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IMF urges Gulf to switch from oil, projects deficits of \$160bn

Fund warns GCC rift could dampen growth, endorses Saudi business zone

Dust hits Kuwait with cold winds

KUWAIT: A dust wave gripped Kuwait in the early hours of yesterday, causing visibility to drop drastically. Along with the storm, relatively cold winds were blowing with the visibility level at 500 m in some areas. The dust will subside gradually as temperatures drop, an official at Kuwait Meteorological Center Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi said. In a statement to KUNA, Qarawi said this period of the year is a critical time of rapid and sharp changes in the weather due to the impact of fluctuations in barometric pressure. He said the country has been affected since Monday evening by a decrease in horizontal vision as a result of prevailing dust from northern Iraq. Navigation has been suspended temporarily at Shuwaikh Port due to bad weather, strong winds and dust, Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) said yesterday. Director of Operations Captain Bader Al-Enezi told KUNA navigation



KUWAIT: The Kuwait City skyline is barely visible during a dust storm yesterday. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

was halted to maintain safety of merchant ships due to current instability of weather and visibility decreasing to less than 500 m due to suspended dust. Two vessels were waiting to enter the port, Enezi said, noting that the observation tower at the port is monitoring the weather round the clock. He hoped to resume operations when the weather improves.

Navigation via Kuwait International Airport was proceeding

despite the current dusty weather, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced early yesterday. DGCA said in a statement to KUNA that visibility was in the range of 800 m. Flights to and from the airport have not been affected with the current weather conditions, the department said. Aircraft are allowed, by regulations, to land or take off at a visibility level ranging between 300 to 500 m. — KUNA

DUBAI: The IMF yesterday advised energy-rich Gulf economies to speed up their diversification away from oil after projecting the worst growth for the region since the global financial crisis. Oil exporters in the Middle East, especially those in the Gulf Cooperation Council, have been hit hard by the collapse in crude prices which provided a major part of their finances. Following the slump, GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates undertook fiscal measures and reforms to cut public spending and boost non-oil revenues.

As a result, economic growth has slowed considerably as the GCC six and other regional oil exporters posted huge budget deficits. In its Regional Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund yesterday projected GCC economic growth at just 0.5 percent this year, the worst since the 0.3 percent growth in 2009 following the global financial crisis.

The IMF is projecting cumulative budget deficits of \$320 billion for Mideast oil exporters over the next five years, according to the report. Approximately half of that amount - or \$160 billion - will be sustained by



Jihad Azour

energy-rich Gulf nations between 2018 and 2022. Still, the projection is significantly lower than the shortfall of \$350 billion that these states racked up since 2015, when oil prices plunged to their lowest in years. The IMF's figures are based on assumed oil prices of about \$50 a barrel through the end of this year and next, up from last year's average of \$43. On Friday, Brent crude, the international benchmark oil, rose above \$60 for the first time since 2015.

"It is the right time for GCC

economies to accelerate their diversification outside oil and to promote a greater role for the private sector to lead growth and create additional jobs," said Jihad Azour, director of the Middle East and Central Asia at IMF. "Preparing their economies to the post-oil era is something that is becoming a priority for authorities all over the GCC." Azour said. "We are seeing governments developing diversification strategies and introducing a certain number of reforms to allow the economy to be prepared for the post-oil era. And those are important reforms," he said.

Azour said the GCC growth projections are mainly driven by the oil producers' deal to cut output to bolster low crude prices which meant GCC states pumped and exported less oil. The IMF report also projected that the economies of oil exporters in the Middle East and North Africa - also including Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Libya and Yemen - would grow 1.7 percent, down from 5.6 percent the previous year. MIEA oil importers, on the contrary, were expected to expand 4.3 percent this year, up from 3.6 percent in 2016, the report added.

Continued on Page 11

News in brief

Bahrain slaps visas on Qataris

DUBAI: Bahrain has decided to impose visas on travellers from Qatar, which is embroiled in a diplomatic crisis with its Arab neighbors, Bahraini state media reported yesterday. Under Gulf Cooperation Council agreements, citizens of countries in the six-state bloc, including both Bahrain and Qatar, can visit other GCC countries without visas. But Bahrain's King Sheikh Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa yesterday ordered the new rules and urged authorities to strengthen security measures in the tiny Gulf kingdom, the official BNA news agency said. "The new measures aim at preventing harming the security and stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain, particularly in light of the latest repercussions of the crisis with Qatar", said a statement on BNA.

Saudis to issue tourist visas

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia plans to start issuing tourist visas "soon", authorities said yesterday, as the ultraconservative kingdom seeks to attract international visitors in a radical overhaul of its oil-dependent economy. Tourism is seen as a major driver of growth as the kingdom attempts to wean itself off its dependence on petrodollars amid a protracted oil slump. "Tourist visas will be introduced soon," Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, head of the Saudi tourism authority, was quoted as saying in a statement. He did not specify a time frame. Aside from millions of Muslims who travel to Saudi Arabia for the annual hajj pilgrimage, most visitors currently face a tedious visa process and exorbitant fees to enter the kingdom. Although richly endowed with natural beauty, the kingdom is hardly seen as a tourism hotspot.

9 headless bodies in Tokyo flat

ZAMA, Japan: Japanese police have found nine mutilated bodies hidden in containers with their heads cut off and flesh stripped in a suburban Tokyo flat, media reported yesterday. Tokyo police have arrested 27-year-old Takahiro Shiraishi who reportedly confessed to hacking the flesh off the bodies and throwing it out with the trash, then sprinkling cat litter over the remains in an effort to cover up the evidence. According to local media, Shiraishi told police he had chopped up the bodies in a bathroom, while a saw was found in his room. The suspect reportedly told investigators he had "dumped cut flesh and organs in the trash", prompting fears he was a serial killer as police believe he killed all nine victims, according to NHK. (See Page 11)

MPs demand strong, competent Cabinet

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Lawmakers yesterday called for forming a strong and competent new Cabinet in order to be able to deal with the dangerous escalation in regional tensions and internal conflict within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). A senior opposition lawmaker meanwhile urged MPs to suspend all planned grillings at the time being in consideration of the dangerous political situation in the region and the possible disintegration of the GCC.

Other lawmakers said that the new Cabinet must retain a number of efficient ministers in the outgoing Cabinet. In an appeal to both the new prime minister and lawmakers, leading Islamist opposition MP Adel Al-Damkhi called for taking into consideration the future of Kuwait amid a grave situation that could see the collapse of the GCC,

Syria shelling kills 6 schoolchildren in besieged enclave

JISREEN, Syria: At least six schoolchildren were among 11 people killed in Syrian regime shelling yesterday in Eastern Ghouta, a war monitor said, despite a ceasefire in the hunger-hit rebel enclave. The bombardment of the rebel-held pocket outside Damascus came as a new round of peace talks to end Syria's six-year war entered a second day in the Kazakh capital Astana. Government fire on the besieged region has been on the rise in the past week, and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said the latest shelling hit a school in the town of Jisreen.

"A shell fired by regime troops hit the entrance of a school in Jisreen just as children were leaving it," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman. A medical source at the town hospital confirmed the death toll and said another 25 people were wounded. The Observatory said earlier that four children had died, but two later succumbed to their wounds in hospital. An AFP photographer at the medical facility saw the bodies of four children, wrapped in blood-stained white shrouds. Several wounded children lay or sat in shock on hospital beds, including one with severed legs. A man cried out after learning his son had died, as others around him tried to comfort him.

Small blue schoolbags and a tiny pair of shoes lay in a corner, drenched in blood. Outside the primary school, children stared at the pools of blood staining the concrete ground. "I was coming out of school and was about to turn into a side street when the shell hit. There were dead people, wounded people," one child told AFP. The Observatory said regime bombardment yesterday also hit other areas of Eastern Ghouta, where opposition fighters have been battling President Bashar Al-Assad's

troops for six years.

The regime on July 22 announced a ceasefire with rebels in the besieged area, which has been included in a so-called "de-escalation zone" agreed by Turkey, Russia and Iran. Yesterday, regime shelling on the Mesraba area, also in Eastern Ghouta, killed four civilians including two children, the Observatory said. An AFP journalist at a morgue saw rescue volunteers and young men slip the

political crises, adding that the next Cabinet must give priority to the security issue and be prepared to face regional risks.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem adjourned the Assembly session yesterday after the government abstained from attending. Under Kuwaiti law, at least one minister must be present for an Assembly session to be legal. Ghanem had said he will not call for new sessions before the new Cabinet is formed.

Meanwhile, rapporteur of the foreign relations committee MP Mohammad Al-Huwailah said yesterday that his panel has asked the financial and economic affairs committee to review two agreements of the GCC regarding value-added tax (VAT) and selective excise taxes. The two agreements must be approved by the Assembly to become law. GCC states have agreed to impose five percent VAT on products and services in 2018. Some countries have decided to start from January next year, while others are implementing it later. The excise taxes include raising taxes on tobacco and energy drinks by 100 percent and soft drinks by 50 percent. Saudi Arabia and UAE have already applied this tax.



JISREEN, Syria: A man mourns over the bodies of schoolchildren at a makeshift hospital following government shelling in this rebel-held besieged town yesterday. — AFP

troops for six years.

The regime on July 22 announced a ceasefire with rebels in the besieged area, which has been included in a so-called "de-escalation zone" agreed by Turkey, Russia and Iran. Yesterday, regime shelling on the Mesraba area, also in Eastern Ghouta, killed four civilians including two children, the Observatory said. An AFP journalist at a morgue saw rescue volunteers and young men slip the

bodies of a father and his son into white plastic bags.

"May God avenge oppressors," the man's brother cried. In the town of Harasta, shelling also hit near a school as pupils were leaving it, wounding 10 people including five children. On Sunday, 11 civilians including a journalist for pro-opposition television were killed in Eastern Ghouta.

Continued on Page 11

Local

Amir hosts Turkish official, Central Bank governor

Amir holds consultations with former premier



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir receives from Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel a memorial publication marking the inauguration of the bank's new headquarters.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the visiting Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek and his accompanying delegation. The audience was attended by Deputy Amiri Divan Affairs Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of

Commerce, Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Khaled Nasser Al-Roudhan.

His Highness the Amir, separately, hosted Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel, who presented His Highness with a memorial publication marking inauguration of the bank's new

headquarters. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir hosted His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the former prime minister, as part of regular consultations for forming a new government. Also yesterday, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received, Simsek,

Hashel, as well as Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and Minister of State for Municipality Mohammad Nasser Al-Jabri who was accompanied by member of the Saudi Senior Scholars Council, and Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court Dr Abdullah bin Abdulmohsen Al-Turki, and a visiting delegation. — KUNA

Foreign minister receives Omani envoy's credentials

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday credentials of Adnan Al-Ansari as Oman's Ambassador to the country. The minister expressed good wishes to the ambassador and hoped the brotherly relations between Oman and Kuwait would be boosted further.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, the Assistant Foreign Minister for the minister's bureau affairs, Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs, and other ministry officials.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also received Cuban Ambassador to Kuwait Andres Gonzalez Garrido at the end of the envoy's term in office. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled lauded Garrido's efforts during his term to boost bilateral ties. The meeting was attended by a number of the ministry's senior officials. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives credentials of the new Omani Ambassador Adnan Al-Ansari. — KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Cuban Ambassador to Kuwait Andres Gonzalez Garrido.

Deputy Foreign Minister meets official, diplomats



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Alireza Enayati. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with a Ukrainian security official in addition to a number of foreign diplomats. During his meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Alireza Enayati, Jarallah discussed the issue of Kuwaiti national Faleh Al-Azmi who is held in custody by the Iranian authorities.

Jarallah called on the Iranian diplomat to deliver a message to the leadership of Iran, requesting an update on Azmi's case. The Iranian diplomat affirmed that

he would rely the message to the competent authorities in Tehran. Al-Jarallah met with first deputy to the Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleg Hladkovskiy. The meeting touched on issues of bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments. Meanwhile, Jarallah and US Ambassador to Kuwait US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman held a similar meeting focusing on boosting ties in addition to happenings within the region and the world. — KUNA

Kuwait, Turkey sign minutes of 10th joint committee meeting

KUWAIT: Kuwait and Turkey jointly signed yesterday minutes of the 10th meeting of Joint Committee for Economic, industrial, and Technical Cooperation. The two sides signed the minutes to boost their bilateral cooperation in economic, commercial, and industrial fields, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan told reporters.

Roudhan made his remarks after the signing ceremony, held after conclusion of the 10th meeting in presence of Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek. The meeting has reached some positive outcomes, he said, describing Turkey as one of the important economic spots to Kuwait, and that the two countries are linked by their mutual investments.

Kuwait and Turkey have set the perfect example to follow in international relations since the start of their diplomatic ties back in the early 20th century, said Roudhan. Their relations have been based on mutual respect, trust, credibility, cooperation, and unified opinions toward several stands and crisis they have faced in the past, said the minister.

The Kuwaiti-Turkish relationship, in its own right, is excellent and unique, he said, adding that such a friendship has had a significant impact on Kuwait's stability, and on finding a solid ground to, upon which, base their ties. Meanwhile, Roudhan mentioned that the two countries' relations have recently



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan shakes hands with the Turkish deputy premier after signing the minutes. — KUNA

seen notable and significant development, particularly in economic fields. He also expressed Kuwait's aspiration to elevate its relationship with Turkey to wider levels of trade exchange, describing Turkey as a "window to Europe," and Kuwait as a "window to Turkey" in the Gulf region.

The two countries are also linked by several economic agreements, he said, expressing Kuwait's keenness to enhance its cooperation with Ankara in commercial, economic, political, cultural, and artistic fields.

The volume of trade exchange between Kuwait and Turkey has reached nearly USD 1.287 billion in 2016, Roudhan said, adding that such a large figure confirms the two countries' solid economic relationship.

Meanwhile, the Turkish deputy premier described his country's current bilateral ties with Kuwait as "excellent," adding that their economic and commercial relations are solid

as well. Kuwait enjoys distinctive geographical location, balanced foreign policy, solid infrastructure, low-cost lands, and open communication channels with major world markets, making it an influential center for attracting foreign investments to the region and world, said Simsek.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts to resolve ongoing disputes in the region are so significant, he noted, stressing the importance of increasing Turkish-Kuwaiti joint meetings to boost their cooperation and efforts to achieve peace and prosperity in the region. Kuwait is a country of law and provides low-cost power and investment lands, Simsek noted, adding that Turkey enjoys an attractive economy for foreign investors. He also called on Kuwaiti investors to invest in Turkey, adding that his country is currently ranked number 13 of biggest world economies. — KUNA

Kuwait follows up on Rohingya plight: Representative

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait is following up with deep concern and distress on the Rohingya plight in Myanmar where the Muslim community is targeted with mounting violence, tantamount to genocides against humanity. Kuwait affirms necessity of implementing UN recommendations to stop grave breaches of the Rohingya minority's rights and seeks a broad approach to build peace and provide humanitarian aid for those targeted with persecution, said Hiam Khaled Al-Fassam, an economic researcher, addressing statement of the Kuwaiti permanent mission to the UN commission for social, humanitarian and cultural affairs, during the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, held late on Monday.

Fassam noted that Kuwait took part in the international conference on the Rohingya question, held last week, noting necessity of supporting a draft resolution, presented by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) about status of the Muslims in Myanmar. The State of Kuwait considers human rights among its priorities, as they are enshrined in the National Constitution, stipulating equality among citizens and safeguarding basic rights in tandem with the UN Charter and international conventions.

Moreover, Fassam elaborated, Kuwait had endorsed international conventions



Hiam Al-Fassam

that call for eradicating all forms of indiscriminate, stopping torture, all kinds of inhuman treatment as well as rights of persons of special needs. The Kuwaiti Family Court has issued Law 15/2015 stipulating that a center must be established in each governorate to tackle family disputes and domestic violence. Furthermore, special committees for childcare have been established.

Elaborating further, Fassam noted that the State of Kuwait provides education to each citizen and resident. Teaching is mandatory for Kuwaitis at elementary and intermediate levels. Human rights are implied in the teaching curricula, which also include lessons about the constitution and human rights at the intermediate level. The country hosts communities of 120 nationalities and has adopted 19 conventions stipulating workers' rights. — KUNA

Local

Lawmaker decries govt plans to rehabilitate returning IS members

'They belong in jail after prosecution'

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Saleh Ashour stressed that rehabilitating Islamic State (IS) members returning to Kuwait would be disastrous for domestic security. "These people have violated Kuwaiti laws and taken part in war operations with terrorists. Therefore, sympathizing with them would be deemed as support to international terrorism," he warned, rejecting a statement by the Awqaf Ministry's Undersecretary about the ministry's intention to prepare special programs to rehabilitate returnees. "They pose potential destruction and turmoil threats," he said. "These people belong in jail after prosecuting them," he added, urging the government to stop sending the wrong message to the world. "We cannot tolerate compromising Kuwait's security," he underlined, urging the government to impose laws to avoid sociopolitical crises.

Jaber Hospital

The Public Investment Authority (PIA) finished preparations to set up a closed shareholding company to run Jaber Hospital, said informed sources, noting that the

company will be entirely owned by PIA before turning it into a public shareholding company later to attract strategic investors. The sources added that the company's capital would be KD 150 million.

No transfers

The Ministry of Education (MoE) yesterday issued a directive suspending all transfers within educational directorates or from one directorate to another as educational teaching staff and timetables are stable now at various schools. The ministry added that in case of any urgent shortages, a teacher can only be deputized to other schools, said educational sources. The sources also noted that Ahmadi educational zone is now fully staffed with teachers and all it needs to resolve the problem of teachers in Sabah Al-Ahmed City schools is to coordinate with respective supervisors.

Public transports

A report by Arcadis consultancy firm for natural and built assets on sustainable cities showed that Kuwait's public transport networks are very limited and hinder

development. The report also showed that cities such as Cairo suffer from public transport limitations as well as high levels of air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions. According to the report, Kuwait is ranked fourth amongst the world's worst sustainable cities.

Labor city

The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects and Kuwait Municipality have prepared shortlist of companies that would take part in the labor city project due to be built in southern Jahra. The authority explained that the list includes Kuwait National Real Estate Co, United Real Estate Co, Agility Warehousing Co, National Industries Group, Mazaya, Kuwait Investment Company, Tareq Al-Ghanem Co, China State Co, Fuad Al-Ghanem and Sons and Al-Markaz. The authority explained that the project, due to be built over a total area of 1.15 million sq m, would be built within three years and that the contract's tenure would be 40 years.

Budget deficit

The Bank of America Merrill Lynch's Research Unit

recommended reducing investments in Kuwait's foreign debt bonds, as it expects the state budget deficit to continue as the largest in GCC states, with the exception of Kuwait's foreign investments. Notably, Bank of America was not one of the international banks that coordinated international bidding for Kuwaiti bonds. According to the report, Kuwait's credit classification is rated 'AA' as per Fitch and Standard & Poor's. It is classified at 'Aa2' by Moody's. The report added that Kuwait issued international bonds worth \$8 billion in March and that quick financial measures were not likely to happen because of the parliament that is hindering the government's endeavors to cut expenses and rationalize subsidies. Bank of America also predicted that such negative impacts will affect economic reform plans.



MP Saleh Ashour

Passenger seatbelt required to avoid vehicle impounding

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah issued a decision to amend law 81/1976, giving police the authority to impound a vehicle or motorcycle in case the driver was caught driving a motorbike without a helmet, using mobile phones by hand while driving, or in case the driver and passengers in the front seat were not wearing seatbelts.

Siren tests

The Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Operations Major General Jamal Al-Sayegh announced that the Civil Defense Directorate will test run all sirens around Kuwait at 10 am on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

Armed robber arrested

Intense efforts by security men following a shooting at a restaurant by a person driving a vehicle shortly after midnight Tuesday resulted in the arrest of the suspect within hours. The interior ministry relations and information security department said the suspect is an ex-convict in drugs and weapons possession cases. An AK-47, a pistol and a shotgun were found with the suspect.

Residency law violators

Residency detectives carried out a raid against domestic help offices in search of residency law violators, resulting in arresting 21 violators of various nationalities. The department received tips about a bogus office that made deals with citizens and residents to provide them with help in exchange of money and gave receipts, claiming it was an registered office. The arrestees all confessed that they do not work for their sponsors.

Forgery

Meanwhile, an expatriate who works as a salesman changed his job designation from salesman to driver but he does not have a driving license. Further investigations revealed that the work permit in which the job was changed was forged. The employee who processed the transaction, a citizen, was arrested as he destroyed the original file. Investigations also revealed that the forged work permit was renewed by another employee, also a citizen, who confessed to processing it in exchange of money.

Fires

Kuwait Fire Services Directorate said a fire broke out in a Shuwaikh carpentry shop, prompting Shuwaikh and Shuhada fire station to respond and put out the blaze. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, another carpentry shop in Jahra caught fire. Occupational Jahra and Jahra fire stations fought the fire and no injuries were reported.

Crackdowns

Farwaniya municipality emergency team continued its field campaigns in Jleeb and Farwaniya, resulting in issuing 22 citations for using open areas. Meanwhile, head of general cleanliness and road occupancy department Saad Al-Khrainej said a field campaign resulted in issuing tickets to 12 roaming vendors, while three frozen goods vehicles, 76 cubic meters of scrap, used clothes and vegetables were removed.

Drugs

A lieutenant was arrested at a checkpoint in Jahra after he was found in an abnormal state with shabu (meth) on him. Jahra police asked him for his ID and when asked to get out of his car, he drove off. He was finally blocked and arrested despite repeated attempts to escape, and was sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD). Meanwhile, an Iraqi man and his Syrian girlfriend were caught under the influence of drugs and had illicit tablets on them. A patrol stopped the two for driving erratically. The man who was found as an ex-convict on many drug cases tried to help his companion escape, but failed. Both were sent to DCGD. Separately, Taima police arrested a GCC national in possession of three envelopes containing drugs in Oyoum following a tip from a passerby who noticed the man making indecent acts on the street. A police patrol from Taima responded to the call and arrested the suspect following resistance. He was sent to DCGD along with the drugs.

Organized by

CANADA 150

In cooperation with

Canadian Embassy in Kuwait,
Kuwait Times
organize 'Celebrate #Canada150'
STUDENT ART COMPETITION
October 8th till November 9th, 2017

Kuwait Times newspaper in cooperation with the Embassy of Canada in Kuwait under the patronage of Education Ministry organized a painting competition for students titled "Celebrate #Canada150." The event was sponsored by Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company, Petrochemical Industries Company, Algonquin College Kuwait, SNC Lavalin, Air Canada, Lufthansa, Ebla and hosted by Four Seasons Hotel- Kuwait at Burj Alshaya.

The idea of the competition is to have students in Kuwait learn more about different countries, cultures and civilizations, and to identify communities in other parts of the world through art. The theme for the Arts competition is Celebrate#Canada150 to encourage students to express their knowledge of Canada by drawing an icon, a natural scene, or any other expression they would find suitable for above titled.

The theme for the competition is "Celebrate # Canada150. Canada is a land of diversity - imagine the sparkling blue ocean, to the white snow-covered hills, and the lush green of the rainforest. People have moved from all countries of the world to make Canada their home. Students are encouraged to show

us what they think of when they imagine Canada.

The contest aims to make students gain knowledge of the heritage, culture and civilization of other countries. The competition slogan motivates students to express their knowledge of Canada through art. Participants can draw touristic, environmental or civilization pieces or icons or symbols that reflect

the competitions slogan. Canada is famous for its magnificent and beautiful places. It is one of the largest countries in the world with a unique geography, such as towering mountains, beautiful beaches, lush forests, green areas and wild and marine life.

Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager of Kuwait Times newspaper said that more than 10,000 students participated in this art competition which is open to students of all levels of education, the goal of the competition that students express their feelings and their knowledge about the beautiful nature, progress and heritage cultural habits in Canada through their drawings either watercolor or crayons or any material that enables them to draw a picture of Canada. Saad would like to invite all companies to sponsor these kinds of activities due to the fact that they have responsibility for their community, he thanks all the sponsors for their support.

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: This photo captures Kuwait City landmarks at dusk. —KUNA

Al-Sayer partners for Youth Empowerment Symposium 2017

Driving sustainability by fostering innovation and leadership

KUWAIT: As part of its strategic commitment towards sustainable development of youth Al-Sayer has partnered for the 6th Tmkeen Youth Empowerment Symposium 2017 held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The prestigious three days event was inaugurated in the presence of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan. The symposium delivered outstanding knowledge for talented young people to progress in their fields of interest.

Youth Empowerment Organization is an Independent, Private Non-Profit Organization (NPO) and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). Their vision is to empower the youth to drive new era of economic development, growth and productivity among them and to the nation. Started in 2012, they conduct yearly symposium, and continuing each year by bringing international and regional leaders and motivators to spark youth engagements towards entrepreneurship.

Bader MUSAED Al Sayer Group Business Director, Hamad Al-Sayer CEO, Al-Sayer Franchising, Ibrahim Al-Fouzan Vice Chairman Sustainability Steering Committee, Philip Burruck GM Lexus Sales, Nehad Al-Haj Ali Deputy GM Al-Sayer Corporate Excellence along with representatives from CSR and Lexus participated in the event. The remarkable occasion witnessed strong presence of enthusiastic youth for the vibrant panel discussion sessions represented by veterans from diverse business sectors who unwrapped their expertise and knowledge for the aspiring entrepreneurs.

Renowned Executive's including Patrick Pichette former Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Google Inc; Mike Tattersfield Chairman of Caribou Coffee; Sam Chamberlain Chief Operating Officer of Five Guys Group; Simon Ainslie former Global Vice President at Nokia; Victoria Grace Founding Partner and CEO of Colle Capital USA were speakers for this year's event.

Best opportunities

Speaking during Startup Opportunities in the

Private Sector panel Bader MUSAED Al-Sayer said "Al-Sayer Group is open to engage with best opportunities from individuals and group entrepreneurs which complements our core business competencies. Through Corporate Excellence and Strategy Planning Department we try to identify potential areas of investment to elevate and expand our business for coming generations."

Commenting on the Lessons for Young Entrepreneurs panel Hamad Al-Sayer said "the creative workaround applied by Al-Sayer Franchising for our Caribou Coffee brand to ensure steaming coffee to be delivered at customer site with innovative delivery and packaging methods retaining the freshness and flavors, is a new concept in such business worldwide."

Al-Sayer strongly believes in the significance of private sector in encouraging and supporting the youth entrepreneurial initiatives, which is part of its Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility (CSR) vision. "In the digital arena, young entrepreneurs are leveraged to challenge conventional systems

“ Group is open to engage with best opportunities ”

to involve customers and business at a personal level. Current scenario of non-exclusivity partnerships is opening a new world of opportunities for the young innovative entrepreneurs to come up with out of the box ideas to establish their own space in the midst of aggressive competition" added Bader MUSAED Al-Sayer.

day for VIP's and will go on to host the ministries, government agencies, companies and airlines on the second day. All visitors will gain entry into the exhibition on the third or fourth day.

The Kuwait Aviation show consists of several spectacles including an air shows which will go on over the duration of the exhibition. There will also be discourses from participating companies and other items which will be announced in the near future.

A press conference was held recently, attended by President of the Organizing Committee Ahmed Ismail Behbehani, Consultant of the Organizing Committee Captain Abdullah Bastaki, Head of the Civil



Ibrahim Fouzan (center) receives a memento commemorating Al-Sayer Group's participation in the event.

With the legacy of creating first time technologies to the world, and in the same spirit, Lexus participated in the event that encouraged new ideas. Lexus continues to foster talents around the globe through global initiatives such as Lexus Short Films and Lexus Design Awards. "The persistence during tough times, and longevity with the business and customers will empower youth to be practical and successful in this dynamic scenario," added Hamad Al-Sayer.

Committed to quality, excellence, and integrity Al-Sayer Group's Sustainability Gear and Excellence tool constitutes of four quadrants which represent: Nature, Economy, Society and Well-being to orient stakeholders as well as measure sustainability, which cover an important aspect to develop and empower youth. Highlighting the importance of the event, Ibrahim Al-Fouzan said "We believe this event promises engaging and productive future to young entrepreneurs. Our aim is to support the youth to realize their goals by converting challenges on their way to wonderful opportunities."

Aviation - Navigation Department, Adil Bourusli, Project Director of KAS 2018 Tareq Bastaki and Operation Manager of KAS 2018 Mohammed Kendari.

The Kuwait Aviation Show has officially announced its objectives and importance of the exhibition; with the possibility of investment into the aviation industry in Kuwait in all its future projects. The Kuwait Aviation Show aims to enter as a major league competitor in the aviation market of the region. The participation of International Airlines and Aviation Service Providers in the exhibition will make it easy to encourage Global Investments in the aviation industry of Kuwait after identifying projects and future prospects for this sector in Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Bader MUSAED Al-Sayer speaks during the symposium.



Hamad Al-Sayer speaks.



KUWAIT: Officials attend a press conference to announce the Kuwait Aviation Show.

Aviation show to be held in Jan

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Aviation Show 2018 will be held from the 17th to 20th of January 2018 including the participation of more than 150 international companies along with the support of various government institutions and agencies, expecting to cover over 50,000 visitors during the four-day exhibition.

The Kuwait Aviation Show will be held at Kuwait International Airport. The Opening Ceremony will be conducted on the first

Local

Ten in 1,000 women in Kuwait suffer from breast cancer

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Ten out of every 1,000 women in Kuwait are diagnosed with breast cancer, admitted Dr Asma Hussein, Senior Specialist and Radiologist at the Ministry of Health. Speaking with Kuwait Times at a seminar held at the Movenpick Hotel yesterday, Dr Asma noted that early detection is the key to prevention and cure. "We advise women who are 40 years old and above to regularly visit their clinic and ask for a mammography screening at least once a year. We do mammogram and ultrasound, biopsy and MRI depending on cases," she added.

Women admitted in the Kuwait National Mammography Program include those with no signs and symptoms, as well as women with higher risk of breast cancer, women with no prior history of breast cancer, and women who have not underwent mammography during the last 12 months. There are five health cancer care centers in Kuwait, located in South Khaithan, Al-Zahra, Al-Naeem, Al-Egaila and

Al-Surra. "There is always a possibility breast cancer can be prevented. Early detection of cancer means that intensity of treatment can be less extensive: the cure will be easier, so the outcome will always be better. The aim of the screening is to detect any signs of cancer cells in the breast. Usually you cannot see any signs without a screening. We advise women not to wait for the signs or pain, and go for a routine check-up regularly. On detection, we start the treatment immediately," she said.

The mammography screening program is for all the women in Kuwait above 40 years of age. "We accept all women, not just Kuwaitis, but the health charges will be applied on expatriates. Yet, the charge is only KD 30, so I urge all women in Kuwait who are aged 40 years or above to undergo the mammogram so as to detect any signs of cancer cells in the breast," she said. The Kuwait National Mammography Program started in 2013 with 15,000 women. In the first three years, 150 cases of breast cancer have been detected.



Dr Asma Hussein. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

Dust storm hits Kuwait



KUWAIT: A dust storm hit Kuwait yesterday and limited visibility to around 800 meters. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Joseph Shagra

Dive Team back from regional reefs inspection

KUWAIT: As part of its mission to observe and protect the environment both locally and regionally, the Kuwait Dive Team - part of the Environmental Voluntary Foundation - have recently returned from a visit to inspect coral reefs in Abu Dhabi, UAE, said

an official yesterday. Team Leader Waleed Al-Fadhel said that the visit to Abu Dhabi was the second stop of the team's expedition in the region, revealing that the team had visited Oman previously to check on coral reefs there. Reports on the status of the coral reefs are sent to the Australian non-profit organization Coral Watch, said the Kuwaiti official, affirming that this was part of the team's global effort to protect the environment.

In regards to the GCC program to protect the coral reefs, Fadhel said that the six-month program aimed at visiting over seven locations in the region and registering more than 300 readings and observations which will then be sent to Coral Watch for evaluation. — KUNA



Members of the Kuwait Dive Team inspect coral reefs in Abu Dhabi.

Kuwait, Vanuatu ink educational accords worth \$500,000

CANBERRA: The State of Kuwait and the Republic of Vanuatu have signed two accords for funding two educational projects. Ambassador Australia Najeeb Al-Bader signed the agreements for establishing 'Kuwait Vocational Training Friendship Centre' and a project named 'Kuwait Classrooms' for primary education, funded by Kuwait at a total cost of about 700,000 Australian Dollars (around \$500,000), according to a statement issued by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Australia. After the signing ceremony of the two agreements with the Ambassador of the Republic of Vanuatu Kalfau to Australia George Kaloris at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Canberra, Bader stated that the funding of the two projects came in line with guidelines by the Kuwaiti Cabinet, in response to a request by the Government of Vanuatu following natural disasters.

Ambassador Bader explained that the two projects emphasize Kuwait's keenness to provide humanitarian assistance to many countries in various fields, including assistance related to the development of the education.

He added that the projects would be executed in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Training in the Republic of Vanuatu and Vanuatu High Commission in Canberra, aiming to improve quality of educational environment and motivate students to pursue their studies and academic goals.



CANBERRA: Ambassador of Kuwait to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader signs the agreements with Ambassador of Vanuatu to Australia George Kaloris. — KUNA

Furthermore, Bader explained that support from the State of Kuwait to the Vocational Training Center at the Hospitality School of the Vanuatu Institute of Technology will be the first of its kind in the capital Port Vila, hoping that these educational development projects will further enhance the friendly bilateral relations between the two countries.

In this regard, Kaloris, who is also the High Commissioner of the Republic of Vanuatu stressed his country's great appreciation of Kuwait's generous contribution to development of education in his country, pointing out that the decision of his government to include "Kuwait" in naming the two projects comes as a recognition of its prominent role in funding several development projects in the world and especially in the Pacific region.

Kaloris also emphasized that the State of Kuwait's funding of the two projects

enables his country to face many educational challenges and supports its efforts to bridge the gap in the development of education and provide the classrooms that will assist in meeting growing needs.

He has added that Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East to build educational institutions in his country. He also extended his Government's appreciation for Kuwait's financial donation in 2015 of \$300,000 towards Tropical Cyclone Pam reconstruction efforts. The High Commissioner of the Republic of Vanuatu expressed his sincere appreciation to the Embassy of the State of Kuwait headed by Ambassador Bader and to the members of the Kuwaiti mission for their fruitful cooperation and efforts to achieve these funding agreements. Kaloris also conveyed his country's aspiration to further develop the existing bilateral relations with the State of Kuwait in all fields. — KUNA



Catalonia leader flees 'for safety'

Militants at large: Europe's 3 most wanted suspects



LAHORE: Wasim (right), brother of slain social media celebrity Qandeel Baloch (inset) and his cousin, who are accused of killing her, are escorted by policeman as they arrive at a local court in Multan. Love can get you killed in Pakistan, where hundreds of women are murdered annually for 'honor'. — AFP photos

Pak men still killing women for 'honor'

Murders by relatives continue despite new law

ISLAMABAD: A year since new laws came into force aimed at stemming the flow of "honor killings", scores of young women in deeply conservative Pakistan are still being murdered by relatives for bringing shame on their family. The shocking murder of Pakistani social media star Qandeel Baloch by her brother last July turned the spotlight on an epidemic of so-called honor killings and sparked a fresh push to close loopholes allowing the killers to walk free.

Long-awaited legislation was finally passed three months later in a move cautiously hailed by women's rights activists. But, more than a year on, lawyers and activists say honor killings are still occurring at an alarming pace. At least 280 such murders were recorded by the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan from October 2016 to June of this year—a figure believed to be underestimated and incomplete. "There has been no change," Benazir Jatoi, a lawyer who works for the independent Aurat Foundation, a women's rights watchdog said.

"In fact, the Peshawar High Court twice acquitted a man of honor crimes after this law was passed," she added. The new legislation mandates life imprisonment

for honor killings, but whether a murder can be defined as a crime of honor is left to the judge's discretion. That means the culprits can simply claim another motive and still be pardoned, said Dr Farzana Bari, a widely-respected activist and head of the Gender Studies Department at Islamabad's Quaid-i-Azam University.

They can do so under Pakistan's Qisas (blood money) and Diyat (retribution) law, which allows them to seek forgiveness from a victim's relatives—a particularly convenient means of escape in honor cases. Bari called for a study on the murders of women over the past year to ascertain the scale of the problem. The convoluted courts system also often sees police encouraging parties to enter blood money compromises, circumventing the beleaguered judicial sys-

tem altogether. "Forgiveness and compromise negates justice," Jatoi said. Asma Jahangir, one of Pakistan's most acclaimed human rights lawyers, agreed, telling AFP: "The law will be implemented once the courts function."

'Of course, I strangled her'

The roots of "honor" killings lie in tribal social norms which remain prevalent across South Asia and dictate the behavior of women in particular. Women have been shot, stabbed, stoned, set alight and strangled for bringing "shame" on their families for everything from

refusing marriage proposals to wedding the "wrong" man and helping friends elope. Men can be victims too, but the violence is overwhelmingly aimed at women.

The double standard is glaring. Generally Pakistanis

will accept a man who has committed rape, a senior police official who has overseen honor killing investigations said. But "if a woman is even suspected of an affair it is considered a shame for the family and not forgiven," the official, who asked to remain anonymous as he was not authorized to speak to media said.

"People even sympathize (with) and praise the men who murder their women for so-called honor," he said. Even when the state does take steps to implement the law—as with the murder of Qandeel Baloch—the wheels of justice often get stuck in the mud. Baloch achieved notoriety in Pakistan with her social media antics, tame by Western standards but considered provocative in a misogynistic country where women have fought for their rights for decades. Her brother Waseem told reporters that "of course" he had strangled his sister, finding her behaviour "intolerable".

