

Friday Times

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TRIPOLI: A poster of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with a phrase reading in Arabic, "God protect you" is seen on a highway in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli yesterday. — AFP



Saudi calls on its citizens to leave Lebanon: Minister

Local

Samson Kuwait



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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While Saudi Arabia has been actively arresting a number of people accused of corruption and stealing millions in public funds, newspapers in Kuwait published reports that became a subject of comparison and comments among Kuwaitis. "Samson", a mafia leader in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, was arrested by police, ending a chapter of fear and theft against Bangladeshi and other Asian street vendors selling vegetables and used clothes. He is not a minister, official or even a citizen. He is a Bangladeshi expatriate who had a chance to get rich and powerful without any restrictions or fear.

We have all read about and saw Samson in several movies and cartoons. He was introduced to us as a man of superhuman strength who nonetheless could not escape tragedy. Samson is the biblical Hercules and he was the last of the judges of the ancient Israelites mentioned in the Book of Judges in the Hebrew Bible. Samson breaks vows, marries outside of the people of Israel twice, and functions more as a vigilante than a leader.

The reports said Farwaniya security officials ended Samson's reign as the mafia leader of hawkers at the



It is sad that there are files that are stuck, full of allegations of theft that no one can or dares to reveal.

"thieves market" in Jleeb. He used to allocate land to sellers and impose royalties and rent on them by force. The Souq Al-Haramiya (thieves market) in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh is full of vegetables and stolen goods, so security forces decided to clear it and prepared a security plan based on information received about the presence of a person leading a gang.

Samson used to impose "taxes" on hawkers in return for protecting them from harassment. Legal proceedings are being taken against him in preparation for deporting him from the country. I hope he gets jailed first. I am certain that the arrest of "Samson" is good work by the interior ministry, but it also raises concerns by some Kuwaitis about how many more Samsons are there in Kuwait. Such people are dangerous for the future of Kuwait and its funds and economy, and must be exposed even if they are former officials and are out of service now.

I completely understand the people's reaction and comparison. We should not be blamed for the irony of the situation. It is sad that efforts have been made to arrest a small-time villain who exploited corruption and chaos to make himself a mafia leader and make money, but at the same time, there are files that are stuck, full of allegations of theft that no one can or dares to reveal.

I think the mockery of the situation in Kuwait is justified, and it is regrettable too. Thanks to the security men for arresting Samson. Perhaps, expatriates in Jleeb are happier and relieved now - until the emergence of a new alternative, because unless security men thoroughly monitor, clean this area and eliminate corruption, a new Samson is bound to arrive.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



A golden sunset at Marina Crescent. — Photo by Sameer Alabdullah / KUNA

Why did we accept laziness?



IN MY VIEW

By Jeri Al-Jeri

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In Gulf countries, laziness is predominant. It is why we are so vulnerable to many long-term illnesses, and why we don't have that special zest for life we once had in the 1970s and 1980s, when going to the desert was a carnival-like experience, and shopping was a reason to celebrate. I will attempt to discuss some of the reasons why remote controls became heavy and why the second floor feels like Mount Everest!

Is it all due to that fact that our very generous sun burns more of our already-scarce oxygen? Factually, food plays a tremendous role in this - the lowering of our pH levels and hormonal dysfunctions from eating junk food and sugars.

Plus, our tradition of using bread as spoons and adding meat to everything as if it is a salad, and not the other way round! In think our terrible nutritional habits were magnified by the sudden shock of wealth. The transition of any society from poverty to wealth has its ups and downs, but the fantastical boom in our luxurious lifestyle - and our shift from working hard and moving around a lot to sitting and being waited on hand and foot - stunned our society. This tremendous surge of wealth made us staggeringly numb to lead an active life.

Nevertheless, housemaids and drivers in every house is not the only reason for our deadly laziness that has caused us physical and psychological misfortunes.

There are environmental and sociocultural reasons as

well, such as the shaming of girls who wear sports attire and run around in parks and the odd stares a guy in his 30s gets every time he hops on a bicycle. Let's not even mention the dress code of long dresses for both sexes that hardly helps me climb the stairs. Add to this the merciless humidity and sizzling sun that helps teens get YouTube hits by preparing their morning omelets on cars!

Moreover, the technology of television with its hypnotic waves threw our brains into a meditative wavelength of alpha, in which the body relaxes and the lower lip expands, making word articulations more difficult. Limbs become sluggish and eye pupils widen, all due to the magic of our friendly TV screens. Now screens are everywhere, with worthless viewing experiences of advertisements and boring movie "fillers" strengthening the hypnosis our brains are cast into.

So how can we deal with all of this? Realistic approaches are certainly needed to push for more sports for women in a manner that does not go against our customs, not to mention increasing our pH levels by drinking larger amounts of water mixed with lemon or cucumber, which was a rarity for our ancestors.

We also ought to cut down on all forms of carbs, such as baked products. Finally, we always have to spread the word that an active life is actually more pleasurable than all the luxuries of this finite world!

Kuwait Times



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Sabah Al-Ahmad

SEA CITY

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City was a mere vision in the mid-1980s of the late Khalid Yousef Al-Marzouq, who dreamed of creating a whole new urban center in Kuwait. His vision was translated into reality by his son, property developer Fawaz Al-Marzouq.

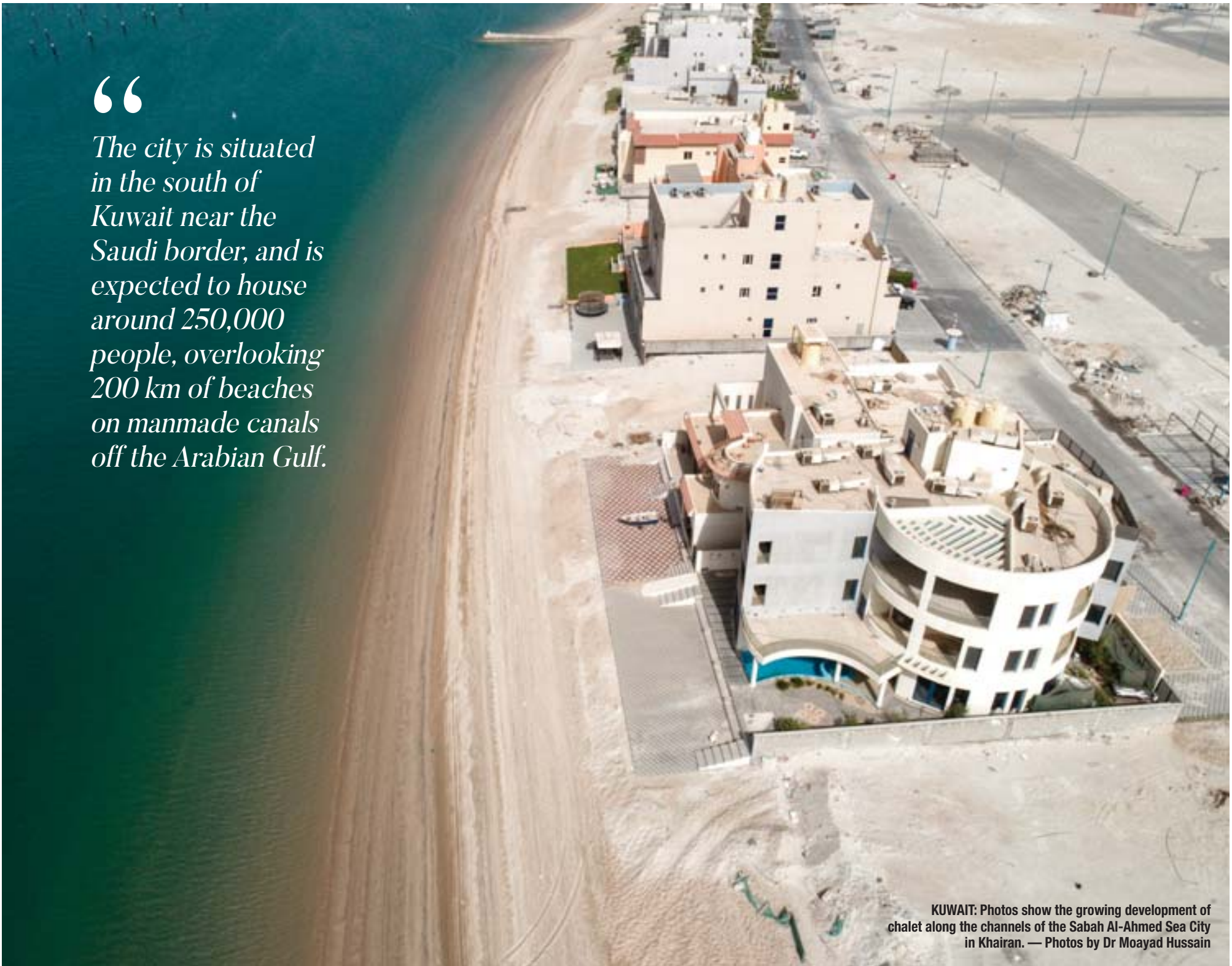
The city is situated in the south of Kuwait near the Saudi border, and is expected to house around 250,000 people, overlooking 200 km of beaches on manmade canals off the Arabian Gulf.

The multibillion-dollar project has faced many challenges, like developing salt marshes (sabkhas) and land for an environmentally-sustainable building project, in addition to the heat of the summer. The project is expected to be completed within the next 11 years.



“

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KUWAIT: Photos show the growing development of chalet along the channels of the Sabah Al-Ahmed Sea City in Khairan. — Photos by Dr Moayad Hussain





Images are projected onto the Louvre Pyramid in Paris at night on November 8, 2017 to mark the opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum on Saadiyat island in the Emirati capital. — Photos by Agencies

Louvre Abu Dhabi architectural masterpiece, says Amir's envoy

ABU DHABI: Envoy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh expressed admiration of the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum. "The museum is a wonderful architectural masterpiece that brings together the cultures of the Eastern and Western worlds," he said on Wednesday on the sidelines of the Museum's opening ceremony.

The museum's rich and rare collection of antiques and paintings are amazing and its unique architectural design is "cultural proude for the countries of the region", he said, adding that he is pride of representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at this remarkable cultural event in the United Arab Emirates. He lauded the deeply-rooted, strong and sisterly relations between Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and French President Emmanuel Macron opened Wednesday the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

In attendance were King Mohammed VI of Morocco, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, President Mohammed Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan, and a host of guests representing several brotherly and friendly countries. The Louvre Abu Dhabi is the first museum to bear the Louvre name outside France. — KUNA



ABU DHABI: Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh (left) attends the opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum.



Moroccan King Mohammed VI looks at a painting titled "Whistler's Mother" by James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1871) as he visits the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum during its inauguration in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Wednesday.



French Minister of Culture Françoise Nyssen (2L), French President Emmanuel Macron (3L), French architect Jean Nouvel (4L) the wife of Macron (2R) Brigitte look at a piece of art during the inauguration of the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum.

Local

Kuwaiti FM meets Qatari counterpart



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with visiting Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with visiting Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran and several other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry. — KUNA

Yemeni info minister highlights Kuwait's role

BRUSSELS: Yemen's information minister Muammar Al-Iryani highly praised yesterday Kuwait's distinguished role in support of the Yemeni people, underscoring its hosting of two peace conferences last year. "Kuwait plays a historic and distinguished role in Yemen. Kuwait has its imprints with the Yemeni people. There is a university called the Kuwait University and there are Kuwaiti schools and hospitals," he said in an interview in Brussels. "The Yemeni people love Kuwait, its leadership, its government, its people, except the Houthi militias who only like Iran," said Iryani.

He stressed that the role of Kuwait is important and central referring to the hosting by Kuwait of two rounds of peace talks on Yemen last year. "It had a big impact and the Yemeni government offered big concessions during these meetings but the Houthis in the end refused to sign the agreement because their instructions come from Tehran," he said.

"We continue to count on Kuwait's role. It has a role in the coalition for the return of the legitimate government under President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi," he said. "We will never forget what Kuwait is offering in humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people and we count on Kuwait to put pressure on the Houthis to lay down their arms and accept the political process," he added. The Yemeni minister called on the EU to condemn the crimes being committed by the Houthi militias in the country. Iryani said he came to Brussels to attend a seminar on Yemen, and he will also meet some members of the European Parliament to inform them about what the Houthi militias are doing to destroy the cultural heritage of Yemen. A seminar on Yemen's history and culture was held today at the Brussels Press Club.

It was organized by the Avicenna Institute which is based in the French city of Lille. Speaking at the seminar, Iryani said the real cause of the crisis in Yemen was due "to the revolution against a democratic government by the Houthi rebels supported by Iran." He expressed support to the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative to resolve the crisis and said the government is ready to return to the peace talks. On his part, the President of the Avicenna Institute Mohammad Al-Bechari appealed to the international community and the UN to save the destruction of Yemen's cultural and historical heritage from the hands of Houthi militias. Bechari said he will organize similar seminars in other European countries to raise awareness of the destruction of Yemen's cultural and historical heritage by the Houthis. — KUNA

The Promenade sponsors RunKuwait and wants you to join in the fun

Promenade team will enter 5km and 10km run at charity event in support of children with disabilities

The Promenade, the neighborhood destination in the heart of Kuwait, has demonstrated its commitment to local causes and its support for community-led initiatives by partnering with RunKuwait, an annual charity event by the Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network to raise funds for disabled children.

The Promenade is platinum sponsor for RunKuwait 2017, which will see thousands of residents and citizens, old and young, coming together for the run from 7am on Saturday, 11 November, for a fun-filled fitness carnival, and participate in either a 5km or 10km run/walk along the corniche.

Participants have been registering at the RunKuwait booth at The Promenade and collecting their t-shirts. At RunKuwait, the participants will gather for a group workout before embarking on their run or walk. Starting at the Scientific Center, participants will walk or run 5km or 10km along the corniche to the finish line.

In addition to sponsoring the event, The Promenade will also participate at the event and will be hosting competitions for chances to win prizes. Social responsibility is vital part of The Promenade's mission and values, and supporting local initiatives and children's causes is important activity for the brand. The Promenade takes great pride in being a community destination, in tune with its customers, and being at the heart of what matters to the community.

The Promenade wishes the best of luck to everyone



taking part in RunKuwait on Saturday and urges anyone not signed up to register and join in the fun and contribute to a worthwhile cause.

Since launching in 2013, funds raised from the annual RunKuwait event have been channelled towards the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), which serves children with disabilities. With the help of race participants and the RunKuwait sponsors, as well as other corporate and individual donors, Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) has been able to provide free services to 20 per cent of the children, and largely subsidize the care of 60 per cent of its young people.

For more information, please visit www.runkuwait.org

Local

600 violators arrested in October raids in Jleeb

'Tea boy' busted for blackmailing deportees

KUWAIT: Nearly 600 people were sent to proper authorities for deportation following their arrest during police crackdowns in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh last month, a report shows. The deportees include 38 women of African and Asian nationalities who were arrested on charge of prostitution in raids at 19 places suspected to be used as brothels, according to a report sent recently from Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Police station's administration to Director General of Farwaniya Security Major General Saleh Matar. Nearly 30,000 bottles of homebrewed liquor were also confiscated in raids at eight places where alcoholic drinks were made in violation of the law, the report said.

Deportees' robber caught

In another case, a man working in providing beverages at the deportation center was arrested for blackmailing and robbing people held there pending their deportation process. Investigations revealed that the man took advantage of his work to approach deportees and learned about where they lived. He would then head to the deportees' houses and rob their contents, taking advantage of the fact that they would not be sent back home to collect their belongings.

The suspect was sent to the public prosecution.

Domestic violence

A man went to Bayan police station and lodged a complaint against his wife who works for the health ministry for beating him, said a security source. The woman was summoned and argued during questioning that she was subjected to physical and verbal assault from her husband. Both submitted medical reports with their complaints. The woman said the incident followed a domestic dispute, but refused to say what it was about.

Assault

Hawally detectives are looking to identify and arrest a number of people who attacked two men in Rumaihiya. A Kuwaiti young man told police that he and his friend were attacked by unknown persons who drove a luxury vehicle in Bedaa. The suspects escaped following the assault, the plaintiff said.

DUI

A citizen in his thirties was involved in a head on collision with a bus, and it was later discovered that he was driving under the influence of

narcotics. He was arrested and taken to Farwaniya police station after being cleared by medics. Further check also revealed that the man is wanted by authorities on a civil case.

Smuggling foiled

Nuwiseeb customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle 50 boxes of cigarettes outside of Kuwait. The busted material has an estimated value of KD24,000.

Robbery

A deliveryman told Waha police that he was robbed by a man wearing a niqab. The Indian national, who works as a deliveryman for a restaurant, said he was delivering a meal to a house in Waha, but was stopped on his way by a woman, who turned out to be a man wearing a niqab. The man said that the suspect pulled him out of the vehicle then drove off with it. The man had left his wallet which contained his civil ID, ATM card and KD 39 in cash inside the vehicle.

Drug possession

Three citizens were arrested in Mubarak Al-Kabeer in possession of drugs. The first case happened when police stopped a driver who ap-



peared to be in an abnormal condition, then they found tablets suspected to be drugs on him. Separately in Qurain, patrols spotted an SUV parked in the parking lot of the area's co-op society. The driver was sleeping in the car with a joint in hand. Another person soon came out of the co-op and headed to the vehicle, and he became nervous when he saw police, so he was stopped, searched and a joint was found with him. The two were arrested and taken to the proper authorities for further action.

— Translated from the Arabic press

Weather to remain unstable but moderate in coming days

KUWAIT: Weather in Kuwait is forecast to remain unstable in the coming days; tending to be moderately hot during day time and moderate at night. The unstable weather is largely the result of varying air pressure, said Abdul Aziz Al-Qarawi, the weather forecaster at Kuwait Meteorological Center (KMC), in a statement yesterday.

Temperature dropped in most regions of the country over the past days; coupled with high humidity, thus fog formed during early morning and night times causing drastic drop of visibility, particularly at Kuwait International Airport. Relative heat and humidity will persist particularly at coastal regions, with prospected light fog along with scattered clouds as well some rain, expected tomorrow.

Today's weather is forecast to witness winds (8-28 km/h), with maximum heat at 29-32 degrees. At night, the winds are expected to be in the range of 8-32 km/h and minimum heat at 14-17 degrees. Qarawi said the weather tomorrow would



be partially cloudy, with northwesterly to northeasterly winds (10-32 km/h). Temperature is forecast at 28-31 degrees,

along with scattered rainfalls. At night, the weather would be moderate with minimum heat at 19-22 degrees. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality inspector confiscated 85 kilograms of expired foodstuff during a recent crackdown on restaurants and stores in Jahra. A total of 13 tickets were also issued during the campaign. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

Local

Lawmaker calls for regulating election campaigns; funding

Lawyer's jail term upheld

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari submitted yesterday a draft law to regulate funding election campaigns, saying that campaigns of candidates running for parliament have been funded without control in the past years. The lawmaker explained that his proposal would provide 'fair competition' and an equal opportunity for every candidate. There has been several complaints in recent years about the alleged involvement of 'political money' to push certain candidates ahead of others in the election race, but the lack of a legal framework to regulate the process of funding campaigns made it difficult to take legal action concerning those claims.

Meanwhile, MP Ahmad Al-Fadhel submitted a proposal to amend the construction licensing law of Kuwait Municipality, whereby a license is only given to a contractor who builds at least one parking level in the building's basement. Also yesterday, MP Majid Al-Mutairi proposed building a comprehensive city dedicated to people with special needs, and name it after His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Sentence upheld

The appeals court yesterday upheld a five-years-in-jail sentence against a lawyer who was found guilty of spreading false rumors that damaged the Health Ministry's integrity and caused public disturbance. Lawyer Hani Hussein faced

state security charges after the ministry sued him over claims he posted on his Twitter account in which he said that a Bangladeshi man working at a public hospital has impersonated a Kuwaiti doctor for 40 years, and has performed numerous medical procedures during that span. The man was taken in custody, charged accordingly after investigations revealed that his accusations were false, and was sentenced by the court of first instance to five years in jail. The lawyer now has the option to appeal the verdict to the court of cassation, whose ruling is final.

Camping season

Campers can approach Kuwait Municipality starting from Sunday to license their camps for the upcoming camping season, which starts in

the middle of this month. Campers are required to submit a refundable KD 300 deposit to receive their license, and the amount is returned after the camping season concludes in March 15, 2018. Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi meanwhile explained that some locations near the Wafra Road leading to the Sabah Al-Ahmad City are now banned for camping, while camping there was allowed in recent years.



MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari

Kuwait renews call to 'reform' UNSC

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait has called anew for "reforming" the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) noting the high need for broader representation in the council. The Kuwaiti stand was re-affirmed in an address by Hassan Abulhassan, the second secretary of the Kuwaiti mission, to the UN General Assembly second session during a debate, late on Wednesday, about just representation in the council and prospects of increasing its members.

Abulhassan called for focusing on overhauling relationship of the UNSC with the other UN apparatuses to ensure jurisdictions' separation, where the council sole mission must be safeguarding international peace and security. Any idea, under examination for "reforming" the UNSC, must emanate from "everybody's keenness on enabling the council to be more representative of the member states, "reflecting the international situation that has largely changed since establishing the United Nations in 1945," said Abulhassan.



Hassan Abulhassan

The second secretary called for improving the UNSC work methods; with more efficiency and transparency, and enabling small states to occupy seats. Moreover, the right of Arab and Islamic nations to represent must not be neglected, he said, noting that these nations are entitled for representation, compatible with their significance and contributions for defending the UN objectives and charter. Furthermore, he expressed the State of Kuwait full support to the Arab states' demand for permanent representation in the UNSC. Abulhassan indicated that the issue of reforming the UNSC had been repeatedly examined since 24 years ago however no progress had been made due to "lack of political will." —KUNA

include competitions for camels, birds, horses and sheep, Sharar, also and the registration for these competitions will begin next Wednesday. The village will have new attractions this season, including an old Kuwaiti town with all details, the old walls of Kuwait and extra seating areas for visitors, he said. Meanwhile, the official noted that the village also contains a large theater to host folkloric ceremonies and events, as well as a large children's playground with old and modern entertainment equipment. It also includes restaurants, coffee shops, children's cinema, green spaces, lakes, a hotel and folkloric museums, he noted. — KUNA

Heritage Village kicks off early Dec

KUWAIT: Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village continues to prepare for holding the National Heritage Festival early December, said the village's Director Saif Al-Shallahi. The festival will

Over 85% completed orders at Council

KUWAIT: The number of government and private bodies' orders listed on the municipal council's scheduled agenda has reached more than 85 percent, said Director General of Kuwait's Municipality Yosif Al-Saqoubi yesterday.

Saqoubi explained that the assigned committee in charge of monitoring the council's work, agreed during its third meeting last night, led by Mohammad Bu-Shehri, on a project designed and supervised by Ahmadi municipality's branch. The committee also approved allocation of a headquarters for the GCC Joint Production In-



The Municipal Council's building in Kuwait City.

stitution in Salmiya, Al-Saqoubi added.

Saqoubi said the council also approved a request by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to allocate a land for the construction of a building to host various social ceremonies like weddings, in any of the areas in Jahra governorate. — KUNA

KRCS distributes aid in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday distributed the first batch of humanitarian relief to the displaced Sri Lankans in Hanola and Padukka villages in Colombo, after a wave of heavy rains and floods struck the country lately.

"The humanitarian relief included 8,000 food parcels, 800 cooking and personal hygiene substances distributed in Colombo in cooperation with Sri Lankan Red Cross Soci-

ety (SRCS), KRCS' head of the field team in Sri Lanka Khalid Al-Mutairi said. The team will supervise the distribution of the aid on the remaining affected governorates, he added.

KRCS responded to SRCS' appeal after heavy rains and floods hit the country causing severe damage to homes and forced them to flee to Colombo. KRCS will build and reconstruct a number of the damaged homes in various governorates, he said.

The total aid offered to the Sri Lankan governorates reached 4,000 food parcels and 4,000 cooking and personal hygiene substances, to be distributed in cooperation and coordination with Kuwait's Embassy in Sri Lanka and SRCS. Kuwait is always a pioneer in aiding people affected by conflicts and natural disasters as part of its commitment to offer aid to people in need from various parts of the world, Mutairi affirmed. — KUNA



Macron: France could join new fronts against IS

Anti-IS forces retake last jihadist bastion in Syria

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BRUSSELS: US Defense Secretary James Mattis (right) speaks with Saudi Arabia's Assistant Minister of Defense Mohammed Al-Ayeesh during a round table meeting on the second day of a defense ministers meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels yesterday.—AFP

Saudi calls on its citizens to leave Lebanon

201 detained in sweep over \$100bn in corruption

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday urged its citizens to leave Lebanon “as soon as possible”, days after Lebanese prime minister Saad Hariri announced his resignation while visiting the kingdom. A foreign ministry source, quoted by state news agency SPA, also called on Saudis not to travel to Lebanon because of “the situation” in the country, without elaborating.

Meanwhile, the political party of Prime Minister Saad Hariri is calling for his immediate return to Lebanon after he announced his resignation in strange, pre-recorded statement from Saudi Arabia. Following a meeting of his Saudi-aligned Future Party in Beirut yesterday, the party issued a statement saying it was “necessary” for Hariri to return “to restore Lebanon’s dignity and respect.”

The statement read by former Prime Minister Fuad Saniora seemed to indicate that Hariri is being held in Saudi Arabia against his will. Hariri resigned his post abruptly on Saturday in a pre-recorded speech from Saudi Arabia and has not returned to Lebanon. In his absence, Lebanon has been awash with speculation the 47-year old

prime minister may be held against his will in Saudi Arabia. Saudi officials have denied Hariri is under house arrest.

Saudi Arabia meanwhile announced yesterday it has detained 201 people as part of a sweeping probe, estimating that at least \$100 billion has been misused through embezzlement and corruption in past decades. The kingdom’s Attorney General Saud Al-Mojeb said in a statement that 208 people had been called in for questioning since Saturday evening, and that seven people were released without charge, leaving 201 people still in detention. The figure released by the government is far larger than previously reported as it appears more arrests were made throughout the week.

Overnight Saturday, when the surprise arrest began, 11 princes and 38 officials and business-

men had been detained. They are being held at five-star hotels across the country, including the Ritz-Carlton in Riyadh. Critics and observers say the purge that has targeted top princes, officials, military officers and businessmen is a power grab by the crown prince to sideline potential rivals and critics.

Lebanon PM’s party calls for his return



Among those detained are billionaire Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and two of the late King Abdullah’s sons, including Prince Miteb who until Saturday had headed the powerful National Guard before he was ousted and detained. Prince Miteb was once a

contender for the throne and was believed to be opposed to the king’s 32-year-old, Mohammed bin Salman, becoming successor as crown prince. The crown prince is leading the probe as the head of a newly-formed anti-corruption committee. “The potential scale of corrupt practices

which have been uncovered is very large,” the attorney general said, adding that based on investigations over the past three years, at least \$100 billion has been misused through corruption.

