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Hariri announces return to Lebanon as crisis simmers

Outgoing PM meets Macron in Paris • Saudi Arabia recalls ambassador to Germany

PARIS: Prime Minister Saad Hariri said he will return to Lebanon for Wednesday's Independence Day celebrations and explain his situation, after his shock resignation announcement in Saudi Arabia sparked political turmoil. Speaking after talks in Paris yesterday with French President Emmanuel Macron, who is seeking to broker a way out of the crisis, Hariri said he would "make known my position" once back in Beirut. "As you know I have resigned, and we will discuss that in Lebanon," he said told reporters, saying he needed to meet with President Michel Aoun before taking further steps.

Hariri's announcement follows two weeks of deep uncertainty after his surprise decision to step down on Nov 4. His failure to return to Lebanon since then sparked rumors that he was being held in Riyadh against his will, which both he and Saudi officials denied. "To say that I am held up in Saudi Arabia and not allowed to leave the country is a lie," he said in a Twitter post just before flying to Paris overnight.

Hariri's wife and eldest son Houssam joined him for lunch with Macron at the Elysee Palace, but their two younger children, who live in Saudi Arabia, have remained there "for their school exams", a source close to the premier said. "Hariri does not want to mix his children up in this affair," the source said. His mysterious decision to step down - which Aoun has refused to accept while Hariri remains abroad - has raised fears over Lebanon's fragile democracy.

Hariri's camp has sought to allay the concerns, with a source saying the premier had a "fruitful and constructive" meeting with the powerful Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman before leaving. Hariri, a dual Saudi citizen who has previously enjoyed Riyadh's backing, resigned saying he feared for his life. He accused Saudi Arabia's arch-rival Iran and its powerful Lebanese ally Hezbollah of destabilizing his country.

Hariri's resignation was widely seen as an escalation of the battle for influence between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which back opposing sides in the conflicts in Syria and Yemen. His attempt to step down also coincides with a purge of more than 200 Saudi princes, ministers and businessmen. Hariri met French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in Riyadh on Thursday as Paris, which held mandate power over Lebanon for the first half of the 20th century, seeks to ease the crisis.

In another development, Riyadh yesterday recalled its ambassador to Berlin in protest at comments by Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel which were interpreted as a suggestion that Hariri acted under Saudi orders.

Without mentioning Saudi Arabia directly, Gabriel had said Thursday that he shared concerns about the threat of instability and bloodshed in Lebanon and warned against "adventurism". "Lebanon has earned the right to decide on its fate by itself and not become a pinball of Syria or Saudi Arabia or other national interests," he had

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PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron (second right) and his wife Brigitte (right) welcome Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, his wife Lara and their son Houssam at the Elysee Presidential Palace yesterday. — AFP

Harbi denies Egypt onions were released without tests

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and Agencies

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi denied yesterday rumors that the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition released imported Egyptian agricultural products that were not checked by the supreme committee for food safety. The ministry will not release these products unless receiving health and pesticide-free certificates by laboratories and after a three-month period of intense monitoring of the products, Harbi told reporters. The ministry is currently investigating the companies that imported these agricultural products, he noted, adding that necessary procedures against them will be carried out soon.

Harbi's comments came after MP Riyadh Al-Adsani warned the supreme committee for food safety and concerned ministries not to allow selling onions or any other food items without examining them to make sure they are safe for human consumption. Adsani added he will file parliamentary inquiries requesting the results of tests of the produce offered for sale in local markets, bearing in mind that local

Continued on Page 11

Party set to sack Mugabe as elated Zimbabweans march on residence

HARARE: Tens of thousands of overjoyed protesters flooded Zimbabwe's streets yesterday celebrating the crumbling of President Robert Mugabe's ruthless regime, which had controlled the country for nearly 40 years. In scenes of public euphoria not seen since independence in 1980, huge crowds marched, danced and sang their way through the capital Harare and other cities, demanding that Mugabe, 93, finally step down.

The mass turnout came after an unprecedented week in which the military seized power and put Mugabe under house arrest in response to his sacking of vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa. The marches were peaceful, despite a tense stand-off as heavily armed soldiers barred thousands of protesters from reaching Mugabe's official residence, the State House, in central Harare.

The crowd got within 200 m of the gates to the complex that has been the nerve center of Mugabe's authoritarian rule before staging a sit-down protest. Yesterday's demonstrations, which began to draw down after 1530 GMT, were called by independence war veterans to thank the military, but soon spread to

include citizens of all ages, jubilant that Mugabe appeared to be on his way out.

Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party will meet today to dismiss Mugabe and reinstate Mnangagwa, two party sources told Reuters yesterday. The sources said a party central committee meeting scheduled for 10:30 am would also dismiss Mugabe's preferred successor, his wife Grace, from her role as head of the ZANU-PF Women's League. Shortly after the sources revealed the meeting, a motorcade left Mugabe's official residence to boos and jeers from onlookers, although a security said Mugabe was not inside. Mugabe's nephew, Patrick Zhuwao, told Reuters the elderly leader and his wife were "ready to die for what is correct" rather than step down in order to legitimize what he described as a coup. Speaking from a secret location in South Africa, Zhuwao said Mugabe had hardly slept since the military took over but his health was otherwise "good".

"This is the best day of my life. We are hoping for a new life after Mugabe," said 38-year-old Sam Sechete at the main rally in Highfield, a working-class suburb of Harare. A symbolic location,



HARARE: Armed soldiers control a euphoric crowd marching near State House demanding the departure of President Robert Mugabe yesterday. — AP

Highfield was where Mugabe gave his first speech after returning from exile in Mozambique ahead of independence in 1980. Demonstrators, who began arriving around midnight, roared, whistled and chanted, brandishing placards proclaiming: "Not coup - but cool" and "Mugabe must go!"

In central Harare, a group of young men tore down a green metal street sign bearing Robert Mugabe's name and smashed it repeatedly on the road before trampling it underfoot. Other groups of

protesters headed towards Mugabe's private Blue Roof residence in the suburb of Borrowdale, where he was initially held under house arrest following the army's seizure of power. Major General Sibusiso Moyo, whose faltering delivery of an army statement on state TV marked the completion of the takeover on Wednesday, told journalists at the protests "the people of Zimbabwe are disciplined, orderly and they are unified". In Bulawayo, the country's second-

Continued on Page 11

German ministry urges ban on Kuwait Airways over Israel issue

BERLIN: The German government should revoke landing rights for Kuwait Airways given its ban on Israeli passengers, a senior Justice Department official said on Friday, saying such discrimination was intolerable. Christian Lange, parliamentary state secretary in the ministry, appealed to Chancellor Angela Merkel to personally advocate a ban on Kuwait Airways' operations in Germany. A German court ruled on Thursday that the airline had the right to refuse to carry an Israeli passenger due to his nationality, a verdict that Jewish groups said condoned anti-Semitism.

Lange told Merkel in the letter that he had received countless phone calls from members of the Jewish community and from others in Israel, expressing shock about the court ruling, made just days after Germany solemnly marked the anniversary of the Nov 9, 1938 Nazi pogroms against the Jews. "We cannot say 'Never again' at a

remembrance ceremony, but then remain silent when activists in Germany call for a boycott of Israel, or, as in this case, when an airline refuses to carry Israeli citizens," Lange said. "Especially the German government must make clear that we reject this form of discrimination and hate, and that we stand by the side of our Israeli friends," he told the chancellor.

The Lawfare Project, the legal group that represented the plaintiff in the case, has vowed to appeal against the ruling. "To see a Jewish person banned from exercising his freedoms in Germany in 2017 is chilling enough. To see that discrimination whitewashed and legitimized by a German judge is grotesque," said the group's executive director, Brooke Goldstein.

Deputy German Foreign Minister Michael Roth also criticized the airline's policy, telling Die Welt newspaper that he had contacted the Kuwaiti ambassador in Germany about the issue. German Transport Minister Christian Schmidt told Bild newspaper that it was not acceptable to discriminate against airline passengers because of their nationality, and said the German government would address the matter with the Kuwaiti government.

"This requires contacts at the ministerial level," Schmidt told the newspaper in an interview published yesterday. "We will do all we can within our legal means to prevent something like this in the future," Schmidt told the paper. There was no immediate response to a request for comment emailed to the airline. — Reuters

Miss World win draws India level with Venezuela

SANYA, China: An Indian medical student was crowned Miss World at a glitzy event in a Chinese resort yesterday, making her country the joint-most successful in the beauty pageant's history. Manushi Chhillar is the sixth Indian winner of the long-running contest, following in the footsteps of Bollywood actresses Priyanka Chopra and Aishwarya Rai. Her win brings India level with Venezuela as the countries with most victories in the history of the pageant, now in its 67th edition.

Chhillar, 20, is a trained Indian classical dancer who also enjoys painting and hopes to open a chain of non-profit hospitals in rural areas, according to the Miss World website. "Thank you, everyone, for your constant love, support," and prayers she wrote on Twitter. "This one's for India." Chhillar's victory rapidly became a top trending topic on the social media platform in India after the announcement, with



SANYA, China: Miss India Manushi Chhillar wins the 67th Miss World contest final on the tropical Chinese island of Hainan yesterday. — AFP

Manohar Lal Khattar - the minister of her home state of Haryana - among the first to offer congratulations.

Chhillar was handed the crown by last year's winner, Stephanie del Valle of Puerto Rico, at the ceremony in the Chinese coastal city of Sanya yesterday night. Stephanie Hill of England and Andrea Meza of Mexico finished as runners-up. Yesterday marked the Miss World pageant's return to Sanya, on southern

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كندا هي ثاني أكبر بلد في العالم، هي أرض الجمال حيث لا مثيل لها، بها حياة برية متراصة وغير محدودة، موارد لا حدود لها، حيث لا تتجاوز جغرافيتها الهائلة إلا تاريخها الفني وتنوع شعبها وتقاليد الديمقراطية. هذا العام، يحتفل الكنديون بالذكرى الـ 150 للاتحاد الكونفدرالي. انضموا إلينا في هذا الاحتفال الفريد وعبروا لنا كيف تكون صورة الإحتفالات بمرور مائة وخمسون عاماً على كندا #Canada150. نتمنى لكم حظاً سعيداً، فنلتونوا الأجزاء..

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The awards ceremony will be held on the evening of Monday, Nov 20. Awards and certificates of appreciation will be given to the winning students who participated. The drawing competition was organized by Kuwait Times with support of the Canadian Embassy to Kuwait. It was held from October 8, 2017 until November 8, 2017, with the participation of more than 11,800 students from 175 private and public schools and specialneeds schools.

Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager of Kuwait Times, said participation in this art competition was open to students at all levels of education. The goal of the contest was for students to express their feelings and their knowledge about the beautiful nature, progress and heritage and culture and civilization of other countries. The contest's slogan motivated students to express their knowledge of Canada through art. Participants could make magnificent paintings about tourism, environment, civilization and symbols that reflect the contest's slogan. They used different materials such as watercolor, charcoal, oil and crayon.

More than 11,800 drawings were received from 175 different schools from students aged 6 to 18 years. It was hard for the judging committee to choose only 10 drawings from them. The judges are Mr. Abdul Kareem Al-Enizi, Mr. Asaad Bunashi, Mrs. Ameera Ashkinani from Kuwait Formative Arts Association, Mrs. Svitlana Arndt, who graduated from the Academy of Arts of the University of Ukraine and is the head of the Ukrainian community in Kuwait, and Mrs. Jeanette Jenson from the Canadian Embassy.

Prizes to the winners will be given by the sponsors and other officials in the presence of Arab and foreign print and visual media. We invite the winning students and their parents, principals and teachers. Valuable prizes will be provided by the embassy for the winners. The event will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel on Monday, Nov 20, 2017 under the patronage of HE Minister of Education and Higher Education; HE Martine Moreau, Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait and Mr. Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait Times, in addition to the sponsors- Four Seasons Hotel, Ebla, Algonquin College of Kuwait, PIC and SNC-Lavalin, Air Canada, Kufpec and Lufthansa.

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Local

No halt to plans to reduce expats in Kuwait: Minister

Fees on expats help improve business environment

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs And Labor and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh stressed that she had not been subjected to any pressure from VIPs or visa traffickers to halt plans to reduce the number of expats in the country and pointed out that 337 related violations had been referred to investigation in 2017, in addition to 302 cases filed, 150 referred to courts and 58 in which sentences had been already passed.

Responding to a parliamentary inquiry filed by MP Khalil Al-Saleh, Sabeeh added that imposing new fees on expats will help improve the business environment in the medium and long runs by keeping only well-qualified workers with high skills and reducing those with lower qualifications. She added that along with other procedural measures, the demographic imbalance problem can be resolved by increasing the fees of work permits, residency visas and increasing the minimum salary for an expat to sponsor a dependent visa from KD 250 to KD 450.

Sabeeh added that the 2015-2017/2019-2020 development plan targets increasing the number of nationals in the private sector despite the current obstacles represented in the outcome of the educational process, little incentives offered to

citizens compared to those in the public sector and citizens' reluctance to work in certain professions.

Budget deficit

Rapporteur of the parliament's financial affairs committee MP Saleh Ashour said the committee proposed a project to borrow from local and international markets to cover for the budget deficit and stressed that before borrowing, the government could consider other alternatives such as government investment bodies. "These investments should be directed to the state budget," he said, noting that Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) is the only body responsible for investments and that other government bodies are not entitled to invest. Notably, the government had proposed a bill requesting permission to borrow a maximum of KD 25 billion from local and international markets within 20 years.

Jaber Hospital

Kuwait Investment Authority's (KIA)

investment and new projects department is discussing the investment feasibility of founding a shareholding company to operate Jaber Hospital and offering 51 percent of its shares to be owned by citizens and 49 percent for public bidding, including 25 percent for a strategic investor and the balance for public and private companies.

The department explained that the company will also invest in the medical sector and other health services projects. The department also announced that contracts to supply the hospital's equipment had been signed, including contracts to provide cleaning services.

Uncollected debts

A government document showed that Kuwait Aviation Fueling Company (KAF-CO) has a total of KD 70.6 million in uncollected debts. According to the document, KAC is indebted by around KD 61.8 million, which is over 95 percent of the total amounts of the debts, of which only KD 28.2 million has been so far paid. The docu-

ment also showed that the defense ministry is also indebted to the company and that the debt is expected to be paid off this year.

Fences removed

Kuwait Municipality started removing all fences surrounding unlicensed gardens as stipulated by ministerial decision number 172/2007 pertaining agriculture by residential houses. Head of the capital emergency team Zaid Al-Enezi said emergency teams had already started distributing warning notices to violators who have built walls instead of hedges to surround their gardens and those who fail to regularly clean their planted areas. Enezi explained that according to the decision, owners are only entitled to use one-meter-high shrubs at the front and 1.5-m-high hedges on the sides.