At first, Baloch's heartbroken parents vowed they would give Waseem no absolution. But well over a year later, the trial is still grinding its way through the courts. This length of time is not unheard of for Pakistani murder cases, but it has been long enough—as often happens—for Baloch's father to change his mind. — AFP



280 such murders recorded from Oct 2016 to June 2017

Pakistani wife 'kills' husband, 12 others with poisoned lassi

MULTAN: A Pakistani woman who gave her husband poisoned milk ended up killing him and 12 of his family when the tainted liquid was turned into a yoghurt drink and served to him and his relatives, police said. The woman, who was forced by her family into an arranged marriage in September, has been arrested and charged with murder along with her alleged lover, senior police official Owais Ahmad told reporters in central Pakistan's Muzaffargarh district on Monday.

Police said Asiya Bibi mixed poison into her husband's milk last week but he initially failed to drink it and it was instead blended into a batch of yoghurt-based lassi and served to the man's family. Thirteen people have so far died, including the husband, while a further 14 have been hospitalized, Ahmad said. "Police have arrested Asiya Bibi, a man and his aunt for being accomplices and charged them with murder," Ahmad said. He said the man was allegedly Bibi's lover and that his aunt helped hatch the murder plot. Forced and under-age marriages are common in deeply conservative Pakistan, particularly in rural and impoverished regions, where women have fought for their rights for decades. — AFP

100 years after the Balfour Declaration

JERUSALEM: Britain's Balfour Declaration turns 100 this week, hailed by Israel for helping lead to its founding, but viewed by Palestinians as contributing to a catastrophe that stole their land. The November 2, 1917 declaration by then British foreign minister Arthur Balfour said his government viewed "with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people".

It was only one sentence of 67 words, but it was the strongest support yet from a world power for the goals of the Zionist movement—Jews, including those facing persecution, resettling in the land of their ancient ancestors. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will commemorate the anniversary in London, where he will attend a dinner in honor of the declaration with his British counterpart Theresa May.

May has said she will mark the date with "pride", but there is also criticism in Britain over the anniversary because of Israel's continuing half-century occupation of the West Bank. Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn of the Labor party has said he cannot attend the dinner-without explaining further—although shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry will. Palestinians are planning a demonstration tomorrow in Ramallah as part of their campaign calling on Britain to apologize for the declaration. They have also explored suing Britain over it.

'Historic injustice'

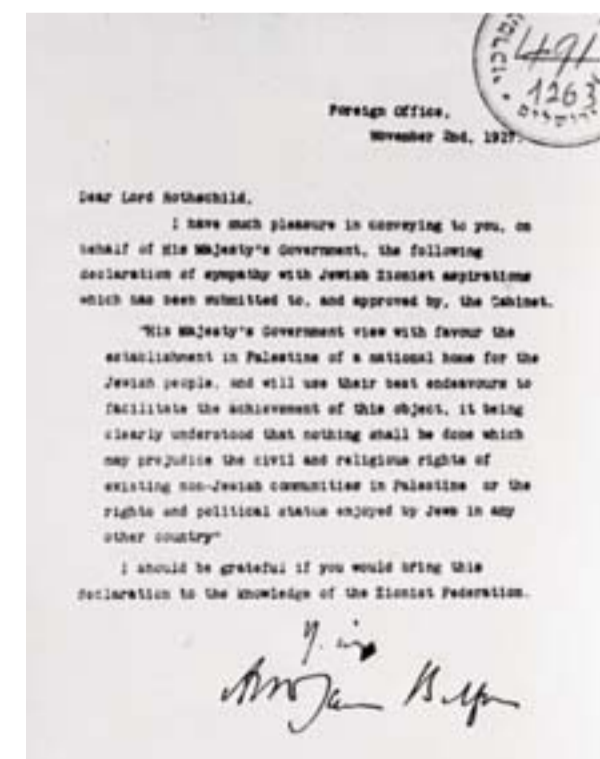
Netanyahu said this week that the declaration "advanced the international moves that established the state of Israel". "While the state would not have arisen

without settlement, sacrifice and a willingness to fight for it, the international impetus was, undoubtedly, the Balfour Declaration," he said. For Palestinian prime minister Rami Hamdallah, Britain should apologize for a "historic injustice it committed against our people and to correct it instead of celebrating it".

"The international community is obliged, while we approach the first centennial of the ominous Balfour Declaration, to end the historic injustice that has been inflicted on our people." The declaration came in a letter from Balfour to Lord Walter Rothschild, a leader of the Jewish community in Britain, and had British cabinet approval. Some argue today that later events—conflicting policies from Britain and the Zionists' own efforts to realize their dream—diminished the Balfour Declaration's importance. But others see it as monumental, having helped lay the groundwork not only for the creation of the modern state of Israel, but also the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

'It's dramatic'

"It's dramatic," Jonathan Schneer, an American historian and author of the book "The Balfour Declaration" said. "And they're both right," he said, referring to the starkly different viewpoints of Israelis and Palestinians. "The Israelis see it as a foundation stone for the birth of a Jewish state, and the Arabs see it as a foundation stone leading towards their dispossession and misery." According to Schneer, the declaration ironically grew to a large degree out of anti-Semitic myths. British leaders saw the Jewish community as capable of helping them win World War I due to its perceived influence in finance and within Russia, he said. Others say that Britain was also seeking a firm foothold in the Middle East after the war. But regardless of the motivations that created it, "if someone has to choose five documents that



This handout file photo shows a copy of the Balfour Declaration dated on November 2, 1917. — AFP

shaped Israel's history and existence, then the Balfour Declaration has to be one of them", said Paula Kabalo, director of Israel's Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism. For Palestinians, the declaration is colonialist and even racist. — AFP

International

Iran seen as winner after Iraq's Kurds lose referendum gamble

Fall of Kirkuk deepens Kurdish rifts; Iran to exploit fallout

ERBIL: There are no winners among Iraq's Kurds, just weeks after Kurdish president Masoud Barzani gambled away his people's autonomy in a defiant independence referendum. The losing bet has come at a steep price for everyone involved. Barzani has had to give up the presidency, his Kurdish political foes have angered their popular base, and the Kurdish people, who overwhelmingly voted to break away from Iraq, feel further than ever from their lifelong dream of independence.

The ultimate winner, analysts say, is Iran, widely believed to have backed and orchestrated Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in his Oct 16 offensive to recapture Kurdish held-areas, including the oil-rich city of Kirkuk. "The Iranians outwitted the Americans; they were the driving force behind the deal to hand over Kirkuk," said Hassan Shaaban, a political commentator and rights activist in Baghdad.

The balance of power has been transformed in the north of Iraq, exposing the limited hand the Kurds have to play in future negotiations. It has also exposed the dominant role Iran played in transforming the fate of the Kurdish region. Iran is poised to exploit the political aftermath, pushing to move the centre of power from the regional capital Erbil, where the Barzanis and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) have dominated, to its Kurdish allies in the city of Sulaimaniya.

"Iran was always one step ahead on the referendum," said Renad Mansour, an Iraq expert at the Chatham House think-tank. They knew Barzani was never going to postpone the vote, he said, adding: "The US was left scrambling while the Iranians were plotting." A senior Iranian official said Tehran had advised Barzani against the referendum but he would not listen. "We tried to stop this referendum because it was not in their interest. But unfortunately Mr Barzani miscalculated his social base among

Kurds and went ahead with the vote," Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's National Security Council, was quoted as saying by Mehr news agency on Tuesday.

Iranian meddling

Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani has for years been allied to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the main rival of Barzani's KDP. But the referendum has drawn the powerful Iranian commander even closer to Kurdish politics, and shown how far Iran's reach has extended beyond the central government in Baghdad. Ahead of the vote, Soleimani warned Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq to withdraw their forces from Kirkuk or face a "fiery" onslaught by Iraqi forces and Iranian-backed fighters, according to Kurdish and Iraqi officials.

The warning prompted Kurdish Peshmerga fighters to withdraw from most areas, and deepened the split between Barzani's power base in Erbil, and the rival Talabani clan in Sulaimaniya, long allied with Iran. Iraqi politicians have voiced concern about the growing influence of Iran, despite praising Abadi for reining in Kurdish ambitions. "We feel worried seeing the octopus arms stretching deeper in the north," said Ahmed Asi al-Obaidi, a Sunni tribal sheikh and a member of Kirkuk's tribal council.

"We all have seen the problems Iranian meddling has caused in other parts of Iraq, including mainly Sunni areas, and if the same amount of interference is repeated in Kurdish areas, then the worst is coming and instability will prevail." Addressing his people, demoralized by humiliating territorial defeats, Barzani said on Sunday that he would step down, just one month after the vote he championed in the face of regional and international opposition. He accused his enemies of committing "high treason" in surrendering Kirkuk to Iraqi forces without a fight, while his rivals have directed the same accusation against him for holding the referendum in the first place.



Barzani resigns, accuses rivals of high treason

Tensions rise after Israel blows up Gaza tunnel

GAZA: Tensions rose yesterday after an Israeli operation to blow up a tunnel from the Gaza Strip killed seven Palestinian militants in one of the deadliest incidents since a devastating 2014 war. The seven men, from the armed wings of Gaza's rulers Hamas and allied group Islamic Jihad, were killed Monday when Israel blew up the tunnel it said had crossed into its territory and was intended for attacks. They were being buried yesterday in their respective neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniya appeared at a funeral in central Gaza attended by a few thousand people, witnesses said, while senior Hamas figure Khalil Al-Hayya spoke at one in the southern part of the strip. "(Hamas) knows how to manage the conflict with the enemy and how to get revenge and strike at the time and place that hurts the enemy," Hayya said, according to a statement. Hamas and Israel have fought three wars since 2008 and the last conflict in 2014 was waged in part over tunnels from Gaza that were used to carry out attacks.

Israel said it had been monitoring the digging of the tunnel for an unspecified length of time and was forced to act after "the grave and unacceptable violation of Israeli sovereignty." It said the operation was carried out on the Israeli side of the border and stressed it was not seeking a further escalation. No tunnel opening had been found on the Israeli side of the border. It had come from the vicinity of the city of Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip, Israeli's military said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday his country would "not tolerate any attacks on our sovereignty, on our people, on our land, whether from the air, from the sea, from the ground, or below the ground," he said. "We attack those who seek to attack us."

Sensitive moment

The operation comes at a sensitive time, with rival Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas pursuing a reconciliation accord aimed at ending their 10-year rift. Hamas is due to hand over control of the enclave's borders to the Palestinian Authority yesterday under the deal mediated by Egypt and signed on October 12. It is due to return the Gaza Strip to full PA control by December 1. Both Haniya and Palestinian prime minister Rami Hamdallah spoke of ensuring the reconciliation pact remains on track. "The response to this massacre... is to move forward towards the restoration of national unity because the enemy realizes our strength is our unity," Haniya said. Senior PA offi-

Assad wins ground, but political fights

BEIRUT: Syria's President Bashar Al-Assad has regained the upper hand after six years of conflict, but his regime faces a tough diplomatic fight against international isolation and negotiations with newly powerful Kurds. "The regime has indeed militarily regained control of large swathes of Syrian territory, but speaking of a political and diplomatic victory would be exaggerated and premature," said Karim Bitar of the Paris-based Institute of International and Strategic Affairs.

Bolstered by a military intervention by ally Russia that began in 2015, Assad's government now controls 52 percent of the country. The area held by the regime is home to two-thirds of the country's current population of 17 million, according to Syria expert and geographer Fabrice Balanche. The rest of the country remains carved up between rebel factions, the Islamic State group and



GAZA: Fighters from the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine attend the funeral of comrades killed in an Israeli operation to blow up a tunnel stretching from the Gaza Strip into Israel yesterday. —AFP

cial Mustafa Barghouti accused Israel of trying to disrupt the reconciliation bid.

Separately in the West Bank yesterday, Israeli forces opened fire on a "suspect" vehicle, killing one Palestinian and wounding another, Israel's army and the Palestinian health ministry said. There did not appear to be any connection. Hamas forces have used tunnels in the past to enter Israel and carry out attacks, but discoveries of those stretching into Israeli territory since the end of the 2014 war have been rare. In April 2016, Israel's military said it had located and destroyed a tunnel extending from the Gaza Strip into Israel in the first such discovery since the 2014 conflict.

First test of unity

An army spokesman said Monday that Israel used advanced technology to locate the tunnel but declined to elaborate. The army has been seeking to build an underground wall surrounding Gaza that would block such tunnels, among other methods it has been developing. Israeli leaders have been keen to show they are addressing the

Kurdish forces. The advances, paired with the weakness of moderate rebels against more extremist elements in the opposition, have left Assad's regime back on top. "There is no question that the regime has won the strategic war," said Hassan Hassan, an expert at the US-based Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy.

Tables turned

"Nobody wants the regime to go... Some of the opposition backers actually want the regime to stay," he said. "The tables have turned in that sense." But Hassan said the prospects for enduring peace in Syria were still slim for now. "I think there will be some sort of insurgency that will continue for many years-jihadists or non-jihadists," he said. Syria's war has proved stubbornly immune to international efforts to resolve it since it began with anti-regime protests in March 2011. More than 330,000 people have been killed in the violence since then, and successive rounds of peace talks overseen by three different UN envoys have yet to bear fruit.

The latest round of talks between the government and opposition is scheduled for November 28 in Geneva, but it



FISHKHABUR, Iraq: Iraqi forces gather at their camp on the front line in the northwestern town of Fishkhabur, near the borders with Syria and Turkey. Since mid-October, Iraqi forces have reclaimed the entire oil-rich province of Kirkuk, stripping the Kurds of a major chunk of their oil revenues and dealing a crippling blow to their hopes of independence. —AFP

Uneasy succession

The vote and its ensuing political and military retribution from Baghdad - backed by Iran and Turkey - demolished the position of relative strength the Kurds had enjoyed for years. The blame has been placed on Barzani's shoulders, both by his political opponents, notably the rival Talabani clan allied to Iran, and his Western allies, who were angered by his insistence on holding the vote against their advice. On Sunday, Kurdish lawmakers agreed to

divide Barzani's presidential powers between parliament, the judiciary and the government, in the absence of imminent presidential elections and a named successor.

Barzani remains head of the KDP, which dominates parliament and government, and will still sit on the High Political Council, an opaque non-governmental body which emerged after the referendum. He will thus retain his ability to influence policy. Barzani could therefore mitigate the mounting political chaos. —Reuters

News in brief

'Brush teeth with feces'

SAN ANTONIO: Investigators say a San Antonio-area couple punished their three young children by forcing one to brush her teeth with cat feces, using a shock collar as punishment and beating them with a thorny switch. Thirty-two-year-old James Chalkey and 22-year-old Cheyanne Chalkey were being held yesterday on charges of injury to a child. James Chalkey is the father of a 3-year-old boy and two girls who are 5 and 10. Cheyanne Chalkey is their stepmother. Arrest warrants show a teacher noticed bruising on the 5-year-old in September. Investigators say interviews with child-protective workers revealed the extent of their punishments.

Nigeria's war victims

ABUJA: Nigeria has agreed to pay compensation to victims of the country's civil war, 47 years after it ended, and clear former conflict zones of abandoned bombs and landmines. Court papers made available on Monday showed the government had accepted to 88 billion naira (\$245 million, 210 million euros) in damages. Of that, 50 billion naira will be paid to victims in 11 states in the southeast, south and north central region, which were the epicenter of the conflict. The remainder will go towards clearing land of ordnance and the construction of schools, courts, churches and mosques. The deal was brokered by the Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). More than one million people died, most of them from the effects of war, starvation and disease, in the 30-month conflict that began in 1967.

200 dead in tunnel

TOKYO: More than 200 people are feared to have died when a tunnel caved in at North Korea's nuclear test site after its latest detonation, a Japanese news report said yesterday. A tunnel collapsed at Punggye-ri in early September, days after North Korea conducted its sixth and largest underground nuclear test on September 3, TV Asahi said, quoting unnamed North Korean sources. Some 100 workers were involved in an initial collapse. Another cave-in occurred during rescue operations, leaving at least 200 people feared dead in total, the Japanese broadcaster said. The accident was triggered by the test, TV Asahi added. Experts have warned that the underground tests could cause the mountain to collapse and leak radiation into the atmosphere near China's border.

12 killed in east Libya

BENHAZI: At least 12 people have been killed in an air strike in Libya's besieged eastern jihadist stronghold of Derna, a medical source said yesterday. Most of the victims, including women and children, are from the same family, the source at the Harish hospital said, adding that three people were left critically wounded by the bombing conducted Monday evening. It was not immediately clear who carried out the strike. The attack has not been claimed by forces loyal to strongman Khalifa Haftar, which have been besieging Derna for months and regularly conduct air strikes against the eastern city. Derna, some 900 kilometers east of Tripoli, was known for being a bastion of jihadists even before the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed long-time dictator Muammar Gaddafi. Haftar's forces are waging a campaign against jihadist groups, including efforts to capture the city from the "Revolutionary Shura Council of Derna", a coalition of militias close to Al-Qaeda.

remains unclear how much the track can achieve. It has been largely overshadowed by a separate so-called Astana track, organized by government allies Russia and Iran along with rebel backer Turkey. The Astana talks, which resumed on Monday for two days, have produced so-called "de-escalation zones" where violence has subsided.

West's new mood

Negotiations have long been hamstrung by the fundamental disagreement between the regime and the opposition over Assad's fate. The opposition has consistently demanded that he step aside, over adamant regime refusals. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said last week, after a UN report blamed the April sarin gas massacre in Khan Sheikhun on the regime, that "the reign of the Assad family is coming to an end." But "the mood in Europe has changed considerably in the past few years", said Bitar. "Many important actors-intelligence services, counter-terrorism professionals, right-wing parties, economic interests, groups afraid of Islamic immigration-have already opened up to the regime and are lobbying for the normalization of relations." —AFP

International

Axed Catalonia president to stay in Brussels 'for safety'

Puigdemont denies seeking asylum

BRUSSELS: Catalonia's deposed separatist leader Carles Puigdemont said yesterday that he would stay put in Brussels after being dismissed by the Spanish government, but denied he would seek asylum to avoid possible rebellion charges. "I am not here in order to demand asylum," Puigdemont, sacked by the Spanish government on Friday after Catalonia's parliament declared independence, told a packed news conference in Brussels. He said he was in Belgium "for safety purposes and freedom", without detailing how long he would stay.

After being axed, the 54-year-old reportedly drove hundreds of kilometers from Catalonia to Marseille in southern France with several members of his dismissed cabinet and then flew to Belgium. His departure is the latest twist in the saga over semi-autonomous Catalonia's drive for independence that has presented Spain with its biggest political crisis in decades. On October 1, Catalonia held a referendum organized by Puigdemont's administration which it said saw a large majority vote in favor of seceding from Spain, although turnout was just 43 percent.

Puigdemont said this gave the Catalan parliament a mandate to declare independence on Friday, a decision beamed onto big screens to cheering crowds in regional capital Barcelona. But the same day Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's government in Madrid invoked a never-before-used article of the constitution to dismiss Catalonia's leaders and impose direct rule. The international community including the European Union, struggling with Brexit and other challenges, has largely spurned the inde-

pendence declaration and has united behind Madrid.

Rebellion

On Monday Spain's chief prosecutor said he was seeking charges including rebellion-punishable by up to 30 years in prison-and sedition against Puigdemont and fellow leading separatists. Jose Manuel Maza said they had "caused an institutional crisis that led to the unilateral declaration of independence carried out on October 27 with total contempt for our constitution". A court now has to decide whether to bring charges.

Separately, Spain's Civil Guard police force yesterday searched the headquarters of Catalonia's regional police in a probe centered on the independence referendum, a spokesman said. Meanwhile, Spain's Supreme Court summoned the former speaker of the Catalan parliament to charge her, a judicial source said.



Spain's Supreme Court summons former Speaker

Elections

With its own language and distinct culture, Catalonia accounts for a fifth of the euro-zone country's economy. It had a high degree of autonomy over key sectors such as education, healthcare and the police. Rajoy also called snap elections for December 21 to replace the Catalan parliament in a drastic bid to stop the secessionist drive. Puigdemont said yesterday that he accepted the "challenge" and that he would "respect" the result whatever it is. "I want a clear commitment from the state. Will the state respect the results that could give separatist forces a majority?" he nevertheless asked reporters in Brussels.



BRUSSELS: Dismissed Catalonia's leader Carles Puigdemont arrives to address media representatives at The Press Club in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

Business as usual

There had been speculation that Catalan leaders and civil servants might seek to disrupt Madrid's move to impose direct rule but in the event it passed off without major incident. Catalan police, now under orders from Madrid, were told Monday they could allow the dismissed

leaders to enter the government headquarters in Barcelona, but only to clear their desks. But in the end, apart from one regional minister who tweeted a photo of himself at his desk, there was no major resistance. On Monday Joan Escanilla from the CSIF civil servants union said: "For now everything is very quiet. People have returned to work as normal." — AFP

Militants at large: Europe's 3 most wanted suspects

PARIS: For French and Belgian investigators, the fall of the Islamic State group's strongholds in Syria and Iraq kindles hopes of ensnaring some of the ringleaders of the 2015-16 terror attacks in Paris and Brussels. Among the most wanted IS figures sought for their suspected involvement in the slaughter, three are at the top of the list—though their whereabouts are unknown and they may even have been killed in the offensives to free the IS strongholds of Raqqa, Syria, and Mosul in Iraq.

Mastermind

Belgian and Moroccan national Oussama Atar, 32, is a veteran jihadist who spent seven years in various US prisons in Iraq where he is thought to have been radicalized. Investigators suspect him of masterminding the attacks that claimed 130 lives in Paris in November 2015 and left 32 dead in Brussels in March last year. Belgian police found a computer near a hideout used by the Brussels attackers containing evidence that they were in close contact with Atar, who was based in Raqqa at the time.

An Algerian arrested in late 2015 in Austria as he returned from Syria identified Atar from a photograph as the man who ordered the attacks. The United States placed Atar, whose nom de guerre was Abu Ahmed, on a list of "specially designated global terrorists" in June this year, describing him as a "leading coordinator" of the attacks in Europe. According to the European arrest warrant for Atar, he is the uncle of Ibrahim and Khalid El Bakraoui, brothers who blew themselves up in the Brussels attacks of March 22, 2016, one at the airport and the other in the metro.

Bomb-maker

Ahmad Alkhalid, thought to be an alias, is a 25-year-old Syrian from Aleppo who is suspected of making the bombs and suicide belts used in the Paris and Brussels attacks. His other aliases include Yassine Nour and Mohammed Alqadi. His DNA was found on a suicide vest worn by one of the assailants who blew themselves up outside Paris's Stade de France stadium on November 13, 2015, when a string of restaurants and bars in the French capital also came under attack. Investigators have established that Alkhalid arrived in Europe via the Greek island of Leros posing as a migrant in September 2015, then returned to Syria two weeks before the Paris attacks. He is also on the US list of "global terrorists", described as the "explosives chief" of the Paris and Brussels attacks.

Operations chief

Abdelilah Himich, 27, is a Franco-Moroccan who served in France's Foreign Legion in Afghanistan before deserting from the prestigious force in 2010. Nicknamed "Abdel the Legionnaire" as well as Abu Sulayman Al-Faransi ("the Frenchman"), he is also on the US terror watchlist, described as a "senior foreign terrorist fighter and external operations figure". Washington says he created "a European foreign terrorist fighter cell" with up to 300 members at its height that carried out attacks in Iraq and Syria as well as planning the Paris and Brussels attacks. Born in Morocco, he grew up in the small town of Lunel near Montpellier in southern France, which became a breeding ground for jihadists. — AFP

German police arrest a Syrian terror suspect

BERLIN: German police yesterday arrested a Syrian man suspected of preparing a terror attack using powerful explosives, prosecutors said, almost one year after a deadly jihadist truck rampage at a Berlin Christmas Market. The man, identified only as Yamen A. 19, was held at dawn by special forces in the northeastern town of Schwerin, the federal prosecutors office said in a statement.

Several apartments were also searched in the region, which is north of Berlin. The man is suspected of having "planned and already concretely prepared an Islamist-motivated attack in Germany using very powerful explosives," the statement said. "It has not yet been established whether the suspect already had a target in mind or not," it said, adding that prosecutors did not have any information whether the suspect belonged to "a terrorist organization."

The Syrian had made a decision "no later than July 2017 to explode a bomb

in Germany with the aim of killing and wounding as many people as possible." In the following weeks, he began to acquire the chemical products and materials necessary to build a bomb. German police have been on high alert to the threat of Islamist attacks, particularly since December last year when a man hijacked a truck and ploughed into shoppers at a Christmas market in Berlin, killing 12 people. The attacker was shot dead by police in Milan four days later, and the rampage was claimed by the Islamic State group. An investigation pointed to a catalogue of "gross mistakes" by security services in the lead-up to the attack.

'10,000 Islamic radicals'

The scathing report found that authorities had missed several opportunities to arrest and deport the driver, Tunisian asylum seeker Anis Amri. The 24-year-old, who had previously been jailed in Italy, had been in touch with radical Islamists and sold drugs in Berlin, had managed to escape detection by skipping across German state lines and using different identities. Last July, a 26-year-old Palestinian asylum seeker wielding a knife stormed into a supermarket in Hamburg, killing one person and wounding six others before being detained by passers-by. German prose-

said to have nailed his 95 theses to another church's door in 1517, leading to a split with the Roman Catholic Church and the birth of Protestantism. The theologian argued that Christians could not buy or earn their way into heaven but only entered by the grace of God, marking a turning point in Christian thinking. But Luther also came to be linked to Germany's darkest history, as his later sermons and writings were marked by anti-Semitism—something that the Nazis would later use to justify their brutal persecution of the Jews.

'Dark side of past'

Marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, herself the daughter of a Protestant pastor, said it was essential that Luther's anti-Semitism never be scrubbed from his theological legacy. "That is, for me, the comprehensive historical reckoning that we need," she said in her weekly video podcast Saturday. Tens of thousands of Christians from around the world have descended in recent months on Wittenberg, the town of 47,000 inhabitants 100 kilometers southwest of Berlin.

Meanwhile a loose coalition of activists has seized on the anniversary to argue that the sculpture in its current location, where Luther first preached in German, remains a dangerous symbol of intolerance. A petition started by British theologian Richard Harvey calls for the sculpture to be removed from the public sphere and displayed in a museum. "It's so outrageous, obscene, insulting, fear-making—it is something that I protest in the strongest possible terms and if



HAMBURG: A police car stands in front of a house that was searched by police in connection with the arrest of a 19-year-old Syrian man suspected of planning an Islamist bomb attack. — AFP

cutors said the man likely had a "radical Islamist" motive.

The intelligence services estimate there are around 10,000 Islamic radicals in Germany, some 1,600 of whom are suspected of being capable of using violence. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility a number of other attacks in 2016, including the murder of a teenager

in Hamburg, a suicide bombing in the southern city of Ansbach that wounded 15, and an axe attack on a train in Bavaria that left five injured. Chancellor Angela Merkel has allowed in more than one million asylum seekers in the past two years—a decision that has driven the shock rise of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party. — AFP

Anti-Semitism overshadows Luther 500th anniversary

BERLIN: A bitter row over a medieval anti-Semitic carving on a church wall risks overshadowing Germany's celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the seismic theological shift started by German theologian Martin Luther. The bas relief sculpture at the heart of the dispute dates from around 1300 and is one of Germany's last remaining examples of vulgar anti-Jewish folk art that was common in Europe during that era.

The graphic stone image shows Jews suckling the teats of a sow as a rabbi looks intently under its leg and tail. The hateful symbolism is that Jews obtain their sustenance and scripture from an unclean animal. Many churches in the Middle Ages had similar "Judensau" (Jewish pig) sculptures, which were also aimed at sending the stark message that Jews were not welcome in their communities. However its prominence on the facade of the Stadtkirche (Town Church) in the eastern German town of Wittenberg derives from the importance of the building, where Luther, himself a notorious anti-Semite, preached two centuries later.

It was in Wittenberg that Luther is



WITTENBERG: A statue of German Church reformer Martin Luther holding a book including his translation into German of the New Testament of the Bible is pictured at the main square in front of the city hall in Wittenberg, eastern Germany. — AFP

there's any way—human, physical, spiritual or whatever—to change it, let's do it," Harvey, a self-described Messianic Jew, said in a video posted online.

The appeal has collected more than 8,000 signatures so far. However the Wittenberg church's own congregation and the city council argue that it should be maintained and adopted a resolution to that effect in June. They note that a bronze plaque laid in 1988 in the pavement next to the church points to the horrific legacy of virulent anti-Jewish sentiment, making the ensemble a vital historical relic. "We are convinced that history means not forgetting the dark

side of the past but confronting it," the church's pastor Johannes Block told ZDF public television.

"It would be historically incorrect to remove the sculpture," agreed professor of education Micha Brumlik, who is leading a local movement to maintain the image. He said the best solution would be to expand the adjacent memorial against anti-Semitism, which was installed under communism, to more fully place the "Judensau" sculpture in context. "Out of respect for what happened later to the Jews, you have to provide a more complete explanation," he said. — AFP

International

China, South Korea mend ties after THAAD standoff

Installation of the US THAAD system angered China

SEOUL: Seoul and Beijing yesterday agreed to move beyond a year-long stand-off over the deployment of a US anti-missile system in South Korea, a dispute that has been devastating to South Korean businesses that rely on Chinese consumers. The unexpected detente comes just days before US President Donald Trump begins a trip to Asia, where the North Korean nuclear crisis will take centre stage, and helped propel South Korean stocks to a record high.

The installation of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system had angered China, with South Korea's tourism, cosmetics and entertainment industries bearing the brunt of a Chinese backlash, although Beijing has never specifically linked that to the THAAD deployment. Beijing worries the THAAD system's powerful radar can penetrate into Chinese territory. "Both sides shared the view that the strengthening of exchange and cooperation between Korea and China serves their common interests and agreed to expeditiously bring exchange and cooperation in all areas back on a normal development track," South Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Before the THAAD dispute, bilateral relations flourished, despite Beijing's historic alliance with North Korea and Seoul's close ties with Washington, which includes hosting 28,500 US troops. China is South Korea's biggest trading partner. "At this critical moment all stakeholders should be working together to address the North Korea nuclear challenge instead of creating problems for others," said Wang Dong, associate professor of international studies at China's Peking University.

"This sends a very positive signal that Beijing and Seoul are determined to improve their relations." As part of the agreement, South Korean President Moon Jae-in will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines

of the summit of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries in Vietnam on Nov 10-11.

South Korea recognized China's concerns over THAAD and made it clear the deployment was not aimed at any third country and did not harm China's strategic security interests, China's foreign ministry said. China reiterated its opposition to the deployment of THAAD, but noted South Korea's position and hoped South Korea could appropriately handle the issue, it added. "China's position on the THAAD issue is clear, consistent and has not changed," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a daily briefing in Beijing.

S Korea industries bearing the brunt of backlash

Retail relief

The thaw is a big relief for South Korean tourism and retail firms as well as K-pop stars and makers of films and soap operas, which had found themselves unwelcome in China over the past year. In South Korea, a halving

of inbound Chinese tourists in the first nine months of the year cost the economy \$6.5 billion in lost revenue based on the average spending of Chinese visitors in 2016, data from the Korea Tourism Organization shows.

The spat knocked about 0.4 percentage points off this year's expected economic growth, according to the Bank of Korea, which now forecasts an expansion of 3 percent. The sprawling Lotte Group, which provided the land where the THAAD battery was installed and is a major operator of hotels and duty free stores, has been hardest hit. It faces a costly overhaul and is expected to sell its Chinese hypermarket stores for a fraction of what it invested. A spokesman for holding company Lotte Corp expressed hope that South Korean firms' activity in China would improve following the announcement.

An official at Seoul's presidential Blue House, who declined to be named given the sensitivity of the matter,



PANMUNJOM, South Korea: North Korean soldiers (left) look at the South side at the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the border between North and South Korea. —AFP

said improvements for South Korean companies would come slowly. Shares in South Korean tourism and retail companies rallied nonetheless, with Asiana Airlines gaining 3.6 percent and Lotte Shopping up 7.14 percent. The benchmark Kospi index hit a record for a third straight day, gaining 0.9 percent. China has grown increasingly angry with North Korea's ongoing pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in defiance of United Nations sanctions, even as it chafes at U.S. pressure to rein in its isolated ally.

The recent deterioration in ties between China and North Korea may have contributed to Tuesday's agreement, the Blue House official said. Pyongyang has undertaken an unprecedented missile testing program in recent months, as well as its biggest nuclear test yet in early September, as it seeks to develop a powerful nuclear weapon capable of reaching the United States. The head of NATO on Tuesday urged all United Nations members to fully and transparently implement sanctions against North Korea. —Reuters

China mulls jail terms for disrespecting flag and national anthem

BEIJING: China's largely rubber-stamp parliament is considering jail terms of up to three years for people who disrespect the national anthem or flag in public, while an existing anthem law will be applied in Hong Kong, state media said yesterday. Xi Jinping has ushered in new legislation aimed at securing China from threats both within and outside its borders since taking over as president in 2013, as well as presiding over a sweeping crackdown on dissent and free speech.

China passed a new law in September mandating up to 15 days in police detention for those who mock the "March of the Volunteers" national anthem, a law that also covers the Chinese territories of Hong Kong and Macau. Parliament is now looking at whether to amend China's Criminal Law to include criminal penalties for disrespect of the national anthem, including intentionally distorting the lyrics or tune, Xinhua said.

The tougher penalties also apply to desecration of the national flag, or emblem,

including burning, defacing or trampling on it in public, the report said. That, too, had previously been punishable by up to 15 days' detention. A draft amendment has been submitted for deliberation at a bi-monthly session of parliament's standing committee, which started on Monday. "Violators in this regard may face punishments of up to three years of imprisonment, according to the draft," it said.

It was not clear when the amendment might be passed but it could be at the end of the week, when parliament's standing committee closes its current session. The National Anthem Law, which went into effect on Oct 1, will also be included in an annex of Hong Kong's Basic Law, or mini constitution. Xinhua added, though it's not clear if that will include three-year jail terms.

The national anthem law has fuelled concern in Hong Kong, whose residents have grown nervous over China's perceived encroachment of the city's autonomy following such events as the disappearance of booksellers who later emerged in mainland Chinese custody. In 2015, Hong Kong football fans booed the Chinese anthem during a World Cup qualifier, prompting a fine for the territory's football association from world body FIFA.

"In recent years, incidents of disrespecting the national anthem had occurred in Hong Kong, challenging the bottom line of the principle of 'one country, two sys-



HONG KONG: A flag that reads 'Hong Kong is not China' is displayed by a local football fan outside the stadium in Hong Kong. A new law that punishes disrespect for China's national anthem with up to three years' imprisonment may also apply to Hong Kong and Macau. —AFP

tems' and social morality and triggering rage among Chinese including most Hong Kong residents," said Zhang Rongshun, deputy head of parliament's Legislative Affairs Commission, according to Xinhua. "It is urgent and important to apply the national anthem law in Hong Kong, in a bid

to prevent and handle such offences." The Asian Football Confederation yesterday warned the Hong Kong Football Association about their fans' behavior at a match against Malaysia on Oct 10 in Hong Kong, where some booed the national anthem. — Reuters

Israel, Australia, New Zealand leaders mark landmark WWI battle

BEERSHEBA: Israeli, Australian and New Zealand leaders gathered in southern Israel yesterday to mark the 100th anniversary of a key cavalry charge that helped clear the way to Jerusalem during World War I. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was joined by his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull and New Zealand Governor-General Patsy Reddy in Beersheba, where the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) defeated Ottoman troops to gain control of a strategic crossroads. Netanyahu hailed the battle as eventually helping lead to the creation of the state of Israel.

"Nearly 4,000 years ago Abraham came to Beersheba, the city of seven wells," Netanyahu said at the ceremony, held in the city's Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. "Exactly 100 years ago brave ANZAC soldiers liberated Beersheba for the sons and daughters of Abraham and opened the gateway for the Jewish people to reenter the stage of history," Netanyahu said. "Israel salutes the sacrifice of these brave soldiers. We will never forget them. We will forever honor and treasure their memory." To Australians, "the battle has become part of our history, part of our psyche", Turnbull said.

The audacious assault on entrenched Ottoman forces enabled the British advance into Palestine and "secured the victory that did not create the state of Israel, but enabled its creation", Turnbull said. "Had the Ottoman rule in Palestine and Syria not been overthrown by the Australians and the New Zealanders, the Balfour Declaration would have been empty words," the Australian premier said. Britain's Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917 said it viewed "with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people". New Zealand's Reddy said the battle "changed political conditions in this region in the most profound way".



BEERSHEBA, Israel: Members of the Australian Light Horse association ride through Beersheba, in the northern Israeli desert yesterday. —AFP

'That's pretty special'

Organizers said 3,000 tourists from Australia and New Zealand came for the ceremonies, which saw the normally tranquil Beersheba, dubbed the capital of the Negev desert region, astir with dignitaries, security forces and media. Kindergarteners holding small plastic Israeli flags were led into the ceremonies by chipper teachers, as teenagers in white shirts waited to pass security to enter the dedication of the nearby ANZAC museum. Yair Nagid, head of Beersheba municipality's cultural administration, said that 1,200 of the city's pupils were attending the events.

Beersheba resident Hedva Chadad had not heard of the historic battle, but knew her two grandchildren would enjoy seeing the 100-horse march down Beersheba's main Haatsmaut Street by volunteer Australian riders in period uniform. Speaking as she waited for the march with her grandchildren, Chadad said was not bothered by the roads

leading to and from the cemetery being congested and partly closed. "I think it's very nice, what they're doing," she said. "It's only once in a blue moon that this kind of thing happens." To Australian David Shipp, the ceremonies were the highlight of a tour his family was on, supported in part by his church and in honor of his history buff father's 60th birthday.