The government has declined to name the individuals being questioned, saying it is respecting their privacy during this phase of the process. An estimated 1700 bank accounts have been frozen belonging to individuals. Al-Mojeb confirmed that action was taken to suspend personal bank accounts, but did not disclose any figures. The government has stressed that only personal banks have been frozen, leaving companies and businesses so far untouched.

For years, Saudis have complained of rampant corruption and misuse of public funds by top officials in a system where nepotism is also widespread. Royal family members have long received undisclosed monthly stipends from state coffers built up during years of higher oil prices. The government, however, has been forced to introduce austerity measures since oil prices fell three years ago, reducing subsidies and driving up costs for average Saudi nationals. —Agencies

International

Macron says France could join new fronts against IS

President tours French naval base in Abu Dhabi near new Louvre

ABU DHABI: The battle against Islamic State in the Levant is nearing its end, French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday, but he left the door open to Paris engaging elsewhere to tackle Islamist militant groups if needed.

"We have won the war in Raqqa, and the coming weeks ... will enable us to win completely on a military level in the Iraqi-Syrian zone,"

Macron said in a speech at a French military base in Abu Dhabi where he is on a two-day visit. France has supplied weapons and training to local forces in Syria and Iraq, has special forces operating in the region and has been one of the main countries bombing militants as part of the US-led coalition. In total, it has some 1,200 troops in its Levant operation.

"This fight will not be finished. In the Gulf, passing through south-east Asia and the Sahel, there are lots of places where the military fight will continue," he said. France's other main area of combat is West Africa, where it has some 4,000 soldiers as part of a counter-terrorism operation against al-Qaeda-backed militants and where there appears little prospect of Paris being able to disengage anytime soon.

“ We have won war in Raqqa ”

Speaking to France 2 television, Macron appeared to go a step further by suggesting that France could be ready to act elsewhere across Africa if required.

"We also have to be very careful about the projects that these Islamist terrorist groups have, such as in the Horn of Africa, Libya and the Sahel. "There will be theatres of operation in which our soldiers are present, such as in the Sahel, but there will undeniably be new battle-grounds against Islamic State, Al-Qaeda or Boko Haram," he said.

Some analysts have warned that France's military is already overstretched, but politicians may find themselves in a position where it is difficult to refuse demands by some of its allies, especially the United States, to commit more troops in areas such as Afghanistan.

Macron visited the naval base at Abu Dhabi's Port Zayed, which sits just across the waters of the Gulf from the new Louvre Abu Dhabi, which he helped inaugurate Wednesday night. The museum's saltshaker-like dome sits in sight of the base. A military band played "La Marseillaise" and an honor guard met Macron before he boarded



ABU DHABI: French President Emmanuel Macron poses for selfies with students at Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi yesterday. —AFP

and walked through the French frigate Jean Bart. The French president later addressed gathered sailors there. He described the base as a crucial part of France's battle against extremists in the region like the Islamic State group, as well as theft to stop smugglers and piracy in the Gulf and

surrounding waters. "We have won in Raqqa and in the coming weeks, the coming months, I believe it strongly, we will completely win on the military level in the Iraqi-Syrian zone," Macron said, referring to the one-time self-described capital of the Islamic State group. —Agencies

Kurds displaced by Iraq advance fear reprisals if they return

ZINANA, Iraq: Four hours after first hearing gunfire outside his home, Abu Riwar bundled his wife and six children into his car and drove to a remote village 120 km (75 miles) away. "We left with the clothes on our back and nothing else," said Abu Riwar, a member of the Kurdish security forces from the ethnically mixed town of Tuz Khurmato, seized last month by Iraqi troops and Iran-backed Shi'ite paramilitaries. "If the militias found out I was Peshmerga, they'd have slaughtered me."

They burned his home to the ground instead, his neighbors, who captured it on camera, told him. Tuz Khurmato was part of disputed territory, outside the Kurdish region of northern Iraq but held by Kurdish forces known as Peshmerga, until last month, when the central government recaptured it in a lightning advance to punish the Kurds for staging an independence referendum that Baghdad called illegal. The majority of Tuz Khurmato's 50,000 Kurds—around half of the population of the ethnically mixed city—fled the Iraqi advance to

Kurdish-held villages and towns in nearby countryside, said Mayor Shalal Abdul.

The mayor himself fled to the village of Zinana, 120 km east of Tuz Khurmato, where he spoke to Reuters. Most residents have no plans to return home, citing reports of continuing attacks. "We can't cope if it continues like this," said the chief of police in Zinana, adding that the government and aid groups had been too slow to respond. "Families have taken over school buildings, houses and the hospital, but we can't turn them out on the streets."

According to the United Nations, more than 180,000 people were displaced by the Iraqi government offensive on disputed territories last month. Aid agencies say most of those displaced are Kurds, though members of other minorities, including some of Tuz Khurmato's Sunni Arabs and Turkmen, also fled. Until Baghdad's offensive, Tuz Khurmato had been jointly administered by Kurdish forces, local police and the Iran-backed Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) paramilitaries, allied with the town's Shi'ite Turkmen population.

Though the Turkmen and the Kurds had worked together to push Islamic State militants out in 2014, the town's fragile coalition soon fell apart and led to open hostilities. In the run-up to the Kurdish independence referendum, tension escalated between the communities. In Zinana, displaced Kurds told Reuters stories of abuse at the hands of the paramilitaries who captured Tuz. One

man showed a video he had filmed depicting the crushed body of a relative. Family members said the victim had been shot in his car, dragged out alive by paramilitaries and run over by a tank. "He was crushed to death in front of me, by those monsters," said Abu Alan, the relative who filmed the body. "He was a good man from a good family."

A video circulated on the internet, apparently of the same incident, shows a tank running over a body while uniformed paramilitaries stand by.

The paramilitaries deny carrying out any abuse. "Joint patrols by the PMF and government forces are securing the town, to prevent any attacks against Kurds," said Ali Al-Hussaini, a spokesman for the PMF in northern Iraq and a commander of the largest of the armed groups, the Badr Organisation. "It's our job to keep Tuz safe for all sects." The mayor, who is collecting stories and evidence of abuse, said seven people were killed when the town was captured, including the man who was crushed by the tank and three other civilians. He said he also knew of three women and one man who had been raped. Reuters could not verify those accusations. More than 1,000 businesses and 2,000 homes were looted, burned down or demolished, the mayor said. He showed Reuters images of houses and shopfronts in Kurdish areas, blown up and scorched, their residents' belongings being carted away by men in military fatigues. —Reuters

Netanyahu grilled again in graft probe

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was questioned by police yesterday evening in connection with two separate investigations into alleged corruption. Israeli public radio said. It said that detectives arrived at Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem shortly before 5.00 pm (1500 GMT).

Police refused to confirm the reports. Netanyahu has previously been questioned four times as part of the investigations. He is suspected to have received luxury gifts from wealthy supporters, including Israeli businessman and Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan, a longtime friend who reportedly sent boxes of expensive cigars and other items with a value of tens of thousands of dollars.

Milchan was again questioned in September. The second affair over which Netanyahu has faced police questioning involves suspicions he sought a secret deal for favourable coverage with the publisher of top-selling daily Yediot Aharonot. The alleged deal, not believed to have been finalised, would have seen Netanyahu receive positive coverage in return for helping curb Yediot's competitor, the pro-Netanyahu freesheet Israel Hayom.

Netanyahu has consistently denied any wrongdoing and says he has been the target of a campaign by political opponents. Earlier in the week, Netanyahu confidants Yitzhak Molcho and David Shimron, partners in a law firm and both relatives of the premier, were questioned by police as part of a probe into suspected corruption around the purchase of German submarines. —AFP

International

Anti-IS forces retake last jihadist bastion in Syria

Albu Kamal's liberation means failure of IS in region

BEIRUT: Syrian troops and allied militiamen yesterday expelled Islamic State group fighters from Albu Kamal, the last significant town the jihadists still held in their disintegrating "caliphate". The jihadists' latest rout left them with only the dregs of a self-styled "state" that once spanned huge territory in Iraq and Syria, with surviving IS fighters melting away into desert hideouts.

Anti-IS forces stormed into the town just across the border from Iraq on Wednesday and while fighting was initially reported as fierce, the outcome of one of IS's last major battles was never in doubt. "Our armed forces units, in cooperation with allied and auxiliary forces, have liberated the town of Albu Kamal in Deir Ezzor province," a statement carried by the official SANA news agency said.

"Albu Kamal's liberation is very important because it means the failure of the IS terrorist group in the region," the army statement said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor of the war, said much of the fighting had been done by allied militias rather than the regular army.

The capture of Albu Kamal was the last in a string of setbacks that saw IS lose its urban bastions of Mosul and Raqa within a few weeks and its embryonic state shrink to a rump.

Leading the battle for the town were the Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah and advisers from Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, as well as fighters from mostly Shiite Iraqi militias, according to Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman.

He said that even as IS still controlled half of the town and fighting raged earlier Thursday, the jihadists retained one escape route to the north.

Abdel Rahman said that "IS withdrew to desert areas in eastern Deir Ezzor" province, where they are likely to encounter US-backed Kurdish-led fighters.

A senior Iraqi army commander told AFP that his forces shot dead four IS members who had tried to cross into Iraq, where the group holds the small town of Rawa, near the border.

The jihadists' flight from the town, where IS leaders used to meet and

were once considered untouchable, caps a process which has seen the group relinquish any ambition as a land-holding force and return to the desert to fight a clandestine guerrilla war.

Many of the group's top leaders have been killed as Syrian and Iraqi forces with backing from Russia, Iran and a US-led coalition rolled back the territorial losses that saw the jihadists declare a "caliphate" roughly the size of Britain in 2014.

But the whereabouts of the first among them,

Thousands
of people
displaced



DAMASCUS: Syrian children tour their damaged school yesterday in the besieged rebel-held Eastern Ghouta town of Saqba, on the outskirts of the Syrian capital Damascus, following air raids by government forces on the area the previous day. —AFP

self-proclaimed "caliph" Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, remains unclear. He has been reported killed or wounded many times but IS has never offered any confirmation.

The capture of the group's last urban stronghold had always looked to be a matter of days after Syrian forces last week retook provincial capital Deir Ezzor and Iraqi forces reconquered Albu Kamal's twin town of Al-Qaim just over the border. There was little to slow the advance of the Syrian army and its allies after their victories further up

the Euphrates valley, but while the military phase of the fight against IS was nearing its end, the humanitarian crisis it sparked was still in full swing.

"In the last few weeks, an estimated 120,000 people were displaced from Albu Kamal," the United Nations' humanitarian affairs office in Damascus said.

The head of the UN's humanitarian taskforce for Syria, Jan Egeland, questioned whether all was being done to protect civilians as mass displacement continued. —AFP

29 civilians 'will die' if not evacuated from Eastern Ghouta: UN

GENEVA: Some 400 civilians are in urgent need of medical evacuation from Syria's Eastern Ghouta region, including 29 who will die if they are not allowed to leave immediately, the United Nations warned yesterday.

"Around 400 men, women, children... need to be evacuated now," Jan Egeland, head of the UN's humanitarian taskforce for Syria, told reporters in Geneva, adding that 29 of them, including 18 children "will die if they are not evacuated." As of now, "we have confirmation of seven patients dead because they were not evacuated, some of them children," he said. The Eastern Ghouta region, near the capital Damascus, is one of the last strongholds of rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Egeland said the region was now "the epicentre of suffering" in the war-ravaged country, with some 400,000 civilians stuck in a dozen besieged towns and villages.

The region, where a "de-escalation zone" deal was agreed by regime allies Iran and Russia and

rebel backer Turkey in July, is now seeing increasingly dire conditions, he said.

"Since September, it has been completely sealed off," he said, pointing out that UN convoys are now the only lifeline to the area, and more often than not, those convoys are unable to get through.

"We cannot continue like that. If we get in only a fraction of what is needed, it would be a complete catastrophe," he said. UN staff last week entered the area for a few hours and assessed that there are now "a growing number of acutely malnourished children," meaning they are "very close to dying", Egeland said.

He said many were babies whose mothers had been too malnourished themselves to breastfeed. He pointed out that since May, efforts to carry out desperately needed medical evacuations from the area have largely failed, with only about a dozen patients evacuated to date. This has created a situation where hundreds of civilians, most of them women and children, need to be evacuated.

They are currently languishing "in clinics, in basements, in makeshift hospitals inside the Eastern Ghouta besieged towns and villages," Egeland said. "They range from acutely malnourished children ... to severely wounded civilians, children, women, men. We really cannot understand that they can't be evacuated," he added. —AFP

Egypt fears influx of militants after IS defeat

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt: Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi says Islamic State militants are making their way to his country via Libya after the defeat of the extremist group in Syria and Iraq.

Egypt has been battling a powerful IS affiliate in its northeastern Sinai Peninsula for the last three years, and has recently seen an uptick in attacks in its vast western desert region, which borders chaotic Libya. Al-Sisi said a "strategic imbalance" caused by the regional turmoil had forced Egypt to build up its military in recent years. The country has spent more than \$10 billion since 2014 on a wide array of weaponry, including French-made Rafale fighter jets and helicopter carriers, MiG-29 fighter jets and assault helicopters from Russia, and submarines from Germany.

The shopping spree comes at a time when Egypt's economy is struggling to recover from years of unrest since the 2011 uprising. Egypt secured a \$12 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund last year to bolster reform efforts, and it receives some \$1.3 billion a year in US military aid. Speaking at a news

conference at the Red Sea resort of Sharm Al-Sheikh late Wednesday, Al-Sisi said it was only "natural" that IS militants would flee to Libya, which has been mired in chaos since its own 2011 uprising. "We must have the military capabilities that compensate for that imbalance in the region and to counter terrorism," he said. "This is a threat not just faced by us, but also by Europe."

Libya is split between two governments, each backed by an array of militias. Egypt supports Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter, a military leader in the east who is at odds with UN-backed authorities in Tripoli. Forces allied to the UN-backed government drove IS from its main Libyan stronghold last year.

Egypt has long sought to portray terrorism as a threat originating outside its borders, but experts say the insurgency in Sinai is rooted in longstanding local grievances. New militant groups have emerged elsewhere in Egypt in the wake of the 2013 military overthrow of an elected but divisive Islamist president, which was led by Al-Sisi.

Last month, militants attacked Egyptian security forces west of Cairo in what appeared to be an elaborate ambush. The Interior Ministry said 16 police officers were killed, but security officials said the toll exceeded 50. Al-Sisi said subsequent operations by security forces have killed the 14 militants he said participated in the attack. —AP

NATO allies boost support to war in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS: After months of lobbying NATO allies to increase their troop contributions and support to the war in Afghanistan, the alliance came up short yesterday, meeting a bit more than 90 percent of the military requirements mapped out by commanders, according to NATO officials. US military leaders, however, said they have been encouraged by the continuing discussions with several nations, who may eventually agree to increase their commitments. "Coming out of today, it won't be at 100 percent today," said US Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, NATO's top military officer. "We're still in discussion with more than a few nations that are looking at an increase above the initial one given at the force generation conference. So, I'm encouraged."

The gap, said Gen. John Nicholson, top US commander for Afghanistan, has contributed to the lowest level of capabilities and the "highest level of risk we faced" in the 16-year war.

Nicholson and Scaparrotti declined to provide details on the numbers, but other NATO officials confirmed that coming out of the meeting yesterday there would be a shortfall approaching 10 percent. The officials weren't au-

thorized to discuss the numbers publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

NATO defense ministers are meeting here to provide their countries' latest decisions on troop contributions, under pressure from US and NATO leaders to beef up their commitments. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis sent letters to some allies in recent weeks urging them to fill critical gaps.

The additional trainers are critical to reaching the stated US and NATO goal of building up the Afghan forces so that they can take control of their own country's security. At the same time, officials want to use the increased military pressure to force Taliban leaders to the peace table. Scaparrotti told reporters that, at the end of the day, there will still be a need for additional trainers and advisers, particularly at schools for Afghan forces. "This is a complex world and there's a lot of demand on the military, and so all these nations have to make hard choices between Afghanistan, internal responsibilities and other missions," Scaparrotti told reporters traveling with Mattis. "We also have budget constraints that each of the nations are dealing with. It's just a fact of life today." — AP



BRUSSELS: Commander of NATO forces in Europe US General Curtis Scaparrotti (right) gestures as he speaks to reporters at NATO headquarters in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

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International

Undignified spat rips through Romania's proud royal family

‘When successions are involved, it’s normal to have a drama’

BUCHAREST: Three generations of Romania's royal family were embroiled in a very public row yesterday as a disinherited prince's attempts to see his ailing grandfather led his own mother to renounce him. Princess Elena accused her son, Nicholas Medforth-Mills, of disregarding "the privacy, suffering and dignity" of her 96-year-old father, former King Michael, in a statement issued by the royal house. Her comments came after the royal house filed a complaint to Swiss police Tuesday alleging Medforth-Mills had tried to force his way in to his grandfather's home in Aubonne, Switzerland, and had "physically and verbally aggressed" three staff members. "My son has shown contempt for Romania, her people and the principles of the Royal House. For me, his mother, this behavior is devastating," she added. Medforth-Mills accused his relatives of trying to discredit him and playing "a dirty game." "These statements gravely harm the image of what the Royal House should be, its history, its values and its dignified stance which my grandfather and his forebears tried to live by and keep," Medforth-Mills said in a statement on Facebook.

"I, Nicholas, just wanted to see my grandfather and say goodbye to him in a peaceful, re-

spectful and Christian way." Michael is suffering from leukemia and skin cancer, and the royal house recently announced that his condition had deteriorated. Romania is a republic and the monarch no longer has any constitutional powers, but Romanians associate their royal family with an elegance and dignity that they say their politicians lack. The head of the royal house looks after the family's properties and bestows honors.

Medforth-Mills, 32, Michael's only grandson, was one of the most popular members of the Romanian royal family. His good looks, down-to-earth manner and love of cycling and ecology endeared him to Romanians.

But in August 2015 his grandfather suddenly stripped Nicholas of his title and his position as third in line to the throne behind his aunt and his mother. Shocked Romanians speculated that a jealous relative had sought to edge him out of the succession. It later emerged that Nicholas may have fathered a child with a Romanian woman, a situation that was said to have affected Michael badly as an echo of his own unhappy childhood. His father, Carol II, married three times and was forced to give up the succession to the throne over an affair while he was still

“
Physically
and verbally
aggressed
”



BUCHAREST: In this file photo Romania's former King Michael stands next to Prince Nicholas Medforth-Mills on the balcony of his residence in Bucharest, Romania. —AP

married to Michael's mother, leaving Michael to be king when he was only 5. Carol later did become king.

Princess Elena said yesterday that Michael was refusing to see his grandson over his failure to clarify the paternity of the child, now 2. Many Romanians took to social media to defend him, saying as the ex-king's only grandson he should have been permitted to see his dying grandfather and have the opportunity to reconcile.

"When successions are involved, it's normal

to have a drama, it's something Shakespearean" Stelian Tanase, a commentator told The Associated Press, adding: "However, I would have expected a level of decency in Romania, which is not a monarchy." "The Royal House lives from prestige. The king has enormous prestige, but others have to earn it." Michael is one of the few leaders from the years of World War II still living. He occupied the throne during 1927-1930 and again from 1940 until 1947, when communists forced him to abdicate. —AP

Brexit talks resume amid warnings that time is running out

BRUSSELS: The European Union's chief Brexit negotiator warned Britain again that time is running out to reach an agreement, as officials from the two sides met yesterday for an abbreviated round of divorce talks. While EU officials watch with concern as crises over Brexit, sexual harassment and other issues rattle the UK government, EU negotiator Michel Barnier said "time is pressing."

In a speech in Rome, Barnier said EU leaders wanted to keep up the dynamic of talks "and I'm in the same frame of mind. But the moment of real clarification is coming." Technical talks were being held on the first day of the two-day round, as the sides look to move forward on the key issues of Britain's financial commitments, the status of Irish borders and the future of citizens hit by Britain's departure from the bloc.

EU leaders are increasingly frustrated with Britain's reluctance to signal how much it is

willing to pay to settle its commitments to the 28-nation bloc. The Brexit bill—estimated by the EU at somewhere around 60 billion euros (\$70 billion)—is a key sticking point preventing the EU from allowing talks to move on to trade and future relations.

With Britain due to leave the EU in March 2019, the UK is eager to start discussing future relations, including a hoped-for free trade deal and a two-year transition period after Brexit.

But the 27 other EU leaders refuse to address that until "sufficient progress" has been made on the divorce terms. They will decide in mid-December whether to move forward.

EU leaders agreed last month to speed up the Brexit talks, but this new round has taken time to organize and is scheduled to last just two days, as opposed to the usual four. Few expect a major breakthrough. UK officials insist progress is being made behind the scenes, saying repeatedly that the two sides are close to a deal on the status of 3 million EU citizens in Britain and 1 million Britons in other EU countries. Brexit Secretary David Davis—who is due to meet Barnier in Brussels on Friday—said this week that "safeguarding the rights of EU citizens is our top priority in negotiations."

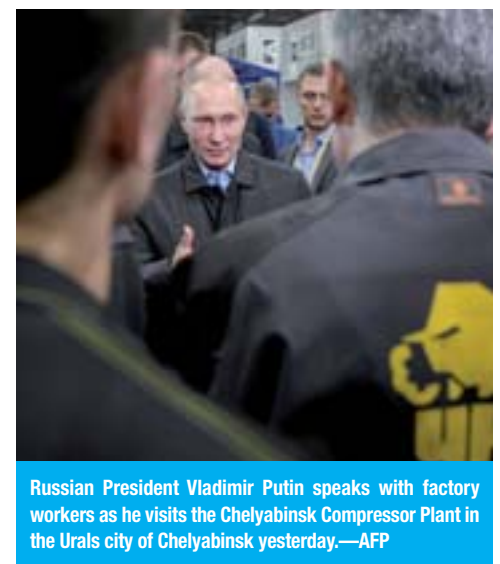
But the European Parliament's Brexit steering group says "there are still major issues that have to be resolved" on citizens' rights. —AP

Putin says US plotted doping scandal to swing Russian vote

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin yesterday accused the United States of inventing doping allegations against Russian athletes to influence next year's presidential election he is widely expected to contest and win. "In response to our alleged interference in their election, they want to create problems for the election of the president of Russia," Putin said in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk. Putin has not said whether he will contest the March election but he is widely expected to run and extend his Kremlin term to 2024.

"Here is what worries me: the Olympics start in February, and when are our presidential elections? In March," Putin told factory workers.

"There is a strong suspicion that this is all happening in order to create a situation useful to some, one of disappointment for sports followers and sportsmen in which the state allegedly participated in violations," he said. Putin spoke ahead of a trip to Vietnam where he will take part in an APEC summit and is ex-



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with factory workers as he visits the Chelyabinsk Compressor Plant in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk yesterday. —AFP

pected to meet US President Donald Trump.

Relations between Russia and the United States have plummeted as a Washington probe has accused Trump's former campaign aides of secretly meeting Kremlin-connected officials. Russia has vehemently denied allegations of interfering in the US election last year that brought Trump to power. Putin spoke after the Russian Ski Federation announced on Thursday that four Russian cross-country skiers were found guilty of doping by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). —AFP

Pence, Abbott attend vigil for victims of church shooting

Worst mass shooting at a church in US history: Pence

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas: Vice President Mike Pence joined Texas Gov. Greg Abbott at a memorial service for the victims of Sunday's massacre at a small-town Texas church. Pence told the crowd Wednesday evening that the shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs was the worst mass shooting at a church in American history and called the gunman "deranged."

"Whatever animated the evil that descended on that small church, if the attacker's desire was to silence their testimony of faith, they failed," the vice president added. Abbott began the service by praying "for healing and for help." The governor said Texans come together at times of crisis and tragedy. "It's what we do," Abbott said. People in the crowd responded "amen."

He also proclaimed Tuesday a statewide day of prayer. Authorities have reviewed video from inside the church where a gunman killed more than two dozen, including footage that shows the assailant shooting victims in the head during Sunday services, a US official said Wednesday.

The official's account of the video is consistent with statements made by survivors of the attack. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The As-

sociated Press on the condition of anonymity. The same US official confirmed that the attacker's cellphone was an iPhone and that the FBI had not yet asked Apple for help obtaining data from the device.

The church regularly recorded its services, and the footage investigators have seen shows several minutes of the attack because there was "no one to turn it off," according to a law enforcement official who has seen the video. The official also spoke on condition of anonymity because that person was not authorized to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation. The law enforcement official was among those who went inside the First Baptist Church after the attack and said several of the pews were overturned, although it was unclear if that was from

the attack or from rescue efforts. Bullets had splintered the walls and pews, leaving shards of wood all over the floors.

Pence arrived in Texas on Wednesday, visiting wounded victims at a San Antonio hospital and later meeting families of the dead in Floresville, not far from Sutherland Springs. Pence went from table to table at a high school library attempting to console devastated family members.

to appear regularly on prime-time network series in the 2017-18 season, 6.4 percent are identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender or queer. That's the biggest percentage on network shows found in the study's 22 years, topping last year's record-high of 4.8 percent. The numbers also are up on cable and streaming platform series, although the study found fewer depictions of LGBTQ characters of color on streaming as well as broadcast.

For the first time, GLAAD counted "non-binary" characters - those that don't identify strictly as male or female. It found four non-binary characters across all TV platforms, including actor Asia Kate Dillon's Taylor Mason on Showtime's "Billions." The study also looked at how women fare on TV and found it wanting. While women make up an estimated 51 percent of the US population, they're 43 percent of the regularly appearing characters on broadcast TV - a 1 percent drop from last season, GLAAD said. Among regular and recurring LGBTQ characters on broadcast networks, lesbian representation rose to 24 percent on broadcast and 21 percent on cable, both representing a 7 percent increase after the 2016-17 season in which a number of lesbian or bisexual female characters were killed. —AP

Study: More LGBTQ characters on TV series, fewer women

LOS ANGELES: TV series are including more LGBTQ characters and adding gender-nonconforming ones, but there's a need for richer, more complex stories about them, according to the media advocacy group GLAAD.

LGBTQ depictions increased in the current season across broadcast, cable and streaming platforms, the group's annual Where We Are on TV study released yesterday found. Shows contributing to the change include NBC's reboot of "Will & Grace" and "The Deuce" on HBO.

"While we're pleased to see numbers on the rise, consideration of how LGBTQ characters are woven into story lines and whose stories are making it to screen is crucial for judging progress of the industry. And there is still work to be done," Megan Townsend, GLAAD's entertainment research and analysis director, said in a statement. Of the 901 characters set

“Attacker cannot silence the testimony of faith”



FLORESVILLE: Family members of victims pray during a Prayer Vigil Honoring Victims of the First Baptist Church Shooting at the Floresville High School in Floresville, Texas on Wednesday. —AFP

"The whole country is praying over you," he told one man who lost his sister-in-law. He stopped to talk with John Holcombe, whose family was decimated by the shooting. Holcombe, who suffered shrapnel wounds, lost his wife Crystal - who was pregnant with their first child - three of her children, his parents, a brother and a toddler niece. Pence hugged 7-year-old Evelyn Holcombe, who managed to survive by running out of the church during the attack.

