

Friday Times

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Rescuers arrive at the site of the bus accident in Iraq. — KUNA

Local

The problem with parking



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Do we have a law in Kuwait that forces owners of buildings to allocate a car parking area for tenants at the time of the design and establishment of the structure? If yes, then does the municipality have the power to take legal action against owners who either don't build a car parking area or rent out the basement as a storage area? If not, then we need such a law as soon as possible.

A new building opens up for renting, but it is first come, first serve when it comes to parking. You could be one of the few tenants to block a space for your car, otherwise you have to search the entire neighborhood to find a spot! You will need to look around for a mosque, school or supermarket to park your car there. This is wrong and uncivilized, and moreover, these parking spaces should be for the customers, parents or worshippers, and not for residents of buildings. The law should serve all members of the community - the renters as well as landlords. A law without implementation is just ink on paper.

Are we confronting a parking problem in Kuwait? Yes - please don't say all countries are the same. Does this place unnecessary pressure on traffic and pedestrians? Is it a threat to people's lives? Yes, it is. Then why is the municipality not intervening, I wonder?

Some government bodies have leased large buildings downtown, but these were not designed to receive thousands of visitors daily. Visitors usually search for a parking spot and then cross many roads to reach their destinations. Those who cross the road could be sick, old or with a child, but who cares!

Globally, every residential compound or complex should have a parking area for at least one car for each flat. That's what the books say. But even handicapped parking spots can be taken away because the building owner has no disability, so he/she doesn't feel the pain. This is sad. A visit to areas like Hawally or Salwa reveals the large number of parking violations. I don't blame the tenants, as they have no choice, but I do blame the municipality for not mandating building owners to act according to the law for everyone's safety.

Some buildings are small, with four flats for instance, but the greed of the owner leads him to rent the roof and the basement and even divide flats into two to collect more money. All these renters will have at least one car, so where they will park them? It is easy to call for penalties against violating tenants, especially those who leave their cars on the sidewalks, but this is not the solution.

The answer lies with the municipality, which should play its role in preventing buildings renting out more than the authorized number of flats and forcing the owner to design and build underground parking for residents before granting him the permission to build or rent. In case of violations, he should be fined and punished. This is the only way out for the parking problem.

Domestic abuse in Kuwait



By Sana Kalim

Imagine a fear that engulfs your very existence - a fear that haunts your day-to-day life, a fire right next to spewing gas. From the moment your eyes open in the morning to the last thought that flits through your mind. To most people, these moments occur at a place everyone is familiar with - home. Sure, a home is the epitome of warmth, comfort and reassurance. However, to victims of domestic abuse - a home is a place of fear, hurt and betrayal.

Spousal abuse

According to the ministry of justice, in 2010, the number of domestic violence cases was 368, more than one a day. One in three women in Kuwait has experienced domestic violence, according to a study conducted by the ministry.

Privacy is an integral part of the Kuwaiti society, and laws against domestic violence haven't really been effective, as it's an embarrassment if the family can't deal with this without outside help. This creates an even more powerful predator. The victim can't ask for help, as this act would be viewed as embarrassing both her and her family. A painful silence cloaks what is labeled with social shame. So the number of abuse cases is perhaps - horrifically - a lot larger.

Violence against domestic helpers

Domestic violence does not only reside within family members. Domestic largely means 'within the home'. Maids have been cornered by society. No one can hear their cries for help. They are treated as if they are less than human. We tend to forget that they have rights too in Kuwait. But they cannot ask for these, or they will lose their jobs, and maybe God forbid, be punished severely.

A report issued in 2016 by the International Foundation for Internally Displaced People shows us that Kuwait has maintained its position for the third consecutive year. The report says that Greece - suffering from a severe financial crisis - overtook Kuwait to rank in 66th place globally. Nigeria was ranked 65th.

The crisis that Kuwait suffers from stems from the fact that domestic labor has become a necessity in numerous households, due to social norms. This causes employers to normalize a certain type of behavior, as these workers become legally bound to their employers. Their employers can treat them however they want, because the fact is, these workers don't have a lot of power - and they need the money.

Despite the discovery of the risks of domestic labor, these horrific acts are still prevalent in society and have become the norm. Because of the work of the servants and their culture, some families have seized their freedom and documents and prevent them from their most basic rights, and sometimes they are physically assaulted.

The domestics law was translated into several languages and distributed to domestic workers to know their rights, and newspapers published them too. But between reality and the law, do employers know their workers' rights?

Here are the rights of a domestic worker:

- The sponsor is obliged to pay the monthly wage agreed upon and to sign it monthly for proof in case of denial.
- No part of her salary may be deducted.

- The employer is obliged to feed him and his family, and bear the expenses of treatment, nursing and housing.

- The worker may not be assigned to perform a dangerous act that may affect their health or insult their dignity.

- Provide adequate housing for the worker with means of livelihood.
- It is prohibited for the sponsor to take the travel document or other documents except with the worker's consent, and preferably document it.

- The worker has the right not to renew his employment contract if he notifies the sponsor within a period of not less than two months.

- Maximum working hours should not be more than 12 hours per day with breaks.

- The right of the worker for weekly leave and other annual paid leave.

- End of service benefit equivalent to one month of each year of employment.

- If the worker dies, the sponsor has to pay the expenses of sending the body to her home country with the payment of the wages of the month in which she died.

This is a direct quote from a US State Department report on how domestic violence is handled in Kuwait: "Police officials rarely arrested perpetrators of domestic violence even when presented with documented evidence of the abuse, such as eyewitness accounts, hospital reports, and social worker testimony, and treated such reports as social instead of criminal matters. Individuals also reportedly bribed some police officials to ignore assault charges in cases of domestic abuse. Husbands convicted of spousal abuse in previous years rarely faced severe penalties. Noncitizen women married to citizens reported domestic abuse and inaction or discrimination by police during past years, but no data were available for the year."

So it is clear that even the handling of domestic abuse is poor within Kuwait. The following is a personal interview with a lawyer and the head of the family committee at the Kuwaiti Lawyers' Association on this subject:

Q: What is the situation of domestic violence against women within the family?

A: We do not have a law for women suffering from domestic violence. We do not have a hotline, we have no shelter. What we have in Kuwait is the family law no. 51 of 1984, the penal code no. 16 of 1960 and the family court law of 2015. All of them offer women rights and dignity against being abused or subjected to violence. They are not fully protected by their families, and are vulnerable to violence at any moment.

The need for awareness is needed now more than ever before. Change is coming at a slow pace - however, this issue is so large, that progress needs to be made as soon as possible. There is a lack of a specialized center for women in Kuwait. We need a more specific and localized system to help fight this injustice. Kuwait is a beautiful country with many countless incredible people, but injustices like these hold this country back from blossoming into its true potential. I have written this article so that silent victims are aware of their rights, and I hope this helps.

Remember, no one ever deserves to be treated badly - you deserve the best, like everyone else.

Local

Animal rights in Kuwait



IN MY VIEW

By Jeri Al-Jeri

local@kuwaittimes.com

Regardless of the fact that government efforts have restricted some animal rights violations by creating shelters in the desert for lizards and birds, there is a growing problem of stray dogs and street cats that are harmed and poisoned and abused.

Lack of awareness led real-life heroes to create, manage and fund organizations like PAWS, Al-Rifq, KARE and many others in Kuwait. Fortunately, such acts of kindness are increasing in popularity, and these voluntary groups are documenting their accomplishments on social media, gathering support and encouragement for a seemingly lost battle.

The advent of social media and the race for fame has increased animal rights violations by ill-doers who seek shock value by any means necessary. Viewers have been tremendously baffled by the cruel treatment of animals in GCC states, such as shooting chickens with fireworks, kicking cats into goals, or making dogs living piOatas only to get more Internet views.

American expat Claudia Al-Rashoud has

passionately raised points that are definitely worth mentioning - firstly, that the sadistic pleasure of creating any organized fights between animals or making any kind of dark comedy displays by hurting animals is psychologically proven to create generations disposed to being violent against fellow human beings. I would add that you can't find a terrorist cuddling Mr Cookie the brown hamster!

Secondly, she stressed countries such as India and Bangladesh combat the problem of uncontrollable breeding by spaying females and neutering males. Thirdly, she suggested cracking down on owners who irresponsibly breed for quick dinars, and raise awareness that pets can improve the psychology and morale of kids. She also spoke about the cruelty of throwing pets out due to fears of developing allergies without providing a humane place for them.

All in all, the fight against animal cruelty is not about turning GCC states into a fantastical utopia for animals, but for us Muslims, it is simply to abide by what Islam has already taught us. Such as the story of the prostitute that went to eternal paradise only by the merciful and kind act of giving a dog a drink of water, and how a pious and honorable Muslim lady went to hell only due to the merciless act of confining a cat without feeding it. It is time to see our fellow habitants of earth not as biological piOatas, but our furry tickets to heaven.

if the violators are punished, this negative phenomenon will disappear or at least drop to a minimum. A few years back, inspectors were given the authority to issue fines, but no significant difference was noticed.

When the municipality banned barbecuing on beaches and warned violators of large fines in addition to the possibility of deporting violating expats in certain cases due to damage caused by grilling, this negative act disappeared. This way of threatening succeeded to force people to respect the law, and this is exactly what is needed.

The EPA is also authorized to issue fines for some violations, which can be sanctioned by more authorities, if it affects the environment. A few days back, EPA again warned against grilling on beaches, reminding of the already existing law that allows EPA inspectors to issue a fine of up to KD 10,000. The fine depends on the level of damage caused to the environment. The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources is also in charge of penalizing violators if grilling damages trees and plants.

Littering is an uncivilized behavior and is not seen in developed countries, such as those in Europe. This comes from their culture, as they are taught to keep their country clean from childhood. We need to spread this culture among children and be a good example for them. Some Western teachers in English schools are trying to spread the culture of recycling and protecting Mother Nature by holding practical activities and field trips for students, and they have noticed students' acceptance and interaction.

I hope we have many inspectors on the streets watching people and issuing large fines to violators to keep our country always clean.

We are all responsible for Kuwait's cleanliness

By Nawara Fattahova

The Municipality, which is in charge of maintaining cleanliness and is authorized to issue fines, issued a reminder on various media warning people against violating the law. It cautioned smokers against discarding cigarette butts while driving or in any public place including the streets, parks, pavements and others. Violators will be fined according to law no. 9/1987, which sets the fine starting from KD 5 up to KD 200.

But the head of the Capital emergency team of the municipality considered this fine as low and not a deterrent for violators, saying that the Environment Public Authority is authorized to issue fines up to KD 5,000. In fact, the same law also includes other kinds of violations such as urinating or spitting in public, not to mention littering. But we still see many people littering in public places, even in front of the building where they live. Their uncivilized behavior needs to be strictly punished to protect our country and keep it clean.

People are not keeping the streets, beaches, parks and other places clean, so how do we expect them to recycle? If there are more inspectors who are really active in controlling violations in all public places, and

Unpleasant classes



KUWAITI STUDENTS ABROAD

By Salman Al Mutawa

local@kuwaittimes.com

Recently, I attended my first accounting course for my Master's in Business Administration. Previously, I did not believe that there were boring subjects, just boring educators. I must admit now that I was wrong. In my opinion, eight weeks of intense accounting classes not only drained my energy, but also affected my happiness index (I rate myself a solid 9/10, 7/10 with accounting). It got me thinking that others may also experience a similar situation with different classes, be they in the sciences or the arts. The natural choice of many is to drop the class, in which case this is a smart choice. But if the class is mandatory, and the instructor's energy is at best exemplified by the color beige, then we must find a way to pass the class.

To do this, I have prepared a step by step list of minimizing the energy draining effect of boring classes. I hope that my readers benefit from this list and look forward to receiving feedback and criticism:

The first step is to analyze the teaching method. In most cases, the teaching method is slide reading. For those who do not know how to recognize this situation, it is characterized by a professor standing behind a screen, reading from a PowerPoint slide most likely provided from another source.

Step two is figuring out the least amount of work required for the most amount of value, that is, to not spend your time reading 40 pages of the chapter if your professor focuses mostly on the mathematic aspect of the course. Another example is doing homework if it is not mandatory.

Step three: If attendance is mandatory, use the class time to do the class/homework for the class during the allotted time for Dr. Beige's instructing. This way, you are condensing the unpleasant part of your day into one hour. This is important because if you do not do your work during class, there is a chance that you will procrastinate. In

classes that are practice based, like accounting, this is risky and may affect your grade negatively.

Step four: Ask students who have already taken the course for advice, especially regarding the professor. Professor Beige may like the occasional student chiming in about the topic. Search a random slide, then ask him or her once each class. This will safeguard your reputation if you need to speak with the professor regarding your grade in the future. Trends noticed with some professors are: talking with them about something they like (basketball), finding common ground on a cultural basis, being the teacher's "pet", being the one who cracks jokes in class, and finally, walking in late with confidence and a smile. Each professor is different and will have different biases. Some professors will not have biases, in which case it is best to remain quiet.

For readers of this article who are professors, I apologize for the crudeness of the previous paragraph, but these are only a few tools many students use to soften you up and nurture your human biases. To counter this behavior, the best method is to remain strict regarding the rules of your course. If you do notice students dozing off, the best method of figuring out what can be done is asking them.

I am surprised by how unconnected many professors are to their students. After surveying multiple samples, you will notice a trend of how your students prefer to learn your course material. Keep in mind, there will be a few students who will offer to cut class material as a form of advice. If your students tell you there is something wrong, they are almost always right, if they tell you exactly what is wrong, they are likely wrong.

The final step applies to both professors and students: please do your due diligence. If the students are unfocused in class, try to make the material more dynamic. If your professor is Dr. Beige, make the most of your time in class, or try to ask the professor for a different approach. Be very careful about this, as some professors get very defensive about their teaching methods.

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Local



Noura Al-Mutairi: Drawing as expression

By Ben Garcia

The manifestation of creativity and imagination in humans is called art, and we tend to exercise it in various ways. Honing such creativity and talents can be achieved with the help of institutions or through constant practice. Then there are people who are born with artistic skills, like Noura Al-Mutairi, 17, who draws better when she is angry. Noura capitalizes on her mood to express her full range of emotions, feelings through drawings. "I like drawing when I am mad; I like drawing when I feel dissatisfied in the world I live in; if you want me to draw better stuff, make me angry," Noura told Kuwait Times.



Noura is a sociable young Kuwaiti woman. She loves drawing faces of people. For her, it's like creating people and molding them slowly with her hands. "I express my emotions and feelings in my drawings. You'll see the real faces of people when I am disappointed. When I am happy, don't expect a good drawing," she laughed.

Art is a hobby for Noura. "Art is my first love. I do lots of portraits. I like the curves and intricacies of human faces. I love to draw the details of people's faces - it's like sculpting a masterpiece with my hand! When you draw a face, you are recreating human beings - it's like bringing something to life. I like the process of shading the eyes, the curvature of the bones; the body - it's exciting!" she exclaimed.

Noura enjoys drawing faces of Hollywood stars. She also has a favorite - Johnny Depp. "I like drawing the face of Depp. I have made hundreds of his portraits. Maybe just imagining his face makes me happy. I love creating his face with various emotions. I can see a beautiful face after spending hours and hours on my canvas."

Most of Noura's drawings are made using pencil and charcoal. "I like natural and monotone paintings - not too many colors. I think the reason why I am not into coloring is the time wasted - the blending of colors is quite complicated, but I can draw with colors too. I just like it simple and not complicated," she said. Noura prefers to draw on smaller canvases. "I don't mind that majority of my creations are on sheets of A4 paper. Many of my classmates want me to draw their faces, and some of them are really perfect. I like it smaller because you can concentrate on details with less effort as well," she said.

Noura started drawing when she was six years old and has won competitions for her art, including a paint competition organized by Kuwait Times.

"I see to it that everything in my drawings is perfect, so two hours of drawing can extend up to three to five hours." Noura also loves listening to classical music and reading books, and will pursue medicine if she passes exams at Kuwait University. "I want to become a good surgeon. That will be my job and I am heading towards it. But being an artist is my first love - I love drawing. You don't need to major in art to be an artist - if you can draw, you're an artist," she explained.

Noura Al-Mutairi with Adnan Saad after winning a painting competition organized by Kuwait Times.



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Local

By Shakir Reshamwala

Barangay Matuber is a picturesque, if slightly rundown, fishing village near Cotabato City in the Philippines. Palm trees sway in the wind as the azure waters of the Moro Gulf shimmer in the afternoon sun. The village's fishermen have returned with their catch, and are lounging around. A gaggle of children play hopscotch - a game many youngsters in the developed world do not even know exists. A water buffalo ruminates in a pond, unperturbed by the commotion. But something is missing in this bucolic setting - most of the womenfolk of the village.



The administrative office of barangay Matuber welcomes residents and visitors. — Photos by Steven Jiang and Shakir Reshamwala

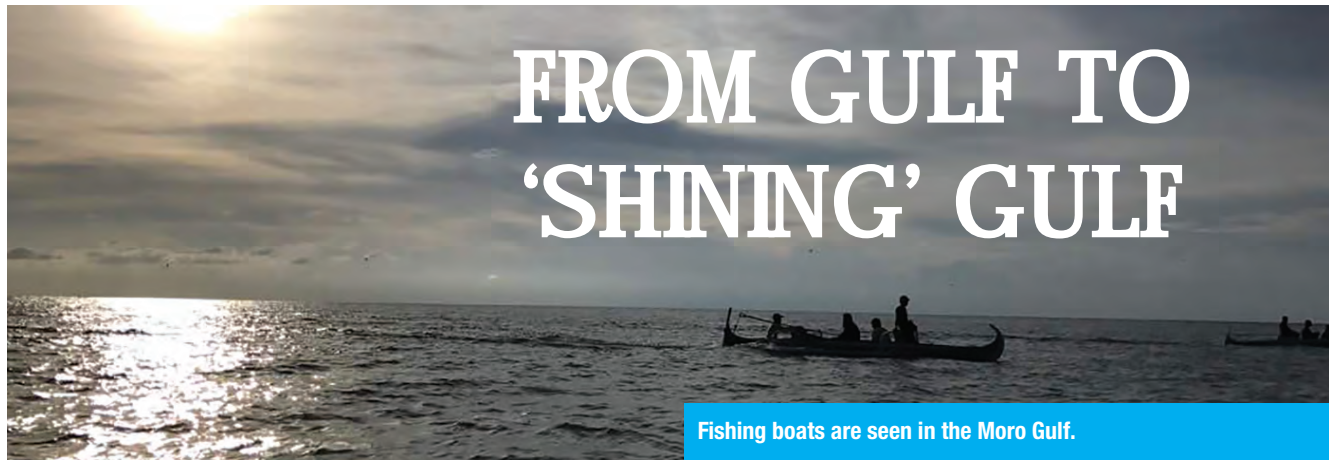
A housemaid - or sometimes two or three of them - taking care of children or hauling bags while their 'mama' shops is a common sight in Kuwait. One can also see them in parks and near schools, or early in the morning washing cars outside palatial villas. Every now and then, reports of abuse put these women under the spotlight, but generally, no-one gives a second thought about them. They have become part of the landscape, toiling away in obscurity. Where do they come from; do they have children of their own; what compelled them to leave their homes and homelands - these are questions that people rarely ask.

The call to prayer resounds in the village, and men shuffle into a small mosque to pray. The barangay is located in Mindanao, the second-largest island of the Philippines with a large and restive Muslim minority. Matuber is a multi-religious village - a makeshift church built of corrugated iron sheets and exposed cement and plywood walls is a short walk from the mosque, a brick structure painted a bright yellow. Muslims and Catholics in the village live in relative harmony, eking out a frugal subsistence from the sea.



A mosque in barangay Matuber.

The minimum wage for domestic workers in Kuwait is KD 60 (\$200) - it used to be KD 45 (\$150) until mid-2016. These workers mostly hail from the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Ethiopia. Among them, Filipinos are the highest-paid - KD 120 (\$400) - an amount set by the Philippine government. Manila encourages its citizens to seek work abroad, as overseas



Fishing boats are seen in the Moro Gulf.

Filipino workers - more than 10 million of them - remit billions of dollars back home, which form a major component of the impoverished nation's economy.



An elderly woman and a child at a village shop.

Back in Matuber, a woman running a small convenience store in the center of the village speaks good Arabic - she worked as a maid in Saudi Arabia for many years before returning and setting up this small business with her savings. But there's not much here to make a living, so many women who return home after their contracts expire soon head out to the Gulf again, bracing for a harsh life of drudgery and servitude. \$400 is a meager amount - but in hardscrabble villages like these with no economic prospects, it is decent money.



Children play outside a church in the village.

It's a long way from the Moro Gulf to the Arabian Gulf. At Kuwait International Airport, the maids arrive by the planeloads - dressed in shiny new clothes, clutching their documents as they are herded through immigration. A mix of fear and wonderment can be seen on the faces of first-time arrivals, while the veterans look resigned to their fate. Life as a housemaid is a tough one, and lurid incidents of abuse and assault occasionally make the headlines. Every day, an average of 10 Filipinas escape from their abusive employers and seek refuge at the Philippines Embassy. The embassy's shelters are home to hundreds of these runaway maids at any given time. But despite these horror stories, the flow of Pinoy workers continues unabated.



Fishermen idle by their boat on the shore.

For the men of Matuber, the money sent by their OFW wives is a welcome addition to what they earn selling fish. For the children of the housemaids playing in the dirt bylanes of the village, the remittances enable them to go to school. A good education will hopefully help them avoid making the journey to the Gulf themselves, but the likelihood of this happening is admittedly bleak. For now, the only link these rambunctious kids have to the faraway lands where their mothers are laboring is the small yellow mosque - a closer inspection of a marble plaque fixed near its entrance reveals it has been built by a charity from Kuwait. The wheel comes full circle.



A plaque shows the mosque was built by a Kuwaiti charity in 2008.

Othman Museum depicts old Kuwaiti hostels



KUWAIT: Al-Othman Museum opened yesterday a new section depicting old hostels in Kuwait. The Nuzel (hostel) Al-Othman displays pieces of furniture and rooms that received those looking for shelter back in the olden days. — KUNA



Local

Road accident in south Iraq kills five Kuwaitis

Amir sends condolences to victims' families



KUWAIT: Five Kuwaiti citizens were killed and 13 others injured during a road accident while visiting the southern Iraqi city of Karbala, said Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Salem Al-Zamanan yesterday. Speaking to KUNA, Zamanan said that a bus, transporting the Kuwaiti nationals, overturned on Tel Al-Laham Road between Basra and Nasiriya. The ambassador added that

those injured in the accident were taken to Al-Hussein Hospital in the city of Nasiriya for treatment. Zamanan added that the foreign ministry of Kuwait had instructed a number of Kuwaiti diplomats to head to the city to follow up on the situation and check on those who were injured in the incident.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent condolence cables to the families of victims of the bus accident. The Amir expressed his sincere condolences and sorrow over the tragic accident, praying to Allah Almighty to place the deceased victims in his heavens, inspire their families with patience and solace, and grant the injured swift recovery. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the victims' families.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi asked that Jahra and Sabah Hospitals be placed on high alert. He said he is in contact with the foreign ministry to get the latest information about the accident.



1942: Kuwait's year of the ration card

KUWAIT: The year 1942 will forever be remembered as the period in which the first ration cards were issued in Kuwait. After a long period of economic drought since the beginning of World War II, the early 1940s saw the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah strike a deal with the British Empire to provide consumer products to the country. As a result, goods were available to the masses through ration cards. Speaking to KUNA, history researcher Hani Al-Asousi said due to an increase in commodity prices, the Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber established the rations department, which was in charge of providing food and clothing to citizens. Rice, flour and sugar were provided to the public, said Asousi, adding that fabrics from India were also given to the people. Ration cards were suspended after the economic situation improved in Kuwait; however, in 1975, the card was reintroduced with only foodstuff available for distribution, he said. — KUNA

Municipality inspects Jleeb eateries, shops

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The municipality's PR department said a campaign was carried out in Jleeb, resulting in issuing 15 citations. Farwaniya governorate municipality branch manager Nasser Al-Rasheedi said the campaign was carried out by female inspectors at several shops and restaurants, resulting in issuing a citation for not complying with health conditions, a citation for not wearing a uniform, a citation for not complying with cleanliness rules and six citations for employing workers before obtaining health certificates.

Violators arrested

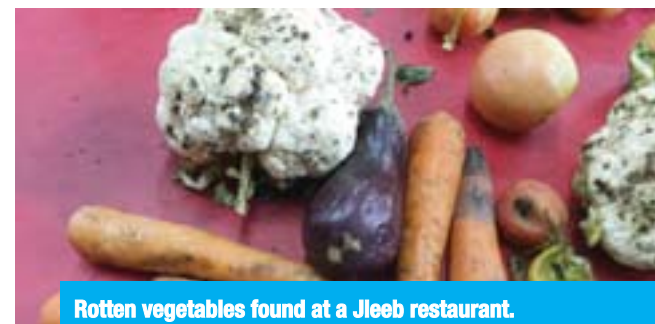
Security departments set up several inspection points in the Capital governorate, resulting in the arrest of 16 wanted persons, in addition to 39 residency violators.

Fake companies busted

Residency detectives discovered 22 fake closed companies with 90 workers under their sponsorship, which were placed on the banned list. Concerned authorities were contacted to take the necessary measures towards the violating companies.

New detour

The traffic department in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works will open a detour at the intersection of airport road with south Dajej at dawn today to construct a bridge on the Sixth Ring Road.



Rotten vegetables found at a Jleeb restaurant.



The hotel is sealed by policemen.

Hotel sealed

The prevention sector at Kuwait Fire Directorate closed a 17-storey hotel administratively for not meeting preventive measures.

Cop questioned

The relations and security information department at the interior ministry explained in a video on social media a traffic jam caused by removing a vehicle parked on a pavement resulted from an individual mistake by an officer. He was questioned and will face disciplinary action.

Local

Belgium supports Kuwait on Schengen visa waiver

Senate president lauds ties with Kuwait

KUWAIT: The President of the Belgian Senate Christine Defraigne reiterated late yesterday her country's support to Kuwait's request for a Schengen visa waiver. Kuwait's contributions in the field of humanitarian action would boost its chances in having its citizens be exempted from the Schengen visa requirement, Defraigne said in an exclusive interview with KUNA.

The visa waiver request is subjected to specific requirements and procedures that eventually must be ratified by the European Parliament, she said. Belgium seeks to reduce the wait time and speed up completion of the Kuwaiti application with an approval, Defraigne said, noting that the request procedures were delayed due to technical reasons.

She also denied recent reports on Israeli efforts to undermine Kuwait's application for a Schengen visa waiver and any Kuwaiti initiative within international organizations. The Schengen visa waiver is solely an EU concern and decision, Defraigne emphasized, adding that Israel is not an EU member-state; thus it does not have the power to affect or discuss such a matter with the Union. The Belgian Senate president lauded her country's diplomatic relationship with Kuwait that dates back more than 50 years. She also said her visit aims to enhance Belgium-Kuwaiti ties, back them on all levels, and discuss a number of important subjects of mutual interest with top Kuwaiti officials. The two countries share several joint issues such as the war on terror, Defraigne said, noting that Belgium and Kuwait have both faced a number of terrorist attacks in past years.

Counter-terrorism efforts became a global concern as same terrorist groups that targeted Belgium have also targeted Kuwait, she said, adding that such efforts require collective cooperation and action. Despite the fact that Belgium and Kuwait are not "big" geographically; they, however, share common distinctive such as their moderate approach and wisdom in solving various issues, said Defraigne. The two countries also use the dialogue approach to tackle crisis and disputes in their regions, and to enhance their relations with their neighbors, said the Senate president.

Adopting dialogue is so essential for ending the ongoing crisis in the region, particularly the Gulf rift, she said, praising, in this regard, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's role in bringing viewpoints closer. Furthermore, Defraigne described Kuwait as a moderate and peaceful country that constantly aspires to find peaceful options and solutions for regional and international crises.

She also praised the Kuwaiti democratic experience and mentioned her visit to the National Assembly and meeting with Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, who gave her a copy of the Kuwaiti Constitution. The Kuwaiti democratic experience enjoys diversity and independent observation on

the government's performance, Defraigne said. The Kuwaiti parliament deals with political disputes in the country in a very civilized manner and through dialogue, giving a "living" example on how democracy should be practiced, she said. Kuwait has also significant and influential role in the region's stability, she said, stressing the need to finding peaceful solutions to several issues in the Middle East, notably improving the living conditions of people fleeing their war-torn countries.

On the ongoing refugees' crisis faced by the EU, Defraigne mentioned that it is a "very" im-

portant issue and one of the reasons behind her current visit to the region. She also warned of the possibilities of facing larger number of migrants, who fled their countries to Europe via crossing the Mediterranean Sea, if a peaceful solution for the Middle East crisis is not reached

soon. Europe has not faced such a crisis since World War II, Defraigne said urging EU members to consolidate all their efforts toward finding a solution to end the suffering of millions of refugees.

She also noted the EU has not formed new legislations on dealing with the refugees, she noted, adding that talks were held in that regard on finding solutions for this crisis facing Europe.



Defraigne hails Kuwaiti democratic experience



Christine Defraigne

EU members must take part in the efforts to host these refugees in accordance with international laws and regulations, Defraigne said. The EU shares the burden of hosting fleeing refugees, she said, adding that the Union should, out of its political and diplomatic principles, find a joint solution to end this problem.