The Beersheba battle was becoming "a bigger deal" to Australians than the one fought in World War I in Gallipoli, the 33-year-old Queensland resident said, in part because of the good ties between Israel and Australia. New Zealander Tim Moore was visiting as part of a group of 200 people, some of them riding in the march. The 65-year-old sheep and cattle farmer's grandfather had participated in the Palestine campaign, and Moore had replicated a picture his grandfather took at the train station in Amman before arriving in Israel.

"That's pretty special," he said. The riders were to stage a reenactment of the charge later. —AFP

Trump's ex-aides charged as Russia probe accelerates

WASHINGTON: An investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election moved into a new and more perilous stage for the White House yesterday after three aides to Donald Trump's presidential campaign, including a former chairman, were charged. Ex-campaign chairman Paul Manafort and another former Trump aide appeared in court, pleading not guilty to conspiracy against the United States, money laundering and several other charges after the indictments in the Russia probe were unsealed. The pair was released on bail of \$10 million and \$5 million respectively and placed under house arrest.

Separately, another former Trump campaign aide, George Papadopoulos, pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his Kremlin-related contacts, according to a plea deal revealed Monday. The unsealed indictments were an explosive opening salvo from independent counsel Robert Mueller, who is leading the Russia probe, after months of speculation, spin and obfuscation about possible Trump campaign collusion with Moscow. While falling short of providing a smoking gun for top-level conspiracy, the charges point to a potential pattern of senior Trump associates looking to Russia and its proxies for political and economic gain.

Manafort, 68, and Rick Gates, 45, were charged with allegedly hiding millions of dollars gleaned from work with Ukrainian politician Viktor Yanukovich and his pro-Moscow political party. Papadopoulos, a former Trump foreign policy advisor, admitted he tried to hide contacts with a Moscow-linked professor who was offering "dirt" on Trump's election rival Hillary Clinton. The revelations prompted a furious and defiant reaction from Trump, who dismissed allegations of collusion and called on Clinton to be investigated.

'No Collusion!'

"Sorry, but this is years ago, before Paul Manafort was part of the Trump campaign. But why aren't Crooked Hillary & the Dems the focus?????" Trump tweeted. "...Also, there is NO COLLUSION!" But the charges signal a dramatic new phase in Mueller's investigation, one that holds grave peril for the Trump presidency. Papadopoulos revealed that he informed Trump and others personally that he could organize a meeting between the then candidate and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The ex-advisor told the FBI that he had been instructed by an unnamed "campaign supervisor" to meet Russian officials "off the record" if "feasible." His contacts with Russian sources came to include Putin's niece and the Russian ambassador in London. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders suggested Trump did not recall "specific details of the meeting" and that Papadopoulos had only a limited role. "It was extremely limited; it was a volunteer position. And again, no activity was ever done in an official capacity on behalf of the campaign in that regard."

US intelligence agencies have concluded that Putin ordered a vast influence campaign to help Trump win election, including the hack and release of Democratic Party and Clinton campaign emails. As Mueller's probe has rumbled forward, Trump and sympathetic media organizations like Fox News have increasingly called the former FBI director's independence into question. Democrats—who dismiss counter-allegations against Mueller and Clinton as a blatant attempt to divert attention-called for the special counsel to be protected. "The president must not, under any circumstances, interfere with the special counsel's work in any way," said top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer. —AFP

Analysis

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Beijing poised for fresh South China Sea assertiveness

China has quietly undertaken more construction and reclamation in the South China Sea, recent satellite images show, and is likely to more powerfully reassert its claims over the waterway soon, regional diplomats and military officers say. With global attention focused on North Korea and Beijing engrossed in its Party Congress, tensions in the South China Sea have slipped from the headlines in recent months.

But with none of the underlying disputes resolved and new images reviewed by Reuters showing China continuing to develop facilities on North and Tree islands in the contested Paracel islands, experts say the vital trade route remains a global flashpoint. Some expect China to land its first deployments of jet fighters onto its runways in the Spratly islands in coming months, while regional military officers say it is already using the new facilities to expand naval and coast guard deployments deep into Southeast Asia.

"They've built these extensive facilities and both Chinese civilian and PLA experts have always made it clear that when the strategic time is right, they're going to start using them more fully," said Bonnie Glaser, a China security expert at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies. "I think it is a question of when, rather than if, China will start to assert its interests more forcefully in the South China Sea ... and that is likely to be at a time of China's choosing," Glaser told Reuters. Rival claimant Vietnam, meanwhile, is nearing completion of reclamations and an extended runway on its base on Spratly Island, the satellite images show.

Calm after the storm

The build-up of the Spratlys symbolises China's growing assertiveness over the South China Sea during President Xi Jinping's first term and was highlighted in his address to the Communist Party Congress this month. "Construction on islands and reefs in the South China Sea has seen steady progress," Xi told the Congress. The issue is likely to come up during US President Donald Trump's visit to Asia, which begins this week.

"We remain concerned about tensions in the South China Sea, in particular those caused by land reclamation and militarization of disputed outposts and the willingness of some to resort to coercive tactics to assert their claims," said Michael Cavey, a spokesman for the US State Department. "We have consistently called on China, as well as other claimants, to refrain from any further land reclamation, construction of new facilities, and militarization of the disputed features."

Responding to Reuters' questions, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang reiterated the islands were irrefutably Chinese territory. "You can't say that the construction on our islands and reefs in the South China Sea and the building of necessary defensive facilities is an expansion of military deployments," he said. "We believe that at present the situation in the South China Sea is generally good, and all relevant parties should work hard together to protect the peace and stability of the South China Sea."

China's ambassador to Washington, Cui Tiankai, said on Monday the United States should not try to "interfere" in regional efforts to resolve disputes in the South China Sea. China has been seeking to soothe fellow claimant the Philippines and accelerating talks with the wider ASEAN grouping, amid concerns in Washington about the long-term security of the waterway through which some \$3 trillion in trade a year passes.

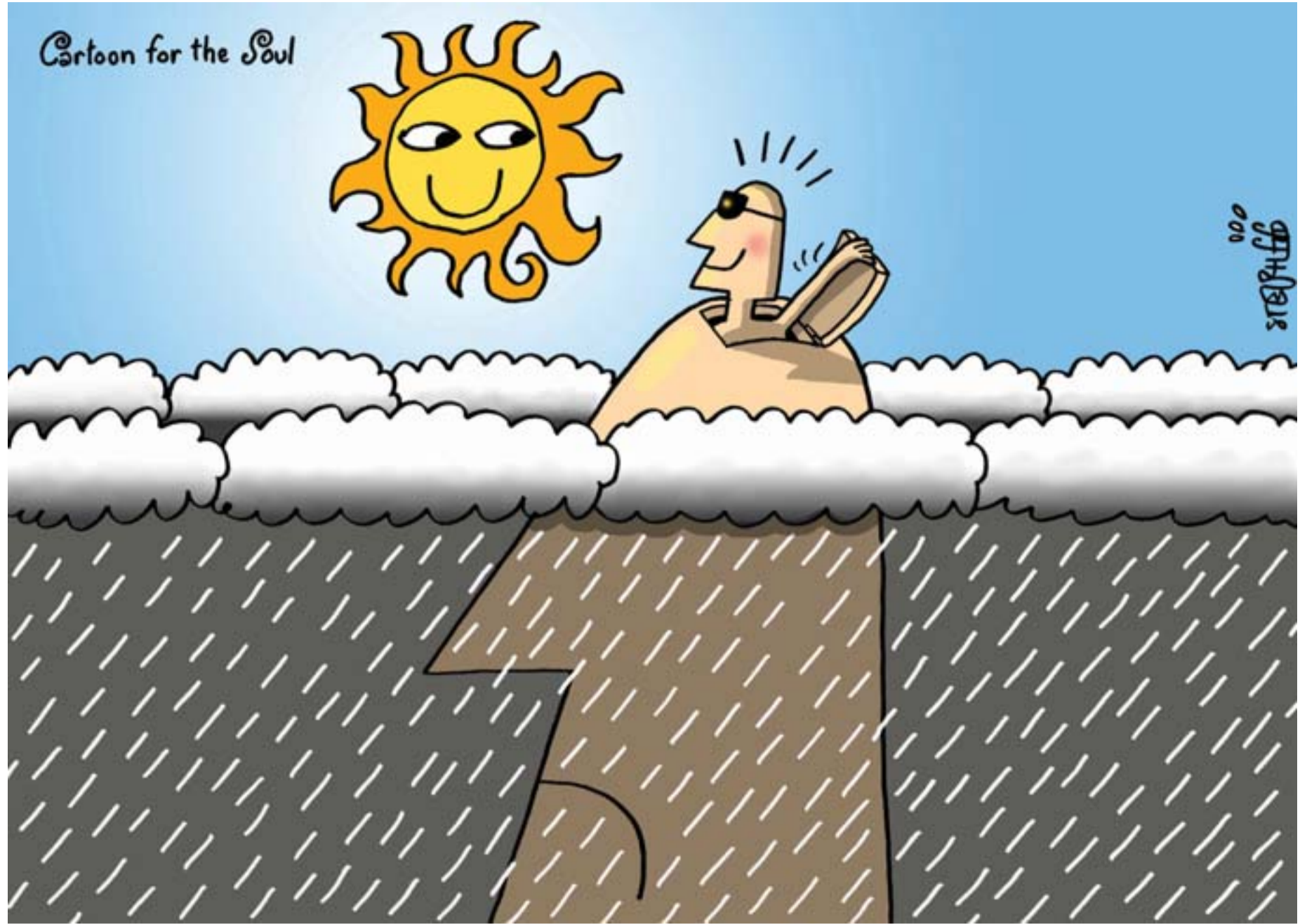
In a speech in Singapore earlier this month, the most senior US military chief in the region said even while Washington pushed Beijing for help on North Korea, it would still hold China accountable for actions that countered international rules and norms. "We also want Beijing to do more to stop provocative actions in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, where the Chinese are building up combat power and positional advantage in an attempt to assert de-facto sovereignty over disputed maritime features," Admiral Harry Harris, commander of the US Pacific Command, said. China claims much of the area through its controversial nine-dash line, which overlaps rival maritime claims by Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

Tactics not strategy

A recent study by the US government-linked RAND Corp weighing the risks of a conflict between the United States and China moved the South China Sea up its list of potential flashpoints. Placing it above Taiwan but below the Korean peninsula, the study notes the waterway has "become the unanticipated focal point of US-Chinese ... rivalry". While the Pentagon has embarked on more regular freedom-of-navigation patrols, or FONOPS, to challenge Beijing's claims, some analysts believe Washington is struggling to counter China's creeping domination of the area.

"China appears to be pursuing a well-thought out and long-term strategy to achieve dominion over the South China Sea while America responds with ad hoc tactical maneuvers," said Ian Storey, a South China Sea expert at Singapore's Yusof Ishak Institute. "FONOPS are tactics not strategy, and they have not made China rethink its plans for the South China Sea one iota."

Ni Lexiong, a naval expert at the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, said there was little need for China to dramatically increase deployments now, but much depended on the actions others. —Reuters



Mueller's first charges a show of force

US President Donald Trump brushed off the first indictments in the probe of his campaign's ties to Russian election meddling, but the charges sent a clear signal to the White House and other Trump associates: Robert Mueller means business. By going after Trump's campaign manager and another aide on money-laundering charges and securing a guilty plea from a third campaign adviser, the special prosecutor showed he would delve deeply into the past in search of criminal activity and use his broad powers aggressively.

That left some Trump associates worried about what or whom Mueller would target next, despite the White House's public dismissal of the developments as unrelated to the president and his campaign. "They're flexing their muscles for anybody that they approach in this investigation and letting them know we really mean it," said former federal prosecutor Patrick Cotter. "So if we come to you, you should talk to us. Manafort didn't and look what happened to him."

Manafort and Rick Gates are charged with money laundering, tax fraud, conspiracy to defraud the United States, and other counts. They pleaded not guilty on Monday. The indictments, which closely detail the alleged crimes, appeared to be an opening salvo from Mueller. He was appointed by US Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein in May after Trump fired FBI Director James Comey, who had led an investigation into whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to influence the 2016 election.

Mueller was given a mandate to probe potential collusion and "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation". Trump has denied any collusion with Russia and at times described the investigation as a "hoax"

and a "witch hunt". Russia has denied interfering with the 2016 election. With the first indictments on Monday, Mueller showed he was not afraid to use his powers, and Trump officials noticed. "One thing I'm worried about in a bigger scale is that Rosenstein, by giving Mueller this wide berth, has created this monster," said one former White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. A



Worries about what or whom Mueller would target next

former Trump campaign adviser fretted that the probe could, as a result, touch on Trump's businesses, too.

Red line

In a New York Times interview in July, Trump indicated that Mueller would be crossing a red line if he investigated Trump's family business. Legal experts said Mueller would not be swayed by Trump's view of the proper scope of the investigation. "I don't think prosecutors concern themselves with what politicians say about red lines being

drawn," said former federal prosecutor Robert Capers.

Jens David Ohlin, a professor of criminal law at Cornell Law School, said Mueller could be targeting alleged financial crimes by Manafort and Gates to gain their cooperation and uncover wrongdoing elsewhere. A number of lawyers said the guilty plea of George Papadopoulos, announced by Mueller's team on Monday, could ultimately provide a closer link to the campaign and pressure others to open up.

While the charges against Manafort and Gates were not related to their campaign work, Papadopoulos admitted he lied to the Federal Bureau of Investigation about his contacts with foreign nationals he believed to be tied to the Russian government while he was a campaign adviser. Prosecutors said they arrested Papadopoulos in July and that he was cooperating with the government. "God knows what this guy's going to say now," said the former Trump campaign adviser. "Since he's cooperating, he could set any perjury traps up for others."

Cotter said Mueller's unveiling of Papadopoulos' guilty plea "was to head off any arguments that the case against Manafort and Gates is not about Russia". Frank Montoya, a former senior FBI agent, said Manafort's indictment and Papadopoulos' plea indicated Mueller was not going to bow to White House pressure and would keep pushing hard to uncover wrongdoing. "It is pretty much a road map - we are going to be looking at the money laundering, we are going to be looking at the failure to report income, we are going to be looking at the general criminal conspiracies. This is also about Trump's red line - we are going to cross it. And we are going to keep looking at the so-called collusion, or the coordination with the Russians to undermine democracy," Montoya said. — Reuters

Can religions help in fight against climate change?

In Sikh temples the world over, community kitchens offer free meals to anyone regardless of color, creed or caste. But the langars - as the kitchens are called - often distribute food grown with chemical pesticides, which can contribute to pollution and leak into rivers and streams. In 2015, a push by Sikh environmental groups drove the Golden Temple, the Sikh faith's holiest which feeds 100,000 people daily, to start growing its own organic food to reduce its impact on nature.

"There are many hints in our holy book to protect mother earth and to commit to the betterment of society for all life on earth," said Ravneet Singh, South Asia manager of EcoSikh, a Sikh environmental group. "The most vulnerable entity on the planet is the planet itself - the forest, the water, the air, the soil," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview.

Many of the world's religions consider nature sacred and religious leaders have increasingly come out in favor of protecting it - including by acting to curb climate change. Experts say religions, which connect with people's emotions and personal lives, could help mobilize people in the fight against climate change where facts and politics have failed. Faith groups also control trillions of dollars in assets, which could support that fight. A range of religious organizations are meeting this week in Switzerland to issue rules on ethical investment - including backing away from fossil fuels and moving towards green projects.

A growing share of the six billion believers around the world are getting personally involved in the fight against climate change as well, from eco-friendly mosques in Britain to river cleanups by Hindu

groups in India to tree-planting projects on religious land in sub-Saharan Africa.

Emotions first

Under a Paris climate change deal agreed by nearly 200 nations in 2015, countries pledged to keep the rise in average global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to stave off the worst effects of climate change. Despite mounting evidence that global warming will reach catastrophic levels if planet-warming emissions are not drastically cut, governments globally are falling short of the efforts required, experts say.

Average surface temperatures are already 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, the World Meteorological Organization says. This - combined with an uptick in record floods, hurricanes and other weather disasters - has led a growing number of religious authorities to speak out in favor of climate action. In September, Pope Francis and Orthodox Christian leader Patriarch Bartholomew called for a collective response from world leaders to climate change, saying the planet was deteriorating and vulnerable people were the first to be affected.

Their words could more effectively change many people's minds than scientific reports, experts say. "All big faiths talk about caring for the most vulnerable and caring for the earth," Cynthia Scharf, a former senior staff member on the United Nations secretary general's climate team, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "What really motivates people is not facts but values and emotions. Those are pretty universal feelings," said Scharf, who was raised in a Christian Protestant family and whose brother is a missionary. "Religious communities can address some of the questions which are at the heart of climate change, such as fairness," she said.

Many religions already advocate environmentally-friendly behaviors as part of their cores values, such as living with fewer material luxuries, saving water or avoiding meat. Jainism for example, practiced by over four million people in India, prohibits



This file photo taken on May 20, 2016 shows an Indian woman walking on the parched bed of Chandola Lake with a metal pot on her head to fetch water in Ahmedabad. — AFP

killing animals and promotes a vegetarian lifestyle, which scientists say could play a major role in reducing planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

Holy investments

Around the world, religious investment funds handle trillions of dollars each year, according to environmental group The Alliance of Religion and Conservation (ARC). Historically, faith-based funds have avoided investing in alcohol, weapons, tobacco and, more recently, fossil fuels that contribute to climate change. Last month, 40 Roman Catholic groups in countries including Australia, South Africa and the United States said they were shunning investments in fossil fuels and switching to greener energy.

But beyond avoiding certain types of investments, faith groups are also increasingly looking to actively invest in projects that protect the planet, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture or forest

protection. "Deforestation is not stopped by divesting (from fossil fuels). Somebody else will buy your stock," said Gunnela Hahn, the head of sustainable investment for the Church of Sweden. "We want to invest in the solution."

This week in the small Swiss town of Zug, investors and leaders from eight of the world's biggest religions - including Buddhism, Christianity and Islam - published priorities they have set themselves for ethical investment. Some of the guidelines include supporting recycling projects and waste reduction, investing in companies that widen access to clean water and education, and choosing enterprises that have a strong environmental record. But grassroots faith groups across the globe also are bringing religious teachings into thousands of projects on the ground to protect people and nature from the effects of climate change and pollution. Many Hindu groups are working to clean the Ganges and Yamuna rivers in India. —Reuters

Jordan water crisis worsens as Mideast tensions slow action

SHARHABIL, Jordan: From a hillside in northern Jordan, the Yarmouk River is barely visible in the steep valley below, reduced from a once important water source to a sluggish trickle overgrown with vegetation. Jordan's reservoirs are only one-fifth full, a record low, and vital winter rains are becoming more erratic. Jordanians don't need scientists to tell them that they live in one of the world's driest countries in the center of the planet's most water-poor region.

But recent studies suggest the kingdom, a Western ally and refugee host nation with a growing population, is being hit particularly hard by climate change, getting hotter and drier than previously anticipated. One forecast predicts as much as 30 percent less rain by 2100. "We are really in trouble if we don't take action in time," said Ali Subah, a senior Water Ministry official.

But addressing the problem would require cross-border cooperation, a commodity as scarce as water in the Jordan River basin shared by Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon. Jordan's flagship Red Sea desalination project, which includes a water trade with Israel, has faced repeated delays, most recently because of a diplomatic crisis that led to a scaling back of cross-border contacts since the summer.

A master plan by the regional advocacy group EcoPeace that seeks to transform the Jordan River valley into an economically vibrant green oasis by 2050 is based, in part, on a

state of Palestine being established on Israeli-occupied lands. Palestinian independence remains distant, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently asserted that Israel will never leave the stretch of the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank.

Warning signs abound of what a failure to act looks like. The Dead Sea and Jordan River, global treasures with religious significance as the cradle of Christianity, have been devastated by dropping water levels due to decades of water diversion to urban areas. Some experts suggest civil war in neighboring Syria, which led to a large influx of refugees to Jordan and other neighboring countries, may have been triggered in part and indirectly by a mismanaged drought.

Munqeth Mehyar, the president of EcoPeace, said the growing water scarcity urgently requires cooperation. "People need to be aware of their water situation, and try to compromise between their water reality and their nationalistic politics," he said at his group's lush, formerly arid 270-hectare reserve in the Jordan Valley, a witness to nature's power to bounce back. Stanford University researchers say that in the absence of international climate policy action, the kingdom would have 30 percent less rainfall by 2100. Annual average temperatures would increase by 4.5 degrees Celsius and the number and duration of droughts would double, compared to the 1981-2010 period.

Water flows to Jordan from the Yarmouk River, which

originates in Syria, would remain low due to droughts and diversion, regardless of when the civil war ends. The results, published in the journal Science Advances and based on improved data analysis tools, suggest the impact of climate change is likely to be more severe than anticipated, said Steven Gorelick, head of the university's internationally supported Jordan Water Project.

Another study found that man-made climate change was a major force behind an extreme drought in the area in early 2014, said co-author Rachael McDonnell of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture in Dubai. "The findings are more severe than anticipated and more imminent," she said. The World Bank named Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco and Syria as the countries in the Middle East and North Africa that will experience significantly increased water stress driven by climate change. The bank's report in August described the region as the "global hotspot of unsustainable water use."

Israel is on the road to resolving its water scarcity, producing close to 75 percent of water for domestic use in desalination plants and recycling more than half of its waste water for agricultural use, said Yacov Tsur, a professor of environmental economics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Israel is being aided by technological advances, easy access to sea water and a strong economy that can afford large-scale projects, he said.

Jordan, which pulls 160 percent more water from the ground than nature puts in, views desalination as the main answer. A Jordan-only option would be costly. Jordan's main population center is about 300 km from the only coastline, making it prohibitively expensive to deliver desalinated Red Sea water to the capital, Amman. In recent years, a water trade plan was developed to get around high transport costs.

Jordan would desalinate Red Sea water, sell some to nearby southern Israel and pump the brine into the Dead Sea to raise water levels there. Separately, water from northern Israel would be sold to nearby northern Jordan and to Palestinian communities. Israel has a strategic interest in the stability of security ally Jordan, a land buffer against the region's turmoil. But the Red Sea-Dead Sea project has hit snags, in part over funding, and Jordan still hasn't approached five short-listed consortiums to submit their bids.

The ongoing diplomatic crisis, triggered by the fatal shooting of two Jordanians by an Israeli Embassy guard in Amman in July, also contributed to delays by reducing cross-border contacts, said Subah, the Water Ministry official. He said Jordan remains committed to the regional project but will also look at fallback options. "The Jordanian solution for water in the future is desalination," he said. "If it's regional, if it's on our own, we will go in this direction." — AP

IMF urges Gulf to switch from oil...

Continued from Page 1

Azour said the IMF was projecting flat growth this year for Saudi Arabia, the largest economy in the MENA region, but the non-oil sector was growing faster than expected. This was an indication "that the Saudi economy is bottoming up and it shows that the gradual implementation of the fiscal adjustment now is going to allow the Saudi economy to grow faster," Azour said.

In a move aimed in part at boosting women's participation in the economy, Saudi Arabia lifted a longstanding ban on women driving that was seen as a damper on potential economic growth.

Azour said that for the Saudi economy to see a real boost, the decision to allow women to drive has to go hand-in-hand with creating more opportunities for women in the workplace. "I think the real important element here is more on gradual recognition and taking gradual measures to allow women to participate more into the economy," he said. "Allowing women to have better access to (the) market, to participate into the economy and create jobs."

Azour estimated that Saudi Arabia and UAE could achieve a fiscal balance by between 2020 and 2022. He said the introduction of the five percent value-added tax (VAT) was one of the reform measures that would allow the GCC countries to diversify their revenues away from oil. "Its low rate will have a limited impact on price rise and inflation," said Azour, adding that VAT is estimated to generate between 1.5 and two percent of gross domestic product annually. So far, Saudi Arabia and UAE have said they would apply the tax at the start of next year while the remaining four nations have the whole of 2018 to implement it.

Meanwhile, the economic impact of the diplomatic rift between Qatar and its Gulf neighbors has so far been limited but a prolonged crisis could weaken the region's mid-term growth, Azour said. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt on June 5 severed diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed an economic blockade, accusing Doha of promoting extremist groups. Qatar has denied the charges. The four nations froze all economic deals with gas-rich Qatar, and Riyadh closed the only land exit for the Gulf peninsula.

"The diplomatic rift between Qatar and the neighboring countries had a limited impact on the Qatari economy and its impact on the region is muted in the short-term,"

Azour said. "So far, there are no signs that the diplomatic rift had an impact on growth in the GCC." It had a "very limited impact on trade and almost no impact on oil price".

The IMF, however, warned in its new report that if the crisis drags on, it will negatively impact mid-term growth prospects for the GCC. "A protracted rift could weaken medium-term growth prospects, not only for Qatar but also for other GCC countries," the report said. If the rift continues, it will "slow progress toward greater GCC integration and cause a broader erosion of confidence, reducing investment and growth, and increasing funding costs in Qatar and possibly the rest of the GCC."

It said the crisis had resulted in some financial pressures on Qatar as its sovereign credit rating and outlook had been downgraded, raising interbank interest rates and leading to a decline in private sector deposits. The initial impact on Qatari banks has largely been mitigated by liquidity injections by the central bank and increased public sector deposits, the IMF said. Last month, Moody's Investors Service estimated that around \$30 billion was withdrawn from Qatar's banking system in June and July. Moody's estimated that Qatar used \$38.5 billion - equivalent to 23 percent of its GDP - to support the economy in the first two months of sanctions.

The IMF also endorsed an ambitious Saudi Arabian plan to build a \$500-billion business and industrial zone extending into Jordan and Egypt, saying the project could benefit the whole region. Azour said Riyadh would need to balance the huge cost of the zone and other economic projects with its drive to cut a big state budget deficit caused by low oil prices. But the plan to develop the zone, known as NEOM, could stimulate trade and allow the Middle East to capitalize on its location as a bridge between Asia and Europe, he said.

"It is a signal that greater regional cooperation is back on the table," he said. "We see value and necessity in regional cooperation." The NEOM scheme, unveiled by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at an international conference in Riyadh last week, would develop industries such as energy and water, biotechnology, food, advanced manufacturing and entertainment in a 26,500-sq-km zone with its own laws and judicial system.

Azour said major private sector participation would be important for NEOM's success, with the Saudi government providing land and regulation rather than trying to be closely involved in most investment decisions. NEOM could fit in with two other international economic schemes, Azour said: the Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing's drive to win trade and investment deals along routes linking China to Europe, and the G20 Compact with Africa that aims to promote private investment across the continent. — Agencies

Nine headless bodies found in Tokyo flat

ZAMA, Japan: Japanese police have found nine mutilated bodies hidden in containers with their heads cut off and flesh stripped in a suburban Tokyo flat, media reported yesterday. Tokyo police have arrested 27-year-old Takahiro Shiraishi who reportedly confessed to hacking the flesh off the bodies and throwing it out with the trash, then sprinkling cat litter over the remains in an effort to cover up the evidence. According to local media, Shiraishi told police he had chopped up the bodies in a bathroom, while a saw was found in his room.

The suspect reportedly told investigators he had "dumped cut flesh and organs in the trash", prompting fears he was a serial killer as police believe he killed all nine victims, according to NHK. Police and journalists swarmed around the nondescript apartment in the quiet residential neighborhood of Zama, as locals struggled to comprehend how an act of such violence could have occurred so near them. "It's really cruel. He used a saw to dismember the bodies or something. He must be abnormal to have done such things," said neighbor Hideaki Hosogaya, 83.

The Sankei Shimbun newspaper quoted another neighbor as saying he had smelled an odor he had "never smelled before". "I thought it was the smell of sewage," he said. Police used blue tarps to block views inside the two-storey building, and covered windows of the second-floor room where the bodies were discovered. Japanese social media users were quick to draw parallels with Halloween. One Twitter user wrote: "Nine dismembered bodies found on the day of Halloween. Humans are definitely scarier than ghosts." Another said: "What a psychotic event on

Halloween. I don't think I could bear 10 minutes with nine dead bodies around."

Authorities had been investigating the disappearance of a 23-year-old woman and discovered a connection between her and Shiraishi. This woman had earlier tweeted "I'm looking for someone to die with me", according to the Sankei Shimbun daily. Other media said Shiraishi and the woman had connected via a website featuring information about suicides.

A CCTV image showed Shiraishi and the 23-year-old woman walking together last Monday, NHK reported. She had been missing since Sept 21 and her older brother reported her disappearance to police, according to the Asahi Shimbun. When police visited the apartment, they originally found two heads inside a cool box at the entrance before making the grisly discovery of the other body parts, according to Jiji Press. "During the course of the investigation, the heads of nine bodies have been discovered" inside various coolers and containers in the apartment, private TV network TBS said.

For the time being, police arrested Shiraishi on a charge that he dismembered one body and placed it inside a cooler, a charge that he was not contesting, according to a spokesman at Tokyo Metropolitan Police. "He has said 'I dismembered a body and placed it inside a cooler and poured cat litter over it. It was meant to hide the body that I killed and to hide evidence,'" the spokesman told AFP, declining to elaborate.

Japan prides itself on a low crime rate but is no stranger to high-profile violent crimes. Earlier in October, a 32-year-old father was arrested on suspicion of stabbing his daughter to death. He also admitted torching the house in which his wife and four other children were found dead. In Japan's bloodiest crime for decades, Satoshi Uematsu faces charges of killing 19 people and attempting to kill or injure 24 others at a disability center near Tokyo in July 2016. In 1997 a 14-year-old schoolboy decapitated an 11-year-old acquaintance and placed the head at the gates of his school. — AFP

Syria shelling kills 6 schoolchildren...

Continued from Page 1

The shelling comes as Eastern Ghouta, where an estimated 400,000 people live, faces a mounting humanitarian crisis. Shocking AFP images from the region this month showed severely underweight children,

and doctors reported two infants had died of malnutrition and related complications.

On Monday, dozens of trucks carrying aid for 40,000 people entered Eastern Ghouta. The region was once a prime agricultural region famed for its orchards. But the rebel stronghold has been under a tight government siege since 2013, causing shortages of food and medicine, as well as price hikes for the local and smuggled supplies available. Basic services are virtually non-existent, with electricity produced only by generators and water often dirty and a vector for disease. — AFP



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Sports

Surprise Springboks call-up for Botha

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa surprisingly called up Sharks lock Ruan Botha yesterday to replace injured flanker/number eight Jean-Luc du Preez for a four-Test tour of Europe during November and December. The selection caught pundits on the hop as coach Allister Coetzee was expected to fill the vacancy with another loose forward rather than a second-rower. Coach Allister Coetzee justified his choice by saying he had sufficient loose-forward cover, despite there being only one specialist number eight among 19 forwards. He is Daniel du Preez, the 22-year-old twin brother of Jean-Luc and one of five uncapped players in the squad for Tests in Ireland, France, Italy and Wales. "Ruan has played consistently well this year and has been part of our training camps," said Coetzee. "He led Sharks to the Currie Cup final and the Super Rugby play-offs and is not only a consistently good performer, but also a strong leader." —AFP



Bangladesh to probe South Africa debacle

DHAKA: Bangladesh's cricket board said yesterday it would launch an investigation into its humiliating drubbing during a recent tour of South Africa in one of its worst performances on record. Bangladesh lost every match in all three formats, with David Miller smashing the fastest century in Twenty20 history off just 35 balls from the hapless visitors. Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hasan said the players, managers and coaching staff would be questioned over the woeful showing. "The overall performance was very bad. Of course, we have some questions," Hasan told reporters in Dhaka. "We have to know if there were other problems. We all know Bangladesh can lose games, but we cannot accept the way they lost them." Their bowlers, who were lacklustre throughout the tour, were not all to blame as the batsmen "could not do anything even on a flat wicket", Hasan said. — AFP

Coco beats Chinese wild card in Zhuhai

ZHUHAI: America's Coco Vandeweghe beat her Chinese wild card opponent on the first day of the WTA Elite Trophy yesterday, bringing her a step closer to a semi-final berth. The second seed, making her debut at the season-ending tournament, downed China's number one player Peng Shuai 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in one hour and 55 minutes at the Zhuhai Hengqin International Tennis Centre. The 25-year-old had previously won only one match in her past four tournaments on Chinese soil. She admitted starting off "sloppy" against Peng—the oldest player in the tournament and ranked 27 in the world. "Today was a survive and conquer kind of day. I really was playing not so well, very below average for the standard that I'm used to playing," she told journalists after the match. "It's a tough part of the year and a tough event... after the US Open it's kinda, it's, it's rough, there's no secret about that," she said. — AFP



Celtics beat Spurs, Teague scores 23 pts in Minnesota win over Miami

Porzingis' career night lifts Knicks over Nuggets

BOSTON: Kyrie Irving played his best game with his new team, finishing with 24 points and six assists to lead the Boston Celtics to their fifth straight win, a 108-94 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night. The win ended an 11-game Spurs winning streak against the Celtics, including the last six at TD Garden since Boston's last victory in 2011. It was also the Spurs' third straight loss on a 1-3 road trip. Jaylen Brown scored 18 points, and Terry Rozier had eight of his 12 points in 52 seconds to put the game away in the fourth quarter. The Spurs, still without injured Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker and with Manu Ginobili resting, got a career-high 18 points and five rebounds from Brandon Paul.

ished in double figures with 16 points.

76ERS 115, ROCKETS 107

Ben Simmons scored 24 points and teamed with Joel Embiid down the stretch to help Philadelphia fend off Houston at Toyota Center. Simmons finished with seven rebounds and nine assists. Embiid chipped in 22 points, nine boards and five assists. James Harden paced the Rockets with 29 points and seven assists. Eric Gordon scored 25 points, and Clint Capela added 12 points and 15 rebounds.

HORNETS 104, GRIZZLIES 99

Kemba Walker scored 27 points and Jeremy Lamb added 17 to lead Charlotte to a come-from-behind victory over Memphis. Walker scored nine of his game-high point total in the final 6:16 as the Hornets took advantage of a cold-shooting Memphis squad. The Grizzlies, who shot 34.4 percent, were led by reserve Tyreke Evans' 19 points and 10 rebounds. Mike Conley (16 points) and Marc Gasol (10 points) combined to shoot 8 of 33.

RAPTORS 99, TRAIL BLAZERS 85

DeMar DeRozan scored 21 of his 25 points in the first half, and Toronto rode a big opening-half lead to a victory over Portland at Moda Center. Kyle Lowry contributed 19 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, and Lucas Nogueira chipped in 17 points and nine rebounds for the Raptors. Damian Lillard scored 25 of his season-high 36 points in the second half for the Trail Blazers. CJ McCollum added 16 points but made just 5 of 16 shots.

JAZZ 104, MAVERICKS 89

Rudy Gobert totaled 17 points, 12 rebounds, six blocks and a career-high six assists to lead Utah over Dallas. Rodney Hood had a season-high 25 points, and Ricky Rubio added 20 points as the Jazz improved to 4-0 at home. Dirk Nowitzki scored 18 points, JJ. Barea added 17 points and Devin Harris had 15 for Dallas, which could not overcome 24 turnovers that led to 33 points for Utah.

MAGIC 115, PELICANS 99

Marreese Speights exploded for four wide-open 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and finished with 18 points, and Nikola Vucevic, Jonathon Simmons and Evan Fournier scored 20 points each to lift Orlando over New Orleans. The Magic led 88-83 after three quarters, then held the Pelicans



BOSTON: Boston Celtics' Kyrie Irving (11) drives past San Antonio Spurs' LaMarcus Aldridge (12) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday. — AP

NBA results/standings

Golden State 141, LA Clippers 113; Toronto 99, Portland 85; Utah 104, Dallas 89; Philadelphia 115, Houston 107; Charlotte 104, Memphis 99; Orlando 115, New Orleans 99; Boston 108, San Antonio 94; Minnesota 125, Miami 122 (OT); NY Knicks 116, Denver 110.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference					
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division					
W	L	PCT	GB						
Boston	5	2	.714	-	Minnesota	4	3	.571	-
Toronto	4	2	.667	0.5	Portland	4	3	.571	-
NY Knicks	3	3	.500	1.5	Utah	4	3	.571	-
Brooklyn	3	4	.429	2	Oklahoma City	3	3	.500	0.5
Philadelphia	3	4	.429	2	Denver	3	4	.429	1
Central Division				Pacific Division					
Detroit	5	2	.714	-	LA Clippers	4	2	.667	-
Milwaukee	4	2	.667	0.5	Golden State	5	3	.625	-
Indiana	3	3	.500	1.5	LA Lakers	2	4	.333	2
Cleveland	3	4	.429	2	Phoenix	2	4	.333	2
Chicago	1	4	.200	3	Sacramento	1	5	.167	3
Southeast Division				Southwest Division					
Orlando	5	2	.714	-	Memphis	5	2	.714	-
Washington	4	2	.667	0.5	Houston	5	3	.625	0.5
Charlotte	4	3	.571	1	San Antonio	4	3	.571	1
Miami	2	4	.333	2.5	New Orleans	3	4	.429	2
Atlanta	1	6	.143	4	Dallas	1	7	.125	4.5

to 15 fourth-quarter points. Orlando outscored the Pelicans 55-35 in the second half. New Orleans got 26 points from Anthony Davis in the first half, but he scored only two

points in the third quarter and finished with 39 points and 10 rebounds. DeMarcus Cousins scored 12 points on 5-of-14 shooting and grabbed 12 rebounds. — Reuters

South Africa in pole to host 2023 World Cup

LONDON: South Africa took a huge step towards hosting their second Rugby World Cup yesterday when the Rugby World Cup Board recommended unanimously they should welcome the 2023 edition.