Earlier Wednesday, Pence said President

Donald Trump had ordered federal agencies to provide extensive help to the investigation, including 100 on-site FBI agents.

The agent in charge of the FBI's San Antonio division said Tuesday that agents had not been able to retrieve data from Devin Patrick Kelley's cellphone. In a statement Wednesday evening, Apple said it's offered the FBI technical advice after learning the bureau was trying to access the phone. The company said the FBI had not requested its assistance. —AP

Las Vegas shooting victims still searching for their heroes

LOS ANGELES: As soon as Chris Gilman knew she would survive the gunshot wound she sustained in the Las Vegas massacre, she wanted to find the two strangers who saved her life - a man and woman whose names she didn't even know. She found a Facebook page called "Find My LV Hero" and posted a plea. "Looking for husband and wife who were by the VIP bleachers and helped me get out," wrote

Gilman, of Bonney Lake, Washington. "My wife gave the husband her shirt and the wife held it against my side to stop bleeding as they carried me through the VIP area out to the street."

Despite the scant details in Gilman's post, it worked. Three days later, Gilman connected with her rescuers, Alex and Wanda Valiente, off-duty Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies who were at the Oct. 1 concert where a gunman opened fire from the 32nd floor of

a hotel, killing 58 people and wounding hundreds. The connection is one of about 25 made so far through the Facebook page. Nearly six weeks after the massacre, Ashton Zyer's social media creation continues to generate new searches for heroes who in some cases saved lives and in others simply provided what comfort they could.

Zyer, a Las Vegas singer/songwriter, said she started the page after seeing several people in her large social media network post about trying to find someone.

Meghan Earley posted that she was looking for a security guard and a Las Vegas police officer who helped her escape. "Because of their bravery I only have a sprained ankle, cuts and bruises, as well as a concussion and some broken teeth," she wrote on Oct. 14. "You both are my heroes forever!!!"

Myrna Lopez is looking for a paramedic who gave the socks off his feet to her friend when he saw her running barefoot. "We just wanted to find him and thank him," Lopez wrote on Oct. 24. "We saved those socks as a reminder that God was with us that night. He clothed us when we weren't clothed."

Andrea Kelly, a 41-year-old nurse from Calgary in Alberta, Canada, posted last week that she was looking for a wounded young woman she can't get her out of her mind. —AP

International

Delhi restricts vehicles as smog envelopes India and Pakistan

Authorities have barred lorries from entering the city

NEW DELHI: New Delhi banned all construction, barred lorries from entering the city and announced stringent restrictions on private car use yesterday, seeking to combat a massive spike in pollution across large swathes of India and Pakistan. Tens of thousands of schools in Delhi and surrounding states remained closed as a hazardous fog of toxic pollution cloaked the region for a third day, bringing growing calls for urgent government action to tackle what doctors are calling a public health emergency.

"The situation in Delhi is so bad and if the pollution can be brought down in any way, we will do it," the city's transport minister Kailash Gahlot told reporters as he announced plans to limit private car use to alternate days from next Monday. Authorities in the city had earlier ordered a ban on all construction work and barred lorries from entering the city as public pressure on the government mounted. Around

50,000 mostly diesel-fuelled lorries pass through India's capital every night and they are a major contributor to the pollution plaguing the city.

Air quality typically worsens before the onset of winter as cooler air traps pollutants near the ground and prevents them from dispersing into the atmosphere, a phenomenon known as inversion. Low winds and the annual post-harvest burning of crop stubble in the northern farming states of Pun-

jab and Haryana have caused the levels of dangerous pollutants in the air to spike to many times the levels considered safe.

Figures on the US embassy website showed levels of PM2.5 — the smallest particulates that cause most damage to health — spiked at over 1,000 on Wednesday afternoon in Delhi, though by Thursday afternoon they had fallen to 400. The World Health Organization's guidelines say 25 is the maximum level of PM2.5 anyone can safely be exposed to over a 24-hour period. Doctors say the microscopic particles can penetrate deep into the lungs, increasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

"Delhi once again has become a veritable gas chamber with denizens finding it difficult to breathe," The Times of India said yesterday, joining growing calls for government action to curb the chronic pollution, which the Indian Medical Association this week termed a public health emergency. "Air pollution during winter months has become a catastrophe for large parts of north India," the country's most read English-language newspaper said in an editorial blaming "political apathy".

In neighboring Pakistan's second largest city Lahore, near the Indian border, hundreds flocked to hospitals seeking treatment for respiratory ill-

'Burning in my eyes'

nesses and eye infections caused by the pollution. The PakAirQuality network, which publishes unofficial air reports on social media, said the concentration of PM 2.5 in the city had topped 300. Motorcycle riders wore green face masks and goggles as they tried to cope with the smog, but for some the protection was not enough. "I am feeling burning in my eyes," said laborer Zawar Hussain. "I will visit a doctor in the evening."



AMRITSAR: An Indian resident walks over the tracks at a railway crossing amid heavy smog in Amritsar. —AFP

It is the second year running that Delhi — now

the world's most polluted capital with air quality worse than Beijing — has faced such high levels of PM2.5. Media reports said the thick smog had also led to a series of road accidents in north India. Eight students were killed late Wednesday when a truck ploughed into them as they waited for a bus on a roadside in Punjab. Since 2014, when WHO figures showed the extent of the crisis, authorities in Delhi have closed power plants temporarily and experimented with taking some cars off the road. —AFP

Pakistan shuts down last MSF facility in tribal areas

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan yesterday told medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres' (MSF) to shut its last remaining facility in the impoverished tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, the health organization said. The closure ends MSF's four-year stint in the Bajaur region of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where healthcare access is limited, and hits 120 staff working there. The move comes seven weeks after the medical charity was ordered to shut down two health facilities it ran for 14 years in the nearby Kurram district, plagued by militancy over the past decade.

"Healthcare services are very limited in the area and most of our patients cannot afford to pay even for basic medical care,"

Azaad Alessandro Alocco, the group's representative in Pakistan, said in a statement. "As the only major hospital providing free, quality healthcare in the area, the closure of MSF's activities will leave a major gap and have serious negative implications for the health of people living in Bajaur." No reason was given for the closure order, it added.

Foreign nationals and groups working in the sensitive region, plagued by some of Pakistan's poorest healthcare and lowest literacy rates, require no-objection certificates from the government, but their renewal has been denied to MSF. The interior ministry, responsible for the issue of the documents, did not respond to a Reuters' request for comment.

Large swathes of land in the region have been ravaged by militant groups battling Pakistan's army for the better part of a decade. The conflict left tens of thousands homeless and devastated education, health and housing facilities. Pakistani NGOs and journalists also face restrictions when working in the tribal regions. Security concerns have prompted stiffer conditions in recent years for aid and research organizations that seek permits to work there. —Reuters

India rolls out the red carpet for 100-year-old voter



SHIMLA: Indian voter Shyam Saran Negi, center, 100, arrives to vote in the northern Himachal Pradesh state elections in Kalpa, around 145 miles from the state capital Shimla. —AFP

SHIMLA: Authorities in a remote Himalayan village in northern India rolled out the red carpet yesterday for a 100-year-old man who has voted in every election since independence to cast his ballot. Retired school teacher Shyam Saran Negi was given a special escort to the polling booth in Himachal Pradesh state to retain his record of voting in every Indian election since 1947. "I have voted 29 times since the first general election in 1951," Negi told journalists in Kalpa in Himachal Pradesh, which is holding state elections, after walking up a specially laid red carpet to cast his ballot.

Negi has now voted in 16 parliamentary and 13 state elections, often braving heavy snow to reach his local polling station. Shyam's son C.P. Negi told AFP his father now usually stayed home by the fireplace, but was still very enthusiastic about elections. "He keeps himself informed through radio and is a particularly keen follower of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio show," the son added, without saying who his father had voted for. Shyam urged voters at his polling booth to exercise their constitutional right and "elect good people who form a pro-people government". —AFP

International

Controversial IVF scheme gives India's vanishing Parsis hope

Program provides free in-vitro fertilization treatment

MUMBAI: A government-funded IVF program that aims to help save India's shrinking Parsi community from extinction is delivering bundles of joy and controversy. Some 120 children have been born through the "Jiyo Parsi" fertility initiative since it was launched four years ago in a bid to help reverse a dramatic decline in India's Zoroastrian population. The program, which provides Parsi couples with free in-vitro fertilization treatment, has been hailed a success by many in the influential community.

But critics say the scheme, which has also seen the launch of an advertising campaign effectively damning Parsis that are not having children, amounts to selective procreation and reinforces orthodox Zoroastrians views that Parsis should only have children with each other. For Aspi and Persis Kamakhan—from Mumbai, where most of India's 57,000-odd Parsis live—it represented a unique opportunity to have a child after trying to conceive for twelve years.

"We had lost all hope but Jiyo Parsi was a big blessing and completely changed our lives," 38-year-old Persis, now mother to a 3-year-old girl, said. Parsis are Zoroastrians who first arrived in India more than 1,000 years ago after fleeing

persecution in Persia. They follow the teachings of the ancient Prophet Zoroaster and worship in fire temples.

The group flourished under British colonial rule and became one of India's wealthiest and most powerful communities, boasting a number of famous industrialists including the Tata, Wadia and Godrej families. But their population has been dwindling for decades. Across India, where the majority of the world's Zoroastrians reside, their numbers have halved since 1940. At the last census, in 2011, 57,264 Parsis were recorded in India.

Threat to existence

The population slide has led to warnings that the community's very existence is under threat. So in 2013 the Indian government started "Jiyo Parsi", meaning "Live Parsi" in Hindi. "Jiyo Parsi has two fundamental purposes—first to arrest the decline of Parsis, and second to increase their population," Katy Gandevia, who counsels prospective parents on the program, said. The scheme provides financial assistance ranging from 50 to 100 percent of the cost of IVF depending on the combined annual salary of the

couple, a lifeline for those desperate for a baby but short of funds.



MUMBAI: This picture shows a newborn Parsi child being introduced to family friends outside a Fire Temple after offering prayers in Mumbai. —AFP

couple, a lifeline for those desperate for a baby but short of funds.

It is run in partnership with the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, Mumbai's leading Parsi organization, a community NGO called the Parzor Foundation and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. For Sh-

ernaz Cama, the founder of Parzor, every baby born offers a glimmer of hope that the group will survive long into the future. "We have had 120 births in four years. The program has increased the number of Parsi babies born every year by 18 percent," she said. —AFP

“

Jiyo Parsi is a big blessing

”

Suicide bomber kills four in SW Pakistan

QUETTA: A suicide bomber struck a vehicle carrying a deputy inspector general of police in the southwestern city of Quetta yesterday, killing him and three other officers, Pakistani officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility. Nine people, including police officers, were also wounded in the attack that targeted Hamid Shakil, who had played a key role in arresting militants and members of small separatist groups in recent years, said police officer Naseeb Ullah.

He said the attack took place when Shakil's convoy passed through a residential area. Hours after the attack, the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, claimed responsibility. In a statement, police said the attacker used 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of explosive material. TV footage showed badly de-



QUETTA: Pakistani police officer examines a vehicle hit by suicide attacker in Quetta, Pakistan. —AP

stroyed police vehicles and rescuers transporting victims to hospitals. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a statement praised the slain officers for sacrificing their lives and said such cowardly attacks could not weaken the morale of security forces in the fight against terrorism.

Quetta is the capital of Baluchistan province, which has been the scene of a

low-level insurgency by Baluch separatist groups. Islamic militants also operate in the region. Also yesterday, the military in a statement that a group of militants from neighboring Afghanistan attacked one of the army's newly built border posts, triggering a shootout in which one soldier and five militants were killed. The incident took place in the Khyber tribal region. —AP

Part-time jobs could fix India's farming crisis

HYDERABAD: As farmers in India struggle with dwindling incomes and soaring costs, with huge debts triggering a wave of suicides, experts said one solution may be to only work part-time on the land. About 60 percent of people in India make their living from the land, but earnings from agriculture have plunged to one-third of a farm family's income from two-thirds in the 1980s. "There is a strong case for part-time farming: when opportunities arise elsewhere, they must go there. And when there are new opportunities on the farm, they can return there," said Michael Lipton, a development economist.

"That is what makes most sense, rather than have the farmer tied to his land all the time," the professor from Britain's University of Sussex said on a visit to the southern Indian city of Hyderabad. Over the past decade, tens of thousands of farmers have killed themselves across India, with debt or bankruptcy cited as the main reason. Problems usually stem from failed monsoon rains or low prices due to a supply glut in produce like lentils and cereals. —Reuters

International

Trump prods Xi to work hard and fast on N Korea

Trump praises Xi, calls him 'a very special man'

BEIJING: Donald Trump showered Chinese leader Xi Jinping with praise during talks in Beijing yesterday, but prodded his host to work fast to help resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis, warning "time is quickly running out". Speaking on the second day of a trip to Beijing marked by pomp and pageantry, the US president also decried China's "one-sided and unfair" trade surplus with the United States but told Xi "I don't blame China", as the two countries signed more than \$250 billion in business deals.

Xi hosted Trump at the imposing Great Hall of the People, next to Tiananmen Square, for the main event of the US president's five-nation tour of Asia. While the two leaders exchanged pleasantries in keeping with their professed friendship—with Trump calling Xi a "very special man"—the former property magnate made clear that he expected China to do more to rein in North Korea. "We must act fast. And hopefully China will act faster and more effectively on this problem than anyone," Trump said.

"China can fix this problem easily and quickly, and I am calling on China and your great president to hopefully work on it very hard," the US leader said. "I know one thing about your president: If he

works on it hard, it will happen. There's no doubt about it," he said, while thanking Xi for his efforts to restrict trade with Pyongyang. The US administration thinks China's economic leverage over North Korea is the key to strong-arming Pyongyang into halting its nuclear weapons and missile programs. Xi said the two countries reiterated their "firm commitment" to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the implementation of UN resolutions. He also repeated his plea for the issue to be resolved through negotiations, saying China was ready to discuss the "pathway leading to enduring peace and stability on the peninsula".

Though China has backed UN sanctions, US officials want Chinese authorities to clamp down on unauthorized trade along the North Korean border. But China has resisted taking more drastic steps, such as halting crude oil exports to the North. Beijing fears that squeezing Pyongyang too hard could cause the regime to collapse. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said there are signs that sanctions are "creating some stress within the North Korean economy" but that Xi told Trump they could take "a little while" to make a dent. Trump, who may meet with Russian President

“I don't blame China”



BEIJING: US President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping arrive for the state dinner with the first ladies at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.—AP

Vladimir Putin at an Asia-Pacific summit in Vietnam on Friday, also urged Russia to "help rein in this potentially very tragic situation".

Washington has made no secret of its frustration at China's massive trade surplus with the United States, but at a signing ceremony for over \$250 billion in US-Chinese business deals—includ-

ing \$37 billion worth of planes from Boeing—Trump said he did not blame Beijing. "After all, who can blame a country for being able to take advantage of another country for the sake of its citizens?" He blamed past US administrations "for allowing this out-of-control trade deficit to take place and to grow". —AFP

Indonesia probes corruption in anti-graft monument tender

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities investigating corruption during the creation of an anti-graft monument and park project have named 18 civil servants and businessmen they suspect of misappropriation of public funds. The park and sculpture—depicting golden dragon tails twisting around a traditional dagger—on the island of Sumatra were inaugurated late 2016 on International Anti-Corruption Day and aimed to symbolize the province's fight against graft.

But Riau province prosecutors now say that the tender process was rigged by 13 public servants and five businessmen, alleging on Wednesday that the group had conspired in a plot that caused Rp 1.2 billion (\$89,000) in losses. "We suspect the project involved them working together. They made up things to win the tender and give it to the contractor," said Sugeng



RIAU: Students stand near a sculpture, symbolizing Riau province's fight against graft, in Pekanbaru, Riau province.—AFP

Riyanta, a special crime assistant for then prosecutors office. "Public servants deliberately falsified certain documents... so only one party could win."

The suspects, who have not been detained, face a number of charges, including corruption, falsifying documents, and breaking a law that prohibits public servants to be involved in tender projects. The brazen

nature of the case has underlined the uphill struggle facing authorities trying to tackle corruption in the graft-plagued nation.

Indonesia was ranked 90th out of 176 countries and territories in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index in 2016. A number one ranking represents the least corrupt.—AFP

Bangladeshi academic missing amid spike in disappearances

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi professor internationally respected for his work on Islamic extremism has gone missing, police said yesterday, with activists fearing the worst amid a spate of disappearances in recent months. Mubashar Hasan, an assistant professor of political science at Bangladesh's North South University (NSU), has not been seen since Tuesday afternoon, his family said. "We are very concerned. We hope law enforcement agencies will find him and return him to us," his uncle Monzur Hossain said.

Hossain said his nephew, a former journalist, had become increasingly concerned about his safety just before his disappearance. Hasan had installed CCTV cameras around his home just last week after an unidentified man paid him a visit at home, his uncle said. Police said Hasan's mobile phone was switched off early Tuesday evening after the prominent professor of political Islam attended a conference. "We are trying our best to find him. There is no shortage of sincerity on our part," Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said.

Rights groups in Bangladesh say Hasan disappearance is the ninth high-profile case since July, with opposition political figures, a businessman and journalists among others to vanish. "He has done some research on Islamist extremism in Bangladesh. His disappearance could be linked to his work," prominent rights activist Nur Khan Liton said.—AFP



Lifestyle Friday Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017

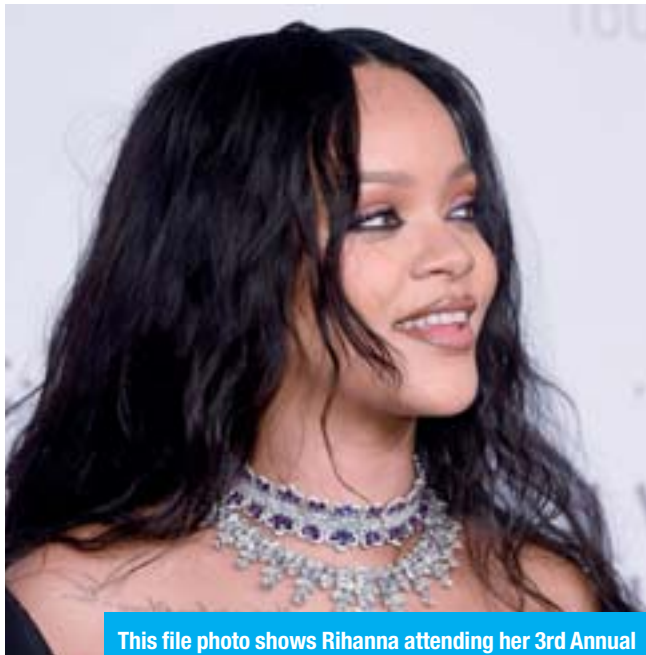
www.kuwaittimes.net

This photo shows a model parading a creation from the 'Hu Sheguang' collection during China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AFP

**Party time in the cemetery
as Bolivians fete skulls**

Rihanna, Amal and Donatella named Met Gala 2018 hosts

It's the most sought after invitation in the celebrity universe—and on Wednesday, Amal Clooney, Rihanna and Donatella Versace were named co-chairs of next year's glittering Met Gala



This file photo shows Rihanna attending her 3rd Annual Diamond Ball benefitting The Clara Lionel Foundation at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City. —AFP

in New York. Held every year on the first Monday in May, the black-tie extravaganza is the chief source of income for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, reportedly raising more than \$13 million in 2016.

Tickets are said to cost \$30,000 each or \$275,000 for a table, ruling out all but the most elite coterie of A-list Hollywood actors, best-selling music superstars, top models and fashion designers. Clooney—the British-Lebanese wife of Hollywood heartthrob George and new mother of twins—is the 39-year-old feted as much for her fashion sense as her work as an international human rights lawyer. Rihanna, 29, needs no introduction as one of the biggest pop stars on the planet, also lauded for her bold style, and Versace is the 62-year-old legendary Italian designer and sister of Gianni, who was murdered in Miami in 1997.

Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour—who has singlehandedly transformed the ball into the hottest ticket in town—is also co-chair of the event, which will be held on May 7. But there's one person definitely not invited. Wintour told "Late Late Show" host James Corden last month that she would never invite back Donald Trump—who has attended with wife Melania attended in the past, before he was elected US president. Wintour was a prominent Hillary Clinton fundraiser.

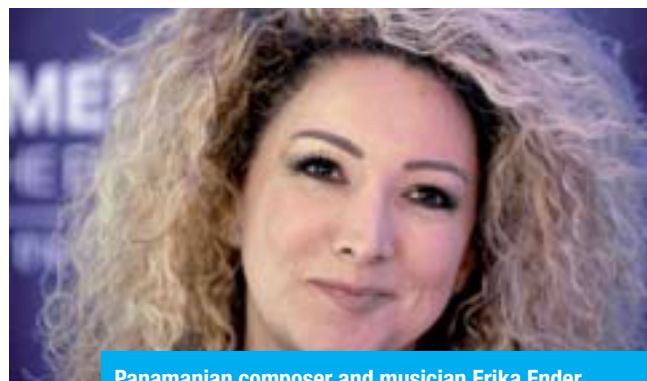
The theme is "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination," which the Museum also announced is the title of next year's exhibition at The Costume Institute. The exhibition, which will open May 10, will feature papal robes and accessories flown from the Vatican that will serve as the "cornerstone" and showcase the influence of liturgical vestments on designers, the museum said. Designers in the exhibition will include Balenciaga, Chanel, Givenchy, Karl Lagerfeld, the Versaces and Vivienne Westwood.—AFP

Plummer to replace Spacey in new film

Veteran actor Christopher Plummer will replace fallen star Kevin Spacey in the Ridley Scott police drama "All the Money in the World," a source at Sony said on Wednesday. Spacey's career is in free fall over sexual assault allegations, the latest of which emerged earlier Wednesday. "Plummer will swap for Spacey," as the crew race to reshoot scenes from the film which Sony's TriStar still plans to release on December 22, the source said. "They are committed to the 12/22 date—if anyone can pull it off its Scott," the source added, asking for anonymity. Plummer will now play US millionaire J. Paul Getty in the story about the 1973 kidnapping of his teenage grandson John Paul Getty III. A Massachusetts mother on Wednesday accused Spacey of sexually assaulting her 18-year-old son on the holiday island of Nantucket last year and said police had opened a criminal investigation. Police could not confirm or deny any such report was filed but the woman's accusation is the latest against Spacey, who was dropped last week by Netflix. He was its star actor in the hit series "House of Cards." According to British media, London police are investigating Spacey for an alleged assault in 2008. He has also been publicly accused of attempting to rape a 15-year-old boy in New York and of making advances on actor Anthony Rapp when he was 14 years old, more than three decades ago.—AFP



US actor Kevin Spacey, left, and Canadian actor Christopher Plummer



Panamanian composer and musician Erika Ender

The woman behind 'Despacito'

Erika Ender, the co-writer of "Despacito"—the Spanish-language dance hit that turned into a worldwide sensation—has a few ideas about the secrets to its success. One thing, she says, is its message to take it slow in a fast-moving world ("despacito" is the diminutive of "slow"). Another is the fact that she, a female songwriter, shaped its portrayal of seduction, even though the song was recorded by men (her songwriting partner Luis Fonsi and rapper Daddy Yankee, later joined in a crossover version by pop star Justin Bieber).

Then there is the song's seemingly magical ability to cross borders at a time when there is much talk of building walls (it tied the record for most weeks at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart—where non-English music rarely appears—just as US President Donald Trump fights for a border wall to keep out Latin American immigrants). But Ender's bottom-line answer to the question of what made the song such a success? "I have no idea," she says with an infectious laugh, her eyes alight beneath an exuberant fiesta of blonde curls. —AFP

This winter go blonde



By Real Fouz

As we've all heard before, wintertime is all about dark tones and dark hair. This is why it came as a shock to people on social media when I dyed my hair blonde last month. I felt like I needed a change and a breath of fresh air and going blonde during this season was the perfect way for me to switch it up and get out of my comfort zone. I was inspired to refresh my look and add some variety to what we're all used to. I specifically chose a honey blonde shade because warm colors instantly give life and energy, and can brighten any winter look.

Going blonde is definitely a commitment and requires constant maintenance if you want to keep your hair healthy, shiny and fresh. Purple shampoo is a great tool for blondes to calm unwanted brassy tones, however it's best to use it once a week and not over use it to keep your color from becoming overly dull and also to avoid buildup. Another tip to maintain the freshness of your color is to deep condition your hair at home using a natural treatment of your choice like coconut oil or argan oil, and then wash off with a DIY vinegar rinse.

The mixture consists of part water, part white vinegar with a few drops of peppermint oil to kill the vinegar smell. I've noticed that this trick prevents my color from fading, adds shine and volume. The vinegar also dissolves all of the buildup in your hair also getting professional treatments at the salon once a month is important. There are endless types of treatments available at salons but one of my favorites for colored hair that works wonders for me is the Olaplex treatment.

Olaplex is a bond-multiplying system that helps keep the hair strong from the inside out. It can be mixed with the hair dye when bleaching your hair to make the whole process less damaging or it can be used on its own as a hair strengthening treatment. Another product that I love to use in my daily routine that makes a world of a difference is the Pantene Colored Hair Repair Oil Replacement. It nourishes my hair by adding a protective layer to shield the hair against damage and also protects against styling and blow-drying damage breakage.

It's important to use products like these when you go blonde because your hair is already weak and after it has been bleached and colored, protecting it against further damage from styling and blow-drying is crucial. This fall/winter season is all about switching it up and trying new things. As I always say, my hair really brings out my personality and reflects my mood, and blonde hair is all about good energy and good vibes. It's true what they say, 'blondes do have more fun.'

Designer Gaultier to make racy theater show of his life



French designer Jean Paul Gaultier poses during an interview with the Associated Press in Paris, France. — AP photos

All the corsets, sparkle and provocation of French couturier Jean Paul Gaultier are coming to a theater near you. The 65-year-old announced Wednesday that he has a racy, music-filled “show” in the works for fall 2018 - in which he will retell his colorful life from his roots as a nascent-designer to achieving worldwide fame. “This show is the story of my life,” the designer said inside his Paris atelier during an interview with The Associated Press.



Gaultier will draw from the people who have inspired his fashions - from filmmakers to pop stars - for the revue style production that will combine singing, dancing and acting and fulfill his childhood dream of making theater. He plans to take the production - called “Fashion Freak Show” - on an international tour after it debuts in Paris in Oct 2018. Although the show is not yet fully written, around half of the cast and production staff has been chosen since he started working on the project two years ago.



“It starts in 1976 - not my birth date, my first collection,” said the humor-prone designer in a playful French accent. It will, he said, snake through four decades of his life - “different periods of my career” - from his dressing up of his childhood teddy bear aged nine, to the city of Paris in the heady 80s and on to his collaboration with Madonna for whom he designed the famed “Blond Ambition” tour corset.