On the recent Catalonia region crisis in Spain, Defraigne affirmed her country's faith in dialogue and rejection of violence, indicating that dialogue would prevent violence and solve the problem. Spain must implement the rule of law and hold a fair trial for Catalonia's government and officials in accordance with the country's constitution and law, she said. The Belgian Senate president also said that Catalonia's dismissed President Carles Puigdemont will be treated at the moment as a European citizen. — KUNA

Hot to moderate weekend weather

KUWAIT: The hot to moderate weather conditions in Kuwait will continue this weekend, said Kuwait Meteorological Department official Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi yesterday. Qarawi told KUNA the current weather conditions were due to fluctuating wind pressure before the advent of the fall season. The weather yesterday was forecast to be relatively humid, especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeastern wind to light southern wind, at a speed of 15-38 km per hour (km/h). Temperatures were between 18 to 20 Degrees Celsius, and the sea had waves reaching two to five feet.

As for today, Qarawi said during the day, it will be relatively hot and humid with light to moderate southeastern to southern winds at speed of 15-40 km/h, adding that there will be a chance for rising dust over western

areas and some scattered clouds will appear.

Highest temperatures will reach 34 to 36 degrees Celsius, and the sea will witness waves of two to six feet. He indicated that today evening will see clouds increasing and humid weather will prevail with light to moderate southeasterly winds at speed of 15-38 km/h. Temperatures will reach between 19 to 21 degrees Celsius while the sea will have waves reaching three to six feet.

As for tomorrow, during the day it will be partially cloudy with southern to southeasterly winds prevailing at the speed of 15-38 km/h. High temperatures will be at 34 to 36 degrees Celsius while the sea will witness waves of three to five feet. Tomorrow evening will be also partially cloudy with southeastern light to moderate winds between 15-38 km/h, while temperatures will drop to 20 to 22 degrees Celsius. The sea will have waves at three to five feet. — KUNA



Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi

New liver transplant program in Kuwait soon

ANKARA: A new liver transplant program will be launched soon in Kuwait in cooperation with the King's College London, said a Kuwaiti medical official Wednesday. Speaking to KUNA on the sideline of the second joint meeting of the Turkish Transplantation Society and the Turkic World Transplantation Society, head of the Hamid Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center Dr Mustafa Al-Mosawi said that a deal was struck last October with the British college to establish a new program for liver transplant in Kuwait. He indicated that the final details of the deal had been set, affirming that a new liver center will be establish soon.

Mosawi said that Kuwait began its organ transplant program in February of 1979, saving countless lives since then. Providing further historical context, the Kuwaiti official said that in 1996 some 800 patients' lives were saved due to 256 organs provided by deceased donors. He added that



Head of the Hamid Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center Dr Mustafa Al-Mosawi. — KUNA

some 2,137-liver transplant operations were conducted in the old program with a success rate of 90 percent annually. Meanwhile, a Saudi medical official lauded the organ exchange program between his country and Kuwait.

Director General of the Saudi transplant society Dr Faisal Al-Shaheen said that the program have managed to save countless lives in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He indicated that similar programs existed between Saudi Arabia and other GCC as well as Arab countries, affirming that these programs also saved lives. The second joint meeting of the Turkish Transplantation Society and the Turkic World Transplantation Society will continue until Nov 3. — KUNA



CIA releases Bin Laden files with Iran connection

Child sex offenders to be named as such in US passports

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TEHRAN: A handout picture provided by the office of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei shows him (right) meeting with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev in Tehran. — AFP

US is Iran's 'number one enemy'

Iran's Supreme Leader blasts US president

ANKARA: The United States is Iran's "number one enemy" and Tehran will never succumb to Washington's pressure over a multinational nuclear deal, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a televised speech yesterday. US President Donald Trump broke ranks with other major powers last month by refusing to formally certify Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal. Under that deal, most sanctions on Iran were lifted in exchange for Tehran curbing its nuclear work.

"The American president's foolish remarks against our people show the depth of America's hostility towards the entire Iranian nation," Iran's top authority Khamenei told a group of students. "America is the number one enemy of our nation." Since the deal was reached in 2015, Khamenei has continued to denounce the United States publicly, suggesting that antagonism between the two countries since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Tehran would not abate because of the accord.

Iran and the United States severed diplomatic ties shortly after the revolution, when hardline students took 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. Iran will mark the anniversary of the American embassy seizure tomorrow. Trump has called the nuclear agreement, which was reached under his predecessor Barack Obama, "the worst deal ever negotiated" and has adopted a harsh approach

to Iran over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Washington has imposed new sanctions on Iran over its missile activity, calling on Tehran not to develop missiles capable of delivering nuclear bombs. Iran says it has no such plans and its missile program is solely for defense purposes. The deal's other signatories, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, and the European Union say Washington cannot unilaterally cancel an international accord enshrined by a UN resolution. Iranian officials have repeatedly said that Tehran would stick to the nuclear accord as long as the other signatories respected it. But it has warned about the consequences if the deal falls apart.

Tehran vows to resist US pressure



"We will never accept their bullying over the nuclear deal ... Americans are using all the wickedness to damage the result of the nuclear talks," Khamenei said to chants of "Death to America" by students. "Any retreat by Iran will make America more blatant and impudent ... Resistance is the only option." Trump also accuses Iran of supporting terrorism in the Middle East. Iran rejects that and in turn blames the growth of militant groups such as Islamic State on the policies of the United States and its regional allies. Shiite-dominated Iran and its regional arch-rival, US-backed Sunni Saudi Arabia, are involved in proxy wars across the region, backing opposite sides in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Lebanon.— Reuters

US govt approves Qatar arms deal despite Gulf crisis

WASHINGTON: The United States government has approved a \$1.1 billion deal to service Qatar's F-15 fighter jets despite the diplomatic stand-off between the Gulf emirate and its neighbors. Qatar, home to one of the largest US military bases in the Middle East, is locked in a bitter dispute with Washington's other Arab allies in the region, led by Saudi Arabia.

US President Donald Trump took Riyadh's side in June when Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut diplomatic ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorism. But Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has taken a more cautious line, attempting to broker an agreement to cool ties and build a regional front against Iranian influence and extremism. — AFP

International

Under pressure, social media giants acknowledge meddling

Facebook, Twitter, Google used to create division

WASHINGTON: In three exhaustive hearings this week, executives from Facebook, Twitter and Google acknowledged that their platforms were used by Russia to try and create division over such disparate issues as immigration, gun control and politics. House investigators released a trove of Facebook and Twitter ads that showed just how extraordinary the cyber intrusion was. The companies' admissions and disclosures over the last several months have given congressional investigators one of their first real wins in the Russia probes.

The committees have been frustrated by delays - and overshadowed by special counsel Robert Mueller - since they launched probes into Russian interference in the 2016 election earlier this year. Initially dismissive of Russia's threat, all

three companies have pledged improvements since lawmakers ramped up pressure and called them to testify. It's unclear what next steps Congress will take. The top Democrat on the Senate intelligence panel, Virginia Sen Mark Warner, has co-sponsored legislation that would bring political ad rules from TV, radio and print to the internet.

Warner calls it "the lightest touch possible," but many Republicans have been lukewarm.



Trove of info shows how extraordinary cyber intrusion was

California Rep Adam Schiff, the senior Democrat on the House intelligence panel, said he thinks such advertising regulations for social media are "inevitable," but noted that many of the fixes will come down to the companies' own social responsibility. "Congress isn't going to prescribe an algorithm, so there are limits to what we can feasibly do," Schiff said after his committee's hearing Wednesday.

The few dozen ads are a sampling from more than 3,000 Russia-linked ads Facebook had turned over to the committee. Seen by millions of people, they encouraged street demonstrations against Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton and fostered support and opposition to Bernie Sanders, Muslims, gays, blacks and the icons of the Civil Rights movement. The ads under-

score how foreign agents sought to sow confusion, anger and discord among Americans through messages on hot-button topics.

US intelligence services say the Russian use of social media was part of a broad effort to sway the 2016 presidential election in favor of Trump. Mueller is investigating whether the Kremlin worked with the Trump campaign to influence the election. Many of the ads also show careful targeting, with messages geared

of a political dialogue" with Baghdad, the Kurdish statement said. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered economic and military retaliation after Iraqi Kurds voted for independence in a referendum held in September that Baghdad declared illegal.

He insists that the KRG cancel the referendum's outcome as a pre-condition for any dialogue. Iran and Turkey back his measures against Iraq's Kurds, fearing the drive for independence will spread to their own Kurdish populations. The joint deployment at the strategic Fish-Khabur crossing was meant "as a goodwill gesture and trust-building exercise that ensures a limited and temporary arrangement until an agreement is reached in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution", the Kurdish statement said. Fish-Khabur is strategically important for the Kurdistan region because it is the point where its oil pipeline crosses into Turkey.

Iraq's entire land border with Turkey is located inside the Kurdish autonomous region and has been controlled by the Kurds since before the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. Abadi declared a pause on Friday in an offensive that began on Oct 16 to take over the disputed areas. The oil-rich city of Kirkuk fell on the same day without much fighting. The Iraqi Joint Operations Command accused the KRG on Wednesday of using the talks that started on Friday to "buy time" to strengthen Kurdish lines. —Reuters

Kurds offer joint border deployment

BAGHDAD: Iraq's Kurdistan region said yesterday it has offered a joint Kurdish-Iraqi deployment at a strategic crossing into Turkey, with the participation of the US-led coalition that was helping fight Islamic State. The offer was disclosed hours after Iraqi armed forces accused the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of delaying the handover to Iraq of control of the borders with Turkey, Iran and Syria, and threatened to resume operations to capture Kurdish-held areas. The KRG defense department said the offer was part of a "deconfliction" proposal made to the Iraqi government on Oct 31.

The other points included a ceasefire on all fronts, continued cooperation in the fight against Islamic State and a joint deployment in so-called disputed territories, which are areas claimed by both the KRG and the Iraqi central government. The KRG "continues to welcome a permanent ceasefire on all fronts, deconfliction and the start



CALIFORNIA: A sign is posted in front of Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, California. —AFP

toward particular audiences. One ad, aimed at those with interests in civil rights and their leaders, highlights a man who claims to be Bill Clinton's illegitimate son. Another video parodying Trump was targeted at blacks who also are interested in BlackNews.com, HuffPost Politics or HuffPost Black Voices.

In preparation for hearings this week, Facebook disclosed that content generated by a Russian group, the Internet Research Agency, potentially reached as many as 126

million users. Company executives said that going forward they would verify political ad buyers in federal elections, requiring them to reveal correct names and locations. The site will also create new graphics where users can click on the ads and find out more about who's behind them. But that did not prevent hours of questioning during two days of hearings, with lawmakers expressing exasperation at the seeming inability to thwart foreign intervention. —AP

Syria's famed sweets bringing smiles once again

DAMASCUS: Syria's grinding conflict has brought bitterness to producers of the country's renowned Middle Eastern sweets, but after years of struggle they say business is finally picking up again. At the "Daoud Brothers" sweet shop in the capital Damascus, 20 workers surround large metal platters, preparing hundreds of wafer-thin barazek, a famed Syrian biscuit dotted with pistachio pieces and coated in sesame seeds. Syria's Arabic sweets were once a leading export as well as a must-have souvenir for visiting tourists.

But the war that erupted after March 2011 anti-government protests decimated the industry, with tourism disappearing and domestic consumption nosediving as the conflict ravaged the economy. Fighting cut routes that brought the finest ingredients from across the country to producers, and closed borders that once facilitated exports to the region and beyond. "With the war, exports were basically interrupted," said Radwan Daoud, the shop's export manager.

"There was no demand, and we couldn't deliver on what orders there were because the workshops were in Damascus province," he said, referring to

areas where clashes between Syria's army and rebels were frequent. "Getting through was difficult and dangerous, and the routes were often cut." Parts of Damascus province outside the capital are some of the last remaining strongholds of Syria's rebel forces, but in recent months fighting has dropped off thanks to the implementation of a "de-escalation zone" in the region. Elsewhere in the country, Syria's regime has recovered territory, backed by ally Russia, restoring supply and export routes. Daoud said exports were back on the rise in the past few months as a result. "Primary materials and products can reach markets easily and quickly," he said. "Things have finally started to pick up again, and we've recovered about 15 percent of our activity."

Enticing smells, samples

There are no publicly available official figures contrasting sales and exports in the sweets sector before the war and at present. But Daoud Brothers once exported up to 40 tons of sweets a month, mostly to Canada, the United States, Europe and the Gulf. For the moment, sweets are exported either by boat from the ports of Latakia and Tartus, or taken by land into neighboring Lebanon and flown from Beirut airport.

But producers are eagerly awaiting the promised reopening of the Nassib border crossing between Syria and Jordan so they can once again export to the Gulf by land. Most of the capital's most famous sweet shops are clustered in the southern neighborhood of Midan, where an enticing smell wafts from stores and owners offer passersby samples from their doorways in a bid to draw them in. —AFP

International

Poles launch petition over France's plan to axe cross

Petition emphasizes the Christian roots of Europe

WARSAW: Nearly 37,000 people signed an online petition as of yesterday protesting against a French court order to remove a cross from a statue of the late Polish-born Pope John Paul II in Brittany, western France. The petition, launched on the CitizenGo website four days ago, "opposes the removal of the cross from a public space and emphasizes the Christian roots of Europe". It is addressed to the European Parliament, the centre-right European People's Party and the European Court of Human Rights. Controversy erupted last week when France's top administrative court gave the town of Ploermel six months to remove the cross above a papal statue in a public square in a bid to comply with laws enforcing the secular nature of public spaces. Although the statue of the late pontiff itself is not in question, the court's move drew ire in heavily Roman Catholic Poland where the Polish-born saint is widely revered and religious symbols are not restricted by law.

Rightwing Prime Minister Beata Szydlo offered last weekend to move the statue to Poland to "save it from censorship", calling John Paul II "a great Eu-

ropean" symbolizing a "united Christian Europe". Szydlo added that "the dictate of the political correctness—the secularization of the state—opens the door to values that are culturally alien to us and that lead to Europeans being terrorized in their daily lives". Gifted to Ploermel by the Georgian-born Russian artist Zourab Tseretel, the statue which features a cross on the arch framing it, was installed in a public square in October 2006.

A local citizens group then launched a legal drive to remove the cross citing a century-old French law on the separation of church and state, but the town's mayor refused. After years of legal wrangling, France's top administrative court ruled last Wednesday that the cross must go in line with the 1905 law that rules out "raising or affixing any religious sign or emblem" in a "public place". The court's decision also drew protests from representatives of the Roman Catholic church in France while conservative French lawmaker Nadine Morano said Wednesday she was launching a separate petition "to include the Christian roots of France in the constitution".— AFP



MORBIHAN, France: Photo shows a bronze statue of Pope John Paul II by controversial Georgian-born Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli in Ploermel, Brittany, western France. —



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• Kuwait 1 (The New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Kuwait 3 (Souq Sharq) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahahel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op) • Airport (Departure Hall)

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International

Weakened Trump readies for high-stakes Asia trip

Approval ratings languishing at record lows

WASHINGTON: Weakened on the domestic front, President Donald Trump embarks this week on a long and challenging Asian tour set to be dominated by the North Korean nuclear threat after months of verbal escalation between Washington and Pyongyang. Taking him from Japan to South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines, the bumper November 3-14 trip is the US leader's first to the region since his election exactly a year ago.

On his agenda are several key regional summits but also closely-watched face-to-face meetings, be it with his powerful Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, or the controversial Philippines strongman, Rodrigo Duterte. With his approval ratings languishing at record lows, will the 71-year-old president manage to leave behind the spectacular recent developments in the probe into Russian election meddling? Will he forego his morning tweeting for the duration of the 12-day trip?

The White House has sought to emphasize the length of the five-nation tour the longest by any US president since George HW Bush in 1991 - as evidence of Trump's commitment to engaging with the region. But doubts linger on that point, most notably on the economic front



North Korean nuke threat to dominate talks

following Trump's abrupt decision-three days into office-to pull out of the TPP trans-Pacific trade deal, which unsettled several signatories and Japan in particular. Supporters of the deal, struck in 2015 by 12 nations who together account for 40 percent of the world economy, had championed it as a vital counterweight to the growing influence of China.

Trump's 'friend' Abe

After a brief stopover in Hawaii, Trump will Sunday join his "friend" Shinzo Abe for a new round of golf-following the one they shared in Florida last February-before a series of meetings aimed at underscoring the strength of the US-Japanese alliance. In South Korea, Trump-unlike many of his predecessors-will not travel to the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Korean peninsula, instead delivering what is set to be a closely-scrutinized speech before the country's national assembly. Seoul will be hoping during Trump's two-day visit starting Tuesday for a reaffirmation of its alliance with Washington, at a time when the North is pushing ahead with its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in defiance of the international community.

It is also seeking reassurances of a different

highways, trucks are loaded with sections of pipeline and water tanks used in the region's shale gas drilling. The town's pride is the Hino factory, a subsidiary of Toyota that employs 300 people. In September it announced 250 more hires. The manufacturer has outgrown its facility, and will soon relocate to bigger digs 20 miles south.

Local truckers are benefitting from the boon. An employment agency across the bridge in Marietta, Ohio lists 898 truck-driving jobs within a 50-mile radius. "We are much better off than we were before (Trump) became president," Jean Ford, the mayor of Williamstown, population 3,000 said. The television set in her modest office is broadcasting Fox News. Ford, a jeweler by profession who is slight but speaks in firm tones, recalls her unrestrained joy on election night. She cannot point to specific policies that have demonstrably helped her region. What matters, she stresses, is that confidence has returned.

National indicators of consumer and business confidence corroborate the sentiment. But the economy was already healing under Barack Obama, argues Jessie King. The 33-year-old gas pipeline specialist sporting bright eyes and prematurely-graying hair recently rose to become business manager of a local construction workers' union. He has lived all his life in the area, and observed its timid recovery after years of job loss and resident flight. —AFP

For many in Trump's US, a year to crow about

WILLIAMSTOWN: With unemployment declining, the local truck plant expanding and optimism on the rise, one industrial heartland region has become a microcosm of the reinvigorated America promised by Donald Trump. Seen from Williamstown, 300 miles west of Washington, the political tumult since Trump's November 8, 2016 victory appears artificial to those who welcome his leadership as a break from business as usual. The sleepy West Virginia town is in Wood County where 70 percent of voters celebrated the anti-establishment victory. A year later, they are pledging their loyalty to the Trump revolution, praising the billionaire businessman-turned-national leader for already delivering on his declaration to reverse their declining fortunes.

In an elbow of the industrial Ohio River basin, barges are filled with freight. Factories lining nearby Route 7 belch smoke and steam. On the



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump speaks while meeting with members of his cabinet in Washington, DC. —AFP

nature. "South Koreans also want to know that the United States is not going to prematurely or unnecessarily draw South Korea into any kind of military conflict," said Scott Snyder of the New York-based think-tank the Council on Foreign Relations. Since taking office, the US president has vowed to unleash "fire and fury" if threatened by Kim Jong-Un's regime, has contradicted his top diplomat about direct contacts with Pyongyang, and sent out a string of cryptic messages—"We'll do what has to be

done!"—that ultimately left observers guessing at his true intentions toward North Korea.

For Michael O'Hanlon, a foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution, Trump has been "ad-libbing" on what has emerged as the major foreign policy challenge of his presidency so far. "And people like (Defense Secretary (Jim) Mattis and Secretary (of State Rex) Tillerson are trying to somehow hold things together and make sense of it and keep the lid on, as best they can." —AFP

Sex offenders to be named as such in US passports

WASHINGTON: America's registered child sex offenders will now have to use passports identifying them for their past crimes when traveling overseas. The State Department said Wednesday it would begin revoking passports of registered child sex offenders and will require them to apply for a new one that carries a "unique identifier" of their status. Those applying for a passport for the first time will not be issued one without the identifier, which will be a notice printed inside the back cover of the passport book that reads: "The bearer was convicted of a sex offense against a minor, and is a covered sex offender pursuant to (US law)."

The department said in a statement posted to its travel.state.gov website that registered child sex offenders will no longer be issued smaller travel documents known as passport cards because they do not have enough room to fit the notice. The changes come in response to last year's "International Megan's Law," which aims to curb child exploitation and child sex tourism, but also has been criticized by civil libertarians for being overly broad and targeting only one category of convicted felon.



The law is named for Megan Kanka, a 7-year-old girl murdered by a convicted child sex offender in New Jersey in 1994. The case drew widespread attention and led to the creation of several state sex offender registries. Government agencies notified Congress on Wednesday the passport requirement of the law had taken effect. The State Department, which issues US passports, said it will start notifying those affected as soon as it receives their names from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security.

That agency is charged with identifying child sex offenders and is the sole agency that can add or remove someone from the list. Affected passport holders will be able to travel abroad on their current passports until the revocations are formalized, the department said, and it wasn't immediately clear when immigration and homeland security officials would provide that list. The Homeland Security Department declined to comment. —AP

International

Imbalance of power at heart of Westminster sex scandal

New Defense Minister named amid sex scandal

LONDON: At the heart of the Westminster harassment scandal, which claimed its first ministerial casualty this week, is an imbalance of power between ambitious young staffers and the MPs who can make or break their careers. Defense Secretary Michael Fallon stepped down late Wednesday amid the deepening row in British politics, admitting his behavior had "fallen below the high standards required" of his role. Earlier in the week, he had apologized for putting his hand on the knee of a journalist in 2002 - but there was widespread speculation that there were other allegations likely to come out.

Two other ministers remain under investigation—one for asking his then secretary to buy him sex toys, and another for allegedly touching the knee of a journalist and activist and then sending her a suggestive text. Many more cases are rumored, and in the most serious incident a Labor activist said she was raped as a teenager by a senior party member—but was advised not to report the assault for fear of harming her career. In almost all the cases, the alleged perpetrator has been more senior—and in the case of MPs and their own staff, they have directly employed their victim.

"It's clear there has been—not just in our trade, it started with the Weinstein affair—that there has been this sense that people can use positions of power to



Defense Secretary Fallon steps down, deepening row

demand things from others, and that has got to stop," Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson told BBC radio. She added: "It isn't actually about sex, it's about power. It is always about power. And we as elected representatives have to hold ourselves to a higher standard. "The dam has broken on this now, and these overwhelmingly male dominated professions, where the boys' own locker room culture has prevailed and it's all been a bit of a laugh, has got to stop," she said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday named Gavin Williamson as Britain's new defense secretary after his predecessor Michael Fallon was forced to step down over a sexual harassment scandal sweeping parliament. It represents a significant promotion for the 41-year-old, a trusted ally whose former job as chief whip involved enforcing discipline for May's

Conservative party in parliament. Williamson, who was only elected to parliament in 2010, is best known for having a pet tarantula, Cronus, that he keeps in a glass-sided tank on his desk. "The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Right Honorable Gavin Williamson as Secretary of State for Defense," Downing Street said in a statement. The job is one of the biggest and most challenging in the British government, and some questioned Williamson's expertise.

tions. The National Court procedures began with the appearance of former Catalan regional government spokesman Jordi Turull, followed by Josep Rull, who had handled the region's territorial affairs. But a corresponding session in the Supreme Court for six regional parliament members, including Catalan parliament speaker Carme Forcadell, one of the leading figures of the pro-independence movement in Catalonia for many years, was suspended until Nov. 9 following a request by the lawmakers' lawyers.

Spain took the unprecedented step of seizing control of Catalonia following the declaration and later sacked the regional Cabinet, dissolved the regional parliament and called a new regional election for Dec 21. Puigdemont said he and several of his former ministers went to Brussels earlier this week for "freedom and safety." Four of the ex-ministers remained in Brussels with him while the others returned and were to be appearing in court. About two dozen politicians and elected officials from Catalan separatist parties had gathered at the gates of the Supreme Court in a show of support.

"If the question is if in Spain you can trust the judicial system, my answer is no," said Artur Mas, a former president of the Catalan government. "From the personal point of view and also for my personal experience, I don't think that there are all the guarantees to have a fair trial." Assumpcio Lailla, a former lawmaker with Catalonia's Democrats party, said she had traveled to Madrid joining around 100 other politicians and elected officials to show support to those investigated in the rebellion probe. "This is an unjust situation in which they are being investigated for facilitating democracy," she said. —AP

Catalan politicians quizzed in Spain rebellion case

MADRID: Spain's National Court in Madrid was questioning ousted Catalan government members yesterday in an investigation into possible rebellion charges for having declared the region's independence, while a parallel Supreme Court session for six Catalan lawmakers was suspended for a week. Twenty regional politicians, including fired regional government president Carles Puigdemont, were called to appear after the chief prosecutor demanded they be charged with rebellion, sedition and embezzlement following the Catalan parliament's declaration of secession Oct 27. The crimes are punishable by up to 30 years in prison under Spanish law. The group summoned includes Puigdemont's 13-member former Cabinet and six parliamentary board members. Puigdemont, who traveled to Belgium with some of his ex-Cabinet members, remained in Brussels along with four of his former ministers. Their failure to appear before the court could trigger arrest warrants and an extradition petition.

Puigdemont's No 2, Catalan ex-vice president Oriol Junqueras, was the first to arrive at the National Court. He went in accompanied by lawyers, passing by dozens of journalists, and declined to answer ques-



LONDON: The Houses of Parliament are seen in central London yesterday. British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon quit the government on November 1, stepping down from ministerial office in a developing scandal over sexual harassment at Westminster. —AFP

'Distrust is endemic'

Liz Saville Roberts, a Welsh MP, told the House of Commons on Monday that a member of parliamentary staff had reported a sexual assault to the authorities but nothing was done. "She is deeply disappointed and distrustful, and she tells me that distrust is endemic," she said. Labor MP Harriet Harman told the same debate: "It is almost impossible for someone at the bottom of the sys-

tem to complain and make allegations about someone at the top. "That gives those at the top impunity, of which some-few, but some-will take advantage."

Prime Minister Theresa May has called for tighter rules on the conduct of MPs, and invited other party leaders to a meeting on Monday to discuss setting up an independent grievance procedure for everyone working in parliament. —Agencies

Independence dream stalls in deepest Catalonia

'Viceroy'

The northeastern region's parliament proclaimed an independent "Catalan Republic", on Friday on the basis of an outlawed October 1 referendum. Madrid promptly declared that regional president Carles Puigdemont and his government were dismissed. Puigdemont and his followers still insist he is the rightful leader of the Catalans. But he is hundreds of miles away in Belgium. His lawyer says he will not return to Spain to face rebellion accusations unless he is assured of fair treatment by the courts. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has put his own deputy, Soraya Saenz de Santamaria, in charge of the region, replacing Puigdemont. "They have taken the republic to Belgium and we have been left with a viceroy," said Susana Mora, a tobacco-seller in Dosrius.

'The people are angry'

Like thousands of Catalans, Mora acted as a human shield to try to block the way of national police from shutting down the local polling station during the referendum. Despite the police resistance and a lack of electoral regulations, the separatists pushed ahead with the vote. They said a majority of participants voted for independence. Last Friday, separatist lawmakers sang the regional anthem triumphantly after declaring a republic. The euphoria has since faded. "We don't understand what is happening. —AFP

DOSRIUS: A month ago, residents of the Catalan village Dosrius were facing off against police in their struggle to break away from Spain. Now independence has been declared—but nothing, they feel, has been gained. Indeed, they have probably lost what they had. Spain's central government has taken control of the region for the first time since the end of dictatorship in the 1970s. Catalonia's separatist leader, facing likely prosecution, has fled to Belgium.

"I feel impotent," says farmer Oscar Jansana, 43, who flies a Catalan independence flag—red and yellow stripes with a white star—outside his house in this small valley town north of Barcelona. He and other separatists want the rich region to have control over its finances. They feel dismayed that in just a few days their independence effort has apparently all but collapsed. "We have worked hard. We have collaborated as much as we could," said Jansana. "And in the end we have ended up worse off than we were before."

International

Suppressed at home, some Uzbeks turning to militant Islam abroad

Hundreds have joined Islamic State

MOSCOW: Pushed by a lack of jobs and strict control of behavior and dissent, millions of Uzbeks have emigrated in recent years. Hundreds of those joined Islamic State in the Middle East, while others turned to religious extremism in their host countries. Sayfullo Saipov, the Uzbek immigrant accused of killing eight people in a truck attack in New York on Tuesday, appears to have taken the latter path, becoming radicalized after struggling with life in the West.

According to US police, the 29-year-old followed online instructions from Islamic State before launching the assault. Saipov's was at least the fourth deadly attack abroad by an Uzbek national or ethnic Uzbek this year, and his actions have highlighted the outsized influence the Central Asian state of 32 million people has had on global jihad in recent months. "These things take time to prepare and what we're seeing today is a result of work that has been done over the last few years (by Islamic State and similar groups)," said Kazakhstan-based Central Asia analyst Alexander Knyazev.

People who follow Uzbekistan closely say that, based on what is known so far of Saipov, he appears to be one of "a forgotten generation" of Uzbek men who left the former Soviet republic for a better life bereft of a proper religious education and unequipped to navigate the West. That, and the common difficulty of assimilating

into a foreign country and culture, may have left him susceptible to extremist influences when times got tough.