South Africa—who hosted the 1995 tournament—will learn whether the World Rugby Council vote according to the recommendation on November 15 when they vote, with Ireland and France the other two options. The winner requires a majority of the 39 votes on offer—the three candidates do not get to vote. Bill Beaumont, Rugby World Cup Limited Chairman and head of the sport's governing body World Rugby, said South Africa had emerged as clearly ahead in all seven key criteria such as stadia and financial assurances.

"The comprehensive and independently scrutinised evaluation reaffirmed that we have three exceptional bids," said Beaumont in a statement. "But it also identified South Africa as a clear leader based on performance against the key criteria, which is supported by the Board in the recommendation."

South Africa—whose bid had looked weakened by Durban's withdrawing as hosts of the 2022 Commonwealth Games and abandoning recently plans for a Twenty20 tournament—understandably

reacted with delight but noted that they still needed to have it rubberstamped by gaining a majority of the 39 votes on offer in November.

"This nomination is confirmation of that belief and reward for an outstanding bid in which no detail was too small to be addressed or any question not comprehensively answered," said South Africa Rugby chief executive Jurie Roux. "We are 100 percent confident that the commitments we made in our document will be delivered. We will make all of world rugby proud of South Africa 2023."

'COMPETE TO THE FINAL WHISTLE'

South Africa had offered the most money of the three candidates with a commitment from the South African government to exceed the minimum guarantee of £120million (\$159mn) required by World Rugby with an additional guarantee of £40m.

However, their Sports Minister Thulas Nxesi also urged caution ahead of the vote when he spoke to reporters following the publication of the recommendation. "I am delighted with the way the process has gone so far. We must now be professional and wait 15 days for the final decision," he said. "We do not consider it a mere formality that South Africa will be awarded the 2023 World Cup, but the whole rugby world will surely have taken note of the recommendations."

For the Irish report will come as a blow as they had been seen in many quarters as the frontrunners to host the tournament for the first time. A lot of political capital had been invested in the bid—which had cross border support from all the



JOHANNESBURG: File photo, South African rugby captain Francios Pienaar, center, raises the trophy. South Africa yesterday was recommended as the best host for the 2023 Rugby World Cup. — AP

Northern Irish political parties and even British Prime Minister Theresa May throwing her support behind it—with Prime Minister Leo Varadkar coming to London for the final presentations last month.

Dick Spring, Chairman of the bid and a former international himself, admitted it was "disappointing" but also sounded a defiant note. "There is nothing in the report which is insurmountable and this is certainly not the end of the road," said Spring.

"Our team will compete to the final whistle as we bid to turn our historic bid plans into reality," Bernard Laporte, the president of the French Rugby Federation (FFR), believed it was now a two horse

race. The France bid received high marks despite an investigation surrounding Laporte for allegedly putting pressure on the federation's appeals board to reduce punishments imposed on Top 14 side Montpellier, whose owner Mohamed Altrad is the biggest contributor to the 2023 bid.

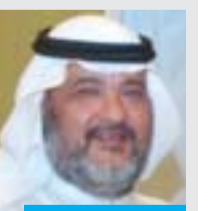
"As of today, a final is taking shape in which France and South Africa will go head to head," said Laporte. "A new match is beginning, and will play out until the sovereign vote on 15 November. In its assessment report, the RWCL placed #FRANCE2023 in top position on the main criterion: the financial offer and the guarantees." — AFP

Late Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem shooting tourney

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sports Club will organize the tournament of the late Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah tournament Nov 2-4, over three days, in which club, National Guard, Bahrain and UAE shooters will participate. The tournament will be in the skeet, trap, double trap, 10m air pistol and rifle, for both men and women. The organizing committee made all necessary preparations at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex as well as all the necessary requirements for shooters. KSSC Assistant Secretary Engineer Mohammad Al-Ghurba said the tournament have a special status with the Kuwait shooting community, and the board of directors is keen on placing it on the schedule each year.

The club is keen on commemorating the late Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem for his services to Kuwait in all fields he served in, the efforts he exerted when he was defence minister following the Kuwait liberation, and bearing the responsibility of rebuilding our armed forces, then his contribution to backing up security forces when he was interior minister. Al-Ghurba added that the late sheikh headed the first Kuwait delegation to the CISM tournament (Conseil International du Sport Militaire). The closing ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 4 at 5:00 pm at the club.



Mohammad Al-Ghurba

Sports

Coyotes get first win, beat Flyers in OT on Goligoski's goal

Patrick Marleau makes emotional return to San Jose

PHILADELPHIA: The struggling Arizona Coyotes finally got their first win of the season, beating the Philadelphia Flyers 4-3 on Alex Goligoski's overtime goal after blowing a two-goal lead in the final minute of regulation Monday night. Goligoski scored with 14.4 seconds left on the clock in OT and Arizona (1-10-1) avoided setting an NHL record for most consecutive losses to start a season. Jordan Martinook, Christian Dvorak and Brandon Perlini also scored for the Coyotes, who matched the 1943-44 Rangers (0-11) by losing their first 11 games. Sean Couturier scored twice and Ivan Provorov had three assists for the Flyers. Arizona was in position to close it out earlier, but Jordan Weal scored on a rebound with 53 seconds left in the third period and Couturier tipped a shot past goalie Scott Wedgewood with 16 seconds left in the third period to tie the game at 3. Goligoski scored the winner from a sharp angle in the 3-on-3 overtime period after a pass from Clayton Keller.



Tavares kept up his scoring with more goals

gave up four goals on 11 shots.

LIGHTNING 8, PANTHERS 5

Andrei Vasilevskiy won his ninth straight start and Steven Stamkos scored twice to lift Tampa Bay over Florida. Vasilevskiy made 18 saves and shares the longest win streak by a goalie in franchise history with John Grahame, who won nine in a row from Nov. 14 to Dec. 10, 2005. Ondrej Palat scored the go-ahead goal and had an assist. Nikita Kucherov added his NHL-leading 13th goal and an assist, while Brayden Point and Yanni Gourde each had a goal and an assist for the Lightning. Vladislav Namestnikov and Anton Stralman also scored. Aleksander Barkov had a goal and three assists to lead the Panthers. Evgeni Dadanov, Jamie McGinn, Jonathan Huberdeau and Aaron Ekblad also scored for Florida. James Reimer allowed five goals on 19 shots before being replaced by Antti Niemi at 10:22 of the second. Niemi stopped 16 shots.

BLUE JACKETS 4, BRUINS 3, SO

Artemi Panarin and Oliver Bjorkstrand scored in the shootout, and Columbus beat Boston after squandering a two-goal lead in the third period. Columbus has won eight of its first 12 games, a franchise record for October. Blue Jackets goalie Sergei Bobrovsky had an assist - the eighth of his career and first this season. Bobrovsky made 27 saves for his sixth win. Tuukka Rask stopped 29 shots for the Bruins, who lost their second in a row and dropped to 4-4-2. David Savard, Boone Jenner and Tyler Motte scored in regulation for Columbus. Patrice Bergeron, Torey Krug and Brad Marchand had goals for the Bruins.

CANADIENS 8, SENATORS 3

Charles Hudon scored his first two NHL goals and had an assist, helping Montreal roll to a victory over Ottawa. Artturi Lehkonen also scored twice for the Canadiens, and Shea Weber had three assists. Al

ISLANDERS 6, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3

John Tavares kept up his scoring surge with two

more goals and New York handed expansion Vegas its second loss of the season. Andrew Ladd, Mathew Barzal, Cal Clutterbuck and Nikolay Kulemin also scored, and Jaroslav Halak stopped 31 shots to help the Islanders win for the fifth time in six games. Tavares has eight goals in the last four games. William Karlsson, Alex Tuch and Colin Miller scored for the Golden Knights, who snapped a five-game winning streak and lost another goalie to injury. With starter Marc-Andre Fleury and backup Malcolm Subban already sidelined, Oscar Dansk left after Tavares scored the tying goal late in the second period with an apparent leg injury. Dansk, who came in 3-0 with an NHL-best 1.34 goals-against average, made 17 saves. Maxime Lagace, the fourth goalie Vegas has used in its inaugural season, came on for his NHL debut and



PHILADELPHIA: Ivan Provorov #9 of the Philadelphia Flyers wraps around the net as Christian Dvorak #18 of the Arizona Coyotes defends at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. - AFP

NHL results/standings

San Jose 3, Toronto 2; Dallas 2, Vancouver 1 (OT); St. Louis 4, Los Angeles 2; Montreal 8, Ottawa 3; Tampa Bay 8, Florida 5; NY Islanders 6, Las Vegas 3; Arizona 4, Philadelphia 3 (OT); Columbus 4, Boston 3 (SO).

Western Conference						Eastern Conference							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
St. Louis	10	2	1	44	30	21	Tampa Bay	10	2	1	53	36	21
Dallas	7	5	0	34	33	14	Ottawa	5	2	5	44	41	15
Winnipeg	5	3	2	31	31	12	Toronto	7	5	0	47	43	14
Colorado	6	5	0	34	34	12	Boston	4	3	3	30	33	11
Nashville	5	4	2	27	31	12	Detroit	5	6	1	32	35	11
Chicago	5	5	2	38	34	12	Florida	4	6	1	40	44	9
Minnesota	4	3	2	30	28	10	Montreal	4	7	1	31	45	9
							Buffalo	3	7	2	29	44	8
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division							
Los Angeles	9	2	1	40	24	19	New Jersey	8	2	0	40	31	16
Las Vegas	8	2	0	37	25	16	Columbus	8	4	0	37	30	16
Vancouver	6	3	2	31	27	14	NY Islanders	7	4	1	45	38	15
Anaheim	6	4	1	35	33	13	Pittsburgh	7	5	1	36	50	15
San Jose	6	5	0	30	28	12	Philadelphia	6	5	1	41	35	13
Calgary	6	6	0	28	33	12	Washington	5	6	1	36	41	11
Edmonton	3	6	1	22	33	7	Carolina	4	4	2	28	30	10
Arizona	1	10	1	30	51	3	NY Rangers	3	7	2	34	43	8

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

Montoya stopped 25 shots in his first win of the season. Max Pacioretty, Alex Galchenyuk, Brendan Gallagher and Tomas Plekanec scored as Montreal won back-to-back games for the first time this season. Ottawa got goals from Tom Pyatt, Ryan Dzingel and Chris DiDomenico. Craig Anderson made just nine saves on 15 shots through two periods before being replaced by Mike Condon, who allowed two goals on 14 shots. Senators captain Erik Karlsson, one of the NHL's best defensemen, was on the ice for seven Montreal goals.

STARS 2, CANUCKS 1, OT

Alexander Radulov scored 2:28 into overtime and Dallas defeated Vancouver. Ben Bishop made 38 saves and Tyler Seguin had a second-period goal for the Stars, who improved to 3-1 on a five-game road trip. Sam Gagner scored a power-play goal for the Canucks, who had won four straight. Jacob Markstrom made 27 saves. Radulov won it when he carried the puck the length of the ice and fired a shot over Markstrom's blocker-side shoulder.—AP

Hong Kong first Asian city to host 2022 Gay Games

HONG KONG: Hong Kong will host the 2022 Gay Games, fighting off bids from cities in the United States and Mexico to become the first Asian city to stage the sports and cultural event. The win comes amid growing momentum for the gay rights movement in Asia, with Taiwan's constitutional court this year declaring that same-sex couples have the right to marry, the region's first such ruling.

The games are expected to attract more than 15,000 participants and provide a HK\$1-billion (\$128-million) boost to the economy, the Hong Kong bid team said in a statement. Bid supporters called the decision a victory for the status of the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

"This is a big step forward for Hong Kong itself to be able to win this world game ... and it is also a big step for diversity inclusion," said Alfred Chan, chairman of Hong Kong's Equal Opportunities Commission, which supported the bid.

The Federation of Gay Games (FGG) chose Hong Kong over Guadalajara in Mexico and Washington D.C. in a vote in Paris on Monday. A record 17 cities had expressed interest in hosting the 2022 Gay Games, 13 in the United States.

"The impact that the Gay Games has in host cities is incredible in terms of culture, sport, economic impact, history and most importantly, elevating all matters of LGBT+ equality," the Federation of Gay Games said in a statement.

The games are touted as the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender global sports and cultural gathering. Participants do not have to be gay, organizers said. Hong Kong, a cosmopolitan former British colony, returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula that promises it a high degree of autonomy and freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland.

There is no law against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gay marriage is not recognised in the territory. "I don't feel any discrimination. But of course I know some out there (do)," said 46-year-old Hong Kong resident Eddie Leung, who participated in the Gay Games in Sydney 15 years ago.—Reuters



KANSAS CITY: Denver Broncos running back Devontae Booker (23) tries to fend off Kansas City Chiefs defensive back Ron Parker (38) during the second half of an NFL football game in Kansas City. — AP

Chiefs force 5 TOs, beat Broncos in AFC West showdown

KANSAS CITY: The Kansas City Chiefs proved Monday night they can play a little defense, too. The same group that struggled to contain the Steelers and Raiders in back-to-back losses shut down Denver, picking off Trevor Siemian three times, picking up two fumbles and taking one of them back for a touchdown in a 29-19 victory over their AFC West rivals.

It was precisely the kind of dominant performance the Chiefs (6-2) needed against the Broncos (3-4), whose own league-leading defense held Alex Smith and Co. in check all night. "Our defense really stepped up tonight," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "They showed a lot of fire."

Harrison Butker kicked five field goals for Kansas City, and Smith threw for 202 yards and a touchdown. Most of it went to Travis Kelce, who hauled in seven balls for 133 yards and the score.

But it was the turnovers that proved to be the difference in the game. "That's insane," said Broncos coach Vance Joseph, who declined to say whether a quarterback change may be necessary. "You can't win when you turn the ball over five times. The guys worked too hard to have a big game to give it away five times."

Siemian finished 19 of 36 for 198 yards and a touchdown, and has now thrown eight picks and only three TD passes in the past five games. The Broncos have lost all but one of them. "I just turned it over," he said glumly. "A couple of bad decisions." It was a crucial bounce-back win for the Chiefs, who had their 12-game AFC West winning streak snapped 10 days ago in Oakland. The Chiefs had won five straight to start the season before losing to the Steelers and then to the Raiders on Derek Carr's last-second touchdown throw.

It started just like old times, too: Jamaal Charles with a run, the Chiefs with a touchdown. The only difference was Charles, who went to four Pro Bowls with the Chiefs, was back in Kansas City with the Broncos. And the TD came when the opportunistic Marcus Peters stripped him, picked up the loose ball and returned it 45 yards for the opening score. "That definitely changed the dynamic of the game," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said. When the Chiefs were on offense, they went right to Kelce, who also had success against the Broncos in both of their meetings last season. He beat Darian Stewart for a 29-yard TD catch and a 14-0 lead.

"I want the ball every single play. That's just how I grew up playing," he said. The Chiefs were threatening to put the game out of reach later in the first quarter when Reid got cute with the play-calling. Rather than keep the ball in the hands of Smith, who hasn't thrown a pick all season, he let wide receiver Tyreek Hill throw it - and he was intercepted in the end zone. "I messed it up myself," he said. "I know coach Reid isn't going to let me throw another one." Still, Kansas City led 20-3 when the Broncos' offense finally found some rhythm. — AP

Farah splits with long-time coach Salazar

LONDON: Long-distance running star Mo Farah is leaving long-time coach Alberto Salazar to return home to Britain but denies the split is related to doping allegations surrounding the Oregon-based guru. Farah, who retired from the track earlier this year after a glittering career including 10 gold medals at the Olympics and world championships, is switching his attention to road racing.

The 34-year-old, who will run the 2018 London Marathon, will be coached by the husband of women's marathon record holder Paula Radcliffe, Gary Lough. Farah, a four-time Olympic gold medalist, said he is coming home to London because he and his family missed living in the city where his eldest daughter Rhianna was born. "I'm moving back home. London... I really miss home. I'm going to be back there," he said. "I'm very excited. I'll no longer be coached by Alberto Salazar-working with the Oregon Project. I want to thank each member of the Oregon Project and Alberto for what he's done over the years."

"So I'm coming back and my new coach is going to be Gary Lough, who coached Paula Radcliffe through her marathon so I'm very excited to start a new project, a new start." Lough helped to guide Radcliffe's career in which the British athlete became established as the world's best women's marathon runner and won a host of big-city races, including London and New York. Speaking in a video on his Twitter account, Farah added: "I can't wait to be back home and can't wait to see my team Arsenal at the Emirates."

OREGON PROJECT

The Somalia-born runner began training with Salazar in 2011 at his Oregon Project camp in Portland, and won his first world title the same year in the 5,000m at the Daegu World Championships, in South Korea. Salazar's training base, however, has been the subject of intense scrutiny from the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

A leaked USADA report this year asserted that Salazar had likely violated drug protocols, later denied by the coach. But Farah told Britain's Sun newspaper: "I'm not leaving the Nike Oregon Project and Alberto Salazar because of the doping allegations." Farah, who won Olympic gold in the 5,000 metres and 10,000m at the London Olympics in 2012 and repeated the feat four years later in Rio, stressed he would have quit the partnership with Salazar if allegations against the coach had been shown to be true.—AFP

Sports

Champions Real face Spurs with last-16 place on offer

Klopp's side sit top of the group after thrashing Maribor

PARIS: Champions League holders Real Madrid take on Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley today with both teams looking to secure a place in the last 16. Manchester City and Besiktas can also book their spots in the knockout stages, while Liverpool bid to put another hatful of goals past Maribor.

Group E
At Liverpool, England
Liverpool (ENG) v Maribor (SLO)

Jürgen Klopp's side sit top of the group after their record-breaking 7-0 thrashing of Maribor in Slovenia two weeks ago. Five different players scored as Liverpool chalked up the biggest away win for an English team in the history of the competition. The five-time European champions could seal a last-16 place with Anfield victories against Maribor and Spartak Moscow in their next two outings, having not reached the knockout phase since 2008-09. Liverpool grabbed a much-needed 3-0 win over Huddersfield Town in the Premier League on Saturday to bounce back from a 4-1 defeat by Tottenham. Defeat for Slovenian champions Maribor would see them eliminated if Sevilla lose to Spartak Moscow.



Sevilla in danger of missing out on the last 16

At Seville, Spain
Sevilla (ESP) v Spartak Moscow (RUS)

Record five-time Europa League winners Sevilla are in danger of missing out on the last 16 after a shock 5-1 thumping in Moscow last time out. Russian champions Spartak are level on points at the top of the standings with Liverpool, and a positive result in Spain would put them in a strong position with their next group match at home against struggling Maribor. Sevilla moved up to fifth in La Liga on Saturday by edging out Leganes 2-1 for their first win in three league games.

Group F
At Naples, Italy
Napoli (ITA) v Manchester City (ENG)

Maurizio Sarri's Italian league leaders extended their superb unbeaten start to the domestic campaign with a 3-1 win over Sassuolo—the ninth time in 11 Serie A matches they've netted three or more goals. Like Napoli,

Manchester City have dropped just two points in a flying start to their Premier League campaign, and a draw at the San Paolo would send Pep Guardiola's men through to the last 16 for the fifth consecutive year. City have kept eight clean sheets in their last 12 matches and are undefeated in 21 games dating back to last April. Sergio Aguero remains a goal away from becoming the club's outright all-time leading scorer—he is currently level with Eric Brook on 177 goals.

At Kharkiv, Ukraine
Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) v Feyenoord (NED)

The Ukrainians will aim to secure back-to-back wins over pointless Feyenoord and take a significant stride towards the next phase. Shakhtar are second in the group—three points behind City, and three ahead of Napoli—while Feyenoord will be knocked out unless they register a maiden win in Ukraine. Shakhtar defender Yaroslav Rakitskiy is banned after his sending-off in the 2-1 win in Rotterdam, while Dutch champions Feyenoord have fallen 10 points off the pace in the Netherlands after winning just once in six attempts.

Group G
At Istanbul, Turkey
Besiktas (TUR) v Monaco (FRA) (1700)

Victory for Besiktas would secure a ticket for the last 16 for the first time in 31 years. After three wins from their first three games, a win coupled with a draw between Porto and RB Leipzig would also confirm top spot for the Istanbul outfit. A draw could also take them through if RB Leipzig beat FC Porto. Monaco reached the semi-finals last season but sit bottom the group without a win and defeat would leave them on the brink of bowing out of the competition. Leonardo Jardim's principality outfit may also have to make do without unfit captain and star striker Radamel Falcao in Turkey. Besiktas won the reverse fixture 2-1 and have never lost at home to a French team in Europe.

At Porto, Portugal
Porto (POR) v RB Leipzig (GER)

Last season's Bundesliga runners-up revived their hopes of progressing from the group with a 3-2 win over



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane (C) and team-mates take part in a training session at Tottenham Hotspur's Enfield Training. — AFP

Porto a fortnight ago and are one point clear of the Portuguese side in second. Champions League debutants Leipzig suffered two defeats to German title rivals Bayern Munich last week in the Cup and the league, while Porto maintained their two-point lead in Portugal by beating Boavista. The two-time European champions are looking to reach the last 16 for the third time in four seasons.

Group H
At Dortmund, Germany
Borussia Dortmund (GER) v APOEL Nicosia (CYP)

Both teams face the threat of elimination after recording just a single point—following a 1-1 draw in Cyprus last time out—from three matches. Dortmund have only won one of their last eight European games, with their domestic form also tailing off dramatically in recent weeks. Peter Bosz's team crashed to a 4-2 defeat at Hanover on Saturday to surrender top spot in the Bundesliga to Bayern Munich. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang returned from injury at the weekend after missing the German Cup

victory over third-tier Magdeburg. APOEL's stuttering start to their Cypriot title defence saw coach Giorgos Donis tender his resignation in the wake of Saturday's 1-1 draw with Ethnikos Achnas, but he remains in charge after the club refused the offer.

At London
Tottenham Hotspur (ENG) v Real Madrid (ESP)

A victory for either side would guarantee a spot in the last 16, although Tottenham are winless against Real in five previous meetings. Mauricio Pochettino is hopeful Harry Kane will be fit for the visit of the European champions to Wembley after missing Saturday's 1-0 loss at Manchester United. Real Madrid, level at the top of the section with Spurs on seven points after three matches, are coming off a shock 2-1 defeat at Girona in their first appearance in Catalonia since the violence-plagued October 1 referendum that plunged Spain into political crisis. The result left Zinedine Zidane's team eight points adrift of La Liga leaders Barcelona—a deficit they have never overcome to win the Spanish title. — AFP

Invincible Pep Guardiola ripping up the record books

ROME: Pep Guardiola takes his swaggering Manchester City side to the home of Italian league leaders Napoli today knowing a win will guarantee qualification for the Champions League knockout stages with two games to spare.

City, unbeaten this season, notched an eighth straight Premier League win on Saturday that keeps them five points clear of nearest challengers Manchester United. Guardiola's free-scoring side have won 13 games in a row in all competitions and are unbeaten in their past 21 outings—two new club records.

They are riding high at the top of Champions League Group F with three wins from three, knowing victory against Napoli would see them qualify for the knockout round. But Guardiola remains wary of the Neapolitans—third in the group behind City and Shakhtar Donetsk—with Belgian Dries Mertens catching the eye up front this season.

"We need one more win to qualify but we are going to the team that are leading Serie A and everybody knows the type of football they play in their own stadium so it's going to be very difficult," said the City boss. "But it's a great opportunity for us to book our place and we're going to try our best to do it."

Liverpool boss Jürgen Klopp suggested City's Premier League dominance is such that they could be champions by January, a suggestion Guardiola has brushed aside. "Definitely," he said when asked if it was

unrealistic. "You are English—from a long time ago, did you see a champion in January? Me neither." The Spaniard—who campaigned for independence for his native Catalonia—is targeting a third Champions League trophy wins in 2009 and 2011 at the helm of Barcelona. He failed to progress beyond the semi-finals during his three-year spell at Bayern Munich.

But Maurizio Sarri's side have been similarly dominant in Italy this season, where they are unbeaten in 11 league games—including 10 wins—as they chase a first Serie A title since the golden days of Diego Maradona in 1990.

'NICE POSITION'

Sarri's side lost 2-1 at the Etihad two weeks ago after falling to Shakhtar by the same scoreline last month. "We know if we go to Napoli and win then we'll have qualified," said Manchester City's Belgian midfielder Kevin De Bruyne. "That would be a nice position for us to be in and then hopefully we can get another good result against Arsenal on Sunday and put some pressure on the rest of the teams."

"It's important just to get qualified and not about thinking about what it might mean, whether we could get a rest in the remaining group matches. "If we are qualified, that is done. We might then have to think about finishing first or whatever but we know if we get a point or win we are qualified and so that's our target."

The Belgian believes both sides will show signs of fatigue after a tough campaign, with City having played 16 games this season and Napoli 12. "We try to rest whenever there's an opportunity and make sure we are fresh," he said. "For a lot of teams, it's very hard. It's almost November. The amount of games we've played and have to play is massive and there could be another 40 or 50 to go so we know what the task ahead is but we have a big squad and we can cope with the demands." —AFP



Pep Guardiola

of Turkey. The British press have reported that Newcastle, Crystal Palace and Everton are all interested in the striker while interest has also been noted from AC Milan.

There are hopes in Turkey, where Tosun has made 23 appearances for his home country, that the player will emerge as a striker of international class. Turkey has not had such a marksman since the days of Hakan Sukur, who helped his country to third place in the 2002 World Cup but then fell into disgrace over his links with the preacher Fethullah Gulen blamed for the 2016 failed coup.

"I work a lot," said Tosun, explaining his success. "I work collectively and individually and I hope to make up for my weak points."

'NO DESIRE TO LEAVE'

Born to Turkish parents in the German town of Wetzlar, Tosun is one of a growing number of Turkish origin players such as Hakan Calhanoglu and Emre Mor who were born abroad but have chosen to play for Turkey. Tosun came through the youth system of Eintracht Frankfurt and played several times for German national youth teams.

He moved to Gaziantep in southeast Turkey in 2011

and then secured a transfer to Besiktas in 2014. The club has seen star strikers come and go in the last years, especially Demba Ba in 2014 and then Mario Gomez in 2015 and it took Tosun some time to find a regular first team place.

But he did not complain. "I got a lot of experience playing next to Demba Ba and Mario Gomez," he said. And the patience paid off, with Tosun the club's top scorer with 24 goals as it retained the title in 2017. His father Senol, who remains in charge of his career, taught him to be a versatile player by forbidding him from using his right foot all the time. As a result, Tosun scored his three goals in the Champions League this season with one via the right foot (against Porto) and a header and left-footed goal against Monaco.

His heroes are the great Argentinian playmaker Gabriel Batistuta and also the basketball icon Michael Jordan. He wears the number 23 shirt of the former Chicago Bulls star in homage to him. In Turkey, he is known as Tosun Pasha, in reference to a popular Turkish 1970s comedy show.

The British press has put a 20 million sterling (23 million euros) price tag on the player and Besiktas could be sorely tempted by a good offer when the transfer window reopens. — AFP

Australia to trial yellow, red cards for coaches

SYDNEY: Australia will conduct a world-first trial of red and yellow cards for coaches and other football team officials aimed at improving their behaviour on the touchlines, it was announced yesterday. The new measures will be introduced this weekend in the domestic A-League and the women's W-League. Approval for the move was given by the International Football Advisory Board, which comprises the four British football associations (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and world body FIFA. "Referees already have a process which is by way of conversation to coaches to warn them before removing them from the technical area after poor behaviour," said A-League head Greg O'Rourke.

"Essentially, this trial will visualise those steps and as such better communicate to fans that the referees are giving the coaches and others formal warnings." The consequence of accumulating cards will be the same as for players, with two yellows in a single match resulting in a sending-off and automatic suspension from the next game.

Coaches will earn cautions for dissent, provocative gesturing, or entering the opposition's technical area, among other things. They will be red-carded for offences including kicking or throwing water bottles, abusive language, spitting at someone, or holding up a game by holding onto the ball or obstructing a player.— AFP

Turkish marksman Cenk Tosun becomes Premiership target

ISTANBUL: The top scorer for Istanbul's Besiktas last season and one of the standout players of the current Champions League, Turkish striker Cenk Tosun is now firmly in the sights of clubs from the Premiership and elsewhere.

Tosun tore apart the defence of Monaco in a memorable away win for Besiktas in the Champions League group stage clash on October 17, scoring two goals and effectively ending the hopes of last year's semi finalists of going any further. Besiktas, well ahead on top of group G, on Wednesday take on Monaco at home for the return tie, seeking another giant stride to qualification for the knockout stages.

The scintillating performances of the Germany-born Tosun, 26, who has scored eight goals in all competitions this year alone, have not gone unnoticed outside

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Besiktas v Monaco	beIN SPORTS HD 6	20:00
Napoli v Manchester City	beIN SPORTS HD 2	22:45
Shakhtar Donetsk v Feyenoord Rotterdam	beIN SPORTS HD 8	22:45
Borussia Dortmund v APOEL Nicosia	beIN SPORTS HD 5	22:45
Tottenham Hotspur v Real Madrid	beIN SPORTS HD 1	22:45
Porto v Leipzig	beIN SPORTS HD 7	22:45
Sevilla v Spartak Moscow	beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:45
Liverpool v Maribor	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:45

13 South Africa in pole to host 2023 World Cup

14 Mo Farah splits with long-time coach Salazar

15 Champions Real face Spurs with last-16 place on offer



PYEONGCHANG: Greek Alpine skier Ioannis Proios (C) holds an Olympic torch at The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens yesterday, during the handover ceremony of the Olympic flame for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. — AFP

Pyeongchang gets Olympic flame

Torch presented to Pyeongchang 2018 Organising Committee

ATHENS: The Olympic torch was formally handed over from Greece to Pyeongchang 2018 Olympic Winter Games organisers yesterday in a simple ceremony.

Under overcast skies at the Panathenaic Stadium that hosted the first modern Olympics in 1896, the torch was presented to South Korean President of the Pyeongchang 2018 Organising Committee Lee Hee Beom by the president of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Spyros Capralos.

Attending the handover ceremony was Greek President Prokopios Pavlopoulos. "We are honoured that the Pyeongchang Winter Games represents the second time the Olympic Flame will be in South Korea, since the 1988 Seoul summer Olympic Games.

"The slogan of the Pyeongchang 2018 Olympic Torch Relay, 'Let Everyone Shine,' means the Olympic flame will shine for each and everyone's dream, passions and future anytime and anywhere," Lee said.

He said when the Olympic flame arrives in South Korea "we also celebrate another milestone - 100 days to go until the start of the Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang".

"The Olympic Torch Relay will be a very special journey that will shine throughout the host nation, for dreams and passion toward winter sports in Asia and beyond," Lee added.

"The Olympic Flame is a strong symbol of tradition and values governing the Olympic Movement. It is a beacon for the Olympic values. It is the symbol of universal peace," Capralos said.

The second to last torchbearer Kim Ki-hoon, South

Korean Olympic champion in short track speed skating, passed the flame to the last torchbearer, Greek skiing champion Ioannis Proios, who lit the cauldron, while thousands of spectators cheered.

The Olympic flame was lit in Ancient Olympia last week and embarked on a week-long 2,129 kilometres journey throughout Greece ending at Panathenaic Stadium. Participating were 505 torchbearers and 36 welcome ceremonies were held in 20 municipalities during the eight days. From

Greece the flame will be flown to South Korea for a relay around the Asian country until the opening ceremonies at Pyeongchang on February 9.

The torch harks back to the ancient Olympics, when a sacred flame burned throughout the Games. The tradition was revived in 1936 for the Berlin Olympics.

The South Korea government has promised that the Pyeongchang Games would be safe after some nations suggested they may skip the event if tensions over North Korea's nuclear ambitions worsen. The Pyeongchang Winter Games will be held from February 9-25 only 80km from the heavily guarded border with the nuclear-armed North. The South has successfully staged several international sporting events including the 2002 FIFA World Cup despite decades of military tensions on the peninsula. The 1988 Seoul summer Olympics took place only months after a bomb planted by North Korean agents killed all 115 people on board a South Korean plane, in an apparent attempt to scare off foreign spectators and contestants. — AFP

“Olympic flame will shine for everyone's dream”

Holder, Dowrich keep West Indies in command in Zimbabwe

BULAWAYO: An unbroken 144-run stand for the eighth wicket between Jason Holder and Shane Dowrich ensured the West Indies emerged from day three of the second Test against Zimbabwe yesterday with a vital first-innings lead.

Holder and Dowrich came together with the West Indies reeling on 230 for seven, still 96 runs short of Zimbabwe's first-innings total, after Sikandar Raza tore into the tourists with a maiden five-wicket haul. They turned the game on its head with a counter-attacking partnership as Dowrich ended yesterday unbeaten on a career-best 75, while Holder contributed 71 not out. That saw the West Indies to stumps on 374 for seven,

leading by 48 runs. "Sometimes you're going to have to raise your hand and say that we tried everything and it didn't work because the opposition have batted well," Raza said. "Credit to them for batting that well."

The record partnership for the eighth wicket at Queens Sports Club took some of the shine off the off-spinner's five for 82, which was the first five-wicket haul by a Zimbabwean in Tests at the ground since 2003. Having contributed 80 in the first innings, Raza was also the fifth Zimbabwean to score a 50 and take five wickets in a Test. While the second evening had produced attritional cricket as the West Indians crawled to stumps on 78 for one, the tourists were more adventurous on day three with opener Kieran Powell leading the way in a 55-run stand for the second wicket with nightwatchman Devendra Bishoo. It took the introduction of Raza to change the course of the morning, as he had Bishoo caught and bowled for 23 and then trapped Kyle Hope lbw for one. Powell looked destined for a fourth Test century after he was dropped on 85 by Graeme Cremer, but seamer Chris Mpofu ensured the mistake was not costly as he used the second new ball to have the opener caught at gully for 90. An attacking 56-run stand for the fifth wicket between Shai Hope and Roston Chase put the West

SCOREBOARD			
BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: Scoreboard at close on day three of the second Test between Zimbabwe and West Indies yesterday:			
Zimbabwe first innings 326 all out (H. Masakadza 147, Sikandar Raza 80; K. Roach 3-44, S. Gabriel 2-64)	S. Dowrich not out	75	
	J. Holder not out	71	
	Extras (2b, 2lb, 1nb)	5	
	Total (7 wks, 150 overs)	374	
West Indies first innings	Fall of wickets: 1-76 (Brathwaite), 2-131 (Bishoo), 3-135 (K. Hope), 4-163 (Powell), 5-219 (Chase), 6-225 (Blackwood), 7-230 (S. Hope). Still to bat: K. Roach, S. Gabriel.		
K. Brathwaite c Masakadza b Cremer	32		
K. Powell c Ervine b Mpofu	90		
D. Bishoo c and b Sikandar Raza	23		
K. Hope lbw b Sikandar Raza	1		
S. Hope b Sikandar Raza	40		
R. Chase lbw b Sikandar Raza	32		
J. Blackwood c Cremer b Sikandar Raza	5		
	Bowling: Mpofu 21-7-46-1, Mire 5-2-5-0, Cremer 43-7-134-1, Sikandar Raza 43-12-82-5, Chisoro 34-7-94-0, Masakadza 4-1-9-0.		
	Series: West Indies lead two-match series 1-0.		

Indies back on top after lunch, before Raza intervened once again.

After Chase was trapped lbw for 32 by the off-spinner, Hope was bowled for 40 and Jermaine Blackwood became Raza's fifth victim. With a large deficit and just three wickets in hand the West Indies looked set to concede a first-innings lead on a diffi-

cult pitch, but Dowrich and Holder swung the match back in their favour. "We're only 48 runs ahead, but we've put lots of miles on their legs," said Powell. "We're going to come back tomorrow with two set guys, put some more miles on their legs and stretch out that lead as much as possible. Any lead is a good lead on this pitch." —AFP

Business

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017

18 Euro-zone economy grows faster than expected in Q3



19 Jazeera records double digit growth for 2 quarters in a row



20 Tech stocks lift S&P, Nasdaq; Spanish shares advance



GALVESTON: This file photo taken on August 26, 2017 shows people making their way down partially flooded roads following the passage of Hurricane Harvey in Galveston, Texas. US consumer confidence recovered from the hurricane-induced doldrums last month to hit a 17-year high in October. — AFP

US consumer confidence hits 17-year high

Fed to meet as Yellen era appears set to close

WASHINGTON: US consumer confidence recovered from the hurricane-induced doldrums last month to hit a 17-year high in October, according to a monthly survey released yesterday. And the consumer confidence index for September was revised up to show a slight increase after the initial report showed a modest decline following the impact of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The index beat expectations, rising to 125.9 in October from the upwardly-revised 120.6 in September, the Conference Board survey showed. That marks four straight months of increases. The positive confidence data "suggest the economy will continue expanding at a solid pace for the remainder of the year," Lynn Franco, the Conference Board's head of indicators, said in a statement. "Consumers were also considerably more upbeat about the short-term outlook, with the prospect of improving business conditions as the primary driver."

Meanwhile, US home prices rose sharply in August from a year ago, a trend that is thwarting many would-be buyers and potentially slowing sales. The Standard & Poor's CoreLogic Case-Shiller national home price index, released yesterday, increased 6.1 percent in August from a year earlier. That's higher than the 5.9 percent annual gain in July. In 9 of the 20 cities tracked by the index, yearly price gains in August were faster than in July.

Fewer Americans are selling their homes, and builders aren't putting up enough new houses to meet burgeoning demand. That has forced home buyers into bidding wars, lifting prices. Mortgage rates remain at historically low levels, making it easier to afford higher costs. That has resulted in rising prices even as sales have slipped this year.

"Home price increases appear to be unstoppable," says David M. Blitzer, chairman of the Index Committee at S&P Dow Jones Indices. Housing costs are climbing much faster than overall inflation or wages.