With exuberance, the designer showed The AP previews of shiny, geometric corsets that were designed for Madonna, Kylie Minogue and Beyoncé and worn by all three. “It’s all going in. Everything,” Gaultier said of the garments. The show also will feature a surprise celebrity appearance, he said. But Gaultier, whose sense of humanity is always palpable even through his humor, said the show will also touch on the darkest moments of

his life. In 1990, he was devastated when his partner, Francis Menuge, died of complications from AIDS. “At that moment, I thought that maybe I should stop (doing) fashion...I wanted to stop. And, after I said ‘no,’ it is not possible. I’ll go on because (it was) our baby, what we had done together,” he said. He said the epidemic that ravaged the gay community on both sides of the Atlantic should not be forgotten, and education about the impact of the illness must continue.

With Gaultier, serious subjects flit back and forth with quirky ones - and sometimes both merge. Posing on a fluffy bridal carriage designed for his most recent haute couture show, Gaultier also said that the show will feature “a gay marriage.” It will reference the divisive protests against the same-sex marriage law approved in France in 2012.—AP

CHRISTIAN DIOR CHIEF TOLEDANO TO STEP DOWN

Christian Dior’s chief executive Sidney Toledano is stepping down after nearly two decades at the helm of the French luxury goods house, its parent company LVMH said Wednesday. Toledano, who is 66, oversaw the expansion of the Christian Dior brand, especially in men’s fashion thanks to the collections of star designer Hedi Slimane between 2000 and 2007.

He also took the decision to kick out John Galiano from the LVMH group in 2011 after the British designer disgraced himself with an anti-Semitic outburst in a Paris cafe.

He will be replaced by Pietro Beccari, the managing director of Fendi, another company in the LVMH empire. The leadership changes are to take effect early next year. “Sidney Toledano is the driving force behind the huge success of Christian Dior Couture across the world,” LVMH chief Bernard Arnault said in a statement, adding that Beccari’s appointment would signal “a new era”. He notably credited the 50-year old Beccari with “expertly harnessing the creativity of Karl Lagerfeld and Silvia Venturini Fendi”.

Founded around 70 years ago, Christian Dior employs some 5,000 staff worldwide and sells its products almost exclusively in a dedicated network of 198 stores. It has doubled its sales over the past five years. Christian Dior’s chief designer is Italian Maria Grazia Chiuri, who took up the job last year. —AFP



This file photo shows President and Chief Executive of Christian Dior Couture, Sidney Toledano in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

Nigerian artists Davido, Wizkid taking Afrobeats to next level

Pop star Davido gets the same reaction wherever he goes in Africa, whether it's in Guinea or Mozambique, Botswana, Kenya or Sierra Leone: teeming crowds and adoring fans. The 24-year-old icon is one of the favorites for best artist at this year's All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA), which take place in Lagos this weekend. AFRIMA-sponsored by the African Union—are the continent's equivalent of the American Grammy Awards, with interest reflecting the continent's rich seam of emerging talent.

Davido and his Nigerian compatriot Wizkid, Tanzania's Diamond Platnumz, Sarkodie of Ghana and Ivory Coast's DJ Arafat are leading a musical revolution: Afrobeats. The genre was born in Nigeria but has spread across Africa as fast as the rhythm of the bass in a nightclub. "Nigerians knew how to mix all the influences of Afropop: Congolese soukous, Ivorian coupe-decale, Ghanaian Highlife, Jamaican dancehall," said video journalist Hugo Claveau, who wrote and directed the documentary, "Afrobeats, From Nigeria to the World".

"They created a sound for all of Africa. They created the first pan-African music," Claveau said. Banning Eyre, an African music specialist, added: "It's very interesting for me, because it's totally different from what we've seen in the African scene for the past 30 years."

Breaking boundaries

Afrobeats (with an 's') — a name given in homage to the Afrobeat (without an 's') of the 1970s—was born about 10 years ago with pioneers such as 2Face, D'Banj and P-Square. The internet and satellite television channels did the rest. "Music channels like MTV or Channel O made a big impact on exporting Nigerian music," said Efe Omorogbe, 2Face's manager and the head of the Now Muzik Limited label. "For the first time you could sit at home in South Africa and you see the best of Nigerian artists." In its wake came the French channel TRACE, which in turn led to TRACE Naija (slang for Nigeria) two years ago, where Nigerian music accounts for about 60 percent of its output. TRACE

Africa is one of the most popular channels in French-speaking Africa and about a third of its programming is exclusively Nigerian. Omorogbe said the channels "broke the boundaries. Now Africa makes one boundary, not 53". The increase in festivals and events such as AFRIMA has equally allowed artists to meet, exchange ideas and collaborate. Wizkid, for example, sings on "My Soweto Baby" with the South African DJ Buckz. Ivory Coast's DJ Arafat and Nigerian Iyanya use their song "Fever" to call on "Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria" to dance together. The internet has again been a game-changer. Kenyan afro-pop star "Sauti Sol sent me a beat and I liked it, I thought it was cool," said Kritzbeatz, a 22-year-old Nigerian music producer. "So I did a mix with my sound and now



Nigerian singer Wizkid

proud of their music and very resistant to what's coming from the outside."

In Nigeria, music is business, where sponsors and patrons can invest hundreds of thousands of dollars to finance a concert. By signing Wizkid, Davido or D'Banj, record labels Sony and Universal are finally turning towards African pop music instead of the "world music" of Salif Keita or Youssou N'Dour to conquer the African market. The financial rewards are considerable.

"There are all falling over themselves to sign contracts with Nigerian artists," said Claveau. "But the guys developed their business by themselves. They conquered the continent and don't need them to fill stadiums in Africa. What they want now is export themselves to the United States or Europe but for that the main players are still timid." — AFP



US-Nigerian rapper Davido

we have 'Whine for me'. He came to Lagos for an event, so we took this opportunity to shoot the video clip."

Huge market

African pop stars are fighting among themselves to work with Nigerians in hope of breaking into a huge market of nearly 190 million people, where pop music is ever-present. "Smaller markets naturally look towards Nigeria," said Oris Aigbokhaevbolo, a journalist with the Music in Africa magazine. "Tanzanians can't afford to do music for the Tanzanian market only. But Nigerians are very

loathed figure. Country traditionally has been the favorite music of conservative white Americans and the Country Music Association had especially urged journalists not to ask about gun control in the wake of the latest mass shootings.

The awards gala switched to a reverential tone to pay tribute to the 58 people killed on October 1 when a local man opened fire on a Las Vegas country music festival from his hotel in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history. Underwood, surrounded by candles and her eyes moistening, sang the American gospel hymn "Softly and Tenderly" as a screen flashed portraits of victims of the massacre, as well as country music stars who died in the past year.

The Country Music Association Awards, one of two major prizes in the industry, for the second straight year gave its top prize of Entertainer of the Year to 55-year-old mega-star Garth Brooks. Taylor Swift, a country prodigy turned pop sensation whose latest album comes out Friday, won Song of the Year for "Better Man," which she wrote for the group Little Big Town. — AFP



Co-hosts Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood speak onstage at the 51st annual CMA Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP



This file photo shows a large poster with the portraits of African music icons, displayed during the All Africa Music Awards in Lagos. — AFP photos

Politics free? Even country music awards poke Trump

Two top country music stars jabbed US President Donald Trump for his itchy Twitter finger at an awards show Wednesday after organizers unsuccessfully tried to keep politics out. The Country Music Association had earlier warned journalists covering its annual gala in Nashville not to focus on politics, although it quickly revised its guidelines after a backlash. Opening the nationally televised show, co-host Carrie Underwood teasingly said that the 2017 awards were a "politics-free zone."

She and co-host Brad Paisley promptly went into a rendition of Underwood's song of jealousy "Because He Cheats," turning it into "Because He

Tweets" with an eye on the social media-loving president. Paisley joked that Trump was sitting on a "gold-plated White House toilet seat" tweeting about football players, political rivals and "cov-fefe," Trump's infamous typo that became a neologism of sorts for his rhetorical style.

"It's fun to watch it / That's for sure / Until 'Little Rocket Man' starts a nuclear war / And then maybe next time he'll think before he tweets," Paisley sang, using Trump's insult for North Korean strongman Kim Jong-Un. Yet the barbs on Trump were more light-hearted than biting, a contrast to major events in the pop music and film worlds in which the president has become a

Party time in the cemetery as Bolivians fete skulls



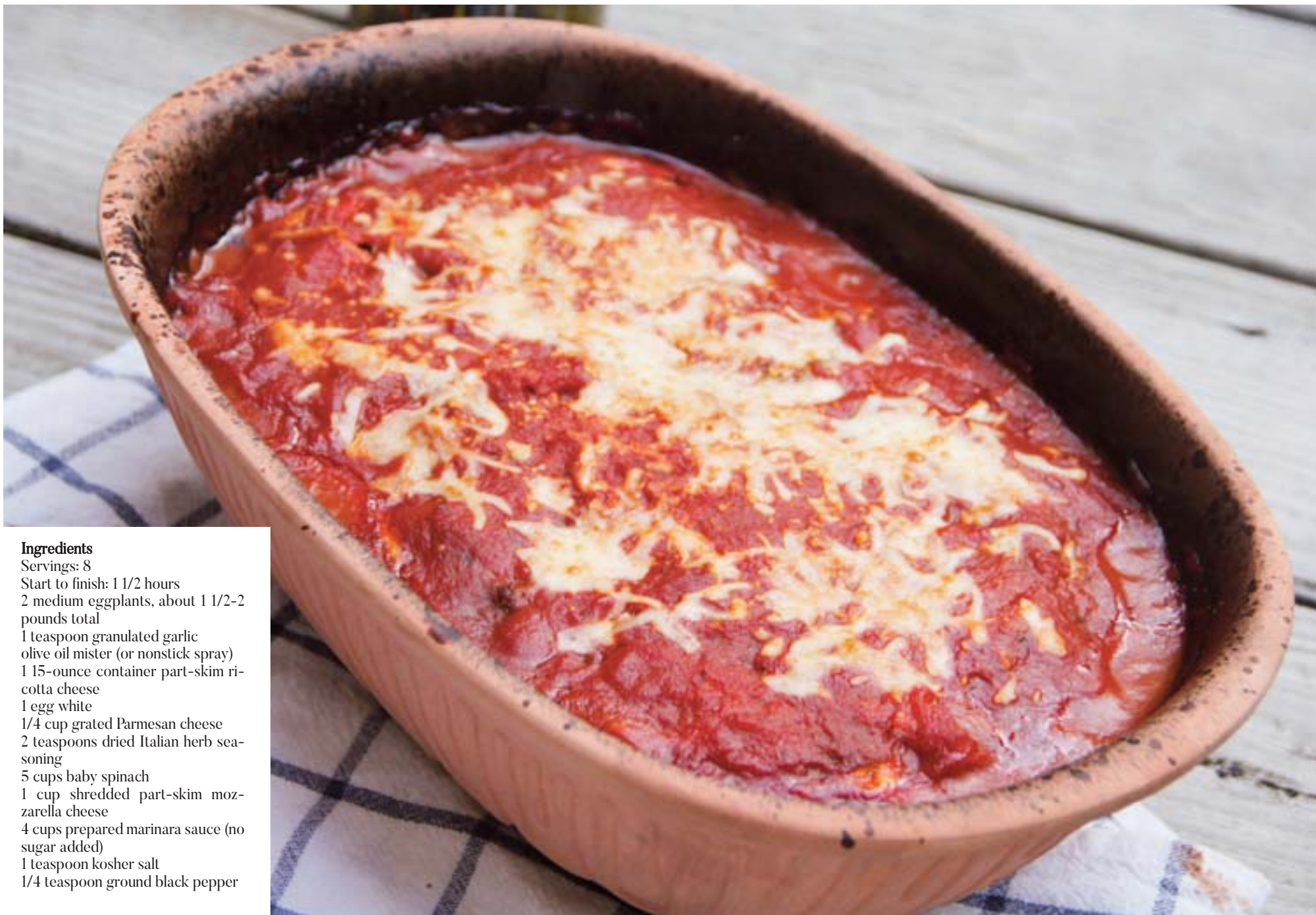
Pictures of 'natitas' (snub-nosed) human skulls taken at the Central Cemetery of La Paz during the annual traditional ritual. — AFP photos

Some wear glasses. Others have sombreros and a cigar. These are Bolivia's "natitas"—human skulls with miracle-working powers. On Wednesday thousands of people and their skulls converged on La Paz's oldest cemetery as part of a pre-Hispanic tradition. Some arrived with music bands or mariachis, others with food and drink. The skulls are usually adorned with sombreros, wool hats, or crowns made from flowers or cloth, while some worshippers fill the skulls' eye cavities with cotton.

They light candles and recite prayers in the belief the skulls possess special powers. According to indigenous Andean tradition, skulls offer protection to believers, ensuring health and prosperity. "We have had about 10,000 visitors and around 700 'natitas' were on display," cemetery official Ariel Conitzer

said. In Bolivia and other parts of Latin America, "nato" refers to a snubbed nose, like those of the skulls. Worshippers arrived early to pay tribute in the passages of the graveyard which dates from 1826, one year after the republic's establishment. According to authorities, many of the skulls were extracted from graves or forgotten tombs in the same cemetery. Others have been passed down through the generations, and are normally kept at home inside an urn. "Here's Andrea, Alex, Julia," a man tells the ATB TV channel, showing a box with three skulls wearing colorful cold-weather hats and sunglasses. "They take care of us, they have a little room in the house." The festival takes place eight days after the start of the Catholic "All Saints" celebration, and events are carried out in numerous cemeteries across the country.—AFP



**Ingredients**

Servings: 8

Start to finish: 1 1/2 hours

2 medium eggplants, about 1 1/2-2 pounds total

1 teaspoon granulated garlic

olive oil mister (or nonstick spray)

1 15-ounce container part-skim ricotta cheese

1 egg white

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

2 teaspoons dried Italian herb seasoning

5 cups baby spinach

1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

4 cups prepared marinara sauce (no sugar added)

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Make an **eggplant Parmesan** without extra oil

Melissa D'arabian

Make-ahead meals and cooking for the freezer, once relegated to suburban supermoms who had it more together than the rest of us, are now trendy with the healthy-eating crowd. Sure, we call it “meal prep” but it’s pretty much the same thing: Make good food in advance, so that we can eat it sometime in the future. In the past, this was primarily to save meal-planning stress, dishwashing time, and money. Now, we are recognizing another implicit benefit: We are more likely to make healthy food choices if something tasty and nutritious is already prepared.

Cook once but eat twice has long been the battle cry of the make-ahead meal, with Italian comfort foods such as lasagna and eggplant parmesan perhaps being the poster-children of this eat-one-freeze-one movement. So I overhauled these Italian casseroles into my Eggplant and Spinach Parmesan,

a healthier veggie-filled version that are actually quite easy to pull together, and freeze beautifully.

To make my healthy tweaks, I focused on an eggplant Parmesan dish, simply because I felt the pasta would be missed less. The eggplant, usually breaded and fried, was simply seasoned and roasted, and no one in my family missed the extra breadcrumbs or oil. I added in baby spinach, which contributed nutrients but also a nice layered lasagna-like element to the dish.

Without actual pasta, though, I knew I needed to keep some serious cheese. Using part-skim ricotta as the main component worked well, and I boosted the flavor with just a little bit of nutty Parmesan, and a reasonable quantity of mozzarella for melty-stretchy goodness. Luckily, marinara needs no makeover, as long as you buy or make one without extra sugar or preservatives. My version is vegetarian, but feel free to add a pound of lean browned ground turkey or beef if you want.

The recipe makes enough for eight, so a small family can freeze half for a second meal, or divide up leftovers into individual servings for DIY single-serving frozen meals. You can also double the recipe and really load up that freezer. I buy a bunch of foil baking pans at a warehouse store, because just seeing a stack of those pans in my cupboard inspires me to cook double and stock up the freezer.

EGGPLANT AND SPINACH PARMESAN**Preparation**

Preheat the oven to 375 F. Slice eggplant into 1/4-inch slices. Place on a large baking sheet fitted with a baking rack. Sprinkle with half the garlic and 1/4 teaspoon of the salt, and spray lightly with an olive oil mister. Bake for 10 minutes, and then flip over the slices. Season the second side with the remaining garlic, another 1/4 teaspoon of salt and spray with olive oil. Bake for an additional 10 minutes, or

until slices are tender, but not falling apart, and then allow to cool enough to handle. Lower the oven temperature to 350 F. Meanwhile, mix together in a small bowl the ricotta, egg white, Parmesan cheese, Italian herb seasoning, black pepper and remaining salt. Spray the inside of a medium-sized baking or casserole dish. Place 1/2 cup of the marinara sauce at the bottom of the pan.

Layer in order: half the eggplant, half the ricotta cheese, half the spinach, half the 1 cup of mozzarella, half the (remaining) sauce. Repeat the layers, ending with sauce. Top with remaining 1/4 cup of mozzarella cheese. Cover with oven safe lid or with foil (spray lightly with oil to avoid sticking), and bake until hot and bubbly, about 45 minutes, removing cover halfway through the baking time. Let sit at least 10 minutes before serving.

Chef's Tip: The dish will firm up as it cools, if you are trying to cut neater squares.

PARSNIP AND POTATO LATKES

MAKE THE HOLIDAYS EASY



At The Culinary Institute of America, we are firm believers that fresh food is the best food. That's why the storeroom at our Hyde Park, New York, campus sends out tons of fresh fruits, vegetables, and proteins to all of our kitchen classrooms every day. We like teaching students to use seasonal, fresh ingredients so that the plates they create are flavorful and nourishing.

But as the holidays creep up around us, freshly prepared food becomes less of a rule and more of a fantasy. Thoughtful, time-consuming dinners are the first thing to go when time is at a premium, and we find ourselves leaning on takeout and convenience foods. And that's just leading up to the holidays, when we're dodging cocktail parties and recitals. What about those dinners we're hosting?

The best thing you can do for yourself is to start planning your holiday menu early, making sure it includes plenty of make-ahead items. Have a week of dinners to use up everything in your freezer, then start loading it up with soups, stocks, appetizers, and pies. When the time comes, you can pull things out to defrost, and then you're just doing a lot of reheating and a little bit of day-of assembly. By

now, you're probably mentally going down your list trying to decide what you can start knocking out. But you might not have all the information you need, so check out this recipe for Parsnip-Potato

PARSNIP-POTATO LATKES

Ingredients

Servings: 6

Start to finish: 35 minutes (Active time: 30 minutes)

1 pound parsnips, peeled and finely grated
 1 pound Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and finely grated
 1 medium yellow onion, finely grated
 1 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 2 cloves garlic, finely grated
 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
 6 tablespoon tapioca starch
 Vegetable oil, as needed for frying
 Rhubarb Jam
 Sour cream, as needed for serving
 Caviar, as needed, for serving

Latkes served with rhubarb jam before you make any decisions. A perfect twist on the Hanukkah favorites, these latkes will be a hit on your dinner table or as a small bite at a cocktail party (make

Preparation

In a medium bowl, combine the parsnips, potatoes, onion, and salt. Let rest for about 5 minutes. Squeeze the mixture by the handful over the sink (or in a fine-mesh sieve) to remove any excess liquid. Add the garlic, pepper, and tapioca starch and stir to coat. Form the parsnip mixture into thin patties, about 1/4 cup per latke, squeezing out any additional moisture as you go. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet as done. Heat about 1/4 inch of vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Transfer the latkes to the pan, working in batches as needed, and fry until golden brown on both sides, about 3 minutes per side. Transfer to a towel-lined tray or rack set over a baking sheet to drain before serving. Serve with rhubarb jam, sour cream, and caviar, if desired.

them mini). Though we don't usually think of fried foods as a good make-ahead item, they reheat really well. Cook the latkes all the way, then freeze in one layer on a baking sheet. Once they're frozen, you can transfer them to a zip-top bag. On the day of, bake the latkes from frozen in a hot oven, about 400 F, until they're nice and crispy again.

Though we love the traditional combination of potato pancake and applesauce, we experimented with some new flavors, and this one stood out. CIA chef Bruce Mattel says, "The parsnips add a touch of sweetness and complexity that sets these apart from the typical latke." If you don't use parsnips much, this is a great place to start. You can use them just like a carrot, but they have a unique peppery flavor that stands out against the potato.

We like the latkes topped with sour cream and a little bit of caviar, too. If you'll be serving them for Hanukkah, Chef Mattel gave us the scoop on Brooklyn-based Black Diamond caviar, made from a non-endangered kosher fish. If your latkes don't make it all the way to the holiday, though, we won't blame you. They also make the perfect emergency weeknight dinner - way better than takeout!

**Ingredients**

Serves 4 to 6

Start to finish: 20 minutes

1 1/2 pounds kale

1 1/2 cups heavy cream

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Pinch red pepper flakes

1/2 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese

COOKING ON DEADLINE: CREAMED KALE WITH PARMESAN

By Katie Workman

My father and grandfather, both no longer here, loved nothing better than a serious steak dinner at their favorite steakhouse, Peter Lugar's, in New York City. If there was something to celebrate, an out-of-town guest to impress or the desire to indulge an extravagant comfort-food craving, there was one clear choice.

Ordering was easy: a starter of thickly sliced tomatoes and onions with the house dressing, which was also the house steak sauce (think of Worcestershire sauce disguised as a thick dressing), and possibly a wedge salad with bacon and blue cheese. To follow, there was a T-bone steak, sliced but with the bone served up for nibbling,

with fried potatoes and creamed spinach. And after belts had been loosened, perhaps a piece of key lime pie. I think that for most of us, to like creamed spinach is to love creamed spinach. You have to go all in if you go at all. And I love creamed spinach. But because envelopes need the occasional pushing, I recently decided to cream up some kale with a generous amount of cream and Parmesan cheese in memory of my dad and grandpa. I know that in some circles kale is considered the king of the greens, and in others it's considered "over." I don't belong to either camp, but I do love cooking with kale.

It has similar nutritional perks to spinach (not that I am selling this particular recipe as healthy), and holds up to heat with more presence.

If you want, you can use baby kale in this recipe, which isn't as tough as fully grown kale, and has no thick ribs to remove, which makes the prep easier. This begs to be served up next to a roast chicken, a piece of seared or roasted fish, or, in the most perfect of all worlds, a juicy T-bone steak.

CREAMED KALE WITH PARMESAN**Preparation**

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. If you are using mature kale, trim the tough middle rib from the leaves, and roughly chop the leaves. If you are using baby kale, roughly chop that. Rinse them in a colander. Add the kale to the boiling water and boil for 4 to 5 minutes, until the kale is fairly tender. Drain in a colander, rinse with cold water, and then use your

hands to squeeze as much water as you can out of the kale. Place the cream in the pot you used to cook the kale. Bring to a simmer over medium-high heat, and then lower the heat to medium and continue to simmer until reduced by about 1/2, about 4 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, and the red pepper flakes. Add the blanched kale and simmer, stirring often, until the cream sauce is further reduced and coats the kale, about 3 minutes. Stir in the Parmesan until the cheese is melted and everything is well blended. Transfer to a serving bowl and serve hot.

Nutrition information per serving

272 calories; 223 calories from fat; 25 g fat (15 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 88 mg cholesterol; 332 mg sodium; 9 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 6 g protein.

Why should summer have all the leafy fun? Try a winter salad



By Melissa D'Arabian

Summer may officially be the season of green salads, but wintertime versions have advantages that make them worth exploring. The cooler weather seasonable greens are hearty and darker green, which makes them nutrient-rich. And, these thicker-leaved greens such as kale or spinach, can hold up to the addition of warm ingredients, opening up the possibilities for topping your salad with roasted goodies in a way that delicate butter lettuce never could.

Have some hearty root veggies in the fridge? Toss them (and some whole garlic cloves - yum!) in some olive oil and roast them up, and add warm to raw kale leaves with lemon juice, Parmesan and black pepper and you've got a winter salad rivaling anything you'd make in July. Today's recipe takes inspiration from this season's holiday cooking pantry

Ingredients

Servings: 4

Start to finish: 30 minutes

Salad:

2 large tart apples (such as Granny Smith), cut into 1-inch cubes (unpeeled), about 3 cups

2 teaspoons fresh minced rosemary

5 cups baby spinach or kale, or other hearty greens

1/2 cup baby tomatoes, halved or quartered

1 1/2 cups shredded cooked white meat chicken or turkey

1/4 cup marcona almonds

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Olive oil in a mister

Pumpkin Vinaigrette:

1/4 cup pumpkin puree

1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar

1 tablespoon maple syrup

1 tablespoon olive oil

1/2 teaspoon minced rosemary

1 teaspoon minced shallot

A few turns of freshly ground black pepper

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 425 F. Place the cubed apple on a parchment-lined baking tray and spray with an olive oil mister to coat the cubes. Sprinkle on the minced rosemary and salt, and gently toss the cubes to coat. Bake just until tender and edges are starting to turn golden, about 12 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside to cool just a few minutes. While the apples are roasting, make the vinaigrette. Place the pumpkin puree, water, vinegar and maple syrup in a small bowl. Whisk the olive oil into the mixture until well-blended. Add the rosemary, shallot and black pepper and stir. To assemble the salad: place the spinach in a bowl or platter and top with the tomatoes, chicken, almonds and warm, roasted apples. Drizzle with pumpkin vinaigrette, toss, and serve.

ingredients that I always seem to have on hand. Apples, leftover from apple pie, are the salad's real star, while the pumpkin vinaigrette - also of pie fame - plays an important supporting role.

I cut the apples into small cubes and quickly roast them in a little salt and rosemary at high heat, and the little cubes turn into sweet, herbaceous nuggets of flavor - like raisins, but better - and make other ingredients almost unnecessary. I add leftover turkey for protein, almonds for crunch and tomatoes for a tiny bit of acid.

You could even add blue cheese or feta if you happened to have some floating around the house, leftover from a cheese party platter. Feel free to swap out ingredients to match your pantry: As long as you are topping winter greens with something warm, whether roasted Brussels sprouts or pan-seared salmon, you'll be on your way to a tasty winter green salad.

Palermo lives up to the Italy of popular imagination

By Cain Burdeau



Lifestyle | Travel

Friday, November 10, 2017



For many travelers, Italy is seen as romantic, mysterious and a bit chaotic, with torpid heat, gorgeously rich colors and irresistible food. In reality, of course, every region has a distinct culture and identity. But Palermo, the ancient capital of Sicily and jewel of the Mediterranean, lives up to the Italy of popular imagination. It's joyful and colorful, rich in art and cuisine, but also disorganized, unable even to reliably collect the garbage.

Life is busily lived on the streets here. Clothes hang haphazardly from balconies. Motor scooters zip down narrow alleyways (often driven by children going the wrong way). People shout in Sicilian - a dialect incomprehensible to many Italian speakers - back and forth across streets and from windows. They gesture, sing and openly observe others. All this plays out in a city steeped in religious rituals, intricate history, stunning art and stunning decay. It's a place living amid the past - a past lost in so much of today's modernizing Italy.