Oil investment

Oil is still the world's most traded commodity despite investment in alternative energy. According to international reports by HowMuch.net website, Saudi Arabia is ranked first amongst 100 countries in exporting oil and providing 20.1 percent of the international market's needs, making profits of \$136.2 billion in 2016. The report also showed that Kuwait came sixth, making \$30.7 billion in the same period. The report also showed that five of the 100 countries



Hind Al-Sabeeh

provide 50 percent of oil exports, while the remaining countries provide the other 50 percent. The report also showed that apart from Saudi Arabia, three other Arab countries were amongst the top 10 oil exporters worldwide, with Iraq in the third place, UAE in the fifth and Kuwait in the sixth. The report also showed that the US came 20th with a 1.2 percent market share, Russia with a market share of 10.9 percent, Iraq with 6.8 percent, Canada with 5.8 percent, UAE with 5.7 percent, Kuwait with 4.5 percent, Iran with 4.3 percent, Nigeria with 4 percent, Angola with 3.7 percent and Norway with 3.3 percent.

Three Kuwaitis awarded at Arab cultural youth forum

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti poet, an artist and a storywriter were decorated on Friday at the Arab cultural youth forum, organized by the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) as part of Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth celebrations. Abdullah Al-Failakawi, of Kuwait, won the top award of classical Arabic poetry competition, while the second and third awards went to Egypt's Ahmad Jamal and Morocco's Ahmad Al-Herishi respectively. In the formative art contest, the top award went to Kuwaiti Omar Al-Dhefiri, the second to Khaled Al-Zahrani, of Saudi Arabia, and the third to Jawaher Al-Mana'i, of Qatar.

The top award of the short story writing went to Murad Al-Masari, of Morocco, the second to Kuwait's Ghalia Al-Mane' and the third to Mahmoud Al-Maleki, of Oman. The forum, held in synchronization with Kuwait's 42nd International Book Fair, provided an opportunity for Arab youth to engage in the development of their societies, said Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, director of PAY and head of the organizing committee. The forum was meant to highlight the creative talents of Arab youth and shed light on the contributions of pio-



KUWAIT: Officials pose with the awardees during the event. — KUNA

neers of Arab cultural movement, Al-Mutairi said at the award ceremony. He noted that the hosting of the ceremony at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center signaled the significance of cultural exchanges in bringing the Arab peoples close to each other. Mutairi thanked the participating youth from 11 Arab countries for con-

tributing to the success of the event. Sheikha Dr Suad Al-Sabah, who attended the ceremony as guest of honor, was honored for her contributions to the literary movement, alongside with the celebrated novelist Ismail Fahad Ismail and Abdulsould Salman, chairman of Kuwait Art Association. — KUNA

Woman's assaulter turns him self in

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Criminal investigators managed to identify a young man seen in a video circulating on social media assaulting a girl in her vehicle, the Interior Ministry's relations and security media department announced. The suspect later turned himself in to Qairawan police. Security sources noted that the suspect, a citizen, claimed he knew the girl. However, the man was detained pending summoning the girl to see whether she wanted to press charges.

Arrests

Residency affairs detectives inspected a number of domestic labor offices in Ahmadi, said security sources, noting that inspections resulted in the arrest of 20 illegal laborers and referring them to relevant authorities.

Fight

Two Arab vegetable vendors were arrested at Sulaibiya vegetable market for fighting and were referred to relevant authorities pending deportation.

Flasher

A bedoon was caught with a detective's flashing light and a police rank, which he said belonged to his policeman friend. He was referred to the department of supervision and inspection. The bedoon was arrested on Fifth Ring Road while he was driving at a speed of 200 km/hour, using the flasher. When police searched his car, a blue light, traffic ticket book, a first lieutenant rank, 10 bedoon passports, four weapons licenses, two Asian passports, three driving licenses, three civil IDs, and a chequebook were found.

Smuggling

Shuwaikh customs officer foiled an attempt to smuggle counterfeit items from China including bags, sunglasses, makeup, chargers and electronics. An official said the goods were in four containers. Inspection and storage director at Shuwaikh Port Musaed Al-Heelah said the goods carry fake international branding, while the makeup had carcinogenic material. Heelah said the goods will be destroyed.

Bootlegger

A citizen noticed a man selling liquor in the open, so he called police. When patrols arrived, the suspect, Indian, attempted to escape, but was caught and a bag containing six imported bottles were found.



Atia Bani



Officials attend a press conference held by Kuwait's Al-Najat Charity Society to announce sponsoring more than 1,500 Syrian refugee students in the Turkish cities of Hatay and Sanliurfa.

Weekly roundup of Kuwait's humanitarian efforts

KUWAIT: Living up to its UN-bestowed status as an International Humanitarian Center, Kuwait continued to aid needy people throughout the week. Starting domestically, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched winter aid campaign for 5,000 most vulnerable families in Kuwait. The low-income families will get provisions of food and winter clothing, blankets as well as heaters.

Volunteer Jaafar Al-Jamali from the local aid department said the distribution of winter clothes started on Monday and would continue "until we reach our target of 5,000 families." He said the clothes would be distributed to needy families, widows, divorcees, patients and low-income individuals.

In Gaza, Atia Bani, a Palestinian child, currently lives almost a normal life using two prosthetic legs fitted to his body with financial contributions by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS). He has restored his normal life and has become able to proceed with his daily chores due to the medical help provided by the Kuwait Red Crescent, said Redha Khodhr, the KRCS representative in Palestine. The KRCS had responded to an appeal for help by Bani's low-income family, Khodhr said, indicating that other Palestinian children with amputated legs had

received such help and became able to go to school and do other daily activities. However, there are still 200 cases that need such aid, said Khodhr, hoping that they get the help very soon.

Bani's mother said that the Kuwait Red Crescent had responded to the appeal for help quickly and in seven days, the association secured a sum to cover expenses of implanting the prosthetic legs to her son. His family expressed gratitude to the State of Kuwait, namely His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for the continuous support for the Palestinian people. The Palestinian child was born with deformities in the lower part of his body and other health problems.

In Ankara, Kuwait's Al-Najat Charity Society announced on Wednesday sponsoring more than 1,500 Syrian refugee students in the cities of Hatay and Sanliurfa in southern Turkey. The society has schools in several countries, including Turkey, for development and progress of societies and peoples are achieved through education, said director of the external education department Ibrahim Al-Bader.

Bader pointed out that the Syrian students are receiving the best education and educational services that combine authenticity, modernity and Islamic values, he said, adding that the Shanli Orfa School achieved first place among schools in the southern regions of Turkey. He also revealed that the Turkish Ministry of Education approved the establishment of Al-Najat charity school to host more than 1,000 students. Bader also said the society also sponsored more than 50 students in a number of universities abroad, stressing the society's keenness to support these students to complete their educational journey to be active in progress and renaissance of their countries. — KUNA

In my view

Arab-Latino kinship



By Jeri Al-Jeri

Culturally and anthropologically, there are unique similarities between us. When I used to sit in front of the television in my early teens, I watched an American cartoon about ants that decided to travel the world. Giggling at these tiny insects' goal of circling the earth, I was prepared to identify whichever country these ants reached. Surprisingly, the first destination was a desert where everyone wore baggy clothes, with Arabian oud strings and drums playing in background, which created a tune very familiar to my heart.

Suddenly, the ants mastered dance moves that were close to ours, not to mention the female ant wore a dress that had strong similarity to our fashion taste. This made me jump to the conclusion that they had crawled to us all the way from the US in a single episode. However, the hero shouted it out loud that they had just crossed the Mexican borders. I asked my father how these people called Mexicans are so close to us in everything, only to receive the usual answer: "We ruled Spain for 600 years."

But is it that simple? Early images of Latin America show how Christian women used to wear veils and garments that are carbon copies of the bedouin woman's abaya, which is a large black piece of fabric that covers her whole body and face, only keeping her eyes exposed. Not to mention how Hispanics are quite famous for their strong family ties that resemble the tight-knit family relationships in Arabia, in contrast to the mostly popular Western concept of the nuclear family, with the shaming of 18-year-old boys and girls to not stick with their families anymore.

Nonetheless, did Latinos get all of these traditions from Muslims? Or was it all there before Arabs reached Andalusia? It is not scientific to answer the former question with a confident "yes, we exported it all", nor is it historically sound. A French study on genetics found out that Berbers and Iberian peninsula tribes have the exact same genetic root - some attribute this relation to the fact that modern-day Morocco and Spain were geographical conjoined. The same family warmth and the velocity of speed are some of the traits they inherently shared even before Arabs reached West Africa.

Case in point - the Moroccan Arabic dialect is the fastest in all Arabia, as the case is of Spanish, which is of Latin origin, compared to the rest of European languages. Moroccans and Iberians used to have a large amount of these qualities that they shared already. Plus, the Muslim invasion was not an Arab invasion in the most part - it was a Moorish invasion led by Arab leaders, with a religion that its followers believed was the completion of Jesus of Nazareth's message, peace be upon him.

What does all of this say to the closeness of Latinos and Arabs in our modern life? There is no close biological relationship between Arabs and Latinos, not to mention the fact that Berbers and Arabs are two completely separate races with distinct cultural identities. However, human beings aren't defined by their vessels, but by their minds and morals, ie culture. And the more we untangle Arabic and Latino history, language, and arts and even cuisines, the more akin we seem. This is our special harmony that time has chosen not to erase, but to further compose, ever so gorgeously.

Local

Kuwait hosts Egyptian horse beauty contests

KUWAIT: The Egyptian horse beauty contests kicked off Friday as part of the ongoing Kuwait National Festival for Arabian Horse 2017, which is sponsored by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The event is organized by the Arabian Horse Center, also known as Bait Al-Arab - Kuwait State Stud, with participation of 220 purebred Arabian horses of Straight Egyptian bloodlines.

The contests started by holding qualifications for newborn horses, aka foals, followed by age categories for female and male mares, usually

one to three years-old, and for mares and stallions, older than four years, at the Arabian Horse Center. The festival saw a record participation by Arabian horses, particularly mares and stallions, said Alaa Al-Roumi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Arabian Horse Center.

Roumi projected fierce competitions by the participants during qualifications, especially after implementing the new scoring system, adding that only first and second place winners will be qualified to the finals.

Friday's competitions also saw a large number of beautiful looking horses, particularly young mares and stallions, which reflected the good preparations by Kuwaiti horse breeders taking part in the event, he said.

Roumi also valued His Highness the Crown Prince's sponsorship of this year's festival, noting that the second festival of horse beauty contest will kick off in two weeks. The Arabian Horse Center will continue supporting Kuwaiti horse breeders, whose number keeps on increasing year after year, he said, adding that such a development is a positive impact on this authentic Arab sport. —KUNA



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Belgium Embassy celebrates King's Day



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Belgium to Kuwait Piet Heir Baut hosted a reception on the occasion of the King's Day at his residence over the weekend. Higher officials, diplomats and media persons attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Local

Premier receives phone call from Italian counterpart



KUWAIT: This file photo shows His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah shaking hands with Italy's Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni during the latter's visit to Kuwait last May. —KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday a phone call from Italian counterpart Paolo Gentiloni. The two sides discussed the exceptional relations between the two countries, and ways to bolster them in various ways and for the benefit of the people of the two nations. The two officials also tackled current developments in the region and issues of common concern.

On Friday, Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call from Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also received a phone call from Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, and discussed ways of cementing bilateral relations. The two top diplomats also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. —KUNA

Ghanem calls for making 'good choice' of ministers

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem stressed Thursday the importance of making a 'good choice' of ministers for the next government formation. In a statement to reporters on Thursday, Ghanem expressed his hope that the next government would attain maximum ambitions of MPs and the Kuwaiti people.



Marzouq Al-Ghanem

Ghanem urged lawmakers to join forces to fortify the domestic front, rationally dealing with the political scene so that the legislative power can remain "help and support" of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He highly appreciated His Highness the Amir's recent message to the MPs, expressing a belief that the current regional development and challenges have a "priority above any other affair."

Meanwhile, the Speaker stressed that there is no provision in the constitution on a two-week time limit for the formation, and announcement, of a new cabinet. He quashed reports on this point as groundless and have nothing to do with the constitution, political norms or former practices and experiences. Most constitution experts think that the point of a fortnight limit for the formation of a government only applies with the start of every legislative term. The last Constitutional Court ruling has upheld this.

In the meantime, Ghanem referred to the recent diplomatic activities in Kuwait over the past period, including the visits to the country by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri and Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit. On a parliamentary call for including as many MPs as possible in the new government, Al-Ghanem said: "It is a respectful view, and has a merit," hoping that His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah would make the best choice of ministers to serve the nation and realize expectations of the Kuwaiti people. "We do not want a government for a temporary period, nor do we want the formation delayed for a long time," he said.

In his answer to a question on the MPs' meeting with His Highness the Amir, Ghanem said: "It will not be (this week)." His Highness the Amir will set the date for the meeting according to his schedule. Another meeting with His Highness the Premier will also be held, but the time has to be discussed, he said. Ghanem expected the meetings to be held next week, while this week will see participation in parliamentary events abroad, including the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. —KUNA

France grants senior Kuwaiti official Legion of Honor medal

PARIS: French Government awarded late Friday Assistant Chairman of Kuwait National Guards Lt Gen Hashim Al-Refai with The National Order of The Legion of Honor for his contributions in military field and relations between the two countries. France also awarded the Medal of Honor to Lt Col Anwar Al-Rashidi in recognition of his contributions to the military field.

These most famous global awards given as a reward from the President of the Republic of France to the most deserving people in various fields. Rifai said in a statement that he was honored to have such merit from the French President Emmanuel Macron, stressing "this honor is the result of the continuous work and efforts of all officials in the military fields."

He praised the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in this



PARIS: (From left) Assistant Chairman of Kuwait National Guards Lt Gen Hashim Al-Refai, Director-General of the French Gendarmerie General Richard Lisuri, Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Al-Sulaiman and Col Anwar Al-Rashidi. —KUNA



Award reflects France's appreciation for Kuwait's role

regards and deep military relations between Kuwait and France, as well as the keenness to strengthen and develop bilateral ties especially in the field of military education and training.

Rifai dedicated this award to His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Guard Chairman Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and all Kuwaiti citizens.

Meanwhile, Rashidi said in a similar statement that it is an honor to win this medal which reflects France's appreciation for the role of Kuwait in the military field, it is a pride and a constant motivation for excellence

and creativity. In the meantime, Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Al-Sulaiman praised the level of bilateral relations, coordination and military cooperation between the two countries, which he said extends for half a century and contributed to the qualitative development of the military forces in both countries.

Director-General of the French Gendarmerie General Richard Lisuri praised the deep bilateral relations linking France and Kuwait in all areas, especially on the security and military levels. He praised the efforts exerted by Rifai and Rashidi in enhancing cooperation and exchange of experiences and coordination between the two sides in all matters of common concern.

He expressed hope that cooperation will be strengthened for the benefit of the two countries and their peoples. The medal, created by Emperor Napoleon I, is awarded on behalf of the Head of State to reward the most deserving citizens in all sectors. —KUNA



The medals awarded to Lt Gen Hashim Al-Refai and Col Anwar Al-Rashidi.