"He became religious on the spur of the moment," Mirrakhmat Muminov, a truck driver and Uzbek community activist who lives in Stow, Ohio, and knew Saipov, told Reuters by telephone. He said Saipov had previously lived in Tashkent, the Uzbek capital. "He started studying religion in the United States," said Muminov, adding that Saipov "couldn't get enough" of the religious freedoms enjoyed in the United States after living in the strict confines of Uzbekistan.

A neighbor of his parents, who live in a one-storey house on the outskirts of Tashkent, said yesterday that Habillo, Saipov's father, was not a devout mosque goer and sold painting materials in a local market. The man declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter. Islam is widely practiced in predominantly Muslim Uzbekistan, but worship is tightly controlled by a government wary of radicalism. Ruled with an iron fist for more than two decades by former Communist Party boss Islam Karimov, who died last year, Uzbekistan has long said its tough religion policy is justified by national security concerns.

Under his successor Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who took office at the end of 2016, the authorities have started to signal a more tolerant approach, and

Central Asian nation limits religious freedom

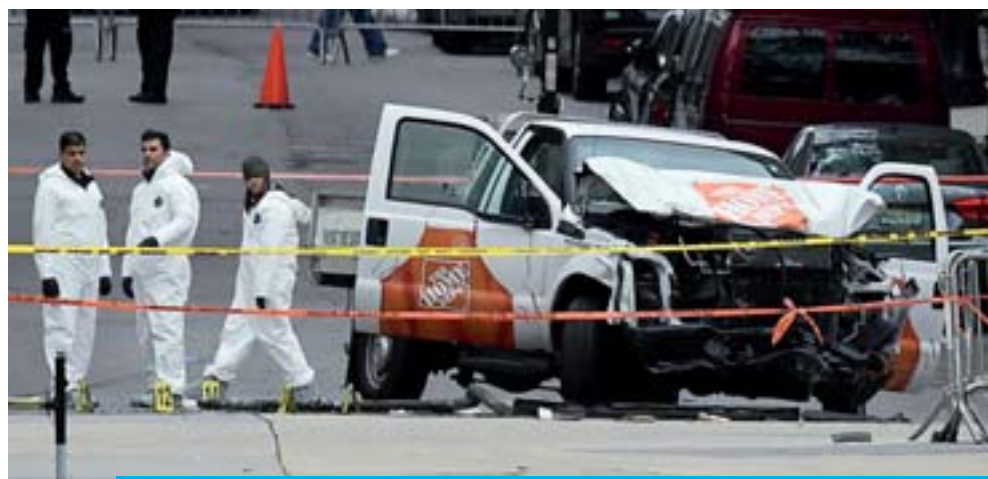


Bike path victims reflected buzzing, diverse New York

NEW YORK: One of the dead was a mother of young sons from Belgium. Five had traveled from Argentina to New York with a tight-knit group of classmates to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation. The other victims were Americans: One a new college graduate working as a software engineer, the other a doting son who had recently lost nearly 100 pounds and was getting a bike ride in between meetings at his World Trade Center job.

Those killed in the New York bike path attack reflect a city that is a melting pot, a magnet for international visitors, and a business and technology capital. "They saw New York as a special place to be," said Mayor Bill de Blasio, "and we now and forever will consider them New Yorkers." The victims were mowed down by a rental truck Tuesday afternoon near the World Trade Center. Police called it a terrorist attack, saying the driver was an Uzbek immigrant who "did it in the name of ISIS."

The largest group of victims came from Rosario, Argentina, the country's third-largest city and the hometown of international soccer star Lionel Messi and guerrilla leader Che Guevara. They had made the trip courtesy of one of their well-heeled friends, who was also among those who perished. "It hurts us to think that these are people who walked the



NEW YORK: Investigators work around the wreckage of a Home Depot pickup truck two days after it was used in a terror attack in New York. —AFP

there are hopes that economic reforms will begin to free up the command economy. Mirziyoyev said in September that Uzbekistan had removed about 16,000 people from a 17,000-strong security blacklist of potential Muslim religious extremists and wanted "to bring them into our society and educate them." Whether such changes reduce the risk of flight or radicalization remains to be seen, and come too late for Saipov and others. Many Uzbeks have fled only to later despair of becoming bottom dollar laborers or unemployed in the West or Russia. It is at that point that some have turned to radical Islam.

same school halls as we did or that studied in our same classrooms," said Agustin Riccardi, a senior at the victims' alma mater. President Mauricio Macri said in Buenos Aires that the attack "hit all Argentines hard." On Wednesday, friends and relatives began remembering the victims - and recounting the circumstances that led them to New York.

Argentina: A group of friends

Three decades had passed since their 1987 graduation from the Polytechnic School of Rosario, Argentina. But the Argentine victims of Tuesday's truck attack, most of them architects, had remained close friends, getting together several times a year. The five dead were among a group of 10 friends marking their graduation with a tour of New York and Boston, where a survivor of the group lived. They had gone on a bike ride through Central Park on Tuesday before turning south, to lower Manhattan.

"They were pedaling in lines of two, chatting, laughing, enjoying the ride. My husband was the last one in the line, when he felt a speeding car, and then the truck that zoomed by" at high speed, Cecilia Piedrabuena, the wife of survivor Ariel Benvenuto, told an Argentine radio station.

"The truck took away his friends, and he saw them all scattered on the ground." One victim, Hernan Diego Mendoza, was an architect and father of three who designed the home of his close friend, Estanislao Beas. "The news destroyed my wife and I," Beas said. "We had a tight bond. We cared for him so much. It's incredible that this happened to him and that he was there at that time."

Another friend, Cesar Lagostino, attended a

Volatile region

Speaking from Tashkent, Steve Swerdlow, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in Central Asia, said around 5 million Uzbeks had emigrated to Russia in recent years, with others like Saipov trying their luck in the West. "The radicalization process takes place outside Uzbekistan," said Swerdlow, who added that the country has one of the worst human rights records in the world and does not tolerate dissent. "They are often individuals who are far from home, who are marginalized and who are experiencing some kind of dislocation from their community and social network." —Reuters

candlelight vigil for the victims Wednesday evening outside the school. He remembered Mendoza as an honest and generous person, "among those who deserve to stay in this world." The Argentine foreign ministry identified the other victims as Ariel Erlij, Diego Enrique Angelini, Alejandro Damian Pagnucco and Hernan Ferruchi. The reunion trip was partially financed by Erlij, the chief executive of Ivanar, an Argentine steel products manufacturing company, according to Argentina's La Nacion newspaper.

Another classmate, Martin Ludovico Marro, of Newton, Massachusetts, near Boston, was being treated at a Manhattan hospital. In Rosario, a minute of silence was observed at the high school earlier Wednesday, and the light-blue and white Argentine flag was flown at half-staff. Only days earlier, before flying to the US, they had posed for a group photo, all of them wearing T-shirts with the word "Libre," or "Free" - meaning free from any responsibilities, said Piedrabuena, the wife of survivor Ariel Benvenuto.

Belgium: Ann-Laure Decadt

Ann-Laure Decadt, 31, the mother of a 3-year-old and a 3-month-old son, had traveled with her relatives to New York from a rural town in Belgium. Decadt belonged to a prominent family that owns a venerable animal feed business in Staden, a town of 11,000 some 60 miles west of Brussels. The family said in a statement that "she was riding a bike and apparently was surprised by a vehicle that came from behind." Her husband and children had not traveled with her. —AP

Walmart store fatal shooting leaves 3 dead

WASHINGTON: Three people were fatally shot at a Walmart store in Colorado on Wednesday evening, police said, in a country that is struggling with frequent deadly gun violence. There are "(3) confirmed dead," the Thornton Police Department said on Twitter, raising an earlier toll after a woman whom it earlier announced was transported from the scene died. "There is currently NO one in custody," said the department, appealing for "anyone with information" to call. Last month, a gunman in Las Vegas killed 58 people in the country's worst mass shooting in recent history.

More than 33,000 gun-related deaths occur annually in the United States, according to a study released this month. While US politicians are quick to enact sweeping policies, including military action, in response to "terrorism" attacks, authorities have taken little concrete action to address the far-deadlier epidemic of domestic gun violence. The inaction is largely due to the powerful National Rifle Association gun lobby- and Republicans who rely on it for funding and other support-categoric rejection of gun control measures. —AFP

International

CIA releases Bin Laden files with 'Iranian connection'

Iran denies any involvement with Al-Qaeda

DUBAI: The CIA's release of documents seized during the 2011 raid that killed Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has again raised questions about Iran's support of the extremist network leading up to the Sept 11 terror attacks. US intelligence officials and prosecutors have long said Iran formed loose ties to the terror organization from 1991 on, something noted in a 19-page report in Arabic that was included in the release of some 47,000 other documents by the CIA.

For its part, Iran has long denied any involvement with Al-Qaeda. However, the report included in the CIA document dump shows how bin Laden, a Sunni extremist from Iran's archrival Saudi

Arabia, could look across the Muslim world's religious divide to partner with the Mideast's Shiite power to target his ultimate enemy, the United States. "Anyone who wants to strike America, Iran is ready to support him and help him with their frank and clear rhetoric," the report reads.

The Associated Press examined a copy of the report released by the Long War Journal, a publication backed by the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a think tank fiercely critical of Iran and skeptical of its nuclear deal with world powers. The CIA gave the Long War Journal early access to the material. The material also included never-before-seen video of bin Laden's son Hamza, who may be groomed to take over Al-Qaeda, getting married. It offers the first public look at Hamza bin Laden as an adult.

Hong Kong government under fire in LGBT row

HONG KONG: LGBT rights campaigners have hit out at Hong Kong's government after it announced it would appeal a landmark decision granting a British lesbian the right to live and work in Hong Kong with her partner. The ruling by the Court of Appeal in September sparked hopes that hurdles for same-sex couples might be reduced in the socially conservative southern Chinese city. But the immigration department has announced it will seek to take the case to the Court of Final Appeal, Hong Kong's highest court.

"Having studied the Court of Appeal's judgment and sought legal advice, the immigration department has filed an application for leave to appeal against the judgment," the department said in a statement emailed to

Until now, the public has only seen childhood pictures of him. The release comes as President Donald Trump has refused to recertify Iran's nuclear deal with world powers and faces domestic pressure at home over investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The 19-page report included in the CIA release was available online Wednesday. The CIA later issued a warning about the files on its website, saying that since the material "was seized from a terrorist organization ... there is no absolute guarantee that all malware has been removed." The CIA then took down the files entirely early Thursday, saying they were "temporarily unavailable pending res-

olution of a technical issue." "We are working to make the material available again as soon as possible," the CIA said. The unsigned 19-page report is dated in the Islamic calendar year 1428 - 2007 - and offers what appears to be a history of Al-Qaeda's relationship with Iran. It says Iran offered Al-Qaeda fighters "money and arms and everything they need, and offered them training in Hezbollah camps in Lebanon, in return for striking American interests in Saudi Arabia." This coincides with an account offered by the US government's 9/11 Commission, which said Iranian officials met with Al-Qaeda leaders in Sudan in either 1991 or early 1992.

The commission said Al-Qaeda militants later received training in Lebanon from the Shiite militant group Hezbollah, which Iran backs

AFP yesterday. The September decision granted the woman, referred to in court only as QT, the right to a dependant visa which she had been denied by immigration authorities, meaning she could only remain in the city on a visitor visa which did not allow her to work.

The judgment ruled that authorities had "failed to justify the indirect discrimination on account of sexual orientation that QT suffers". Campaigners described it as a crucial step for Hong Kong, which they say lags on LGBT rights. The city does not recognize gay marriage and only decriminalized homosexuality in 1991. Openly gay lawmaker Ray Chan said if the immigration department won its case, it would "not benefit anybody".

He also criticized the government for failing to openly support Hong Kong's successful bid to host the Gay Games in 2022, announced Tuesday, the first time the event will come to Asia. "The government would rather spend taxpayers' money to appeal a case which in my view does not contribute to society or benefit anybody if won, than to support a major international sports, culture, and tourism event such as the Gay Games," Chan said.—AFP



KHOST: In this 1998 file photo, Osama bin Laden is seen at a news conference in Khost, Afghanistan. — AFP

to this day. US prosecutors also said Al-Qaeda had the backing of Iran and Hezbollah in their 1998 indictment of bin Laden following the Al-Qaeda truck bombings of the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people, including 12 Americans. Al-Qaeda's apparent siding with Iran may seem surprising today, given the enmity Sunni extremists like those of the Islamic State group have for Shiites.

But bin Laden had run out of options by 1991 - the one-time fighter against the Soviets

in Afghanistan had fallen out with Saudi Arabia over his opposition to the ultraconservative kingdom hosting US troops during the Gulf War. Meanwhile, Iran had become increasingly nervous about America's growing military expansion in the Mideast. "The relationship between Al-Qaeda and Iran demonstrated that the Sunni-Shiite divisions did not necessarily pose an insurmountable barrier to cooperation in terrorist operations," the 9/11 Commission report would later say.—AP

N Ireland drifts toward direct rule from UK

BELFAST: The British government is to impose a budget on Northern Ireland for the first time in a decade, a major step towards imposing direct rule after attempts to form a power-sharing government in Belfast collapsed. Many in the province fear direct rule would further destabilize a political balance between pro-British unionists and Irish nationalists that has already been upset by Britain's vote to leave the European Union. The move also creates a headache for British Prime Minister Theresa May, whose minority government is dependent on Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) to pass legislation.

Irish Nationalists Sinn Fein and the pro-British DUP have shared power in Northern Ireland for a decade under the terms of the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement, which ended

three decades of violence that killed 3,600 people. But Sinn Fein pulled out in January, complaining it was not being treated as an equal partner. The latest round of talks on re-establishing the devolved executive collapsed on Wednesday. "Sinn Fein is disappointed that the last few weeks of negotiations have ended in failure," the party's leader in Northern Ireland, Michelle O'Neill, told journalists. "But as you all know endless talks without conclusion are not sustainable."

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said the party was open to further dialogue, but only if it was "meaningful". DUP member of parliament Gregory Campbell accused Sinn Fein of holding back government in Northern Ireland with "a narrow political agenda", including a push for greater recognition for the Irish language. In a sign that a resolution is unlikely in the coming weeks, Campbell appeared to dismiss a DUP compromise on language rights, saying his party "cannot and will not" elevate the Irish language "above all others". But party leader Arlene Foster was more positive, telling Ireland's RTE television that London setting a budget "doesn't stop us continuing to engage with Sinn Fein and trying to find a solution to the problems that we have". —Reuters

International

Hardline preacher finds refuge in Malaysia; politicized Islam grows

Naik could face charges in India for preaching hatred

KUALA LUMPUR: When Zakir Naik emerged from a prominent Malaysian mosque last month fans swarmed about him, seeking selfies with the Indian Muslim televangelist whose hardline views have sparked a criminal investigation back in his home country. Accompanied by a body-guard, Naik was making a rare public appearance at the Putra Mosque in Malaysia's administrative capital, where the prime minister and his cabinet members often worship.

Naik, who has been banned in the UK, has been given permanent residency in Malaysia, and embraced by top government officials. Critics see Naik's presence in Malaysia as another sign of top-level support for hardline Islam in a country with substantial minorities of Christians, Hindus and Buddhists, and which has long projected a moderate Islamic image. Support for a more politicized Islam has grown in recent years under Prime Minister Najib Razak, especially after he lost the popular vote in the 2013 general election - the ruling coalition's worst-ever electoral performance.

Since then, his ruling party has been trying to appease an increasingly conservative ethnic Malay-Muslim base and religion has become a



Zakir gets a permanent residency

battleground ahead of elections the prime minister has to call by mid-2018. Naik, a 52-year-old medical doctor, has aroused controversy with his puritan brand of Islam - recommending the death penalty for homosexuals and those who abandon Islam as their faith, according to media reports. A Youtube video shows Naik saying that if Osama bin Laden "is terrorizing America the terrorist, the biggest terrorist, I am with him".

Last week, India's counter-terrorism agency prepared charges against Naik, saying he has been "promoting enmity and hatred between different religious groups in India through public speeches and lectures."

Bangladesh suspended Peace TV channel, which features Naik's preachings, after some media reports claimed bombers of a Dhaka cafe that killed 22 people last year were admirers of him. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Malaysian government accommodates Naik because "he remains a reasonably popular character amongst Malays, who gloss over his more controversial aspects," said Rashaad Ali, an analyst with S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore. "If the gov-

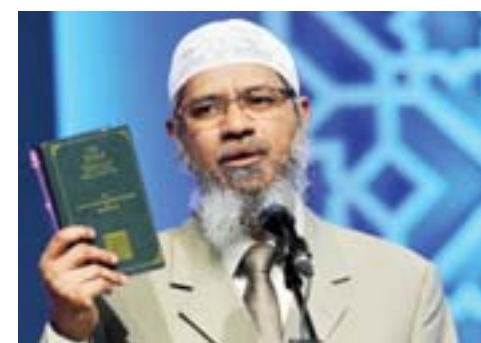
ernment were to kick him out of the country, it causes them to lose religious credibility in the eyes of the public."

Facebook photos

At his appearance at the Putra mosque last month, a female Reuters reporter asked about the investigation in India. Naik would only say: "Sorry, it is not right for me to speak with ladies in public." Naik did not respond to subsequent requests for comment from Reuters. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi told parliament on Tuesday that Naik, who obtained permanent residency five years ago, was not being given "preferential treatment".

"Over the time spent in this country, he has not broken any laws or regulations. As such, there is no reason from a legal standpoint to detain or arrest him," Zahid said. The government has not received any official request from India "related to terrorism allegations involving him", he added. Zahid and the prime minister have both posted photos on Facebook of their meetings with Naik last year in Malaysia. A group of Malaysian activists has filed suit in the High Court to deport Naik, saying he is a threat to public peace in the multi-racial society - about 40 percent of Malaysia's population is non-Muslim. The group said it was unaware Naik had been going to the Putrajaya mosque - or where he might be in Malaysia.

Officials at the Putra Mosque said Naik has



Zakir Naik

been attending Friday prayers there for about a month. He has also been spotted in other mosques, hospitals and restaurants in the administrative capital in recent months, according to witnesses that Reuters spoke to. Naik has in the past denied India's allegations. In an interview with a Kuwaiti television channel in May, he said he was being targeted by the Hindu nationalist government of Narendra Modi because of his popularity. Malaysia's opposition Islamic Party (PAS), which has defended Naik in the past, last week urged the government to disregard any potential Indian extradition request, saying the allegations aim "to block his influence and efforts to spread religious awareness among the international community." — Reuters

Pakistan ex-PM Sharif returns to face trial

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned home yesterday to face trial in an anti-corruption case he calls political revenge but which opposition leaders have termed as accountability for the rich and powerful. Sharif, who had been in London with his wife who is undergoing cancer treatment, is due to appear in court on Friday over allegations linked to London properties the family owns, charges that could see the former premier jailed. Allies of Sharif, who has served as prime minister twice and was toppled in a military coup in 1999, have called the proceedings a political vendetta and hinted at intervention by elements of the powerful army.

Sharif, 67, denounced the process in an interview on Wednesday in London before flying home. "This case in the National Accountability Bureau is highly bogus and fake, which doesn't have links to corruption," he told Geo TV, comparing the process to charges laid against him after General Pervez Musharraf seized power in 1999. "There is no kickback or misappropriation of the national exchequer," he added. — Reuters

Suu Kyi makes first visit to violence-hit northern Rakhine

SITTWE: Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi visited conflict-battered northern Rakhine State for the first time yesterday, reportedly meeting Rohingya Muslims who have faced an army crackdown that has seen hundreds of thousands of the minority flee. Suu Kyi, a Nobel laureate who leads Myanmar's pro-democracy party, has been hammered by the international community for failing to use her moral power to speak up in defense of the Rohingya.

Some 600,000 of the stateless minority have fled to Bangladesh since late August carrying accounts of murder, rape and arson at the hands of Myanmar's powerful army, after militant raids sparked a ferocious military retaliation. The UN says that crackdown is likely tantamount to ethnic cleansing, while pressure has mounted on Myanmar to provide security for the Rohingya and allow people to return home. Suu Kyi left via state capital Sittwe as evening fell yesterday after a visit that also took in Maungdaw and Buthidaung in northern Rakhine.

It was her first trip in office to the region, which has seen some of the worst communal violence that has cut through the western state since 2012, severely damaging Myanmar's global reputation. "The Lady"-as she is known-did meet with the Rohingya community in Maungdaw town, according to local media, a first for a leader keen to convince observers inside the country and abroad



RAKHINE STATE: Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi (center) meets with Myo ethnic people in northern Maungdaw, Myanmar's Rakhine State yesterday. — AFP

that the crisis has abated and reconstruction of Rakhine can begin. But it was not clear if Suu Kyi visited some of the hundreds of Rohingya villages torched by the army-allegedly aided by ethnic Rakhine Buddhist locals. The Rohingya who remain in northern Rakhine are living in fear, surrounded by hostile neighbors, who refuse to let them farm or move freely. The UN yesterday again called for unfettered humanitarian access to a zone still under army lockdown. Yesterday around 3,000 Rohingya arrived by land at the Bangladesh border, a sign hunger and fear is still driving people from their homes. — AFP



Lifestyle

Friday Times

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The doggie space star

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Cambodian participants row their dragon boats during the Water Festival on the Tonle Sap River in Phnom Penh. — AP

Lifestyle

Director, implicated in Hollywood abuse scandal

Blockbuster director Brett Ratner and the head of news at American radio station NPR were drawn into Hollywood's widening sexual misconduct scandal Wednesday as more women came forward with stories of abuse. Actresses Natasha Henstridge and Olivia Munn have accused Ratner of sexual harassment, the Los Angeles Times reported, as A-lister Kevin Spacey faced fresh accusations over his own conduct with young actors.

Henstridge told the Times she was a 19-year-old fashion model in New York in the early 1990s when Ratner, then a music video director in his early 20s, forced her to perform oral sex. Four other women also recounted stories to the newspaper about sexually inappropriate or intimidating behavior by 48-year-old Ratner, whose movies including "Rush Hour" and "X-Men: The Last Stand" have grossed more than \$2 billion worldwide. "He strong-armed me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me," said Henstridge, who has appeared in the movies "Species" and "The Whole Nine Yards." "At some point, I gave in and he did his thing," she told the newspaper. Henstridge said she was inspired to come forward by the stories of other women who have reported sexual misconduct by powerful Miramax producer Harvey Weinstein and director James Toback. Munn, who has appeared in the HBO show "The Newsroom" and the movie "Magic Mike," told the Times that Ratner—who denies the allegations—had masturbated in front of her on the set of the movie "After the Sunset" (2004).

'Wrong and inexcusable'

"I have represented Mr Ratner for two decades, and no woman has ever made a claim against him for sexual misconduct or sexual harassment," his lawyer Martin Singer told the newspaper in a 10-page letter. "Furthermore, no woman has ever requested or received any financial settlement from my client," Singer said. Meanwhile, Ratner filed a defamation lawsuit in Hawaii over an alleged rape there. Allegations of abuse by Weinstein that were

published last month in The New York Times and The New Yorker have encouraged others to speak out, unleashing a cascade of accusations of sexual harassment and assault against leading figures in Hollywood and elsewhere. The spreading scandal reached the US media business on Wednesday as NPR CEO Jarl Mohn wrote in an email to staff seen by AFP that he had asked Mike Oreskes, senior vice president for news, for his resignation because of "inappropriate behavior" and the executive had obliged.

"I am deeply sorry to the people I hurt. My behavior was wrong and inexcusable, and I accept full responsibility," Oreskes was quoted by the station as saying in a statement. Oreskes was placed on leave late Tuesday following al-

“
More women
come out with
stories of abuse”

legations in The Washington Post from two women who said they had been harassed in the late 1990s, when Oreskes was Washington bureau chief for The New York Times. He also has been accused of harassment by an employee at NPR, the station reported on its website.

Cascade of allegations

Writing in the Hollywood Reporter, the author Anna Graham Hunter accused Dustin Hoffman—today aged 80—of sexually harassing her when she was a 17-year-old intern on the set of the "Death of a Salesman" TV film. Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos became the latest late Tuesday to accuse "House of Cards" star Spacey of sexual harassment, predicting more such claims would emerge as Netflix suspended production of the two-time Oscar winner's hit series. Cavazos, who acted in several plays at London's Old Vic theater when Spacey, 58, was artistic director from 2004 to 2015, said the Hollywood star routinely preyed on young male actors. Spacey was already facing a torrent of criticism over claims that he made a "sexual advance" on Anthony Rapp in 1986—when the actor was just 14—and for appearing to deflect the story by finally confirming that he is gay.

Meanwhile the Beverly Hills Police Department has said it was

"It is a director's dream to assemble a talented team like this to bring this classic story to life," said director Jon Favreau, who helmed Disney's hit live-action remake of "The Jungle Book" (2016), in a statement confirming the cast. The production will build on Disney's hugely lucrative reimagining of that movie and several other classics from its vaults—including "Beauty and the Beast," "Maleficent" and "Cinderella"—for contemporary audiences.

"The Lion King" is one of the biggest animated films of all time, with a lifetime global box-office gross of just under \$1 billion. It won Oscars for the song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" by Elton John and Tim Rice, and for its score by Hans Zimmer, plus two Grammy Awards, with the soundtrack selling more than 14 million copies.

The stage production made its Broadway debut in 1997 and went on to win six Tony Awards. Translated into eight languages, the film's 23 global stage productions have been seen by more than 85 million people. The worldwide gross for the brand exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or other entertainment title in history.

Stunning early footage of the live-action version shown at Disney's D23 fan convention in Southern California in July climaxed in the iconic moment when Rafiki introduces newborn Simba to the animals of the savannah. "This is a story that belongs to everyone who grew up with the original film," said Favreau. "I wanted to demonstrate that we could be respectful of the source material while bringing it to life using new techniques and technologies." — AFP



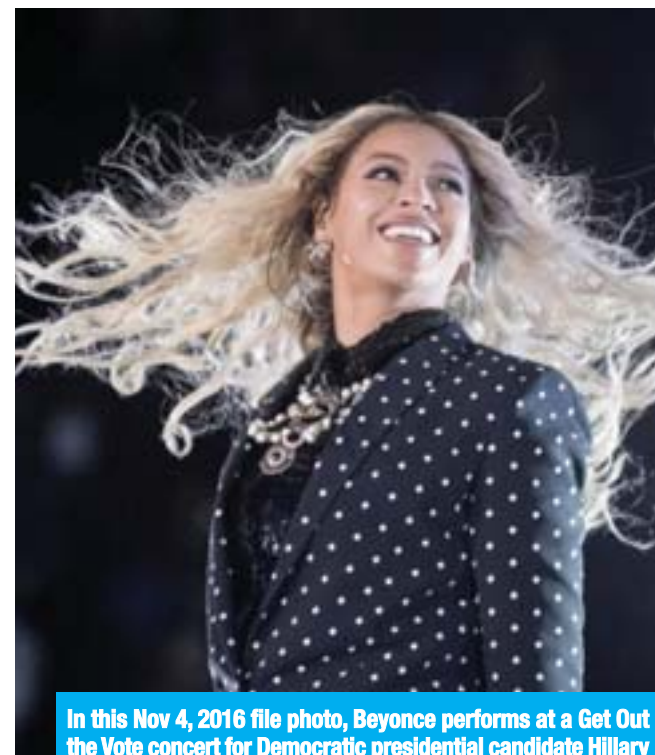
This file photo taken on January 19, 2017 shows Brett Ratner attending his star on the Walk of Fame ceremony in Hollywood. — AFP

investigating "multiple complaints" against Weinstein and Toback who face numerous allegations of unwanted sexual encounters but deny forcing themselves on women. More than 50 women including stars Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie and Mira Sorvino have accused 65-year-old Weinstein of sexual abuse and harassment. The LA Times interviewed 38 women who accused Toback of unwanted sexual encounters, and the paper said it was inundated with emails and phone calls from more than 200 additional women after the publication of its story. "Entourage" actor Jeremy Piven has also been the subject of sexual assault allegations this week, brought against him by actress, reality TV star and Playboy Playmate Ariane Bellamar. Bellamar alleged on Twitter that the 52-year-old Golden Globe and Emmy Award winner groped her on the set of the 2004-11 HBO show. "I unequivocally deny the appalling allegations being peddled about me. It did not happen," Piven said in a statement circulated among the US entertainment press on Wednesday. — AFP

Beyonce joins live-action 'The Lion King'

Beyonce is set to voice Simba's childhood friend turned love interest Nala in the live-action remake of Disney's "The Lion King," the singer and studio announced Wednesday. The 36-year-old pop megastar confirmed the long-rumored role in a Facebook post that showed headshots of the voice cast, also revealing that Keegan-Michael Key ("Why Him?," "Storks") will be playing a hyena named Kamari.

Alongside Beyonce—and mostly previously announced—will be Donald Glover as Simba, James Earl Jones reprising his role in the 1994 animated movie as Mufasa, and Chiwetel Ejiofor as his nemesis Scar. Comedian John Oliver was confirmed as Zazu, while other big names in the production-set for release in July 2019—include Seth Rogan and Billy Eichner.