It's also a culture that can seem oddly familiar to outsiders, likely due to the waves of Sicilians who emigrated to the U.S. and made their mark on everyday American life in everything from food to pop culture. Part of "The Godfather" was filmed here and the Mafia remains a force despite government crackdowns

and the public's outrage and resistance in the wake of bombings that killed two anti-Mafia magistrates and others with them in 1992.

Palermo's mosaic

Before being bombed by Americans in World War II and ransacked by the Mafia after the war, Palermo was for centuries one of Europe's most splendid cities, rich with churches, palaces, theaters, villas. Much of that illustrious past remains, albeit faded, but so does deep poverty.

There are medieval Arab-Norman palaces (La Zisa, La Cuba, the Norman Palace), fantastic churches (the main cathedral with tombs of Norman royalty and the Cathedral of Monreale with extraordinary mosaics), art-filled Spanish palaces, the grand Teatro Massimo opera house, and much more. What makes the city unique is the mixture of cultures across centuries: a tapestry of Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Arab, Norman, Jewish, French, English, Spanish and Italian influences.

"You need an encyclopedia to describe the Palermitan," says Pietro Tramonte, a retired accountant who runs an eccentric outdoor bookstore. "Here you find a laboratory, just like when life began. It's an impossible mosaic. But we're forced to live together." Just then, a man in a car hails Tramonte from the end of



Lifestyle | Travel



the alleyway. He's dropping off a strange donation: hardbound books about fascism by the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

"Palermo is the fountain of serendipity," Tramonte continues. "When a foreigner comes to Palermo, he should let himself go. Let yourself be a feather in the wind and you can find that that wind can take you to beautiful places."

The markets

Outdoor markets are some of the best places to revel in Palermo. Vendors shout out prices. Butchers slice, pound, weigh meat. Fishmongers' stands display decapitated

swordfish. Things sizzle in pots and pans of kiosks: chickpea fritters (panelle), potato and egg rolls (crocche), stuffed rice balls (arancine).

Your head spins at the movement, the flashes of life: A fellow brushes by with a pushcart full of sardines for sale; another tries to catch your attention to buy a bouquet of flowers. You admire displays of oranges, lemons, apples, strawberries, lettuce heads, broccoli and tomatoes as mouth-watering works of art. You're in a stream of people, moving, buying, looking, talking, bumping into each other with bags full of food. A scooter blows its horn and plows through.

Your senses are assaulted by mounds of olives and dried tomatoes, bunches of rosemary and bay leaves, cheeses. "We were born here and we will die here," says Francesco Andolina, a fruit and vegetable vendor whose family has been getting up before dawn and working until dusk in the Ballarò market for generations.

But Palermo's most famous market, the Vucciria, is a shadow of its former self. Merchants now offer antiques and souvenirs to tourists. The streets are no longer slick with vegetable and fruit remains. "All the people want to go to the supermarkets with their carts," Andolina says and mockingly pretends to push a cart.

Capital of culture

Palermo recently restricted most cars from the city center. "Now you can hear your own footsteps, you can hear your voice. That was taken away when there were cars," says Sara Cappello, a folk singer and storyteller. And in 2018, Palermo is being celebrated as Italy's Capital of Culture. "We deserve to be the cultural capital because we are a wonderful city," Cappello says. She then thinks of the city's continuing problems: Trash piling up, corruption, unregulated development, poverty. "We mistreated our city so badly," she says. "But maybe this too is the fascination of Palermo." — AP



Comic

WORD SEARCH

Australia

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 49 letters spell a secret message.

N I C O L E K I D M A N E N A B S I R B A
A R H C W O M B A T U Q U E E N S L A N D
C U E T O S E L A W H T U O S W E N S T R
O A S T R M L I A T A S S O S E H C A E B
R V T S S E M S D S N U U E G R M O U E N
A I R T I I P O M I P E L R A N E A W U B
L C E E A E N A N Y D I N I F U I O G G O U
S T S U S R N I T W D G N I C I R D O H O
E O E G A I R A M O E F E A T C N M T U U
A R D O A R L U C E O A L R L N E G T G O
P I R N S P R O B R M Y L L I R O B S H O
A A E I U N R E E A P I E T A D A C L J R
R S D M M C A S B T K S R N H C O I A A A
L S N E E S T E U N S O G P K T H O I C G
I E U I L S E S C U A L O S H R I M P K N
A A N L A A T R R O G C E K S T R O U M A
M F W Y C R I K N A B R U H T I E K S A K
E O O K E I N D V E G E M I T E T H R N E
N O D E S Y D N E Y M O N A R C H Y A W O
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- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| ADELAIDE | DIDGERIDOO | MARSUPIALS | QUEENSLAND |
| AUSSIE | DINGO | MELBOURNE | RAINFORESTS |
| BEACHES | DOWN UNDER | MONARCHY | RUSSELL CROWE |
| BOOMERANG | EMUS | NEW SOUTH WALES | SEAFOOD |
| BRISBANE | EUCALYPTUS TREES | NICOLE KIDMAN | SHRIMP |
| CANBERRA | HUGH JACKMAN | OCEANS | SURFING |
| COMMONWEALTH | KANGAROO | OUTBACK | SYDNEY |
| CONTINENT | KEITH URBAN | PARLIAMENT | TASMANIA |
| CORAL SEA | KOALA | PERTH | VEGETITE |
| CROCODILES | KOOKABURRA | PLATYPUS | VICTORIA |
| DESERTS | KYLIE MINOGUE | PRIME MINISTER | WOMBAT |

Yesterday's Solution

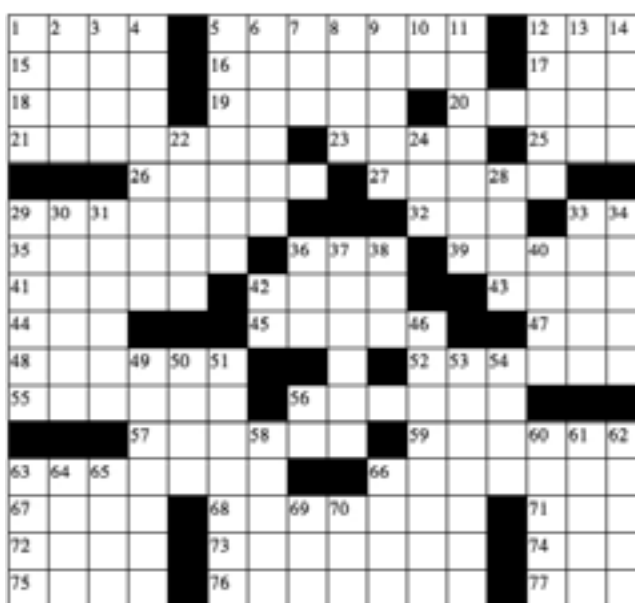
Astronomy 2

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

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|------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| ASTRONOMY | FIREBALL | MAGNETIC | RADIATION |
| AXIS | FLARES | MATTER | REVOLVE |
| CELESTIAL | FUSSON | METEORITE | RING |
| CHADS | GALACTIC | NEWTON | ROCKET |
| COMET | GALAXY | NOVA | ROTATE |
| COSMOS | GRAVITATIONAL | OZONE | SOLSTICE |
| DEBRIS | HYDROGEN | PARALLAX | SPACE |
| EMISSION | INTERSTELLAR | PHOTOSPHERE | SUNSPOTS |
| ENERGY | LIGHT | PLANET | SYZYGY |
| EXPLORATION | LUMINOSITY | PLASMA | |
| EXTRATERRESTRIAL | LUNAR | PROTON | |

The hidden message is: THE BIG BANG THEORY WAS FIRST PROPOSED BY GEORGES LEMAITRE

CROSSWORD 1758



ACROSS

- A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
- English privateer involved in the slave trade.
- Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
- Set lower.
- A genus of plants of the family Crassulaceae.
- (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
- A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
- 100 ngwee equal 1 kwacha.
- A person who acts as host at formal occasions (makes an introductory speech and introduces other speakers).
- Thick heavy expensive material with a raised pattern.
- English essayist (1775-1834).
- The products of human creativity.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A unit of elastance equal to the reciprocal of a farad.
- The capital and largest city of Iran.
- A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
- A frame attached to a wagon to increase the amount of hay it can carry.
- Deciduous shrub of North America.
- Remove from memory or existence.
- Any of a group of Indic languages spoken in Kashmir and eastern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan.
- The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.
- French biochemist who (with Jacques Monod) studied regulatory processes in cells (born in 1920).
- The basic unit of money in Romania.
- A low-lying region in central France.
- The superior of a group of nuns.
- An implement used to erase something.
- An agency of the United Nations that promotes education and communication and the arts.
- Animal food for browsing or grazing.
- The mother of your father or mother.
- A Hindu prince or king in India.
- Without compunction or human feeling.
- (Old Testament) Adam's wife in Judeo-Christian mythology.
- (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- Of or relating to or proceeding from the sense of touch.
- Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
- An Iranian language spoken in Afghanistan.
- With eagerness.
- An informal term for a father.

DOWN

- Block consisting of a thick piece of something.
- Cause to run.
- The basic monetary unit of most members of the European Union (introduced in 1999).
- Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
- A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
- Of or relating to or characteristic of the prehistoric Aegean civilization.
- A joke that seems extremely funny.
- Hinge joint in the human leg connecting the tibia and fibula with the femur and protected in front by the patella.
- Tear or be torn violently.
- A Christian recluse.
- Flattery designed to gain favor.
- The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- Smear with something that soils or stains.
- Coffee with the caffeine removed.
- Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- The universal time coordinated time on board the spacecraft.
- The lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle).
- A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
- Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- Someone who earns wages in return for their labor.
- Doglike nocturnal mammal of Africa and southern Asia that feeds chiefly on carrion.
- Extensive landed property (especially in the country) retained by the owner for his own use.
- Type genus of the Gadidae.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- A man who is a stupid fool.
- An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
- A rapid series of short loud sounds (as might be heard with a stethoscope in some types of respiratory disorders).
- A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.
- A ball game played with a bat and ball between two teams of 9 players.
- A huge destructive wave (especially one caused by an earthquake).
- Tear or be torn violently.
- A Christian recluse.
- Flattery designed to gain favor.
- The 2nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
- Type genus of the Gavidae.
- Make improvements or corrections to.
- Avatar of Vishnu.
- Slightly open.
- An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
- Hormone produced early in pregnancy by the placenta.
- A member of the Shoshonean people of Utah and Colorado and New Mexico.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

TV Listings



01:15 Nick Of Time
02:55 Larceny
04:25 X-Men: First Class
06:45 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
08:20 Spooks: The Greater Good
10:15 Larceny
11:50 The Net
13:50 X-Men: First Class
16:05 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
18:00 Frontera
19:55 Warcraft: The Beginning
22:00 Universal Soldier: The Return
23:25 Assassins Tale
00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Treehouse Masters
02:40 Bad Dog



00:55 The Ghost And The Darkness
02:55 The Blackcoat's Daughter
04:40 Escape
06:10 Edge Of Winter
07:50 Glass Chin
09:25 Edge Of Winter
11:05 The Blackcoat's Daughter
12:50 Escape
14:20 Falsely Accused
15:50 The Field
17:50 Pressure
19:30 Runaway Jury
21:45 Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension
23:25 Mirrors



01:00 The Dog Lover
02:45 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
04:15 Snow Day
05:50 The Great Gilly Hopkins
07:30 The Dog Lover
09:15 The Tale Of Despereaux
10:50 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
12:20 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover
13:50 Rio
15:30 Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip
17:05 The Sound Of Music Live!
19:25 True Heart
21:00 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover
22:30 Rio



00:00 Underworld: Blood Wars
01:35 Bravetown
03:30 Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children
05:40 After Words
07:15 Aloha
09:00 Spotlight
09:30 Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children
11:40 Now You See Me 2
13:50 Center Stage: On Pointe
15:25 Nerve
17:05 Deepwater Horizon
18:55 Suicide Squad
21:00 A Monster Calls
22:50 Split



01:15 Hit By Lightning
02:50 Barbershop 2: Back In Business
04:40 Barbershop: The Next Cut
06:35 Fierce Creatures
08:10 Wayne's World 2
09:50 Life Or Something Like It
11:40 Fierce Creatures
13:20 Barbershop: The Next Cut
15:15 The Grand Seduction
17:10 Cops And Robbersons
18:45 Meet Dave
20:20 The House Bunny
22:00 Vacation
23:40 The Overnight



00:35 Carol
02:40 Lorenzo's Oil
05:00 The Beat Beneath My Feet
06:40 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete
08:35 The Last King
10:25 Lorenzo's Oil
12:45 The Wave
14:40 Waiting For Superman
16:40 The Manchurian Candidate
18:55 A Birder's Guide To Everything
20:30 Bulworth
22:25 Danny Collins



01:15 Legend Of The Sea
02:40 The Apple & The Worm
04:05 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
05:30 Pacific Pirates
07:00 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
08:45 Izzie's Way Home
10:10 The Adventures Of The American Rabbit
11:40 Micropolis
13:10 Legend Of The Sea
14:35 The Apple & The Worm
16:00 Oops Noah Is Gone
17:35 The Adventures Of The American Rabbit
19:05 The Incredible Adventures Of Professor Branestawm
20:15 Amila's Secret
21:30 Oops Noah Is Gone
23:05 Izzie's Way Home



00:45 V/H/S 2
02:25 Sahara
04:35 Miss You Already
06:30 Steve Jobs
08:40 The Theory Of Everything
10:50 Baby's Day Out
12:35 Sahara
14:40 National Security
16:15 Nacho Libre
17:55 Hail, Caesar!
19:50 Dreamgirls
22:05 Training Day



01:15 Saving Private Ryan
04:00 Hollywood On Set
04:25 Hollywood On Set
04:55 Hollywood On Set
05:20 Hollywood On Set
05:50 Hollywood On Set
06:15 Hollywood On Set
06:45 Whitney
08:15 True Colors
10:10 Days Of Our Lives
10:50 Days Of Our Lives
11:30 Days Of Our Lives
12:10 Days Of Our Lives
12:50 Days Of Our Lives
13:30 Shall We Dance?
15:15 Adventureland
17:00 Coach Carter
19:15 Cop Land
21:00 Saving Private Ryan
23:45 Good Will Hunting



00:45 One Day
02:30 Cypher
04:15 Cold Mountain
06:45 The Machinist
08:20 Jane Eyre
10:20 Shattered Glass
12:00 Silver Linings Playbook
14:15 Cypher

16:00 Hollywoodland
18:15 One Day
20:00 Disconnect
22:00 You Again



00:00 Rake
01:00 Vernon, Florida
02:00 Hap And Leonard: Mucho Mojo
03:00 The Code
04:00 Francine
05:20 Rendezvous
05:35 Five Star
07:00 Ping Pong Summer
08:30 Miss Firecracker
10:15 Orbit Ever After
10:40 Discovering: Coldplay
11:30 Music For Mandela
12:50 Ping Pong Summer
14:20 Close Up With THR
15:20 Miss Firecracker
17:00 Discovering: Coldplay
17:55 Music For Mandela
19:15 Cole
21:00 Movie Talk Legends: Marilyn Monroe
21:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
22:00 It's Not Yet Dark
23:20 Copenhagen



OSN Series Comedy HD
00:15 Malcolm In The Middle
00:40 Malcolm In The Middle
01:05 According To Jim
01:30 According To Jim
01:55 Fresh Off The Boat
02:20 Fresh Off The Boat
02:45 Trial & Error
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:40 Mad Love
06:05 Til Death
06:30 2 Broke Girls
06:55 Superstore
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 Young & Hungry
10:15 Young & Hungry
10:40 Mad Love
11:05 Til Death
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 2 Broke Girls
12:45 Superstore
13:10 Malcolm In The Middle
13:35 Malcolm In The Middle
14:00 According To Jim
14:25 According To Jim
14:50 Mr. Sunshine
15:15 Young & Hungry
15:40 Young & Hungry
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 2 Broke Girls
17:30 Superstore
18:00 Malcolm In The Middle
18:30 Malcolm In The Middle
19:00 According To Jim
19:30 According To Jim
20:00 Marlon
20:30 Fresh Off The Boat
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Family Guy
22:30 Better Things
23:00 Trial & Error
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 The Knick
01:00 Girls
01:30 Girls
02:00 Snowfall
03:00 Mr. Robot
03:50 The Sinner
04:40 State Of Play: Culture Shock
05:25 Nixon By Nixon: In His Own Words
06:40 Path To War
09:25 White Mile
11:00 John Adams

12:05 Hysterical Blindness
13:45 In The Gloaming
14:50 Clear History
16:30 Dirty War
18:05 John Adams
19:30 Superheroes
21:00 Chance
22:00 Berlin Station
23:00 Dane Cook: Vicious Circle



00:00 Grimm
01:00 Once Upon A Time
01:50 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
02:40 Lethal Weapon
03:30 S.W.A.T.
04:20 Grimm
05:20 Chicago Med
06:10 Criminal Minds
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Supergirl
11:20 Chicago Med
12:10 Criminal Minds
13:00 Once Upon A Time
13:45 Lethal Weapon
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Criminal Minds
17:00 Good Morning America
19:00 Chicago Med
20:00 Once Upon A Time
21:00 Survivor: Heroes v. Healers v. Hustlers
22:00 The Amazing Race
23:00 WWE Experience



00:20 The Heroic Legend Of Arslan
00:45 The Heroic Legend Of Arslan
01:15 Dark Matter
02:05 Warehouse 13
02:55 Stargate SG-1
03:40 Sanctuary
04:30 Warehouse 13
05:15 Smallville
06:00 Warehouse 13
10:25 Stargate SG-1
13:50 Face Off
15:40 Evan Almighty
17:20 Pokemon VII: Destiny Deoxys
19:10 Equilibrium
21:00 Men In Black
22:50 Channel Zero: No-End House
23:40 The Heroic Legend Of Arslan



00:00 Married At First Sight
02:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
02:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
03:00 MAFS: The First Year
04:00 Black Box
05:00 House Of DVF
06:00 Married At First Sight
08:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
09:00 MAFS: The First Year
10:00 Black Box
11:00 House Of DVF
12:00 Married At First Sight
14:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
15:00 MAFS: The First Year
16:00 Black Box
17:00 Mistresses
18:00 Project Runway
20:00 Making Mr. Right
21:00 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 Your Style In His Hands
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK
06:00 Our Little Family
08:15 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress UK
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Love, Lust Or Run
13:10 Oprah's Master Class
13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
14:40 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 UK
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK
21:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
21:50 Sister Wives
23:30 Return To Amish



Food Network HD
00:00 Siba's Table
00:30 Siba's Table
01:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
01:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:25 Barefoot Contessa
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
09:25 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
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
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
18:00 Chopped
19:00 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 Holby City
01:05 Bad Move
01:35 Cold Feet
02:25 Last Tango In Halifax
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
09:15 Doctors
09:45 Doctors
10:15 Doctors
10:45 Doctors
11:15 Casualty
12:10 Holby City
13:00 EastEnders
13:35 EastEnders
14:05 EastEnders
14:35 EastEnders
15:10 Casualty
16:30 Doctors
17:00 Doctors

17:30 Doctors
18:00 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



00:05 Another Period
00:30 Idiotsitter
00:55 Detroiters
01:20 Ridiculousness Arabia
01:48 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Broad City
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Dara O Briain - Crowd Tickler
04:20 Urban Tarzan
04:45 Framework
05:30 Hungry Investors
06:20 Disaster Date
08:30 Tosh.0
10:35 Kroll Show
12:40 Impractical Jokers VII Special - Practically Live!
13:30 Catch A Contractor
14:20 Ridiculousness Arabia
15:35 Impractical Jokers VII Special - Practically Live!
16:20 Lip Sync Battle UK
16:45 Lip Sync Battle UK
17:10 Impractical Jokers
19:15 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:45 Detroiters
20:07 Workaholics
20:30 Ridiculousness Arabia
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 South Park
22:00 Josh Widdicombe - And Another Thing
22:50 Lip Sync Battle UK
23:15 Idiotsitter
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:00 Island Life
00:30 Island Life
01:00 Renovation Raiders
02:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
02:30 Island Life
03:00 Caribbean Life
03:30 Caribbean Life
04:00 Island Life
04:30 Island Life
05:00 Caribbean Life
05:30 Hawaii Life
06:00 Extreme Homes
07:00 House Hunters
07:30 House Hunters
08:00 House Hunters
08:30 House Hunters
09:00 Giada At Home
09:30 Giada At Home
10:00 World's Most Extreme Homes
10:30 World's Most Extreme Homes
11:00 Killer Kitchen Makeover
11:30 Killer Kitchen Makeover
12:00 Flea Market Flip
12:30 Flea Market Flip
13:00 Tiny House, Big Living
13:30 Tiny House, Big Living
14:00 House Hunters
14:30 House Hunters
15:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
15:30 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
16:00 The High Low Project
16:30 The High Low Project
17:00 Flea Market Flip
17:30 Flea Market Flip
18:00 Going Yard
18:30 Going Yard
19:00 Daphne Dishes
19:30 Daphne Dishes
20:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
20:30 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
21:00 Yard Crashers
21:30 Yard Crashers
22:00 House Hunters
22:30 House Hunters

TV Listings



Animal Planet HD
 00:50 Lone Star Law
 01:45 Treehouse Masters
 02:40 Biggest And Baddest
 03:35 Going Ape
 04:00 Gorilla School
 04:25 Whale Wars
 05:15 Whale Wars
 06:02 North America
 06:49 Lone Star Law
 07:36 Meet The Orangutans
 08:00 Meet The Orangutans
 08:25 Going Ape
 08:50 Gorilla School
 09:15 Treehouse Masters
 10:10 Biggest And Baddest
 11:05 North America
 12:00 Going Ape
 12:28 Gorilla School
 12:55 Whale Wars
 13:50 Whale Wars
 14:45 Biggest And Baddest
 15:40 North America
 16:35 Lone Star Law
 17:30 Treehouse Masters
 18:25 Keeping Up With The Kruger
 19:20 Dogs 101: New Tricks
 19:48 Dogs 101: New Tricks
 20:15 Biggest And Baddest
 21:10 Gorilla School
 21:38 Gorilla School
 22:05 Keeping Up With The Kruger
 23:00 Dogs 101: New Tricks
 23:28 Dogs 101: New Tricks
 23:55 North America



00:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
 01:00 The First 48
 02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
 03:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak
 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 Homicide: Hours To Kill
 12:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
 13:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
 14:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
 15:00 It Takes A Killer
 15:30 It Takes A Killer
 16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
 17:00 The First 48
 18:00 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 When Life Means Life



00:30 Pick A Puppy
 00:55 Pick A Puppy
 01:20 Weather Gone Viral
 02:10 Curiosity: Megastorm
 03:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
 03:50 Now That's Funny
 04:40 How It's Made
 05:05 How It's Made
 05:30 Pick A Puppy
 05:55 Pick A Puppy
 06:20 Mythbusters
 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 Deception With Keith Barry
 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 Now That's Funny
 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



00:00 How 2 Win
 01:00 United Stuff Of America
 02:00 History's Greatest Blunders
 02:30 History's Greatest Blunders
 03:00 Serial Killer Earth
 03:50 Ancient Aliens
 04:40 True Monsters
 05:30 How 2 Win
 06:20 United Stuff Of America
 07:10 The Universe
 08:00 History's Greatest Blunders
 08:30 History's Greatest Blunders
 09:00 Serial Killer Earth
 10:00 Ancient Aliens
 11:00 True Monsters
 12:00 How 2 Win
 13:00 United Stuff Of America
 14:00 History's Greatest Blunders
 14:30 History's Greatest Blunders
 15:00 Serial Killer Earth
 16:00 Ancient Aliens
 17:00 True Monsters
 18:00 The Universe
 19:00 Ultimate Guide To The...
 20:00 History's Greatest Blunders
 20:30 History's Greatest Blunders
 21:00 Serial Killer Earth
 22:00 Ancient Aliens
 23:00 How To Lose The Presidency



00:20 Monster Croc Hunt
 01:10 Prehistoric Predators
 02:00 Cougar v. Wolf
 02:50 Wild 24
 03:45 Wild Case Files
 04:40 Animals Gone Wild
 05:35 Cougar v. Wolf
 06:30 Wild 24
 07:25 Wild Case Files
 08:20 Animals Gone Wild
 09:15 Snakes In The City
 10:10 Mystery Of The Giant Cave Spider
 11:05 Sea Of Hope: America's Underwater Treasures
 12:00 Dolphin Dynasty
 12:55 Puma: Lion Of The Andes
 13:50 Wild 24
 14:45 Wild Case Files
 15:40 Animals Gone Wild
 16:35 Snakes In The City
 17:30 China's Wild Side
 18:25 Photo Ark
 19:20 Wild Case Files
 20:10 Animals Gone Wild
 21:00 Snakes In The City
 21:50 China's Wild Side
 22:40 Photo Ark
 23:30 Dolphin Dynasty



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 Nextworld
 04:00 Futurescape With James Woods
 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 Junkyard Wars
 08:00 How Do They Do It?
 08:26 Junkyard Wars
 09:14 Nextworld
 10:02 Futurescape With James Woods
 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 Nextworld
 14:50 Futurescape With James Woods
 15:38 How We Invented The World
 16:26 Man Made Marvels China
 17:14 Building The Biggest
 18:02 Mega Builders
 18:50 Gamechangers: Inventing The World
 19:40 Gamechangers: Inventing The World
 20:30 Nextworld
 21:20 Futurescape With James Woods
 22:10 Gamechangers: Inventing The World
 23:00 How The Universe Works
 23:50 Kings Of Construction



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 Stuck In The Middle
 16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
 16:10 Elena Of Avalor
 16:35 Bizaardvark
 17:00 Tangled: The Series
 17:25 Bizaardvark
 17:30 The Swap
 19:00 The Zhuzhus
 19:15 Stuck In The Middle
 19:40 Best Friends Wickedever
 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 Bizaardvark
 22:40 Bunk'd
 23:05 Rolling With The Ronks
 23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
 23:45 Lolirock



05:00 Bali
 05:15 Chuck And Friends
 05:40 Kit 'n' Kate
 05:50 Kit 'n' Kate
 05:55 Boj
 06:10 Lucky Fred
 06:25 Thomas And Friends
 06:40 Chirp
 06:55 My Little Pony
 07:20 Qumi Qumi
 07:35 Sandra, The Fairytale Detective
 07:50 Playdate
 08:00 Barney And Friends
 08:30 What's The Big Idea?
 08:40 What's The Big Idea?
 08:45 Transformers: Rescue Bots
 09:10 Om Nom Stories
 09:20 Kids Crafting
 09:25 Littlest Pet Shop
 09:50 Franny's Feet
 10:15 Mouk
 10:30 Boj
 10:45 Kit 'n' Kate
 10:55 Kit 'n' Kate
 11:00 Chuck And Friends
 11:25 Bali
 11:40 My Little Pony
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 20:15 Playdate
 20:25 Littlest Pet Shop
 20:50 Sandra, The Fairytale Detective
 21:05 Franny's Feet
 21:30 Little Duck's Dream