NBK launches fun activity program at children hospital



KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Public Relations team launched recently a fun activity program for children at NBK's Children Specialty Hospital and Stem Cell Therapy Unit, as part of its social responsibility towards children and keenness to support them while they get their treatment.



Manal Al-Mattar

The program extends all over the year and includes a library corner, storytelling sessions, fun events and a movie night activity that are organized occasionally. Children at the hospital will have the chance to choose their favorite story to read or a cartoon movie to watch with their family and friends. NBK has provided a display screen, entertainment facilities, variety of different and vari-

ous books and other supplies for children to enjoy the whole program.

"NBK has always considered supporting the children an essential part of its social and philanthropic outreach," said Manal Al-Mattar, NBK Public Relations Assistant General Manager. "We take great pride in celebrating and sharing happy moments with our children at NBK's Children Specialty Hospital."

Mattar added: "Since its establishment, NBK has undertaken several initiatives to support children, including the establishment of NBK's Hospital and the new Stem Cell Therapy Unit at Al Sabah Medical Area, which provides medical care to sick children."

As part of this program, NBK family organized recently a visit to Disney characters, Jamoul and many others to the hospital, to walk around the wards and play areas, where they shared the children memorable moments and a day filled with activities.

Also, a doctoral committee from the hospital will

choose the best performing nurse every month to be honored by NBK, as part of this annual program that aims at encouraging team work and dedication.

"My Message" initiative is another activity that gathers doctors, healthcare professionals, nurses and workers at NBK Specialty Hospital where they shared and expressed their role and main goals towards children on both medical and psychological levels.

NBK's initiative reflects the bank's high sense of duty and responsibility towards the community and helping those in need. It is a well rooted tradition that has been carried out by NBK each year in its efforts to continuously have an active role in Kuwait's society.

It is worth mentioning that NBK's Stem Cell Therapy Unit is the first children's bone marrow transplant center in Kuwait. The new center is the largest corporate social responsibility donation in Kuwait and will expand the hospital's ability to treat children with cancer and blood diseases.

Medical events help promote health services: Minister

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi has reiterated support to scientific and specialized conferences that encourage the medical staff to do their best for promoting medical services to the public. This was the core of the minister's statement to the opening of the Kuwait 3rd Conference on Pediatric Neurology,

the 3rd GCC Epilepsy Conference 2017, and the 9th Kuwaiti-Lebanese Congress on Epilepsy.

Such scientific events are basic to enrich the Kuwaiti medical scene through exchange of expertise, the minister added in the statement delivered on his behalf by Secretary General of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS) Dr Ibrahim Hadi. Yesterday's event reflects the ministry's keenness on continued medical learning and developing technical and professional performance, he noted. For her part, Conference President Dr Asmaa Al-Tawari stressed the prime significance of the topics to be covered by the event, which is themed 'neurological disorders from childhood to adulthood.' —KUNA



KUWAIT: Officials inaugurate the Kuwait 3rd Conference on Pediatric Neurology, the 3rd GCC Epilepsy Conference 2017, and the 9th Kuwaiti-Lebanese Congress on Epilepsy. —KUNA



Gaza border opens under PA 'control'

Fear of a serial killer puts Florida city on edge

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UKHIA, Bangladesh: Rohingya Muslim refugees arrive at a makeshift shelter at the Kutupalong refugee camp in the Bangladeshi district of Ukhia. Women and children make up the majority of more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled violence in Myanmar for neighboring Bangladesh, many escaping with only the clothes on their back and desperate to survive any way they can. — AFP

Human trafficking 'rife' in Rohingya camps

Young girls forced into prostitution

COX'S BAZAR: Widowed and alone 21-year-old Ummeh Kulthum had hoped for a fresh start in Bangladesh, but was forced into prostitution instead, falling victim to what aid groups and officials say is a growing trafficking scourge targeting refugees. Women and children make up the majority of the more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled violence in Myanmar for neighboring Bangladesh, many escaping with only the clothes on their back and desperate to survive any way they can.

Confined to congested tent cities near the border without any prospect of work, refugees are willing to take whatever comes their way—and many have fallen prey to traffickers, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Young girls in particular are at high risk, with the IOM documenting cases of refugees being lured with promises of marriage or jobs in big cities that end instead in forced labor or sex work. "In one case, a number of adolescent girls, who were promised work as domestic helpers in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, were forced into prostitution," the IOM said in a statement this week.

Kulthum lost her husband in the ethnic violence that tore through Myanmar's Rakhine state this year. Separated from her parents and children during the journey to Bangladesh, she was approached by a Rohingya man after arriving in Kutupalong, a gigantic

camp housing hundreds of thousands of refugees. His marriage proposal offered a brighter future away from the squalor of the camp and a chance to lay her unhappy memories to rest.

But the couple were never married. Instead Kulthum—not her real name—said she was taken to a brothel, where she was dosed with methamphetamine and forced to have sex with up to seven men a day. She later learned the man who promised to marry her had been paid 8,000 taka (\$100) to deliver her there. "I became scared, but didn't have the least idea what was in store for me," she told AFP in the border district of Cox's Bazar. "I was sold to become a prostitute," she said, weeping at the memory of the ordeal.

Police crackdown

Human trafficking networks have expanded as the refugee population has climbed and are now "rife" throughout the camps, the IOM said. Bangladesh has

deployed its top police unit, the Rapid Action Battalion, to Cox's Bazar to crack down on traffickers, many of whom manage to evade detection despite restrictions on non-authorized personnel entering the refugee camps. "The traffickers are not sitting idle. They are targeting women and children, especially those coming alone," the battalion's chief in Cox's Bazar, Major Ruhul Amin said.

Traffickers also attempt to separate refugees from their families during the chaos that accompanies their arrival in Bangladesh, Amin said. A checkpoint in the coastal town of Teknaf set up a month ago has already rescued 30 women and children from the clutches of traffickers, he added. Another security official, who asked to remain

anonymous, said there had been cases of criminal syndicates organizing fake passports for Rohingya women who are then sent abroad, especially to Malaysia and the Middle East. The IOM said it was also aware of cases of Rohingya refugees being trafficked overseas.

Falling prey

Dhaka has prohibited the Rohingya from leaving the camps, fearing an influx in its bigger cities, and has set up checkpoints along the roads leading to the tented settlements. More than 20,000 Rohingya have been turned back but aid workers say that unless the refugees are taught about the dangers of trafficking, they will keep trying to leave the camps in search of a better life. Local charity worker Mohammad Hossain Shikder runs workshops in the camps to educate refugees about the tactics employed by people smugglers. "They will always come up with a lucrative and believable offer, like a job in a garment factory or marriage to a well-off person," Shikder told a group of 20 young men and women in Kutupalong. "Sometimes, parents are convinced by upfront payments of 40,000 taka or more. They are sold dreams that a woman can even make 500,000 taka, which is an impossible amount." For many of the stateless refugees stuck inside the camps, the prospect of earning a living is enough to lure them into the trap laid down by traffickers. Months after she was sold into prostitution, Kulthum managed to escape from the brothel, but found herself back in Kutupalong, penniless and alone. Eventually she returned to the sex trade and now lives in a seedy hotel room in Cox's Bazar. "One day I hope to find my children and parents again. I am saving money for them," she said. — AFP



Refugees lured with promises of marriage or jobs

Saudi Arabia-Iran dispute unlikely to take Israel to war

METULA: A rare interview given by a top Israeli general to a Saudi-owned news site has raised speculation of joint military action against Iran and its allies, but analysts say it appears unlikely. Though Saudi Arabia and Israel have no official diplomatic ties, they share a common enemy in Tehran, with both seeking to limit the Islamic republic's expanding influence in the Middle East. Tensions between the Saudis and Iran have intensified in recent weeks, with Riyadh-backed Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri stepping down over what he called Iran's grip on his country.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah, which is dominant in Lebanon, is also a great enemy of Israel—with which it fought a war in 2006. Hezbollah and Iran have accused Saudi Arabia of pressing Israel to launch attacks against Hezbollah in Lebanon. Saudi Arabia has also accused Iran of meddling in Yemen by supporting Huthi rebels against the Riyadh-backed government.

In this context, comments by Israel's military chief of staff Gadi Eisenkot to Elaph, a British-based news website founded by a Saudi businessman, caused a stir on Thursday. Eisenkot said Israel and Saudi were in "total agreement" that Iran was the greatest threat to the Middle East, adding that the Jewish state was "ready to exchange experience with the moderate Arab countries and exchange intelligence information to face Iran." Eisenkot pointed out that while Saudi



METULA, Israel: An Israeli soldier stands at attention in a tank at an army position in the northern Israeli border town of Metula along Israel's border with Lebanon. — AFP

Arabia and Israel had no formal relations, the two states had never directly been to war.

Quiet could shatter

Speculation about a formal Israeli-Saudi alliance has been fuelled by the election of US President Donald Trump, a vociferous critic of Iran. Eisenkot said Trump's victory had created an opportunity for a "new international alliance in the region and a major strategic plan to stop the Iranian threat." The rise to power of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has also led to a more forthright policy, as he looks to militarily confront what he sees as Iranian influence across the region, including in Yemen.

Trump's first foreign trip took in Riyadh and Israel and his son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner has reportedly formed a bond with Prince Mohammed. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also spoken repeatedly and with pride about growing

rapprochement with "moderate Arab states" without naming them, although he is assumed to be referring to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies. Israel has been alarmed by Iran's nuclear activities and the danger that Tehran, militarily engaged in Syria, will establish a new front near Israeli borders.

The Jewish state closely monitors the demarcation lines with Syria and Lebanon, beyond which Hezbollah is located. On Thursday, from a vantage point near Metula, the northernmost Israeli town flanked by Lebanon on three sides, an Israeli tank's cannon tracked to and fro. "Hezbollah is here, we see it and its activities day and night," Lieutenant Colonel Elad Efrati, who commands a battalion guarding the northernmost 25 kilometers of the frontier said. "The relative quiet here is deceptive. On the other side Hezbollah and the Lebanese army are gathering information on our forces non-stop." "This relative quiet could shatter in an instant." — AFP

Hariri's trip: A waystation, or an exile?

BEIRUT: An invitation to France may provide Lebanon's resigned Prime Minister Saad Hariri with a way out of Saudi Arabia, but it could also spell the end of his political career, experts say. French President Emmanuel Macron appears to have come to Hariri's rescue with the invitation, which comes after great speculation about whether the premier was being detained in Saudi Arabia after his surprise resignation delivered there November 4.

Lebanon's President Michel Aoun has even gone so far as to refer to the resigned prime minister as a "hostage" despite Hariri repeatedly denying claims of his detention. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said Thursday that Hariri was free to leave Saudi "when he pleases", in the first statement by a high-ranking Saudi official on the issue. Hariri's resignation was quickly perceived as the latest round in a tug of war between Saudi Arabia, his longtime sponsor, and its regional arch-rival Iran.

It has raised deep concerns about the stability of Lebanon, which has long been riven by disagreements between Hariri's bloc and that of his chief rival, the Iran-backed Hezbollah

movement. "Even if it doesn't resolve the base of the problem, the French offer... allows both the Saudi authorities and Saad Hariri to save face," Karim Bitar of the Paris-based Institute of International and Strategic Affairs said. The French-language daily L'Orient Le Jour said France had "achieved the unexpected by inviting Hariri" to leave Riyadh, where his family is also staying.

"The exit proposed by the French president... has lowered tensions a notch," the daily said on Thursday. "A French way out," added the An Nahar daily, while Al-Akhbar newspaper, which is highly critical of Hariri, said in a front page headline "Aoun and Macron free the prime minister."

While the invitation may have eased some of the tensions caused by the usual circumstances of Hariri's resignation, it has also raised questions about his future. Macron was quick to dismiss speculation that Hariri was going into "exile" in France, but there has also been no confirmation that Paris will simply be a waystation en route back to Lebanon. Hariri has for days insisted he is free to move and will soon return to Lebanon, but has shown little sign yet that he will be coming back soon.

"The fact that the Elysee was forced to deny that it would be an exile says a lot about the spy novel aspects of this exfiltration," said Bitar. "Paradoxically, it reinforces the suspicions of those who think that Saad Hariri is indeed a man under very intense pressure," he added. — AFP

International

Egypt-Gaza border opens under Palestinian Authority 'control'

Palestinians hope for relief of economic hardship

GAZA: The Egypt-Gaza border opened under control of the Western-backed Palestinian Authority (PA) for the first time since 2007 yesterday, raising residents' hopes for easier passage in and out of the impoverished enclave. An Egyptian-brokered reconciliation deal last month formally restored Palestinian President Abbas's administrative control of Gaza, including its border crossings with Israel and Egypt, after a 10-year schism with Islamist Hamas.

Palestinians hope the pact will ease Gaza's economic woes and help them present a united front in their drive for statehood, although the details of implementation of the deal have yet to be worked out fully. Citing security concerns, Egypt and Israel maintain tight restrictions at their Gaza borders. Hamas, regarded by the West as a terrorist group, seized the enclave in 2007 after fighting forces loyal to Abbas.

Hamas quit positions at three Gaza crossings and handed them over to Palestinian Authority employees on Nov 1, in a step seen as vital to encouraging Israel and Egypt to ease their restrictions on the movement

of goods and people. Witnesses said at least five buses loaded with passengers crossed over to the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing on Saturday. Hamas-appointed policemen had checked travelers' documents in a separate hall outside Rafah. Egypt has not yet signaled any change to its present policy under which it opens the border crossing three times a week.

Palestinians are hoping the crossing will operate full-time, as it had been doing until 2007. About 30,000 Gazans have applied for entry to Egypt in the past few months, according to the Palestinian Interior Ministry. Egypt will host further talks with Hamas, Fatah and other factions next week on Nov 21 to discuss major reconciliation issues, including security arrangements and a possible date for Palestinian presidential and parliamentary elections. Responsibility for security remains an open issue in Gaza, where Hamas, which still polices the territory, has what analysts say are at least 25,000 well-equipped fighters. The group refuses to disarm, as demanded by Israel and the United States.—Reuters



Hamas ceded control of Gaza to Abbas



RAFAH: An ambulance crosses the gates of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt in the southern Gaza strip, with security forces loyal to Hamas standing outside and members loyal to the Palestinian Authority inside, as the crossing opened for three days for the first time since the Palestinian reconciliation deal. —AFP

US steps up drone strikes in Somalia

WASHINGTON: The US military has quietly upped the tempo of its operations in Somalia, conducting a growing number of drone strikes against Al-Qaeda affiliated Shabaab militants and other jihadists. Since the start of the year, America has carried out 28 drone strikes in the Horn of Africa nation, with 15 of these coming since September 1, the military's Africa Command (AFRICOM) said. That's a big increase from last year. According to the London-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism, which maintains a tally of US operations in Somalia and elsewhere, there were 15 anti-Shabaab air strikes in the whole of 2016.