Fed meeting

The Federal Reserve is due to begin a two-day monetary policy meeting today, largely overshadowed by this week's expected White House decision to replace central bank chief Janet

Yellen. Policymakers are unlikely to raise interest rates at the current meeting, holding off until at least December as they grapple with consistently poor inflation numbers despite falling unemployment and robust economic growth.

The White House is slated to unveil President

Trump's first president not keep on a Fed chair installed by a preceding administration since 1978, when Jimmy Carter swapped out Arthur Burns in favor of G. William Miller as an anxious public dealt with soaring inflation.

Yellen has won plaudits for careful economic stewardship which has seen price pressures remain low amid robust job creation and historically low unemployment—conditions that have favored Wall Street's booming run in recent years. And, despite berating her during his campaign last year, Trump has said he likes Yellen and was considering renaming her. But Trump told a Fox News host this month: "You like to make your own mark, which is maybe one of the things she's got a little bit against her." "But I think she's terrific," he added.

Moving in January?

Since his appointment by Barack Obama five years ago, Powell, the only Republican hold-over currently on the Federal Reserve Board, has voted with the majority of policymakers on the Federal Open Market Committee, which

sets US monetary policy. Analysts say Powell may offer what Trump views as the best of all words—a cautious approach to raising rates, an open mind to the administration's deregulation agenda and the chance to remove a top-level Obama appointee. "Powell is a respected guy in the committee, a smart guy, and probably would be good in the sense that, although he hasn't written about monetary policy, he has more on regulatory policy, and has had some time at the Fed to learn," Joseph Gagnon, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and a former Fed official, told AFP.

As for the meeting's outcome, markets will be looking for hints as to when the next rate hike may come. Futures markets put the odds of a December hike at nearly 100 percent.

But Beth Ann Bovino, chief US economist at S&P Global, said her organization instead expects the central bank to wait until January, given the persistently weak inflation data.

"We're still concerned about the inflation story but we'll see what happens," she told AFP. "At this point in time, the data aren't making us feel much more comfortable." —Agencies



Home prices rose sharply in August

Donald Trump's nominee for Fed chair tomorrow, the day after the meeting concludes, and media reports indicate Trump has settled on current Fed Governor Jerome Powell, a Republican attorney and a former investor. Doing so would make

AUB net profit surges 6% to \$468.7 million

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank B.S.C. (AUB) reported a net profit attributable to its equity shareholders of \$468.7 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2017, an increase of 6.0 percent as compared to \$442.1 million achieved in YTD Q3/2016. The net profit achieved for the third quarter of 2017 was \$157.4 million, higher by 11.7 percent than 2016 third quarter reported profit of \$140.9 million. The Basic Earnings per Share in YTD Q3/2017 increased to US 6.0 cents, from US 5.7 cents in YTD Q3/2016.

Net Interest income improved by 2.5 percent year-on-year driven by loan growth of 4.1 percent compared to December 2016 across the AUB Group funded by a 6.6 percent increase in customer deposits with additional liquidity deployed in sovereign and investment grade securities. Operating results were supported by the Bank's continued application of operational efficiencies, resulting in an improved cost to income ratio of 27.8 percent (YTD Q3 /

2016: 28.1 percent). The non-performing loans ratio stood at 2.4 percent (31 December 2016: 2.3 percent) with an increased specific provision coverage ratio of 85.3 percent (31 December 2016: 84.9 percent). The total provision coverage ratio, inclusive of collective impairment provisions but excluding available significant collaterals, was 156.1 percent as at 30 September 2017 (31 December 2016: 155.6 percent).

The Group's Return on Average Equity (ROAE) for YTD Q3/2017 was 16.7 percent, as compared to 16.2 percent achieved in the prior period of 2016. Return on Average Assets was higher at 2.1 percent for YTD Q3/2017 (YTD Q3/2016: 1.9 percent).

Hamad Al-Humaidhi, AUB Chairman, commented: "AUB sustained its core performance for the first nine months of 2017 and is looking forward to maintaining its positive growth trajectory. AUB's growth is a testament to AUB's well-managed business model based on diversification and cross border flows and of the success of its prudent business development practices in its target markets complemented by effective risk management and judicious cost controls."



Hamad Al-Humaidhi

KIPCO announces net profit of KD 22.3m for 9 months of 2017

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - has announced a net profit of KD 22.3 million (\$74 million), or 11.22 fils per share (\$3.7 cents), for the first nine months of 2017. This is compared to KD 40 million (\$132.4 million), or 24.62 fils per share (\$8.15 cents), reported for the same period last year.

KIPCO's net profit for the three months ended September 30, 2017, came to KD 8.2 million (\$27.1 million), from the KD 12 million (\$39.7 million) reported for the same period last year. KIPCO's consolidated assets stood at KD 9.7 billion (\$32 billion), compared to KD 10 billion (\$33 billion) reported at year-end 2016. Masaud Hayat, KIPCO's Chief Executive Officer - Banking, said the first nine months of the year were dif-



Masaud Hayat

icult, as expected, due to external challenges the whole region and the company are facing: "Our core businesses have been resilient in the face of a difficult environment that continues to affect our performance this year.

The internal discipline we adopted throughout the years have allowed us to achieve the results we expected. We continue to work in harsh global economic circumstances and continued geopolitical tension in our region. Despite these challenges, we remain positive that the performance of our companies will be in line with our

expectations. While we remain cautiously optimistic, we believe that our businesses will move to stronger ground in the next year."

Euro-zone economy grows faster than expected in Q3

Unemployment falls to its lowest in 9 years

BRUSSELS: The euro-zone economy grew faster than expected last quarter and unemployment fell to its lowest in almost nine years, backing up the European Central Bank's move to begin reducing its bond buying despite slightly soft inflation this month. The European Union's statistics office Eurostat estimated that the gross domestic product of the 19 countries that use the euro grew 0.6 percent in July-September from the previous three months and was 2.5 percent higher than in the same period of 2016. Economists polled by Reuters had expected a 0.5 percent quarterly rise and a 2.4 percent year-on-year gain.

"The better-than-expected GDP print - along with our leading indicators - suggests that growth remains robust, thus supporting the recent ECB QE recalibration," Morgan Stanley economists Daniele Antonucci and Joao Almeida wrote in a note.

Last week the ECB took its first step towards weaning the euro zone off ultra-loose money by saying that from January it will halve the amount of bonds it buys every month to 30 billion euros. It nevertheless promised years of stimulus and left the door open to backtracking. The economic growth helped bring down euro zone unemployment to the lowest level since January 2009, beating market expectations.

The unemployment rate fell to 8.9 percent of the

workforce or 14.513 million people in September from a downwardly revised 9.0 percent, or 14.609 million, in August. Economists polled by Reuters had expected an unemployment rate of 9.0 percent. But consumer price growth in October eased to 1.4 percent year-on-year, a Eurostat estimate showed, from 1.5 percent in the previous two months. The ECB wants to see headline inflation below but close to 2 percent over a two-year horizon.

The slower inflation was mainly because of slower growth of energy prices, which rose 3.0 percent year-on-year in October, slowing from 3.9 percent in September, offsetting equally volatile unprocessed food prices which rose 2.8 percent after 1.5 percent in September.

Measured without these two most volatile components, inflation slowed to 1.1 percent in October from 1.3 percent in September. "Strong growth supports the notion that core inflation should eventually normalize further, while headline inflation is likely to print lower for some time and follow a V-shaped trajectory, to come closer to the ECB target from late 2018," the Morgan Stanley analysts wrote.

"Despite today's downside surprise, core HICP has inflated higher since the 'local' low of 0.7 percent in March, albeit gradually and from a low level. It should get back to its long-term average of 1.5 percent in the second half of 2018," it said. — Reuters



ECB's QE decision supports



STRASBOURG: French President Emmanuel Macron (left) and Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland give a joint press conference at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg yesterday. — AFP

Boost for Macron as French economy posts strong growth

PARIS: The French economy chalked up a fourth consecutive quarter of strong growth between July and September, official data showed yesterday, suggesting recovery in the eurozone's second-biggest economy remains on track.

The national statistics institute INSEE said gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 0.5 percent in the period, led by a pick-up in household consumption and investment. The French economy had already grown by 0.6 percent in the second quarter and 0.5 percent in the previous two quarters, making this the longest expansion since 2011. The figures suggest President Emmanuel Macron's government is on course to achieve its target of 1.8 percent growth over the year as a whole.

Maintaining buoyant growth is also central to his aim of bringing France's deficit within an EU limit of 3.0 percent of GDP this year-for the first time

in a decade. "It's very good news," said Christian Eckert, former junior budget minister in the former Socialist government that Macron quit to run for president. He predicted the spurt in activity would generate "several billion euros" in extra revenue—a much-needed windfall for the government which has been hit with a 10 billion euro (\$12 billion) bill for overtaxing dividends that could blow its deficit targets off course.

Analysts say France's turnaround is partly the result of the pro-business policies put in place by Macron's unpopular predecessor Francois Hollande that are only now beginning to yield fruit.

Macron, elected in May, has taken the policies further with landmark reforms to employment laws governing hiring and firing. Strong growth in Europe as a whole has also given France a shot in the arm. Third-quarter growth in the eurozone was stronger than in France, reaching 0.6 percent.

"President Macron is incredibly lucky, he's arriving at a time of growth," Eric Woerth, a leading member of the centre-right Republicans, said. "This growth is not of his doing, it's European growth," he added. The real test for Macron's presidency will be his ability to bring down stubbornly high unemployment, which is running at close to 10 percent. Hollande bowed out after a single five-year term marked by his failure to make an impact on the jobs front. — AFP

Greece finally growing, but taxes crushing new businesses

ATHENS, Greece: If Greek business needed a role model, Stathis Stasinopoulos would make an ideal candidate. An athlete, engineer, and entrepreneur, he invented an easy-folding bicycle design and began building them himself and created a small company. The project was shortlisted for a national start-up award in 2014 and, the following year, he peddled onto the stage to applause to give a motivational speech.

Today, he has some advice for young Greeks with a good idea: "Get your passport and leave." In July, Stasinopoulos took his family and dream of a self-made business and moved them from Athens to bicycle-friendly Bremen, a city in northwest Germany. Years of effort had been crushed by high taxes and outdated bureaucracy.

"There are a number of reasons why I made the move. Many of them have to do with taxes," Stasinopoulos said, speaking at the small workshop of his newly-registered German firm, Velo Lab GmbH. Greece is getting ready to exit its bailout program next year and the country is finally emerging from nearly a decade of financial depression and stagnation. For most Greeks, however, the recovery is likely to be slow and painful as austerity measures will endure for years to come. That's particularly true for many startups, which the government has put its faith in to help the economy grow, but are burdened by red tape and the high taxes meant to pay for the country's debts.

The government is trying to advertise the country as a potential new hub for European investors looking to tap Greece's large pool of under-employed university graduates. A limited number of new businesses can qualify for tax breaks, but still Greece slipped in the World Bank's 2017 global ranking for ease of doing business. And

most of the new jobs being added to the economy are low-paid and seasonal. Nearly half of the workers hired in 2017 do not officially work full time and are paid under 400 euros (\$465), according to government data.

The 41-year-old Stasinopoulos found himself in a bind familiar to many in business. Taxes rose but rebate payments were delayed, and hopes of growing exports were crippled when the government put controls on the size of bank transfers two years ago.

In 2017, the government increased workers' monthly contributions to health care and pensions and even demanded that businesses pay steep taxes on earnings they had not even made yet but forecast for the following year. Emergency taxes on income and property were extended to continue beyond the end of Greece's bailout program, breaking pledges made by successive governments.

"That was the killer for me. It was impossible to continue," Stasinopoulos said. Greece became unable to finance itself on bond markets seven years ago, when it was revealed that its public deficits were much higher than reported.

Re-engineering

As the country accepted loans from a eurozone rescue bailout and the International Monetary Fund, it agreed to a drastic re-engineering of its economy by slashing spending, public sector jobs and raising taxes. Living standards dropped at the fastest rate in the European Union -

leaving nearly a quarter of the country unable to meet basic needs like heating their homes or keeping up with utility bill payments. The crisis left just 49 percent of the adult population with a paid job, while up to 100,000 people per year left to find work abroad, according to data from Greece's central bank and the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The country is now preparing to end its international bailout programs in 2018 with an enormous bill left to pay: more than 320 billion euros (\$372 billion) in national debt, or roughly 180 percent of annual economic output, most of it owned not by private bond holders but rescue creditors from other eurozone countries and the IMF. There is relief that economic indicators are now getting better rather than worse - not an assumption the country could often make in the past decade. —AP



New hub for European investors

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.682
Indian Rupees	4.679
Pakistani Rupees	2.875
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.928
Singapore Dollar	223.830
Hongkong Dollar	38.891
Bangladesh Taka	3.688
Philippine Peso	5.890
Thai Baht	9.147

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.961
Qatari Riyal	83.386
Omani Riyal	788.462
Bahraini Dinar	806.160
UAE Dirham	82.659

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.148
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219
Tunisian Dinar	122.090
Jordanian Dinar	428.110
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.023
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.277

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.400
Euro	354.670
Sterling Pound	402.460

Canadian dollar	237.400
Turkish lira	80.910
Swiss Franc	306.160
Australian Dollar	234.380
US Dollar Buying	302.200

GOLD

20 Gram	260.520
10 Gram	133.180
5 Gram	67.430

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.600
Canadian Dollar	236.995
Sterling Pound	398.745
Euro	352.840
Swiss Frank	303.565
Bahrain Dinar	803.125
UAE Dirhams	82.775
Qatari Riyals	83.600
Saudi Riyals	81.550
Jordanian Dinar	428.080
Egyptian Pound	17.185
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Indian Rupees	4.653
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Bangladesh Taka	3.713
Philippines Peso	5.838
Cyprus pound	18.006
Japanese Yen	3.650
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.910

Malaysian Ringgit	72.275
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.945
Thai Bhat	10.080
Turkish Lira	79.610

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.393836	0.403836
Czech Korune	0.005727	0.017727
Danish Krone	0.043331	0.048331
Euro	0.347252	0.356252
Georgian Lari	0.115755	0.115755
Norwegian Krone	0.033072	0.038272
Romanian Leu	0.059764	0.076604
Russian ruble	0.005218	0.005218
Slovakia	0.009053	0.019053
Swedish Krona	0.032230	0.037230
Swiss Franc	0.297916	0.308916
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.224504	0.236504
New Zealand Dollar	0.201561	0.211061
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.230950	0.239950
US Dollars	0.299300	0.303720
US Dollars Mint	0.299800	0.303720
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003314	0.003898

Chinese Yuan	0.044294	0.047794
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036801	0.039551
Indian Rupee	0.004201	0.004889
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002595	0.002775
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067900	0.073900
Nepalese Rupee	0.003028	0.003198
Pakistan Rupee	0.002691	0.002981
Philippine Peso	0.005778	0.006078
Singapore Dollar	0.217516	0.227516
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001632	0.002212
Taiwan	0.009933	0.010113
Thai Baht	0.008787	0.009337

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.797779	0.806279
Egyptian Pound	0.014247	0.020155
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207	0.000267
Jordanian Dinar	0.423321	0.433321
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.002793	0.046793
Omani Riyal	0.781734	0.787414
Qatar Riyal	0.079047	0.083987
Saudi Riyal	0.079820	0.081120
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.118049	0.126049
Turkish Lira	0.075571	0.085571
UAE Dirhams	0.081181	0.082880
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986	0.001066

Business

Jazeera records double digit growth for 2 quarters in a row

Kuwaiti airline announces Q3 2017 financial results

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways KSC (Jazeera) yesterday announced its financial results for the third quarter. The company reported an operating profit of KD8.3 million, up 37.8 percent from the same period last year, and a net profit of KD8.2 million, reflecting a growth of 35.6 percent, despite a 25 percent increase in fuel costs during for the year. Jazeera's double digit growth for two quarters in-a-row was driven by new route launches, a healthy summer season, investments in customer experience, and robust cost management.

9M/YTD 2017 Financial and Operational Highlights
Operating revenue: KD46.0 million, up 5.9 percent from YTD 2016
Operating result: KD9.5 million, up 0.4 percent from YTD 2016



Operating profit reaches KD8.3 mn

Q3 2017 Financial and Operational Highlights
Operating revenue: KD21.9 million, up 16.8 percent from Q3 2016
Operating result: KD8.3 million, up 37.8 percent from Q3 2016
Net result: KD8.2 million, up 35.6 percent from Q3 2016
Load factor: 80 percent, up 13.4 percent from Q3 2016

Net result: KD9.5 million, down 20.3 percent from YTD 2016 (9M/YTD 2016 net results included a one-off KD 2.4 million transfers from foreign currency translation reserve that

were reclassified to Statement of Income)
Load factor: 75.5 percent, up 5.5 percent from YTD 2016

Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai said, "Over the last two years we've invested heavily into initiatives to enhance and streamline our customers' experience, both on ground and in the air. Today, with our second consecutive quarter of double digit growth we are beginning to see the positive returns of these investments on our bottom line. On the network front, the next two quarters are equally exciting. We're launching five new destinations in November and December, while we continue to develop our exclusive terminal at Kuwait International Airport to accept its first passenger in Q1, 2018. Our outlook for the last quarter of the year is in line with historic Q4 trends for the regional travel sector, when we typically see demand picking up towards the second half of December".



Cancellation fiasco won't stop record profit: Ryanair

DUBLIN: Ryanair is on course to post record annual profits despite a rostering mess-up that forced it to cancel 20,000 flights, and does not expect problems hiring the pilots to expand by 50 percent in the next six years, it said yesterday. Europe's biggest airline by passenger numbers saw 2 billion euros knocked off its market value in the weeks after it announced the cancellations, an emergency measure to free up standby pilots to ensure the smooth operation of its 400 planes. But it recovered around half of that loss yesterday when the shares climbed over 6 percent, after it told investors that forward bookings were better than last year and it would not need to change the profit forecast to pay the 70-million-euro cost of compensating passengers and increasing pilots' pay. Analysts said this gave them greater confidence the Irish airline will be able to cope with

the longer term fallout from fiasco, which Ryanair reiterated would be lower passenger growth next year and 100 million euros per year in pay increases. "Ryanair's attractive long-term fundamentals, underpinned by its low cost base, remain intact," Liberum analyst Gerald Khoo said in a note, reiterating a "buy" rating on the stock. The airline's decision to make a rare cut in its passenger growth target - to 129 million for the year to the end of March from 131 million - is likely to help lift average ticket prices above previous forecasts in the coming months, chief executive Michael O'Leary said. Meanwhile the fall of Air Berlin, Britain's Monarch and Alitalia into administration is set to help Ryanair by cutting capacity and freeing up pilots, he said. "Is the underlying business model continuing to deliver? Yes it is," O'Leary told investors on a conference call. "Can it cope with the occasional fuck-up? Yes it can and I think that is what we are demonstrating with these numbers." Ryanair shares were up 6.9 percent to 16.84 euros at 1240 GMT, but still down around 7 percent from 18.03 euros before the cancellations were announced on Sept. 15.

Pilot problems
 In the wake of the cancellations, Ryanair has replaced its rostering team and hired back its former director of flight operations from Malaysia Airlines, Peter Bellew, as chief operations officer to spearhead an effort to better

retain and attract pilots. O'Leary said the airline was hiring around 40-50 pilots per week and it was seeing a "flood of applications" from pilots who worked for Monarch Airlines and Air Berlin. He said Ryanair was beginning to see a reversal of a loss of pilots to Norwegian Air Shuttle. Pay increases would not threaten the company's cost advantage over rivals, O'Leary said. The bill for this year will be 45 million euros if all 87 bases accept it, he added. He said more than 15 bases had approved a new pay deal. While pilots say a majority of the bases have rejected the deal, O'Leary would only say "a number of bases" had. Chief Financial Officer Neil Sorahan said "the door remains open" to talks with bases who have rejected the offer, but warned it would not be improved. While existing pilots at England's Stansted airport have rejected the pay increase, it is being given to new recruits, he said. There will be consequences for any pilot bases where industrial action occurs, including the possible withdrawal of planes, O'Leary said. Ryanair said it had cut fares by 5 percent in the six months to Sept. 30, the first half of its financial year, in line with its guidance six months ago, due to growth in capacity in Europe's short-haul market. But it said fares for the six months to March 31 would fall less than earlier forecast - by between 4 and 6 percent rather than the 5 to 7 percent guided in July. — Reuters

China factory activity slows in October

BEIJING: Chinese manufacturing expansion slowed in October after two consecutive months of acceleration, official data showed yesterday, as weak demand weighed on the world's second-largest economy. The manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI), a gauge of factory conditions, stood at 51.6 in October, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, compared to 52.4 in September, which marked a five-year high. Anything above 50 is considered growth while a figure below that number points to contraction. Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News had expected a reading of 52. "Softer domestic demand was the main culprit" behind the slowdown, Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a research note. October's week-long National Day holiday slowed down production and new orders growth, and energy and pollution-intensive industries shifted peak load or reduced production due to tightened environmental controls in some regions, NBS analyst Zhao Qinghe said in a statement. But "the manufacturing sector continues to maintain an expanding momentum", he added. Manufacturing activity in heavy industries in northeastern China was curbed due to capacity reduction and a pollution crackdown.



BEIJING: This photo taken on October 20, 2017 shows a worker in a clothing factory on the outskirts of Beijing. — AFP

China has implemented tight controls on heavy industry in hopes of improving the country's notoriously bad air quality, which typically worsens in the winter months. "Softer investment spending in response to slower credit growth and the unwinding of pre-Party Congress fiscal support" also cooled down economic activity, according to Evans-Pritchard. President Xi Jinping emphasized deleveraging and environmental protection during the recently concluded Communist Party congress, with Beijing looking to transition from a debt-fueled expansion model towards high-

quality growth driven by consumption and innovation. "The ongoing campaign to clean up financial leverage and the environment will have an impact on economic growth," Tommy Xie, an economist at OCBC Bank in Singapore, told Bloomberg. October's data came after China registered slightly slower growth in the third quarter, with the economy expanding at 6.8 percent. Analysts say a decision by the government to allow slower expansion would help lay the groundwork for tackling long-term economic issues such as soaring debt and property-led growth. — AFP

For first time in decade, UK interest rates are due to rise

LONDON: The Bank of England is tomorrow set to raise interest rates for the first time in a decade in order to keep a lid on inflation, a move that has the potential to hurt the British economy just as it struggles with the uncertainties of Brexit. The central bank is expected to lift its main interest rate by a quarter percentage point from the record low of 0.25 percent, taking back the cut it made in the aftermath of last year's Brexit vote to support the economy through the

market turmoil of the time. If it delivers the cut, as bank Governor Mark Carney has indicated, it would be its first hike since July 2007, when world credit markets started to freeze up in what would prove to be an early phase of the global financial crisis. The main motivation behind an increase is to bring down inflation, which is running above the bank's target of 2 percent by a full percentage point and making life more expensive for households. Any further rise from the current annual rate of 3 percent would require Carney to write to Treasury chief Philip Hammond explaining why inflation is running more than a percentage point above target and what he and his colleagues on the nine-member Monetary Policy Committee are planning to do about it. The reason for the spike in inflation is simple: Brexit. The pound plunged following the vote in June last year to leave the European Union, and now trades about 15 percent lower against a range of currencies. That has caused a spike higher in the cost of imported goods, notably food and energy.



LONDON: Bank of England Governor Mark Carney addresses the media during a press conference to deliver the quarterly inflation report in London. — AP

Under normal circumstances, that would be more than enough reason to raise the cost of borrowing; higher interest rates can push up a currency, thereby dampening inflation by lowering import costs, and can also help cool an overheating economy. — AP

BoJ cuts annual inflation forecasts

TOKYO: Japan's central bank cut its annual inflation forecast yesterday but kept its ultra-loose monetary policy unchanged, even though overseas counterparts have started turning off the stimulus taps. The Bank of Japan also maintained its 2.0-percent inflation target-seen as crucial in a long battle against deflation that has hobbled the once-booming economy-as separate data Tuesday showed household spending and factory output edged down in September. Japan's inflation rate came in at 0.7 percent in September. "The consumer price index has continued to show relatively weak developments-mainly against the background that firms' wage- and price-setting stance has remained cautious," the central bank said in a statement after its latest meeting. The BoJ slashed its inflation forecast to 0.8 percent for the fiscal year through March 2018 from an earlier 1.1 percent estimate, and also slightly trimmed its projection for the following year to 1.4 percent. The bank's widely expected decision to leave its record stimulus unchanged came days after the European Central Bank took the first step towards ending years of massive support to the eurozone economy. Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve, which has also started to wind down its crisis-era stimulus, is widely expected to go ahead with a third interest rate rise in December.

BoJ governor Haruhiko Kuroda yesterday stood behind the bank's massive monetary easing program, a cornerstone of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's campaign to kickstart growth in the world's number-three economy, dubbed Abenomics. "There is no change to the Bank of Japan's plan to continue robust monetary easing in order to achieve the 2.0 percent target," he said. The BoJ had in 2013 set a two-year timeline to achieve its inflation objective but now expect to achieve it sometime in the year to March 2020.

'Mislead the market'
 Despite bumper profits, Japanese businesses have been reluctant to introduce

big pay rises because they are nervous about the future, Kuroda added. He declined to give an estimated timeline for the BoJ to ease off the stimulus pedal, saying it was still far off its price targets. Discussing it may even "mislead" the market, Kuroda added. Japan's prospects have recently improved, however, with investments linked to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics giving growth a shot in the arm.



TOKYO: Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda speaks during a press conference at the BOJ headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. — AP

The economy expanded by 0.6 percent in the April-June period, notching up its sixth straight quarter of growth-the longest economic expansion in more than a decade. Earlier yesterday, however, government figures showed household spending and factory output edged down in September, suggesting a rockier than expected recovery for the economy. Wage rises have been tepid and Tokyo has struggled to overcome years of deflation. Falling prices can discourage spending by consumers, who may postpone purchases until prices drop further or save the money instead. That creates a cycle in which firms then cut back on expanding production, hiring new workers or increasing wages. The BoJ had hoped consumers would spend more if prices were rising, persuading firms to expand operations and getting the economy humming. But wage growth has fallen below expectations and workers have less money to spend as a result. — AFP

Macri calls on business, unions to back reform plans

Buenos Aires: Argentina's President Mauricio Macri called on business and union leaders to put aside their differences and back his government's planned economic and social reforms in a speech Monday. Macri pledged his government would maintain "austerity and order in the public accounts," as well as favor employment, reduce taxes, lower inflation, punish corruption and strengthen Argentina's institutions. "I call on you to achieve basic consensus to draw a roadmap that gives us stability, and deliver a more just and integrated Argentina," he said, addressing an audience of 170 mostly politicians, business executives and union leaders in Buenos Aires. "We are entering a state of permanent reformism." However, the 68-year-old president gave no details of how his center-right government planned to carry out its program. Instead,

Macri said, "We have concrete proposals that we will give in the coming months." Ratings agency S&P raised Argentina's long-term ratings to "B+" on expected economic improvement and said the outlook was stable. "We expect that higher investment and better predictability in economic policies will sustain moderate but stable economic growth in the next three years," it said. S&P added that the stable outlook reflected expectations that Macri's government "will have greater political capacity to continue pursuing its economic agendas." Macri's center-right Cambiemos, or "Let's Change," coalition emerged from mid-term elections last week with a strengthened mandate for its reform program but still fell short of an overall majority in Congress, where it depends on alliances with leftist groups to pass laws. The three axes of the reforms, according to Macri, will be "fiscal responsibility, creating more employment and institutional quality." The speech came as International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials gathered in Buenos Aires to begin a review of the economy, having already recommended that Macri make adjustments to taxation. Argentina's inflation is currently running at 18 percent, confounding Central Bank efforts to maintain it between 12 and 17 percent this year. Unions protested against the government's program in the streets surrounding the Kirchner Cultural Center building where Macri was speaking. — AFP

Business

Tech stocks lift S&P, Nasdaq; Spanish shares gain

NEW YORK: A rise in technology stocks and strong earnings from Oreo cookie maker Mondelez buoyed the S&P and the Nasdaq yesterday while a decline in Pfizer weighed on the Dow. Mondelez jumped nearly 6.23 percent after the company reported better-than-expected profit and revenue on cost cuts and higher demand in Europe and Latin America. A 7.76 percent surge in Kellogg's shares following a surprise rise in quarterly sales helped the S&P consumer staples index gain 0.48 percent. "We're still in the thick of earnings and have seen some high-profile companies driving the market a lot," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives for Charles Schwab in Austin, Texas. The earnings season is being closely tracked to justify stretched valuations and results have been largely above expectations. With more than half the S&P 500 compo-

nents reported, third-quarter earnings are estimated to have climbed 6.7 percent, up from an expectation of 5.9-percent growth at the start of October, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. The Federal Open Market Committee starts its two-day meeting in Washington to discuss interest rates amid an impending announcement on the next Fed chair. President Donald Trump is likely to pick Fed Governor Jerome Powell as the next head of the US central bank tomorrow. US Treasury yields fell after the report on Monday as Powell is seen as more dovish than other contenders. The central bank is likely to refrain from raising rates after the meeting, with economists expecting a hike only in December, according to a Reuters poll. "The bigger news as far as economics goes is the payroll numbers on Friday." Pfizer shares fell 1.3 percent

despite the drugmaker's profit beat and upbeat forecast. Under Armour slumped 14.75 percent after the company slashed 2017 sales and profit forecasts and reported its first year-on-year fall in revenue. Bigger rival and Dow component Nike declined about 1 percent. Qualcomm dipped 6.35 percent after Reuters reported that Apple has designed iPhones and iPads that would drop chips supplied by Qualcomm. Advancing issues out-numbered decliners on the NYSE by 1,649 to 900. On the Nasdaq, 1,605 issues rose and 721 fell. **Catalan crisis fades** The Madrid stock market rallied yesterday on the fading prospect of Catalan independence, helping other European bourses higher, dealers said. In late morning deals, the Spanish capital's benchmark IBEX 35 index won

one percent, having fizzed 2.44-percent higher the previous day. London and Paris stocks each gained 0.1 percent while Frankfurt was closed for a German public holiday. "Spanish stocks have enjoyed another leg higher today, with the IBEX 35 hitting its highest level since August as the Catalan independence push has seemingly lost its way," said analyst David Cheetham at trading firm XTb. "After declaring independence on Friday, the former regional leaders have experienced a backlash with large protests against secession seen in Barcelona over the weekend and the imposition of direct rule from Madrid yesterday." Catalonia's deposed separatist leader Carles Puigdemont was meanwhile set to hold a press conference in Brussels later, members of the European Parliament said, a day after he arrived in Belgium as Spanish prosecutors demanded he be charged with rebellion. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Tuesday 31 October 2017									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing						
Price Index	▼ -47.72	6,513.83	6,561.55						
Weighted Index	▼ -3.71	419.91	423.62						
KSX 15	▼ -12.23	967.81	980.04						

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	390	390	500	195	1	390	▼ -43.8
NAPESCO	824	770	11,607	9,042	7	824	▼ -1.0
ENERGYH	33.1	32.5	133,286	4,387	14	33.0	▲ 1.0
GPI	34.0	32.7	848,562	28,157	43	33.0	▼ -0.6
ABAR	74	64	14,800	962	21	65	▼ -4.0
Oil & Gas			1,008,775	42,743	86	956.00	▼ -11.00

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	302	— 0.0
BPCC	639	638	177,000	113,048	13	639	— 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	— 0.0
ALQURAN	326	325	91,496	29,781	12	325	▼ -1.0
Basic Materials			288,496	142,827	25	1280.80	▼ -1.40

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	457	— 0.0
CABLE	477	461	154,410	72,406	22	462	▼ -18.0
SNIP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	216	— 0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	980	— 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0.0
MRC	100	80	51,481	4,161	34	80	▼ -20.0
ADICO	257	254	114,740	29,234	5	254	▼ -0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	— 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	40.0	38.0	270,092	10,351	18	38.0	▼ -1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	— 0.0
ADLTY	794	775	1,902,349	1,492,612	156	776	▼ -17.0
EDU	315	310	63,050	19,674	12	310	▼ -4.0
CLEANING	49.6	49.6	21,430	1,063	1	49.6	▼ -3.2
KGL	61	61	27,260	1,668	3	61	— 0.0
KDPC	138	138	105	14	1	138	▼ -12.0
HUMANISOFT	3,944	3,875	47,824	186,798	13	3,944	▲ 69.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	— 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
SHOOTING	25.0	23.0	184,530	3,804	24	25.0	▼ -0.1
COC	499	490	15,500	7,599	7	499	▼ -1.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	— 0.0
UPAC	610	610	6,373	3,888	1	610	— 0.0
ALAFCC	385	379	167,775	63,787	7	385	▲ 1.0
MUBARRAD	73	72	5,100	367	2	72	▲ 0.1
LOGISTICS	57	56	1,599,542	89,777	55	56	▼ -0.7
SCEM	90	83	330,000	27,507	8	84	▼ -9.0
GCEM	82	79	225,400	18,083	15	79	▼ -4.5
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	— 0.0
FCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	— 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	— 0.0
SPEC	85	85	500	43	1	85	— 0.0
Industrials			5,167,561	2,032,836	383	1769.47	▼ -3.10

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOLOUK	54	54	100,000	5,397	11	54	▼ -0.3
KRE	62	61	415,080	25,284	15	61	▼ -0.2
URC	82	82	2,000	164	1	82	— 0.0
NRE	125	121	302,623	37,003	17	121	▼ -4.0
SRE	360	360	31,000	11,160	2	360	▲ 10.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	386	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	178	— 0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	— 0.0
ARABREC	26.2	22.5	1,955,400	65,645	91	22.7	▼ -1.2
ERESCO	38.5	38.0	239,500	9,146	6	38.0	▼ -1.0
MABANEH	785	781	498,641	390,923	25	785	▼ -1.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	— 0.0
INVESTORS	17.2	16.7	2,741,538	46,424	74	17.2	▲ 0.4
IRC	30.0	30.0	20,000	600	1	30.0	▼ -1.0
ALTUARIA	95	93	1,348,084	125,295	48	93	▼ -1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	— 0.0
AAYANRE	82	80	96,760	7,782	8	82	— 0.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	— 0.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	— 0.0
MAZAYA	109	106	2,540,523	274,863	68	106	▼ -3.0
TUJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	— 0.0
TAAMEER	33.0	31.2	294,300	9,580	14	31.2	▼ -1.8
ARKAN	86	86	40,000	3,440	1	86	— 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	— 0.0
ABYAAH	24.0	23.1	713,785	16,929	24	23.7	▼ -0.4
MUNSHAAT	78	74	549,990	41,036	16	76	— 0.0
FIRSTDUBAI	46.2	45.0	204,000	9,187	8	46.2	▲ 1.0
KBT	49.7	48.7	923,507	25,604	20	48.7	▼ -0.9
REAM	250	240	2,000	490	2	250	▼ -60.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.3	— 0.0
ALMUJON	38.9	38.9	10,100	393	2	38.9	▼ -0.1
MARAKAZ	37.0	37.0	100	4	1	37.0	— 0.0
REMAI	61	56	13,360	754	2	61	▲ 1.0
Machar	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	— 0.0
Real Estate			12,649,321	1,107,101	457	923.19	▼ -15.20

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KINW	127	123	1,650,400	205,753	83	125	— 0.0
FACIL	180	180	31,500	5,670	3	180	▲ 3.0
IFA	34.5	33.1	235,700	7,996	16	33.8	▼ -0.7
NINW	105	103	1,212,893	125,884	56	103	▼ -2.0
KPROJ	345	340	332,585	113,985	27	340	▼ -2.0
COAST	42.0	40.0	1,005,700	40,676	44	40.4	▼ -2.0
SECH	55	52	1,498,964	78,400	57	53	▼ -1.3
ARZAN	33.0	33.0	15,000	495	1	33.0	▼ -0.2
MARKAZ	102	102	20,000	2,040	3	102	▼ -0.0
KMEFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.4	— 0.0
ALAMAN	51	51	6,485	331	1	51	▼ -2.4
ALOLA	44.9	43.0	546,701	23,949	14	44.5	▲ 0.1
ALMAL	29.1	28.9	405,167	11,751	16	28.9	▼ -0.3
GH	24.5	23.3	1,490	35	3	24.4	▲ 0.9
AAYAN	44.7	43.5	1,295,606	56,903	47	43.8	▼ -1.4
BAYANINV	44.9	42.7	497,102	21,403	37	44.9	▼ -1.0
OSUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	— 0.0
KPIC	46.7	46.7	12,500	584	1	46.7	▼ -0.3
KAMCO	71	71	4,075	289	3	71	— 0.0
NIH	70	62	3,509	221	3	70	▼ -3.4
UNICAP	38.9	37.5	289,900	11,016	16	38.4	▲ 0.9
MADAR	26.9	26.8	320,000	8,591	8	26.8	— 0.0
ALDEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	— 0.0
ALSALAM	44.7	43.5	40,100	1,744	3	44.7	▼ -1.3
EKTITAB	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.4	— 0.0
ALMADINA	43.8	43.8	200	9	1	43.8	▲ 0.3
NOOR	64	62	2,278,680	142,404	97	63	▲ 2.0
TAMINV	340	278	190	61	8	340	▼ -4.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	— 0.0
KSHC	35.0	33.9	172,200	5,890	6	33.9	▼ -1.1
ASIA	37.7	37.1	100,353	3,753	4	37.7	▼ -0.7
GNAC	39.8	39.5	1,297,963	55,369	40	39.6	▼ -0.3
AMWAL	35.0	35.0	100	4	1	35.0	▲ 1.0
ALUMTHAZ	167	165	5,299,605	881,999	71	166	▲ 1.0
MANAZEL	38.5	37.0	280,635	10,389	11	38.0	▼ -0.5
NIND	155	150	6,496,796	961,871	148	155	▲ 0.0
BIHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	— 0.0
SENERGY	40.0	39.0	69,000	2,794	10	40.0	▼ -1.0
AGHC	84	84	100,000	8,400	3	84	▼ -4.0
KPPC	57	54	257,412	14,484	20	57	▲ 1.2
TAHSSILAT	31.5	31.5	10	0	1	31.5	▲ 3.5
EKHOLDING	234	234	1,000	234	1	234	▲ 7.0
GFH	134	132	184,962	24,556	8	133	▼ -3.0
INOVEST	108	106	662,547	71,332	21	107	▲ 2.0
Financial Services			26,714,620	2,931,219	893	672.91	▼ -4.20

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
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Business

Infiniti Q70 ranks as Number 1 'Reliable Car' on Carscoop.com

Car hits high on reliability score under Annual Reliability Survey



KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, is proud to announce that the Infiniti Q70 was recently ranked as number 1 on the popular automotive website - Carscoops.com. Hitting high on the reliability score under the Annual Reliability Survey of Consumer reports, the Q70 was recognized for its most outstanding features.