00:16 Shimmer And Shine
 00:38 Shimmer And Shine
 01:01 Max & Ruby
 01:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 01:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 01:45 The Day Henry Met
 01:50 The Day Henry Met
 01:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 02:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 02:40 Zack & Quack
 03:01 Shimmer And Shine
 03:24 Nella The Princess Knight
 03:36 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
 05:12 Nella The Princess Knight
 05:35 Shimmer And Shine
 05:58 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 Nella The Princess Knight
 08:23 Bubble Guppies
 08:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 09:07 Paw Patrol
 09:31 Shimmer And Shine
 09:54 Nella The Princess Knight
 10:04 Nella The Princess Knight
 10:15 The Day Henry Met
 10:21 Paw Patrol
 10:43 Rusty Rivets
 11:06 Wallykazam!
 11:29 Bubble Guppies
 11:52 Team Umizoomi
 12:15 Shimmer And Shine
 12:38 Shimmer And Shine
 13:01 Max & Ruby
 13:23 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 13:34 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
 13:45 The Day Henry Met
 13:50 The Day Henry Met
 13:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 14:17 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
 16:21 Dora The Explorer
 16:44 Max & Ruby
 17:06 The Day Henry Met
 17:11 Nella The Princess Knight
 17:22 Nella The Princess Knight
 17:35 Shimmer And Shine
 17:59 Wallykazam!
 18:22 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 Nella The Princess Knight
 20:23 Bubble Guppies
 20:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
 21:08 Paw Patrol
 21:31 Shimmer And Shine
 21:54 Nella The Princess Knight
 22:15 The Day Henry Met
 22:21 Paw Patrol
 22:43 Rusty Rivets
 23:06 Wallykazam!
 23:29 Bubble Guppies
 23:52 Team Umizoomi



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 Rags

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 Big Time Movie
 16:12 School Of Rock
 16:36 School Of Rock
 17:00 School Of Rock
 17:24 School Of Rock
 17:48 School Of Rock
 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 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 00:25 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 00:38 The Fairly OddParents
 01:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
 01:20 Toon Marty
 01:30 Toon Marty
 01:40 Bunsen Is A Beast
 02:00 Pig Goat Banana Cricket
 02:20 Rabbids: Invasion
 02:31 Sanjay & Craig
 02:53 Sanjay & Craig
 03:14 The Penguins Of Madagascar
 03:36 The Penguins Of Madagascar
 03:58 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 04:20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 04:43 Mysticons
 05:05 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 05:14 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 05:25 Toon Marty
 05:35 Toon Marty
 05:49 Bunsen Is A Beast
 06:11 The Fairly OddParents
 06:35 SpongeBob SquarePants
 06:58 Rabbids: Invasion
 07:00 Back At The Barnyard
 07:22 Back At The Barnyard
 07:44 Harvey Beaks
 07:55 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 08:08 The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius
 08:30 Hey Arnold!
 08:54 Kung Fu Panda: Legends Of Awesomeness
 09:16 The Penguins Of Madagascar
 09:27 The Penguins Of Madagascar
 09:50 The Fairly OddParents
 10:12 T.U.F.F. Puppy
 10:33 Get Blake
 11:00 Hey Arnold!
 11:24 Back At The Barnyard
 11:50 Back At The Barnyard
 12:00 The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius
 12:25 The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius
 12:48 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 13:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
 13:22 SpongeBob SquarePants
 13:34 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 14:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 14:22 Avatar: The Legend Of Aang
 14:45 Avatar: The Legend Of Aang
 15:07 The Penguins Of Madagascar
 15:30 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 15:38 The Fairly OddParents
 16:02 The Fairly OddParents
 16:25 Bunsen Is A Beast
 16:48 T.U.F.F. Puppy
 17:10 Hey Arnold!
 17:35 Get Blake
 17:57 The Legend Of Korra
 18:18 The Legend Of Korra
 18:39 Mysticons
 19:03 Rabbids: Invasion
 19:24 Harvey Beaks
 19:48 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 20:00 Alvin!!! And The Chipmunks
 20:08 SpongeBob SquarePants

Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Someone is sending you clear signals right now, and try as you might, it's impossible to deny what's going on here. You're definitely receiving a romantic love vibe, and you may not quite be sure what to do about it. Go ahead and enjoy the positive attention -- it's always nice to feel wanted. The next step is even easier for you: If you're interested, flirt right back; if not, back out of it graciously and send them on their way.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

They say that speed kills -- and with good reason! It's great advice for you to apply to all areas of your life right now. You might find yourself so rushed that you miss out on everything that makes life worth living: good conversation, long walks, the funny faces people make when they think no one is looking, and, even good food. Appreciate all of life's wonders, big and small!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Someone closer than you think has decided that you're awfully cute. You might even be making multiple hearts go ping! This is obviously not a problem for you, unless you happen to have adopted a temporary shy persona for some reason and feel uncomfortable at the center of attention. If that's the case, take a cue from one of your bolder heroes when they feel low on energy: flash that movie star grin, wave to the crowd, and then scamper back into your VIP room.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There's a huge difference between being nice and being kind. Usually, being nice involves saying 'yes' to too much stuff that you don't actually want to do in order to get people to like you. Being kind, on the other hand, involves thinking independently and long-term, and saying 'no' to things when you know they're just going to be more trouble for everyone in the future. You need to make the distinction soon.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Great actors know that there are two keys to learning to improvise with another player: listening and staying flexible emotionally. Right now, you're trying to get in step with certain people in your life who may be hard to understand rationally. Don't impose your own viewpoint, though -- that's a sure-fire way to throw everyone off. Instead, take a cue from those master actors -- take a step back for a moment, listen to the voices around you, and then jump back in.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may feel as if you have all the right answers, but everyone around you insists on asking all the wrong questions. This might be a simple case of marching to a different drummer. Just accept it for now, and don't try to force anyone to dance to your rhythm. At the moment, the wisest thing to do is live and let live. They should all come around sooner or later.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

One trick to finding happiness is learning to want the right things. The funny thing about this universe is that once you learn what the right things are for you, often you start to receive them -- especially if you remember to say please and thank you! Why not take a moment or two every day and do some soul-searching about your real desires? You can get them if you really want!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Luck can be pretty fickle if you're playing with big numbers. Though the universe is ever so polite about it, it's definitely got other matters to attend to just now, so hold off on sealing that deal or taking that huge risk. Now is the time to fall back on your other gifts, like your brains, charm and uncanny ability to know exactly the right thing to do or say in nearly any situation.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Timing is crucial, especially right now. If you've got an important request to make, choose exactly the right moment. That might mean not hitting your boss up for a raise just after they've just gotten some bad news, but it also means not hesitating too long and losing momentum. You don't have to calculate things with great precision, though -- just stay alert and don't miss a trick. You should know the right moment when it happens.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Have you ever flipped through a magazine and felt sort of overwhelmed by all the glossy perfection? Just remember the time and expense behind all the lighting, makeup, photography, retouching, cropping and work that went into producing them. Don't let all the airbrushed pages trick you into feeling bad about yourself! Your own life has flaws and imperfections -- but they're what make you a real live person.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There's an older person in your life -- not necessarily a relative -- with some valuable advice to dispense. Are you listening? Before you dismiss them, put aside any biases you might have and really listen to what they're trying to tell you. Their honesty and perspective should astonish you, but it may also have a direct impact on your immediate future. Learn to accept help and advice in whatever forms they manifest.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You shouldn't just rush into something because you're feeling pressured, especially if the decision is one that affects several aspects of your life. Get some serious perspective from the wisest folks you know, if you've got time. In the end, of course, the decision is entirely up to you. Go somewhere private and make sure you have plenty of time to contemplate your choices. Try to just get very quiet and think about which path you should take -- your intuition should do the rest.

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	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

Delhi's poor bear the brunt of deadly smog

Inhabitants turn to nose filters, indoor plants to mitigate crisis

NEW DELHI: Rickshaw driver Sanjay can only afford a handkerchief to shield his face from the smog-filled streets of Delhi, even as many residents rush to buy protective masks to combat the toxic menace. Better off inhabitants of the world's most polluted capital are swarming sellers of face masks—costing more than the 300 rupees (\$5) that Sanjay earns in a day—and high-tech air purifiers that could easily cost his annual wage. Delhi authorities Wednesday ordered all 6,000 schools to shut until Sunday after choking smog descended on northern India, while people with breathing difficulties have been told to stay indoors.

On top of expensive European air purifiers, inhabitants are turning to nose filters, indoor plants and even yoga to mitigate the crisis. But doctors say that none of it will be enough to prevent deaths in the metropolis of 20 million people battling a pollution crisis for the second year. Some streets in the Indian capital have recorded pollution levels 40 times the World Health Organization recommended safe level since Monday, with still weather and the annual post-harvest burning of crop stubble in Punjab

fuelling the crisis. Rickshaw drivers, street vendors and tens of thousands of homeless families endure the full force of pollution that doctors warn can do irreparable damage to the heart, brain and lungs, especially in children. Sanjay, who like many Indians goes by one name, spends his days waiting for passengers, breathing in the poisonous mist so thick that often he cannot see the other side of the road. "I don't have a mask. The masks are too expensive. I have a hankie," he said, bringing out cotton square.

He knows however that putting the rag over his nose and mouth does next to nothing against the onslaught of fine particles—so small they bury deep in the lungs—that sear his eyes and throat. "My eyes are fire," he said, pulling back an eyelid to expose an irritated, bloodshot iris. Laborer MK Sharma also cannot afford a smog mask. He thought the scarf wrapped around his face—a method favored by motorcyclists and street workers—made things "a little better", but he wasn't sure. "It is better than nothing," Sharma said hopefully. Rupesh Kumar paid \$4 for a cheap, poorly-fitted fabric mask. It was all he could afford. "I want to save myself from Delhi," he said. —AFP



NEW DELHI: An Indian auto rickshaw driver covers his face to protect himself from pollution as he waits for customers at the roadside in New Delhi.—AFP

CLINIC

PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199



Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم



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



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Kuwait Times Classifieds

Friday, November 10, 2017

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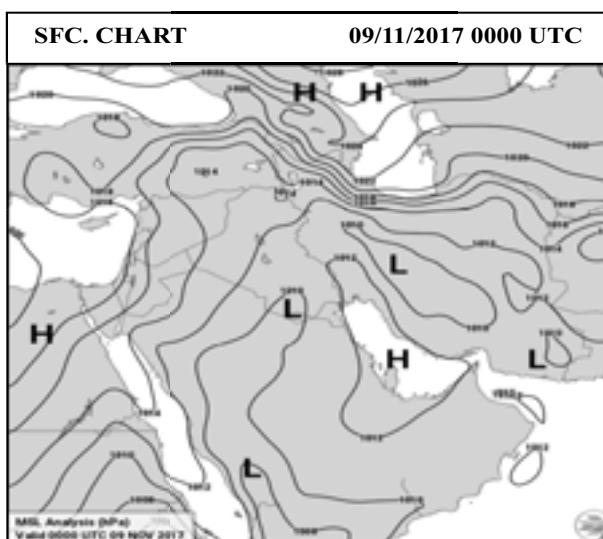
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Cool and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

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

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	31 °C	22 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	32 °C	15 °C
ABDALY	32 °C	15 °C
BUBYAN	30 °C	17 °C
JAHRA	32 °C	17 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	31 °C	21 °C
SALMIYAH	30 °C	24 °C
AHMADI	31 °C	27 °C
NUWAISIB	31 °C	18 °C
WAFRA	32 °C	16 °C
SALMY	31 °C	16 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	11/10	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	32 °C	15 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Saturday	11/11	Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain	30 °C	16 °C	VRB-NE	08 - 32 km/h
Sunday	11/12	Relatively hot	30 °C	17 °C	NE-NW	15 - 40 km/h
Monday	11/13	Relatively hot with a chance for rising dust	28 °C	17 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:46
Sunrise	06:07
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:35
Sunset	16:57
Isha	18:16

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	33 °C
MIN. Temp.	16 °C
MAX. RH	86 %
MIN. RH	23 %
MAX. Wind	S 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm



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

EMBASSY OF INDIA
 INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Economic Research Assistant**
 Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor of Economics/Commerce/Business Administration (MBA preferred)
- Local Clerks**
 Minimum Qualifications: Graduate with computer literacy

For both the posts, candidates should be proficient in English and one or more Indian languages. Candidates with good knowledge of Arabic would have added advantage.

Age limit: 35 years

Interested candidates may send their applications with bio-data by 21st November 2017 to Second Secretary (Admin/Pol), Embassy of India, P.O. Box No. 1450 Safat 13015, Kuwait.

Email: admin@indembkwt.org

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Veerapalli Padmaja** W/o Venkataraju, holder of Indian Passport No: L1430119 & Civil ID No: 277040604409, has changed my name to Padmaraju Padmaja, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5358)

I, **Veerapalli Ashwant Simha** S/o Venkataraju, holder of Indian Passport No: M4641436 & Civil ID No: 310041401533 has changed my name to Padmaraju Ashwant Simha, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5358)

8-11-2017

I, **Veerapalli Venkataraju** S/o Venkataramaraju, holder of Indian Passport No: K7921359 & Civil ID No: 271062002495, has changed my name to Padmaraju Venkataraju, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5358)

I, **Pathan Asif Khan** S/o Pathan Shabeer Khan holder of Indian Passport No. M6714714 & Civil ID No. 286071003846, change my name as Syed Asif, father name Syed Allabakash, for all transaction purposes. (C 5357)

6-11-2017

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Business

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017

38 Commerzbank on track for 2017 after Q3 profit boost**40** In China's e-commerce boom, it takes a village**41** Talks on Pacific Rim trade pact minus US at summit

NEW YORK: This May 2, 2017 photo shows corporate signage at Macy's flagship store in Manhattan, in New York. Macy's Inc reported earnings yesterday. —AP

US jobless claims rise more than expected

Macy's beats Q3 profit forecast, but sales miss estimates

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose more than expected last week, suggesting that claims processing disrupted by recent hurricanes has begun to improve. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 239,000 for the week ended Nov. 4, the Labor Department said yesterday. Claims had fallen to 229,000 in the prior week, near a 44-1/2-year low, and remain well below the 300,000 level generally regarded as signaling a healthy labor market.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast claims rising to 231,000 in the latest week. They have declined from an almost three-year high of 298,000 hit at the start of September in the aftermath of hurricanes that ravaged parts of Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The Labor Department noted that it is now processing backlogged claims in Puerto Rico though its operations in the Virgin Islands remain severely disrupted. US Treasury yields held near session highs after the data, while the dollar trimmed losses. US stock index futures were slightly lower, a day after Wall Street closed at a record high.

Last week marked the 139th straight week that claims remained below the 300,000 threshold. That is the longest such stretch since 1970, when the labor market was smaller.

The four-week moving average of initial claims, considered a better measure of labor

market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 1,250, to 231,250 last week, the lowest level since March 31, 1973. That suggests ongoing job growth in an economy many regard as near full employment, with the jobless rate at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent.

Hurricane backlog clears



The so-called continuing claims rose 17,000 to 1.90 million. Economists polled by Reuters had expected continuing claims of 1.89 million. The four-week moving average of continuing claims fell 750, to 1.90 million, the lowest level since Jan. 12, 1974, suggesting a continued decline in labor market slack.

Macy's profits double

Macy's Inc. reported that its third-quarter earnings more than doubled as it continues to cut costs. But the department store chain reported weaker-than-expected sales as it continues to have a hard time pulling in shoppers into its doors. The report, released yesterday, underscores just how challenging the holiday shopping season will be. Like all department stores, Macy's has wrestled with weak sales as customers go online and also increasingly spend on things other than clothing. It's facing stiff competition in the clothing world as online leader Amazon expands further into fashion. To turn its business around, Macy's has cut jobs and closed some locations. It's been expanding into off-price stores and launched a loyalty program last month that it hopes will bring more shoppers to its stores. —Agencies

Business

Commerzbank on track for 2017 after Q3 profit boost

Bank in the throes of a restructuring plan

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Germany's second-largest lender Commerzbank yesterday reported higher profits in the third quarter thanks to one-off effects, saying it was on track to meet its targets for the full year. Net profit at the bank reached 472 million euros (\$548 million) between July and September, compared with a 288-million-euro loss in the third quarter last year.

Operating, or underlying profit climbed 47 percent year-on-year to 629 million euros, on the back of revenues up 3.0 percent at 2.5 billion euros. The group's earnings were boosted by around 500 million euros in one-off effects as it sold off its Frankfurt HQ building—Germany's tallest skyscraper—to lease it back. It also sold a share in payment processor Concardis and ended consumer loan cooperation with France's BNP Paribas.

Excluding all three one-off items, revenues shrank 9.0 percent to 2.0 billion euros. Commerzbank's renewed focus on winning fresh customers has seen it add 450,000 retail clients since the beginning of 2017. The lender

reports growing loans and deposits, but the retail banking unit saw lower profits over the first nine months despite revenues at around the same level. Meanwhile, the group's corporate banking business, which lends to many of the "Mittelstand" small- and medium-sized business that make up the backbone of the German economy, added 3,500 new clients between January and September.

But the division complained of weak markets and historic low interest rates in the eurozone translating into lower revenues and profits. Operating, or underlying profit at the corporate bank fell 24 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, to 241 million euros.

Takeover talk as foreign banks eye merger



Takeover talk
Nevertheless, "we have made good progress in laying the foundations for our transformation this year," chief executive Martin Zielke said in a statement. Commerzbank is in the throes of a restructuring dubbed "Commerzbank 4.0" designed to secure "sustainable long term profitability", which includes digitizing some 80 percent of its internal processes.

Investors took the executives at their word, shooting Commerzbank to the top of the DAX index of German blue-chip firms as the stock gained 2.4 percent to trade at 12.01 euros around 1230 GMT. One factor juicing the shares' popularity could have been the lender's high capital ratio, a measure of the buffer it has on hand to weather financial shocks.

Looking ahead to the full year, the group upheld its forecast of a "slightly positive" net result in 2017, after reporting 66 million euros net profit over the first nine months—down 31 percent year-on-year. Commerzbank's latest earnings report comes after weeks of rumors that foreign banks including France's BNP Paribas and Italy's Unicredit are eyeing it as a possible merger target.

But the lender would have to boost its performance before a sale can go ahead, as the German state is loath to lose money on the 15-percent stake it owns in the lender following a rescue in the throes of the financial crisis.

For his part, finance director Stephan Engels dismissed the merger reports as a product of the summer "silly season" in the media. "We're concentrating on making our bank profitable for the long term and creating added value for our shareholders," he told reporters during a telephone conference.

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By the end of the year, the figure should



LYON: Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank Benoit Coeure speaks during the 10th Journee de l'Economie (Economy Day) yesterday in Lyon. —AFP

come in higher than the 12.5 percent recorded at the end of 2016, the bank said. Commerzbank has also managed to pare down its stock of non-performing loans linked to shipping firms by 30 percent or 1.5 billion euros since January, faster than observers expected. —AFP

Emirates airline profit rebounds on cost savings

DUBAI: Leading Middle East airline Emirates said yesterday its half year net profit rebounded strongly from a slump last year due to cost saving measures and favorable exchange rates.

The Dubai flag carrier said it posted a net profit of \$452 million in the period from April to September, up 111 percent on the same period last year. That was more than the \$340 million net income for the whole of the last fiscal year to March 31.

The rise in earnings was driven by "capacity optimization and efficiency initiatives across the company, steady business growth, and a more favorable foreign exchange situation compared to the same period last year," the airline said. Emirates, which operates a fleet of 264 aircraft, had blamed fierce competition, currency devaluations and US travel restrictions for the 82.5 plunge in its profit in the previous fiscal year.

"The easing of the strong US dollar against other major currencies helped our

profitability. We are also seeing the benefit from various initiatives across the company to enhance our capability and efficiency with new technologies and new ways of working," said chairman and CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum. "Moving forward, we will continue to keep a careful eye on costs while investing to grow our business and provide our customers with world-class products and services," he said.

The rise in profit was helped by reducing its workforce by 3,000 employees to 102,670 during the period due to "natural attrition and slower pace of recruitment." Sheikh Ahmed said the boost in profit was achieved despite key challenges. "Our margins continue to face strong downward pressure from increased competition, oil prices have risen, and we still face weak economic and uncertain political realities in many parts of the world," he said.

Emirates, which has just welcomed the 100th Airbus A380 superjumbo jet to be the world's biggest customer of the plane, said half-year revenues were up six percent to \$12.1 billion. In the six-month period, the company carried 29.2 million passengers, up four percent on last year. The airline has received 10 new wide-body aircraft in the period—four Airbus A380s and six Boeing 777s—and is scheduled to receive nine more by March next year, it said. —AFP

US gasoline and diesel markets look tight

LONDON: US stocks of gasoline and diesel continue to fall, despite record refinery runs, in a sign of strong demand at home and in export markets. US refineries processed a seasonal record 16.3 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude in the week to Nov. 3, according to data published by the US Energy Information Administration.

Refinery runs were 600,000 bpd more than in 2016 and 1.5 million bpd more than the 10-year seasonal average, as they have most weeks since April, with a brief interruption caused by Hurricane Harvey. Despite record runs, refineries are struggling to meet strong demand from gasoline and diesel in the United States and customers in Latin America.

Gasoline consumption is being boosted by relatively cheap fuel, strong economic growth, job creation, rising traffic volumes and the purchase of larger vehicles. Diesel is being driven by the rise in industrial activity and freight movements, as well as increases in oil and gas drilling, which relies on off-grid diesel-electric generators.

US gasoline stocks fell by 3.3 million barrels compared with the prior week, while distillate stocks were down by 3.4 million barrels. Gasoline stocks have fallen by 27 million barrels since the

start of the year, the biggest draw for over a decade, and are now 12 million below year-ago levels. Distillate stocks have fallen by 37 million barrels so far in 2017, compared with a 10-year average of just 4 million, and are now 24 million below the same point in 2016.

Gasoline and distillate stocks have been tightening consistently most weeks since March, and now appear tight given underlying growth in demand in domestic and in export markets. Stocks of both fuels were under pressure even before Hurricane Harvey caused widespread disruption to the major Gulf Coast refineries in late August and September. Domestic gasoline consumption has been running at record levels most weeks since April, while exports, mostly to Latin America, have remained strong, and spiked higher in recent weeks.

Distillate consumption at home has been more mixed but fairly strong and exports have been running at record levels. Stocks of both fuels are now becoming uncomfortably low from an operational perspective once inventories are adjusted for rising demand.

If winter temperatures are in line with the long-term average, heating oil consumption will be significantly higher than last winter, but if the winter proves colder than normal, stocks could feel tight.

Gasoline and diesel prices have been rising even faster than crude to encourage refiners to maximize crude processing. Hedge funds and other money managers have amassed a record bullish position in US heating oil and a near-record one in gasoline anticipating prices will rise even further. —Reuters

Business

US slams World Bank lending to rich countries like China

Beijing biggest borrower with \$2.4bn in loans this year

WASHINGTON: World Bank lending to countries like China that are rich enough to finance their own development hurts poor countries that need help, a senior US Treasury official said Wednesday.

David Malpass, Treasury's undersecretary for International Affairs, cited China as a prime example of the practice, as the World Bank's biggest borrower with \$2.4 billion in loans this year. The Trump administration will push the World Bank to move countries towards graduation, as their economies grow and they are able to access private sources of financing, he told a House subcommittee.

"Many graduation-eligible countries, even those with strong market access, have continued to demand (World Bank) financing," he said in prepared testimony. "Adherence to the graduation policy has progressively weakened." Malpass said that since 2009, countries eligible for graduation from World Bank aid have received, on average, 40 percent of the institution's lending. Currently 25 countries have incomes above the graduation threshold, and six are considered high income, exceeding \$12,475 per capita.



Lending policy hurts the poor

However, income is only one factor taken into consideration when the World Bank decides whether to graduate a country. And some countries that graduated had to resume borrowing, including South Korea during the Asian financial crisis of the 1990s.

The current income level to begin to consider graduation is \$6,895 per capita, and while Malpass singled out China, it was just over \$8,200 last year. Uruguay was nearly double that figure at \$15,200, according to World Bank data. A World Bank spokesman told AFP the institution's shareholders—of which the United States is the largest—are engaged in ongoing discussions over

how to support countries in moving up the development spectrum to increase their contribution to global growth and stability" and to "maximize finance for development."

Move to graduate

Malpass, however, said the World Bank has failed to follow its own guidance and pursue discussions with countries ready to graduate, to phase them out of the lending program. "Treasury

Tropical fruit trade set to reach new peak in 2017: UN FAO

ROME: Global trade in avocados, mangos, pineapple and papaya is set to reach a new peak in 2017 though climate change threatens the output of tropical fruit in many growing regions, the United Nations food agency (FAO) said yesterday. Exports of the four main tropical fruits have been growing faster than all other internationally traded food commodities, as consumers in the United States, Europe and now parts of Asia have developed a taste for crops that are still mainly grown for subsistence in developing countries.

Rising incomes and perceived health benefits are fuelling demand for "super fruits", which are now among the priciest food commodities, FAO said in a biannual report on global food markets.

In 2017, producers including Mexico, Costa Rica and India are set to ship some 7 million tons, 5.2 percent more than last year, with a global export value of around \$10 billion.

"Trade prospects overall would have been higher, had it not been for adverse weather conditions in the leading exporting countries," FAO analyst Sabine Altendorf said in the report. Over the past two years, drought has disrupted harvests of mangoes in Asia, South America and Africa, papaya in some regions of South America, and avocados in southern Africa. Hurricanes have battered

the Dominican Republic, up until now the world's second-largest avocado producer, prompting FAO to predict a 35 percent drop in this year's harvest from 2016.

The Mexican avocado trade, already facing uncertainty in light of treaty re-negotiation with the United States, was hit further by bad weather. Output growth in the world's largest producer is projected to fall to 1 percent this year, versus 5.5 percent average annual growth between 2007 and 2016. "The threat of climate change and associated extreme weather events looms heavily over the sector, given that tropical zones have acute vulnerability to the phenomenon," Altendorf said.

Most of the world's tropical fruit is grown on farms measuring less than five hectares. Only 5 percent of what is grown is exported, with most of it representing a vital source of nutrition and income generated locally. But FAO said shifts in consumption as people get richer are likely to boost the traded share, underpinned by freer trade, better market access and technological advances which could lead to lower prices and wider distribution.