In this Nov 4, 2016 file photo, Beyonce performs at a Get Out the Vote concert for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Cleveland. — AP

The doggie space star

SCIENTIST RECALLS TRAINING LAIKA FOR SPACE



Boys sit next to the dog Laika's space container used for trainings ahead of blasting off to orbit the Earth on November 3, 1957, at the Central House of Aviation and Cosmonautics in Moscow. — AFP photos



I asked her to forgive us and I even cried as I stroked her for the last time," says 90-year-old Russian biologist Adilya Kotovskaya, recalling the day she bid farewell to her charge Laika. The former street dog was about to make history as the first living creature to orbit the earth, blasting off on a one-way journey. The Soviet Union sent Laika up to space in a satellite on November 3, 1957 sixty years ago. It followed the first ever Sputnik satellite launch earlier that year. But things did not go exactly to plan and the dog was only able to survive for a few hours, flying around the Earth nine times.

"Those nine orbits of Earth made Laika the world's first cosmonaut—sacrificed for the sake of the success of future space missions," says Kotovskaya, who remains proud of her pioneering work as a scientist training Laika and other early space animals. For Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, Laika's voyage was yet another space feat to discomfit the Americans.

In a well-timed propaganda effort, it fell just before the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution on November 7. Kotovskaya recalls that before Laika, several dogs had been blasted up into sub-orbital space for brief periods of a few minutes "to check that it was possible to survive in weightlessness." "Now it was time to send one into space," says Kotovskaya, who turned 90 in October but still heads a laboratory at Moscow's Institute of Biomedical Problems.

The institute specializes in space science and simulated a flight to Mars in 2010 by making volunteers spend 520 days in isolation. To get dogs accustomed to the idea of space travel inside a pressurized capsule just 80 centimeters long, Kotovskaya gradually moved them into smaller and smaller cages. The canine candidates spent time in a centrifuge, that simulates the grueling G-forces created when a



Things did not go exactly to plan

more resourceful and less demanding." For publicity reasons, the dogs also had to be photogenic and they were given memorable names. Laika's name derives from the Russian word for "bark". She was chosen out of five or six candidates for her resourceful yet docile nature and slightly quizzical expression.

'Overheating and exhaustion'

"Of course we knew she was destined to die on the flight, since there was no way to get her back—this wasn't possible at the time," said Kotovskaya. On the eve of Laika's mission, the scientist went in to say goodbye to the dog and give her a final caress, she said. The Sputnik satellite carrying Laika blasted off on a rocket at 5.30 am Moscow time from Kazakhstan, where the Soviet Union would later base its Baikonur cosmodrome. Initially "nothing seemed to be going wrong," Kotovskaya said.

"Of course, during blast-off, Laika's heart beat speeded up a lot." But after three hours, her heart beat was back to normal. Then suddenly during the ninth orbit of the Earth, the temperature inside the capsule began to soar and reached over 40 degrees celsius, due to insufficient insulation from the Sun's rays. The hope was that Laika would stay alive for eight to 10 days, but instead she died from overheating and dehydration after a few hours.

Soviet radio nevertheless kept broadcasting daily updates on her health, insisting all was well. The official version was that she died after eating poison administered in her food to avoid a painful death on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. Moscow maintained this fiction for many years. The satellite carrying her remains burnt up in the atmosphere five months later, on April 14, 1958, above the Antilles island group. The first animals to go into space and return alive were a pair of dogs called Belka and Strelka who blasted off in a rocket on August 19, 1960 and returned a day later. The success of their mission persuaded Soviet authorities to go ahead with the highly risky first space trip by a human, Yury Gagarin, in April 1961. — AFP

rocket blasts off, as well as being exposed to similar noise levels. They even ate jellified space rations.

Laika was a mongrel dog aged around three who weighed six kilograms. Like all the other candidates for space, she was a female stray found on a Moscow street. "We chose bitches because they don't have to raise a leg to urinate which means they need less space than the males," Kotovskaya said.

"And (we chose) strays because they are



This file photo from the Soviet daily Pravda taken on November 13, 1957 of the dog Laika.

Philippine Everest conqueror sets sail for China



Philippine adventurer Carina Dayondon interacting with her pet dog aboard a traditional Philippine wooden boat known as balangay, in Manila Bay. — AFP

After conquering Mount Everest, Philippine adventurer Carina Dayondon is set to sail to China aboard a wooden replica of an ancient boat in the hopes of boosting national pride in a forgotten maritime prowess. Dayondon is planning to sail from Manila to southern China early next year, recreating trade and migration voyages made before Spaniards colonized the Philippines in the 1500s. "People tell me I am crazy. They ask: 'Wow, why climb Mount Everest? Why go to China on this tiny thing,'" Dayondon told AFP in Manila Bay aboard one of the two boats that will make the expected six-day sailing journey. "I'm excited because our team will be more inspired realising how good our forefathers were. We have to let people know we should be proud of being Filipino," the 39-year-old added.

Dayondon, a petite but muscular coast guard officer, created history in 2007 when she and two other countrywomen became the first Filipinas to summit the world's highest mountain. Arturo Valdez, who led their Everest support team, is also heading the sailing mission and similarly sees the journey to China as a chance to inspire Filipinos.

'The so-called impossible'

"Like Mount Everest, I want this to be symbolic of what our people can accomplish, of what can be possible out of the so-called impossible," the 69-year-old said. The vessels are a copy of a "balangay", which date back as far as 320 AD. "Early trade with China and Southeast Asia was made possible by watercraft," Ligaya Lacsina, researcher at the National Museum's maritime division, told AFP. "Europeans during the colonial period were effusive in their praise of Southeast Asian boat-building skill. But somehow we've paid very little attention to this."

Tribal boat-builders from the southern Philippines, where the boats originated, have made the replicas of the balangay using skills passed on down the generations. The boats, 18 meters long by three meters wide, are made of hardwood planks, include two sails, two rudders and a roofed area. Their journey to the southeastern Chinese city of Quanzhou will be about 1,000 kilometers, and the crew members are aiming to do it with as little modern technical help as possible. "We have no night-sailing capability so we can be run over by a super tanker. That's my fear. — AFP



An effigy of the dog Laika, the first living creature in space, inside a replica of satellite Sputnik II.

Lifestyle

Poles honor the dead at Skull Chapel

From inside the tiny baroque Skull Chapel in southern Poland, Father Romuald Brudnowski offers up a prayer for thousands of nameless individuals whose bones line the walls of an unusual place of worship. “Dear Lord, please take care of those who for 200 years have been waiting for resurrection,” the Catholic priest said Wednesday in Kudowa-Zdroj, a mountain town by the Czech border.

Brudnowski and around 100 parishioners had just completed an annual procession around the chapel and its adjoining church and cemetery to mark All Saints’ Day. “We come here to pray for the dead, for all the dead, regardless of whether they were our enemies or compatriots. That’s our tradition,” said a local resident named Maria.

“

Between battles
there’s no time
to dig graves

”

Built in 1776, the chapel serves as a mass grave for up to 30,000 victims of epidemics and conflicts from around the area known as Klodzko Land. “Kludzko Land was a kind of bargaining chip among different nations and there were constantly different wars taking place here,” said tour guide Aleksandra Leszczynska. “So a lot of the remains of people who died in battle were left lying around. Between battles there’s no time to dig graves and bury people... Over the centuries, bones just started coming out of the ground,” she added.

Eventually, a local parish priest, Czech-born Father Wacław Tomaszek, realised what was happening and decided the dead needed to be honored. He enlisted the help of a local gravedigger, named Langer, and the duo began collecting and cleaning bones and arranging them one by one in the chapel. “This here is a chapel of human suffering and death... We say that it’s not a museum, but a mass grave,” Sister Jolanta said. It is the only such chapel in Poland and one of just a few places in the world where human bones are out on display. Others include the Catacombs of Rome and The Bone Church in Kutna Hora, Czech Republic.

‘Ashes to ashes’

Around 3,000 skulls and bones adorn every inch of wall and ceiling inside the chapel, while another 25,000 or so people’s remains fill the four-meter deep crypt. Tourists can peer into the underground space and catch a glimpse of some of the



This picture shows the inside of the St Bartholomew’s Church also known as the Skull Chapel in Czerwna District of Kudowa. — AFP

bones through a metal grille after Sister Jolanta pulls a hatch along the wooden floor.

“At the beginning the skulls came right up to the floor. Now we see that it has all slid down by around 1.5 meters. Meaning these bones are disintegrating,” said Leszczynska. “There’s the saying, ‘ashes to ashes and dust to dust.’ That’s how it is,” she said. Above ground there is an altar with several types of bones on display, including a long shinbone that probably belonged to a Swede who had fought in The Thirty Years’ War. The skulls of a syphilis victim and of Langer the Gravedigger are also exhibited, as are those of a mayor and his wife who were both killed-by bullet and bayonet, respectively-during The Seven Years’ War.

“Those who fought here not only included Czechs, Germans and Austrians, but troops of other nationalities were also sent over to fight,” Leszczynska said, before holding up the skulls of a Tatar and Mongol. “Here we can see the bones of different nationalities, different people. Sometimes they fought on opposite

sides, right? But now they lie together. So it’s probably not worth quarrelling.”

Tourist Jarosław Mariak, a retired police officer from the southern city of Sosnowiec, first visited the chapel as a teenager on a Boy Scout outing. “I was 17 or 18 and remember being a little frightened and disorientated by what I saw, because it was a lot of bones and skulls... I think there was this peculiar chill. And a smell, too.” Back for the first time, decades later, he was less affected, perhaps because of the years he spent investigating crime and “having rubbed shoulders with death”.

His wife, business owner Mariola Pietrasinska, said she felt “a sadness, gloom because so many people died in such a short span of time.” “And I thought to myself that maybe it’s for the best, this place, because it reminds us of death, and that life is short and miserable, so we should make the most of our time on earth,” she said. — AFP



Skulls and bones cover the wall of the St Bartholomew’s Church.



The head of an angel figure surrounded by bones.



A statue of an angel placed in a niche surrounded by bones.



HONORED AT THE ARAB WOMAN AWARDS

One of my favorite moments of 2017 was winning “The most Influential Woman on Social Media” award at the Arab Woman Awards held at the Four Seasons Kuwait this October. This was such a huge honor for me, one that I didn’t expect at all. I was so excited when I got the invitation to the award show and was so proud to be a part of an amazing event like this that supports and encourages women all over the region to be strong and successful, so the fact that I ended up WINNING an award was an indescribable feeling.

The Arab Woman Awards was created to provide a culturally accepted platform to raise public awareness of the achievements of Arab women across the GCC and provide positive role models for young women. They launched in 2009 by ITP Media Group’s Executive Director, Sue Holt, who kept coming across talented, hardworking, and inspiring Arab Women. Because of the fact that she worked in one of the largest media companies in the region, she wanted to provide a platform to promote these women in a way that benefited their culture and society for the better. The awards are now held annually in the UAE, Qatar, KSA, and Kuwait.

The outfit I wore to the event was very unique and out of my comfort zone but it really made me feel feminine, classy, and elegant. I wore Oscar De La Renta’s Asymmetric panel embellished top paired with simple black pants and my favorite Gianvito Rossi heel pumps. The top is such a unique piece be-

cause it gave the vibe of a couture gown with the embellishments and the draping but it still easy to wear with trousers, so it was a great choice for me to wear for this event. I enjoyed experimenting with my style a bit and going for a different look which caught a lot of attention on social media and interested a lot of my followers.

When I started using social media a few years ago, it never occurred to me that my work in this field would lead me to opportunities and moments like these. It was first just a hobby I enjoyed doing on the side like sharing make up looks and tips, products I was loving etc. so the fact that I’m here today recognized globally as being the most influential women in the region feels like a dream come true. I’m forever grateful to my loyal followers and supporters who continue to show me love and support with everything I do throughout the years. I really appreciate and love you guys!

I believe that women should always encourage one another and believe in themselves to be the best at what they do and what they love despite any circumstances or society holding them back or telling them that they can’t. To all you amazing, influential, powerful, and beautiful Arab women out there, this one’s for you!

With love,
Fouz xo

Burundi bans women from playing traditional drums

Burundi’s president, Pierre Nkurunziza, has introduced strict controls over the country’s renowned drumming rituals, banning female drummers and limiting the sacred tradition to official events. “It is strictly forbidden to those of the female sex to beat drums. They can however carry out female folk dances accompanying the drums,” read a decree seen by AFP yesterday, that was signed late last month.

All groups seeking to perform “cultural shows” must from now on register with the ministry of culture and are not allowed to perform outside of official ceremonies without authorization from the ministry. Burundi’s ritual dance of the royal drums was in 2014 placed on UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage list, which describes it as “a spectacle combining powerful, synchronized drumming with dancing, heroic poetry and traditional songs.” It says the “entire population of Burundi recognizes it as a fundamental part of its heritage and identity.”

Today, the drums are played for entertainment: but for centuries they were a sacred rite, symbolic of a united kingdom – a powerful memory for a country whose recent history has been scarred by civil war and political crisis. In the country’s Kirundi language, the word for drum — “ingoma” – is the same as that for kingdom. In modern times drumming groups have flourished, performing at weddings, graduation ceremonies and baptisms. While traditionally a male-dominated field, sev-

eral female drumming groups have emerged in recent years.

The presidential decree, signed on October 20, said that if an organizer gets permission to have drummers perform at an event, he must pay the Treasury a fee equivalent to 245 euros (\$280). This figure is to be paid daily if the group performs abroad. Burundians on Twitter slammed the decree as an “authoritarian slide” and a “sign of increasing efforts to control Burundian society”. “This decree means the drums no longer belong to Burundian citizens but to the government”, said

Pacifique Nininahazwe, an exiled civil society leader.

Last month Burundi’s government adopted a plan to revise the constitution that, if voted in by referendum, would allow Nkurunziza to serve another two seven-year terms from 2020. The country was plunged into crisis when Nkurunziza sought and went on to win a third term in 2015. Between 500 and 2,000 people are estimated to have died in the ensuing turmoil, according to varying tolls. — AFP



This file photo taken on March 14, 2015 shows drummers from the Gishora drumming group performing in Gishora. — AFP

COOKING ON DEADLINE:

Pan-Roasted Brussels Sprouts

By Katie Workman

Brussels sprouts lovers, you are in for a treat: a side dish that will threaten to steal center stage. Spanish chorizo, a wonderfully spiced smoked pork sausage, gets sauteed just enough to brown a bit and release its oils. Then fresh bread crumbs are sauteed in the same pan and set aside to become a flavorful and delightfully textured topping for sauteed and flash-braised Brussels sprouts, combined with the browned chorizo. This is delicious served hot, warm or even at room temperature - a boon to busy cooks getting a big holiday meal on the table. Try this bread crumb technique with other vegetables as well - it would be great atop roasted broccoli, cauliflower or asparagus. Uncooked Mexican chorizo, while delicious, is not what you want in this recipe. Spanish chorizo is available at well-stocked markets, usually with the salamis and other cured or smoked meats. The casing is edible.

Ingredients

Serves 6

Start to finish: 25 minutes

2 ounces Spanish chorizo sausage, diced (about 1/2 cup)

5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided

2/3 cup coarse fresh breadcrumbs

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

1 teaspoon minced garlic, divided

2 pounds Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved

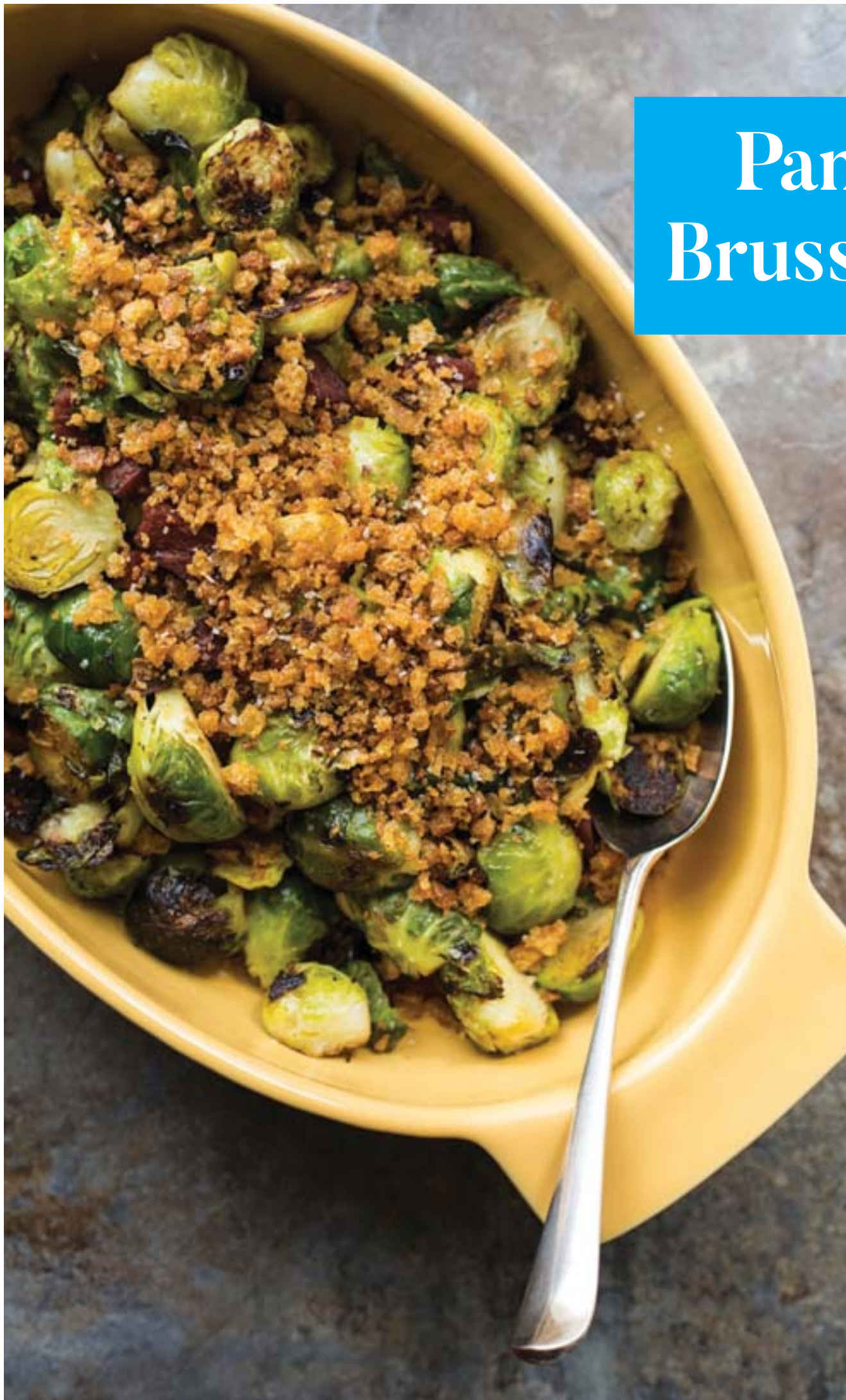
3 tablespoons chicken broth

Preparation

Heat a large, deep skillet over medium heat. Add the chorizo and saute for 2 minutes over medium-high heat, until it starts to brown and release some of its oils. Remove the chorizo with a slotted spoon to a plate. Add 3 tablespoons of the oil to the pan, leaving any oil left from sauteeing the chorizo, and heat over medium heat. Add the breadcrumbs, season with salt and pepper, and toast, stirring frequently, until the breadcrumbs are a light golden brown, about 4 minutes. Add half of the garlic and cook and stir for one more minute, until you can smell the garlic. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the toasted crumbs to a paper towel-lined plate. Wipe out the skillet and return to the heat.

Add the remaining 2 tablespoons oil to the pan, and heat over medium high heat. Add the Brussels sprouts and cook, stirring only occasionally, until they begin to become tender and lightly browned in spots, about 6 minutes. Add the remaining half of the garlic and saute for another 30 seconds, until you can smell the garlic. Add the broth, cover the pan, and cook for another 4 minutes until the Brussels sprouts are tender (but not soft!). Uncover the pan, saute for one more minute until most of the liquid is evaporated, stir in the chorizo, then turn it all into a serving dish. Sprinkle the bread crumbs on top and serve hot or warm.

Nutrition information per serving: 188 calories; 102 calories from fat; 11 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 8 mg cholesterol; 261 mg sodium; 16 g carbohydrate; 6 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 8 g protein.



Root Vegetable Gratin is tasty side dish for Thanksgiving

By Sara Moulton

The side dishes on our annual Thanksgiving menu almost always include mashed potatoes and roasted root vegetables. This year I decided to change up the routine by combining the two, adding a little cream and topping off the hybrid with some crunch. It's heartier that way and tastier, too.

This recipe calls for a pound of turnips and one-half pound each of carrots and parsnips. What if you're not a fan of turnips? (Some folks find them a bit funky.) Just leave them out and increase the amount of carrots and parsnips. But try not to mess with the specified amount of potatoes. It's their starch that thickens the sauce.

The dairy is a combination of cream and milk (the latter lightens the dish) infused with garlic, thyme and bay leaf. Seasoning a gratin is usually hit or miss -

you sprinkle some salt willy-nilly on top of the raw vegetables as you layer them into the baking pan. Here we call for an exact measure of salt to be added to and dissolved into the cream/milk mixture. That way the seasoning is perfect.

It's important to make sure the vegetables are sliced thinly and evenly so that they all become tender at the same time. You can do it by hand, but you will get more uniform results with a mandoline or the slicing disk of your food processor. (If you do choose to work with the mandoline, be sure to put the guard into place.)

One final note - not all baking pans perform the same way in the oven. When I made this dish in a metal pan, the vegetables were tender in 40 minutes. When I used a glazed earthenware pan, they took over 50 minutes. The difference speaks to the relative ability of each material to conduct - or resist - heat. In either case, it's crucial to keep an eye on the process.



Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour, 40 minutes (40 active)
 Servings: 10 to 12
 1 3/4 cups whole milk
 2 cups heavy cream
 4 large sprigs fresh thyme, crushed with a rolling pin
 1 bay leaf
 4 garlic cloves, smashed
 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 1 pound russet potatoes
 1 pound turnips
 1/2 pound carrots
 1/2 pound parsnips
 2 ounces freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
 3/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees; adjust the oven rack to the middle position. In a medium saucepan, combine the milk, cream, thyme, bay leaf, garlic, salt and pepper; heat the mixture over medium-high heat until bubbles form around the edge. Remove from the heat, cover, and let steep while you prepare the vegetables.

Peel all the root vegetables. Using a mandoline or the slicing disk of a food processor, slice them crosswise, 1/8-inch thick. Remove and discard the thyme, bay leaf and garlic cloves from the cream mixture and pour one-fourth of the mixture into a 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Add the vegetables and the remaining milk mixture to the baking pan (the liquid will just come up to the level of the vegetables). Stir the vegetables to make sure they are separated and then press them down to distribute them evenly. Bake the gratin on the middle shelf of the oven for 25

minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and press the vegetables down with a large metal spatula. Return the gratin to the oven and bake until the liquid has thickened and vegetables are tender when pricked with a knife, about 15 to 25 minutes more. In a bowl combine the cheese, panko and oil; sprinkle the mixture evenly over the top of the pan. Return the pan to the oven and bake until the top is browned, about 10 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes before serving.

Nutrition information per serving: 261 calories; 158 calories from fat; 18 g fat (10 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 56 mg cholesterol; 552 mg sodium; 21 g carbohydrates; 3 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 6 g protein.



The secret to tender buttermilk biscuits is a cold truth

By Elizabeth Karmel

You can't beat hot-from-the oven, crispy-on-the-outside, tender-on-the-inside, buttermilk biscuits. I like mine slathered with sweet butter and molasses, or stuffed with salty country ham. I am not picky: I like them for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. This summer, I wanted to serve them with fried chicken at a big picnic and pondered how I could make 100 hot, fresh biscuits with everything else that needed to be done.

I decided to experiment with my simple three-ingredient recipe, freeze the biscuits and bake them from frozen. Not only did they bake beautifully from frozen, they baked better. They were the best biscuits that I had ever made. In fact, some of my friends loaded up on the biscuits and forgot the fried chicken. These biscuits are so simple that anyone can make them. I use self-rising flour, which means that the leavening (what makes things rise) is already in the flour. I add lard and real buttermilk. Once the biscuits are cut and on the cookie sheet, I brush the tops with melted butter before and after baking.

If you have never made biscuits from scratch before, you need to know that biscuit dough is one of those doughs that "feels right" when you are kneading it or rolling it out. What that means is that when it is soft and tender to the touch, not dry and not sticky or too wet, you will know it. I like the flaky tender crumb of a lard biscuit and the lard very easy to mix in with the flour.

Weather affects the humidity of the flour which is why I suggest beginning with 2 cups of flour and 1/2 cup of buttermilk and adding more of each if necessary until the dough feels right.

Ingredients

Servings: 15
 Start to finish: 30 minutes (Inactive time: 15 minutes)
 2 1/4 cups self-rising flour, divided
 1/4 cup cold (1 stick) lard (or cold butter that you grate with a box grater in a pinch)
 1/2-3/4 cup real buttermilk
 1 stick salted butter, melted

Preparation

Heat oven to 425 F. Place parchment paper in cookie sheet or half-sheet pan. Place 2 cups of flour in large bowl. Cut in shortening, using a pastry blender or blending fork (or pulling 2 table knives through ingredients in opposite directions), until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add 1/2 cup of buttermilk; stir with fork until soft dough forms and mixture begins to pull away from sides of bowl. If the dough is too wet, add the extra 1/4 cup of flour, little by little. If it is too dry, add the extra 1/4 cup of buttermilk, little by little.

On lightly floured surface, knead dough 1-2 times, or just until smooth. Do not over-work the dough. Roll out dough to about

1/3-inch thickness and fold over. Roll out the folded-over dough so that it is even. Cut straight down with a floured 2-inch round cutter - do not twist the cutter. Place biscuits on the sheet pan. Brush the tops with the melted butter.

Place in the center of the oven and bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven. While the biscuits are still on the sheet pan, brush tops again with the melted salted butter. Transfer from sheet pan to a cooling rack. Serve warm with butter, honey and molasses or your favorite jam or ham.

Chef's Note: If making in advance to freeze, follow recipe up until you brush the tops with melted butter. Place on a piece of parchment on a tray and place in the freezer without any wrap. Let freeze and when biscuits are completely frozen, slide the parchment paper and biscuits into a heavy-duty freezer bag. If the bag is too small, fold the piece of parchment paper and place in the bag with the frozen biscuits. That way, you will have the parchment to bake them on in the bag. When ready to bake, pre-heat the oven to 425 F and bake until tops are brown and the biscuits are done, about 15-17 minutes. Brush tops with melted butter as soon as they come out of the oven.

Nutrition information per serving: 149 calories; 89 calories from fat; 10 g fat (5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 20 mg cholesterol; 256 mg sodium; 13 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 0 g sugar; 2 g protein.

STRANGER THINGS 2

REACHES NEW, STIRRING PEAKS



By Aakash Bakaya

A breakout success, 'Stranger Things' was a miraculous development. Rejected by over 15 networks according to creators the Duffer Brothers, it became an internet sensation right out of the gate. Ironically though, when you look at its concept - it had no right to become one. A cheesy sci-fi plot set in mid-town USA led by a group of adolescent boys taking place in the 80's is a tough sell especially when modern TV shows are getting bigger and more bombastic. But Netflix took a chance with the material and the result was nothing short of outstanding. Nostalgic, emotional and brilliantly acted - 'Stranger Things' used the ingredients of what makes great television and stirred it into a sheer delight to watch. The second season that released last week had the enormous responsibility of at least matching 2016's biggest breakthrough television show. I'm happy to say that it not only matches it, it straight up improves on it in almost every way.

Welcome back to Hawkins

Taking place one year after the events of the first season, we find our main cast on a kind of crossroad in their lives. Mike is still distraught from losing Eleven and questions his continuing loyalty towards someone who very well could be dead, Dustin is wondering if his aloofness and goofy charm might not actually be the best thing for him while Lucas is finding a new-found confidence with himself. Will on the other hand is still recovering from his traumatic stay in the 'Upside-down' while his mom and brother have seemingly moved on from everything that happened. Town sheriff Hopper is staying cautious and most importantly silent on last year's events but is harboring a major secret



from the entire town -he's keeping Eleven quiet and safe in an old lodge in the woods which he visits every night.

It's a slow but effective set-up that weaves in themes of dealing with the past and figuring out the future with a deft touch. Our cast acknowledges what happened but can't seem to make peace with how it affected their town and their relationships. Speaking of relationships, we find Nancy and Steve on shaky ground as Nancy can't help escape the responsibility of what happened to her best friend (#justiceforBarb) while Steve is juggling both his relationship issues and his future study plans. Things only get more complicated from there as the town welcomes newcomers Billy and Max from California who are carrying their own weight of emotional baggage. Sean Astin's immensely lovable Bob and Paul Reiser's suspicious Dr Owens rounds out the new additions and they along with a surprise few keep the everything moving along at a steadier pace.



It might not sound like the most original set-ups but just like the first season, the material is carried by one of the best television ensembles in years. It's dedication to show the multiple facets of our characters without overtly imposing the plot upon them shines through even brighter the second time around. Both the characters and the plot feel more rounded and developed and even its loving rendition of the 80's time period feels slightly more pronounced. Billy comes screeching in his Pontiac Firebird with 'Rock You Like A Hurricane' by the Scorpions booming from the radio - it simply doesn't get more 80's than that and I loved every second of it. The background synth tracks by music composers Kyle Dixon and Michael Stein also makes a welcome return and they sound as engrossing as ever.