The surge in activity comes as the US watches for an influx of fighters from the Islamic State group, which has lost almost all its territory in Iraq and Syria. The US conducted a pair of drone strikes against IS in Somalia on November 3, the first time it has hit the jihadists there. Though the Pentagon has provided few details about the strikes, spokesman Colonel Rob Manning said this week that US forces had killed 40 Shabaab and IS fighters in a series of five strikes on Somalia between November 9 and 12.

On Wednesday, AFRICOM announced a sixth strike that killed "several" Shabaab militants 60 miles (97 kilometers) northwest of the capital, Mogadishu. The surge in activity comes after President Donald Trump in March loosened constraints on the US military in Somalia, allowing commanders to take action against suspected terrorists when they judge it is needed, without seeking specific White House approval.

The US is supporting the country's fight against Shabaab, which has carried out a string of devastating bombings in Mogadishu and elsewhere. In May, officials said only about 50 US troops were in Somalia providing training and advice for the Somali military and logistical support, but on Thursday the Pentagon said the figure is now at about 500. Pentagon spokesman and Joint Staff Director Lieutenant General



A child attends to his malnourished calf in the Danan district of the Somali region of Ethiopia. —AP

Kenneth McKenzie told reporters Thursday that he didn't necessarily think there was a ramping-up of operations, but said the "density of targets" meant more strikes had been possible.

"There's no particular rhythm to it, except that as (targets) become available and as we're able to process them and vet them, we strike," he said. McKenzie added that officials keep a close eye on foreign fighters' movements from Iraq and Syria, but he would not say if the Pentagon was tracking jihadists flowing from their former "caliphate" through Yemen and onto Somalia.

AMISOM

Aside from US forces training and advising Somalia's young military, about 22,000 African Union troops are helping secure outlying urban areas. AMISOM, the AU's mission in Somalia, has said it will withdraw 1,000 troops fighting jihadists in the country this year, as part of plans to pull out all soldiers by December 2020. Washington is worried the reduction will hamper efforts against Shabaab. Deputy Secretary of Defense

Pat Shanahan met with Ugandan Minister of Defense Adolf Mwesige in Vancouver, Canada on the margins of a UN peacekeeping summit this week.

Uganda is the main contributor to AMISOM and has been there for a decade. Shanahan "acknowledged those Ugandan lives lost in Somalia. He expressed his understanding of the frustration with the pace of progress in Somalia but also his confidence that progress is being made," Shanahan's spokeswoman Commander Sarah Higgins said.

For Jennifer Cooke, an Africa specialist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, this "militarization" of US policy in Somalia is concerning. "The raining down of strikes from the sky can give major fuel to recruitment by (jihadist) groups," she said. Cooke worried that increasing military intervention is not being matched by diplomatic efforts in Somalia as the US State Department's budget is cut. "You don't have the counter-balance of a diplomatic strategy to go with that expanding military footprint," she said, also adding that rising civilian casualties were a real risk. —AFP

In restive anglophone Cameroon, fear, anger, frustration and curfew

BAMENDA: It's only 8pm, but in the bars by the Hospital Roundabout, one of the liveliest nightspots in Bamenda, thoughts are already turning to last orders. "We respect the curfew, we're going to close soon," a waitress warns grumbling clients who would rather drink on into the night as of old, despite a police crackdown triggered by sporadic bombings, arson and killings. Bamenda, a city of about 300,000 people nestled in the mountains of western Cameroon, is the epicenter of an escalating crisis.

At its source is resentment among Cameroon's English-speaking minority, angry at perceived discrimination at the hands of the country's francophone majority. Frustration, for some, has spiraled into violence. And attacks by suspected secessionists demanding independence for the anglophone regions are meeting a tough response. The authorities imposed the 10pm-to- 5am curfew on November 8 after three paramilitary police were murdered. The curfew has been imposed until November 23, according to the announcement.

A fourth gendarme was later killed and four homemade bombs exploded around the city at the start of this week, although nobody was hurt. One bomb went off at Hospital Roundabout, the third blast at the busy road junction in recent months. As the fateful hour draws near, the bars empty and straggling customers take taxis for home, wary of attracting the attention of security forces openly accused of arbitrary arrests and extortion by residents.



BAMENDA: Soldiers secure a ceremony honoring four killed in the violence that erupted in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon, where most of the country's English-speaking minority live. —AFP

'Avoid trouble'

Behind choking clouds of smoke from their roadside braziers, street food vendors rush to sell off the last of their cooked fish and meat. "We have to be quick and leave to avoid trouble with the police," says Viviane, a vendor whose fish are still neatly laid out over glowing coals. "We prepare fewer fish now. We start early to finish early, by 9:30 at night at the latest," adds the young woman, who dislikes "living in fear because of the insecurity".

The security situation has deteriorated in the Northwest Region, where Bamenda is the capital, and in

the Southwest Region, during the past year. These one-time British protectorates account for about 20 percent of the country's population. The greater part of modern-day Cameroon was ruled by France after Germany lost its colonies in Africa following defeat in World War One. Violence has become a frightening feature of daily life. Arson attacks on shops and schools, home-made bombings and arrests have escalated into targeted killings. Some secessionist leaders in exile follow the example of "Comrade" Ayaba Cho Lucas, calling openly for "combat" as "a response to the bullets and the contempt of the occupier... (while) the world remains silent". —AFP

News in brief

'Slave market' probe

DAKAR: The African Union has called for Libyan authorities to investigate "slave markets" of black Africans operating in the conflict-torn nation, following the release of shocking images showing the sale of young men. The demand follows the release of CNN footage of a live auction in Libya where black youths are presented to north African buyers as potential farmhands and sold off for as little as \$400. Guinean President Alpha Conde, who is also Chairman of the African Union, demanded an enquiry and prosecutions relating to what he termed a "despicable trade... from another era". Meanwhile Senegal's government, commenting on Facebook, expressed "outrage at the sale of Sub-Saharan African migrants on Libyan soil," which constituted a "blight on the conscience of humanity". African migrants from nations including Guinea and Senegal but also Mali, Niger, Nigeria and The Gambia make the dangerous crossing through the Sahara to Libya with hopes of making it over the Mediterranean Sea to Italy.

Cartels 'force-recruiting'

MEXICO CITY: Mexican drug cartels are forcing indigenous children and teens to join their ranks, torturing or killing those who refuse, the United Nations warned yesterday. The UN's special rapporteur on indigenous rights, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, said she is "particularly worried" about violence against minors after speaking with indigenous communities around Mexico during a 10-day tour. "In areas affected by organized crime and the production and trafficking of drugs, the only choice left to young people is to join these groups or be tortured, disappeared or killed," she told a press conference at the end of her visit. "I have been presented with numerous cases of serious violations." She said "many" young indigenous people have disappeared, though she did not have a specific figure. Tauli-Corpuz, a Philippine national, visited the northern state of Chihuahua and the southern states of Guerrero and Chiapas, meeting with members of 23 ethnic groups from 18 different regions.

Oldest human remains

LAKE MUNGO: The oldest human remains found in Australia were on Friday returned to the Outback desert that he roamed some 42,000 years ago in a ceremony celebrated by traditional owners. The ice age Aborigine was dubbed Mungo Man after the dry salt Lake Mungo where he was found in 1974 in remote New South Wales state 750 kilometers west of Sydney. He was studied in the national capital Canberra at the Australian National University, which handed him back to traditional owners two years ago and formally apologized for the pain caused by his removal. Local Aborigines burnt eucalypt leaves in a traditional smoking ceremony to welcome the black hearse that carried his remains in a coffin. An Ngiyampaa tribal elder, who identified herself as Auntie Joan, told reporters: "I'm so glad he is back, to put him in his resting place."

Sri Lanka racial violence

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan police said yesterday that 19 people were arrested following racial violence in the country's south that started over a dispute between majority Buddhists and minority Muslims. Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said four people were injured in attacks that took place Friday night in areas surrounding the southern town of Galle. Homes, shops and vehicles were damaged in the violence, though the extent of the damage was not immediately known. A curfew imposed overnight was lifted yesterday morning. Law and Order Minister Sagala Ratnayake said in a statement that the elite police riot squads and the military were brought in to prevent an escalation of the violence and the situation now is under control. He thanked everyone who "acted with responsibility to avoid a bloodbath."

International

Fighting scandal, Moore stands with his homophobic supporters

Sexual misconduct claims roil Alabama campaign

BIRMINGHAM: A smiling Roy Moore stood shoulder to shoulder with his fiercest religious allies. Flanked by a huge sign for Moore's Senate campaign, one supporter railed against the "LGBT mafia" and "homosexualist gay terrorism." Another warned that "homosexual sodomy" destroys those who participate in it and the nations that allow it. And still another described same-sex marriage as "a mirage" because "it's phony and fake."

Thursday's news conference was designed to send a powerful message to the political world that religious conservatives across America remain committed to Moore, a Christian conservative and former judge whose Alabama Senate campaign has been rocked by mounting allegations of sexual misconduct. The event also revealed an aggressive strain of homophobia rarely seen in mainstream politics - in recent years, at least.

But in a Senate campaign suddenly hyper focused on Moore's relationships with teenage girls decades ago, Moore's hardline stance on gay rights and other LGBT issues has become little more than an afterthought for many voters as Election Day approaches. Moore first caught the attention of many in the LGBT community after describing homosexual conduct as "an inherent evil against which children must be protected" in a 2002 child custody case involving a lesbian mother. In a 2005 television interview, Moore said "homosexual conduct should be illegal."

He also said there's no difference between gay sex and sex with a cow, horse or dog. Moore's stand - combined with the fiery comments from his supporters - unnerved some in Birmingham's relatively small LGBT community. "It made me extremely angry," said Mackenzie Gray, a 37-year-old who came out as transgender in 2010. She says most people in her life don't know she was born a man. "My fear with the religious leaders and the hateful rhetoric we're hearing is that it's going to start escalating into something even larger," Gray said. "It's dangerous."



Supporter warns against 'homosexualist gay terrorism'

Indeed, other LGBT activists suggested this week that open acceptance of Moore's anti-gay rhetoric harkens to a dark and violent time in Alabama history. Moore's Democratic challenger, Doug Jones, is known best, perhaps, for prosecuting the men who bombed Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church - a prosecution that came nearly 40 years after the 1963 crime that killed four black girls. Racial tensions have lingered in the state, even as the violence lessened. In 2000, Alabama became the last state in the country to overturn its ban on interracial marriage.

The state has been slow to embrace gay rights as well: 81 percent of voters supported a ban on same-sex marriage in 2006. Only neighboring Mississippi, with 86 percent, scored higher. Patricia Todd, the state's first openly gay state representative, says she has faced at least four death threats in recent years. One woman called Todd's cell phone and vowed to kill her and her family, she said, noting that local LGBT leaders meet quarterly at the FBI office in Birmingham to help identify potential hate crimes. "It's been brutal, but it's gotten to the point where I just laugh at them," Todd said Friday.

She's not laughing at Moore. "It's awful because he says the most hateful things," she said. In contrast to many conservative politicians with national ambitions, Moore has made little attempt to change his tone on LGBT issues as equal rights for the gay community has earned increasing acceptance among mainstream America. Moore's hero status among many Christian conservatives was cemented in 2016 when, as the chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, he refused to comply with a Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. He was later suspended, the second time he was forcibly removed from the state Supreme Court.

Earlier this month, Moore said, "The transgenders don't have rights," during a news conference, according to the Montgomery Advertiser. Moore's unapologetic positions -



ALABAMA: Women attend a 'Women For Moore' rally in support of Republican candidate for US Senate Judge Roy Moore, in front of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama. —AFP

and his repeated promises to take them to the US Senate if elected on Dec 12 - were celebrated at Thursday's news conference by the religious leaders who traveled from as far as Colorado, Ohio and Texas to stand at his side. Rabbi Noson Leiter, who once called Hurricane Sandy's destruction "divine justice" for same-sex marriage, lashed out at "homosexualist gay terrorism."

"We need Judge Moore to stand up to the LGBT transgender mafia," Leiter said. He added, "We need someone with a proven record of facing off against the gay terrorists." Another Moore supporter, Texas Christian activist Steven Hotze, warned in 2015 that children would be "encouraged to practice sodomy in kindergarten" as a result of same-sex marriage. On Thursday, Hotze refused to describe the union of two

gay people as marriage: "It's 'mirage' because it's just like a mirage - it's phony and it's fake."

North Carolina-based Christian activist Flip Benham last year warned in a Charlotte City Council meeting that the policies that protect the civil rights of transgender people would trigger "bloodshed coursing down the corners of our streets." "We're praising everything that God says is wrong and will destroy you," he said Thursday. "Homosexual sodomy destroys those who participate in that behavior and nations that approve of it." He offered a pointed message to Moore's critics: God "doesn't send anyone to hell. It's a place you choose to go." Benham then turned to Moore, who was sitting a few feet away with his wife. "You got the applause of heaven." —AP

News in brief

Sex with 50 females?

CHICAGO: An Ohio judge and gubernatorial candidate sparked a firestorm Friday when, seemingly fed up with the escalating national debate over sexual harassment and impropriety in the workplace, he bragged that he had slept with 50 women. Bill O'Neill said in a Facebook post that his admission was "on behalf of all heterosexual males" and an effort to move on from the "national feeding frenzy about sexual indiscretions decades ago." "In the last fifty years I was sexually intimate with approximately 50 very attractive females," the Democratic candidate and justice on the Midwestern state's highest court said. "It ranged from a gorgeous blonde who was my first true love and we made passionate love in the hayloft of her parents barn and ended with a drop dead gorgeous red head from Cleveland."

Missing submarine

BUENOS AIRES: An Argentine submarine with 44 crew on board was missing in the South Atlantic two days after its last communication, prompting the navy to step up its search efforts late on Friday in difficult, stormy conditions. The ARA San Juan was in the southern Argentine sea 432 km from the Patagonian coast when it sent its last signal on Wednesday, naval spokesman Enrique Balbi said. The emergency operation was formally upgraded to a search-and-rescue procedure on Friday evening after no visual or radar contact was made with the submarine, Balbi said.

US Navy left red-faced

LOS ANGELES: The US Navy was left red-faced Friday after a pilot painted an enormous outline of a penis in the sky using the condensation trails from his multi-million-dollar warplane. Residents of the town of Okanogan, in the western state of Washington, had been stunned to see the EA-18G Growler jet - a variant of the workhorse F/A-18 warplane - scrawling the phallic symbol on Thursday, and several photos quickly circulated online. Navy officials acknowledged one of their crews was behind the stunt, saying the aircraft "left a condensed air trail resembling an obscene image to observers on the ground." "The actions of this aircrew were wholly unacceptable and antithetical to Navy core values," Lieutenant Commander Leslie Hubbell, a spokeswoman for the Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island, said in a statement.