Affluent consumers in China are particularly keen on the novelty and exclusiveness associated with tropical fruits. This has led demand for pineapples to outstrip domestic production, and shipments of avocados to grow an estimated 124 percent annually since 2013, with some 44,000 tons arriving this year. Lured by high market prices, Chinese growers have also started to grow more avocados for consumption at home, FAO said. The first harvest on the new plantations is due in autumn 2017. —Reuters



In this file photo, a recruiter from the postal service, right, speaks with an attendee of a job fair in Cheswick, Pa.— AP

has not found these graduation discussions to be serious or meaningful," he said. "We have strenuously argued for a more rigorous, transparent, and rules-based process." He acknowledged that lending to richer countries helps

the quality of the institution's portfolio, but said, "We think the World Bank can do a better job meeting its commitments to poorer countries while still pursuing a financially sound business model." —AFP

Rise of the machines: Philippine outsourcing industry braces for AI

MANILA: The outsourcing industry in the Philippines, which has dethroned India as the country with the most call centers in the world, is worried that the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) will eat into the \$23 billion sector. AI-powered translators could dilute the biggest advantage the Philippines has, the wide use of English, an industry meeting was told this week. Other AI applications could take over process-driven jobs.

The Philippines' business process outsourcing (BPO) industry is an economic lifeline for the Southeast Asian nation of 100 million people. It employs about 1.15 million people and, along with remittances from overseas workers, remains one of the top two earners of foreign exchange. "I don't think our excellent command of spoken English is going to really be a protection five, 10 years from now. It really will not matter," said Rajneesh Tiwary, chief delivery officer at Sutherland Global Services. The Philippines, which was an American colony in the first half of the 20th century, overtook India in 2011 with the largest number of voice-based BPO services in the world. "There's definitely reasons to be concerned because technology

may be able to replace some of what could happen in voice," Eric Simonson, managing partner of research at Everest Group, a management consulting and research firm, told Reuters.

AI, which combs through large troves of raw data to predict outcomes and recognize patterns, is expected to replace 40,000 to 50,000 "low-skilled" or process-driven BPO jobs in the next five years, said Rey Untal, president and chief executive officer of the IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP). Contact centers make up four-fifths of the Philippines' total BPO industry, which accounts for 12.6 percent of the global market for BPO, according to IBPAP.

BPO firms in the Philippines list Citibank, JPMorgan, Verizon, Convergys and Genpact among their clients. While the United States remain the biggest customers for the industry, demand for BPO services from Europe, Australia and New Zealand is also growing.

The Philippines' share of the global outsourcing pie, estimated to reach about \$250 billion by 2022, is forecast by the industry to reach 15 percent by that year. To get there however, the Southeast Asian nation must prove to the world it has more to offer than just a pool of English-speaking talent. BPO executives said the country has to take on high-value outsourcing jobs in research and analytics and turn the headwinds from Artificial Intelligence into an opportunity. —Reuters

Business

In China's e-commerce boom, it takes a village

Villages re-invent themselves as manufacturing bases for Alibaba

XUZHOU, China: Workers wielding screeching hand-held wood sanders toil overtime in Cheng Huaibao's bunk bed factory, rushing to prepare for the wave of orders about to break on manufacturing businesses like his across China. China's November 11 orgy of e-shopping strikes Saturday, with hundreds of millions of consumers expected to seize on promotional discounts to place up to a billion pent-up orders for everything from food to furniture and electronics.

So-called "Double 11", or "Singles Day", is the biggest day of the year for Cheng, accounting for around one-sixth of his annual orders and illustrating the impact that China's years-long e-commerce boom is having right down to some of the country's poorest villages.

Cheng's town of Shaji in eastern Jiangsu province once relied on farming and, later, processing waste plastic. Today, furniture production fattens wallets in Shaji, one of more than 1,300 communities across China dubbed "Taobao Villages", areas that re-invented themselves as manufacturing bases to supply e-commerce giant Alibaba's Taobao platform.

"It's a new way for people here to make more money and get rich. It has really changed people's fates," said Cheng, 28. The high-school graduate previously worked in an electronics factory and later sold home appliances.

In 2010, he scraped together 2,000 yuan (\$300) and began making children's bunk beds to sell on Taobao. It was a propitious choice—in 2016 China relaxed its "one-child policy" to

allow families a second child. Bunk beds are suddenly hot.

Cheng says his business is now worth 20 million yuan. He has purchased several homes and parks his Mercedes-Benz and Audi outside a factory that's grown to 25,000 square feet and 200 employees. "I'm driv-

ing a one-million-yuan car. I never dared to dream of such a day before," he said.

Sweet Spot

Alibaba seized on Double 11 beginning in 2009 as China's online answer to the late-November US "Black Friday" shopping spree, finding a sweet spot combining China's love of a good bargain and the national addiction to smartphones and one-click payments.

“ People to make more money and get rich ”



XUZHOU: In this photograph taken on November 8, 2017, laborers work inside a furniture factory in a "Taobao Village" in Xu Zhou. —AFP

Alibaba says Double 11-related sales last year reached \$17.8 billion in gross merchandise value, up 32 percent from 2015 and roughly equal to the annual GDP of Mozambique. This year's shopping fest will put an exclamation mark on Alibaba's growing dominance of com-

merce in China under boss Jack Ma, one of China's richest men.

The company's stock has doubled this year as revenues surged. It recently passed Amazon to reclaim the crown as the world's most valuable e-commerce company. —AFP

China's factory-gate prices maintain strength in October

BEIJING: Chinese factory prices continued to surge in October, with data yesterday showing a bigger-than-forecast jump owing to an anti-pollution clampdown that has driven up commodity prices. In a drive to clean up the country's smog-ridden cities the government has moved to wind down production at some at steel factories and smelters, and President Xi Jinping last month emphasized environmental protection at the Communist Party congress. The clean-air policy, which has been stepped up going into the winter when pollution worsens, has led to tighter supplies in turn lifting prices.

And the National Statistics Bureau said the producer price index (PPI), an important barometer of the industrial sector, held still at 6.9 percent last month, beating expectations of 6.6 percent in a Bloomberg News survey. The consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of retail inflation, hit 1.9 percent, higher than the 1.6 percent in September and also slightly beating Bloomberg's forecast.

The figures will likely provide a boost to China's leadership as they strive to retool the world's number two economy so it is driven by domestic demand and away from one reliant on state investment and exports. Authorities have targeted around three percent in the CPI this year. "China's reflation story remains alive, for now," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a research note. —AFP

Chinese binge on easy credit tied to Singles Day sales

SHANGHAI/BEIJING: Days ahead of China's biggest retail event of the year, lenders and retailers are going all out to get consumers to borrow and to spend - from topping up credit lines to offering loans that come with chances to win even more cash. Over a 24-hour period on Saturday, billions of dollars of discounted goods are expected to be sold online on Singles Day, China's version of Black Friday.

Chinese e-commerce colossus Alibaba Group Holding last year reported transactions topping \$14 billion, and deals are expected to grow this year. The annual Singles Day, originally a day for young college students to celebrate singlehood, has become a barometer of China's sprawling e-commerce sector. The rise in consumer spending in a country traditionally viewed as a nation of savers has coincided with a sharp increase in consumer borrowing in recent years.

While consumer borrowing in China is still modest compared to mortgage loans and corporate borrowing, economists warn that household leverage is building up too rapidly.

For Rose Ji, a student from the northern port city of Tianjin, the pull of a deep discount on Singles Day for a personal photography session prompted her to borrow an otherwise unaffordable amount from a consumer lending firm. "I've always wanted to be photographed, but the original price was 5,000 yuan (\$754)," said Ji. "On Nov. 11, it's only 1,800 yuan."

Ji borrowed the full amount from Huabei, a consumer fi-

nance service whose name literally means "just spend" in Chinese. Ji, 21, will pay back the loan in six months at an interest rate of 4 percent.

On a colourful online advertisement sprinkled with cartoon skateboards and hamburgers, Huabei also offers borrowers a chance to win up to 4,999 yuan worth of shopping on spending receipts of just 200 yuan.

Huabei, launched by Alipay, an e-payment firm connected to Alibaba, also offers special Singles Day credit limit extensions.

JD Finance, the lending arm of JD.com, is giving shoppers the opportunity to enter into a draw with 1,111 chances to win prizes ranging from "red packets" of cash to having their shopping bills paid by the firm. Fenqile.com, a small online loans firm, offers 12-month interest-free credit for some goods if loans are made for Singles Day purchases, and PPMoney.com, another small online credit company, is offering 8,888 yuan worth of credit that can be spent on the platform. The number 8 is considered lucky among Chinese.

The push by newer online lending firms and retailers to bolster consumer spending aligns with Beijing's plans to swivel a manufacturing-led economy to one driven by consumer demand and services.

But analysts warn that while household debt is low by Western standards, risks are rising as the economy cools.

"People over-extend themselves without considering the long-term consequences on their future financial wellbeing," said Rui Yao, associate professor at the University of Missouri. "Impulsive purchases on credit have been a growing problem for consumers."

For student Ji, the part-time work she does will pay a tenth of her Huabei loan. The rest, she says, will be covered by her parents. —Reuters

Business

Talks on Pacific Rim trade pact minus US at summit

Vietnam underlines importance of salvaging TPP

DANANG, Vietnam: Talks aimed at salvaging a Pacific Rim trade pact rejected by President Donald Trump resumed yesterday on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Trade and foreign ministers of 11 members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership were seeking to agree in principle on how to proceed without US involvement after Trump pulled out from the formerly US-led initiative earlier this year. Trump and other leaders are heading to Vietnam for the 21-member APEC summit, which begins today in this coastal resort city.

As a developing country with a fast-growing export sector, Vietnam has a strong interest in the TPP's success. At the outset of yesterday's meeting, Tran Tuan Anh, the trade minister, emphasized

"the importance of reaching an agreement in principle right here."

Japan and Australia likewise have shown strong enthusiasm for reaching a framework agreement that drops a requirement that it be ratified by at least six member countries with a combined GDP equal to 85 percent of the original accord. Since the US GDP accounted for 60 percent of that total, its withdrawal meant the pact had to be amended.



US withdrawal means pact needs to be amended

It's unclear if the TPP members will manage to reach a consensus on the trade pact that was billed by the administration of former President Barack Obama as the "gold standard" for trade rules for the 21st century. While APEC operates by consensus and customarily issues nonbinding statements, TPP commitments would eventually be ratified and enforced by its members.

In Danang, reaching agreement on a draft of even the nonbinding APEC declaration appeared to be a struggle. APEC foreign and trade ministers extended their talks for an extra

morning yesterday as the officials sought to close gaps in their positions. It was unclear what those sticking points might have been. But the US pushback on "free trade," evidenced in "America first" policy, has raised eyebrows in the region after decades

of US pressure on opening markets. "Over the last year, things have changed a lot," Alan Bol-lard, executive director of the Singapore-based APEC Secretariat, said in an interview. "The new US administration does have a markedly different view about trade policies and regional economic integration," he said. "We're trying to get more clarity about what they're comfortable with and what the response of other members is."

ered another set of strong results and are fully on track to achieve our ambitious 2017 financial targets," he said in a statement.

Adidas continues to expect group sales to grow by 17 to 19 percent in 2017 to achieve net profit between 1.36 and 1.39 billion euros.

Like its smaller homegrown rival Puma, Adidas has been gaining ground in the US at a time when market leaders Nike and Under Armor are stalling. "The retail landscape is changing dramatically in the US," Rorsted told reporters in a conference call. The only major market where Adidas didn't see growth in the third quarter was Russia, with the group blaming a 17-percent decline in sales there on store closures and "ongoing challenging consumer sentiment" in the face of a sluggish economy. By the end of this year, Adidas will have shuttered 200 stores in Russia, Rorsted said.

Teaming up with Beckham

Another cloud came from the group's troubled Reebok brand, which saw sales increase by just one percent over the third quarter. The US market was particularly disappointing with sales falling by 22 percent. But Rorsted instead there was life yet in the brand, and pointed to a collaboration announced Wednesday with British fashion designer Victoria Beckham as a sign of Adidas' commitment to Reebok. —AFP



DANANG: Trade ministers and delegates from the remaining members of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) attend the TPP ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summit yesterday in Danang, Vietnam. —AP

For Vietnam, the summit is an occasion to showcase the progress its economy has made thanks largely to foreign investment and trade. Danang, Vietnam's third largest city, is in the midst of a construction boom as dozens of resorts and smaller hotels pop up along its scenic coastline.

The country is a major garment exporter and the largest production base for Samsung Electronics' mobile phones. But even though its economy grew at a brisk 6.2 percent pace last

year, its GDP per capita is still one of the lowest among APEC members at less than \$2,200. Many of its 95 million people remain poor and vulnerable to natural disasters such as storms that lashed the coast near Danang just days before the APEC meetings. APEC's members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the US and Vietnam. —AP

Adidas reports spike in Q3 profits

FRANKFURT: German sportswear giant Adidas yesterday reported a spike in third-quarter profits powered by strong demand for its own-brand products, as it drafted in Victoria Beckham to help boost its struggling Reebok unit. The Bavarian company, which sponsors English Premier League giants Manchester United, said net profit soared to 526 million euros (\$611 million) between July and September, up 36 percent on the same period last year.

Group revenues grew by nearly nine percent to 5.7 billion euros, driven by brisk online sales in all regions and the success of Adidas' retro-inspired Originals trainers and its Adidas neo urban fashion line. Demand was especially robust in the key markets of China and North America, where sales of the three-striped brand increased by around a third, Adidas said.

Chief executive Kasper Rorsted said he was pleased "with the quality of our growth" as he reaffirmed the group's 2017 outlook. "We deliv-

British shell companies linked to 52 money laundering scandals

LONDON: British shell companies have been linked to 52 money laundering scandals involving 80 billion pounds (\$105 billion) in the past 14 years, according to researchers at campaign group Transparency International. Tax evasion and financial crime has shot to the top of the international agenda in recent days following reports based on leaked documents from Appleby, a prominent offshore law firm founded in Bermuda.

But the report from Transparency International's UK arm said it's not just Caribbean islands that are used to hide illicit money flows and that Britain was a key link in many of the largest corruption scandals of recent years.

Fraudsters in eastern Europe and elsewhere often channel money through UK-registered entities because they appear to many people as more legitimate than tax haven-registered companies, the non-governmental body said. The UK Treasury de-

clined immediate comment on the report. Britain says it is doing more than most countries to tackle illicit money flows.

It is the only country to have introduced a functioning, publicly-available register of true beneficial owners of companies. However, the system is poorly policed. Companies House, the body which oversees British corporate records, does not have the resources to verify the information submitted to it.

Also, successive British governments have sought to make it easy to register companies, for example allowing people to do so online and without verifying their identification, in the hope this spurs entrepreneurship. This has led to a small industry of formation agents establishing blocks of companies and partnerships which they then make available to overseas parties.

Transparency International found that around half of the 766 companies alleged to have been involved in money laundering schemes were based at just eight UK addresses.

"Financially these scandals could amount to 80 billion pounds or more in illicit wealth, with some of them threatening the financial stability of whole economies. The human damage inflicted on the victims of these crimes is still being counted," the report said. —Reuters

Sports

Predicting NFL is becoming more difficult than forecasting weather

DALLAS: Predicting what's ahead in an NFL season is no easier than forecasting the weather. Given all the variables, it's probably harder. The team of September, the Chiefs, went mediocre on us in October and early November. Those struggling Patriots who were 2-2 now seem on course for yet another hosting role in the AFC playoffs. Early season woes for the Giants that were dismissed as temporary have become chronic. That ugly 0-2 start for the Saints has turned into a beautiful six-game winning streak. See? No matter. Here are some things to look for as we move through November and December.

MORE QB INJURIES

This has been the overriding story of the season, with Aaron Rodgers, Carson Palmer, sensational rookie Deshaun Watson and Sam Bradford all going down. Ryan Tannehill didn't even make it out of the preseason, and Andrew Luck's shoulder didn't heal enough after winter surgery for him to suit up. Speculating who might be the next quarterback or three who will suffer a major injury is ghoulish. Consider, though, that nine teams (Tampa Bay, Minnesota, Green Bay, Arizona, Tennessee, Oakland, Houston, Miami and Baltimore) have had to go to backups because of injured starters.

OFFICIATING CONTROVERSY

This one is unavoidable, and will occur weekly. Seems as if no weekend goes by without a pool reporter being sent to talk to game officials about a decision. As video replay becomes more refined - we can just about count the

blades of grass under a receiver's hands as he cradles (or doesn't) a pass - and the NFL rulebook remains far too complex, officiating will continue to play a huge role in outcomes of games. One request: no more reversals like what we saw in Falcons-Lions and Patriots-Jets that fans will be questioning into the new year.

HOTTER SEATS

Other than Hue Jackson in Cleveland, the fire figures to burn very hot under the Buccaneers' Dirk Koetter; the Giants' Ben McAdoo; the Bengals' Marvin Lewis, whose contract is up this year; the Colts' Chuck Pagano, who could get a pass because he's had no, ahem, luck with his passer; and possibly the Lions' Jim Caldwell. New York and Detroit are among the league's biggest underachievers, and that likely won't change in 2017.

The NFL rulebook remains far too complex

PASSION IF NOT SKILL

It would be difficult to find a club that would trade its roster for what the Jets or Bears have. It also would be tough to point out any teams that play with more passion and dedication. There's no reason to believe either of them will stop giving their all for 60 minutes. New York is 4-5 in a year some projected it wouldn't win a game and was tanking for the top overall draft pick. With any finishing power, the Jets would be in the playoff hunt. Chicago is 3-5 despite an inept passing game, and has beaten Pittsburgh and Carolina. The Bears simply don't go away. Maybe they aren't the Monsters of the Midway,



MIAMI: Miami Dolphins running back Damien Williams (26) dives over the goal line to score a touchdown in the second quarter of an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders. —AP

but they sure are pesky. Give tremendous credit to coaches Todd Bowles and John Fox. And expect more of the same from both teams the rest of the way.

A TIE OR TWO

One thing we've learned from the reduced overtime period (from 15 minutes to 10) is that a tie is hardly unlikely. Indeed, getting more than one possession in OT can be problematic. So expect at least one deadlock down the stretch, and let's hope it won't figure into playoff tiebreakers.

EARLY CLINCHINGS

With two highly regarded divisions, the AFC West and North, turning soft, watch for the Steelers and Chiefs to be selling playoff tickets by mid-December. Same for the Patriots, but that's a yearly occurrence in the mediocre AFC East.

Barring a stunning turnaround, the Eagles, at 8-1 the league's top team, will be making postseason plans about a month from now. The Saints, too, if their defense remains stout. —AP

Team Britain has evacuation plans for Pyeongchang Olympics

LONDON: British Olympic leaders have plans in place to evacuate athletes from the 2018 Pyeongchang Games amid heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula. While the British Olympic Association is not expecting to have to implement those emergency procedures in South Korea, it is preparing for the worst-case scenario. Tensions have risen in the region as North Korea has built up its nuclear weapons program and has accelerated weapons tests in recent months. Dire threats traded by President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have further stoked fears of war, just as South Korea prepares to host its first Olympics since the 1988 Seoul Games.

"The South Koreans have lived with this for 60 years and tensions have gone up and down. There seems a higher level this time obviously," British Olympic Association chief executive Bill Sweeney said Wednesday. "We are working on all possible contingency plans. The only one you have in the situation of the extreme event you mentioned (about a potential North Korean attack) is evacuation.—AP

Russian gold medalist disqualified for Sochi doping

GENEVA: In a landmark verdict that indicates Russia conspired to run a doping program at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, a cross-country skier who won a gold medal was disqualified by the IOC on Wednesday. All results for Alexander Legkov in Sochi were wiped from the record and he was banned for life from attending another Olympics.

A second Russian cross-country skier was also disqualified and banned by the International Olympic Committee on Wednesday, while cases implicating 26 more Russian athletes in a Sochi doping conspiracy are pending. With calls to ban Russia's team from next year's Pyeongchang Olympics likely to increase, the IOC's executive board will meet next month to discuss the matter. The IOC disciplinary panel did not have a positive doping test from Legkov but used evidence of cover-ups and tampering of sample bottles that was first gathered last year by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren. "The IOC showed its determination to protect clean athletes from the very beginning of the case," said the Olympic body, whose board meets Dec. 5-7 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Cover up

The IOC panel did not give details of the evidence Wednesday. McLaren has said that glass sample bottles were scratched when

broken into, and in some cases clean urine used to cover up doping was tampered with, revealing unnatural levels of salt and even DNA from the wrong gender. Legkov's gold medal was a marquee Russian success at the Sochi Olympics, which was a national priority for President Vladimir Putin and cost \$51 billion to prepare for and host.

The cross-country skier won gold in the individual 50-kilometer freestyle race in a Russian podium sweep on the last day of competition. The Russian trio received their medals in the main Olympic Stadium during the closing ceremony. Legkov had earlier taken silver in the 4x10-kilometer relay. Legkov said last year he had never failed a doping test, claiming he was tested so often that he couldn't have doped without being caught. "You'd have to be a complete kamikaze to do that in Russia if you're an athlete representing our nation," Legkov said then.

However, McLaren's investigation said the Russian doping program was enabled by the country's government, anti-doping agency and testing labs, plus sports governing bodies. The second cross-country skier who was disqualified and banned, Evgeniy Belov, did not win a medal. Lawyers for the two skiers disputed the IOC panel's ruling while accepting a doping program was in place. "So there is neither Prof. McLaren's assertion nor proof that individual athletes have really participated in the system that has undoubtedly existed," German law firm Wieschmann said in a statement.

Russia's sports minister during the Sochi Olympics, Vitaly Mutko, told the Russian state news agency Tass that the IOC ruling "inspires great alarm and bewilderment." "The correct and just decision is to file an appeal with CAS (the Court of Arbitration for Sport)," said Mutko, who is now a Deputy Prime Minister and heads the organizing committee for soccer's 2018 World Cup. —AP

Sports

Ball injured as England takes lead over Cricket Australia XI

ADELAIDE: Jake Ball added to England's pace bowling woes with an ankle injury as the tourists took a lead over a Cricket Australia XI in Adelaide yesterday. The CA XI declared their first innings 60 runs adrift to get in five overs at the tourists under the lights at Adelaide Oval, but England reached stumps on the second day of the four-day game at five without loss.

Mark Stoneman was not out on four with under pressure Alastair Cook on one. Nottinghamshire quick Ball appeared to lose his footing in his delivery stride and turned his right ankle as he tried to bowl the fifth ball of his fourth over. Ball collapsed on the pitch and was surrounded by concerned team-mates as medics hurried onto the field. He left the ground unaided and was later diagnosed with a sprained ankle, sitting out the remainder of the day's play to have ice treatment.



Broad pinpoints Warner as danger man

Ball's setback comes after fellow pace bowler

Steven Finn was ruled out of the tour earlier this week due to a knee injury, with Tom Curran scheduled to join the tourists today. The England team is already without star all-rounder Ben Stokes, who remains at home awaiting the outcome of a police investigation into his involvement in a brawl outside a Bristol nightclub on September 25.

All-rounder Moeen Ali is also missing the four-day match with a side injury. England had a better day against the CA XI, with leg-spinner Mason Crane claiming three for 78 and pacemen James Anderson and Chris Woakes each snaring two wickets. Crane bowled Will Pucovski with a gem and recov-

ered from some loose overs to take two late wickets in an over before the home side cheekily declared on 233 for nine in reply to the tourists' 293.

Tim Paine and Simon Milenko struck half-centuries for CA XI. Former Test and one-day international player Paine, who has failed to feature in Tasmania's Sheffield Shield side this season because of Test incumbent wicketkeeper Matthew Wade's move to the state, combined with Matt Short (45) to rescue his side from a precarious 57 for five. England extended their innings lead by five without loss to the close with Cook, who has been out cheaply in both his innings on tour so far, surviving a couple of edgy moments. The day-night match is England's second of three tour games before the first Test against Australia in Brisbane starts on November 23.

Broad sees Warner as danger man

England paceman Stuart Broad has pinpointed David Warner as Australia's danger man in the Ashes series, while admitting a begrudging respect for his aggressive mentality. The pugnacious opener fired up the tourists last month by comparing playing against England to "war" and said he planned to take "some sort of hatred" into the Tests, which start in Brisbane on November 23. Broad said Warner, known for his fiery nature on the field, was a perennial danger.

"I think someone like Warner you've got to try bowl a lot of balls at him with the new ball, because it's your best chance of getting him out,"

he told the Sydney Morning Herald Thursday. "(But) you have to have a plan B, and with someone like Warner you have to go to plan B quicker than a lot of other batters."

While captain Joe Root said before leaving England that Warner's comparison to war was "extreme", veteran Broad acknowledged teams needed characters like him to make them great. "He's someone that

drives teams forward," Broad said of Warner. "He's one of those blokes who is not that enjoyable to play against, but if he's in your team you love him. "You have characters like that in most successful sports teams, don't you? "Someone who if he's in the field, will stay in the battle, looking someone in the eye all the time, keep his bowlers moving ... someone who can take the game away from you quickly." —AFP

It was the first in a series of announcements over the next month that fills out the PGA of America's schedule for its biggest events over the next decade. The PGA Championship still has openings for 2024 through 2027, with Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma, taking one of those spots. A return to Valhalla Golf Club in Kentucky also is expected, along with a return to Quail Hollow in North Carolina and possibly Aronimink outside Philadelphia. The Ryder Cup goes to Whistling Straits in 2020 and Bethpage Black in 2024, which leaves a vacancy for 2028. Bevacqua said the PGA of America prefers to have two events (PGA Championship and Ryder Cup) within four years of each other to build energy in the city. Bethpage and Whistling Straits are hosting both events five years apart.

Olympic's fabled Lake Course will be the 22nd golf course to host the US Open and the PGA Championship, and the deal with the PGA of America likely signals the end of its US Open history, which dates to 1955 when Jack Fleck defeated Ben Hogan in a playoff. There have been occasions when a US Open course hosted the PGA and then returned to holding the US Open, such as Pebble Beach (1977 PGA) and Winged Foot (1997 PGA).

The USGA was negotiating to bring the US Open back to Olympic for 2027 when negotiations stalled. The San Francisco Chronicle reported that disagreements on financial matters, such as the cost to restore the adjacent Ocean Course that housed temporary US Open structures, led to an impasse. —AP



ADELAIDE: England's paceman Jake Ball reacts in pain as he falls on the ground while bowling to Cricket Australia XI batsman Jake Carder on the second day of a four-day Ashes tour match. —AFP

Olympic Club gets PGA Championship and Ryder Cup

SAN FRANCISCO: The Olympic Club in San Francisco is leaving its US Open heritage to host the PGA Championship in 2028 and the Ryder Cup in 2032. The announcement Wednesday adds to the growing list of major golf events on the West Coast, which typically have stronger television ratings because they can be shown in prime time on the East Coast.

The PGA Championship also is scheduled for Harding Park in 2020. The US Open will be held four times in California over the next 10 years - twice at Pebble Beach, once at Torrey Pines and once at Los Angeles Country Club. "For us, it has been a strategic priority to bring more of our events to the West Coast," Pete Bevacqua, the PGA of America's chief executive officer, said in a telephone interview. "It's no secret these West Coast events perform strongly in television ratings being able to show them in prime time."