The survey acknowledged the Infiniti Q70 for good interior quality, agile handling and a set of lively engines that marks the model as a lead in its segment.

More than an exquisite full-size performance sedan, an Infiniti Q70 epitomizes a life of accomplish-

ment. Famed for its iconic design credentials, the Infiniti Q70 is a cross-over built with balance, aerodynamics and expression in mind. As the large 20-inch alloy wheels not only complement the graceful proportions of the Q70, they are designed to make handling more responsive. The lightweight construction reduces unsprung weight and helps contribute to quicker turn-ins. Equipped with powerful LED sculpted headlights, the daytime running lights and rear taillights maintain high efficiency and is inspired by the human eye.

Customers can also base their choice of interiors from premium-quality inlays on the dashboard, center

console and door trim or from traditional Japanese Ash Wood, which is a unique, White Ash silver powdered treatment or a contemporary aluminum finish to make an individual style statement. To enhance the overall feel, front passenger headroom width is measured at 993mm and legroom at 1129mm while the rear passenger width measures at 958mm headroom and 920mm legroom.

The INFINITI Q70 reveals an interior with spaciousness and elegance as every key interior surface of the Q70 has been extensively researched to provide the ideal tactile feel. The unmistakable tone of the specially tuned exhaust shapes sound to create a

heightened acceleration experience.

With a 7-speed automatic transmission, the 5.6-LITER V8, most formidable engine Infiniti has ever built, delivers a thrilling performance as it produces a 402 horsepower (Q70) whereas the 3.7-LITER V6 gasoline engine helps to benefit from variable valve event and lift technology thereby delivering a stirring 329 horsepower.

Infiniti Al-Babtain welcomes all its customers to visit the Infiniti showroom located in Al-Rai that is open every day except Fridays to view the exquisite features of the Infiniti Q70 up close and indulge with firsthand test drive experience.

24th World Islamic Banking Conference announces 3rd series of WIBC Leaderboard



KUWAIT: Committed in its vision to promote and foster the global Islamic Banking Industry, the 24th World Islamic Banking Conference will continue its efforts to enhance the performance and quality of key Islamic financial institutions by means of the 3rd WIBC Leaderboard. Introduced in 2015, the WIBC Leaderboard is a first-of-its-kind comprehensive assessment tool that acts as an innovative benchmark to help Islamic financial institutions gauge and assess their performance in comparison to their core competitors.

The WIBC Leaderboard provides industry participants with dynamic and visual rankings of Islamic banks as compared to their peers at the global, regional and national levels, based on various robust financial and governance metrics. These metrics comprise: Financial Stability (Total Capital and Tier 1 Capital Ratios, Loan-Loss Reserves (LLR) to Gross Loans Ratio, Loan-Loss Reserves (LLR) to Non-Performing Loans (NPL) Ratio, Non-Performing Loans (NPL) to Gross Loans); Financial Performance (Return on Average Assets (ROAA), Return on Average Equity (ROAE), Cost-to-Income Ratio (CIR), Assets Growth) and Governance and Social Responsibility (Financial Disclosure Index, CSR Disclosure).

In addition to the individual metrics, banks will also be ranked on the basis of an aggregate score, which forms the apex of the WIBC Leaderboard. This aggregate index holistically ranks entities on the basis of the aforementioned financial and governance measures. Specifically, the WIBC Leaderboard will form the basis of the annually anticipated WIBC Performance Awards 2017, whereby Industry leaders will be recognized for their excellence at the gala dinner on December 05, and the nominees of which have been already announced and can be viewed at: <http://wibc2017.com/leaderboard>. The data employed in creating the assessment framework has been sourced from the ICD Thomson Reuters Islamic Finance Development Indicator (IFDI) and Orbis Bank Focus.

Top performing Islamic financial institutions will be vying for 3 categories of the awards: One Global Award, Four Regional Awards for each of the following world regions: GCC, South East Asia, South Asia and Levant & Twelve Country Awards for

each of the following countries: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Currently, top performing Islamic banks vying for the Global Award include: Boubayan Bank (Kuwait); Alizz Islamic Bank (Oman); Al Rajhi Bank (Saudi Arabia); Bank Aljazira (Saudi Arabia); Social Islami Bank (Bangladesh); Meezan Bank Limited (Pakistan); Maybank Islamic Berhad (Malaysia); Kuwait International Bank (Kuwait) and Alinma Bank (Saudi Arabia).

Introduced as part of the 2nd WIBC Leaderboard, The CSR Award (Corporate Social Responsibility) will also be a key award constituting this year's WIBC Performance Awards, the scores of which will be aggregated as per the CSR Index and the Islamic Finance Development Indicator (IFDI). The Governance and Social Responsibility variables are extracted from the Thomson Reuters database.

Confirmed partners at WIBC 2017 so far include: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHCB), Bahrain Islamic Bank (BISB), Al Salam Bank -Bahrain, Ibdar Bank, Bank ABC Islamic, Bank of Khartoum (BOK) International, Boubayan Bank, Avaya, Wahed Invest, Alvarez & Marsal, Al Baraka Banking Group, Ithmaar Bank, Thomson Reuters, Path Solutions, Luxembourg for Finance (LFF), Baker McKenzie, DARKTRACE, Eiger Trading Advisors Ltd, The Benefit Company B.S.C, G4S, Department for International Trade - British Embassy Bahrain, DDCAP, Deloitte, Fitch Ratings, Crestbridge Bahrain and Bahrain Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF).

Based on a strategic partnership with the Central Bank of Bahrain, the 24th WIBC will take place on December 4, 5 & 6 at the ART Rotana Hotel in Amwaj Islands, Kingdom of Bahrain. The theme for the 24th WIBC - "Drivers of Economic Growth & Risks: Policymakers & Regulators", is in line with the conference's steady vision to serve as a compass for the global Islamic finance and banking industry, and is expected to draw participation from over 1300 global industry leaders, policy makers, innovators and stakeholders, all focused on generating breakthrough insights that help navigate through the complexities of the global financial system.

Football legend Rio Ferdinand is a Dubai knockout

KUWAIT: Former England international and Manchester United legend Rio Ferdinand has been showing off some of the football skills that saw him play in three FIFA World Cups and win six Premier League titles during his trip to Dubai.

Ferdinand, who helped launch the first-ever Dubai fitness challenge, an initiative by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai encouraging residents to do 30 minutes of exercise for 30 days, has also spent a week in the emirate training aspiring footballers at an exclusive training program hosted by the Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach.

Ferdinand chatted with British Airways about the highlights of his Dubai trip, and urged others to follow the emirate's lead with a city-wide fitness challenge.

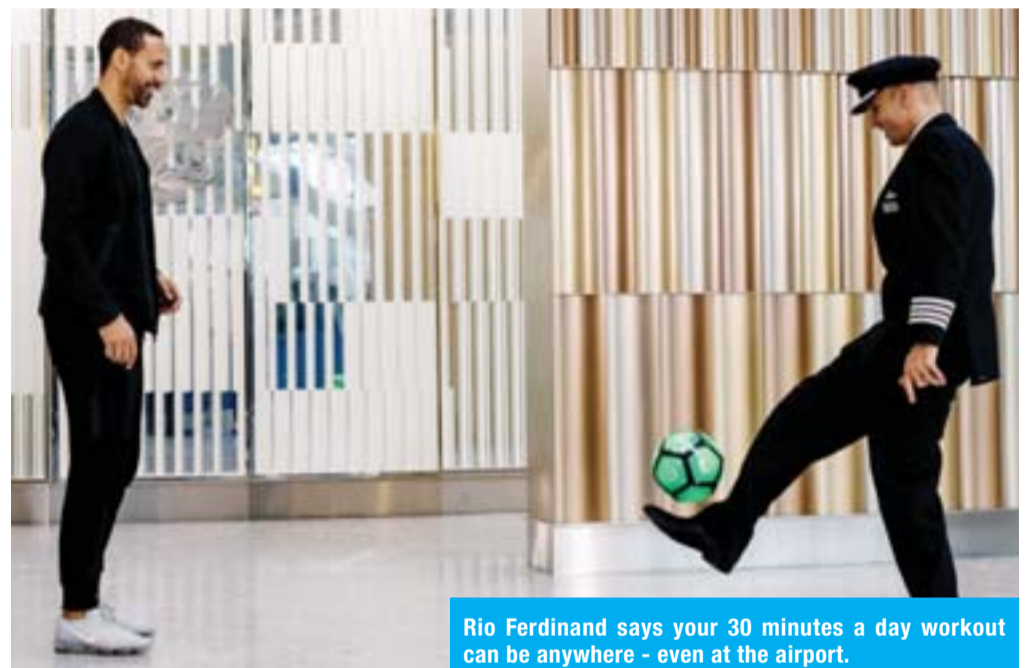
"The Dubai Fitness Challenge was really fun and I was happy to be involved," said Ferdinand. "Fitness is a way of life, you can't just wake up and be fit. I train regularly, not just for fitness but for the mind too."

Prior to Ferdinand's flight to Dubai, Rio and British Airways Captain Rick Basnett enjoyed a friendly kickabout outside British Airways' First Wing at Terminal 5 in London Heathrow, with Ferdinand displaying some of the deft touches that saw the London-born centre-half earn 81 England caps.

"Your 30 minutes a day can be anywhere, as we showed in the airport. Just grab a ball, a group of friends and have a kickabout; even on your own, kick a ball against a wall, run along the beach with it. Anything, just get into the habit of being active and make it part of your routine," Ferdinand added: "Over the past week, I saw a city come together to encourage each other to adopt a healthier lifestyle. You don't find such determination and leadership in many places and I'm keen to see more cities around the world, including us in London, challenge ourselves to stay fit and support each other."

Armed with the five items he never travels without - Beats headphones, sunglasses, training kit, hooded jumper and his personal Five Headwear caps, Ferdinand talked travel and football with Basnett.

"When I fly I usually look forward to set-



Rio Ferdinand says your 30 minutes a day workout can be anywhere - even at the airport.



ling down and getting into a good action or thriller movie," he said. "I've got into documentaries recently though and I really enjoyed I am Bolt! - the Usain Bolt documentary; he's a massive Manchester United fan. Then I'll most likely eat and have a snooze; I don't think I've ever flown without sleeping. I always get my sleep in and put my cap over my face, hoody up and sleep."

Ferdinand may be mixing a potential career as a pugilist with a growing reputation as a TV pundit, he hasn't forgotten his football roots,

adding: "One of the highlights of my career was the Champions League Final in Moscow where it came down to a penalty shootout and an exhilarating win for Manchester United...what a night!"

And the former footballer, who is currently in the early stages of training to be a professional boxer says Dubai could expect to see more of him in the future: "I fly a lot and Dubai is one of my favourite destinations - it is family-friendly and there's loads of things to do to keep my kids active."

ABK resumes its A+ Student Account campaign for young customers

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) will resume the promotion launched earlier in May targeting the bank's young customers and offering them a variety of benefits and privileges all year long.

ABK will be holding a grand draw in December for their A+ Student account holders to win a 'Dodge Charger SE 2017', which will be showcased in the Avenues Mall from 2 - 4 November 2017.

ABK's A+ Student Account customers are also offered '2 for 1' deals and discounts at over 100 outlets under The Entertainer, in addition to a Debit card with the new "Quick Read" convenience feature, which ABK was the first to launch. 24/7 access to withdraw and deposit services, Online and mobile banking access. ABK's customers who are eligible to benefit from the A+ Student Account are those aged 18 - 25 years and are registered as students in universities. ABK is keen to offer a unique banking experience to all its customers of all ages, by presenting them with value added services and privileges.

Burgan Bank to announce Al-Thuraya monthly draw winner soon

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank will soon be announcing the lucky winner of its Al-Thuraya salary account. The winner will be granted a Nissan Patrol SUV. The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan bank a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month. The draw is part of Burgan Bank's approach of rewarding loyal customers with higher chances of winning while encouraging new customers to benefit from the bank's unique offerings. With the monthly draw, every KD 10 available in the account provides the customer a chance to win. The Al-Thuraya account's features range from the option to hold money in Kuwaiti dinar and any other major currencies, access to account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards and much more.

Technology

Zain launches BOLT Hotspot device in Kuwait

Company offers superfast CAT16 technology

BASMA Media launches updated version of OMNESMedia.com

DUBAI: OMNESMEDIA.com becomes more interactive and user-friendly by getting a new look and feel as its developer and operator BASMA Media has launched a revamped version of the flagship portal that enables users to navigate the platform's news section and browse key media activities without prior sign up. The updated version of OMNESMEDIA.com, a specialized portal that provides innovative digital solutions covering all media sectors across the globe, includes a new look and feel for the Homepage and an upgrade of the news browser, providing users direct access to latest updates in sections such as the news, reports, interview, events and job.

The revamped news section ensures seamless and more focused search for archiving of news stories and media reports across a wide spectrum of media disciplines, including marketing and advertorial news along with a diverse array of relevant services. Commenting on the new launch, Nasser Al Sarami, CEO of BASMA Media, said, "The revamped version of OMNESMedia.com comes to meet the growing needs of the increasing number of our visitors. It's a strategy of continual improvement that we are following every now and then while ensuring the corporate brand identity of our platform." Al Sarami added, "We are consistently following up the remarks and requirements of

our users regarding the way they browse the platform's contents, including its different sections and types of news, going all the way down to identifying browsing operation time spans for each category, etc., in order to come up with efficient updates conducive to ensuring an ideal and smart browsing experience of the platform's multi-faceted services in a way that meets users' needs and expectations."

"OMNESMedia.com was established to render quality services and meet the requirements of the media sector and all related platforms including media people and organizations. Our role is to promote the platform's content including data, information, and news while providing a wide array of specialized and focused services to all users in the near future." It's noteworthy that all the news stories, media reports, articles and interviews published by the platform will be archived under the new categories of the updated section.

These categories will include News Agencies; Broadcast Communications; Creative & Design; Digital; Events & Awards; Government; Journalism, and Marketing & Advertising. Since its launch, OMNESMedia.com has created a dedicated section to news, reports, and interviews of close relevance to the media sector and other related platforms with the objective of providing a media and advertorial content for all users that contribute to promoting and supporting these sectors and all their workforce.

OMNESMedia.com enables all users, including individuals and organizations operating in media and marketing sectors as well as other related platforms to publicize their news stories in a direct way by using the function "Add Your News" or by communicating with the platform's editorial team via email. Therefore, the platform helps ensure more exposure and reach for news stories via its extensive database.

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of BOLT Hotspot device for the first time in Kuwait, offering the latest superfast CAT16 network technology on its most advanced nationwide network. Zain's introduction of this all-new device comes as part of the company's developmental strategy, through which it seeks to keep up with the latest innovations witnessed by the Telecommunications and Information Technology sector around the world.

The company, being the leader in providing the latest tech products and services, is committed to offer the most advanced technologies to the Kuwaiti market. Zain customers can now enjoy the advanced CAT16 network technology with the all-new BOLT Hotspot device, which is offered for KD 1 only with unlimited Internet through the KD 16 plan, for KD 2.5 only with 2 TB through the KD 13 plan, or for KD 5 only with 1 TB through the KD 10 plan.

The new BOLT Hotspot device is the latest addition to Zain's existing portfolio of the most advanced Internet devices. Back in June, Zain launched the BOLT router that supports the revolutionary CAT11 technology, and now customers can choose the device that best suits their usage needs, whether professional or personal. Zain is keen on introducing the latest and most innovative services and solutions in the market to elevate its customers' experience and offer them convenience while meeting their unique lifestyles.

The company is also committed to introducing them with the latest and most competitive offerings, and will always aim at providing a superior experience on its most advanced network. The introduction of this offer highlights Zain's eagerness in keeping pace with the ongoing changes of needs and wants of its customers.



With this latest announcement, Zain strengthens its leading position in providing special services and offerings designed for heavy data users.

Canon launches 'Explore, Inspire, Improve' concept in Lebanon



BEIRUT: Canon Middle East, a leader in imaging solutions, unveiled its new business value proposition 'Explore, Inspire, Improve' to further expand the 'Canon for Business' offering in Lebanon. The new business proposition was launched during a two-day event held at Hilton Metropolitan Hotel in Beirut, and is part of a series of 'Canon for Business' events in the Middle East which fall under Canon's strategy of working closely with its customers.

Canon is exploring the changing world of business and data, and is helping customers address their challenges and improve their business. 'Explore, Inspire, Improve' provides business process consultancy, with Canon working alongside its customers to build the best solution for their organization based on business priorities. The initiative primarily supports businesses in Lebanon strengthen overall productivity, efficiency and sustainable development.

"Lebanon continues to be important market for Canon Middle East. Over the last few years we have been privileged to showcase our business solutions and applications that cater to the direct needs of the local companies. This has resulted in underlining Canon's position as a 'Partner of Choice' for customers. Through our local partnerships with Imagesystems and Printkom, we aim to contribute to the economic development of the industry, and progress by

supporting local businesses and other entities," said Anurag Agrawal, Managing Director, Canon Middle East.

"We remain committed to our corporate philosophy of 'Kyosei' and always drive sustainable growth and strengthen our core business by being a partner that helps solve the challenges of our customers," Agrawal added. Imagesystems is one of the oldest and an important partner of Canon in Lebanon dealing with the entire Canon's product portfolio largely focusing on Corporate and Government sectors. Image Systems, an ITG company, is the official distributor of Canon in Lebanon, providing the latest in office, MFP solutions, engineering & graphics plotters, digital imaging archiving scanners, and production print solutions. Image Systems has a qualified sales and technical workforce fully trained by Canon engineers.

Printkom continues to be an old partner of Canon in the region which has been serving the Graphic Art and Printing Industry in Lebanon since 1956. Printkom is the official distributor of Canon Professional Digital Solutions for the graphic art, publishing and creative advertising sectors in Lebanon along with other major suppliers in the printing industry.

Shadi Bakhour, B2B Business Unit Director, Canon Middle East, said: "With a sizable market of over USD 432 million which is expected to grow to USD 543 million by 2019 the ICT sec-

tor has been a pillar of Lebanon's economy and a key driver of job creation over the past decade. The Lebanese market over the years is increasingly evolving into an innovation and content generation. With Canon's expertise and product solutions, we continue to be the right partner to manage these essential business elements cost-effectively."

At the event in Beirut, Canon highlighted its B2B strategy and showcased an innovative range of products that cater to sectors including healthcare, hospitality, construction, education and government. Canon is committed to innovation, agility and a solutions-driven approach. The company works collaboratively to pioneer transformational approaches to address the biggest social and environmental challenges.

At the recently concluded GITEX Technology Week, Canon Middle East showcased its business solutions and applications that cater to the direct needs of companies and organizations; underlining Canon's position as a 'Partner of Choice' for customers. The five key domains identified by Canon are Differentiate, Accelerate, Transform, Evolve and Simply, with each pillar targeting a business process through a series of applications. These applications are in the form of a software developed to address a specific issue or challenge supported by Canon's imaging and printing products.

Recognizing you

I tested the iPhone X against Samsung's iris scanner on the Galaxy Note 8 and face systems on Google's Pixel 2 and LG's V30 phones. V30 improves upon the standard Android technology in asking you to turn your head slightly during the setup, though in practice the Pixel was far better at recognition.

Only the iPhone and the Pixel recognized me with standard eyeglasses - important, as I expect the same performance with or without spectacles. That said, Face ID unlocked with just one of the two sunglasses I tried; the other was too big. Costumes and disguises also challenged Face ID. A Santa hat was OK, but a Santa beard wasn't. Nor did it like funny glasses and a fake nose. —AP

You can stymie the iPhone X Face ID - but it takes some work

NEW YORK: Apple is offering a nifty way to unlock its new iPhone X - just stare at it. Face ID, Apple's name for its facial-recognition technology, replaces the fingerprint sensor found on other models. How well does it work - not just technically, but in everyday use? After all, it's much easier to align your finger with the sensor than to align your face with the phone. The iPhone X costs about \$1,000 - \$300 more than the iPhone 8. Advance orders began this past Friday, and Apple is now giving deliv-

ery times of five to six weeks. Apple says it will have limited supplies at stores for same-day pickup on Friday, but you'll have to get there early.

Better face detection

Many rival Android phones already use facial-recognition technology. Samsung also has an unlock feature that scans your iris. But the systems can be tripped with something as simple as eyeglasses. While Android largely bases its match on a two-dimensional camera shot of

Huawei Mate 10 Series takes Middle East, Africa by storm

KUWAIT: Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) has unveiled the world's most powerful AI flagship smartphones - the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series in the Middle East & Africa region. Heralding a new decade of smartphone development, the new HUAWEI Mate 10, HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro and PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate 10 devices are set to deliver the ultimate intelligent experience for regional consumers by providing more comprehensive mobile intelligence through Mobile AI.

The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series goes beyond smart, using the AI application ecosystem to make the smartphone so intelligent with personalized AI applications that it completely changes smart applications and delivers a faster, stronger and seamless smartphone experience to users. Built with the world's first AI processor for smartphones, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series predicts its most efficient mode, optimizing performance to keep the phone in prime condition and deliver all-round greater efficiency, with more power, at higher speeds.

Commenting on the launch of the flagship HUAWEI Mate 10 Series devices in the region, Mr. Gene Jiao, President of Huawei CBG, Middle East & Africa said: "Tech-savvy consumers in the Middle East and Africa have a huge appetite for innovative technology that offers increasingly intelligent and seamless solutions for their busy lives. The use of AI in the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series allows us to break through boundaries and usher in an era of smartphones that transform human-to-machine interaction and further expand their capabilities. With boosted performance, speed, power, and infinitely faster connectivity and download speeds, this premium device series delivers the ultimate user experience, and heralds a new decade of smartphone development."

Dubai font

Huawei CBG has partnered with The Executive Council of Dubai to be one of the first smartphone companies to introduce Dubai Font to their users. The Mate 10 Series is the first smartphone series by Huawei that has Dubai Font embedded into it. Dubai Font has been designed for more than 180 countries and in 23 languages integrating Arabic and Latin typefaces.

Intelligent speed

Powered by the Kirin 970, Huawei's new smartphone System-on-a-Chip (SoC) which combines an 8-core CPU, a new generation 12-core GPU, and a dedicated Neural Processing Unit (NPU) to power AI computing, the HUAWEI Mate Series offers a significantly faster intelligent experience for consumers across the region. Most importantly, the performance of the Kirin 970 NPU is unparalleled with 25 times that of a CPU (Central Processing Unit) and with 50 times the efficiency of a CPU. Providing the world's fastest 4.5G experience, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series smartphones only require a few seconds to load and play 4K online. The devices are also the



world's first smartphone with Dual 4G SIM support enabling each SIM to make calls and browse simultaneously.

Intelligent camera

In partnership with Leica, the renowned camera maker, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series is the first Intelligent Photography smartphone that turns every shot into a perfect memory. The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series features a new Leica SUMMILUX-H camera with f/1.6 aperture to capture more light for low-light photography. Powered by Kirin 970's dual ISP and Snapshot with AI Motion Detection, users can capture wonderful moments of children running or playing sports.

AI-powered Real-Time Scene and Object Recognition with Real-Time Auto Settings allows the camera to automatically adjust and chooses settings to help users capture better photographs in a range of different environments. The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series captures detailed AI-powered Bokeh Effect for a more natural and detailed transition between the background and subject and the AI-powered Digital Zoom of up to six to 10x brings far-off text into clearer focus and helps captures greater detail.

Intelligent power

The advanced AI-powered Battery Management technology used in Huawei's Mate 10 Series allows for full day use with the 4000mAh battery with smart power-saving technology, as well as smarter power management technology to personalize system settings, optimize background applications and push notifications for each user, maximizing power efficiency and increasing battery life. Powered with HUAWEI SuperCharge technology, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series devices support 4.5V/5A low-voltage fast charging.

A 10-minute charge powers the battery to 20 percent, while a 30-minute charge powers the battery to 58 percent. The battery remains at a low temperature during fast charging to ensure safety. The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series features the world's first T<V Safety Certified HUAWEI SuperCharge technology, the strictest certification of its kind in the world. Safety certification is based on the entire charging system including the charger, cables, IC, and battery for end-to-end charging safety.

As beautiful and sleek as it is powerful, the 3D Glass Body of the HUAWEI Mate Series devices - made of glass front and back, and beautifully curved on all four sides - makes the devices feel ultra-premium in the hand with a thin, futuristic design and comfortable grip. Available in three beautiful colors, the Mate 10 Pro comes in Titanium Gray, Midnight Blue and Mocha Brown and the Mate 10 is available in Black and Mocha Brown and Champagne Gold.

Health

KIPCO, Burgan Bank, Gulf Insurance support 'The Battle Fitness Festival'

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - has teamed up with Burgan Bank and Gulf Insurance Group to support one of the region's largest fitness events, 'The Battle Fitness Festival'. The event, organized by Circuit+ Fitness in collaboration with Pro Vision, will take place at the Green Island on November 3 and 4. More than 2,000 athletes, spectators and volunteers have registered to attend.

Speaking on this occasion, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, Eman Al Awadhi, said: "As people place more importance on the quality of living and wellness, exercise and sports is becoming integral to our way of life. Competitive sports, in particular, have gained popularity among young men and women in Kuwait. As the Title

Sponsor, we are delighted to a part of this event, which attracts athletes from more than 35 countries." Senior External Affairs Manager at Burgan Bank, Loulwa Al Ayoubi, said: "We are honored to sponsor, alongside KIPCO Group companies, such an event that directly reflects our commitment to raising the profile of the sports community in Kuwait. Burgan Bank is a dynamic and diverse bank that prides itself in being one of the highest contributors to progress in the community."

On behalf of GIG, Group Senior Manager - Corporate Communications and Investor Relations, Khalid Al Sanousi, said: "As we strive to build long-lasting relationships with our partners and our community, Gulf Insurance Group is proud to sponsor such an initiative that encourages

engagement in sports and the adoption of healthy lifestyles. It is important for us to engage with young people in order to continue to create innovative products and services that meet their needs. We wish the organizers of 'The Battle Fitness Festival' success in this initiative, which we are proud to support."

The Battle Fitness Festival is an all-encompassing fitness festival that was created in 2013 by Circuit+ Fitness. The initiative began with the goal of creating an annual competition that would unite the excitement of competitive fitness and the thriving athletic communities in the Middle East under one roof. Over the years, this initiative has grown to attract athletes from all around the globe.



Eman Al Awadhi



Loulwa Al Ayoubi



Khalid Al Sanousi

Shortfall in climate action is 'catastrophic': UN

PARIS: There is a "catastrophic" gap between national pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the actions needed to cap global warming below two degrees Celsius, the UN's environment chief warned yesterday, days ahead of global climate talks in Bonn. Even if fulfilled, these pledges-inscribed along with the 2 C target in the 2015 Paris climate pact-would see the world heat up 3 C (5.6 F), unleashing deadly heatwaves, superstorms and rising seas, UN Environment said in its annual Emissions Gap report, the bleakest ever.

Record-setting extreme weather in 2017 — including monsoon flooding, raging fires and deadly hurricanes-likely bears the fingerprint of global warming, it noted. "One year after the Paris Agreement entered into force, we still find ourselves in a situation where we are not doing nearly enough to save hundreds of millions of people from a miserable future," said Eric Solheim, head of the UN agency. "Governments, the private sector and civil society must bridge this catastrophic climate gap." Compiled by more than 200 climate scientists and experts, the annual, 100-page analysis tracks progress toward the Paris goal of checking the rise in global temperatures at "well below" 2 C.

With many poor nations already feeling the sting of a planet out of kilter with only one degree of warming, the treaty also vowed to explore the feasibility of holding the line at 1.5 C. Current commitments for slashing pollution take us only a third of the way toward the 2 C target, and would eat up 80 percent of humanity's "carbon budget"—the amount of CO2 we can spew into the atmosphere without crossing that threshold-by 2030, the report said. It doesn't help that the United States, the world's second largest emitter, has abandoned its greenhouse gas goals under Donald Trump.

Sense of emergency

"Momentum is clearly faltering," said Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta, Costa Rica's environment minister and president of the current UN Environment Assembly. "We face a stark choice: up our ambition, or suffer the consequences." If the gap is not closed by 2030, the report said, "it is extremely unlikely that the goal of holding global warming to well below 2 C can still be reached." To stay on the 2 C track, humanity must cut its emissions to about 42 billion tons of CO2 or its



UTAH: This file photo shows piles of coal in front of Pacificorp's 1440 megawatt coal fired power plant in Castle Dale, Utah.—AFP

equivalent by 2030 from last year's 52 billion tons. But even with carbon cutting pledges from more than 190 nations, carbon pollution in 2030 is set to rise to 53 billion tons. Without them, emissions shoot up to 60 billion tons.

"The report is a good counter-weight to some of the optimism out there about global CO2 emissions more-or-less stalling for the last two years," said contributing author Oliver Geden, a researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. "It highlights the sense of emergency." Under the UN climate talks, countries will not revisit their pledges until 2020 — "the last opportunity to close the 2030 emissions gap," the report said. But ramping up of national commitments, experts agree, will not be enough, and the UN report highlights other needed actions.

On the edge

One is the rapid phase out of coal. If all the coal-fired power plants in the world operates to the end of their lifetimes, the report noted, it would add the equivalent of five years' global CO2 emissions to the atmosphere. "Phasing out coal plants and avoiding building new ones is no longer a choice, it is an imperative," said Gutierrez-Espeleta. A global tax of \$100 per tons of CO2 would help speed the transition from dirty to clean, renewable energy.

Withdrawing fossil fuel subsidies that still total hundreds of millions of dollars per year; halting deforestation and planting more trees; improving livestock management and convincing people to eat less meat—all of these are also seen as critical. But there is no more wiggle room, said Glen Peters, research director of the Center for International Climate Research in Oslo and a reviewer of the report. "Every aspect is at the edge of feasibility," he said. "If one of them fails, we miss out on closing the 2030 gap." Actions by cities, businesses and other smaller actors will help at the margin, but will be difficult to quantify, the UN agency said. For the first time, the report devotes an entire chapter to a set of technologies that remove CO2 directly out of the air.—AFP

Momentum is clearly faltering

Brahmaputra boat clinic goes solar, powering rural healthcare

MAJULI, India: Sitting on her haunches, Ritumani Baruah watches the boat drop anchor and waits for its crew to set up a clinic on the shore. Twenty minutes later, she asks to see the dentist and is guided to the lower deck of the S B Nahor, a boat offering healthcare services that operates on the Brahmaputra river in the northeast Indian state of Assam. She negotiates the gangplank, slowly climbs down the narrow steps of the boat, ducks her head and enters the makeshift clinic of dentist Bivash Saikia.

Greeted cheerily, she is guided to the portable dentist chair crammed into a tiny space next to a gleaming, grey rectangular box. It is an air compressor Saikia cannot work without, powered by the new solar panels on the boat's roof. Saikia said conditions in his clinic are "not ideal". "But the very fact that I get enough power to do dental checks means islanders don't have to put off nagging toothache or plan a trip to the mainland to just get a filling done," he explained. The first of 15 Indian boat clinics to go solar, the S B Nahor has for the first time brought a dentist to the doorstep of tens of thousands of people who live on flood-prone river islands in Assam. And by going solar, it has given remote healthcare a much-needed green shot in the arm, boat doctors say.

Electrical emergency

In India, about 55 percent of households depend on the public health system to meet their healthcare needs. But as of 2015 nearly 35 million people in rural areas relied on local health centers without an electricity supply, according to government data. One in every two primary health centers has no electricity or suffers from power outages. A 2016 report by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, a non-profit research agency, said only a fifth of primary health centers meet Indian public health standards, which include having functional infrastructure for electricity. For the residents of Majuli, the world's biggest river island, and other smaller islands dotting the river, access to healthcare has been an even bigger challenge. Health centers without doctors, infre-

quent ferries to the mainland and the remoteness of some islands have meant premature deaths, prolonged illness and challenges in meeting vaccination targets, doctors say. "In many places we visit, villagers have to travel for two days to get any form of medical help or medicines," said on-call doctor Nayanjyoti Deka. "Even a paracetamol tablet we give means a lot in these areas."

Today, teams of doctors and nurses use the boats to reach 300,000 people in 373 river-island villages across 13 districts in Assam. Funded by the government's national health mission and run by the non-profit Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research (C-NES), the boat clinics struggled to stay afloat without a reliable power source. Previously run on diesel generators, they had to use power sparingly and could not operate in the evenings. "A lot of medical devices are designed on the premise that there will be a constant power supply at hospitals and clinics where they are being used," said Vivek Shastri of Indian sustainable energy charity SELCO Foundation, a partner in the project that installed the solar panels on the S B Nahor. "Baby warmers, dental chairs, X-ray machines - all use a lot of energy. With solar, the power deficit can be compensated." Off-grid solar systems like that on the boat are a growing source of power in India, particularly in rural areas, but they still provide less than a tenth of the electricity generated by grid-connected solar plants, experts say.

Vaccinations and blood tests

After being fitted in May, the S B Nahor's 5-kilowatt solar system has enabled much more than dental equipment to run. Since replacing its noisy, polluting diesel generator as the main source of power, the boat has installed a refrigerator to store vaccines, speeded up laboratory tests and started making announcements via loudspeaker. Most importantly, it is now lit up at night. "Earlier, we carried vaccines in an ice pack, constantly worrying about the changes in temperature," said Juli Phukan, a nurse on board the boat. "A lot of stock would spoil and even though we were anchored on the islands for days, treating emergency cases that came up at night was a challenge."

In the tiny laboratory on the upper deck, technician Achzot Jyoti Das is busy taking blood samples. The queue is growing, but he assures patients the wait for their test results will be minimal. "The panels on the roof mean no power outage, and I can run the laboratory centrifuge easily," said Das, as he analyzed samples and wrote reports. "We visit islands once every few weeks by turn, which is why it is important to have these results out. Patients can't wait, can they?"—Reuters

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What's On

Tunisian singer Amel concludes Peace Festival at Al-Shaheed Park



In the presence of the Tunisian ambassador to Kuwait, Ahmed Bin Sghaier and his deputy, Dhoha Al-Shuwaikh and member of the diplomatic corps designated to Kuwait, the Tunisian singer Amel Al-Mathlouthi concluded the Peace Festival at Al-

Shaheed Park. With the combination of her personality and patriotism, Al-Mathlouthi expressed not only her feelings, but also the feelings of many people, as her music has motivated many to express themselves, especially because she has fought so hard to serve as

a force to support women around the world.

Accompanied by her outstanding band of musicians including Emad Olaibi, Pier Luigi, Shawn Crowder, Ludovic Wautier and Richards Sean, Al-Mathlouthi performed several songs that highly

appealed to the audience. Commenting on her first visit to Kuwait, Al-Mathlouthi expressed her amazement at the Kuwaiti audience's reactions to her songs. She also thanked LAPA and Al-Shaheed Park for their efforts.

AUK opens art and music therapy rooms

On October 10, 2017, AUK held the opening ceremony of the Art and Music Therapy Rooms, a new space introduced by the Counseling Center under Student Affairs. With a welcoming crowd of staff, students, and faculty, the event began with a few words from President Sullivan. He began by posing a question to the people around him, "What is life without art and music?" adding that art and music "enrich our lives and make them better in a variety of ways." Following the President's words were a few from Jason Sullivan, the director of the Counseling Center, "There is a therapeutic quality to art and music and we want to give students a place to express themselves."

In front of the anticipating crowd, the AUK President cut the ribbon, officially declaring the Art and Music Therapy Rooms open. To keep the momentum going and introduce the community to the spaces, people immediately began trying out different instruments in the Music Room and the sounds of piano playing and drum beating filled the hallway of the Science Building. Next door in the Art Room, employees from Art Space began setting up for an open workshop. Just before they began, Sarah Chouari, a workshop instructor from Art Space, gave a brief description of the upcoming activity saying, "We are leading a free expression workshop. We really want to show people that there are no rules in art. Everyone will pick their own medium and we'll just guide them through the process. It's open to all AUK students and supplies are provided."

Falling in line perfectly with the mission Dr Sullivan provided at the beginning of the ceremony, the workshop was centered on individuality and the transla-



tion of emotions and thoughts into artistic expression. The room was filled with students and staff working on projects that showcased the way in which art crossed boundaries. Mediums varied from paper to canvas, from paint to charcoal, people found their own comfortabil-

ity, some sitting on the ground, others on stools, some standing in front of easels. In the hallway just outside the room pieces of completed artwork were displayed, each piece wonderfully different and unique.

The AUK community is eager to see



more of its members' expression and talent flow through these rooms. Commenting on the new facility additions, Dr Hanan Muzaffar, Dean of Student Affairs said: "As we navigate through the many challenges our youth faces today, in an age especially marked

by high rates of anxiety, we see the need to provide space that engages the student in creative self-expression as a tool towards enhancing positive mental health and wellbeing and bringing a sense of community inspired by art and music".