Sexual assault data

WASHINGTON: US troops have reported more than 20,000 allegations of sexual assault at military installations over the past four years, the Pentagon said in a report yesterday. The report, by the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, details allegations by service branch for the fiscal years 2013-2016, with the Army the largest branch of the military-reporting 8,294 cases in all. The Navy meanwhile reported 4,788 cases, the Marine Corps 3,400 and the Air Force 8,876. The military has about 1.3 million active-duty troops. The publication of the report comes amid a sexual harassment scandal that has shaken America, with each new day bringing fresh allegations against powerful men from across the political, cultural and business landscape.

Fear of a serial killer puts Florida city on edge

TAMPA: A possible serial killer is on the loose in Tampa, Florida, picking out victims seemingly at random on the street, and shaken residents are looking over their shoulders fearing he could be someone they know. Early Tuesday, 60-year-old Ronald Felton became the fourth person to die since October 9 in a string of mysterious attacks near downtown Tampa. All four murders took place within a seven block area, in the city's working class Seminole Heights neighborhood. All the victims were alone on the street at the time, and were shot dead for no apparent reason.

None of them were robbed. Felton, an unemployed construction worker, was crossing a street before dawn when someone came up behind him and shot him in the back of the head, police said. His body was found sprawled near the New Seasons Apostolic church, where Felton often volunteered at a food bank for the down-and-out. As in the previous cases, the killer melted into the night, eluding police despite stepped up patrols.

His seeming knowledge of the neighborhood's ins and outs has led to suspicions that he lives there. "He's a killer-a cold-blooded killer-and he's playing a chess game, bottom line," said local resident Raphael Rodriguez, 39. "I hope the police catch him, but he's using his brain and he's got to be from the neighborhood-look how quickly he's getting away," he said. Rodriguez was with his son Antonio, 18, and Antonio's 17 year-old girlfriend Makayla Meadows on Wednesday night, near the spot where Felton was killed. He said they now take a harder look at people they don't know, as their community settles into a state of hypervigilance. "As a parent, as a member of the community I'm concerned," Rodriguez said.

UK Queen, Prince Philip celebrate 70th anniversary

LONDON: He accepted living in her shadow. She forgave his periodic gaffes. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip will celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary on November 20, marking 70 years since they married in the splendor of Westminster Abbey. Despite three of their four children (Charles, Anne and Andrew) having divorced, this royal union has endured through the decades without any public hint of marital strife. Now, they join a small club of couples who have spent seven decades together.

No events are planned to celebrate their landmark, but the bells of Westminster Abbey will ring at 1300 GMT in tribute. Elizabeth and Philip will spend the day with other members of the royal family, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said. After 70 years of marriage it's a burgeoning clan, with four children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

They expect to welcome a sixth great-grandchild in April, when Prince William and wife Kate Middleton's third child is due. The 96-year-old Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, retired from the public eye this summer, enjoying his newfound free time reading and painting. For her part the Queen, at 91, is slowly passing over some of her official duties to her son Prince Charles, now aged 69.

Meeting at 13-years-old

It was a version of love at first sight. Elizabeth was aged just 13 when she first laid eyes on her future husband Philip, then a dashing 18-year-old blond army officer. The pair may have met in their teens, but it would be eight years until the nation celebrated with pomp their fairy-tale wedding at Westminster's famous abbey on November 20, 1947. The princess dazzled, dressed in a satin dress embroidered with roses and decorated with 10,000 pearls and sparkling crystals.

In this post-war period, it was "a flash of color on the difficult road we're taking," said Winston Churchill, leader of a Conservative Party then in opposition. Fresh memories of the war and fears of anti-German sentiment meant several of Prince Philip's German relatives-including his three surviving sisters-were not invited to the ceremony. Prior to the wedding, the Queen Mother asked her future son-in-law if he would cherish her daughter.



FLORIDA: A sign warning burglars to beware is seen beside a church notice in Tampa, Florida, with fears mounting over a possible serial killer after four unsolved murders. —AFP

'We just need names'

The first victim in the string of killings was 22-year-old Benjamin Mitchell. Two days later, on October 11, Monica Hoffa, 32, was gunned down, and then on October 19, Anthony Naiboa, 20. Antonio Rodriguez said he previously worked with one of the victims, Mitchell, at a Walmart store. "We really would chill together outside of work," he recalled. "That's why I really don't like talking about it too much. It gets me in my soft spot. He was a good kid." Tampa's police are treating the four killings as related, until they can rule otherwise. Unlike the previous killings, in the case of Felton police have a description of a suspect-a black male, around six-foot (1.80 meters) tall, dressed all in black and armed with a large pistol-seen fleeing the scene

according to a witness account.

Police on Wednesday also released a clip from a surveillance video taken shortly before the latest murder, showing a man in a hooded light colored jacket. After the first murder, surveillance cameras picked up an image of a man with a similar hoodie, a similar gait and walk, flicking a cellphone open and closed in a similar manner. "We need someone who is thoughtful, cares, and has the heart and the fortitude and bravery to step forward and tell us who this person is and give us the identity," Tampa police chief Brian Dugan told a press conference. "We don't need speculation, we don't need profiles, we just need names," he said. Police have upped the reward for information leading to an arrest in the case, from \$41,000 to \$91,000. —AFP



LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Britain's Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh attend the Remembrance ceremony at the Cenotaph on Whitehall in central London. —AFP

"Cherish Lilibet? I wonder if that word is enough to express what is in me," he replied, using the Queen's childhood nickname. He went on to say that he had "fallen in love completely and unreservedly" with her.

After their honeymoon-at Balmoral, the Scottish holiday estate of the royal family-the newlyweds moved to Malta where Philip, a naval officer, had been stationed. However, the premature death of King George VI, in 1952,

put an end to the more carefree life the young couple had adopted on the Mediterranean island, and propelled Elizabeth to the throne. It also forced Philip to sacrifice his career in the Royal Navy to become the Queen's spouse.

The son of a Greek prince banished from the country, he renounced his titles and Greek Orthodox faith and became a British citizen to marry Elizabeth, adopting his mother's anglicized name, Mountbatten. —AFP

International

Bonn climate talks end with progress despite US pullout

Almost 200 nations keep global climate deal on track

BONN: Almost 200 nations kept a 2015 global agreement to tackle climate change on track yesterday after marathon talks overshadowed by US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out. Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, presiding at the two-week talks in Bonn, said the outcome "underscores the importance of keeping the momentum and of holding the spirit and vision of our Paris Agreement."

Delegates agreed to launch a process in 2018 to start reviewing existing plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions as part of a long-term effort to ratchet up ambition. It would be called the "Talanoa Dialogue, after a Fijian word for storytelling and sharing experiences. And they made progress to draft a detailed rule book for the 2015 Paris agreement, which seeks to end the fossil fuel era this century, at the meeting in Bonn that ran overnight beyond a planned ending on Friday. The rule book, covering aspects such as how to report and monitor each nation's greenhouse gas emissions, is due to be ready by December next year.

Many delegates said the work needed to go faster. "Right now we're moving at a brisk walk, so all countries will need to really pick up the pace from here," said Jose Sarney Filho, Brazil's minister for the environment. Gebru Jember Endalew of Ethiopia, who leads the group of least developed countries, also said "many areas of work are still lagging behind", despite steps forward in Bonn. The Paris pact aims to limit a rise in average world temperatures to "well below" two

degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times, ideally 1.5 (5.4F) to limit more droughts, floods, heatwaves and rising sea levels.

But existing policies are on track to cause a rise of about three degrees (5.4F) by 2100. The Talanoa Dialogue would be a step towards tighter policies. The Bonn meeting was under the shadow of Trump's decision in June to withdraw from the Paris accord and instead promote the coal and oil industry. Trump doubts that man-made emissions are the prime cause of rising temperatures. No other nations have followed suit and even nations whose economies depend on fossil fuels have rallied around.

Nations agree to limit greenhouse gas emissions



"Everyone got together and said 'we have to protect the world. We have to protect the Paris Agreement'. Countries are moving forward," United Arab Emirates Climate Minister Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi said. One senior European

diplomat said Trump's decision had "sedated" the talks into a numbed sense of unity, avoiding major confrontations to underscore that the main faultline on policy was between Trump and the rest of the world. Washington retains its place in the talks for now because the Paris pact stipulates that no country can formally pull out before November 2020.

The fossil fuel industry was very much under the spotlight during the talks. The U.S. administration's only event in Bonn was to promote coal, which jarred with many other nations who wanted talks to focus on renewable



BONN: Photo shows a replica of the Statue of Liberty emitting smoke from the torch created by Danish artist Jens Galschiot and displayed at the Rheinaue park during the COP23 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bonn. —AFP

energies. In seeming defiance, 20 countries and two US states joined an international alliance to phase out coal from power generation before 2030.

Environmental groups said the outcome in Bonn was a

step in the right direction, but many issues needed to be resolved over the next year, including financial support for developing nations who want to cut emissions and for adaptation. —Reuters

Renewed US-Russia rift threatens slim Syria peace hope

WASHINGTON: The latest US and Russian bid to find enough common ground on which to build some hope for Syria is in trouble, just days ahead of talks that could make or break the peace process. A United Nations mediator has called on Bashar Al-Assad's regime and a beleaguered opposition coalition to send envoys to Geneva on November 28 to resolve the seven-year-old civil war. This comes less than a week after Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin issued a joint statement agreeing that there is "no military solution" to the conflict.

US officials then welcomed the statement as a sign of Russia's commitment to a UN-backed political process that Washington feels must lead to an end to Assad's bloody reign. But if their show of optimism raised cynical eyebrows then, it seemed even less plausible by Friday, after the latest heated showdown over Syria at the United Nations. There, Russia moved to thwart international attempts to salvage a UN-led probe into Assad's and extremist groups' use of chemical weapons to slaughter Syrian civilians. Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, was clear about what the Russian veto of a US-backed resolution meant for the broader peace process.

"Russia proves they cannot be trusted or credible as we work towards a political solution in Syria," she declared. The previous US administration under Barack Obama repeatedly tried and failed to engage Putin with a peace plan that would lead to a political transition away from Assad's rule. Then secretary of state John Kerry's frequent but fruitless forays to hotel conference rooms in Vienna and Geneva to spar with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov were much mocked at home. —AFP

Is superboss' death end of Sicilian Mafia?

ROME: With Mafia king Toto Riina's death, and heir Matteo Messina Denaro on the run, is it game over for Sicily's once all-powerful Cosa Nostra? "Boss of bosses" Riina, who was nicknamed "The Beast" because of his cruelty, led a reign of terror including the brutal daylight assassinations of anti-mafia judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino. He died Friday aged 87, just months after being caught on wiretaps in jail boasting afresh about his bloody crimes. "Riina will go down in history as the man who destroyed Cosa Nostra," Mafia expert Attilio Bolzoni said. "With his strategy of bloody massacres in Sicily and across Italy... he turned an invisible Mafia visible, with hundreds, thousands of murders, carried out first with Kalashnikovs, then bombs."

"For the first time in history, the state reacted mercilessly," Bolzoni said, with the arrest of hundreds of bosses and the introduction of harsh anti-mafia laws that saw imprisoned gangsters held in utter isolation. Caught and jailed in 1993 after nearly a quarter of a decade as a fugitive, his revenge was swift: Cosa Nostra launched a series of bombings in Rome, Milan and Florence that killed 10 people. But he was unable to stop the decimation of the crime group—once nicknamed "the octopus" for its tentacle reach into all areas of society—which was gradually supplanted by the Camorra in Naples and 'Ndrangheta in Calabria.

'An absolute monarchy'

"It's infinitely less powerful than before. After the deaths of (boss Bernardo) Provenzano and Riina, the only one at liberty is being hunted by the police," the head of Italy's national anti-mafia body, Maurizio De Lucia said. Multi-murderer playboy Messina Denaro, one of the world's most-wanted men, is seen by many as Riina's natural heir but has been on the run since 1993. "Cosa Nostra

is a very strictly structured organization, similar to an absolute monarchy. While the king still lives, it's not possible to think of picking a successor," De Lucia said. "The question now is whether the organization is strong enough to identify and appoint an heir. Many of its bosses have been arrested, and enormous amounts of its patrimony has been seized" over the years, he said. "We'll have to see whether Riina's death will lead to a new start—which I think unlikely—or whether it will be another step towards the crime group's demise," he said.



Salvatore 'Toto' Riina

'The truth'

But prosecutor Ambrogio Cartosio, who spent 20 years in the DDA organization of anti-mafia prosecutors, warned the days of shootouts and car bombs may be gone, but Cosa Nostra has been growing fat instead on political deals. "We have greatly weakened the military apparatus of the Mafia, the massacres are over, murders are rare. But the Mafia has undergone a genetic modification," Cartosio said. "The political sector has lent itself greatly to... (organised crime's) infiltration of the social fabric" and, as a consequence, "the Mafia presence in the political sphere is much greater than before," he said.

And the battle is not only against "the octopus" but also the "Stidda", a rival group formed by former Cosa Nostra members during the Second Mafia War of the early 1980s. "The Mafia is less military, less bloody than before, but it's very efficient," he said. Pietro Grasso, Italy's senate speaker and a former anti-mafia magistrate, stressed Friday that the battle is not over. "Riina takes with him many mysteries that would have been essential in uncovering the facts about alliances, political links, internal and external Mafia accomplices," he said in a post on Facebook. "But none of us must stop searching for the truth". —AFP

Venezuela opposition leader Ledezma flees

CARACAS: Veteran Venezuelan opposition leader Antonio Ledezma, under house arrest since 2015 for alleged coup plotting, escaped across the border to Colombia on Friday and later flew to Spain. With a 2018 presidential election looming, an array of major Venezuelan opposition figures are now in exile, detention or are barred from holding office.

They say Maduro has turned Venezuela into a dictatorship, while the government accuses them of joining forces with a US-led global plot to topple him. Ledezma, the best-known detained opponent of leftist President Nicolas Maduro after Leopoldo Lopez, had spearheaded street protests against Maduro in 2014 that led to months of violence and 43 deaths. "In Spain today I feel free," he said at Madrid's Barajas airport, where he arrived in the early hours of Saturday. He was cheered by a small crowd including his wife and two daughters, who were already in Spain. Supporters chanted the Venezuelan anthem.

"Let's not permit that Venezuela dies in our hands," he also said, adding that he would soon meet with Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. The 62-year-old former Caracas metropolitan mayor said he had gone past 29 police and army controls during a clandestine, overland journey that he kept secret from his loved ones. "I ask my wife and daughters to understand. They have suffered long hours of anguish without knowing where I was," he told reporters in the Colombian border town of Cucuta after crossing a bridge from San Antonio in Venezuela.

"It was my decision alone." "Welcome to freedom!" tweeted former Colombian President Andres Pastrana, who is close to Venezuela's opposition and the families of other jailed activists. Ledezma was mocked by Maduro as "The Vampire," and accused by officials of helping violent hardliners, including dissident military officers plotting to topple the president via air strikes. Ledezma said those charges were trumped up. "I hope they never send him back, they can keep the Vampire," Maduro said on Friday evening. "The people of Madrid will have to be careful at night, the Vampire (is going) to Madrid."