Building on tropes

'Stranger Things' wore its numerous inspirations and references on its sleeves and revels in both its joys and its drawbacks. Stephen King, John Hughes, James Cameron and Dungeon & Dragons remain the show's main foundations but instead of falling back on those tropes, it uses them as jumping point. The characters might be constant victims of circumstance and clichés at times but the writing and performances are sharp enough to overcome them and simply keep us invested in them as real people. The show's insistence on this aspect is one of the main reasons it has become the sensation it is. They crack inappropriate jokes at inappropriate times; they make mistakes and have problems getting a handle on their feelings and the people around them. The fact that in only two relatively short seasons they managed to create a complex, ever-changing high-school love triangle is a testament to the fantastic writing.

The shady, inter-dimensional projects of the government run Hawkins Lab still serve as the show's intense underbelly and this season continues developing its story without expanding it too needlessly. The Duffer brothers have stated their desire to keeping the show's journey contained within a 4-5 season arc and it shows strongly here. Eleven's back-story gets further developed as well and we find out from the very first scene of the season itself that she might not be the only one with extraordinary abilities. It moves along well until it accumulates into an entire episode solely dedicated to it and fans have rallied against. Episode 7 of the season as such will always be maligned by the fans (even though I quite liked it). I can understand the disappointment as it deals with a lot of world-building that doesn't quite hit the mark.

Apart from that minor misstep, I struggle to find even minor faults with such an outstanding season of television, even the camera work has improved tremendously with some truly awe-inspiring shots. The ending was pretty much perfect and the few plot threads left hanging only serve to make the wait for the next season (which has already started shooting) all the more painful. I rarely fall so deeply for TV shows but 'Stranger Things' goes above and beyond ordinary television and creates something truly outstanding. Season 3 can't come soon enough.

It's still cool to hang out in Greenwich Village

By Beth J. Harpaz

As a teenager in New York City in the gritty 1970s, I often hung out in Greenwich Village with friends. There was nothing cooler than buying a tie-dyed T-shirt in some little shop or listening to a guitar-playing hippie in Washington Square Park. As an adult in the complicated 21st century, I can still recommend the Village as a magical place to spend a day, but its charms are different now.

Pedestrians pass an exhibit titled 'Arch' by Chinese activist artist Ai Weiwei in New York.
— AP photos



Lifestyle | Travel



This photo shows display cases laden with luscious cupcakes at Magnolia Bakery.

The neighborhood's bohemian reputation gave way long ago to expensive real estate, but you can still enjoy a bite in a cafe or a night out listening to live music. And while the city's latest terror attack unfolded nearby in Lower Manhattan, perhaps a stop in the Village at a peaceful spot like the garden at The Church of Saint Luke in the Fields, 487 Hudson St., is just what a harried visitor needs.

Food and books

Start your day at Patisserie Claude, a tiny bakery at 187 W. Fourth St., serving yummy little quiches and pastries. For lunch, try the massive chicken Chimayo salad for \$13.50 at Cowgirl NYC, 519 Hudson St., though that might leave you too full to sample the goods at Murray's Cheese Bar, 264 Bleecker. For dinner, find a friend to share Mediterranean small plates at Jack's Wife Freda, 50 Carmine St., or go for rustic Italian at Rafele, 29 Seventh Ave. South. If you enjoy reading, the bookstore Three Lives & Company, 154 W. Tenth St., is a must. I went in just to look around and walked out with an armful of books.

Pop culture

If you loved the TV show "Friends," you'll

need a selfie outside the building where the gang lived at the corner of Bedford and Grove. Fans of "Sex & the City" have two stops. Even though Carrie Bradshaw lived on the Upper East Side, the brownstone used for exterior shots of her home is in the Village, on Perry Street. Its steps are roped off and a sign asks visitors to donate to a charity for homeless dogs and cats. "Sex & the City" also helped make Magnolia Bakery famous, at 401 Bleecker St., where cupcakes are piled high with swirled frosting.

Literary history

The house at 75 1/2 Bedford St. was once home to the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, and at just 9 1/2 feet (2.9 meters) wide, it is billed as "the narrowest house in New York" (though that claim has been disputed). The Cherry Lane Theatre at 38 Commerce St. proudly boasts of showcasing early works by playwrights like Sam Shepard and Harold Pinter. And the White Horse Tavern at 567 Hudson has been a favorite bar for famous writers from Jack Kerouac to Dylan Thomas, who is said to have downed his last shots there before collapsing. He died soon after.



This plaque describes the history of the Cherry Lane Theatre in Greenwich Village in New York.

Lifestyle | Travel



This photo shows two figures that are part of the Gay Liberation Monument in Christopher Park.

Music

Google “Bob Dylan walking tour” and you’ll find lots of options for tracing the footsteps of one of the biggest names ever associated with Greenwich Village. The Washington Square Hotel, 103 Waverly, where Dylan once stayed, recommends a self-guided map tour with stops on MacDougal Street and at the Bitter End, 147 Bleecker, where he performed and where you can still enjoy live music. Jazz lovers will want to check out the Village Vanguard, 178 Seventh

Ave. South, while Marie’s Crisis Cafe, 59 Grove, is known for its lively piano bar.

Parks and monuments

Riots erupted in 1969 after a police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar at 53 Christopher St. The Stonewall National Monument was established across the street in 2016 at Christopher Park to mark the birthplace of the gay rights movement. The park is also home to sculpted figures by artist George Segal in a work called “Gay Liberation.”



This photo shows Patisserie Claude, a tiny bakery.

Until Feb 11, the massive white marble arch at Washington Square Park is the site of a cage-like installation by Chinese activist-artist Ai Weiwei. It’s one of 300 of his works on display around the city, all themed on the global refugee crisis.

What and where?

Greenwich Village was settled before Manhattan’s numbered street grid was put in place, and its named, irregular streets can be confusing to navigate. Even the numbered streets don’t always make

sense, like the illogical intersection of West Fourth and West 10th streets. For those who need some reference points, the neighborhood runs south from 14th Street, north from Houston, west to the Hudson River and east to Washington Square-University Place (though the eastern border is a subject of debate among locals). The West Village usually means west of Sixth Avenue (though that can be debated as well). Don’t get too hung up on geography, though. Just call it the Village, find a cafe and channel your inner cool. — AP



This photo shows books on display at Three Lives and Company.

Comic

WORD SEARCH

Adverbs

Find and circle all of the adverbs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.

S O O N O W H E R E A D V D H G I H A E
R B W I S E L Y S Y L T N E G N O L L D
T H E R E M N I A G A I E A S I L Y M R
O E Y Y L K C I U Q H Y L W O L S D O A
I R L F Y Y O N C E D F Y V G F E R S W
F O L D O A B N B A H E A D R A R B T E
O F A R E R D R E S Y L T N E S E R P M
R E E A A A E R A T N D S R A T V A D O
W B R W R J L V E E F S R E T O E E S H
A C A P L A T I E T N O I V L D N L S V
R Y M U Y K C A B R S M F E Y A A O E R
D Y T O M O R R O W B E E W S Y M R L A
W A L T N A T Y O R N W Y O D E E I N T
H E H T R T L R I S T H B H T H T W O H
E E E E E T H S O R S E T I W T O H E E
N R L K F I K L A H L R M Y L D U O L R
C Y A O L L U P Y O S E N E Q U I T E D
E V S E Y Y A Q W R S A S Y A W L A B S

- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ACROSS | BEHIND | HENCE | ONCE | SOMETIMES |
| AGAIN | BELOW | HIGH | PRESENTLY | SOMEWHERE |
| AHEAD | BRISKLY | HOMEWARD | QUICKLY | SOON |
| ALMOST | DOWN | HOWEVER | QUIETLY | THEN |
| ALREADY | EARLY | LITTLE | QUITE | THERE |
| ALSO | EASILY | LONG | RARELY | TODAY |
| ALWAYS | FAST | LOUDLY | RATHER | TOMORROW |
| ANYWHERE | FIRST | MONTHLY | REALLY | UPWARD |
| APART | FOREVER | NEARBY | SHORT | WEEKLY |
| AWAY | FORWARD | NEVER | SLOWLY | WISELY |
| BACK | GENTLY | NOWHERE | SOFTLY | YESTERDAY |
| BEFORE | GREATLY | OFTEN | | |

Yesterday's Solution

90's Songs 4

M S U K I Y A K I U N O U R A N U R A
R S N E V E R Y T H I N G I E L L M E
J A B U N B E L I E V A B L E M I T L
O Y I C R A Z Y T H I N G I N O T E V A S
N I G N U O L O R E B M E C E D I T
E T P A N G E L Y W B E A D H E H E
S G O R A O R E M I S W I L L R G D A
T I N P E W A F U L L E A G N L L Y
W O P M A W J U P L E A G N L L Y
O L A R Y Y A J U P L E A G N L L Y
P R T O F F I T O U R S A T T K W
R E A F R I T E P O R S A T T K W
I V C N A T A S U S S A M G O K
N E K I I R L O U T O U P A M N
C C C N W L L A C S T M O R E S
E I A N R R G J A U L E T A P A W S
S P L H J E N N J N A O S S E M A M
R A B W U L E L K E T I S A U I E S
M I S S I N G U P U I L P R E D I L S E

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| ADIA | DISARM | LATELY | SAY IT |
| ALRIGHT | EVERLONG | LOUNGIN | SLIDE |
| ANGEL | EVERYTHING | MASTERPIECE | SUKIYAKI |
| ANYTHING | FINALLY | MISSING | TELL ME |
| ANYWHERE | FOOLISH GAMES | MR. JONES | TIME |
| BIG POPPA | HERD | NO DIGGITY | TOO CLOSE |
| BLACK CAT | I KNOW | NO RAIN | TWO PRINCES |
| CRAZY | I SWEAR | NOBODY KNOWS | UNBELIEVABLE |
| CREEP | INFORMER | NOT TONIGHT | WANNABE |
| DEAR MAMA | JUMP AROUND | RUN-AROUND | WHO DAT |
| DECEMBER | JUMPER | RUNAWAY TRAIN | WITHOUT YOU |
| DISAPPEAR | LAST KISS | SAVE TONIGHT | YOU'LL SEE |

The hidden song title is: ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

CROSSWORD 1752



ACROSS

- Having much flesh (especially fat).
- The wife or widow of a czar.
- White crystalline compound used as a food additive to enhance flavor.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Of or relating to or characteristic of the country of Romania or its people or languages.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- Not out.
- Lacking in liveliness or animation.
- A three-legged rack used for support.
- (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- Cosmopolitan genus of trees and shrubs having odd-pinnate leaves and showy flowers.
- In a nice way.
- A chronic progressive nervous disorder involving loss of myelin sheath around certain nerve fibers.
- One thousandth of a second.
- A tax on employees and employers that is used to fund the Social Security system.
- Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
- English economist who advocated the use of government monetary and fiscal policy to maintain full employment without inflation (1883-1946).
- An Iranian language spoken in Afghanistan.
- Small Asian deer with small antlers and a cry like a bark.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- Remote in manner.
- Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
- Strike with disgust or revulsion.
- In a moody manner.
- The capital of French Polynesia on the northwestern coast of Tahiti.
- The domain ruled by an emperor or empress.
- A member of the Pueblo people living in northern New Mexico.
- Use of a word to govern two or more words though appropriate to only one.
- An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
- A short high tone produced as a signal or warning.
- Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- The 11th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- Small genus of Eurasian aquatic perennial herbs.
- Being two more than fifty.
- A republic in southeastern Europe.
- A musical notation written on a staff indicating the pitch of the notes following it.
- Water frozen in the solid state.

DOWN

- A piece of information about circumstances that exist or events that have occurred.
- Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- A sock with a separation for the big toe.
- Type genus of the family Triopidae.
- United States composer of musicals (born in 1930).
- Before noon.
- Measuring instrument in which the echo of a pulse of microwave radiation is used to detect and locate distant objects.
- Any plant of the genus *Intula*.
- Unstratified soil deposited by a glacier.
- A port city in northeastern Greece on an inlet of the Aegean Sea.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
- Small evergreen shrub of Pacific coast of North America having edible dark purple grape-size berries.
- Thickly covered with ingrained dirt or soot.
- The process of gradually becoming inferior.
- (Australian and New Zealand) A disparaging term for English immigrants to Australia or New Zealand.
- Be present in.
- A mass of ice and snow that permanently covers a large area of land (e.g., the polar regions or a mountain peak).
- A downhill race over a winding course defined by upright poles.
- A group of soldiers.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.
- Greek mythology.
- (Greek mythology) The Muse of lyric and love poetry.
- Income (at invoice values) received for goods and services over some given period of time.
- Treat with iodine.
- A humorous anecdote or remark.
- An upright hydrant for drawing water to use in fighting a fire.
- An Italian poet famous for love lyrics (1304-1374).
- The basic unit of money in Romania.
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- Pertaining to or resembling amoebae.
- An attendant who carries the golf clubs for a player.
- Concerning those not members of the clergy.
- A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
- (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- Great in vertical dimension.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
- The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
- Half the width of an em.

Yesterday's Solution

B A D M O M B A S A A D P S
A D O A S S A G A I R H E A
E M U C A T C A L L M A R L
D I B B U K C P A G A V I A
A T T I L A H E A D D A L I
F A I M A F A
D E A F D A C E D A D D
A R E G A B C C A D D I E
R A S C A L A M A H I M A M
A S I A E T C A R R I Z O
F E R I A F A M E D A X O N
N C I Y A R C C
A N S B E A R B A S B W
J A F F A L L A M A I C A O
A G A P E D I C A B D A T A
X I X C A S C A R A A D A D

Daily Sudoku

		4		9	2			1
	6							3
				5	7	6		2
9	2	8						
							8	1
								9
1		5	2	3				
	4							5
7			1	8		4		

Yesterday's Solution

4	6	7	2	3	5	1	8	9
9	2	8	1	7	6	5	4	3
5	1	3	9	4	8	2	6	7
6	3	4	8	2	1	7	9	5
2	8	9	6	5	7	4	3	1
1	7	5	3	9	4	6	2	8
3	9	1	5	6	2	8	7	4
7	5	6	4	8	9	3	1	2
8	4	2	7	1	3	9	5	6


TV Listings



00:20 Road House
02:15 Rumble
03:50 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II
06:15 6 Ways To Sundown
08:00 Crossfire
09:35 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II
11:50 Rumble
13:25 Batman: Return Of The Caped Crusaders
14:45 The Veil
16:20 Point Break
18:15 The Legend Of Zorro
20:25 Entrapment
22:20 The Dead Lands



00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Treehouse Masters
02:40 Bad Dog
03:35 Going Ape
04:00 Going Ape
04:25 Whale Wars
05:15 Whale Wars
06:02 North America
06:49 Lone Star Law
07:36 Gorilla School
08:00 Gorilla School
08:25 Going Ape
08:50 Going Ape
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Bad Dog
11:05 North America
12:00 Going Ape
12:28 Going Ape
12:55 Whale Wars
13:50 Whale Wars
14:45 Bad Dog
15:40 North America
16:35 Lone Star Law
17:30 Treehouse Masters
18:25 From Cubs To Kings
19:20 Dogs 101: New Tricks
20:15 Bad Dog
21:10 Going Ape
21:38 Going Ape
22:05 From Cubs To Kings
23:00 Dogs 101: New Tricks
23:55 North America



00:10 Holby City
01:05 Bad Move
01:35 Cold Feet
02:25 Benidorm
03:15 Call The Midwife
04:10 Doctors
04:40 EastEnders
05:10 Cold Feet
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Casualty
07:50 Holby City
08:45 Doctors
11:15 Casualty
12:10 Holby City
13:00 EastEnders
13:35 EastEnders
14:05 EastEnders
14:35 EastEnders
15:05 Casualty
16:00 Doctors
16:30 Doctors
18:35 Casualty
19:30 Friday Night Dinner
20:00 Poldark
21:00 Poldark
22:00 Benidorm
22:50 Bad Move
23:25 Carters Get Rich
23:50 Doctors




00:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
01:00 The First 48
02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
03:00 Jack The Ripper
04:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill

05:00 The First 48
06:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
07:00 Homicide Hunter
08:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
09:00 It Takes A Killer
09:30 It Takes A Killer
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
12:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
13:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
15:00 It Takes A Killer
15:30 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
17:00 The First 48
19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
20:00 It Takes A Killer
20:30 It Takes A Killer
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
23:00 Monster In My Family



00:30 Pick A Puppy
00:55 Pick A Puppy
01:20 Weather Gone Viral
02:10 Keiko: The Untold Story Of The Star Of Free Willy
03:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
03:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Pick A Puppy
05:55 Pick A Puppy
06:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
07:00 Pick A Puppy
07:25 Pick A Puppy
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
11:10 The Carbonaro Effect
11:35 The Carbonaro Effect
12:00 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
12:25 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
14:30 Pick A Puppy
14:55 Pick A Puppy
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
17:00 Deception With Keith Barry
17:50 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:15 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
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 Deception With Keith Barry
22:00 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
22:25 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
22:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
23:40 Storm Chasers




00:50 The Accused, Jeffrey Macdonald: People Magazine...
01:45 Evil Online
02:40 Reasonable Doubt
03:35 Six Degrees Of Murder
04:30 The Accused, Jeffrey Macdonald: People Magazine...
05:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
06:20 I Almost Got Away With It
07:10 Unravalled
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 Unravalled
11:05 Murder Chose Me
12:00 Murder Calls
12:55 Disappeared
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 Unravalled

15:40 Murder Chose Me
16:35 Reasonable Doubt
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 Unravalled
21:10 Murder Chose Me
22:05 Blood Relatives
23:00 American Monster
23:55 Evil Lives Here



00:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 The Hive
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
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Tangled: The Series
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 The Zhuzhus
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:25 Lolirock
10:50 Lolirock
11:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:40 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 & Cat Noir
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
15:00 The Zhuzhus
15:15 K.C. Undercover
15:40 Bizaardvark
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:10 Elena Of Avalor
16:35 Stuck In The Middle
17:00 Tangled: The Series
17:25 Bizaardvark
17:30 Zapped
19:05 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
19:30 The Zhuzhus
19:40 Best Friends Whenever
20:05 Descendants Wicked World
20:10 Liv And Maddie
20:35 Jessie
21:00 Tangled: The Series
21:25 K.C. Undercover
21:50 K.C. Undercover
22:15 Stuck In The Middle
22:40 Bunk'd
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks
23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
23:45 Lolirock




00:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
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 The Hive
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 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Doc McStuffins
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 PJ Masks
11:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:00 The Lion Guard
12:30 The Lion Guard
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Sofia The First
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 PJ Masks
15:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 Doc McStuffins
16:00 Puppy Dog Pals
16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:00 Sofia The First
17:30 Doc McStuffins
18:00 The Lion Guard
18:25 Puppy Dog Pals
18:55 Sofia The First
19:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:55 PJ Masks
20:25 The Lion Guard
20:55 Doc McStuffins
21:25 Doc McStuffins
21:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:45 Doc McStuffins
23:15 Goldie & Bear
23:45 Puppy Dog Pals




00:20 Street Customs 2008
01:05 How Do They Do It?
01:28 How Do They Do It?
01:50 So You Think You'd Survive? 02:35 Supertruckers
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 Strip The City
06:45 Abandoned Engineering
07:30 How Do They Do It?
07:53 How Do They Do It?
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 Gold Divers
09:45 Boy To Man
10:30 Deals, Wheels And Steals
11:00 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Street Outlaws
13:37 Carspotting
14:27 Misfit Garage
15:17 Street Customs 2008
17:32 Street Outlaws
18:22 Carspotting
19:12 Garage Gold
19:42 Garage Gold
20:10 Gold Rush
21:00 Street Outlaws
21:50 Carspotting
22:40 Misfit Garage
23:30 Deadliest Catch



06:00 Disney11
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
08:35 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
11:10 Gravity Falls
11:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:25 Two More Eggs
12:30 Phineas And Ferb
12:55 Phineas And Ferb
13:20 Zeke And Luther
13:45 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
18:35 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 Walk The Prank
16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
18:35 Disney11
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 KSA




00:00 Siba's Table
00:30 Siba's Table
01:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
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
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Bake With Anna Olson
10:25 Bake With Anna Olson
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Cooking For Real
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
13:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
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 Iron Chef America
20:00 Extreme Cake Wars
21:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
22:00 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 Coronation Street

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



00:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
01:00 United Stuff Of America
02:00 History's Greatest Blunders
02:30 History's Greatest Blunders
03:00 Engineering Disasters
03:50 Ancient Aliens
04:40 Ancient Aliens
05:30 Your Bleeped Up Brain
06:20 United Stuff Of America
07:10 The Universe
08:00 History's Greatest Blunders
08:30 History's Greatest Blunders
09:00 Engineering Disasters
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Ancient Aliens
12:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
13:00 United Stuff Of America
14:00 History's Greatest Blunders
14:30 History's Greatest Blunders
15:00 Engineering Disasters
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 The Universe
19:00 United Stuff Of America
20:00 History's Greatest Blunders
20:30 History's Greatest Blunders
21:00 Engineering Disasters
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 America's 9/11 Flag: Rise From The Ashes



00:20 WW2 Treasure Hunters
01:10 The Warfighters
02:00 Mountain Men
02:50 Counting Cars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Mountain Men
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 American Pickers
06:50 Time Team
07:40 Cars That Made America
09:20 Swamp People
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 American Pickers
11:50 Cars That Made America
13:30 Pawn Stars South Africa
13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
14:20 Pawn Stars
14:45 Counting Cars
15:10 Counting Cars
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Alone
17:40 Leepu And Pitbull
18:30 Leepu And Pitbull
19:20 Cars That Made America
21:00 Counting Cars
21:25 Counting Cars
21:50 WW2 Treasure Hunters
22:40 The Warfighters
23:30 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald

TV Listings



00:45 Route Awakening
01:10 What's For Sale?
01:40 Places We Go
02:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
02:35 Home Strange Home
03:30 Home Strange Home
04:25 What's For Sale?
04:50 What's For Sale?
05:20 Stepping Out
05:45 Carnival Eats
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 Places We Go
07:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
08:05 Home Strange Home
09:00 Home Strange Home
09:55 What's For Sale?
10:20 What's For Sale?
10:50 Stepping Out
11:15 Carnival Eats
11:45 Dog Whisperer
12:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:35 Home Strange Home
14:30 Home Strange Home
15:25 What's For Sale?
15:50 What's For Sale?
16:20 Stepping Out
16:45 Stepping Out
17:15 Dog Whisperer
18:10 Cesar To The Rescue
19:05 What's For Sale?
19:30 What's For Sale?
20:00 Stepping Out
20:30 Stepping Out
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Cesar To The Rescue
22:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
23:20 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
23:50 Home Strange Home



00:10 Reinventing Seoul: Smart City On The Rise
01:00 Nazi Megastructures
02:00 Locked Up Abroad Compilations
03:00 Innovation Nation
03:30 Innovation Nation
04:00 Reinventing Seoul: Smart City On The Rise
05:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai
06:00 World's Biggest Cave
07:00 I Am Rebel
08:00 Seconds From Disaster
08:30 Seconds From Disaster
09:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai
10:00 Locked Up Abroad Compilations
11:00 Hard Time
12:00 Big, Bigger, Biggest
13:00 Bridge The Gap
14:00 Seconds From Disaster
15:00 Facing...
16:00 Inside
17:00 Hard Time
18:00 Hell On Earth
20:00 Inside
20:50 Hard Time
21:40 Hell On Earth
23:20 Bridge The Gap



00:20 Cat Fight
01:10 Safari Brothers
02:00 Snow Leopard Of Afghanistan
02:50 Wild 24
03:45 Wild Case Files
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 Snow Leopard Of Afghanistan
06:30 Wild 24
07:25 Wild Case Files
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Snakes In The City

10:10 Animal Outlaws
11:05 Gorilla Murders
12:00 Shark Nicole
12:55 Cougar v. Wolf
13:50 Wild 24
14:45 Wild Case Files
15:40 Animals Gone Wild
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Mystery Of The Giant Cave
Spider
18:25 Sea Of Hope: America's Underwater Treasures
19:20 Wild Case Files
20:10 Animals Gone Wild
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Mystery Of The Giant Cave
Spider
22:40 Sea Of Hope: America's Underwater Treasures
23:30 Shark Nicole



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 The Loud House
04:36 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 Rank The Prank
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 A Fairly Odd Movie: Grow Up, Timmy Turner!
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 The Thundermans
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Nicky Deuce
16:12 Hunter Street
16:36 Hunter Street
17:00 Hunter Street
17:24 Hunter Street
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
01:00 Max & Ruby
01:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:34 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:45 The Day Henry Met
01:50 The Day Henry Met
01:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines

02:40 Zack & Quack
03:00 Shimmer And Shine
03:23 Nella The Princess Knight
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
10:22 Paw Patrol
10:45 Rusty Rivets
11:05 Wallykazam!
11:28 Bubble Guppies
11:52 Team Umizoomi
12:15 Shimmer And Shine
12:39 Shimmer And Shine
13:00 Max & Ruby
13:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:45 The Day Henry Met
13:55 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
17:06 The Day Henry Met
17:11 Nella The Princess Knight
17:35 Shimmer And Shine
17:59 Wallykazam!
18:21 Zack & Quack
18:32 The Day Henry Met
18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
19:00 Rusty Rivets
19:13 Paw Patrol
19:37 Dora The Explorer
20:00 Zack & Quack
20:21 Bubble Guppies
20:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
21:07 Paw Patrol
21:30 Shimmer And Shine
21:53 Nella The Princess Knight
22:15 The Day Henry Met
22:22 Paw Patrol
22:45 Rusty Rivets
23:05 Wallykazam!
23:28 Bubble Guppies
23:52 Team Umizoomi



00:50 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
02:30 Charlotte's Web
04:15 Curious George
05:50 A Tiger's Tail
07:25 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
09:05 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
10:35 Charlotte's Web
12:15 Hey Arnold! The Movie
13:40 Minions
15:15 Because Of Winn Dixie
17:05 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism
18:45 Ghost Squad
20:15 Hey Arnold! The Movie
21:40 Minions
23:15 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism



00:50 Boomerang
02:50 Dirty Work
04:15 Sneakers
06:20 The Guilt Trip

08:00 Fun Size
09:35 Outside Bet
11:25 Sneakers
13:35 The Guilt Trip
15:20 Fun Size
16:50 A Thousand Words
18:20 Joe Somebody
20:00 Pitch Perfect 2
22:00 The Sitter
23:25 Forgetting Sarah Marshall



00:05 The Childhood Of A Leader
02:05 Operation Avalanche
03:45 New York Stories
05:55 All The Wilderness
07:20 Operation Avalanche
09:05 The Lady In The Van
11:00 New York Stories
13:10 Some Like It Hot
15:20 The Remains Of The Day
17:40 The Age Of Adaline
19:40 Land Of Mine
21:35 And Justice For All
23:40 The Long Goodbye



00:55 Rh+ The Vampire Of Seville
02:25 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
04:10 The Fairy Tales Tree
05:35 Open Season: Scared Silly
07:10 Tom And Jerry: Back To Oz
08:40 Victor And The Secret Of Crocodile Mansion
10:25 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
11:50 Twigson
13:15 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
15:00 The Fairy Tales Tree
16:25 A.R.C.H.I.E.
18:00 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
19:25 The Happy Cricket
20:55 Mia And The Migoo
22:35 A.R.C.H.I.E.
01:05 Neighbors
02:50 Taxi
04:35 Hanging Up
06:20 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
08:00 Janie Jones
10:00 Loch Ness
11:45 Taxi
13:25 Mr. Popper's Penguins
15:05 Ride Along
16:50 Spotlight
19:00 From Rocky To Creed The Legacy Continues
20:10 Zoolander 2
22:00 Hustle And Flow



00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 Evil Knows! In The Name Of Science
03:10 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
04:00 Junkyard Wars
04:48 Mythbusters
05:36 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Food Factory
06:24 Evil Knows! In The Name Of Science
07:12 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Junkyard Wars
09:14 Mythbusters
10:02 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 Mythbusters: The Search
12:26 Junkyard Wars
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Food Factory
14:50 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World

15:38 Junkyard Wars
16:26 Mythbusters: The Search
17:14 Mythbusters
18:02 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
18:50 Junkyard Wars
19:40 Mythbusters
20:30 How The Universe Works
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Food Factory
22:10 How We Invented The World
23:00 How The Universe Works
23:50 Junkyard Wars



00:00 Wicker Park
02:00 Alexander And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day
03:30 King Arthur
05:45 Welcome To Collinwood
07:15 The First Time
08:45 Godsend
10:30 You Again
12:30 Monster's Ball
14:30 Alexander And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day
16:00 Snow Cake
18:00 Wicker Park
20:00 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
22:15 American Outlaws



00:00 Married At First Sight
01:00 Married At First Sight
02:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
02:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
03:00 Making Mr. Right
04:00 Black Box
05:00 House Of DVF
06:00 Married At First Sight
07:00 Married At First Sight
08:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
08:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
09:00 Making Mr. Right
10:00 Black Box
11:00 House Of DVF
12:00 Married At First Sight
13:00 Married At First Sight
14:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
15:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
16:00 Black Box
17:00 Mistresses
18:00 Project Runway
19:00 Project Runway
20:00 Fashion StartUp
21:00 Grey's Anatomy
21:30 Grey's Anatomy
22:00 Grey's Anatomy
23:00 Grey's Anatomy