AGS adapts SIMA Robot educative Technology



Within its steps towards development and excellence and for the first time in Kuwait, the American German School (AGS) recently adapted using the international SIMA Robot educative technology within its educational plans. The step is considered a substantial shift in educational services in Kuwait.

The program is an outstanding addition to the educational process in all stages by an interesting scientific application through which a learner can explore the worlds of scientific research by building, programming and operating his own robot to do various tasks in all subjects. The experiment is unique and paves the way for new generations to use robots. AGS administration celebrated launching the new application in various school activities and promised to always provide learner with the best education to help them achieve their goals.



ACK's men basketball team leads at UAAK Tournament



Australian College of Kuwait's (ACK) men basketball team leads the current season of the University Athletics Association of Kuwait (UAAK) tournament, and continues to excel, without any defeats since last year. The team won their first two matches in the competition, beating the American University of Middle East (AUM) a 63-41 score win. The second match was against Arab Open University team with a 77-39

win. ACK's men football team made it to their first match, defeating the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) team 2-1, while preparing for the next matches. The UAAK tournament is known for its competitive atmosphere, whereby university teams face each other in a grueling schedule over several months with the leader crowned Champion and holder of the cup until the following season.

TV



01:40 X-Men: First Class
03:55 The Viral Factor
06:00 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
08:20 Nick Of Time
09:55 X-Men: First Class
12:10 Judge Dredd
13:55 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
16:15 Knight And Day
18:15 Snake Eyes
20:00 The Rock
22:20 Bloodrayne: The Third Reich
23:45 The Night Crew



00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Treehouse Masters
02:40 Treehouse Masters
03:35 Treehouse Masters
04:25 Treehouse Masters
06:02 Rugged Justice
06:49 Rugged Justice
07:36 Gorilla School
08:00 Gorilla School
08:25 Escape To Chimp Eden
08:50 Escape To Chimp Eden
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Rugged Justice
11:05 Mutant Planet
12:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
12:28 Escape To Chimp Eden
12:55 Cats 101
13:50 Dogs 101: New Tricks
14:18 Dogs 101: New Tricks
14:45 Rugged Justice
15:40 Mutant Planet
16:35 Lone Star Law
17:30 Treehouse Masters
18:25 Monsters Inside Me
19:20 Catching Monsters
20:15 Rugged Justice
21:10 Escape To Chimp Eden
21:38 Escape To Chimp Eden
22:05 Monsters Inside Me
23:00 Mountain Monsters
23:55 Mutant Planet



00:00 EastEnders
00:35 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
01:25 Line Of Duty
02:25 Unforgotten
03:15 Unforgotten
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders
05:10 The Coroner
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 EastEnders
07:30 Dickensian
08:20 Call The Midwife
09:15 Doctors
09:45 EastEnders
10:15 Father Brown
11:05 Casualty
12:00 Dickensian
12:45 Call The Midwife
13:45 Doctors
14:15 EastEnders
14:45 Father Brown
15:35 Dickensian
16:25 Call The Midwife
17:25 Casualty
18:15 Father Brown
19:10 Paula
20:05 Paula
22:00 Prime Suspect: Tension
22:50 Prime Suspect: Tension
23:40 Casualty



00:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
01:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers
04:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
05:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
06:00 Homicide Hunter
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Ms. Homicide
09:00 It Takes A Killer
09:30 It Takes A Killer
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 My Crazy Ex
12:00 My Crazy Ex
15:00 It Takes A Killer
15:30 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Ms. Homicide
17:00 The First 48
18:00 The First 48
19:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
20:00 It Takes A Killer
20:30 It Takes A Killer
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Ms. Homicide
23:00 Cold Case Files



00:05 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
00:55 The Alternative Comedy Experience
01:20 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Another Period
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Nathan For You
05:05 Tosh.0
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Bondi Ink
07:15 Catch A Contractor
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 I Live With Models
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Bondi Ink
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Catch A Contractor
13:30 Nathan For You
13:55 The Jim Gaffigan Show
14:20 I Live With Models
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 I Live With Models
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:35 Catch A Contractor
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The President Show
21:30 Comedy Central Presents
Comedy 3alwazef

22:00 Ridiculousness Arabia
22:25 The Alternative Comedy Experience
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Tosh.0
23:40 The President Show



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Beverly Hills Groomer
02:35 Beverly Hills Groomer
03:00 Beverly Hills Groomer
03:25 Beverly Hills Groomer
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Ultimate Survival
05:30 Storm Chasers
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Beverly Hills Groomer
07:25 Beverly Hills Groomer
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Free Ride
12:00 Kings Of The Wild
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
14:30 Beverly Hills Groomer
14:55 Beverly Hills Groomer
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Free Ride
17:50 Kings Of The Wild
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
20:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
21:10 Free Ride
22:00 Kings Of The Wild
22:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
23:40 Storm Chasers



00:50 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:45 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
02:40 Haunted Towns
03:35 American Monster
04:30 Chandra Levy: An American Murder Mystery
05:25 I Am Homicide
06:20 The Perfect Murder
07:10 Lone Star Mystery: A Disappeared Special
08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:25 Disappeared
09:15 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
09:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
10:10 Southern Fried Homicide
11:05 Obsession: Dark Desires
12:00 Fatal Encounters
12:55 Disappeared
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 Southern Fried Homicide
15:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
16:35 Lone Star Mystery: A Disappeared Special
17:30 Disappeared
18:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
18:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It
20:15 Unravell'd
21:10 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:05 Disappeared
23:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
23:55 Chandra Levy: An American Murder Mystery



00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 Alex & Co.
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Hank Zipzer
04:45 Alex & Co.
05:10 Alex & Co.
05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binny And The Ghost
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1 Splits
07:00 Tangled Before Ever After
07:55 Under Wraps
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
10:25 Lolirock
10:50 Lolirock
11:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
12:05 Hank Zipzer
12:30 Alex & Co.
12:55 Alex & Co.
13:20 Lolirock
13:45 Lolirock
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
15:00 K.C. Undercover
15:25 Bizaardvark
15:50 Elena Of Avalor
16:15 Stuck In The Waterpark
17:00 Tangled
17:25 Bizaardvark
17:30 The Scariest Story Ever: A Mickey Mouse Halloween
17:55 K.C. Undercover
18:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
18:45 Girl Meets World
19:10 Twitches
20:35 Jessie
21:00 Tangled
21:25 K.C. Undercover
22:15 Stuck In The Middle
22:40 Bunk'd
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks S1 Splits
23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
23:45 Lolirock



00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
00:40 Loopdidoo

01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 Henry Hugglemonster
03:40 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Henry Hugglemonster
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopdidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 Sofia The First
08:30 Puppy Dog Pals
09:00 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
09:05 Mickey's Monster Musical
09:50 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
10:00 Vampirina
10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:00 Doc McStuffins
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:00 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
13:05 Sofia The First: The Curse Of Princess Ivy
13:50 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
14:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:30 PJ Masks
14:55 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 Doc McStuffins
16:00 Puppy Dog Pals
16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:00 Mickey's Monster Musical
17:45 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
17:55 Vampirina
18:25 Puppy Dog Pals
18:55 Sofia The First
19:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:55 Sofia The First: The Mystic Isles
21:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:45 Doc McStuffins
23:15 Goldie & Bear
23:45 Mickey's Monster Musical



00:20 Street Customs 2008
01:05 Idris Elba: Fighter
01:50 Mega Trains
02:35 What On Earth?
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:45 Street Customs 2008
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
09:00 Deals, Wheels And Steals
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Street Outlaws
10:55 Gaspotting
11:40 Misfit Garage
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Extreme Collectors
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
14:40 Outback Truckers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Street Customs 2008
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Extreme Collectors
18:20 Deals, Wheels And Steals
18:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
19:40 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Gold Rush
21:50 Gold Divers
22:40 Gold Rush
23:30 Fast N' Loud



06:00 Disney II
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right NOW Kapow
07:40 Mech-X4
08:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
08:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Walk The Prank
10:20 Walk The Prank
10:45 Gravity Falls
11:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:30 Phineas And Ferb
12:55 Phineas And Ferb
13:20 Zeke And Luther
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:40 Gravity Falls
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Right NOW Kapow
16:25 Walk The Prank
16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:15 The Scariest Story Ever: A Mickey Mouse Halloween
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
18:35 Disney II
19:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
19:25 Right NOW Kapow
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:00 The Platinum Life
00:55 Famously Single
01:50 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
04:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
05:30 Celebrity Style Story

06:00 So Cosmo
06:55 E! News
07:25 So Cosmo
08:20 So Cosmo
09:15 So Cosmo
10:10 E! News
10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 E! News
15:30 Celebrity Style Story
16:00 Botched
17:00 Botched
18:00 Botched
19:00 Botched
20:00 The Platinum Life
21:00 The Platinum Life
22:00 Eric And Jessie
22:30 Celebrity Style Story
23:00 E! News
23:15 Famously Single



00:00 Bakers vs. Fakers
01:00 Siba's Table
01:30 Siba's Table
02:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
02:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
03:00 Chopped
03:40 Bakers vs. Fakers
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:35 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Bake With Anna Olson
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Halloween Baking Championship
20:00 Restaurant Stakeout
21:00 Mystery Diners
21:30 Mystery Diners
22:25 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:10 Guess This House
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
04:25 It's Not Rocket Science
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:10 Guess This House
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
09:00 It's Not Rocket Science
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Guess This House
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Guess This House
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
16:45 Emmerdale
17:35 Coronation Street
18:00 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Churchill's Secret
22:50 Emmerdale
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 The Real Bronson
01:00 Ancient Discoveries
02:00 Hoard Hunters
03:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
03:25 How The States Got Their Shapes
03:50 In Search Of Aliens
04:40 The Greeks
05:30 The Real Bronson
06:20 Ancient Discoveries
07:10 The Universe
08:00 Ancient Aliens
09:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
09:30 How The States Got Their Shapes
10:00 In Search Of Aliens
11:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
12:00 Hoard Hunters
13:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
13:30 How The States Got Their Shapes
14:00 Ancient Aliens
15:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
16:00 In Search Of Aliens
17:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
18:00 Hoard Hunters
19:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
20:00 Patton 360
21:00 Monster Quest
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 Hoard Hunters



00:20 American Pickers Best Of
01:10 Pawn Stars
01:35 Storage Wars
02:00 Mountain Men
02:45 Pawn Stars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 Aussie Pickers
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 Ozzie And Jack's World Detour
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars

13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Swamp People
15:10 Alone
16:00 Time Team
16:50 Swamp People
17:40 Pawn Stars
18:05 Storage Wars
18:30 American Pickers
19:20 Mountain Men
19:20 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 American Ripper In London
21:50 WW2 Treasures Hunters
22:40 Pawn Stars
23:05 Pawn Stars
23:30 Mountain Men



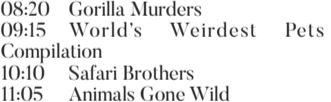
00:45 The Food Files
01:10 Route Awakening
01:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
02:35 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
03:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
03:30 Places We Go
03:55 Places We Go
04:25 Chasing The Sun
04:50 Route Awakening
05:20 Rustic Adventures Argentina
05:45 Rustic Adventures Argentina
06:15 Muga Food
07:10 Cruise Ship Diaries
08:05 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
08:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
09:00 Places We Go
09:25 Places We Go
09:55 Chasing The Sun
10:20 Route Awakening
10:50 Rustic Adventures Argentina
11:15 Rustic Adventures Argentina
11:45 Muga Food
12:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
13:35 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
14:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
14:30 Places We Go
14:55 Chasing The Sun
15:25 Street Food Around The World
15:50 Route Awakening
16:20 Rustic Adventures Argentina
16:45 Rustic Adventures Argentina
17:15 Muga Food
18:10 Lucky Chow
18:35 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
19:05 Street Food Around The World
19:30 Route Awakening
20:00 Rustic Adventures Argentina
20:30 Rustic Adventures Argentina
21:00 Muga Food
22:00 Lucky Chow
22:25 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
22:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
23:50 Migue's Tropical Kitchen



00:10 Cold Water Gold
01:00 Hell On Earth
03:00 Big Fish, Texas
04:00 Cold Water Gold
05:00 Caught In The Act
06:00 The Known Universe
07:00 Hard Time
08:00 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
09:00 Caught In The Act
10:00 I Am Rebel
11:00 Highway Thru Hell
12:00 Nazi Megastructures
13:00 The Known Universe
14:00 Building Invincible
15:00 Hard Time
16:00 I Am Rebel
17:00 Highway Thru Hell
18:00 Nazi Megastructures
19:00 Mega Factories
20:00 I Am Rebel
20:50 Highway Thru Hell
21:40 Nazi Megastructures
22:30 Mega Factories
23:20 Building Invincible



00:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown
01:00 Man v. Monster
02:00 Polar Bear Invasion
02:50 Ultimate Animal Countdown
03:45 Caught In The Act
04:40 Gorilla Murders
05:35 Polar Bear Invasion
06:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown
07:25 Caught In The Act
08:20 Gorilla Murders
09:15 World's Weirdest Pets Compilation
10:10 Safari Brothers
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 Alien Crab
12:55 Viper Queens
13:50 Madagascar's Legendary Lemurs
14:45 Caught In The Act
15:40 Sea Of Hope: America's Underwater Treasures
16:35 Borneo's Secret Kingdom: Weird And Wild
17:30 Safari Brothers
18:25 Animals Gone Wild
19:20 Caught In The Act
20:10 Sea Of Hope: America's Underwater Treasures
21:00 Borneo's Secret Kingdom: Weird And Wild
21:50 Safari Brothers
22:40 Animals Gone Wild
23:30 Alien Crab

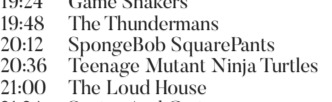


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 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 Hank 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

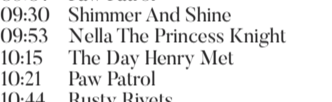


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 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 Hank 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 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 School Of Rock
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Hunter Street
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
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



00:15 Shimmer And Shine
00:39 Shimmer And Shine
01:01 Max & Ruby
01:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:47 The Day Henry Met
01:52 The Day Henry Met
01:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:41 Zack & Quack
03:03 Shimmer And Shine
03:25 Olive The Ostrich
03:30 Olive The Ostrich
03:35 Paw Patrol
03:58 Little Charmers
04:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
04:22 Dora The Explorer
04:44 Max & Ruby
05:06 The Day Henry Met
05:11 Nella The Princess Knight
05:35 Shimmer And Shine
05:59 Wallykazam!
06:21 Zack & Quack
06:32 The Day Henry Met
06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:00 Rusty Rivets
07:13 Paw Patrol
07:37 Dora The Explorer
08:00 Zack & Quack
08:21 Bubble Guppies
08:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
09:07 Paw Patrol
09:30 Shimmer And Shine
09:53 Nella The Princess Knight
10:15 The Day Henry Met
10:21 Paw Patrol
10:44 Rusty Rivets
11:05 Wallykazam!
11:28 Bubble Guppies
11:52 Team Umizoomi
12:15 Shimmer And Shine
13:01 Max & Ruby
13:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:47 The Day Henry Met
13:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:40 Zack & Quack
15:01 Shimmer And Shine
15:23 Nella The Princess Knight
15:35 Paw Patrol
15:58 Little Charmers
16:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
16:22 Dora The Explorer
16:44 Max & Ruby
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17:11 Nella The Princess Knight
17:35 Shimmer And Shine
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19:00 Rusty Rivets
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20:21 Bubble Guppies
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21:53 Nella The Princess Knight
22:15 The Day Henry Met
22:22 Paw Patrol
22:45 Rusty Rivets
23:07 Wallykazam!
23:30 Bubble Guppies
23:52 Team Umizoomi



00:10 The Parent Trap
02:20 Eight Below
04:20 Kung Fu Panda 3
06:00 The Muppets
07:45 Brother Bear
09:15 The Parent Trap
11:30 The Muppets
13:15 Finding Nemo
15:00 The Wild
16:25 The Haunted Mansion
17:55 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
19:50 The Sorcerer's Apprentice
21:40 Finding Nemo
23:25 The Nightmare Before Christmas



00:10 The Parent Trap
02:20 Eight Below
04:20 Kung Fu Panda 3
06:00 The Muppets
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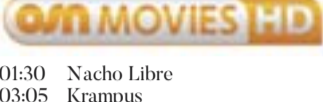
00:15 Cooties
03:00 Turner & Hooch
04:45 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
06:35 Oscar
08:30 Yoga Hosers
10:00 Turner & Hooch
11:45 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
13:35 Oscar
15:30 Three Men And A Little Lady
17:15 Joe Somebody
19:05 The Ladykillers
20:50 Dead 7
22:25 Tyler Perry's Boo: A Madea Halloween



00:00 Carrington
02:10 Suffragette
04:05 5 Flights Up
05:50 Fort McCoy
07:45 Dead Poets Society
10:05 5 Flights Up
11:50 Suffragette
13:45 Man In The Moon
15:35 A Birder's Guide To Everything
17:10 Lawrence Of Arabia
20:50 12 Angry Men
22:35 Eat That Question - Frank Zappa In His Own



01:15 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
02:30 Amila's Secret
03:40 The Adventures Of The American Rabbit
05:10 Memory Loss
06:40 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
08:00 Song Of The Sea
09:40 Ploddy Police Car
11:10 Catcher: Cat City 2
12:50 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
14:05 Amila's Secret
15:15 Ozzy
16:55 Ploddy Police Car
18:25 The Wheelers
19:50 Ozzy's Way Home
21:15 Ozzy
22:55 Song Of The Sea



01:30 Nacho Libre
03:05 Krampus
04:50 The Express
07:00 Last Action Hero
09:15 The Bad News Bears
11:10 The Count Of Monte Cristo
13:20 Blown Away
15:25 The War
17:30 Spectre
20:00 Dracula Untold
22:00 Bram Stoker's Dracula



00:40 Rise Of The Machines
01:30 Rise Of The Machines
02:20 Rise Of The Machines
03:10 How The Universe Works
04:00 Mythbusters
04:48 Mythbusters
05:36 Mythbusters
06:24 Mythbusters
07:12 Mythbusters
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Dangerman
09:14 Mythbusters
10:02 Rise Of The Machines
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 How The Universe Works
12:26 Dangerman
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Food Factory
14:50 Rise Of The Machines
15:38 Dangerman
16:26 How The Universe Works
17:14 Mythbusters
18:02 Rise Of The Machines
18:50 Dangerman
19:40 Mythbusters
20:30 Invisible Worlds
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Food Factory
22:10 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
23:00 Invisible Worlds
23:50 Dangerman



01:30 Kate & Leopold
03:30 Finding Neverland
05:30 The Aviator
08:15 The Faculty
10:15 There Will Be Blood
13:00 K
14:45 Kate & Leopold
16:45 Havoc
18:00 Pretty Woman
20:00 The Gift
22:00 Jane Eyre



00:00 Who Lives Here?
01:00 Who Lives Here?
02:00 Along For The Ride
02:30 Along For The Ride
03:00 Making Mr. Right
04:00 Project Accessory
05:00 House Of DVF
06:00 Who Lives Here?
07:00 Who Lives Here?
08:00 Along For The Ride
08:30 Along For The Ride
09:00 Making Mr. Right
10:00 Project Accessory
11:00 House Of DVF
12:00 Who Lives Here?
13:00 Who Lives Here?
14:00 Along For The Ride
14:30 Along For The Ride
15:00 Making Mr. Right
16:00 Project Accessory
17:00 House Of DVF
18:00 Project Runway
19:00 Project Runway
20:00 Wedding Band
21:00 Making Mr. Right

CROSSWORD 1750



ACROSS

1. An affirmative.
4. Of or relating to the head.
12. An enclosed space.
15. A port in southwestern Scotland.
16. Unsegmented worms.
17. The corporate executive responsible for the operations of the firm.
18. Relating to of containing or affecting blood.
20. Son of John Cabot who was born in Italy and who led an English expedition in search of the Northwest Passage and a Spanish expedition that explored the La Plata region of Brazil.
21. Alsatian artist and poet who was cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich.
22. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
23. Queen of the Olympian gods in ancient Greek mythology.
24. A genus of bee.
26. A woman religious.
28. The eighth month of the Hindu calendar.
30. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
31. Affected by ague.
34. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
36. A state of deep and often prolonged unconsciousness.
37. Diabetes caused by a relative or absolute deficiency of insulin and characterized by polyuria.
39. A metric unit of length equal to one hundredth of a meter.
40. A member of the Shoshonean people of northeastern Arizona.
43. Cap that fits over the hub of a wheel.
46. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
47. A bachelor's degree in religion.
49. A machine-readable version of a standard dictionary.
50. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
51. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
55. Someone who fights bulls.
57. A republic in southeastern Europe.
58. A public promotion of some product or service.
59. make senseless or dizzy by or as if by a blow.
61. Any of various chiefly fall-blooming herbs of the genus Aster with showy daisy-like flowers.
63. Annual to perennial herbs of the Mediterranean region.
65. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
67. An act that exploits or victimizes someone.
69. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
73. Being two more than forty.
75. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
76. A kind of person.
79. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
80. Being one more than two.
81. An early Christian church designed like a Roman basilica.
82. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.

DOWN

1. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
2. An unfledged or nestling hawk.
3. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
4. 1 species.
5. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
6. After noon.
7. A diacritical mark (an inverted circumflex) placed above certain letters (such as c) to indicate pronunciation.
8. A drug (trade names Atarax and Vistaril) used as a tranquilizer to treat anxiety and motion sickness.
9. Of or relating to or affecting a lobe.
10. An artificial language that is a revision and simplification of Esperanto.
11. Hairy aromatic perennial herb having whorls of small white purple-spotted flowers in a terminal spike.
12. A fraudulent business scheme.
13. The lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle).
14. A brittle aromatic resin used in varnishes.
19. Wildly disordered.
25. An endorsement.
27. A state in New England.
29. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
32. French composer (1818-1893).
33. Of the color of any of various natural brown earth pigments n 1.
35. Candy containing a fruit or nut.
38. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
41. Dried plum v 1.
42. Person who does no work.
44. Italian violin maker in Cremona.
45. A city in Veneto.
48. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
52. A republic in Central America.
53. Italian violin maker and grandson of Andrea Guarneri (1687?-1745).
54. Speak in a nasal voice.
56. Physicist honored for advances in solid state electronics (born in Japan in 1925).
60. United States writer of children's books (1904-1991).
62. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
64. One of the two branches of the Finno-Ugric family of languages.
66. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
68. A dress worn primarily by Hindu women.
70. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
71. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
72. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
74. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
77. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
78. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Take your time with a complicated situation in the workplace now—you will be glad you did. Any shortcuts you might be tempted to take may not be helpful at this time. You may find more than just thanks for your efforts by the afternoon. This is indeed a great time to work with others. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance. You value personal contact with your neighbors or friends, cutting through all the externals and getting to the heart of things. You may be thinking about the trials and tribulations of parenting this evening. If you have no children, you may be thinking about how you would fare as a parent in the future. There could be many opportunities to laugh with the young this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a meaningful day that you can use to your advantage. A day that is not too stressful—time for accomplishing tasks or setting things up to work in your favor. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You may also be sought after as the person for a particular job. You are social by nature and a supervisor may find you are good at guiding or introducing new co-workers to the job as well as the gang in the office. Feeling successful is the first step toward being successful—and you certainly feel successful. People like being around you because of your good attitude. A friend may bring your attention to some needed changes around your neighborhood and you volunteer to help. You may enjoy helping with some fall decorations.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Expect the best and you will receive the best. This day may have a slow start but your attitude will bring things around to what you want to accomplish. Be prepared—this could be a stressful day—it is certainly a busy day. The positive results will depend on your actions. Support and recognition from the public, from family and from friends will be happening soon. You feel at home in the world—and it takes care of you. You could have deep insights into your own feelings and inner, spiritual nature. Enjoy the season! At home you might decide to decorate with splashes of color and the fun traditions of the season. You may be attending a social affair this evening. You may, in fact, find yourself all dressed up in the best costume of the party.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may be very forceful in what you say and think. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well. Everything comes together to value you, and you tend to exhibit your unique qualities. This is a very idealistic time when it comes to business concerns. You have imagination when it comes to reducing any excessive overhead—getting down to basics. This evening you could be entertaining. Your creative side is showing. You may have lots of fun decorating and preparing little specialties—there will be lots of good smells coming from the kitchen. Everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations. You may insert a theatrical or vaudeville style to your handiwork—your guests enjoy your efforts.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This just may be your lucky day as misunderstandings become understood, puzzles become solved and questions become answered. There are new opportunities to increase your pay or whatever else you may need. There is an increased confidence and a more outgoing manner in your life just now. You are very imaginative when it comes to other people and relationships of all kinds. You have a sense of the ideal, almost like an otherworldly feeling that you bring to your partnerships, social or private. You have an interest in real union—marriage or yoga—and may find yourself looking for a mate or improving a relationship. A splash of decor at your front door presents an intriguing invitation and welcomes all the little neighbors to your good graces.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You will prosper by pursuing your ideas of how life could be. Don't be afraid to project your thinking—make those dreams real. Ideas of group cooperation and communion could further your career. You could bring imagination and religious understanding to physical and scientific studies. Communications, computers and the whole electronic revolution are perfect career choices for you. You enjoy listening to some of the old radio shows and may create quite a following as you talk up your hobby during your break time today. Unusual ways of appreciating and loving may also be possible. You may discover something new about love or you may adopt a different and unconventional value system, temporarily. Enjoy the seasonal changes.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Challenging authority and rocking the boat will likely play a bigger role in your life today. The new broom sweeps clean; old patterns of organization and power are ripe for an innovative approach. Radical and inventive ideas hold the key to realizing your ambitions and advancing your standing—a shakeup is in the works but this time it is your turn to speak, so to speak. Real power is always hidden—finding it means delving into hidden places, and that's where you are bound to look now. The forbidden, the taboo areas, the great mysteries that no one speaks about in polite company seem to hold the answers and you seem compelled to deal with them now. You get plenty of compliments tonight on a creative seasonal centerpiece for the dinner table.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

This is a perfect time to be assertive and to move forward in your career decisions. You have all the energy you could want and it should be easy to channel it. You may find yourself lecturing, teaching or attending a class on organizing your goals. Perhaps this is the best time for productive, serious thinking—getting down to the important thoughts. Studies of all kinds are in order, perhaps some night classes. Events make it easy for you to find new solutions to old problems. You may find yourself able to put your ideas into practice. Your career direction gets some encouragement at this time. You have some great ideas for decorating your living area this fall. You also have great ideas for the kids, for instance, the old bobbing-for-apples fun.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A project in the workplace seems to be proceeding at a positive pace. If there are any problems with the process of this project, you are able to correct things quickly. A complicated task is far easier to manage when you approach it calmly and positively. You are willing to take on challenges, no matter what the risks. You can be a little impatient. You may prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Daring to implement new approaches or techniques may be the secret to your success at this time. Your friends are in a festive mood this evening and you may find the interaction with them quite enjoyable—take pictures. You have a great deal of enthusiasm this evening—this may be your favorite time of year.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You have a lot of energy to pour into practical and career decisions. Careful—you may appear commanding and assertive. In summary, from this time forward, expect a more confident, outgoing attitude, for you have brought to close some inward examination. A growing sense of direction and self-worth will find you reaching out and establishing yourself. You can be very communicative, flexible, mental and other-oriented. Perhaps you can be all things to all people, giving them what they require. Others will find you a smooth talker with a quick wit and ready tongue. You may have found a way to make a bit of extra money this fall. This may include ways to aid in the safety of young people's fall activities. Set a timer for tonight's baking agenda.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

When obtaining a loan, be careful to ask for just what you need and not necessarily what you want—you will be granted the loan—but ask for a long enough grace period to recover before having to begin the payoff. You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project requiring a conservative mind. Blocks and all manner of hot spots may be discovered and have to be worked through. You will, however, work through these blocks quickly; your attitude is to keep things simple and to keep moving forward. Nothing seems to slow you down. Interaction with authority figures may be in the forecast. Working with—rather than against—the flow should be easy to do. Plan the next social affair on your turf.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Professional advice may work in your best interest today. This could simply be the adjustment of chairs in a meeting room or the layout of an intricate display. A relentless getting down to essentials makes your sense of management and practical vision very useful. You have a sense of mass psychology: how to organize and manipulate sensitive areas of the public mind. Work and career may become a primary focus at this time. There are opportunities to make good decisions. You are at your most practical—what happens now may have a lasting effect on your professional direction and it is all good. Don't be afraid to project that image—make those dreams real. Things are happening and your career is on an upswing. You and your co-workers celebrate.

Wordsearch Puzzle

90's Songs 3

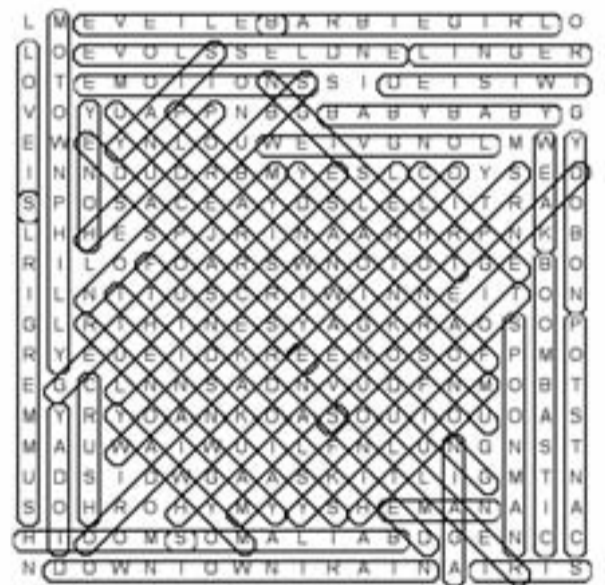
Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.



- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| ANGELS | HANDS | LULLABY | THE POWER |
| ANOTHER NIGHT | HIGH ENOUGH | MIAMI | THIS HOUSE |
| BABY | HOLD ON | MY BODY | TOGETHER AGAIN |
| BLACK | HOOK | ONE WEEK | TOO MUCH |
| CANDY RAIN | HYPNOTIZE | POISON | TUBTHUMPING |
| CUPID | I BELIEVE | REGULATE | UNPRETTY |
| DETTY | IMPULSIVE | RELEASE ME | WATERFALLS |
| DREAMLOVER | INSENSITIVE | SABOTAGE | WHAT'S UP |
| EVERY MORNING | IRONIC | SHINE | WHATTA MAN |
| FLY AWAY | JEREMY | SHY GUY | WILD NIGHT |
| FORTUNATE | KISS ME | SWEET LADY | ZOMBIE |
| FROZEN | LAST NIGHT | TEMPTATION | |

Yesterday's Solution

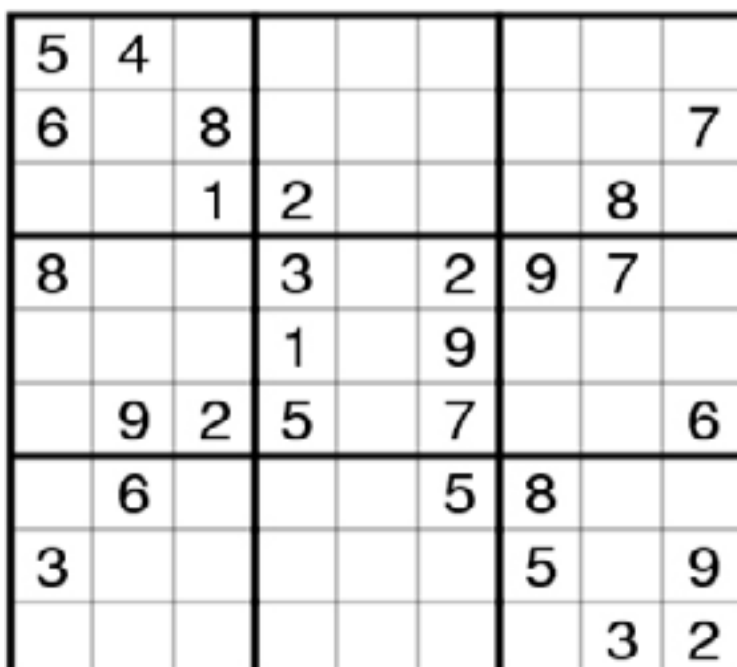
90's Songs 2



- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| AGAIN | EPIC | MOUTH | STAY |
| BABY, BABY | ESCAPADE | MY WAY | STRONG ENOUGH |
| BALANOS | FANTASY | NAME | SUMMER GIRLS |
| BARBIE GIRL | FUNKYFIED | NO SCRUBS | THE SIGN |
| BELIEVE | GETTO JAM | NOBODY | THIS KISS |
| BOOMBASTIC | HONEY | ORDINARY WORLD | TODAY |
| CAN'T STOP | IRIS | FLUSH | TOO FUNNY |
| CRUSH | LET'S RIDE | REAL LOVE | TWISTED |
| DANGEROUS | LINGER | RUNAWAY | UNDERSTANDING |
| DOWNTOWN TRAIL | LONGVIEW | SLAM | UNUSUAL BOP |
| EMOTIONS | LOVE IS | SMOOTH | WEAK |
| ENDLESS LOVE | MOTOWHILLY | SPOONMAN | WONDERWALL |

The hidden song title is: LOSING MY RELIGION

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hazy and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			Drop in Visibility	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 31/10/2017 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	25 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	36 °C	23 °C		
ABDALY	37 °C	22 °C		
BUBYAN	31 °C	21 °C		
JAHRA	38 °C	24 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	32 °C	23 °C		
SALMIYAH	30 °C	25 °C		
AHMADI	30 °C	27 °C		
NUWAISIB	37 °C	21 °C		
WAFRA	38 °C	21 °C		
SALMY	37 °C	21 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	11/01	Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	34 °C	21 °C	NE-VRB	06 - 26 km/h
Thursday	11/02	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for light fog	36 °C	22 °C	S-SE	12 - 35 km/h
Friday	11/03	Clouds will increase gradually and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	36 °C	21 °C	S-SE	15 - 40 km/h
Saturday	11/04	Partly cloudy and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for light rain	35 °C	21 °C	SE	15 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:40
Sunrise	06:01
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:40
Sunset	17:03
Isha	18:21

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	39 °C
MIN. Temp.	20 °C
MAX. RH	89 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	S 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

- American Airlines 22087425
- Kuwait Airways 22087426
- Jazeera Airways 171
- Jet Airways 22924455
- FlyDubai 22414400
- Qatar Airways 22423888
- KLM 22425747
- Air Slovakia 22434940
- Olympic Airways 22420002/9
- Royal Jordanian 22418064/5/6
- Reservation 22433388
- British Airways 22425635
- Air France 22430224
- Emirates 22921555
- Air India 22438184
- Sri Lanka Airlines 22424444
- Egypt Air 22421578
- Swiss Air 22421516
- Saudia 22426306
- Middle East Airlines 22423073
- Lufthansa 22422493
- PIA 22421044
- Alitalia 22414427
- Balkan Airlines 22416474
- Bangladesh Airlines 22452977/8
- Czech Airlines 22417901/2433141
- Indian Airlines 22456700
- Oman Air 22958787
- Turkish Airlines 22453820/1
- Aeroflot 22404838/9

CHANGE OF NAME
 (middle name of child) from AL-ASSAF to ALASSAF (last name of child and last name of father) from Y.M. to Y M A. (middle name of father). Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition, file a written with the Philippine Embassy within ten working days. (C 5354) 31-10-2017

The public hereby notified that MOHAMMAD Y M A ALASSAF has filed with the embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, State of Kuwait a Migrant Petition for Correction of clerical errors in the report of birth of YASMINE EMPASE MOHAMMAD AL-ASSAF with registry number KT-ROB-007-2012/2012-4140032. From EMPASE MOHAMMAD to EMPASE

EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

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Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 1/11/2017				Departure Flights on Wednesday 1/11/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
KAC	102	London	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:55	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	WAN	341	Sohag	00:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	142	Doha	01:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	363	Colombo	02:00
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45
FEG	931	Alexandria	03:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40
KAC	796	Madinah	03:50	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55
MSR	618	Alexandria	03:50	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	FEG	934	Sohag	04:15
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	MSR	619	Alexandria	04:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	KAC	103	London	05:00
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:05
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:20	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	KAC	165	Rome	08:15
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:45
BAW	157	London	07:10	BAW	156	London	08:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	KAC	691	Muscat	08:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	08:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	117	New York	09:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	101	London	09:45
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	617	Tehran	10:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	JZR	356	Mashhad	10:20
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	10:30
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	RSB	7863	Baghdad	11:00
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
KIS	6032	Mashhad	13:00	IRA	664	Shiraz	11:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	786	Riyadh	12:00
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:20	WAN	953	Doha	12:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:30
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30
KAC	692	Muscat	14:15	VIZ	201	TQD	12:30
KAC	618	Doha	14:15	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:20	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:25	WAN	435	Al Najaf	13:00
KAC	412	Bangkok	14:35	FDB	076	Dubai	13:45
				MSR	611	Cairo	14:00

Lifestyle | Gossip

Adele
has been
named
richest
British star
under 30



The 29-year-old singer topped heat magazine's annual Rich List for the second year in a row after amassing a staggering £132 million fortune, largely due to the £500,000-a-night she raked in at the 121 shows on her recent world tour. But the 'Hello' hitmaker - who has five-year-old son Angelo with husband Simon Konecki - isn't afraid to splash the cash, as she has spent over £20 million on homes in Los Angeles, London, Sussex and Hove. Adele's vast fortune put her £54 million ahead of the second placed star, 28-year-old Daniel Radcliffe, with the 'Harry Potter' actor's earnings listed as £78 million. The 'Jungle' star placed higher than his 'Harry Potter' co-star, Emma Watson, 27, who was fifth with £48 million. Ed Sheeran, 26, with an estimated fortune of £52 million, took third place, having seen his earnings soar with the release of his third album, 'Divide', and accompanying world tour. Fourth spot went to 'Sign of the Times' singer Harry Styles, 23, with £56 million, earning more than his One

Direction bandmates thanks to his solo record deal and new acting career. The rest of the group, Liam Payne, 24, Louis Tomlinson, 25, and Niall Horan, 24, tied for sixth place with £40 million, and former member Zayn Malik, 24, trailed behind them with slightly less of an estimated fortune, recorded as £37 million. Little Mix - Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Leigh-Anne Pinnoch and Jade Thirlwall - shared the top 10 spot with a collective fortune of £28 million. This year's list saw a host of new entries further down, including places for 'Lion' actor Dev Patel, 'TOWIE' stars Sam Faiers, Joey Essex, Amy Childs, 'Big Brother' host Rylan Clark-Neal and 'Game of Thrones' actress Sophie Turner. Outside of the UK, Justin Bieber, 23, topped the global list with a huge £231 million, putting him ahead of 27-year-old Taylor Swift, who has an estimated fortune of £209 million.