Torturing Venezuelans

Before boarding a private plane to Bogota, Ledezma



MADRID: The mayor of Caracas, Antonio Ledezma (2nd right) waves upon his arrival to the Barajas Airport yesterday in Madrid. —AFP

said he was planning a "global pilgrimage" to fight for political freedom in Venezuela. He thanked Colombia's government, which also recently gave asylum to another high-profile Venezuelan dissident, former state prosecutor Luisa Ortega. "It's time for him (Maduro) to step aside and allow a transition government," said Ledezma. "Maduro cannot keep torturing the Venezuelan people, he's killing Venezuelans with hunger." The OPEC nation of 30 million people is suffering a fourth year of brutal recession, with the highest inflation in the world, shortages of food and medicines, and many people having to skip meals or suffering preventable illnesses.

Government supporters have long vilified Ledezma for supporting a brief 2002 coup and accused him of corruption. State media repeatedly show a video where a jailed student radical lauds him as "an old fox ... the politician who most supported the resistance." Ledezma, along with

another opposition leader, Maria Corina Machado, has been part of the more militant wing of Venezuela's opposition coalition. Both oppose a planned new political dialogue between the opposition and government scheduled for early December in the Dominican Republic. "I left my flag with Maria Corina Machado, in whom I trust completely," Ledezma told reporters.

Ledezma won the Caracas mayoralty in 2008, but some of his functions and funding were quickly transferred to a new, pro-government office. Upstaged by younger opposition leaders, Ledezma was not viewed as a future presidential candidate. Intelligence agents took him from his office in Caracas in February 2015. He was originally held at the Ramo Verde military prison before being granted house arrest. Machado told reporters Ledezma had been under increasing pressure from authorities and had faced threats to return him to Ramo Verde due to his opposition to the political dialogue. —Reuters

News in brief

Gunbattle in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Five suspected rebels and an air force commando were killed during a fierce gunbattle yesterday in Indian-administered Kashmir which also left another soldier injured, the Indian army said. The shootout began when soldiers cordoned off a neighborhood in the northern area of Hajin after a tip-off that armed militants were hiding there, said army spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia. "Five militants have been killed in the operation," Kalia said. "One IAF (India Air Force) soldier was martyred and another army soldier was injured." On Friday a militant and a police officer were killed in the outskirts of the main city of Srinagar during a brief shootout. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Both claim the former Himalayan kingdom in full. Rebel groups have for decades fought Indian soldiers and paramilitaries deployed in the disputed region, demanding independence or a merger of the territory with Pakistan.

Bullet-riddled bodies

QUETTA: The bullet-riddled bodies of five Pakistani migrants believed headed for Europe via Iran were found yesterday in southwest Pakistan, in the same area where 15 bodies were discovered three days earlier, officials said. The five migrants whose corpses were found in the district of Ketch in Balochistan province near the Iranian border had been killed two days ago, said provincial government spokesman Anwaar ul Haq. As with the previous 15 they were ethnic Punjabis who were illegally travelling to Iran, he said. Senior administration official Akbar Harifal said the killings seemed to be the work of separatist groups. The army said a separatist leader believed to have murdered the 15 had been killed. Baloch separatists have regularly targeted ethnic Punjabi workers, accusing them of exploiting the province. People-traffickers use the Balochistan route to smuggle workers from Punjab province to European countries via Iran.

Freeport evacuates families

TIMIKA: US miner Freeport-McMoRan Inc is evacuating spouses and children of workers from its giant Indonesian copper mine after a string of shootings in the area raised security concerns. The move follows efforts by Indonesian authorities on Friday to evacuate villages near Freeport's Grasberg mine in the eastern province of Papua that authorities said had been occupied by armed separatists. Since August at least 12 people have been injured and two police officers have been killed by gunmen with suspected links to separatist rebels. Freeport has asked family and household members of its employees to prepare over the weekend for a temporary relocation from the mining town of Tembagapura, about 10 km from Grasberg, company sources said. Workers have been asked to stay behind and maintain their work schedule, they said. Details of the evacuation or the number of people impacted were not immediately clear.

Two journalists charged

PHNOM PENH: Two Cambodian journalists were charged yesterday with spying over news reports they allegedly filed to US-based Radio Free Asia, amid a sweeping government crackdown on dissent that has tipped the country's democracy into crisis. The reporters were detained on Tuesday night, days before Cambodia's main opposition party was dissolved over accusations it conspired with the US in a treason plot. That case was blasted by Washington as baseless and decried by rights groups as hastening the country's descent into a de facto one-party state led by authoritarian premier Hun Sen. The ruling capped a protracted clampdown aimed at silencing Hun Sen's political rivals, outspoken NGOs and independent media before an election in 2018. Radio Free Asia was forced to shut its bureau in September after 20 years due to a series of legal threats. The former RFA journalists-Oun Chhin and Yeang Sothea—now face up to 15 years in jail for allegedly running an illegal media studio from a guesthouse in the capital, according to police.

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYANEDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
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ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
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Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Washington Watch

Moore guilty
of abusing girls
and religion

By Dr James J Zogby

In the philosophy of language, we learn the simple truth that the meaning of a word is how it's used in a sentence. The same lesson can be applied to religion - with the meaning of religious language best understood by how it is being used. I recalled this lesson this past week as I listened to some evangelical Christians defending Judge Roy Moore, the Republican candidate for US Senate in Alabama. Moore has been charged with sexually assaulting and abusing at least seven girls when he was in his 30s and they were between 14 and 18 years old. The stories the women tell are painful to hear and, given the preponderance of other evidence against Moore, clearly believable.

In the face of all this, Moore has plummeted in recent statewide polls with the most recent Fox News poll showing him losing to the Democratic candidate, Doug Jones, by a 50 percent to 41 percent margin. What I found disturbing, however, was that white voters who self-describe as "evangelical Christians" continuing to support Moore by a 73 percent to 20 percent margin.

After the women came forward with their charges of abuse and assault, Moore's "Christian" defenders went overboard using religious imagery to describe his situation. One bizarrely attempted to justify Moore's abuse of a 14 year old by comparing it to a biblical narrative. I was in Alabama this past week where I saw a televised Moore event at a church and listened to a group of pastors passionately defending their candidate. The religious language and imagery used by Moore and his supporters is both disturbing and confounding.

At the event, called "God Save America", Moore compared his election to "a spiritual battle" for the soul of America. Moore's remarks that "If we don't come back to God, we're not going anywhere" were echoed by his supporters. When asked how they could continue to vote for him, two women offered that Moore was "doing God's work... We took a path away from God... We need someone open to bring God back".

God language

In a series of tweets, Moore decried the charges against him saying "the forces of evil will lie, cheat, steal - even inflict physical harm - if they believe it will silence and shut up Christian conservatives like you and me... [We] have a duty to stand up against the forces of evil waging an all-out war on our conservative values". Using God language and appealing to "Christian values" has long been Moore's modus operandi. As a judge, he had the Ten Commandments hung in his courtroom. He later famously had a 5,000-pound granite carving of the Commandments placed outside the courthouse, which - after refusing an order to have it removed - resulted in his being stripped of his position and removed from the bench.

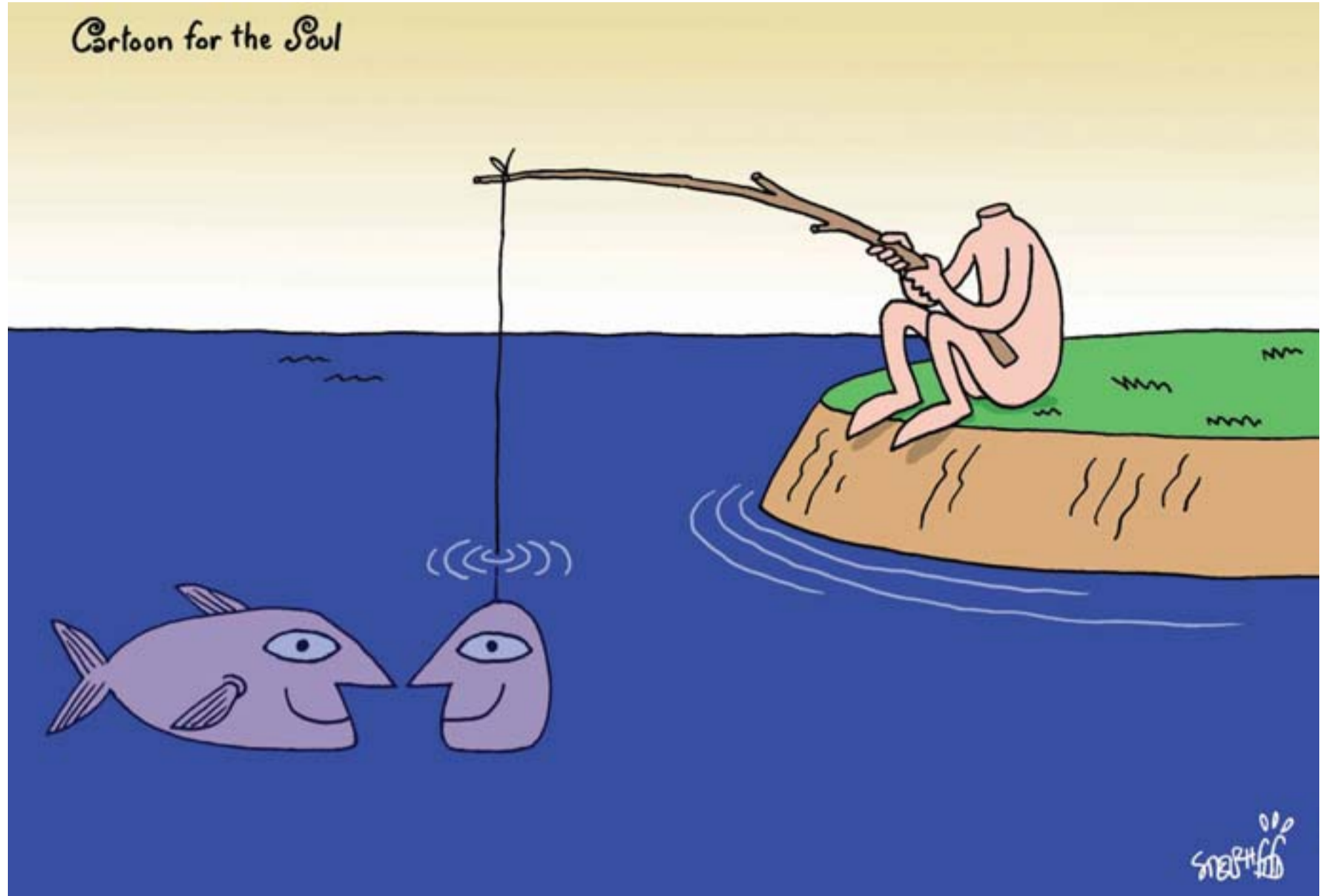
During his primary campaign, Moore was endorsed by a number of pastors who issued a statement saying, in part, "dishonesty, fear of man, and immorality are an affront to our convictions and our Savior and we won't put up with it anymore... join us at the polls to cast your vote for Roy Moore". Steve Bannon, the former White House advisor, came to Alabama to work for Moore saying that "Judge Moore knows the Ten Commandments is the basis for the Judeo-Christian west". A Trump administration official echoed this, saying "He (Moore) is truly someone who reflects the Judeo-Christian values that were so important to the establishment of our country".

The lessons I learned about language have taught me not to take this rhetoric at face value. Rather, to discern the meaning that lies behind these words, we must wade through this God-talk and dig below the surface to understand what Moore and his supporters are really saying - what issues they are embracing when they speak of "Christian values". On closer examination, the "Christian values" that emerge are often tied up with sex. Moore is anti-abortion, anti-gay rights, anti-sex education in schools and pro-censorship laws. These concerns reflect the general discomfort that some middle-aged, middle-class Americans have with a changing social order and evolving social mores.

Agenda

But that's not all. Their "Christian agenda" also includes healthy doses of: hyper-chauvinism (Moore claims that America is a "Christian nation" that dare not turn against God. He blames 9/11 on "our turning away from God"); Islamophobia (Moore has said that "Islam is a false religion"); "Islamic law is incompatible with our law", and falsely claimed that some US cities were already under sharia; anti-immigrant (he has called for the US military to block migrants crossing the border); and the racial inferiority of blacks and Hispanics (Moore's Facebook page is filled with disgraceful portrayals of both groups). What emerges from a review of Moore's use of language is that keeping America "Christian" ultimately means keeping America white and protecting a life-style that exists mostly as a mythic 1950's construct of our popular culture. It is God language masking a profoundly disturbing political agenda.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



Recyclers prepare for electric car revolution

Recycling companies are honing processes to extract metals from old batteries more cheaply and efficiently so they can capitalize on an expected shortfall in materials such as cobalt and lithium when sales of electric cars take off. The main obstacle recyclers face now is a shortage of spent batteries to recycle to make their technology cost-effective, but those at the forefront of the industry are confident the supply, and profits, will come.

"The value of lithium carbonate and natural or synthetic graphite has doubled or tripled in the last three or four years, becoming the most valuable materials besides cobalt in the automotive battery," Albrecht Melber, co-managing director of German recycling firm Accurec, said. "There are big values that can be recycled in the future." Electric vehicle sales are expected to pass 14 million a year by 2025 from less than a million now, fuelling a surge in the consumption of battery materials.

Data specialist Benchmark Mineral Intelligence predicts the industry will need an extra 30,000 tonnes of cobalt and 81,000 tonnes of lithium a year to meet demand by 2021. Commodity research group CRU expects 11,600 tonnes of cobalt to come from recycling in 2021, up from 7,110 a year now, and 24,900 tonnes by 2026, accounting for 9.7 percent and 17.9 percent of the total market supply respectively. In China, where electric vehicle sales topped half a million last year, recyclers are getting ready to deal with a mountain of battery waste and others also see opportunities. "A 1,000-pound lithium cobalt battery contains about \$6,000 worth of cathode material at the top end of the value chain and about \$1,700 for a nickel-cobalt-aluminum battery at the low end," said Larry Raugh, chief executive of Canadian metals recycler American Manganese. "If this equated to mining you would have a very high grade feedstock," he said. "We're mining batteries, you might say."

Keeping it real:
UN climate talks
struggle to
stay relevant

There was a telling moment at the 23rd edition of UN climate talks that underscored both the life-and-death stakes in the fight against global warming, and how hard it is for this belabored forum to rise to the challenge. Twelve-year-old Timoci Naulusala from Fiji, a nation disappearing under rising seas, was delivering a testimonial to ministers and heads of state with crisp English and irresistible charm. Suddenly, describing the devastation wrought by Cyclone Winston last year, his words became measured, his voice hushed.

"My home, my school - my source of food, water, money - was totally destroyed," he said. "My life was in chaos. I asked myself: Why is this happening? What am I going to do?" The answer to Timoci's first question has become frightening clear: Climate change. With only a single degree Celsius of global warming so far, the planet has already seen a crescendo of deadly droughts, heatwaves, and superstorms engorged by rising seas. "Climate change is here. It is dangerous. And it is about to get much worse," said Johan Rockstrom, executive director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, a climate change research center.

