch with his tongue out. Dubbed "the single dog", the dessert is 20 percent more expensive than the shop's more common cake, but it accounts for 15 percent of sales. "People buy these cakes for their friends as a benign joke," a staffer surnamed Liu told AFP. Even US fast food chain Burger King is offering a special discount meal just for singles on Chinese Valentine's Day: A burger, a fried chicken thigh and a smoothie. At his flower shop, An



A florist preparing a heart-shaped bouquet of roses ahead of China's Valentine's Day, at a flower market in Beijing.

Shuai offers singles dried roses encased in glass, which he believes will be a hit on Valentine's Day. "People love to celebrate these festivals, and single people can also give flowers to themselves," An told AFP.

Travelling alone

A range of businesses are targeting singles, including travel, dining, online video games, online video streaming, sports apparel and cosmetics, according to Shaun Rein, founder of China Market Research Group and author of the book "The War for China's Wallet". Travel agency Lvmama says the number of bookings for people without a companion rose almost



Florist An Shuai displaying a single dried rose ahead of China's Valentine's Day.— AFP photos

twofold in the first half of the year compared to the same period in 2016, according to the official People's Daily newspaper. In the first 11 months of 2016, solo travellers accounted for 15 percent of the millions of travellers monitored by Ctrip, China's largest online travel agency, according to the Southern Metropolis Daily newspaper. "More widespread among the young and single population, travelling alone has become a way for people to realize their spiritual pursuit," Shi Yudian, chief marketing officer of Ctrip's tourism business department, was quoted as saying. Zhou Kai, 29, feels greater freedom while being single.

"Without the restraint from a relationship or marriage, I can

engage more time in personal interests and hobbies and spend more," Zhou said. The high-earning urban female population is a major economic player. Online flower retailer Reflower says almost 80 percent of weekly orders come from female customers, with more than half buying flowers to "comfort themselves". "Females who are single especially spend most of their paycheck. Males tend to save more because they want to buy a house later on," Rein told AFP. "It's really being empowered by women, because they are the most optimistic consumers, they tend to have higher paying jobs than men, and they tend to spend more."

Communist blind dates

But China is concerned about the accelerating drop in its working age population, a consequence of its declining fertility rate and one-child policy, which was relaxed to two in 2015. The Communist Youth League has started to organize blind dates for young people in an attempt to encourage them to settle down. In eastern Tianjin city alone, the local league committee has arranged blind dates involving 340 people in four venues across the city for the upcoming Qixi Festival. "In urban areas especially, parents are saying to their girls 'don't settle'. Only marry if you want to marry, only have kids if you want to have kids," Rein said, adding that the phenomenon is signaling social progress. "I view that as showing female empowerment... I think it's a very healthy shift, showing more male-female gender equality than ever before." — AFP

Lifestyle

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Street art brings color to rundown Beirut suburb

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Valentin Arias Delgado (left) and Diana Paola Franco from Colombia participate to win the third place in the Tango Stage competition final of the 15th Tango Dance World Championship in Buenos Aires. — AFP



Tango dancers Nina Chudoba (left) and Oscar Brusco (right) greet friends as they arrive to a Milonga.



Tango dancers Nina Chudoba (second left), 82, and Oscar Brusco (left), 90, walk to the stage during the Tango Salon competition at the 15th Tango Dance World Championship in Buenos Aires.



Tango dancers Nina Chudoba (left), 82, and Oscar Brusco (right), 90, are seen on a screen before competing in the Tango Salon competition at the 15th Tango Dance World Championship in Buenos Aires. — AFP photos

Meet Argentina's top tango stars, aged 82 and 90

They are in their ninth decade of life, but the rhythm of tango still thrills in the legs of Oscar and Nina. Even their competitors at last week's tango world championship conceded that this couple danced the most authentic tango of all. Having learned tango during its golden age in 1940s Buenos Aires, Oscar Brusco and Nina Chudoba are some of the longest-surviving proponents of the art. "We are the essence of tango," says Brusco, still straight-backed at 90 and ready to dance. "Our tango is something different: walking and crossing, floor tango. None of this twirling of the legs."

Two to tango

Chudoba, 82, is the daughter of Polish immigrants who settled in one of Buenos Aires' top tango areas, Valentín Alsina. She is glad to see young people still dancing tango-but also nostalgic for its heyday. "We breathed tango, we fell in love with tango and we laughed with tango," she says. "They all dance the same nowadays.

Before, each dancer had their own style." Chudoba turned to dancing seriously in her 50s after her husband

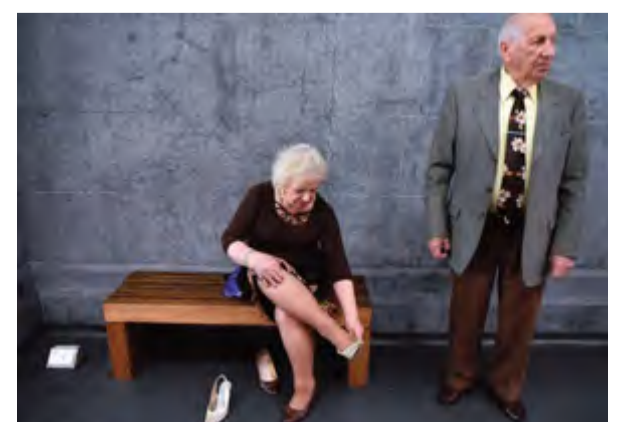
died. That was how she met Brusco, also a widower. They go four times a week to "milongas," tango dance parties. Brusco said that was all the rehearsal they needed for the championships. "I have been dancing since 1945. What could we rehearse?" he said. "I have a lot of mileage in tango."

Lords of the dance

Faced with younger competition, the couple did not win the championship in Buenos Aires-but they got a standing ovation as they stepped on stage. Backstage, finalists Juan Manuel Rosales and his wife Liza greet Brusco and Chudoba before going on stage to compete. "When I look at them, I think that they are part of tango," says Rosales. "They lived through the real age of tango, in the 1940s, when the whole country was dancing it." Nearby, younger male dancers in suits gelled their hair, sporting moustaches like the stars of a past age. "The legacy has been passed on," says Liza. "We will try to keep the essence from being lost." — AFP



Tango dancers Nina Chudoba and Oscar Brusco dance at a Milonga.



Tango dancers Nina Chudoba and Oscar Brusco prepare to dance at a Milonga.