Rupert Grint
wears a hat to
conceal his identity

The 'Harry Potter' star has admitted he finds his celebrity status to be "uncomfortable" and therefore, in a bid to escape the attention of his fans, he's occasionally taken to wearing a hat to blend in. He explained: "Selfies have become an everyday thing now, it's happened since I was a young boy so you weirdly get used to it and forget it's actually quite a strange thing. "For me, it's like being asked for directions, it just happens. I never feel famous, so I'm always uncomfortable if someone gets starstruck. But I've no regrets. "It's an unusual existence but not ridiculously crazy. Sometimes I can get over it by wearing a hat!" Rupert, 29, starred as Ron Weasley in the 'Harry Potter' film series earlier in his career. And the actor has admitted he now appreciates the magnitude of those movies more than he did at the time of making them. Asked which of his co-stars stands out most in his mind, Rupert told What's On TV: "I've been so lucky. Alan Rickman quickly comes to mind. He had an amazing presence when he walked on set. There are so many incredible people I could list - Julie Walters and Ralph Fiennes, and I've early memories of Richard Harris. "Back then, I didn't appreciate it as much as I do now. When I first started they were just nice people, now I'm older and have watched more films, I realise it was amazing."



Hemsworth happy to appear
in 'gratuitous' topless scenes

The Hollywood hunk has reprised the role of Marvel superhero Thor in the Taika Waititi-directed 'Thor: Ragnarok' and Chris has admitted he didn't have any qualms with displaying his chiselled physique in the movie. After reading an early version of the film's script, Chris remembers thinking: "Oh great, no shirt-off scene! I don't have to do that programme." Chris, 34, subsequently spoke to the director about the issue, and Taika insisted his movie didn't "need" for the Australian star to show off his toned torso. However, during an interview with SiriusXM, Chris admitted the director's opinion changed shortly afterwards. He recalled: "A few weeks later, he's like, 'No, we need to do it. Let's get your gear off. Exploit yourself.'" Taika reasoned that Chris needed to take his top off for the movie, otherwise the time he'd spent getting into tip-top shape to play Thor would have been wasted. The

director quipped: "You kind of need to show it off. It's a disservice to humanity to hide it... it's a waste of push-ups. "It's so gratuitous. There are, like, eight [shirtless] shots in a row where there's nothing happening in the story." Despite Taika performing a U-turn on the issue, Chris insisted he had no problem with the director's attitude. He confessed: "To go from 'we're not doing a shirtless scene' to that was, I feel incredibly exploited - but I'm OK." Earlier this year, meanwhile, Chris revealed he finds it increasingly difficult to cope with the physical demands of playing Thor. The actor has starred as the iconic comic book character since 2011, but Chris confessed that at the age of 34, his body is no longer as resilient to the stresses and strains of getting in shape as it once was."

ASHLEY GRAHAM DESIGNED
HER NEW SWIM LINE

The brunette beauty has teamed up with Swimsuits For All to launch her Essentials collection, and the 300-year-old model has revealed she created the range to "inspire" women to feel confident with their body, regardless of what size they are. Speaking to ElleUK.com about her latest venture, the catwalk icon said: "I wanted to offer a range of swimsuit styles that make all women feel confident and sexy. Some traditional brands assume girls with bigger hips, breasts and thighs want to cover up, but I know that's not the case. After my Swimsuits For All #CurvesinBikinis campaign had such a positive response from people everywhere, we knew we had to collaborate on a line to inspire women beyond body positive advertisements. "You have to let go of all the silly thoughts like "my cellulite is showing" and realize that everyone has insecurities. The first step to getting over them is taking off that cover up and owning it." And Ashley - who is married to Justin Ervin - has admitted if she could give her younger self a piece of advice it would be to stay determined and continue to "make history". Asked about the words of wisdom she would pass on to her younger self, she said: "Don't take no for an answer. Keep up the hard work, you're making history, girl." However, the fashion icon cannot believe she has already hit the milestone, but since turning 30 she has become even more determined to "conquer" the fashion business and pursue other projects. She said: "It's funny because sometimes I think, 'wait, I'm not already 30?' because I've been working since I was 15. 30 is a whole new decade that I can conquer, and if it's anything like my 20s, it's going to be epic! I love the woman I've become and look forward to inspiring women of all ages for many years to come."



Fletcher
releasing
special musical
edition of 'The
Christmasaurus'

The 32-year-old singer-songwriter will, on November 16, achieve a world first by becoming the only artist to ever produce a soundtrack for their own novel. Tom explained: "This book all began with a song. It was called ... 'The Christmasaurus'! That song inspired this whole story and as I began writing the book I wrote more songs that helped me tell the story and bring the characters to life. "The book was released last year, but I knew that somehow I wanted to get these songs out there too. I see them as a soundtrack to the book and, while the book can be read on its own, just as the songs can be listened to without reading the book, you only get the full story when you combine the two." Tom has written and performed all 14 of the never-before-heard songs that appear on the CD. It has been announced, too, that the disk will feature music played by a full orchestra, as well as solos from Giovanna Fletcher, Tom's author wife, and Carrie Hope-Fletcher, his younger sister. In addition to announcing details of the musical version of his novel, Tom has also revealed the identity of the special guests who will be joining him for 'The Christmasaurus - Live On Stage'. The McFly star will be appearing in the show - which will be staged at the Eventim Apollo in London between December 21 and 28 - alongside Giovanna and Carrie, as well as Harry Judd and Matt Willis.



**KORDEI ADMITS FIFTH HARMONY
DISAGREE ALL THE TIME**

The 21-year-old singer stars in the chart-topping girl group alongside Ally Brooke, Dinah

Jane and Lauren Jauregui, and although she considers her bandmates to be like "sisters", Normani freely confesses that they don't always agree on everything. She shared: "There's never a dull moment. I'm so grateful that I was able to go through it with other women that have the same passion as me and work ethic. "We are like sisters. There are so many things we don't agree on, but at the end of the day, we're all family-oriented, and we have morals and values that we stand by, and we have enough respect for each other to allow each other to grow, make mistakes, and we pick each other right back up." Normani explained that despite the band's ups and downs over the years - which has included Camila Cabello quitting the group in December 2016 - the girls have retained a love and respect for each other. Reflecting on their dynamic, Normani told 'Entertainment Tonight': "It's really special to have a group of women that are confident enough in ourselves that we can be confident in the next person ... "It's just cool that we can all support each other, not because we're forced to or we have to, but because we genuinely love each other and we're happy. "We know that we came into the group as individuals, so we allow each other that individual freedom, but still remembering that the group is [important]."



Johansson
and her
boyfriend
have 'a great
energy'

The 32-year-old actress started dating the 'Saturday Night Live' star earlier this year and was recently spotted in the crowd at Colin's comedy show in Boston. A source explained: "Scarlett was very supportive of Colin. She sat fourth row and was laughing hysterically along with the rest of the audience." The Hollywood star also joined Colin, 35, after the show and the loved-up couple appeared to be in great spirits, according to an eyewitness. The insider told Us Weekly: "They seemed very much like a new couple, holding hands and had a great energy in between them." Scarlett - who has a three-year-old daughter named Rose with her ex-husband, French journalist Romain Dauriac - was first linked to Colin in May, after they were spotted together at the 'Saturday Night Live' season finale afterparty. And their burgeoning relationship

has seemingly been heating up over recent months, with the duo being frequently seen together on dates around New York City. Earlier this month, for instance, the pair enjoyed a dinner date at Indian Wells Tavern. At the time, an eyewitness said: "They were snacking on wings. They were holding hands as they sat across the table from each other when the server approached them. "They sat at a bar table close to the window and were smiling and talking to each other." Despite this, Scarlett - who was also previously married to fellow Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds - has admitted to being skeptical about monogamy. The 'Ghost in the Shell' actress explained: "I think the idea of marriage is very romantic: it's a beautiful idea, and the practice of it can be a very beautiful thing. I don't think it's natural to be a monogamous person."



Lifestyle | Gossip



Bolivian artist Sonia Falcone's "Campo de Color (Color Field)" is displayed in the foreground at the exhibit, "Unsettled," on display into January at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno.



A mobile created by Chris Burden, "All the Submarines of the United States of America," is displayed in the foreground at the exhibit "Unsettled".

ART SHOW EXPLORES 'GREATER WEST' AND ITS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Romantic images of cowboys and covered wagons, railroad barons and Gold Rush-era prospectors that typically depict the settling of the American West play only supporting roles at best in a Nevada art exhibit with a broader perspective on Earth's "final frontier." The show stars the indigenous people who already were here when the western reaches of North and South America were allegedly tamed.

It's an eclectic trip through traditional and modernist impressions of both the exploitation and enduring beauty of the sprawling "Greater West," an area extending from Alaska down the West Coast to Patagonia and Antarctica, and across the Pacific Ocean to Australia. Ancient Mayan artifacts and paintings of wide-open spaces mix with grainy film footage of atomic bomb tests and hanging cardboard models of every US Navy submarine that ever sailed the sea in the exhibit on display at the Nevada Museum of Art through Jan. 21.

'The final frontier'

"Unsettled" includes golf bags stacked like totem poles, basketball shoes configured into a tribal-looking ceremonial mask and a gold-plated, diamond-studded,

gasoline-powered leaf blower alongside a battery operated one invented by low-rider mechanics in the midst of a mostly Hispanic 1970s gardener strike in Beverly Hills, California. "Unlike the reliably consistent Western film genre, the unsettled land of the Greater West is liable to change, unpredictable and not yet resolved," said JoAnne Northrup, the museum's curatorial director and curator of contemporary art.

“Liable to change, unpredictable and not yet resolved”

The "super region" known as the Greater West is the last part of the planet permanently inhabited by homo sapiens. "It really is the final frontier," said Northrup, who worked closely with American artist Ed Ruscha to organize the exhibit in conjunction with two other museums where it will travel next, the Anchorage Museum in Alaska (April 6 to Sept 9) and California's Palm Springs Art Museum (October 2018 to February 2019).

The 8,200-square-foot exhibit is divided into five themes: Shifting Ground, Colliding Cultures, Colonizing Resources, The Sublime Open and Experimental Diversity. Two hundred works by the likes of Ruscha, Ansel Adams, Paul Kos, Federico Herrero, Georgia O'Keefe and 75 others reverberate one or more meanings of "unsettled," including lacking stability, worried



A guard stands outside the "Chocolate Room" by American artist Ed Ruscha.

and uneasy, and having no settlers or inhabitants - the latter with a special twist.

"When we had this manifest destiny that drove us westward, the lands already were settled, just not by the colonial powers," Northrup said. "The thesis of the Greater West is the indigenous culture meeting colonial culture, the collision and what happens as a result." Julie Decker, the Anchorage Museum's director and CEO, said her organization is excited about the chance to collaborate "in a way that connects regions."

'Place of the romantic'

Alaska is often considered a "place of the romantic wilderness, the furthest 'West of America' a place discov-

ered," she said. "But Alaska is host to a complex landscape, many languages and centuries of indigenous culture." Including indigenous artists from the state in "Unsettled" is important in helping reshape the narrative, Decker said. Ruscha (pronounced rew-SHAY) said he was struck by the subtleties of "Prototype for New Understanding #23," the Air Jordans piece by British Columbia's Brian Jungen.

"You can't really tell until you get right in front of it, but these are actually tennis shoes that have been deconstructed, torn or ripped or cut apart and made this symmetrical kind of image that looks kind of tribal in its own way," he said. "It really symbolizes (the) idea for this show." Ruscha's work, "Lost Empires, Living Tribes," hangs in the main gallery where visitors are greeted by Bolivian artist Sonia Falcone's "Campo de Color (Color Field)" - 88 terracotta bowls filled with bright, multicolored pigments and a variety of ground spices, including pepper, clove, mustard, cinnamon and nutmeg.

Other works on display by Ruscha include his iconic "Chocolate Room," a room literally made of sweet-smelling chocolate shingles. It's the fifth version of his work since it debuted at the 1970 Venice Biennale in Italy. "It's extremely sophisticated because it stretches the boundaries of printmaking using chocolate," Northrup said. "But it's also very sensory. You don't have to have a PhD to appreciate it."

Ruscha said during a recent lecture at the museum kicking off the exhibit that he came up with the idea at a London workshop where he was making silk-screen prints and etchings using alternative materials like axel grease, maple syrup, caviar and cream. "The idea of making shingles and shingling the walls with these pieces of paper with actual chocolate - I was completely absorbed by it," he said. "Once we got them all hanging on the wall, I remember exiting the room for the last time and I saw a trail of ants coming in." Unsettling, some might say. — AP



Costa Coffee launches new exclusive food range by Annabel Karmel

Costa Coffee, London's favorite coffee shop chain and part of the Alghanim Industries Food & Beverage portfolio, held an event on Wednesday, 25 October 2017 at the Costa Coffee Boulevard Mall store to mark the launch of a new exclusive range in collaboration with Annabel Karmel, the UK's No 1 children's cookery author and best-selling international author with more than 43 cookbooks. Annabel Karmel shared her culinary tips and tricks for mothers, where she engaged with the audience and signed her "Busy Mom's" cookbook to enthusiasts who attended the event.

Commenting on her partnership with Costa Coffee, Annabel Karmel said: "Costa Coffee shares my passion for helping to support busy families by keeping them fueled throughout the day and I am delighted to bring my wealth of expertise and cooking know-how to the Costa Coffee Menu. It was a pleasure working closely with the Costa Kuwait team to cook-up some exclusive recipes that the whole family can enjoy."

Some of the new specialty items that will be served at Costa Coffee include Energy Bites as well as Date and Carrot Bites. Other items include classics for which Annabel Karmel is most known, such as the Chicken Pasta Salad, Bat Cookies and the Date & Apple Muffin. All items are now available in Costa Coffee stores nationwide, as well as on the Carriage app for delivery to all areas in Kuwait.

Costa Coffee is dedicated to making sure the food offered complements their signature handcrafted coffee. They are always in constant search for fresh and healthy food options for customers to choose from. Costa is the

UK's No 1 coffee shop, with over 2000 stores in the UK and over 1,000 across more than 30 countries, and it continues to grow at a rapid rate. The brand currently operates in 40 locations across Kuwait and has a number of outlets slated to open across the country over the next

year. Alghanim Industries acquired Costa Kuwait in July 2013. Since then, Costa Coffee has been focusing on customer service, refurbishing existing stores and opening new ones around Kuwait, and refreshing and broadening its product range.



Michelin 2018: San Francisco chefs outshine New York's

New York has been usurped as America's premiere gastronomic destination, at least in terms of the Michelin Guide's celebrated three-star ranking. The Guide's 2018 edition saw celebrity chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten suffer the indignity of being downgraded from three to two stars, leaving the US cultural and financial capital with just five three-star restaurants. And San Francisco? It has seven.

Seventy-two New York restaurants were awarded stars by the celebrated culinary guide, down from 77 in 2016. Michelin said several previously ranked restaurants had been dropped from the list because they had since closed. But most notable was the loss of three-star status for Vongerichten's flagship Jean-Georges, one of the most glittering restaurants in New York and situated in the Trump International Hotel and Tower overlooking Central Park.

It was at Jean-Georges that then president-elect Donald Trump dined on November 30, 2016 with Republican grandee Mitt Romney, whom he was then considering but quickly afterward passed over as a possible US secretary of state. After eating in full glare of other diners, Trump let Romney walk out alone after the meal to heap praise on the incoming president before the cameras, offering remarks that contrasted sharply with his criticism on the campaign trail.

Jean-Georges, which opened in 1997 to critical acclaim and has long been the jewel in the French-born chef's empire, is now one of 11 New York restaurants with two stars. Instead of the three-star ranking, which Michelin characterizes as "exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey," its downgraded status is classified as "excellent cooking, worth a detour." The restaurant's prix fixe dinner starts at \$148 a head. San Francisco now has the most number of three Michelin-starred restaurants in any US city. Chicago has two three-starred restaurants. Washington has none.—AFP

Lifestyle | Features

CROATIAN VILLAGE GIVES SHELTER TO ABANDONED BEARS

Orphaned, abandoned or abused: Croatia's brown bears that are unable to survive in the wild are finding a new home in the country's only sanctuary for the furry natives. Up to 1,000 bears are estimated to live in the southeastern European country, particularly in the central forested areas of Gorski Kotar and Lika. Although they are a protected species, Croatian authorities allow the hunting of around 100 bears each year.

"Our goal was to provide refuge for cubs who lost their mothers, were abandoned or due to any other reason could not function alone in the wild," said Ivan Crnkovic-Pavenka, 71, who set up the sanctuary in 2002. A cub found by children in a rain-swollen river was the first resident of the shelter in the picturesque village of Kuterevo, which sits in the foothills of the Velebit mountain range in central Croatia.



Ivan Crnkovic-Pavenka looks on at his shelter for brown bears.

Crnkovic-Pavenka says it can be a problem when people take home cubs found in the wild—there is a period of "cuddles with these velvety little creatures" but the bears have to be killed when they start to bite and scratch. Instead the animals at the sanctuary, all of them sterilized, are divided by age into three open-air spaces totaling 2.5 hectares and surrounded by electric fencing. So far the refuge has hosted 15 bears, some of whom were eventually re-released into the wild. Among them was Luka Gora, who "used to climb a tree and spend the whole night there whining". Another female bear escaped with a wild bear who, attracted by her scent, managed to enter the shelter.

From neglect to new life

There are currently nine resident bears, mostly named after their human rescuers and the place where they were found. Six-year-old Mlada Gora, who likes to eat nuts and sunflowers, lost her mother to hunters and came to the shelter as a cub of five months after she was found searching for food next to a busy highway.

The oldest bear, 34-year-old Mirna, is also the smallest due to earlier neglect: she was kept in a tiny concrete cage at a zoo on the Adriatic coast which was closed down in 2015. Brown bears can live up to the age of 40, but hunting has brought their average age in the Croatian wild down to between four and eight years. The number of those killed by vehicles is also increasing. Around 20,000 visitors are attracted to the sanctuary each year and the brown bear has become the symbol of the local village, Kuterevo. Entry is free and the shelter survives on donations and the work of around 300 volunteers a year. "The bears brought new life here," said 84-year-old local resident Dragica Biondic. — AFP



A small group of brown bears gather at the shelter.



Brown bears gather at a pond in the shelter.

Hollywood producers kick out Weinstein



Harvey Weinstein arrives at The Weinstein Company and Netflix Golden Globes after party in Beverly Hills. — AP

The Producers Guild of America banned disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein for life on Monday, vowing that sexual harassment would no longer be tolerated within its ranks. New accusations of sexual assault have continued to pour in since investigations in the New York Times and New Yorker three weeks ago exposed the tycoon as a relentless, bullying sexual predator. More than 50 women including stars Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie and Mira Sorvino have accused 65-year-old Weinstein of sexual abuse and harassment, although he denies forcing himself on anyone.

"In light of Mr Weinstein's widely reported behavior—with new reports continuing to surface even now—the Producers Guild's national board

has voted unanimously to enact a lifetime ban on Mr Weinstein, permanently barring him from PGA membership," the guild said in a statement. "This unprecedented step is a reflection of the seriousness with which the guild regards the numerous reports of Mr. Weinstein's decades of reprehensible conduct. Sexual harassment can no longer be tolerated in our industry or within the ranks of Producers Guild membership."

The announcement came as accusations of serious sexual assault continued to pile up against Weinstein, whose films have received more than 300 Oscar nominations and 81 statuettes. Hope Exiner d'Amore has accused Weinstein of raping her in a hotel room in the 1970s, according to a Times article published

Monday, while Cynthia Burr said he attacked her in an encounter that ended with forced oral sex in a hallway.

A third complainant, Ashley Matthau, a dancer with a bit part in one of his movies, says he pushed her down on a bed in a 2004 attack, masturbating while straddling her. On Saturday the New Yorker ran an interview in which actress Annabella Scierra—an Emmy nominee for her role in the acclaimed television series "The Sopranos"—accused Weinstein of forcing his way into her apartment and violently raping her in the 1990s.

Last week, according to the Times, the actress Dominique Huett filed a lawsuit claiming that in 2010, Weinstein forcibly performed oral

sex on her, while Mimi Halevi, a former production assistant, told a news conference in New York he had attacked her in 2006. Asked about the latest allegations, a spokesperson for Weinstein reiterated that he denies engaging in non-consensual sex, and said that he "has begun counseling, has listened to the community and is pursuing a better path." Police in New York, Los Angeles and London have all confirmed criminal investigations into Weinstein's activities. The toppled tycoon was sacked as co-chairman of The Weinstein Company and also resigned from its board. — AFP

Queen of Stage **Myriam Fares** attends the Splash AW '17 Fashion Show

Splash, Middle East's largest fast fashion retailer, recently showcased its Autumn Winter 17 collection at a fashion show in the presence of Myriam Fares. The collection draws inspirations from feminist inter woven threads celebrating the 90s' sporty grunge, the military safari and glamorous power of luxe pret wear.

Headquartered in Dubai, Splash is Middle East's largest fashion retailer and part of the Landmark Group, one of the biggest retail conglomerates in

the Middle East, India and Africa. Founded in 1993 as a single brand store in Sharjah, Splash has grown to over 200 stores and 50 brand stores across 13 countries.

Scaling new heights, Splash has taken a step forward into the world of fashion by realigning its product offering to meet the ever-changing lifestyle demands of its customer and re-instating their trust in the brand. Showcasing popular collections for men, women and teens, Splash has revamped its

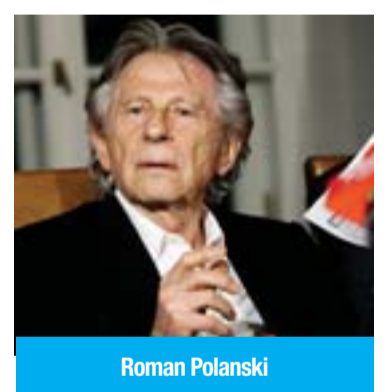
existing product portfolio and introduced a uni-brand concept across its stores providing a comfortable and easy shopping environment. Alongside, Splash also houses a gamut of international brands under its portfolio like Lee Cooper, Bossini, ELLE and Being Human among others.

Protesters disrupt Polanski film after new rape allegations

Protesters have disrupted the opening of a retrospective of Roman Polanski's work in Paris following new rape allegations against the French-Polish film director. Some 80 protesters outside the Cinematheque Francaise, which is showcasing Polanski's films next month, banged on windows and carried posters with slogans such as, "If rape is an art, give Polanski all the (French movie award) Cesars". Two members of the Femen group briefly exposed their breasts and shouted "no honours for rapists" in the presence of Polanski before security pushed them outside. Polanski, who had entered the building through a back entrance, was set to present his new movie "Based on a True Story" at the event.

Earlier this month, Swiss prosecutors said former German actress and model Renate Langer had told authorities that Polanski raped her at his mountain chalet in 1972 when she was 15 years old. Langer is one of four women who have publicly accused Polanski, 84, of sexually assaulting them when they were teenagers. The allegations predate the Hollywood film mogul Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal. Polanski, director of classic films like Rosemary's Baby, The Pianist and Carnage, has fled US sentencing in 1978 for unlawful sex with 13-year-old Samantha Geimer in Los Angeles in 1977 in a case where he pleaded guilty at the time.

"Polanski has no place in an homage organised by a public cultural institution in France. He should be in a US court of justice," Raphaëlle Remy-Leleu, spokeswoman for feminist group "Osez le Féminisme" said on French CNews television. She said the Cinematheque Francaise was "spitting in the face of victims of male



Roman Polanski

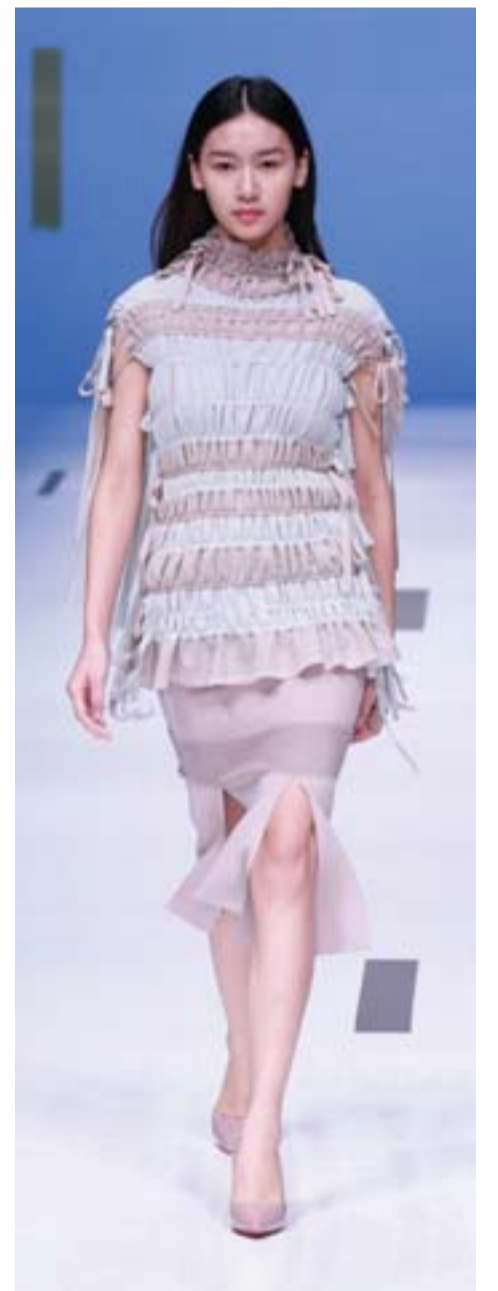
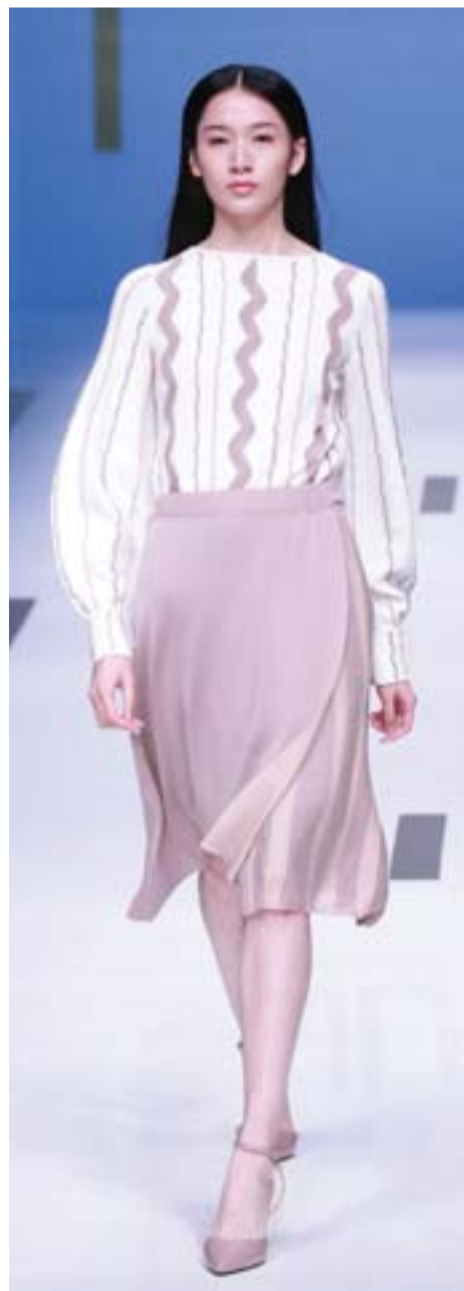
aggression" and complicit to the impunity of the aggressors.

The Cinematheque said in a statement to French media that the organization is honoring Polanski's work and wants to steer clear of the legal case against him. French Culture Minister Françoise Nyssen has also defended the Polanski retrospective. "This is about his life's work, not about the man," she said on radio France Inter on Friday. In a statement to Reuters last week, Polanski's lawyer reiterated that Polanski has acknowledged having had a sexual relationship with Geimer, and repeated that he strongly denies all other allegations against him as totally baseless.

In 2009, Swiss authorities arrested Polanski on his arrival in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival. Two months later, he was released on bail and put under house arrest in his Gstaad chalet. In July 2010, he was released from house arrest after authorities decided against extradition because of potential technical faults in the US request and because he had for years come to Switzerland in good faith. — Reuters



China Fashion Week



Model parade the creations from the "NUOYI" collection by Qin Wanyu during China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AFP

New collection of **Al Nasser** for autumn and winter

Al Nasser announced the arrival of autumn winter season 2017/2018, characterized by warm colors in addition to cotton and wool. A variety of autumn, elegant and colorful collection, with its models falling under the theme of the new season and manufactured with details and quality to suit every budget. A range of theme colors and designs offered many color options ranging from Navy blue, dark red, yellow to dark green.

On the other hand comes the designs of the latest comfort shoes of the latest winter trends, suitable for work, including special occa-

sions, with leather, velvet and other material making from every step a special one. Come visit us and discover the fall season this winter. Through the branches of Al- Nasser spread throughout the State of Kuwait. Al Nasser always provides everything the family needs under one roof which makes it fun to shop and save time and effort and with the best quality and prices.



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017



Apartment living at a complex in the Riverside Community of New York October 30, 2017. The Riverside Park Community apartment complex is a group of five buildings in Harlem that has over 1000 apartment units and were designed to accommodate nearly 1,190 families. — AFP

HISTORIC QUARTER OF **MARRAKESH** SEES REVIVAL

The once teeming Jewish area of Moroccan tourist gem Marrakesh is seeing its fortunes revived as visitors including many from Israel flock to experience its unique culture and history. "You're now entering the last synagogue in the mellah," the walled Jewish quarter in the heart of the ochre city, Isaac Ohayon says as he enthusiastically guides tourists in the courtyard of the Lazama synagogue.

"Many visitors come from Israel—you wouldn't believe the demand!" adds the jovial 63-year-old hardware shop owner. This place of worship and study was built originally in 1492 during the Inquisition when the Jews were driven out of Spain. Known as the "synagogue of the exiles", it hosted generations of young Berbers who converted to Judaism and were sent from villages in the region to learn the Torah, before finally being deserted in the 1960s.

In classrooms now transformed into a museum, fading color photographs tell the story of a now-dispersed community, with many having left for France, North America and especially Israel. The caption on one sepia shot of an old man sitting by a pile of trunks says it all: "They are travelling towards a dream they have prayed for more than 2,000 years." Rebecca is now in her fifties and grew up in Paris, but she has "great nostalgia" for Morocco and returns as often as she can. "The Jewish Agency began recruiting the poorest in the 1950s and then everyone left after independence (from France), at the time of King Hassan II's policy of Arabisation," she says. The Jewish Agency of Israel is a semi-official organisation that oversees immigration to the country.

Eroded by time

Before the wave of departures, Morocco hosted North Africa's largest Jewish community, estimated at between 250,000 and 300,000 people. There are fewer than 3,000 left, according to unofficial figures. Marrakesh at the foot of the Atlas mountain range was home to more than 50,000 Jews, according to a 1947 census.

Now, 70 years later, around 100 are thought to remain, many of them extremely elderly. Jewish-owned homes inside the mellah were sold to Muslim families of modest means, and the walls of the district were eroded by time. "Sometimes we can't get even 10 men together for prayers," says one woman worshipper at the old synagogue, preferring to remain anonymous.

But at celebrations marking the end of the festival of Sukkot, which commemorates the Jewish journey through the Sinai after their exodus from Egypt, and the Simchat Torah holiday, the place is buzzing with song, dance and traditional dishes. The worshipper says she has "never seen so many people" there.

Jacob Assayag, 26, proudly calls himself "the last young Jew in Marrakesh". "Since the quarter was restored, there have been more and more tourists," says the restaurateur and singer. A restoration project begun just over two years ago has already seen 17.5 million euros (\$20.5 million) spent. Ferblantiers Square, a large pedestrian area near the spice souk lined with benches and palm trees where tourist buses gather, also benefited from the revamp. Twenty years ago, the quarter was renamed "Salaam (peace in Arabic)", but this year saw its original "El Mellah" name restored on the orders of King Mohamed VI "to preserve its historic memory" and develop tourism.

“ You wouldn't believe the demand! ”



A small market stall is seen in the "Mellah" Jewish quarter of the Medina in Marrakesh.

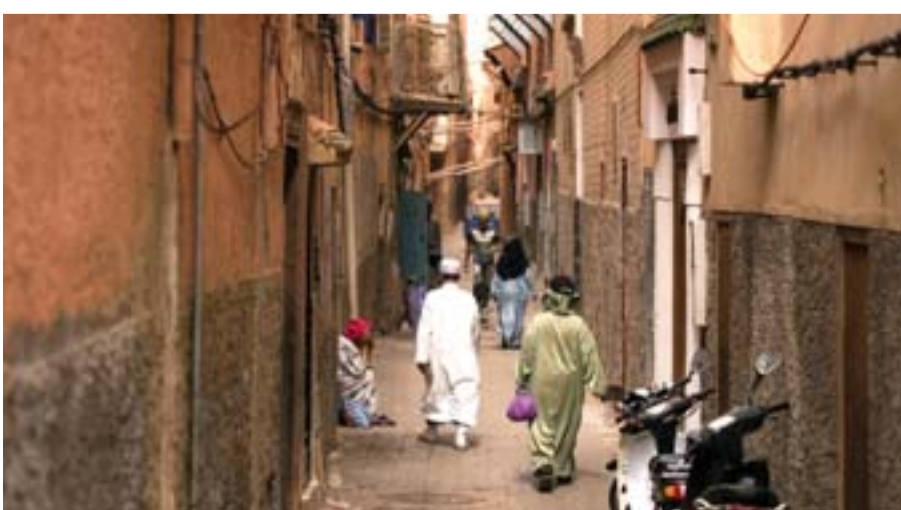
A sensitive topic

The streets with their ochre facades once more bear their names on plaques in Hebrew: the synagogue, for example, is on Talmud Torah Street. There is much to see inside the mellah. Camera-toting tourists snap vigorously at shopfronts and the carved wooden doorways of houses in the quarter. "Many people come every year from Israel for the (Jewish) holidays, and this year has seen even more, maybe 50,000," says Israeli tourist guide David, leading a group from Tel Aviv via Malaga in Spain on an eight-day trip. "I feel at home in Morocco because I was born here," adds the 56-year-old from the port of Ashdod just north of the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip.

His parents left Marrakesh in the 1960s, when David was just four years old, "because they were Zionists". Ohayon says visitors from the Jewish state are often

bowled over by Marrakesh. "Moroccan Jews can't forget their homeland and Israelis who come here for the first time find the spirit of tolerance here almost unbelievable when they themselves live under constant tension," he says.

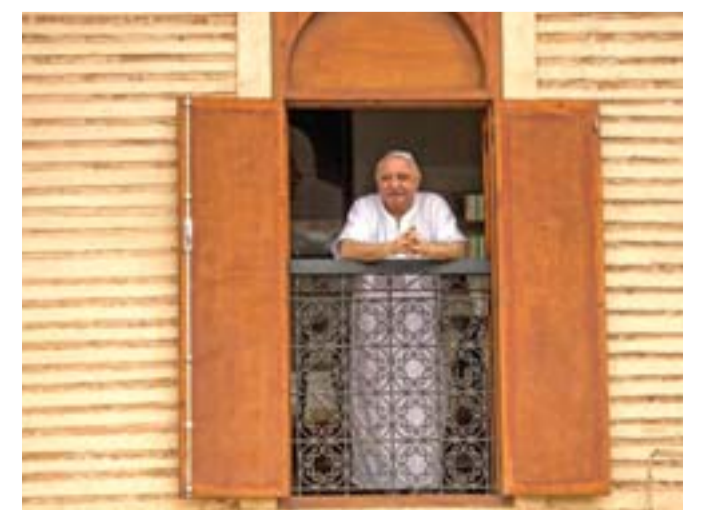
Officially, Morocco has neither diplomatic nor economic ties with Israel, as this is a sensitive topic. Just two Arab states, Egypt and Jordan, have signed peace treaties with the Jewish state. But in reality, there are few obstacles to both business and tourism. Moroccan media reports say commercial exchanges between the two countries this year have amounted to more than four million dollars a month. The kingdom, seen as a safe destination, recorded a more than 10 percent rise in tourist arrivals between January and August this year over 2016, with eight million visitors. — AFP



A view of a street in the "Mellah" Jewish quarter of the Medina.



A man carries a cane in his hand as he walks down an alley in the "Mellah".



A Moroccan man looks out his window at the street below.