The 196-nation Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, enjoins the world to cap the rise in temperature at "well below" 2 degrees Celsius, a goal barely within reach that still may not save Fiji and dozens of small island states. Bangladesh and other countries with highly-populated delta regions are also at high risk. But Timoci's second question remains open: What is he, and by extension the world, going to do?

'Should' or 'shall'

At first, the answer - laid out in the 1992 UN Convention on Climate Change - seemed straight-forward: Humans must stop loading the atmosphere with the greenhouse gases that drive global warming. The successful repair of the ozone hole suggested a way forward: an international treaty. But it took a quarter of a century to get one, in 2015, and even then it is woefully inadequate: voluntary national pledges to curb carbon pollution would still allow the global thermometer to go up 3 C, a recipe

Cobalt pressure

Most electric cars are powered by lithium NMC batteries which use a cathode composed of nickel, manganese and cobalt and a graphite anode. Mining enough cobalt to meet demand is a particular concern as most of the world's supplies come from Democratic Republic of Congo, where mining areas are prone to conflict. The price of cobalt has more than doubled so far this year.

Supplies of lithium, mainly mined in Chile, are under far

nickel, while lithium is more difficult and expensive to extract. The cost of recycling varies widely, but to be economical, CRU estimates it would need to be transformed back into lithium carbonate at a maximum cost of \$7,000 a tonne. For now, lithium usually ends up in waste slag, which can be used as a building material, or is thrown away. But with the price of all these metals rising, that picture may change.

Material matrix

Technological advances are key to retrieving more waste metal from batteries and some companies say they have developed ways to get lithium that will come into their own once there's a steady supply of spent batteries to recycle. Umicore uses a combination of pyrometallurgy and a chemical process known as hydrometallurgy to retrieve lithium and rare earths from slag, as well as extracting cobalt, nickel, and copper. "A battery is a complex material matrix," Umicore says. "However, our process allows (us) to separate and concentrate the lithium in one process step, and yields alloys with cobalt, nickel and copper."

Umicore operates a pilot plant with a 7,000-tonne capacity that can process some 35,000 electric vehicle batteries a year. Analysts say the Belgian company, a well-established materials recycler, is by far the most developed lithium ion battery processor in Europe. "For investors to play the recycling theme, for now the best way is Umicore," said Tobias Bischoff, a portfolio manager at de Pury Pictet Turretini & Cie who advises NSF Wealth Management's Global New Mobility fund. US company Retriev Technologies has been recycling lithium ion batteries at its plant in Trail, British Columbia, since 2002, recovering cobalt, nickel and copper. It expanded a facility in Ohio to process lithium ion batteries two years ago. —Reuters

Battery recyclers
seeking new
ways to retrieve
metals

less pressure at the moment and new production is due to come on stream in Argentina and Australia. But concern the supply of lithium in battery-ready form will struggle to keep pace with electric car sales has pushed prices up more than 30 percent to a record \$12,000 a tonne this year. Besides a shortage of old batteries to recycle, companies also face challenges extracting lithium in a reusable form. Most recyclers heat old batteries to high temperatures to retrieve metals, a process known as pyrometallurgy. But this generally only yields cobalt, and sometimes



Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji and President of COP 23, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pose with a young Fijian boy at the UN conference on climate change (COP23) on Nov 15, 2017 in Bonn. —AFP

for human misery on a vast scale. Since Paris, the UN climate talks - known to participants as "COPs", or Conferences of the Parties - have focused on working out an operational handbook for the treaty, which goes into effect in 2020. But as the years tick by, the byzantine bureaucracy - where hundreds of diplomats can argue for days over whether a text will say "should" or "shall" has struggled to keep pace with both the problem, and what some negotiators call "the real world".

"What is at stake here is the relevance of the COP process," said Nicaragua's chief negotiator Paul Oquist, lamenting a point of blockage and the generally slow pace. "We cannot risk becoming more and more irrelevant with each meeting." The UN climate process risks falling out of step in two key ways, experts suggest. One is in relation to the unforgiving conclusions of science, which show that the window of opportunity for avoiding climate cataclysm is rapidly narrowing to a slit.

This year's climate talks kicked off with negotiators learning that CO2 emissions - after remaining stable for three years, raising hopes that they had peaked - will rise by two percent in 2017, a development one scientist called "a giant step backwards for humankind". Negotiations were also reeling from US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out from the Paris Agreement. America sent envoys to the meetings but White House officials and energy company executives hosted a pro-fossil fuel event on the conference margins. Meanwhile, scientists warned of

invisible temperature thresholds - "tipping points" - beyond which ice sheets would irretrievably shed enough water to raise global oceans by meters. "The only question is how fast," James Hansen, head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies until 2013, told AFP.

'Little adrenaline'

The UN's 12-day negotiations came to an end yesterday with an agreement to hold a stocktake in 2018 of national efforts to cut fossil fuel emissions. But the talks are falling behind the response of cities, sub-national regions and especially businesses, which have leaped headlong into the transition from a dirty to a clean global economy.

"For the first time in the history of the COPs, the heart of the action was not in the negotiating arena but in the 'green' zone" showcasing innovations in sustainable development, said David Levi, head of the climate program at the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations in Paris. Some 7,500 cities and local governments have set carbon cutting targets, and hundreds of global companies are retooling for a low-carbon world.

A veteran EU climate diplomat, meanwhile, bemoaned the lack of dynamism in the negotiating arena. "I've never seen a COP with so little adrenaline," he told AFP. Mads Randboll Wolff, a Danish expert in bioeconomics - a field that didn't even exist a decade ago - recalled the bitter disappointment of the failed Copenhagen climate summit in 2009. —AFP

News

Hollywood's #MeToo wave engulfing Washington

WASHINGTON: From the White House to Congress to the Supreme Court, Washington has had its share of sexual scandals. But the #MeToo wave exposing sexual misconduct which began in Hollywood slammed into the US capital this week, triggering a dizzying slew of allegations, apologies and resignations. Democratic Senator Al Franken said he was sorry after a radio talk show host accused him of forcibly kissing her in 2006 - two years before voters in Minnesota sent him to the Senate - and for posing for a picture which showed him groping her breasts as she slept.

President Donald Trump, despite numerous allegations that he has personally engaged in lewd conduct towards women, was quick to pile on, calling him "Al Frankenstien" (sic) and saying the picture was "really bad". When asked by reporters on Friday the difference between the allegations against Trump and those against Franken, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders replied: "Senator Franken has admitted wrongdoing and the president hasn't." "I think that's a very clear distinction," she added.

Trump's Twitter attack on the Democratic senator was in stark contrast to his relative silence over another scandal - allegations that the Republican candidate for the US Senate in Alabama, Roy Moore, once preyed on teenage girls. Meanwhile, two female members of the House of Representatives - one Democrat and one Republican - have accused two lawmakers, who they declined to name, of sexual harassment. And a congresswoman's chief of staff resigned amid allegations that he had sexually harassed co-workers.

Former president George H W Bush, 93, has also found himself in the line of fire, accused by half a dozen women of groping them during photo ops, both before and after he became confined to a wheelchair. "There are a lot of nervous people around wondering what - who will be next," Trump aide Kellyanne Conway told Fox News.

One of the most recent and high-profile cases of sexual misconduct in Congress involved the former Republican speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, who pleaded guilty in 2015 to making illegal payments to hush up his molestation of teenage boys. Supreme Court judge Clarence Thomas' Senate confirmation hearing in 1991 was overshadowed by allegations he sexually harassed a staffer, Anita Hill, charges which he denied.

And then of course there is former Democratic president



KUWAIT: Former comedian and current US Senator Al Franken and sports commentator Leeann Tweeden perform a comic skit on Dec 15, 2006 at Camp Arifjan. — AFP

Bill Clinton, who admitted to having sexual relations with an intern, Monica Lewinsky, while serving in the White House. The Trump presidential campaign repeatedly brought up Clinton's indiscretions during the bitter 2016 White House race against his wife Hillary. At the same time, the Trump campaign rejected the claims of multiple women that the billionaire real estate tycoon had acted inappropriately towards them - a pattern of behavior Trump more or less admitted in a notorious 2005 recording.

"I'm automatically attracted to beautiful - I just start kissing them," he said in the audiotape, which surfaced during the campaign. "It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait. And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab 'em by the p****. You can do anything," Trump said.

On Capitol Hill, Congress is attempting to be proactive in containing the fallout from the new allegations against lawmakers. Republican speaker Paul Ryan announced this week that the House would adopt "mandatory anti-harassment and anti-discrimination training" for lawmakers and their staff. "Our goal is not only to raise awareness, but also make abundantly clear that harassment in any form has no place in this institution," Ryan said. The Senate made anti-harassment training mandatory last week.

With the debate over sexual misconduct roiling American institutions, a Democratic candidate for governor in Ohio came out Friday with a somewhat unusual statement. Bill O'Neill, a state supreme court justice, said he was "disappointed by this national feeding frenzy about sexual indiscretions decades ago" and was making a preemptive strike. — AFP

Party set to sack Mugabe as elated

Continued from Page 1

largest city, demonstrators sounded car horns, whistled and blew vuvuzelas as they gathered outside City Hall. Such an open display of defiance would have been unthinkable just a week ago as dissent was routinely crushed by security forces. But in a statement released on Friday, the army said it fully supported the protests. The majority of Zimbabweans have only known life under Mugabe's rule, which has been defined by violent suppression, economic collapse and international isolation. "I went to university but here I am selling bananas to earn a living. If it wasn't for Mugabe, I would be doing something else," said one protester, street vendor Abel Kapodogo, 34. Protesters were also cheering soldiers and stopping to shake their hands.

Mugabe enraged many Zimbabweans when he did not resign following talks with the army's leaders on Thursday, with sources suggesting he was "buying

time" to negotiate a favorable end to his 37-year reign. He appeared publicly for the first time on Friday for a slated appearance at a graduation ceremony in Harare, further stoking speculation about his talks with General Constantino Chiwenga, who led the military power grab.

Later on Friday, eight of the 10 regional branches of Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF took to state television to call for him to go - yet another serious blow to his authority. Information minister Simon Khaya Moyo said he was unsure when the ruling party's executive would meet to discuss Mugabe's fate or about any discussion between the military and Mugabe. Zimbabwe's military chiefs, meanwhile, have said their operation to round up "criminals" in Mugabe's government was continuing.

The army seizure of power appeared to be the climax of a dispute over who would succeed the veteran leader. Before being pushed out as vice president, Mnangagwa had clashed repeatedly with Mugabe's wife Grace, 52. Both had been seen as leading contenders to replace Mugabe, but Mnangagwa had the tacit support of the armed forces, which viewed Grace - a political novice - with derision. The international community including the African Union, Britain and the United States has called for Zimbabwe's army to quickly relinquish power. — Agencies



HARARE: People hold an anti-Grace Mugabe placard during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Zimbabwe's president yesterday. — AFP

Miss World win draws India level...

Continued from Page 1

China's Hainan Island, for a seventh time, where the event was last held in 2015. At the previous occasion two years ago, controversy erupted as officials in Hong Kong stopped Miss Canada, Anastasia Lin, from board-

ing a plane bound for Sanya, telling her she would not receive a visa. The 25-year old actress claimed the decision was due to her stance on China's human rights record, including its persecution of Falun Gong, a Chinese spiritual group of which she is a practitioner.

At last year's event in the United States, Lin was again embroiled in controversy when pageant officials reportedly warned her against speaking to the press for three weeks about human rights abuses in China. Lin did not participate in this year's event, with Canada represented instead by Cynthia Menard, a high school student. — AFP

Hariri announces return to Lebanon...

Continued from Page 1

said earlier in the week. Germany's foreign ministry had yet to comment on the row, but in a statement it welcomed Hariri's "imminent return to Lebanon".

"Such remarks provoke the surprise and disapproval of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which considers them as aimless and based on false information that would not help bring about stability in the region," the Saudi foreign ministry said. The ministry later said on its Twitter account it had summoned the German ambassador in Riyadh and handed him "a protest memorandum over the shameful and unjustified remarks made by the German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel".

Ahead of Hariri's departure, Aoun - an ally of Hezbollah - welcomed the trip to Paris, expressing hope that it was the "start of a solution". "If Mr. Hariri speaks from France, I would consider that he speaks freely," Aoun said. "But his resignation must be presented in Lebanon, and he will have to remain there until the formation of the new government."

France's intervention was the latest in a string of European efforts to defuse tensions over Lebanon, where divisions between Hariri's Sunni bloc and Shiite Hezbollah have long been a focal point in a broader struggle between Riyadh and Tehran. Hariri - whose father, ex-prime minister Rafiq Hariri, was killed in a 2005 car bombing blamed on Hezbollah - took over last year as head of a shaky national unity government which includes the powerful Shiite movement. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir insisted from Madrid that "unless Hezbollah disarms and becomes a political party, Lebanon will be held hostage by Hezbollah and, by extension, Iran". — Agencies

Harbi denies Egypt onions...

Continued from Page 1

labs are incapable of handling the quantities the government announced pumping into the market.

He also demanded declaring the results of tests of the recently-imported tons of onions, stressing that they should be immediately withdrawn from the market if they had not been examined. "Fighting unjustified price hikes is mandatory, but people's health is more important", he warned. Media activist Jalal Al-Shemmari also wondered about the issue and inquired who had allowed Egyptian onions into the country despite an embargo on importing them, without even examining the shipments.

Harbi told reporters that the supreme committee for

food safety includes memberships of a number of major state bodies such as foreign, commerce and health ministries. It also includes memberships of the Municipality, Public Authority for Industry, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Environment Public Authority, Kuwait General Administration of Customs and the Union of Kuwaiti Food Traders and Manufacturers. The committee aims to establish health requirements for food in order to protect food security and preserve public health through securing food products valid for human consumption, Harbi said. He also indicated that the committee has not made any amendments to the current requirements regarding some Egyptian agricultural products.

Separately, Harbi announced referring the appointment of 1,000 Indian nurses without permission from the Civil Service Commission to the public prosecutor. Harbi said the health ministry had conducted an immediate investigation before referring the case to the public prosecutor, adding those proven guilty will be held legally accountable. Harbi pointed out that the hiring took place before he took office.