Return to Valhalla

Former San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds brought in the Wanamaker Trophy during a press conference at Olympic Club. Bonds was part of the gallery watching Tiger Woods when the Presidents Cup was at Harding Park in 2009.

USA hope to end 17-year Fed Cup title drought

MINSK: The United States aim to end their longest Fed Cup title drought when they meet a Belarus team missing former world number one and two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka in this weekend's final. The 17-time champions USA claimed their last title in 2000 and have lost three finals since - to France in 2003 and Italy in 2009 and 2010.

This time they are missing the Williams sisters, who have not played in the Fed Cup this season, but all the members of American team are ranked higher than Belarus' top available player, Aryna Sabalenka, who is 78th in the world. Belarus have battled into their maiden Fed Cup final but will be without Azarenka because of an ongoing custody battle over her baby son. Azarenka was forced to skip the US Open in August after a Los Angeles judge ruled that 10-month old Leo could not leave California until the case had been settled.

"It is heart-breaking for me to not have a chance to play and help Belarus in the final but unfortu-

nately, my current custody situation is keeping me in California," the 28-year-old said in a statement posted on her Twitter account. "Even though I will not be in Minsk for the final my heart is always with my country and my team and I will cheer for them from afar." The US team is made up of world number 10 CoCo Vandeweghe, US Open champion Sloane Stephens, Shelby Rogers and Alison Riske.

American team captain Kathy Rinaldi said she believed in her team's prospects in the final. "We've selected the players who have been playing for the team this year and were instrumental in getting the team to the Fed Cup final," she told Wednesday's news conference. "This is my A-team, I believe in its strength and the work that we have done to get this far. "The players really care for each other, so we are very excited and ready to go. We respect Belarus, they have a strong, talented team which have had a great year and reached the final."

The USA won their only previous Fed Cup encounter with Belarus, whitewashing the former Soviet republic 5-0 in the World Group II opening-round tie in February, 2012. Belarus team skipper Eduard Dubrov said he believed that both teams had even chance of winning the title. "One can consider us to be the final favorites. I have nothing against it but we don't even think about it," he said. "We just come onto the court and play. For me it's really hard to guess which team have the better chance to win." —AFP

Sports

Celtics roll past Lakers for 10th straight win



BOSTON: Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving (11) goes between Los Angeles Lakers' Lonzo Ball (2) and Brook Lopez during the fourth quarter of Boston's 107-96 win. —AP

LOS ANGELES: The injury-riddled Boston Celtics won their 10th straight game by cruising to a 107-96 win Wednesday over the Los Angeles Lakers in a matchup between two of the NBA's most storied franchises. Australia's Aron Baynes scored a career high 21 points during the game which saw the Celtics compile a 21 point first-half lead before the Lakers closed the gap in the third. But Los Angeles allowed the Celtics to pull away again in the fourth when it mattered most. The 30-year-old Baynes, who was born in New Zealand but grew up in Cairns, Australia, also grabbed eight rebounds and had three assists in front of a crowd of 18,600 at the Boston Garden. "We have such great creators on this team," said Baynes, a member of the Australian national team. "I just found myself in the right position. I was just trying to make the right play, and I'm trying to finish as best I could. "It's a compliment to the other guys on the team getting me the ball in great position."

Boston's Kyrie Irving overcame a poor shooting night to finish with 19 points, six rebounds and five assists. But the banged-up Celtics are the hottest team in the NBA for a reason. They are getting contributions from everyone with different players stepping up each game. On Wednesday it was Baynes' turn along with Marcus Morris, who had 18 points, and Terry Rozier who added 14 points and eight rebounds.

"Until we have only four (players) left, I guess we're just going to keep playing," Boston coach Brad Stevens said. "And then I don't know what you do at four, but keep playing. "Most importantly, and I don't want to make light, the most important (thing) is those guys get back healthy."

Brandon Ingram scored 18 points for the Lakers, who were guilty of 21 turnovers. Wednesday also marked the first pro meeting between Celtics rookie and third overall pick Jayson Tatum and Lakers rookie Lonzo Ball. But the matchup was shortened after Tatum had to leave the game because of an ankle problem.

The Celtics effectively passed over Ball at the draft by trading down from the number one pick to get Tatum at number three. The Celtics knew Tatum was going to be available in that position because the Lakers planned to take Ball at number two. Tatum finished with five points and had one rebound and one assist in nine minutes during the first half. He didn't return for the second half.

The 19-year old Tatum had been given a more prominent role because of an opening night injury to Gordon Hayward. He has responded by averaging 14.3 points and 6.5 rebounds in his first 11 games. The Celtics, who are already without Hayward for the season, were also missing Al Horford on Wednesday. He is out with a possible concussion.

Point guard Ball was loudly booed during the pre-game introductions and jeered every time he touched the ball. Celtics fans are still upset at his father LaVar Ball who said publicly that the younger Ball wouldn't play for the Celtics. Ball's shooting woes continued on Wednesday as he fin-

ished with just nine points on four-of-15 shooting from the field in 39 minutes of playing time. "It's just in my head, to be honest," said Ball. "I know I can shoot the ball."

Ball is also dealing with the recent arrest of his younger brother Li Angelo Ball in China on suspicion of shoplifting. Ball doesn't think the case will be a distraction for him. "I mean, it's still my little brother. But I got to come out here and play," he said. The Lakers other point guard is Jordan Clarkson who came off the bench to tie for a team high 18 points in just 27 minutes of action.

WARRIORS 125, TIMBERWOLVES 101

Klay Thompson scored 28 points with six 3-pointers, Stephen Curry had 22 points, eight assists and eight rebounds, and Golden State beat Minnesota for its fifth straight win. Even without injured Kevin Durant, the defend-

ing champs began to look like their dominant old selves. Draymond Green posted another all-round balanced performance with seven points, six rebounds, six assists and two blocks for the Warriors, who played without NBA Finals MVP Durant as he nursed a bruised left thigh. Andre Iguodala started in place of Durant, and the 2015 Finals MVP scored a season-high 11 points. Andrew Wiggins scored 17 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 16 points and 12 rebounds as the Timberwolves had their five-game winning streak snapped.

PISTONS 114, PACERS 97

Tobias Harris scored 23 points and first-place Detroit won for the sixth time in seven games, beating Indiana. Andre Drummond added 14 points and 21 rebounds for the Pistons. They lead Cleveland by three games in the Central Division. Indiana lost its fourth straight. Victor Oladipo led the Pacers with 21 points, but Indiana has allowed at least 100 points in 10 of 12 games this season. The Pacers were without injured big man Domantas Sabonis (bruised right calf).

MAGIC 112, KNICKS 99

Nikola Vucevic scored 24 points and Evan Fournier added 23 to help Orlando beat New York. Jonathon Simmons scored 15 of his 16 points in the second half. He had 11 straight points early in the fourth quarter to push the Magic's lead back to double figures. The Magic, benefiting from the return of starting point guard Elfrid Payton, snapped a two-game losing streak. New York, playing without scoring Kristaps Porzingis (ankle and elbow injuries), had its three-game winning streak come to an end. Tim Hardaway Jr. led New York with 26 points.

HEAT 126, SUNS 115

Former Phoenix guard Goran Dragic scored a season-high 29 points in the Miami Heat's 126-115 victory over the Suns on Wednesday night. The Heat made 12 3-pointers, shot 53.1 percent overall and never trailed. Hassan Whiteside added 23 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots for Miami. Devin Booker led Phoenix with 30 points. The Suns have lost four straight. —AP

“ We have such great creators on this team ”

Sports

Italy legend Cannavaro returns to Chinese champions Guangzhou

SHANGHAI: Italian World Cup winner Fabio Cannavaro was named manager of Chinese Super League champions Guangzhou Evergrande yesterday, returning to the club that cut him loose in 2015. The 44-year-old former Juventus and Real Madrid defender, who quit Tianjin Quanjian earlier this week, signed a five-year contract and replaces Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari at China's perennial league winners.

Cannavaro will be expected to continue Guangzhou Evergrande's domination of the Chinese Super League (CSL) — on Saturday they lifted a seventh consecutive league title — and inspire them to a third AFC Champions League crown. Speaking at the Italian's unveiling, club boss Xu Jiayin, China's richest man, said Cannavaro will also be tasked with fielding a side of only Chinese players by 2020.

In the summer they lost Brazilian international midfielder Paulinho to Barcelona, but their overseas contingent still includes three other Brazilians and Colombian striker Jackson Martinez. "I am flattered and happy to come back here, I said that I will come back one day," Cannavaro told the media. "I am excited by Evergrande's plan in the next few years and happy to work together with the club."

Cannavaro said that he was relishing building a team of homegrown stars, part of a bigger push

by the Chinese government to improve the fortunes of the underachieving national side by promoting local players. "I am sure that players from Evergrande can not only serve Evergrande, but what we hope even more is that they can serve the national team," said Cannavaro, cautioning however that would take time.

Mobbed by fans

Cannavaro, who resigned as Tianjin boss just days after steering them into the Champions League for the first time in their history, was in charge at Evergrande for seven months to June 2015. But he was replaced by World Cup-winning coach Scolari after what Cannavaro described at the time as a "consensual resolution" of his contract. Cannavaro's abrupt departure in 2015 disappointed many Evergrande supporters and he left with the team top of the league and in the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

Hundreds of fans had mobbed him at the airport as he departed the southern Chinese city. The Italian former international defender, who captained his country to World Cup glory in 2006, winning FIFA World Player of the Year, next managed for a brief time in Saudi Arabia before returning to China with ambitious Tianjin. He led them to promotion from China's second-tier

“

I said that I will come back one day

”



GUANGZHOU: This file photo taken on November 4, 2017 shows players of Tianjin Quanjian throwing up their head coach Fabio Cannavaro as they celebrate their victory against Guangzhou Evergrande during the Chinese Super League (CSL) football league. — AFP

League One and then to third in the CSL—and a Champions League play-off berth—by beating Evergrande 2-1 away on the final day of the season on Saturday.

The Tianjin players tossed Cannavaro up in the air afterwards in celebration, but speculation was already swirling that he was poised to leave to go back to Guangzhou. Former Portuguese international Paulo Sousa replaced Cannavaro at

Tianjin. Two-time former Champions League winners Evergrande reached this season's quarter-finals before being narrowly beaten over two legs by Andre Villas-Boas's Shanghai SIPG, their nearest domestic rivals. Cannavaro is among a trio of big-name Italians coaching in China, with Fabio Capello at Jiangsu Suning and Marcello Lippi—formerly in charge at Evergrande—manager of the national side. — AFP

Kuwaiti players rack up wins in local tournament

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Tennis Association had recently organized the Kuwait International Professional Tennis Tournament organized by and under the supervision of International Tennis Federation (ITF). The tournament included the participation of a distinguished group of players representing 27 countries including Italy, USA, Russia, France, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, India, Holland, Japan, Germany, Romania, South Africa, Belgium, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Austria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Spain, Croatia, Sweden, Norway, Canada, Turkey, Serbia, Bahrain and Lebanon in addition to the host country Kuwait.

During the second week of games, Kuwait's Mohammad Al-Ghareeb and Abdallah Maqdes defeat India's Lakshit and Chandril Sood. The superior experience of the Kuwaiti players played a



Abdallah Maqdes

major part in their win by the score of 7/6 - 6/3. The Kuwaitis will next meet Romania's George Botezan and his partner Giovanni Samaha from Lebanon in the quarter finals.

Kuwait's Abdelrahman Mohammad Al-Awadhi and Abdelhameed Mahboub Jumaa defeated Anurag Nawnani from India and his partner Jose Vidal Azorin



Mohammad Al-Ghareeb

from Spain by the score of 6/3 - 4/6 - (10/6). The Kuwaiti partners will meet the tournament's top ranked team from Austria Maximilian Neuchrist and David Pichler. Elsewhere, Kuwait's Ali Al-Shatti and his partner Essa Qabazard lost to George Botezan and his partner Giovanni Samaha by the score 2/6 - 2/6. The tournament will continue until November 19.

Basketball Association forms new committee

KUWAIT: The Basketball Association formed a five member committee to run the association during a meeting of its general assembly that was held yesterday at the Kuwait Olympic Committee premise.

The committee includes:

- Dhari Barjas, chairman of the board
- Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, Deputy Chairman
- Haitham Baroun, secretary
- Salem Al-Marta, Treasurer
- Ahmad Al-Daihani, member

The Public Authority for sports dissolved the association a year ago after most of the board members resigned. Later, it formed a five-member committee to run it and this prompted the general assembly to interfere and they in turn formed a temporary committee



Dhari Barjas

to run the association and call for elections during a period that does not exceed 90 days. The general assembly saw ten out of 12 clubs attending as Kuwait, Kazima, Nasr, Sulaybkat, Sahel, Jahra, Yarmouk, Tadamon, Qurain, and Shabab were present while Al-Qadesya and Arabi were absent.

Sports

Italy set to face World Cup nightmare against Sweden

'A World Cup without Italy isn't a World Cup'

MILAN: For football giants Italy the next few days could be a nightmare as they face a double-headed playoff against Sweden to avoid the humiliation of missing the World Cup for the first time in 60 years. "A World Cup without Italy isn't a World Cup" has become the catchphrase of many Italians—four-time world champions—who are perplexed at how the once-mighty Azzurri have fallen so low.

The last time Italy missed the World Cup was the 1958 edition which was hosted in Sweden. "I don't even consider the idea of not qualifying. We'll go to Russia for sure," insisted coach Gian Piero Ventura, who took over from Antonio Conte after the 2016 European Championship. "We're Italy and missing out on the World Cup is not an option," added experienced centre-back Leonardo Bonucci. The playoff puts Italy's proud record of World Cup participation in danger. The Azzurri are tied with Germany for most appearances by a European nation, 18. But Germany have already made sure of a 19th berth.

Italy are also the only one of the eight previous winners not yet sure of their place in this World Cup. "Italy is Italy and has a particular standing in world football. And it's inevitable that they are favorite," said former Italy international and ex-Manchester City coach Roberto Mancini. "It's sure at 100 percent that we'll be at the World Cup. And historically when we struggle to qualify then we usually make a big tournament."

Italy last won the World Cup in 2006 under

Marcello Lippi with the hope that with their experience, talent and skill they could continue to prevail in years to come. But despite a run to the Euro 2012 final they have failed to deliver consistency on the big stage, although former Juventus boss Conte led them to the quarter-finals of Euro 2016 with wins over Spain and Belgium.

After Conte's departure for Chelsea the federation turned to veteran journeyman Ventura, who had coached clubs in Italy at all levels over 41 years. The 69-year-old has often however appeared overwhelmed by the task, preferring to stick to his 4-2-4 tactical system to the detriment of the creativity of stars such as Marco Verratti, Lorenzo Insigne, Ciro Immobile and Andrea Belotti. Confidence took a knock during a tough qualifying campaign during which they lost 3-0 to Spain, and also struggled past Israel (1-0) and Albania (1-0) while labouring to a dismal 1-1 draw at home to Macedonia.

Buffon record

Italy travel to Sweden for the first leg of their playoff today in Stockholm with the return leg in front of a sell-out crowd in Milan's San Siro on Monday. The four-time winners have missed just two World Cup finals—the first in 1930 when they chose not to compete and in 1958 when they did not qualify. But veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon—bidding to reach a record sixth World Cup finals in Russia—and Italy's defense need to beware of Sweden, the

ensure qualification. A draw will also suffice for long-time World Cup absentees Morocco, who take a one-point Group C advantage over the Ivory Coast to Abidjan. England-born Baxter was upbeat this week despite a serious of blows, and the 64-year-old insists star-stacked Senegal can be beaten twice. "We have knives to our throats," he admitted, "but maybe we can sneak into the World Cup through the back door. "There is lots of pressure on Senegal because almost everyone expects them to qualify. They do not want to throw it all away. "We must replicate the aggression shown in our win over Burkina Faso last month," said Baxter, who failed to get South Africa to the 2006 World Cup during a prior spell as coach.

South Africa have lost two midfielders with Hlompho Kekana pulling out after his mother-in-law died and Thulani Serero shunning a call-up because he was not guaranteed a starting place. However, Baxter cheered the arrival at training of goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune, two days after officials said a fractured bone above his eye would sideline him for six weeks. The 30-year-old long-time star hopes to face the Senegalese Teranga Lions using a protective mask. Originally doubtful because of a hamstring injury, star Senegal attacker Sadio Mane is now set to play having helped Liverpool triumph at West Ham last weekend. — AFP



FLORENCE: Italian players run during a training session ahead of Friday's World Cup play-off soccer match against Sweden, at the Coverciano training center. —AP

top scorers among the eight playoff teams, with 26 goals in 10 games.

"They (Sweden) create a sense of fear because they always do the same thing but they do it well," said Buffon, 39, who ironically made his Italy debut during their last World Cup play-off 20 years ago against Russia. Buffon, then 19, came on as a substitute under the snow in Moscow after Gianluca

Pagliuca was injured. Italy were held 1-1 but qualified in the return leg. Two decades on Buffon—now the Italy captain and record holder of 173 caps—will be hoping his international career does not end where it began with a playoff. "We mustn't feel the pressure because it won't help us," insisted Buffon. "The important thing is the result is the same as in 1997." —AFP

'Knives to throats' as South Africa seeks miracle

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa coach Stuart Baxter says his team have "knives to their throats" as they attempt an extraordinary qualification for the 2018 World Cup. Bottom-of-the-table Bafana Bafana (The Boys) face Senegal in Polokwane and Dakar between Friday and Tuesday and must win both matches to snatch first place in Group D. Senegal top the table with eight points from four matches, Burkina Faso and Cape Verde have six from five, and South Africa four from four.

South Africa and Senegal have an extra match because the 2-1 win by Bafana last November was annulled due to FIFA finding the Ghanaian referee guilty of "match manipulation". Africa will send five teams to Russia next year and three places are still up for grabs after Nigeria and Egypt secured places last month. Tunisia hold a three-point lead over the Democratic Republic of Congo in Group A and need a draw at home against unpredictable Libya to

Spain well-served with strikers despite Costa's absence

MADRID: Spain will remain without Diego Costa at least until next year, and nobody is really worried about it. Thanks to a good run by its deep stock of strikers, La Roja is well-served in attack seven months out from the World Cup. Alvaro Morata, Iago Aspas, and Rodrigo all have been in top form, helping to put aside any talk about Costa's absence.

Costa has not been called up by coach Julen Lopetegui since June because he has not played competitively since transferring from Chelsea to Atletico Madrid. The Spanish club is serving a transfer ban from FIFA and can't register any new players until January, so Costa has been practicing but can't play. Lopetegui says he will not consider bringing back the veteran until he starts playing competitively again. That hasn't been cause for concern.

The other forwards have been getting the job done, leading Spain to a World Cup berth without having to go through the playoffs. "We are very happy," Lopetegui tells local radio station

CadenaSer. "Morata is a very good No. 9, as is Rodrigo, and Aspas, and Diego when he is with us." Costa's last game was in the qualifier at Macedonia, where he scored the winner in the 2-1 victory. Since then, Spain has outscored opponents 15-0 in four games. Morata has three goals, including in the decisive 3-0 win against Italy in September. Aspas scored twice as Liechtenstein was routed 8-0 a few days later, and Rodrigo found the net when Albania was beaten 3-0 in October, which secured Spain another trip to the World Cup.

Attacking options

The trio has also been thriving with their clubs. Morata netted the winner against Manchester United last weekend, Rodrigo is coming off a run of three goals in Valencia's last three games, and Aspas netted three times in Celta Vigo's last two matches. "We are very happy with all the strikers that we have and when it's time we will decide who will be the starter," Lopetegui says. "And the player who gets to start the first game of the World Cup may not be the one who plays in the second game, we will have to wait and see. But they will all get their chances."

Forwards Vitolo and Jose Callejon were also called up by Lopetegui for the friendlies against Costa Rica on Saturday and Russia on Tuesday. There are also other attacking options, including Marco Asensio, David Silva, Luis Alberto, Saul Niguez, Suso, and Isco. —AP

Sports

Opportunity knocks for young England and Germany hopefuls

LONDON: With both squads beset by injuries, today's Wembley friendly between England and Germany represents an opportunity for fringe players and untested youngsters to stake claims to World Cup places. Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Raheem Sterling are among the players to have withdrawn from England's squad, while world champions Germany are without Manuel Neuer, Jerome Boateng and Thomas Mueller.

Whilst the fans who make their way to England's national stadium may lament the absences of so many well-known stars, the players who remain in contention are rubbing their hands in anticipation. "I've never played there," said 22-year-old Germany defender Niklas Sule, who could partner his Bayern Munich club-mate Mats Hummels at centre-back in Boateng's absence. "It's one of the biggest and best stadiums in the world and it would be huge for me to be able to run out there."

Hummels is expected to be fit despite sitting out training on Wednesday with a knock, but Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos is doubtful due to a gastrointestinal infection. Midfielders Ilkay Gundogan and Mario Goetze are hoping to prove themselves worthy of a berth in Germany coach Joachim Loew's World Cup squad



Rubbing their hands in anticipation

after long spells on the sidelines. Neither player has played for Germany since November 2016, Gundogan due to a serious knee injury and Goetze-whose goal against Argentina won the last World Cup-because of a debilitating metabolic disorder.

England manager Gareth Southgate's cupboard is nowhere near as well stocked, with midfielders Adam Lallana, Jordan Henderson, Harry Winks and Fabian Delph also out of action. Southgate's squad already looked inexperienced after he chose to call up the uncapped Joe Gomez, Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Tammy Abraham. He has since been obliged to draft in another international newcomer in Burnley's Jack Cork, with Everton defender Michael Keane and West Bromwich Albion midfielder Jake Livermore also joining the squad.

'The best there is'

Nevertheless, Southgate always intended to use today's game-and Tuesday's meeting with Brazil-to test his options with a view to next year's World Cup in Russia. "We had to qualify, so to fiddle too much with the team and change the team while you are still having to win is difficult," he said. "Now we've got a phase where



BERLIN: Players jog during a training session of the German national soccer team. —AP

we can see what's possible here. How can we evolve the team? How can we take it forward?" Neither England nor Confederations Cup champions Germany are cutting corners when it comes to the caliber of the teams they will face

in the build-up to the World Cup. Germany, who are unbeaten in 19 games, host France on Tuesday and will play Spain and Brazil in March, while a friendly against Italy awaits England in their first game of 2018. —AFP

Naby Keita: Leipzig's Liverpool-bound midfield engine

BERLIN: Liverpool-bound Naby Keita has hit the headlines for allegedly using a forged driving license in Germany, but he is RB Leipzig's midfield engine who one day hopes to play for Barcelona. The 22-year-old box-to-box midfielder was a key component in Leipzig's stunning first season in the Bundesliga when they briefly kept Bayern Munich off top spot before finishing second in the 2016/17 campaign.

He has had a tough start to this season following the August announcement that he will join Liverpool for 2018/19. Keita was sent off three times in seven games for club and country including a yellow-red in the German Cup, second round, defeat at home to Bayern Munich last month. He also fell offside with German police when it emerged at the weekend that he is accused of forgery after twice using a fake Guinea licence in his attempts to obtain a German driving permit. He is appealing a reported fine of 415,000 euros (£366,731, \$480,009). Keita was born in Guinea's capital

Conakry on February 10, 1995 and as a child used to enjoy kicking anything round-often with expensive results.

Broken lampshades

"I always looked forward to going to the supermarket with my mother," he told Bundesliga.com. "There were a lot of round things to play football with. Unfortunately, there were also things like lampshades, which got broken." My mum always says that shopping with me was very expensive." While still a teenager, he left his hometown club of Horoya AC to join FC Istres in 2013 when the club were in France's second division.

He netted four goals and provided seven assists in 23 appearances during an impressive Ligue 2 campaign which attracted the attention of Austrian outfit Red Bull Salzburg in 2014. The move yielded five titles as he helped the club win the Austrian league and cup double in 2014/15 and again in 2015/16, when he picked up the Austrian Bundesliga's Player of the Year award. All five trophies were achieved while he was still just 21.

He made his debut for Guinea in 2014 with a goal against Mali and he helped his country reach the quarter-finals of the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations. Keita's impressive two-year spell in Austria saw him move for 2016/17 to newly-promoted RB Leipzig, despite admiring glances from some of Europe's top clubs. "He's

one of the best I've worked with in 20 years of professional football," enthused Leipzig's director of football Ralf Rangnick. Keita made an immediate impact at Leipzig, coming off the bench to score the winning goal as his Bundesliga debut finished with a shock 1-0 victory over Borussia Dortmund.

Alongside playmaker Emil Forsberg, who set a new German league record of 17 assists in a season, Keita was outstanding in Leipzig's midfield as they finished second to Bayern Munich. Keita netted eight goals and provided just as many assists in his 31 league games last season and has so far managed one goal and assist in his eight Bundesliga games in 2017/18. He has never been shy about his ambitions.

"I wish for good health, that I am the best African footballer in the world and that I play one day for Barcelona," he told the RB Salzburg's club magazine before his move to Germany. Keita is a central midfielder comfortable in either half of the pitch. He does not shy away from crunching tackles or fulfilling his midfield duties and is popular with team mates. "Naby is friendly and approachable. It's hard not to get along with him," said Rangnick. His arrival at Anfield will see him fight with Emre Can, Gini Wijnaldum and Jordan Henderson for a place in Liverpool's midfield when Jurgen Klopp-one of Keita's many admirers-finally gets his wish to bring him to Merseyside. —AFP

Peru's WC quest faces Kiwi test

WELLINGTON: High-flying Peru open their World Cup play-off against New Zealand tomorrow as red-hot favorites to win the two-legged tie and end a 36-year absence from football's show-piece tournament. On paper, it should be no contest—"Los Incas" are currently at an all-time high of 10th in the FIFA world rankings, above the likes of England (12), Italy (15) and fellow South Americans Uruguay (17).

Oceania champions New Zealand lie 112 places beneath them and no team in play-off history has overcome such a ranking discrepancy to reach the World Cup. But Peru suffered a major blow in the lead-up to the first leg in Wellington when goal-scoring talisman Paolo Guerrero of Brazilian giants Flamengo was suspended over an "abnormal result" from a drugs test.

They also face a potentially tricky opponent in New Zealand, with skipper Winston Reid (West Ham) marshalling the defence and striker Chris Wood (Burnley) looking to continue his fine form in the English Premier League. The physical All Whites want to avoid conceding away goals at Wellington's Westpac Stadium, piling further pressure on a young Peru team already shouldering a huge weight of expectations.

The South Americans have not qualified for a World Cup since 1982 and President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski made it clear when the team left for New Zealand that they were carrying the dreams of a football-mad nation. "We are all warriors and we are going to win," he told the players. "I know that Peru will win and I am here to wish them all the best. —AFP

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BOSTON: Boston Celtics center Aron Baynes dunks over Los Angeles Lakers' Brandon Ingram (14) during the third quarter of Boston's 107-96 win. — AP

Celtics roll past Lakers for 10th straight win