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
00:42 Say Yes To The Dress UK
01:05 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?
01:50 Say Yes To The Dress
02:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
03:20 Our Little Family
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Dare To Wear
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
06:00 Little People, Big World
06:45 Little People, Big World
07:30 Little People, Big World
08:15 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Love, Lust Or Run
11:17 Love, Lust Or Run
11:40 Love, Lust Or Run
12:02 Love, Lust Or Run
12:25 Love, Lust Or Run
12:47 Love, Lust Or Run
13:10 Oprah's Master Class

13:55 Oprah's Master Class
14:40 Cake Boss
15:02 Cake Boss
15:25 Cake Boss
15:47 Cake Boss
16:10 Cake Boss
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 7 Little Johnstons
17:50 Cake Boss
18:20 Cake Boss
18:50 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
21:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
21:50 Sister Wives
22:40 Diagnose Me
23:30 Return To Amish



00:00 When Ghosts Attack
01:00 Ghost Hunters International
02:00 Mysteries At The Museum
03:00 Mysteries At The Museum
04:00 Mysteries At The Museum
05:00 When Ghosts Attack
06:00 Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations
06:30 Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations
07:00 Mysteries At The Museum
08:00 House Hunters International
08:30 House Hunters International
09:00 House Hunters International
09:30 House Hunters International
10:00 The Treehouse Guys
11:00 Hotel Impossible
12:00 Mysteries At The Museum
13:00 Expedition Unknown
14:00 House Hunters International
14:30 House Hunters International
15:00 House Hunters International
15:30 House Hunters International
16:00 Flippin' RVs
17:00 The Treehouse Guys
18:00 Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations
18:30 Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations
19:00 Bizarre Foods With Andrew Zimmern
20:00 House Hunters International
20:30 House Hunters International
21:00 House Hunters International
21:30 House Hunters International
22:00 Salvage Dawgs
22:30 Salvage Dawgs
23:00 Barnwood Builders



00:05 Ridiculousness Arabia
00:30 South Park
00:55 The President Show
01:20 The Half Hour
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Al Madrigal: Why Is The Rabbit Crying
04:15 Urban Tarzan
04:40 Framework
05:30 Coaching Bad
06:20 Disaster Date
06:50 Disaster Date
07:15 Disaster Date
07:40 Disaster Date
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Tosh.0
08:55 Tosh.0
09:20 Tosh.0
09:45 Tosh.0
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Kroll Show
11:00 Kroll Show
11:25 Kroll Show
11:50 Kroll Show
12:15 Kroll Show
12:40 Impractical Jokers VI Special - Happy Father's Day
13:05 Impractical Jokers VIII Special - Unseen Scenes
13:30 Catch A Contractor

Stars

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

If you have been troubled by affairs of the heart, you will see more clearly this morning. This is also a very good day for job-related events. You may shine in your particular job or find that a promotion could very soon be a possibility. You could represent your company or communicate about your skills. You look for ways to solve problems and may find co-workers or higher-ups continuously look to you for some sort of guidance. This evening a social opportunity may find you making good impressions. If possible, take this opportunity to network. Appearances and style may be most important just now. This evening you call a halt to excessive spending and determine a plan to deepen this very important relationship of yours.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

If you are not in business for yourself, it is certainly a time to consider such a venture. If the game of poker was the game of life, you would have the winning hand. You can continue to hold the winning or upper hand by keeping that poker face during negotiations. You have an inborn sense of mass psychology, what the public wants and what you want. Financial speculation or dealings with partners can soon see positive results. You can project images of what is desirable or ideal, using words and ideas that are enchanting and spell-binding. You would make a very good film director. Circumstances should work together to help make your dreams real—keep working. Letters and phone calls should bring excellent news, especially from family members.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

This is a great time to be with others and to work in a team effort. You may be sought after as the right person to lead a group. There are all sorts of doors of opportunity opening up for you now. The comforts in your life are improving and luck is on your side. You may enjoy getting away from the busy workday as soon as you see that the clock is showing the time to go home. You might consider taking a bicycle ride or a walk. This evening you will find circumstances bend to your will and things like chores practically sort themselves. It might be fun to let someone else cook this evening. After dinner an urge to find a new book may find you in the bookstore or library. You may find sleep healing this evening.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

You may find that unusual things happen today in the workplace, but it is just the thing that may strengthen your standing among your peers. Communicating clearly is always important but particularly today. You may find that you represent your company in a presentation and you will want to gear your enticing lecture toward those that want to learn. You may see that your listeners take many notes. This afternoon you may agree to help a friend with some important matters that might also help you. This could include teaching someone to balance his or her accounts, or to help a friend make a decision. Your unselfish attitude with others is appreciated. A love relationship may have seemed a bit sluggish lately but is beginning to show improvement.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

New goals for the future have become clear. You are in touch with your own ideals and where your focus is in your life at this time. You seem more confident and your communications to others show much strength. Your leadership qualities are excellent and a higher-up is ready to give you the challenges you ask for now. Money, while not the most important thing in your life, may be the instigator for you to make some professional decisions. This afternoon family members find you full of great wit and insight. This is a good time to write and communicate with real originality. Inventions and breakthroughs are possible. It seems that even more difficult goals are possible now. Relax tonight; perhaps dinner out would be enjoyable.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

Emotional support will have to come from your own self-confidence. Some sort of temporary obstacle is present—you will, however, work through the problem. Old patterns of organization and power are ripe for an innovative approach, but if you feel you must be the one to make those changes known, you must do it through the written word. This will allow you to phrase your words appropriately—with no emotional overtones. Changes will happen—but not overnight. Hard work is the focus for the day. By the end of work, you feel quite pleased with yourself for all you have accomplished. You are very focused on your career and finances lately and that is a good thing. Your spirit leaps at an opportunity to do something enjoyable tonight.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

You usually have a lot of energy as well as a positive attitude for each day. A complicated, difficult situation demands commitment and you are willing to follow through with whatever is before you now. There is a feeling of being in the right place at the right time. Stability and permanence satisfy a deep emotional need. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized this afternoon. You may be helping a young person with homework or it may be an opportunity to guide someone in matters of importance. A friend is embarrassed and you are happy to step in and create an understanding. Music is likely to play an important role for you this evening. You may be the one entertaining others!

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Events may make it easy for you to be original, have breakthroughs and find new solutions to old problems. You may find yourself able to put your ideas into practice. Communication and research in all forms could be a key area for career growth now. You could come up with new solutions or inventions at this time. You are in a great mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own better qualities. You may see value in or feel love for an older person or someone in authority. Old emotional wounds heal this evening as you face the person fairly and honestly. Sometimes you find it difficult to express your deepest feelings, but that is not the case today. Tonight you may enjoy a bit of poetry or music.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

There are life events that mark the end of a formative period and the beginning of more independence. You are on your own and this marks the start of increased responsibility and accountability. This is a time for deep thought, review of self—a new chance. College or a new job can bring this all about. Now is the time to make that outward push and ride the crest of the wave into fame and fortune. It will be hard for you to do wrong, for all the cycles are working in your favor. This is also a time when you may marry or take on a new role in the community. You will be in demand and recognition will be forthcoming. Friends and a social life are in order and in general, this is an untroubled day. You may be helpful to an elderly person tonight.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

This is a day of great mental activity and heightened communication with others. Intellectualism, the exchange of ideas and the idea of being smart as a fox have a special appeal and importance. You become very much the expert at search and inquiry into the nature of a subject—be it life, scientific research, or what have you. Your investigations will take you into some interesting places at this time. Your passions for searching, finding out and communicating take hold now. You may be very eloquent in speaking or communicating. People will understand just what you mean. This evening is a good time to settle down to a movie or some newly bought music. You will be full of ideas and thoughts that will take hold and develop into inventions or projects.

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**

There is a lot of energy available for accomplishing just about anything you want to achieve. This energy can cause you to be a bit impatient with others, however. Be aware of your response to others and try to think before you speak. You may be looking for new experiences today—ones in which you can expand your knowledge. The experience itself is what is foremost in your mind, not so much what you can get out of it. You seek contact, involvement and are not too concerned about private matters. You will find yourself giving way to others in almost all situations today—you do not want to be slowed by emotional frustrations. Your ability to manage and supervise people, plus a built-in sense of responsibility, does not go unnoticed.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

Personal wealth is bound to be increased while this most energetic of times is most favorable to you. New ways to communicate or an easy manner will make conversations and interactions go well. You may find yourself more talkative and easy going than usual. Problems could lose some of their definition and appear less difficult now. A casual get-together after work with some of your friends may end up in a big party. Do not feel bad about attracting most of the attention in a group—you know a lot of people. You appreciate others who have been successful and may surround yourself with those in power. Keep informed of the news this evening; something that is in or near your community will be worth your attention.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Jordan	00962
Albania	00355	Kazakhstan	007
Algeria	00213	Kenya	00254
Andorra	00376	Kiribati	00686
Angola	00244	Kuwait	00965
Anguilla	001264	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Antigua	001268	Laos	00856
Argentina	0054	Latvia	00371
Armenia	00374	Lebanon	00961
Australia	0061	Liberia	00231
Austria	0043	Libya	00218
Bahamas	001242	Lithuania	00370
Bahrain	00973	Luxembourg	00352
Bangladesh	00880	Macau	00853
Barbados	001246	Macedonia	00389
Belarus	00375	Madagascar	00261
Belgium	0032	Majorca	0034
Belize	00501	Malawi	00265
Benin	00229	Malaysia	0060
Bermuda	001441	Maldives	00960
Bhutan	00975	Mali	00223
Bolivia	00591	Malta	00356
Bosnia	00387	Marshall Islands	00692
Botswana	00267	Martinique	00596
Brazil	0055	Mauritania	00222
Brunei	00673	Mauritius	00230
Bulgaria	00359	Mayotte	00269
Burkina Faso	00226	Mexico	0052
Burundi	00257	Micronesia	00691
Cambodia	00855	Moldova	00373
Cameroon	00237	Monaco	00377
Canada	001	Mongolia	00976
Cape Verde	00238	Montserrat	001664
Cayman Islands	001345	Morocco	00212
Central African Republic	00236	Mozambique	00258
Chad	00235	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Chile	0056	Namibia	00264
China	0086	Nepal	00977
Colombia	0057	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Comoros	00269	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Congo	00242	New Caledonia	00687
Cook Islands	00682	New Zealand	0064
Costa Rica	00506	Nicaragua	00505
Croatia	00385	Niger	00227
Cuba	0053	Nigeria	00234
Cyprus	00357	Niue	00683
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Norfolk Island	00672
Czech Republic	00420	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Denmark	0045	North Korea	00850
Diego Garcia	00246	Norway	0047
Djibouti	00253	Oman	00968
Dominica	001767	Pakistan	0092
Dominican Republic	001809	Palau	00680
Ecuador	00593	Panama	00507
Egypt	0020	Papua New Guinea	00675
El Salvador	00503	Paraguay	00595
England (UK)	0044	Peru	0051
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Philippines	0063
Eritrea	00291	Poland	0048
Estonia	00372	Portugal	00351
Ethiopia	00251	Puerto Rico	001787
Falkland Islands	00500	Qatar	00974
Faroe Islands	00298	Romania	0040
Fiji	00679	Russian Federation	007
Finland	00358	Rwanda	00250
France	0033	Saint Helena	00290
French Guiana	00594	Saint Kitts	001869
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Lucia	001758
Gabon	00241	Saint Pierre	00508
Gambia	00220	Saint Vincent	001784
Georgia	00995	Samoa US	00684
Germany	0049	Samoa West	00685
Ghana	00233	San Marino	00378
Gibraltar	00350	Sao Tome	00239
Greece	0030	Saudi Arabia	00966
Greenland	00299	Scotland (UK)	0044
Grenada	001473	Senegal	00221
Guadeloupe	00590	Seychelles	00284
Guam	001671	Sierra Leone	00232
Guatemala	00502	Singapore	0065
Guinea	00224	Slovakia	00421
Guyana	00592	Slovenia	00386
Haiti	00509	Solomon Islands	00677
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Somalia	00252
Honduras	00504	South Africa	0027
Hong Kong	00852	South Korea	0082
Hungary	0036	Spain	0034
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sri Lanka	0094
Iceland	00354	Sudan	00249
India	0091	Suriname	00597
Indian Ocean	00873	Swaziland	00268
Indonesia	0062	Sweden	0046
Iran	0098	Switzerland	0041
Iraq	00964	Syria	00963
Ireland	00353	Taiwan	00886
Italy	0039	Tanzania	00255
Ivory Coast	00225	Thailand	0066
Jamaica	001876	Toga	00228
Japan	0081	Tonga	00676

Health

Plane-sized 'void' discovered in Great Pyramid: Scientists

Secret and untouched for 4,500 years

PARIS: A passenger plane-sized "void" has been discovered in the middle of the Great Pyramid of Egypt, where it has lain secret and untouched for 4,500 years, scientists revealed yesterday. The space is one of four cavities, along with the king and queen's chambers and "Grand Gallery", now known to exist inside the giant monument constructed under pharaoh Khufu of ancient Egypt.

"It is big," said co-discoverer Mehdi Tayoubi of the ScanPyramids project, which has been exploring Khufu's pyramid since October 2015 with non-invasive technology using subatomic particle scans. "It's the size of a 200-seater airplane, in the heart of the pyramid," Tayoubi told AFP of the discovery, published in science journal Nature.

Towering over the Giza complex on Cairo's outskirts alongside smaller pyramids for kings Menkaure and Khafre and the Great Sphinx, the Khufu's pyramid is the oldest and only surviving construction among the Seven Wonders of the An-

cient World, and one of the largest buildings ever erected on Earth. The cavity is the first major structure found inside the Great Pyramid since the 19th century, the research team said.

"There have been many theories about the existence of secret chambers inside the pyramid," said Tayoubi. "But none have predicted anything this big." The exact shape and size of the void is fuzzy—its purpose and possible contents a mystery. But it is thought to be at least 30 meters long, and located above

the "Grand Gallery"—a sloped corridor almost 50 m long and 9 m high which links Khufu's burial chamber at the pyramid's centre to a tunnel leading outside.

The monument — 139 meters high today, and 230 meters wide—was erected as a tomb for Khufu, also known as Cheops. To this day, nobody knows quite how it was built. The void, said co-author Kunihiko Morishima from the Nagoya University in Japan, "was not known by anyone until now, from



CAIRO: Egyptians riding their carts past the Great Pyramid of Cheops, aka Pyramid of Khufu.—AFP

“ Many theories about secret chambers ”

when the pyramid was built 4,500 years ago". "The big void is completely closed," he added, which means anything inside it would not have been "touched by anyone after the pyramid (was) built".

The pharaohs of ancient Egypt built these monumental tombs for themselves, complete with sar-

cophagus to hold their embalmed mummies, and stocked with everything they could require for the afterlife—food, clothing and jewelry. Khufu's pyramid was plundered long before it was visited by modern archaeologists, and no relics remain from any of the known chambers.—AFP

CLINIC

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Kuwait Times

248 33 199



Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم



Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
 M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

Kuwait Times Classifieds

Friday, November 3, 2017



STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



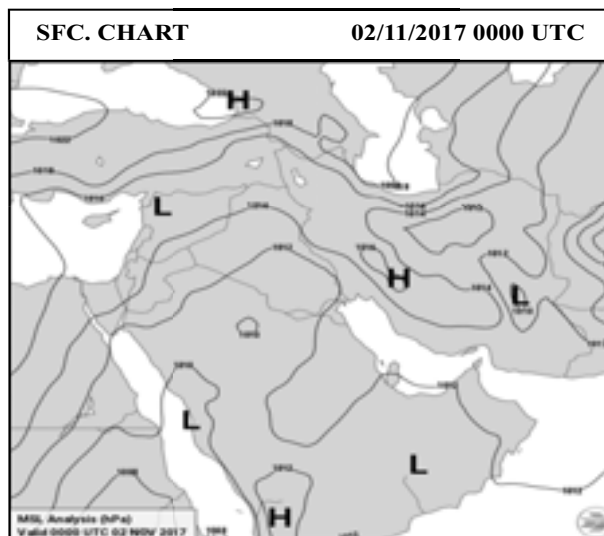
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light southerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
------------------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	23 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	35 °C	17 °C
ABDALY	36 °C	16 °C
BUBYAN	32 °C	17 °C
JAHRA	36 °C	19 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	33 °C	20 °C
SALMIYAH	33 °C	25 °C
AHMADI	32 °C	24 °C
NUWAISIB	30 °C	19 °C
WAFRA	33 °C	16 °C
SALMY	33 °C	17 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	11/03	Relatively hot and Relatively humid with a chance for rising dust over western areas and	36 °C	20 °C	SE-S	15 - 40 km/h
Saturday	11/04	Partly cloudy to cloudy and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for	35 °C	20 °C	S-SE	15 - 40 km/h
Sunday	11/05	Partly cloudy and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming	34 °C	22 °C	SW-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Monday	11/06	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will	34 °C	22 °C	SW-SE	08 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:41
Sunrise	06:02
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:39
Sunset	17:02
Isha	18:20

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	33 °C
MIN. Temp.	20 °C
MAX. RH	49 %
MIN. RH	17 %
MAX. Wind	N 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

लकज़री अपार्टमेंट किराए देना है
दो कमरे, हॉल,
बॉरूथम, रसोईघर
सम्पर्क: 69996992, 66804222

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
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



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967

Business

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017

38 London stock market up before expected Bank of England rate rise**39** If rates rise, hangover looms for Britons after 10-year credit binge**40** Trump set to undo another Obama legacy with Fed pick

DOHA: In this file photo, a Qatari woman walks in front of the city skyline in Doha, Qatar.—AP

Qatar backs labor reforms at home

Labor complaints mar 2022 World Cup

DOHA: Qatar's decision to commit to sweeping labor reforms may head off an international investigation into its treatment of hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, but rights groups wonder if the 2022 World Cup host will stick to its pledges. Last week the International Labor Organization said Qatar had agreed to cooperate on a range of reforms - from allowing workers freedom to leave the country and change jobs without their employer's permission, to establishing a minimum wage and a fund to guarantee late wages.

These are the most far-reaching labor reforms yet agreed to by Qatar, which hopes to burnish its image abroad at a time when its Arab rivals have been boycotting it as a global financier of militant groups, a charge it denies. The government has not responded to requests for detailed comment on the reforms and how it planned to implement them. On Twitter, the gov-

ernment communications office said Qatar "reaffirmed its commitment in developing laws in line with international labor standards and the guidance of ILO," and would ensure that "all workers rights are secure".

Since winning its 2022 World Cup bid, partly on the basis it would positively rebrand a region in turmoil, Qatar's tournament has faced allegations of vote-buying - which it denies - concern over its hot climate and, since June, its diplomatic dispute with Saudi Arabia and three other Arab nations. While Qatar has welcomed labor and rights groups into the country to work with it on reform, criticism of its labor conditions has added to its image problems.

Rights and labor groups have campaigned for years against the kafala system, which forces Qatar's 1.6 million mainly Asian workers to seek their employer's consent to change jobs or leave the country - measures which the groups say

leaves workers open to exploitation. With just 300,000 citizens, the world's largest liquefied natural gas exporter has imported workers from countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh to build up its infrastructure in time for 2022.

Now the dispute with the other Arab states threatens to hurt Qatar's economy and rights groups fear that workers with few protections will be vulnerable to job cuts or reduced wages. A Filipina housemaid, who asked to remain anonymous, said her wages had increasingly been delayed in recent months, hurting her ability to send remittances back home. When the arrears hit two months, she considered leaving Qatar altogether, but like other workers subject to travel restrictions, she feared her employer would reject the request.

Qatar's ILO commitments come just before a Nov 8 meeting at which the agency will vote on whether to open a commission of inquiry, a

rare sanction reserved for countries which it considers the worst offenders. A commission now looks unlikely after the ILO on Tuesday released a draft resolution which it plans to present at the meeting. It calls for working with Qatar on "technical cooperation" and dropping the long-standing labour complaint - though this course of action would need to be agreed by consensus or in a vote.

The International Trade Union Confederation, one of Qatar's sharpest critics, said it now supports dropping the ILO complaint, describing the new commitments as ground-breaking. "It's a breakthrough and it will end kafala. It makes Qatar the lead state in the Gulf," Secretary General Sharan Burrow told Reuters. "It will make the 2022 World Cup a cup we can support, because with workers' rights it will have the support of all the workers and unions." —Reuters

Business

London stock market up before expected Bank of England rate rise

Rate hikes could trigger rally in the pound

LONDON: European stock markets traded narrowly mixed yesterday, as the Bank of England looks set to announce its first interest-rate rise in a decade. All eyes will also be on the United States, as President Donald Trump looks set to replace Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen with a governor of the central bank, Jerome Powell. Investors were looking also to the imminent US House Republicans' tax reform announcement. In late morning European trades, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was up 0.2 percent compared with the close on Wednesday. The index was helped by a weaker pound boosting share prices of multi-nationals.

In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 dropped 0.2 percent and the Paris CAC 40 slipped by 0.1 percent in value. At 1200 GMT, the Bank of England (BoE) is widely expected to announce an increase in its key interest rate to 0.50 percent from a record-low 0.25 percent in a bid to tame high British inflation. "How the pound trades—and the FTSE for that matter given the inverse correlation that the two share in the aftermath of the decision will likely depend on the minutes, economic projections and press conference that accompanies the deci-

sion," noted Oanda analyst, Craig Erlam. "Any indication that more rate hikes are planned for next year could trigger a sharp rally in the pound... while anything else may weigh," he said.

Rising rates in US

As expected, the Fed on Wednesday kept US interest rates unchanged as it reported that the world's biggest economy was growing at a "solid pace". That statement solidified the view the US central bank is likely to raise interest rates in December, in turn boosting the dollar.

Earlier yesterday, Tokyo's stock market was the Asian standout, building on a rally and buoyed by a strong US growth forecast and domestic corporate results as well as a weak yen, traders said.

Shares on the Nikkei 225 index added 0.5 percent to hit a fresh 21-year high, brushing aside concerns about overheating following their recent surge. On Wall Street, the world's biggest company Apple was due to release earnings yesterday. New York markets meanwhile remained hopeful that Trump's ambitious tax plans are moving closer to becoming reality, but a delay in the roll-out signaled potential trouble ahead. —AFP

World's biggest economy growing at solid pace



Booming oil demand erodes inventories

LONDON: Global oil consumption is growing rapidly, helping account for the decline in reported inventories, the recent surge in prices and the shift in futures markets from contango to backwardation. Consumption is much harder to measure than production, which is why the demand side of the market receives less attention.

Even in the advanced economies, consumption data is only available with a delay of two months or more, and reliable data from emerging economies often not at all. Global demand assessments are therefore often educated guesswork, as analysts try to calculate how much oil has been used and how much is in storage. But strong consumption growth has been at least as important as the restraint of production by OPEC and non-OPEC oil exporters in helping rebalance the oil market.

Global consumption rose by 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2016 and 2.0 million bpd in 2015 as low prices and a synchronized economic expan-

sion in most areas of the world spurred demand. Consumption is forecast to increase by a further 1.6 million bpd this year and 1.4 million bpd in 2018, according to the International Energy Agency. And predictions have been consistently revised higher as demand data has come in stronger than forecast.

Strong demand

The fragmentary information which is available in near real-time all shows consumption in the United States and around the world growing strongly. US gasoline consumption hit a seasonal record in four of the five months between April and August, according to the US Energy Information Administration. Strong economic growth, cheap fuel, more driving and purchases of bigger vehicles have offset improvements in fuel economy since 2015. US consumption of diesel has also been running consistently higher than last year, reflecting the increase in oil and gas drilling as well as more freight movements.

With demand growing at home, US refineries have been exporting record quantities of fuel to markets in Latin America and the rest of the world reflecting strong demand overseas as well as refinery problems in some emerging markets. US exports of crude and refined fuels were approximately 750,000 bpd higher in the three months from June to August than the same period in 2016. —Reuters



SEOUL: A currency trader stretches himself while working at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday. —AP

Emerging stocks hover near 2-week highs

LONDON: Emerging stocks clung to two-week highs yesterday and the Czech crown hit a fresh four-year high against the euro as markets bet that the central bank in Prague would hike rates for the second time this year. MSCI's benchmark emerging stocks index has been underpinned by positive growth momentum in both developed and emerging markets, with manufacturing activity data showing continued expansion, albeit at a slower pace.

In the latest data, Poland and Hungary factory activity growth slowed slightly in October, but Poland remained on track for its best annual performance in seven years as new orders flooded in. Budapest stocks rallied 1.35 percent, partly playing catch up after a closure for a public holiday on Wednesday. Turkish stocks also rose 1 percent, with automotive shares leaping ahead of the unveiling of a car project announcement. However, bourses in Asia, Russia and Poland chalked up losses. Currencies fared better after the dollar came under pressure following a one-day delay to the unveiling of a key US tax reform bill. Adding to the dollar's woes were market expectations that Jerome Powell will be chosen as the next chair of the US Federal Reserve,

which kept US Treasury yields under pressure. Powell is expected to continue with the Fed's cautious pace of tightening. The South African rand bounced 0.6 percent to a one-week high, though that came in the wake of underperformance.

The rand was hit hard last week after South Africa raised its estimate for this year's budget deficit to an eight-year high. Russia's rouble and Turkey's lira both chalked up solid gains against the dollar. Meanwhile the Czech crown cemented its position as this year's top performing mainstream currency ahead of a central bank meeting later in the day, hitting a fresh four-year high against the euro. All 16 analysts in a Reuters poll have projected a rate hike, with all but one expecting a 25 basis points rise, and the other forecasting a 50 basis point hike.

"The Czech crown has been the stand out performer - in the region it probably has the strongest balance of payments position," said Koon Chow, emerging markets macro and FX strategist at UBP. "Also the central bank is quite conventional, so when growth and inflation are picking up they are hiking ... All the stars are aligned for a positive (crown)." He added that stronger business cycle data was underpinning eastern European currencies. Czech manufacturing business sentiment jumped to its highest in more than six years in October. Elsewhere, Bahrain's five-year credit default swaps rose 1 basis point (bp) from Wednesday's close to 250 bps, according to IHS Markit, the highest level since mid-January, after media reports that it had asked its Gulf allies for aid. —Reuters

Business

If rates rise, hangover looms for Britons after 10-year credit binge

For heavily indebted, small rise could hurt

LONDON: Millions of Britons are set to experience the first interest rate rise of their adult lives yesterday, and for some of those who loaded up on cheap credit to pay for cars or cards, that could spell trouble. The Bank of England is widely expected to hike borrowing costs for the first time in a decade, signaling an end to years of low rates that fuelled a rise in ultra-cheap credit and heavy borrowing on loans, cards and, most notably, cars.

Regulators have clamped down on many of the riskier lending activities that thrived before 2008, from 'payday' loans with annual interest of over 5,000 percent to self-certified mortgages. Others, like motor finance, have risen to take their place. Bankers and economists warn that those most indebted could begin skipping payments on cars and credit cards, puncturing a consumer debt bubble ten years in the making.

A 0.25 percent rate hike would lead to a median increase in monthly outgoings of 20 pounds for consumers who have contacted StepChange in the last year, according to calculations by the debt advice charity. That would push the budgets of up to 7,000 of the charity's clients into the red, meaning they can no longer cover essential living costs. "Our view is that this isn't mortgage apocalypse, but there's a narrow group of people whose household finances are on a knife-edge and a rate hike could be the straw that breaks the camel's back," a spokesman for the charity said.



0.25% rate hike would lead to median increase

Car makers exposed

Consumer credit has grown much faster than household incomes in the last few years, the Bank of England said in June. In September, it hit 204 billion pounds (\$269.52 billion), with car finance the fastest expanding area that now accounts for around 30 percent of the total. Last year, 86.4 percent of all new car purchases utilized some form of credit, up from 46 percent in 2006, according to data from the Financing and Leasing Association.

Most deals are done not by banks but through car manufacturers' finance arms, with those from Volkswagen, BMW, Ford Motor Co, Toyota Motor Corp and Renault the biggest in the UK by the amounts they are owed by consumers.

These have risen from 13.5 billion pounds (\$17.81 billion) in 2008 to over 36 billion pounds in 2016 - a 168 percent increase, data from the five firms' financial statements show.

With credit widely available, a small but significant number of borrowers have become overburdened with multiple debts, said Peter Richardson, analyst at Berenberg. Fifteen percent of mortgage loans are worth more than four times the borrower's income, he said, up from less than five percent in 2005. Most consumer credit is offered on fixed interest rates, so would not be directly impacted by a rate increase. But with around 40 percent of mortgage lending on variable rates - and borrowers more likely to default



LONDON: Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney, center, arrives for the announcement of the Bank of England quarterly Inflation Report and interest rate decision at the Bank of England in London. —AFP

on other loans than miss payments on their home - even a slight hike could leave the most overstretched people choosing to skip other debt payments. A 0.25 percent interest rate hike would increase the monthly payments on an average floating rate loan of 140,000 pounds by around 15 pounds a month, according to Nationwide. "If you look back at the economics of this ... borrowers with that level of indebtedness become very, very sensitive to shocks, you have much more violent reactions," Berenberg's Richardson said.

Banks have got stronger

Cut-throat competition among lenders has driven rates on personal loans down. For example, four lenders - TSB, Zopa, Sains-

bury's Bank and CYBG - offer short term unsecured personal loans of 20,000-25,000 pounds at fixed interest rates of below 3 percent, cheaper than many mortgages. Royal Bank of Scotland Chief Executive Ross McEwan said on Friday growth of 10 percent per year in unsecured credit is unsustainable when wages are growing at just 2 percent. "At some point it needs to slow down."

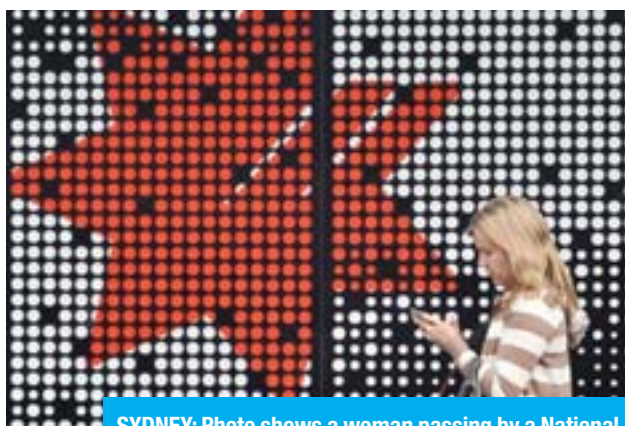
Bank of England data shows that outstanding lending on credit cards was at an all-time high of 69.4 billion pounds in September and approaching its pre-crisis peak for other credit lines including overdrafts, personal loans and car finance. Outstanding lending on these credit lines hit 134.8 billion pounds in September, compared with 138.2 billion pounds in August 2007. —Reuters

National Australia Bank axes 6,000 jobs

SYDNEY: Up to 6,000 jobs will be axed in a major restructuring at National Australia Bank, the lender said yesterday after posting Aus\$5.28 billion (US\$4.1 billion) in annual net profits. The positions will go as the bank further automates and simplifies its business to reshape for a digital future. Some 2,000 new jobs will be created. "This will result in a net reduction in staff currently targeted at approximately 4,000 by the end of full year 2020," it said. The bank currently has 33,600 employees.

Chief executive Andrew Thorburn said the entire banking industry was under pressure to reshape its workforce. "As transactions move to digital channels-and this is driven by our customers-we will need fewer people," he said, while foreshadowing branch closures. One-off restructuring costs related to the redundancies of between Aus\$500 million and Aus\$800 million are expected to appear in the bank's first-half results next year.

The overhaul comes with the bank's net profit bouncing back in the year to September 30 from only Aus\$352 million in the previous corresponding period when it took a hit from write downs for loss-making assets. These included spinning off



SYDNEY: Photo shows a woman passing by a National Australia Bank (NAB) branch in Sydney. —AFP

British bank Clydesdale and most of its life insurance business to Japan's Nippon. Cash profit, the financial industry's preferred measure which strips out volatile items, was up 2.5 percent at Aus\$6.64 billion, in line with expectations. The bank paid a dividend of 99 Aus cents, matching what shareholders received in the first half of the year. Bad and doubtful debt charges rose 1.3 percent to Aus\$810 million, while revenue was up 2.7 percent. NAB shares ended 2.83 percent lower at Aus\$31.95. —AFP

Trump tax drive nears major milestone

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's drive to overhaul the US tax system will reach a major milestone on Wednesday, when Republicans in the House of Representatives unveil their long-awaited initial bill. The expected bill will be the starting gun for a frantic race toward what Trump and House and Senate Republicans hope will be their first major legislative victory: the enactment this year of a tax package seeking up to \$6 trillion in tax cuts over the next decade for corporations, small businesses and individuals. Congress has not succeeded on comprehensive tax reform since 1986, when Ronald Reagan was in the White House and Democrats controlled the House. Trump said at the White House this week that he wants Congress to pass tax bills by the US Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 23. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady has promised to release a full bill yesterday. Even still, important issues remain unresolved and Brady himself predicts the initial legislation will change next week, when his panel is due to begin preparing it for an eventual House vote. —Reuters

Business

Trump set to undo another Obama legacy with Fed pick

Trump to replace Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump was poised yesterday to nominate Federal Reserve Governor Jerome Powell to lead the central bank, putting his own imprimatur on monetary policy as the US economic recovery solidifies. Trump will announce his pick in the Rose Garden at 3:00 pm (1900 GMT), to replace current Fed Chair Janet Yellen, whose term at the helm of the central bank expires in February. Powell, who was reportedly informed by Trump in a phone call early this week, is seen as the consensus choice.

The 64-year-old Republican has echoed the administration's views on bank deregulation but has supported the Yellen Fed's very gradual increases, which is in keeping with Trump's desire to keep interest rates low. Trump on Wednesday reiterated that he holds Yellen in high regard, calling her "excellent." But he has also made clear he wants to make his own mark. The move will make Trump the first president in nearly 40 years not to keep the Fed chair appointed by the

prior administration. The announcement caps a highly publicized selection process over weeks during which Trump built suspense using social media and television appearances to describe his deliberations. "I think you will be extremely impressed by this person," Trump told reporters about his choice again on Wednesday. Yellen has led the central bank since 2014 and steps down just as the post-crisis US economic recovery has begun to crest, with falling unemployment, robust growth and low inflation, conditions that have won her praise in many quarters.

The question now is whether she will follow tradition and resign as a member of the Fed's board of governors, once her term as chair expires February 3. She could stay on through January 2024, and there are growing voices for her to do so to help guide monetary policy. There currently are just four members on the seven-member Fed board, and if Yellen leaves Trump could appoint four more governors.

The continuity candidate

Though his administration has been engulfed in turmoil virtually from the start, Trump has repeatedly hailed the country's smooth economic progress and Wall Street's successive rallies, making the prospect of disrupting the status quo particularly fraught. "Jerome Powell is the continuity candidate, at least as far as near-term monetary policy is concerned," Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said in a client briefing. "Of all the apparent candidates, excluding Dr. Yellen, Mr. Powell is the least likely to disrupt the Fed, at least on the monetary policy front."

But Trump also has relished dismantling the political vestiges of the Obama administration and told Fox News last month, "you like to make your own mark." In another break with tradition, Powell is not a trained economist. Even so Terry Sheehan of Oxford Economics said he has received a working education and is "well qualified" to serve as Fed chair, though she warned he may have to defend the Fed's independence "in a hostile political environment."

Other candidates considered for the position included former Fed governor Kevin Warsh and Stanford economist John Taylor, who favored raising interest rates much more quickly. That



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, Federal Reserve Gov Jerome Powell talks in Washington. — AP

would send unhappy ripples through markets, not something Trump is keen on. Powell is similar to other Trump appointees: he is a former investment banker with a declared personal fortune ranging between about \$20 million and \$55 million after nearly a decade at the Washington-based private equity firm Carlyle Group. Fellow Fed Governor Randal Quarles, a Trump appointee, is also a former Carlyle partner. —AFP



Announcement caps highly publicized selection process

Royal Dutch Shell announces surging profits

LONDON: Royal Dutch Shell said yesterday that net profit almost tripled to more than \$4.0 billion in the third quarter, helped largely by recovering oil prices. Profit after tax rocketed to \$4.087 billion (3,505 billion euros) in the three months to September from \$1.375 billion in the third quarter of 2016, the Anglo-Dutch energy giant said in a statement. "Earnings benefited mainly from stronger refining and chemicals industry conditions, increased realized oil and gas prices and higher production from new fields, offsetting the impact of field declines and divestments," the group said.

Revenues jumped around 23 percent to \$75.83 billion in the quarter. Shell is in the process of selling off assets worth \$30 billion over two years up to 2018 — and has since offloaded more than two-thirds of that amount. It is making investments of \$25 billion this year, down on 2016 when Shell bought smaller British peer BG Group in a move to strengthen its position in the liquefied natural gas market. Oil prices are meanwhile in recovery mode after tumbling in recent years, boosting energy companies around the world. Shell said that stripping out changes to the value of its oil and gas inventories, profit soared 47 percent to a better-than-expected \$4.1 billion in the quarter. Shell shares were up 0.2 percent to 2,364 pence in morning trades on London's benchmark FTSE 100 index, which was 0.1 percent higher overall. "With Brent (North Sea crude oil) back at \$60... things are definitely looking up again for Shell" and others, said Neil Wilson, analyst at traders ETX Capital. "Shell has also worked hard on disposals and cost cutting... Now leaner, it looks in good shape to capitalize on higher Brent prices." The benchmark oil contract was down 11 cents at \$60.38 per barrel yesterday. —AFP

Credit Suisse net profit soars in Q3

ZURICH: Credit Suisse, Switzerland's second-biggest lender, said yesterday that its net profit soared in the third quarter as it makes progress with an ambitious restructuring and cost-cutting program. Credit Suisse said in a statement that its bottom-line net profit amounted to 244 million Swiss francs (209 million euros, \$244 million) in the period from July to September, up from 41 million Swiss francs a year earlier.

Revenues, however, fell by eight percent to 4.972 billion Swiss francs, the bank said. Credit Suisse has embarked on a massive restructuring program since Tidjane Thiam took over as chief executive in 2015. And the group said it has made headway with its program to bring down operational expenditure to below 18.5 billion Swiss francs by the end of the year. In the July-September period, the bank made additional cost cuts of 400 million Swiss francs, it calculated.

"Our third-quarter results demonstrate the progress we are making," CEO Thiam said. But he acknowledged that client activity remains "muted" as "uncertain geopolitical developments, central bank policies and the magnitude and timing of reforms in the US, as well as historically low levels of volatility" have left their mark on business. "In addition, activity levels in the third quarter of 2016 were unusually strong due to the combination of the effects of Brexit and the US elections," Thiam added. —AFP

Toronto home sales fall year-on year

TORONTO: Toronto home sales tumbled in October from a year earlier and prices were down 15.1 percent from their April peak, but sales rose sharply from September, suggesting the housing market in Canada's largest city may be steadying, data showed yesterday. Sales fell 26.7 percent from October 2016, the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) said in a report. It was the seventh straight month of declining year-on-year sales after a years-long boom that sparked fears of a bubble. The average selling price was up 2.3 percent from a year earlier, while new listings and days on the market both rose, TREB said. Sales volumes from September to October rose nearly 12 percent, an above-average increase that points to stronger autumn market conditions, TREB President Tim Syrianos said in a statement. "While the number of transactions was still down relative to last year's record pace, it certainly does appear that sales momentum is picking up," he said.

The average selling price for all home types combined was C\$780,104 (\$606,330), up slightly from C\$775,546 in September, but still down 15.1 percent from a peak of C\$918,285 in April of this year. The Ontario government in late April introduced multiple measures, including a foreign buyers tax, in a bid to cool the Toronto region's surging housing markets. New listings rose 11.8 percent from a year earlier, while active listings were up 78.5 percent as properties sat on the market longer. The Bank of Canada has begun what most analysts believe will be a gradual process of raising interest rates from near historic lows, which has in turn boosted mortgage rates and other borrowing costs. The central bank raised its key rate by a total of 50 basis points to 1.00 percent in two back-to-back moves in July and September, although its more dovish tone in recent weeks has tempered bets it will hike again in December. —Reuters

Business

App developer access to iPhone X face data spooks privacy experts

Data available to developers cannot unlock a phone

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple Inc won accolades from privacy experts in September for assuring that facial data used to unlock its new iPhone X would be securely stored on the phone itself. But Apple's privacy promises do not extend to the thousands of app developers who will gain access to facial data in order to build entertainment features for iPhone X customers, such as pinning a three-dimensional mask to their face for a selfie or letting a video game character mirror the player's real-world facial expressions.

Apple allows developers to take certain facial data off the phone as long as they agree to seek customer permission and not sell the data to third parties, among other terms in a contract seen by Reuters. App makers who want to use the new camera on the iPhone X can capture a rough map of a user's face and a stream of more than 50 kinds of facial expressions. This data, which can be removed from the phone and stored on a developer's own servers, can help monitor how often users blink, smile or even raise an eyebrow.

That remote storage raises questions about how effectively Apple can enforce its privacy rules, according to privacy groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Democracy and Technology. Apple maintains that its enforcement tools - which include pre-publication reviews, audits of apps and the threat of kicking developers off its lucrative App Store - are effective. The data available to de-

velopers cannot unlock a phone; that process relies on a mathematical representation of the face rather than a visual map of it, according to documentation about the face unlock system that Apple released to security researchers.

But the relative ease with which developers can whisk away face data to remote servers leaves Apple sending conflicting messages: Face data is highly private when used for authentication, but it is sharable - with the user's permission when used to build app features. "The privacy issues around of the use of very sophisticated facial recognition technology for unlocking the phone have been overblown," said Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst with the American Civil Liberties Union. "The real privacy issues have to do with the access by third-party developers."

The use of face recognition is becoming ubiquitous on everything from social networks to city streets with surveillance cameras. Berlin law enforcement officials in August installed a facial recognition system at the city's main railway station to test new technology for catching criminals and terrorists. But privacy concerns loom large. In Illinois, Facebook Inc faces a lawsuit over whether its photo tagging suggestions violated a state law that bars the collection of biometric data without permission. Facebook says it has always been clear with users that it can be turned off and the data for it deleted.

Privacy experts say their concerns about

\$182.66 but retreating in after-market trades to \$179.25. Investor enthusiasm may have been tempered by rising costs at the California-based internet giant and executives stressing the company is firmly in "investment mode" while predicting ad growth will slow.

"They made a ton of money but the Russia investigation is clearly putting a cloud over everything for the moment," said independent analyst Rob Enderle. "Sometimes it just takes a trigger event to cause a bunch of people to take their profit and go someplace else, especially if they have decided this is as good as it is going to get at Facebook for a while." The analyst added that some investors might be worried that the probed into Russia meddling with US politics will result in regulation on social networks that might hurt profitability.

Investment mode

Expenses rose to \$5.2 billion from \$3.9 billion in the same quarter last year, and headcount at the company was up 47 percent to 23,165 employees. "We will continue to invest aggressively in the many opportunities we see ahead," Facebook chief financial officer David Wehner said during an earnings call with analysts. Zuckerberg outlined investment priorities that included video content, which he described as the biggest trend at Facebook. —AFP



Privacy concerns loom large



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo, Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, announces features of the new iPhone X, including Face ID, at the Steve Jobs Theater on the new Apple campus, in Cupertino, California. —AP

iPhone X are not about government snooping, since huge troves of facial photographs already exist on social media and even in state motor vehicle departments. The issue is more about unscrupulous marketers eager to track users' facial expressions in response to advertisements or content, despite Apple's contractual rules against doing so. App makers must "obtain clear and conspicuous consent" from users before collecting or storing face data, and can only do so for a legitimate feature of an app, according to the relevant portions of Apple's developer agreement that Apple provided to Reuters.

Apple's iOS operating system also asks users

to grant permission for an app to access to any of the phone's cameras. Apple forbids developers from using the face data for advertising or marketing, and from selling it to data brokers or analytics firms that might use it for those purposes. The company also bans the creation of user profiles that could be used to identify anonymous users, according to its developer agreement.

"The bottom line is, Apple is trying to make this a user experience addition to the iPhone X, and not an advertising addition," said Clare Garvie, an associate with the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington. —Reuters

Facebook vows to curb abuse

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook on Wednesday reported that profits leapt on booming revenue from online ads in the third quarter, topping investor forecasts and buoying shares already at record highs. The leading social network said it made a profit of \$4.7 billion in the quarter that ended on September 30, a jump of 79 percent from the same period a year earlier. Chief executive Mark Zuckerberg used the update to address criticism of Facebook for allowing disinformation and manipulation during the 2016 US presidential election, hours after the company's top lawyer faced a grilling at a Washington congressional hearing.

"Our community continues to grow and our business is doing well," Zuckerberg said. "But none of that matters if our services are used in ways that don't bring people closer together. We're serious about preventing abuse on our platforms. We're investing so much in security that it will impact our profitability. Protecting our community is more important than maximizing our profits." Facebook shares that ended the day up 1.4 percent to

Alibaba says profit up 132%

SHANGHAI: Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba said yesterday that its net profit soared 132 percent in an "outstanding" latest quarter, prompting it to raise its projection for full-year revenue growth. Net profit for the three months ending September 30 reached 17.67 billion yuan, (\$2.67 billion), up from 7.62 billion yuan in the same period of 2016, the company said. "We had an outstanding quarter," Chief Financial Officer Maggie Wu said in a statement. "This quarter we delivered excellent results, with overall revenue growth of 61 percent demonstrating the robust momentum in our core commerce business and across the Alibaba economy."

Revenues in the second quarter of Alibaba's fiscal year came it at 55.1 billion

yuan, topping an analyst estimate of 52 billion yuan compiled by Bloomberg News. The company was now raising its growth forecast for revenues in the full fiscal year to 49-53 percent, compared to a previous expectation of 45-49 percent growth. Alibaba, which has made billionaire founder Jack Ma one of China's richest men and a global e-commerce icon, has been on a tear, regularly beating revenue estimates and watching as investors have driven its New York-listed shares up 110 percent since the start of the year.

Investor optimism for the future has been a key ingredient in the rally, with Alibaba raising expectations as it continues to adapt to, and profit from, the Chinese e-commerce boom that it helped to ignite. Future dividends are expected from heavy investments in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, financial systems, logistics, the use of data to home in on consumer habits, and Ma's vision of using e-commerce to revitalize traditional retail. —AFP

Sports

Lindsey Vonn wants Stenmark's record as well as more medals

American is chasing a record once thought untouchable

NEW YORK: Already the most decorated woman in World Cup Alpine skiing with 77 wins, Lindsey Vonn has set her sights on outdoing the men as well.

The 33-year-old American is chasing a record once thought untouchable—the all-time mark of 86 World Cup victories held by Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark. She is also eager to add another Olympic downhill gold to the one she claimed at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games and then next season test herself against the best male skiers in a World Cup race.

"I have more to do," Vonn told Reuters at a United States Olympic Committee (USOC)

event in New York's Times Square to mark the start of the 100-day countdown to the Pyeongchang Olympics. "What keeps me going is I love what I do. I love ski racing, I love going fast. I love skiing on the World Cup, I love the partnerships that I have made, the friends that I have, everything about it is perfect. "Just because I am older doesn't mean that I have to stop skiing and as long as I am skiing fast that's all that matters." With the World Cup season just underway Vonn is clearly not yet up to speed.

The four-time overall World Cup champion

finished 34th in the opening leg of a giant slalom—not her best event—last Saturday on the Rettenbach glacier above Soelden, Austria, failing to qualify for a second run.

Despite the sluggish start there is no panic in the Vonn camp as they look ahead to the season's first speed races in Lake Louise, Canada, where she has recorded 18 victories, and to Pyeongchang which will stage races on a hill very much to her liking.

"I really like the course, the Olympic super-G and downhill are great tracks," said Vonn, who recorded second-place results in a World Cup downhill and super-G held on the South Korean Olympic course last March.

Alpine skiing's greatest winner



"When we raced there... it was perfect," Vonn said. "Racing last weekend, I hadn't raced that discipline in almost two years, I was a little bit rusty and skied well within myself. "I don't worry about it. I know I'm a lot faster than my results and it's not my main discipline so no big deal."

TWO OLYMPIC MEDALS

Winning another gold medal, however, would be a huge deal for Vonn who despite all her success on mountains around the world has picked up only two Winter Games medals—gold in the



NEW YORK: Skiers Lindsey Vonn (L) and Gus Kenworthy take part in the Team USA WinterFest on Times Square, in New York. The 13-stop festival will crisscross the country to bring the excitement of the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. — AFP

Vancouver downhill and a bronze in the super-G. At the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics she failed to win a medal and she missed out on the 2014 Sochi Games following knee surgery.

"Vancouver was amazing and winning there was the best feeling I have ever had in my entire career so if I could get that again I would be extremely grateful and all the hard work I have

done over the last eight years will have paid off," said Vonn. "I just have to ski my best."

"If I can get to the Olympics healthy and I ski the way I can I'm not really worried about it. "At the end of the day all I can do is my best... if some of these young girls beat me so be it but I still think I am the best downhill skier out there and I intend to prove that." — Reuters

Skater Nathan Chen is rare US quad king

NEW YORK: Nathan Chen's skating career could have come to a very early end. When Chen was 3 years old, he went to the rink with his siblings; Chen is the youngest of five. When the public session concluded, he refused to leave the ice. It wasn't until the Zamboni was about to clean the rink that Chen's mom carried him out - kicking and screaming, she says.

"I don't remember too much of that," Chen says with a laugh. "I was kind of young." Fortunately, Chen returned. He kept coming back to the point that he soon developed into one of America's best young figure skaters. Now, at 18, he's a US champion and almost certainly one of this nation's best shots for gold at the Pyeongchang Olympics - something Chen says he has a "pretty high chance of" as long as he sticks to his plan and remains healthy.

He's also become a ground breaker by loading his program with quadruple jumps. Ever since the four-revolution jumps became a staple of the sport in the 1990s, Americans have lagged behind. No longer, because Chen pretty much is the king of quads, having once done an unprecedented five in a free skate.

"That's HARD," says two-time Olympic gold medalist Evgeni Plushenko, rolling his eyes at the thought. "When I would do quad-triple-double, I would lose power for much of the program. Five quads?"

Chen smiles when asked if his recent achievements - at the Rostelecom Cup he reeled off four quads, including a spectacular opening quad lutz-triple toe combination and a quad-double toe-double cascade in the second half of the free skate in beating 2014 Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu - have pressurized things heading toward South Korea. "I have my own life to live," he says "and to let that get to me would be defeating the purpose. I have confidence in how I've trained and prepared myself. I've dreamed about the Olympics for a long time and it would be kind of silly and a waste to freak myself out."

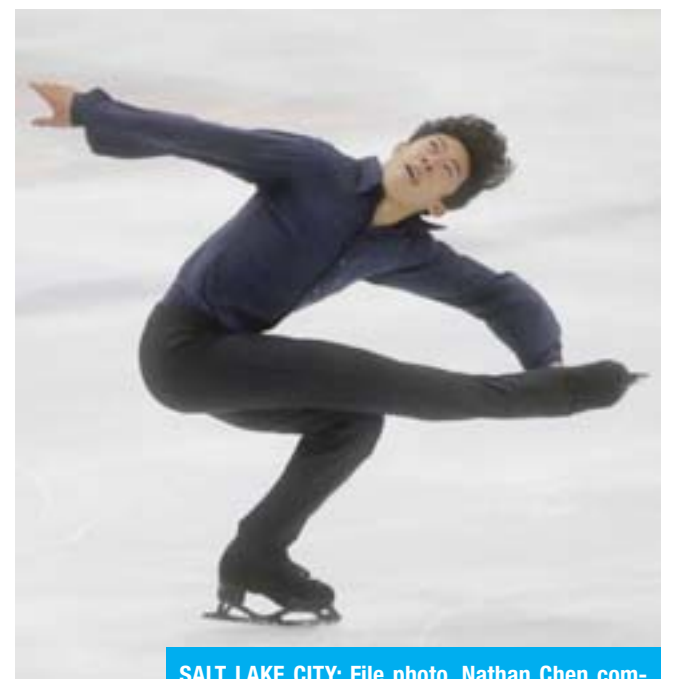
Instead, Chen just might freak out the competition with his technical skills. Not that jumping alone is enough to win international titles, and Chen has worked hard on his presentation.

Indeed, he's never been purely a jumper and having taken ballet - his sisters were in classes has helped with his choreography. This season, Chen, coach Rafael Arutunian, choreographers Lori Nichol (free skate) and Shae-Lynn Bourne (short program) have put together two routines that not only fit his style, but play off the energy and difficulty of what Chen is doing on the ice.

He is skating to "Nemesis" by Benjamin Clementine for the short program, and music from the movie "Mao's Last Dancer" for the free skate. Chen has a deep appreciation for music; he dabbles in playing guitar, took up piano and even the violin, which he had "no passion for."

He also believes having done gymnastics and played hockey aided in his development as a figure skater. After a photo shoot for the Olympic-themed box cover of Kellogg's Corn Flakes, Chen pondered how those sports contributed to his current occupation.

"It's helped me be a more-balanced athlete, which I think is very important," Chen says. "It's strengthened me, too." While some see Chen's rise in US skating as meteoric - he went from winning the Junior Grand Prix Final in 2015 to US bronze as a



SALT LAKE CITY: File photo, Nathan Chen competes during the free skate at the US International Figure Skating Classic in Salt Lake City. — AP

senior the next year to US champion last January - it's actually been a steady climb. That he has reached such a lofty status as a teen-ager bodes well for the future. — AP

Sports

Pacers send Cavaliers to fourth straight loss

Heat top Bulls 97-91 to end 3-game slide

CLEVELAND: Thaddeus Young scored 26 points, Darren Collison had 25 and the Indiana Pacers sent the Cleveland Cavaliers to their fourth straight loss, 124-107 on Wednesday night. LeBron James had 33 points and 11 assists, but it wasn't enough to keep Cleveland from losing for the fifth time in six games and falling to 3-5. The Cavaliers held a lengthy meeting before Tuesday's practice to discuss their struggles, but the defending Eastern Conference champions have lost by a combined margin of 58 points in their losing streak. James was upbeat about the meeting, but the Cavaliers still have issues to work out, especially on the defensive end. Cleveland led 69-68 in the third quarter, but Indiana hit four straight 3-pointers and built an eight-point lead. Indiana was 16 of 26 from 3-point range. Victor Oladipo scored 23 points for the Pacers. Bojan Bogdanovic added 17, and Domantas Sabonis had 15 points and 12 rebounds.



Marcin Gortat had 13 rebounds for Washington

SUNS 122, WIZARDS 116

T.J. Warren scored 28 of his career-high 40 points in the second half and Phoenix overcame a 22-point deficit to beat Washington. Warren also had 10 rebounds and Devin Booker added 22 points to help the Suns improve to 4-1 under interim coach Jay Triano following an 0-3 start that led to Earl Watson's firing. Bradley Beal scored a season-high 40 points for Washington, which built the lead to 22 by the second quarter but saw it completely disappear early in the fourth. John Wall added 21 points, and Marcin Gortat had 13 rebounds for Washington.

HORNETS 126, BUCKS 121

Kemba Walker had 26 points, rookie Malik Monk had a huge fourth quarter and the Charlotte put the clamps on the NBA scoring leader Giannis Antetokounmpo to beat Milwaukee. Walker was 8 for 12 from the field, including 3 for 4 from 3-point range, and 7 for 7 from the foul line to help Charlotte win its third straight game. Monk, the team's first-round draft pick from Kentucky, had 18 of his 25 points in the fourth. Antetokounmpo came in averaging 33.7 points, but struggled with foul trouble and finished with a season-low 14 points along with 13 rebounds. He was limited to five points in the final three quarters. Khris Middleton led Milwaukee with 43 points on 15-for-28 shooting.

HEAT 97, BULLS 91

Goran Dragic scored 20 points, Tyler Johnson added 19 and Miami beat Chicago to snap



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' Jae Crowder, right, and Indiana Pacers' Darren Collison battle for a loose ball in the second half of an NBA basketball game. —AP

a three-game slide. Hassan Whiteside returned from a five-game absence with a bruised knee and had 13 points and 14 rebounds for the Heat. Lauri Markkanen scored 25 points and Robin Lopez added 22 for the Bulls, who were 7 for 28 from 3-point range and got five of those makes in the final 2 minutes. Chicago fell to 1-5, matching its worst start since 2007-08.

76ERS 119, HAWKS 109

Ben Simmons had 19 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, and Joel Embiid had 21 points and 12 rebounds to lead Philadelphia past Atlanta for its third straight victory. Robert Covington scored 22 points to help the Sixers (4-4) reach .500 for the first time in four years. Dennis Schroder had 25 points for Atlanta. —AP

All Blacks face Springboks in WCup opener

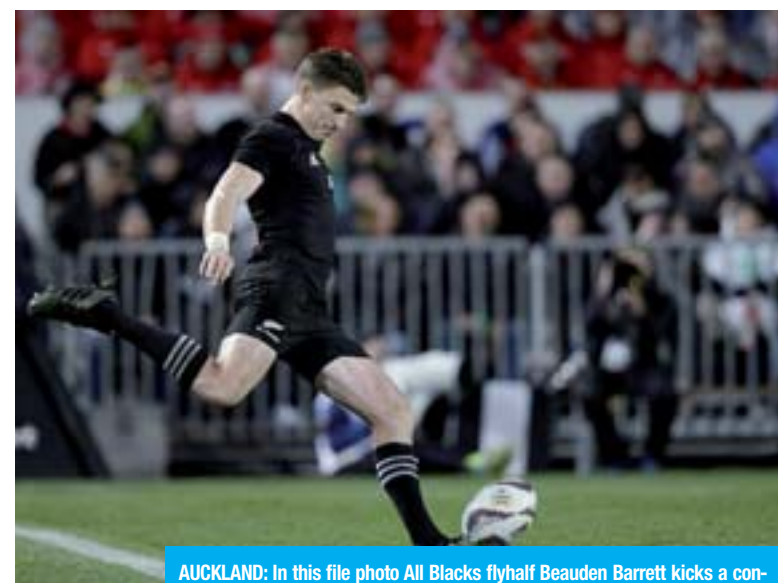
TOKYO: Favourites New Zealand will begin their quest for a third successive Rugby World Cup title with a heavyweight clash against South Africa at the 2019 tournament in Japan. The All Blacks are scheduled to face their old southern hemisphere foes in Yokohama on September 21, a day after hosts Japan kick off the competition against European qualifiers, likely to be Romania, organisers announced in Tokyo yesterday.

"We are really excited to meet New Zealand first up," said South Africa head coach Allister Coetzee. "There is a great and proud rivalry between the Springboks and All Blacks and this opening group match is bound to be another massive contest." France, drawn in the so-called "Group of Death" alongside England and Argentina, also open their campaign on September 21 with a key Pool C fixture against the Pumas in Tokyo.

Title contenders England take on Tonga in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo the following day. Two-time champions Australia face a potentially tricky opener against Fiji in Pool D, where rivals Wales open against Georgia. "We kick off against Georgia before facing Australia, both of whom we play this November in Cardiff," said Wales head coach Warren Gatland. "We then have a good block of time before facing Fiji in Oita. We have four cities to visit so it is important we buy into the culture of Japan and the tournament."

Matches will be played at 12 venues including Kamaishi in northeast Japan, which was ravaged by the 2011 tsunami and resulting nuclear disaster. England's hopes of knocking the mighty All Blacks off their perch were complicated by a horror draw earlier this year. The Six Nations champions, who two years ago became the first World Cup hosts not to reach the knock-out stage, take on the United States in Kobe after tough-tackling Tonga.

England then face huge back-to-back games against 2015 World Cup semi-finalists Argentina in Tokyo on October 5 and bitter rivals France in Yokohama a week later to complete a devilishly tricky bracket. England have a mixed World Cup record against three-time finalists France, their last meeting a quarter-final defeat in 2011. They have won both of their World Cup games so far against Argentina, but the swashbuckling Pumas are capable of beating anyone on their day. —AFP



AUCKLAND: In this file photo All Blacks flyhalf Beauden Barrett kicks a conversion during the first test between the British and Irish Lions and the All Blacks at Eden Park in Auckland. Barrett will captain the All Blacks for the first time against the Barbarians on Saturday. —AP

Sports

Schneider stops 37 shots, Devils beat Canucks 2-0

New Jersey remains NHL's only team with perfect record

VANCOUVER: Cory Schneider made 37 saves for his first shutout of the season and 24th of his career, leading the New Jersey Devils to a 2-0 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Wednesday night. Jimmy Hayes and Drew Stafford also scored to help the Metropolitan Division-leading Devils win for the ninth time in 11 games this season. New Jersey has won three straight and remains the NHL's only team with a perfect road record (5-0-0). Taylor Hall added two assists and now has three goals and six assists in his last eight games against the Canucks. Jacob Markstrom stopped 24 shots for Vancouver. Traded by the Canucks to the Devils for the ninth overall pick at the 2013 draft that Vancouver used to select center Bo Horvat, Schneider improved to 5-1-2 against his former team with a .940 save percentage.



It proved to be his 100th career game-winner

MAPLE LEAFS 3, DUCKS 1

Patrick Marleau scored early in the third period and Toronto ended a three-game losing streak. Connor Brown also scored and Frederik Andersen stopped 28 shots for the Maple Leafs, who had dropped four of their last five after starting the season 6-1-0. Ondrej Kase scored for the Ducks, who had won two straight. John Gibson made 26 saves. Marleau puts the Maple Leafs back in front 1:09 into the third with a powerful backhand shot for his 513th career goal. It proved to be his 100th career game-winner.

England coach writes off Stokes' Ashes chances

PERTH: England coach Trevor Bayliss said he is preparing for life without Ben Stokes in the Ashes series, adding that any reprieve for the suspended all-rounder would be just a "bonus". As England get ready for their opening tour match in Perth tomorrow, Stokes remains at home awaiting the outcome of a police probe into his involvement in a brawl outside a nightclub.

The England and Wales Cricket Board have not yet ruled the vice-captain out of the Ashes series, which starts with the first Test in Brisbane on November 23. But Bayliss said he has had to discount any chance of Stokes playing a role. "I have," England's Australian coach told reporters late Wednesday, when asked if he had "written off" Stokes.

"If he turns up it's an absolute bonus. And if he did happen to turn up, I'm quite sure he would slip back in very easily. "It's totally out of our hands. We have just got on with

PENGUINS 3, OILERS 2

Evgeni Malkin's tiebreaking power-play goal in the third period lifted Pittsburgh past Edmonton. Patric Hornqvist and Conor Sheary also scored for the defending Stanley Cup champion Penguins, and Matt Murray stopped 35 shots. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Leon Draisaitl had goals for the Oilers, who have lost four of their last five games. Cam Talbot finished with 27 saves. Malkin tucked a wrist shot under Talbot's arm on the power play with 7:37 remaining in the third. Murray made a big save on Nugent-Hopkins in tight with 13 seconds to go to preserve the win.

BLACKHAWKS 3, FLYERS 0

Corey Crawford made 35 saves in his first shutout of the season, and

Chicago beat Philadelphia to stop a three-game slide. Artem Anisimov and Jonathan Toews scored 20 seconds apart in the second and Crawford took over from there, helping the Blackhawks kill off three Flyers power plays in the last half of the game. Rookie Alex DeBrincat added an empty-net goal with 1:49 left in Crawford's 22nd career shutout. Brian Elliott made 32 stops for Philadelphia, which was coming off a 4-3 overtime loss to lowly Arizona on Monday. The Flyers have dropped four of five heading into Thursday night's game at Central Division-leading St. Louis. Chicago had dropped five of six, prompting coach Joel Quenneville to juggle his lines and defensive pairings in search of a spark.

preparing as best we can."

The Stokes controversy has rocked England's preparations with former Australia Test captains Steve Waugh and Ian Chappell among those who believe England can't retain the Ashes without him.

"The players have a very important, tough series coming up and they are totally focused on winning it," Bayliss said. "They are concentrating on playing without him. We can't worry about something we can't control."

Despite England's chances of retaining the Ashes urn weakening without Stokes, Bayliss said he Australia were still "beatable". "If any team lose one of their better players it's going to be upsetting to a certain degree," he said.

"But we have time to smooth things out and find the right combination. We certainly wouldn't be here if we didn't think we could win without him. "Certainly, we've been playing some good cricket, so have Australia. Both teams are similar. They are beatable."

With Western Australia's best players on Sheffield Shield duties, England will face a second-string WA XI squad in their two-day match starting at the WACA Ground tomorrow. Only two players in the squad, captain Nathan Coulter-Nile and all-rounder Will Bosisto, have Shield experience. —AFP



EDMONTON: Ryan Nugent-Hopkins #93 of the Edmonton Oilers collides with Kris Letang #58 of the Pittsburgh Penguins at Rogers Place. —AFP

SHARKS 4, PREDATORS 1

Joonas Donskoi and Mikkel Boedker each had a goal and an assist to help San Jose win its third straight. Joe Pavelski and Marc-Edouard Vlasic also scored for the Sharks, and

Martin Jones stopped 19 shots. Roman Josi scored for the Predators, who lost their second straight after recording points in six of their past seven games. Pekka Rinne, also had 19 saves to fall to 11-7-4 in 23 games against the Sharks. —AP



SYDNEY: Australian paceman Pat Cummins sends down a delivery as he trains with his New South Wales state cricket team in Sydney yesterday. —AFP

Sports

Aguero breaks Man City record in thrilling 4-2 win at Napoli

City become first English side ever to win at Napoli

NAPLES: Manchester City's all-conquering season reached new peaks as Sergio Aguero became the club's all-time top scorer with a decisive goal in a thrilling 4-2 victory at Napoli that put them into the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday.

The Argentine struck his historic 178th goal for City, which took him past Eric Brook's landmark, in the 69th minute to help settle a magnificent contest between the English and Italian league leaders.

Headed goals from City's unlikely central defensive strike force of Nicolas Otamendi and John Stones either side of halftime had seen Pep Guardiola's side overturn a 21st-minute lead deservedly given to the Serie A leaders by Lorenzo Insigne.

Yet after Jorginho had equalised with a penalty just after the hour, Aguero's predatory instinct ensured City were not to be denied in their bid to become the first English team to win a European match in Napoli's forbidding San Paolo Stadium. Raheem Sterling sealed the triumph in injury time, leaving City, now unbeaten in 22 matches, on a perfect 12-point haul in Group F, qualifying for the last 16 with two games left while Napoli face elimination on just three points in third place. It was a victory that once again underlined how City, with their

panoply of thrilling talent, look like genuine contenders to lift the European Cup as their performance showcased real heart as well as quality. It was fitting too that an historic goal from their talisman Aguero should decorate the night, with City's captain Vincent Kompany hailing him as a "true legend". "I'm very happy for this moment because it's a one-time moment," a delighted Aguero told BT Sport.

"We must keep going the same way now. It's a long season and we must continue the same way." The second clash between two sides who had started the game with 86 goals between them this season always promised to be richly entertaining but City showed real steel in coming from behind for

the first time in 13 games to beat Napoli for the second time in a fortnight. Napoli, after dominating the early stages, went ahead by slicing apart City's defence with the same slickness that Guardiola's side have themselves been demonstrating all season in the Premier League.

Insigne charged down the left flank, took out two defenders by forging a swift one-two with Mertens and beat Ederson expertly from close range. City moved gradually into a higher gear, though. Aguero came close to the record-breaking goal but soon after, in the 34th minute, Otamendi muscled in at the far post to head home

which brought the Reds skipper into the fray. With Maribor defending deep in a 5-4-1 formation, Liverpool struggled to create chances in the first half. The closest they came to breaking through was when Roberto Firmino's header from Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross flicked off Jean-Claude Billong and had to be clawed onto the bar by visiting goalkeeper Jasmin Handanovic.

Salah soothed the home fans' jitters four minutes into the second half when he darted in front of Aleksander Rajcevic to glance Alexander-Arnold's right-wing cross past Handanovic with a shinned volley. The Egypt winger has now scored 10 Liverpool goals since his close-season move from Roma. Milner squandered an opportunity to double Liverpool's lead moments later when his penalty was touched onto the post by Handanovic after Firmino was unceremoniously hauled back by Rajcevic.

It was the fourth time Liverpool had failed to score a penalty at Anfield in 2017 and came hot on the heels of Salah's unsuccessful effort during Saturday's 3-0 win over Huddersfield Town.

Handanovic saved with his feet from Firmino before Can made it 2-0 in the 64th minute, slickly exchanging passes with Milner and coolly slotting the ball into the bottom-right corner from the edge of the box. Substitute Sturridge completed the scoring in the last minute, lashing home at the back post from Alberto Moreno's cross to notch his first Champions League goal in Liverpool's colours.



NAPLES: Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero celebrates after scoring during the UEFA Champions League football match. — AFP

Ilkay Gundogan's pinpoint cross from the right.

With momentum having changed completely, Stones headed against the bar and three minutes after the break another of his rocket headers struck the underside of the bar with goal-line technology confirming it had crossed the line.

It was the England defender's third Champions League goal of the season—more than any of City's attacking jewels. Napoli were far from fin-

ished as Insigne hit the woodwork himself with a fine strike and when Leroy Sane brought down Raul Albiol, Jorginho converted coolly from the spot. The defining passages of play saw Ederson make a wonderful save from Jose Callejon before a lightning break from Sane ended with the ball falling to Aguero, who finished in the ruthless fashion that has seen him compile his tally of 178 goals from just 264 appearances.—Reuters

Sturridge, Can, keep Liverpool on course

LIVERPOOL: Second-half goals from Mohamed Salah, Emre Can and Daniel Sturridge moved Liverpool closer to the Champions League knockout phase after the five-time European champions beat Maribor 3-0 on Wednesday. Liverpool had crushed Maribor 7-0 in the reverse fixture two weeks ago, but had to be content with three goals at Anfield as the Slovenian champions belatedly tightened things up at the back. Victory, coupled with Sevilla's 2-1 defeat of CSKA Moscow, left Liverpool a point clear at the top of Group E, keeping their hopes of a first appearance in the knockout rounds since 2008-09 in their own hands.

Jurgen Klopp's side, who also saw James Milner squander a penalty, visit Sevilla on the next match-day later this month before closing the group stage at home to Spartak in early December. Klopp's plan to rest Jordan Henderson had to be rethought in the 17th minute when Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum turned his right ankle,

Sparkling Bayern relish timing of Dortmund clash

MUNICH: Bayern Munich could not have wished for a better time to travel to Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund with the champions firing on all cylinders and their opponents mired in poor form ahead of tomorrow's meeting.

The Bavarians have won all six of their matches under new coach Jupp Heynckes, who replaced Carlo Ancelotti last month, claiming top spot in the league and opening up a three-point gap over Dortmund.

Bayern also edged past RB Leipzig in the German Cup last week and have won their two Champions League matches under Heynckes to nail down a spot in the knockout stage with two games to spare.

"We are going into this game with a lot of self-confidence," said Bayern winger Arjen Robben. "We are not the ones under pressure. We can only be happy to be three points ahead after lying five points behind them. "It can only get better for us." Striker Robert Lewandowski,

who missed their 2-1 victory at Celtic on Tuesday due to a minor thigh injury, could be back to face his former club, said Heynckes. "He has trained relatively well and is not feeling any pain," said Heynckes. "It looks now he can play from the start against Dortmund."

Things could not be more different for Dortmund, who squandered a five-point lead over Bayern in a matter of weeks. Six wins from their first seven matches were then followed by a sudden slump in form and two losses and a draw in their last three games.

Dortmund have managed only one victory in their last six games in all competitions and a 1-1 home draw in the Champions League against APOEL Nicosia of Cyprus on Wednesday underlined their current struggles. "It is my job to give my players their confidence back," said Dortmund coach Peter Bosz. "The easiest way to do it is by winning a game again. Victory is the best medicine."

Bosz will have his work cut out if Dortmund continue to waste opportunities in front of goal. They created close to a dozen scoring chances against the Cypriots on Wednesday but were let down by poor finishing. "Maybe the timing of this game is right," Bosz said. "At the start of the season when we were winning points, expectations were high. Maybe tomorrow fans will expect a bit less." — Reuters

Sports

Tottenham stuns Real Madrid 3-1 to reach knockout phase

Madrid's fragile defense was torn apart too easily

LONDON: Tottenham stunned Champions League holder Real Madrid with a 3-1 victory on Wednesday to qualify for the knockout phase for only the second time and increase the pressure on coach Zinedine Zidane. European champions in three of the last four seasons, Madrid hadn't been beaten in the group stage for five years, and the humbling in London came straight after Madrid's Spanish league defense was hit by a surprise loss at Girona.

Madrid's fragile defense was torn apart too easily by Tottenham, a club that hasn't won the English league since 1961. Dele Alli, suspended for the opening three games in Group H, made an explosive return to the Champions League with two goals.

Christian Eriksen also netted for Tottenham in the 65th minute to build a commanding lead that ensured Cristiano Ronaldo's strike in the 80th was a mere consolation. "We played a very professional game," Eriksen said. "We could have had more if we'd had a bit more composure in the final third."

The victory took Tottenham three points clear of Madrid at the top of the group, ensuring

passage into the last 16 with two games to spare. Tottenham has only competed in the knockout phase once before in the 2010-11 season when it was eliminated by Madrid in the quarterfinals.

Then, Madrid beat Tottenham 5-0 on aggregate but the tables have turned. Last month, Tottenham secured a 1-1 draw in the Spanish capital and now it has beaten Madrid for the first time as Zidane endured one of the most painful games of his 22-month reign. "I am not worried and I never will be worried this season, whatever happens on the pitch," Zidane said through a translator.

Tottenham's victory came almost seven years to the day since it beat

another reigning European champion - Inter Milan - 3-1 in the group stage on Nov. 2, 2010 at White Hart Lane. Mauricio Pochettino's team was dumped out in the group stage last season, but now looks far more adept among the continent's elite. "You have all seen today that Tottenham is a big team," Pochettino said. "We now belong not only among the best in England but in Europe. Results like these help people see where we are going."

Madrid was outclassed from the start on its

“
We now belong among the best in Europe
”



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris (C) punches the ball away during the UEFA Champions League Group H football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Real Madrid. — AFP

first visit to Wembley Stadium, which is Tottenham's temporary home while White Hart Lane is being redeveloped across north London. Spurs started with concerns about the fitness of Harry Kane after losing their last two games

without their top scorer. But even their striker having an off night wasn't an issue. Even if Alli wasn't commanding throughout behind Kane, it wasn't an issue. Kane made a difference when it mattered. — AP

Oxygen tanks ready as Tibet football team make history

SHANGHAI: There may be mid-game oxygen breaks, but no team will fancy a trip to sky-high Lhasa Chengtou next season after they made history by becoming the first Tibetan side to reach China's professional league.

Lhasa, whose 735-million-yuan (\$110 million) stadium is the highest in China and one of the highest in the world, clinched promotion from China's amateur league to the third tier along with five other sides.

But doubts surround whether Lhasa will be allowed to stage games at their modern Cultural and Sports Center stadium because of its dizzying altitude 3,658 metres (12,000 feet) above sea level.

During home matches, players are allowed to use oxygen every 15 minutes from handheld canisters lined up on the side of the pitch to avoid the nausea and vomiting associated with altitude sickness.

Lhasa, whose players mostly come from areas of China outside Tibet, won promotion to League Two after beating Shenyang Dongjin 2-1 over two legs in a play-off.

The home leg was moved to a neutral venue in Huizhou, in southern China about 4,000 kilometres from Lhasa, supposedly because of problems with the pitch, though there were suspicions that it was more to do with the altitude.

Lhasa won 2-0 in the first leg and lost 1-0 on Sunday in the return match at Shenyang to squeeze into the professional leagues.

"Football has deep foundations among the people in Tibet and it is absolutely the first sport," Wang Dui, a senior club official, told the state Xinhua news agency.

"Go and have a look in the older part of town in Lhasa, you can see kids playing football everywhere in the alleys after school. — AFP

Modest Burnley mixing it with heavyweights

London: The latest side threatening to gatecrash the Premier League's "Big Six" only pulled clear of relegation danger late last season and then sold two of its best players to make a profit during the transfer window.

Their core values are team spirit and hard work. Their strikers are no-nonsense, hard-running target men - there are no false nines around these parts - and they take pride in the art of defending. Their atmospheric, 134-year-old ground, with a capacity of 22,500, is in the heart of the local community, offering views of terraced houses in the distance.

Burnley is one of the more unfashionable teams in the world's richest and most popular league, and it is making a real splash this season. After 10 games, the Clarets are tied on points with sixth-place Liverpool, with only the Manchester clubs, Tottenham, Chelsea and Arsenal ahead of them. They have won at Chelsea and earned battling draws at Tottenham and Liverpool.

Their gravel-toned manager of five years, Sean Dyche, is having such an impact that he is one of

the main contenders to fill the coaching vacancy at Everton following the firing of Ronald Koeman. They haven't had it this good at Turf Moor for a generation, arguably since Burnley finished sixth in 1974 before a downturn that saw the club drop out of the top division for 33 years.

"We're not the market leaders, we have to earn the right for everything we get," Dyche said this week. "We are earning respect, a side that feels like it can do what the Premier League needs, but there's still work to be done."

Burnley was a founding member of Football League in 1888 and has been English champion twice, in 1921 and 1960. It is in its second year back in the Premier League after finishing 16th last season. Dyche took over the northwest team in 2012 when it was in the bottom half of the second-tier League Championship and has turned Burnley into one of the hardest teams to beat in England.

Go back to the start of the season, though, and Burnley was being tipped for a year-long struggle. Defender Michael Keane and striker Andre Gray were sold for a combined \$65 million and the club ended up returning a profit of about \$20 million in the transfer window as a whole.

They only avoided relegation last season because of the team's strong form at home and many wondered if they could keep that up. They have, and they are starting to get results away from Turf Moor, too - starting with the 3-2 victory at champion Chelsea on the opening weekend. — AP

Sports

Astros win first World Series crown, top Dodgers in Game 7

Carlos Correa turned the party into a proposal

LOS ANGELES: From laughingstock to lift off, George Springer and the Houston Astros rocketed to the top of the baseball galaxy Wednesday night, winning the first World Series championship in franchise history by romping past the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 in Game 7.

Playing for a city still recovering from Hurricane Harvey, and wearing an H Strong logo on their jerseys, the Astros brought home the prize that had eluded them since they started out in 1962 as the Colt .45s.

"I always believed that we could make it," All-Star slugger Jose Altuve said. "We did this for them." For a Series that was shaping up as an October classic, Game 7 quickly became a November clunker as Houston scored five runs in the first two innings off Yu Darvish. Hardly the excitement fans felt during the Cubs' 10-inning thriller in Cleveland last fall.

Well, except for everyone wearing bright orange. Back in Houston, a huge crowd filled Minute Maid Park to cheer as fans watched on the big video board, and the train whistle wailed when it was over.

"We're coming home a champion, Houston," Springer said after accepting the World Series MVP trophy named this year for Willie Mays. Star shortstop Carlos Correa turned the party into a proposal. After doing a TV interview, he got down on one knee and asked girlfriend Daniella Rodriguez, a former Miss Texas USA, to marry him.

"Yes?" he said, putting a ring on her finger as she cried. Altuve, one of four holdovers from a club that lost an embarrassing 111 times in 2013 after switching from the NL to the AL, and this collection of young stars silenced Dodger Stadium from the get-go, taking a 5-0 lead in the second inning.

Altuve was in perfect position for the final out, a grounder by Corey Seager to the 5-foot-6 second baseman. "I caught the last out for the Houston Astros to become a world champion. It was a groundball to me, I threw to first, and I think it was the happiest moment of my life in baseball," Altuve said.

The Astros streamed from the dugout and bullpen to go wild, tossing their gloves in the air. A thousand or so fans crowded behind the first base dugout, chanting "Hou-ston! Hou-ston!" Later, some little Astros kids ran around the outfield grass dressed in Halloween outfits. Their dads, meanwhile, were putting on championship hats and shirts.

At last, they had completed the ascent some predicted after a rebuilding club purged payroll and stripped down to bare bones a few years back. Famously, now, there was the Sports Illustrated cover in 2014 - after Houston had lost more than 100 games for three straight seasons

- that proclaimed: "Your 2017 World Series Champs" and featured a picture of Springer in a bright Astros jersey.

On the other side, ace Clayton Kershaw and several Dodgers leaned against the dugout railing, watching the Astros celebrate. Los Angeles led the majors with 104 wins and a \$240 million payroll, and rallied to win Game 6, yet it didn't pay off for part-owner Magic Johnson and his team.

"Obviously, this one hurts," manager Dave Roberts said. "And like I told the guys, when you put everything, every ounce of your being into something and you come up short, it hurts. And it's supposed to hurt."

Normally a starter, Charlie Morton finished up with four stellar innings of relief for the win. "We held down a really tough lineup," Morton said. "For my teammates, for the city of Houston, it's just unbelievable." Springer led off the evening with a double against Darvish, and soon it was 2-0.

Springer hit his fifth homer - tying the Series mark set by Reggie Jackson (1977) and matched by Chase Utley (2009) - when he connected for a record fourth game in a row, making it a five-

run lead. That was plenty for Houston manager A.J. Hinch. He pulled starter Lance McCullers Jr. soon after the curveballer crazily plunked his fourth batter of the game, and began a parade of four relievers that held the lead.

Throughout the post-season, Hinch and the unconventional Astros overcame a shaky bullpen by using starters in relief. "I knew yesterday I didn't have much," said McCullers, the Game 3 winner. "I knew I didn't have much to give other than to gut it out as long as I could."

In a dramatic Series marked by blown leads and late rallies, when Houston twice outlasted the Dodgers in extra innings, McCullers did enough. Forever known for their space-age Astrodome, outlandish rainbow jerseys and a handful of heartbreaking playoff losses for stars like Nolan Ryan, Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio, these Astros will be remembered as champions, finally, in their 56th season.

The club that wears a star on its hat also filled out the Texas trophy case. Teams from the Lone Star State had won most every major crown - the Super Bowl, NBA and NHL titles, championships in college football, and men's and women's hoops - except the World Series.

Built on the skills of homegrown All-Stars Dallas Keuchel and more, helped by veteran off-season acquisitions such as Brian McCann and 40-year-old Carlos Beltran, who won his first ring, and boosted by the slick trade for ace Justin Verlander, general manager Jeff Luhnow oversaw the team's resurgence.



LOS ANGELES: Jose Altuve #27 of the Houston Astros holds the Commissioner's Trophy after defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 in game seven to win the 2017 World Series. — AFP

Houston won 101 times this year to take the AL West, then won Games 6 and 7 at home in the AL Championship Series against the New York Yankees. The Astros joined the 1985 Royals as the only clubs to win a pair of Game 7s in the same year.

When it was over, Bagwell and Biggio posed for pictures together with the World Series trophy. For the Dodgers, the quest to win a Series for the first time since 1988 fell short. Kershaw provided four shutout innings of relief for Los Angeles, but it was too late. What the Dodgers really needed was a better starter than Darvish, someone more like the lefty who tossed out a ceremonial first ball: the great Sandy Koufax.

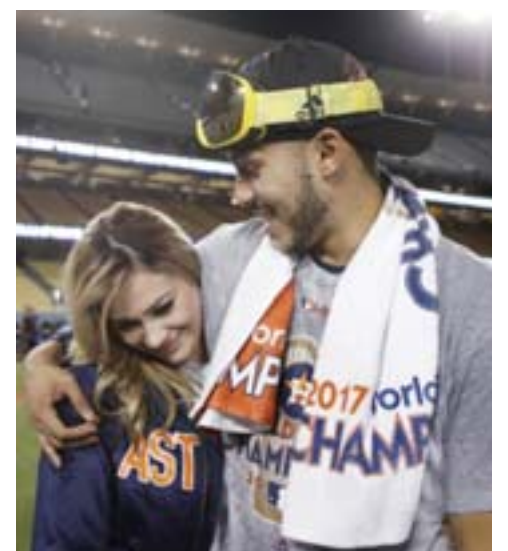
Acquired from Texas on July 31 for these big games, Darvish lasted 1 2/3 innings in both his World Series starts - the two shortest of his career. "This pain is going to stay in me for a while," the four-time All-Star said through a translator.

After Springer lined a leadoff double, Alex Bregman hit a bouncer that first baseman Cody Bellinger threw past Darvish for an error, allowing a run to score. Bregman aggressively stole third and scored on Altuve's grounder, and it was 2-0 after eight pitches.

A double by Marwin Gonzalez helped set up perhaps McCullers' biggest contribution, a slow grounder for his first pro RBI. Springer followed with a no-doubt, two-run drive into the left-center field bleachers.

That was the Series-most 25th homer in a Major League Baseball season that set a record for home runs. It was easily enough for the Astros to offset pinch-hitter Andre Ethier's RBI single in the Los Angeles sixth.

Only once have the Dodgers clinched a



LOS ANGELES: Daniella Rodriguez, former Miss Texas, talks to Houston Astros' Carlos Correa after Game 7 of baseball's World Series. — AP

crown at home, that coming in 1963 when Koufax outpitched Yankees star Whitey Ford to finish a sweep. They've never won Game 7 of the Fall Classic at their own park, dating more than a century ago to their days on the streets of Brooklyn as the Trolley Dodgers.

As pockets of Houston fans got louder and louder in the later innings, the crowd at Dodger Stadium was left to repeat the sad, but hopeful cry that used to echo in Brooklyn: Wait till next year. Just 106 days until pitchers and catchers report to spring training. — AP

Sport Times

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Barty beats Kerber to reach semis

ZHUHAI: Australia's Ashleigh Barty stunned former world number one Angelique Kerber in straight sets to reach the WTA Elite Trophy semi-finals yesterday. Twenty-one-year-old Barty, the youngest player at the season-ending tournament in China, needed just one hour and 11 minutes to down her German opponent 6-3, 6-4 at Zhuhai's Hengqin International Tennis Center.

It follows an impressive victory over fourth seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia on Wednesday, also in straight sets. "I felt like I served great today," Barty told media after yesterday's match. "I... put myself in a good position in my service games to then be super-aggressive and nice and clear when returning so I can, you know, have a little bit more of a crack and then see if I can get some of those early breaks in the sets."

Barty got off to an impressive start

against eighth seed Kerber, securing a break in the sixth game and then firing an ace to win the set. The pair exchanged breaks at the beginning of the second set as Kerber fought back, but Barty prevailed, helped by her 11 aces to the German's two.

The pair's sole previous meeting was in Brisbane in January when Kerber, then world number one and the reigning Australian and US Open champion, survived a big scare from the Australian wildcard entry.

"It was a bit of a... full circle for us, with the start and the end of the season. But, no, I felt like I was in a very different situation this time around," Barty said. The 2011 junior Wimbledon champion has enjoyed a resurgence since returning to tennis in 2016 after a spell with the Brisbane Heat cricket team.

She began the year ranked outside the top 300 but has since soared to world number 20

and recently became Australia's number one. She reached her first Premier 5 tournament final in Wuhan in September after crushing French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia, but ultimately fell to Caroline Garcia.

Later yesterday, Latvian fifth seed Anastasija Sevastova overpowered Czechoslovakia's Barbora Strycova 6-3, 6-4. Sevastova, on a career-high ranking of world number 15, also hammered US Open champion Sloane Stephens on Wednesday-leaving the American with her third successive defeat since winning the US Open.

But Coco Vandeweghe, the number two seed, also from the US, managed to triumph over Russia's Elena Vesnina in the final singles match of the day with a score of 6-3, 6-2.

The results mean Vandeweghe and Sevastova have also booked their spots in the semis of the round robin tournament. — AFP



ZHUHAI: Ashleigh Barty of Australia hits a return against Angelique Kerber. — AFP



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