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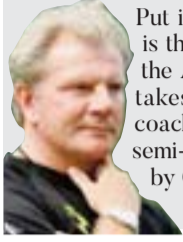
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Sports

Paul Put named new Kenya coach

NAIROBI: Belgian Paul Put yesterday signed a two-year contract to replace Stanley Okumbi as the new coach of the Kenya national team. Put, 61, has previously managed Burkina Faso and Gambia at international level and was unveiled at the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) annual general meeting in Mombasa. He will take over the role immediately to prepare the team for the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup which starts in Kenya on December 3. "This is a big announcement today. We have been consulting on how to restructure and strengthen the Harambee Stars technical bench, and Paul Put is our new coach," FKF chairman Nick Mwendwa said. "He is the best person we have found, and we believe the journey to the African Cup of Nations finals in 2019 is still a reality as he takes over." The Belgian arrives from a short but successful coaching stint at Algerian club USM Alger, leading them to the semi-finals of the African Champions League, and will be assisted by Okumbi. —AFP



Biles, Douglas feud over Raisman 'shaming' Tweet

LOS ANGELES: Olympic gymnastics queen Simone Biles sprang to the defence of team-mate Aly Raisman on Friday in response to apparent criticism by fellow USA gymnast Gabby Douglas. Biles weighed in after a social media post by three-time Olympic gold medalist Raisman, who recently revealed she had been sexually abused by US team doctor Larry Nassar, triggered a critical response from Douglas. Raisman's initial Twitter posting urged for an end to shaming of sexual assault victims, stating that how a woman dressed should have no bearing on how allegations should be viewed. "Just because a woman does a sexy photoshoot or wears a sexy outfit does not give a man the right to shame her or not believe when she comes forward about sexual abuse," Raisman wrote. "I will not put up with any woman or girl being shamed for wanting to wear a skirt, dress etc. I do not tolerate it. Are we clear?" Douglas, however, a team-mate in the US women's gold medal-winning team at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, appeared to challenge Raisman's statement. —AFP

Britain's Hegarty dies in Macau crash

HONG KONG: British rider Daniel Hegarty died yesterday after hitting a barrier at the Macau Grand Prix during the feature motorcycle race. The 31-year-old, who rode for Topgun Honda, came to grief at Fishermen's Bend during the sixth of 12 scheduled laps on the 3.8 mile Guia circuit. The race was immediately stopped and Hegarty was taken to hospital in the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city. "It is with great regret that we have to announce that the British rider succumbed to his injuries en route to the Conde S. Januario Hospital," the race organisers said in a statement. "The Macau Grand Prix Organising Committee extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Daniel." Glenn Irwin from Northern Ireland was declared the winner after the race was stopped. But the podium event was a sombre affair, with all three riders visibly upset as fears spread for Hegarty, according to media reports. The last death at the Macau Grand Prix was in 2012 when Portugal's Luis Carreira was killed during qualifying. —AFP



Danica Patrick to end racing career at next year's Indy 500

Only woman to have led laps in Daytona 500 and Indianapolis 500

HOMESTEAD: She started in go-karts when she was 10, and was a national champion two years later. By the time Danica Patrick turned 16, she was on her own in Europe, pursuing a racing career. Patrick was a fearless woman in a sport almost exclusively comprised of male drivers. She raced hard, sparred with her rivals off the track and rarely flinched while becoming one of the most recognizable athletes in the world.

Her tough-girl persona almost never cracked in public. When it came time to announce her retirement, with her mother, father, sister, brother-in-law, boyfriend and support team watching from the back of a crowded room at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Friday afternoon, Patrick broke down in tears.

"I feel like this is where my life should be headed, and sometimes we just get kind of nudged there," she began. "Sometimes it's big nudges and sometimes it's little." The 35-year-old Patrick paused several times to compose herself to announce that she will race only in the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500 next year and then she will walk away from a sport where success was elusive even as she grew into a superstar with multiple labels, not the least of which was savvy businesswoman.

Patrick has known for at least a month that she will end her career next season at the Indianapolis 500, a decision that will bring her full circle and return her one last time to the storied track that made her famous. Discussing her decision with The Associated Press a few hours before her announcement, Patrick was giddy with excitement and thrilled at the chance to take one more spin around Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Patrick told AP it took her many months to come to the realization her career is all but over. Once she accepted it, she began putting together plans for "The Danica Double" over the last several weeks.

"Nothing that was being presented excited me, then

about three weeks ago, I just blurted out, 'What about Indy? Let's end it with the Indy 500,'" she said. "This ignites something in me. But I am done after May. Everyone needs to put their mind there. My plan is to be at Indy, and then I'm done."

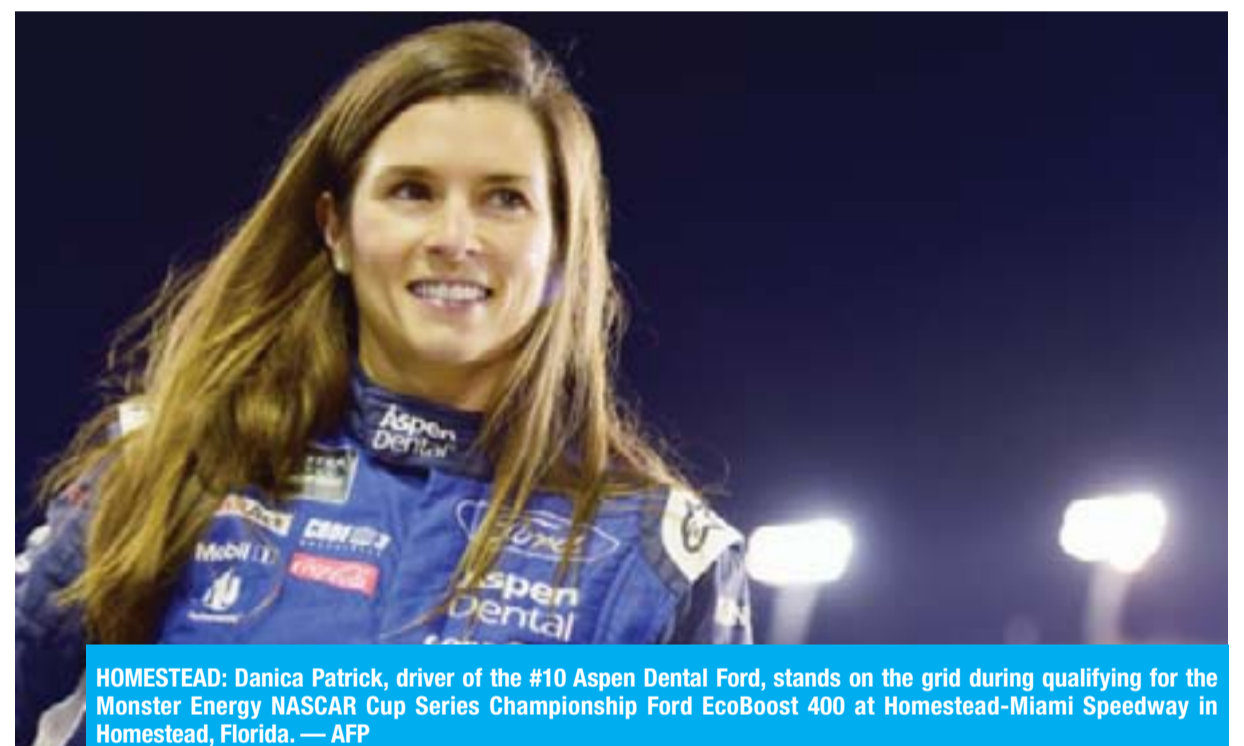
Patrick would not reveal who she will drive for in either race next year, but Chip Ganassi Racing is the likely ride at Indy. Ganassi has room to field additional cars - he's scaling down from four full-time cars to two next year - and would give Patrick a car capable of winning. Roger Penske and Michael Andretti both have full lineups announced for next year's Indy 500.

Patrick will not be driving in the Daytona 500 for Stewart-Haas Racing, team co-owner Tony Stewart told AP. Patrick moved from IndyCar to NASCAR after the 2011 season, and has been racing Cup cars for SHR since 2012. She is being replaced after Sunday's season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway by Aric Almirola.

Patrick is the only woman to have led laps in both the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500. Patrick ran the Indy 500 from 2005

through 2011. Her highest finish was third in 2009, and she was the first woman to lead laps in the race when she paced the field for 19 trips around the Brickyard as a rookie. Patrick was highly marketable early in her career even though wins were rare. She won the pole for the Daytona 500 in 2013, but finished 24th in the standings the last two seasons. She won her only IndyCar race in 2008, in Japan.

Sponsorship trouble surfaced this year, too. When no strong opportunities for next season presented itself, Patrick decided to call it a career next Memorial Day weekend. "I think it's awesome and it will make for a huge month of May that she's back there," said Stewart, who spent half of his career trying to win the Indy 500. "It would be really cool to see her face on the Borg-Warner



HOMESTEAD: Danica Patrick, driver of the #10 Aspen Dental Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Florida. —AFP

“Nothing that was being presented excited me”

Trophy, if she can pull that off." Patrick had been adamant she would never return to IndyCar or the 500, but changed her mind as she realized her competitive options were dwindling. "I know I always said I'd never go back to Indy, and I was always being honest," she said. "Well, things change. I know now you can never say never. I'd been going through this in my head and kept asking myself, 'How am I going to get the words out and say it's over?' And trust me, I lost my (stuff) a few times over that. "But this seems right, and this seems good."

Patrick told AP she had only informed about 10 people of her decision prior to Friday's announcement. Everyone had been extremely happy with the path she's chosen. She said longtime boyfriend Ricky Stenhouse Jr. "has

never been more excited about something about me in his life."

Stewart praised Patrick for her time at SHR, and said his team would never have expanded to four cars without her assistance. Kevin Harvick will try to win a second championship in four years for the organization on Sunday, and Stewart said Patrick has been a huge part of the team's success.

He was disappointed to learn she's ready to stop driving. "I am happy that she is doing it on her terms, but I am sad because I feel like there are wins under her belt that she can still get," Stewart told AP. "I thought she'd go road racing or back to IndyCar or something along those lines, because I think that's where she can be successful." —AP

Gulf Bank sponsors KIJJ0 for second year

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is proud to reaffirm its sponsorship of the International Kuwait Jiu-Jitsu Open (KIJJ0) for the 2017 edition. Running from 16-18 November at the Ice Skating Rink, Kuwait City, the Open will welcome Jiu-Jitsu talent and players of all belt levels to showcase their skills and athleticism on the mat.

After a successful 2016, which saw more than 300 athletes from over 20 countries compete in the Capital, KIJJ0 2017 is set to bring three action-packed days the whole family can enjoy. Jiu-Jitsu players are recommended to get there early on Day 1 for the check-in and official rules briefing, before a Q&A session with the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open refereeing team. Day 2 of the event will see weigh-ins across the respective divisions as energy builds for the final day of the event. The Kuwait community will feel the energy straight from the mat on the final day of competition, as thrilling matches across the belt levels will take place to find the KIJJ0 2017 champions.

Returning for the second year of sponsorship, Gulf Bank's support of the KIJJ0 is a natural step as part of the leading bank's commitment to supporting youth initiatives and its campaign of promoting health and fitness activities. Commenting on its continued support,

Khaled Al-Otaibi, Manager - Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank, said: "We are proud to once again sponsor the International Kuwait Jiu-Jitsu Open. Following on from the success of last year's edition, The Open is a wonderful opportunity for the Kuwaiti community to come together and support talented individuals who will go head-to-head with global players. The key teachings of the sport of Jiu-Jitsu, respect, self-awareness and determination, are skills that can help strengthen an individual and his/her society, and the championship helps encourage young people to explore the culture and excitement of the sport. "Kuwait is continuing to raise the bar in its international sport offerings, and we at Gulf Bank are thrilled to play a role in welcoming global elites and governing bodies of Jiu-Jitsu to a world-class event right here in the Capital. We are sure the three-day event will be full of energy, action and fun, and wish the best of luck to all the participants. We look forward to seeing you there."

For more information about Gulf Bank's corporate social responsibility initiatives and activities, please log on to www.e-gulfbank.com, or visit its social media channels.

Home one-two for Toyota GAZOO Racing in WEC's round 7

TOKYO: Toyota GAZOO Racing earned a one-two finish at its home race following an eventful and rain-affected 6 Hours of Fuji, the seventh round of the 2017 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). In the #8 TS050 hybrid electric vehicle (HEV), Sebastien Buemi, Anthony Davidson, and Kazuki Nakajima won their third race of the season- Toyota's fifth victory in six events at Fuji Speedway.

The win with the 1,000-hp TS050 hybrid electric vehicle comes at a special time in the history of HEV technology, as it coincides with the 20th anniversary weekend of the launch of the Prius, the world's first mass-produced hybrid electric car.

Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi, and Jose Maria Lopez, in the #7 car, took second place on a day when the TS050 hybrid electric vehicle showed its strong performance in wet conditions. Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "This is another amazing result for the team, and the fact that this triumph has come on our home ground makes it all the more special. At Toyota, we believe that our active participation in events such as the World Endurance Championship, which put our people and cars to the ultimate test, is one of the key elements contributing to the development of our human resources and creation of 'ever-better cars.' Our fans at home have extended tremendous support. We thank them for their encouragement and will spare no efforts to continue surpassing their expectations in the remaining two races in Shanghai and Manama."

Hisatake Murata, Team President, said: "It is fantastic to stand in the center of the podium again for our third win of the season. We have fought very hard to achieve this, and it is even more special here at our home race. Thank you to everyone who came to Fuji Speedway to support us, despite the bad weather. They give us



extra motivation, and I am pleased we could show them an exciting fight. Our drivers and car performed very strongly in the wet conditions. Our target now is to fight hard against competitors in the final two races and create an exciting end to the season for the fans."

Persistent rain throughout the morning meant the race began behind the safety car, with Kamui at the wheel of the #7 and Sebastien in the #8, but after 12 minutes the green flags waved. The rain intensified, and fog descended on Fuji Speedway, causing several interruptions to the race. The first came on 40 minutes with a safety car period, then 40 minutes later the race was red-flagged, with the #8 running second and the #7 third.

Immediately after the race resumed, the two TS050 hybrid electric vehicles took over first and second, setting up a fight for victory with competitor car #1, which was regularly interrupted by safety cars due to rain, fog, and accidents. The TS050s had a speed advantage over their rivals in heavy wet conditions, but with differing fuel strategies and any advantage removed during safety cars, the final order of the podium was unpredictable throughout. But with the 75% mark approaching, after which full World Championship points would be awarded, more heavy fog came, and another safety car was called. At that point, Kazuki led in the #8 with Mike second in the #7.

Visibility was too poor, particularly in the

first sector, so the red flags were waved again, with the race not restarting. That came a few laps before a planned driver change for the #8, and therefore, meant Anthony, unfortunately, did not have the chance to race.

The #7 TS050 car overcame adversity to earn the runners-up spot: JosÉ had earlier needed an unscheduled pit stop to change steering wheel due to a problem activating the windscreen wiper.

Kazuki Nakajima commented: "Before the race, we targeted a one-two finish, so I am really pleased that we achieved it. It is a great result for the whole team. I am very happy with the job everyone did. I think we deserved the win because we had good pace in the wet conditions. It is my third win here at Fuji, and it is particularly special to win in front of our home fans who gave us such great support."

Kamui Kobayashi said: "Congratulations to the entire team for this result and particularly to car #8. I am really happy for everyone. We had struggled with our car this week, but we found something before the race which worked quite well. We improved the car quite a lot throughout the race. The weather conditions were difficult for us and also for the fans, so thanks to them for supporting us. I hope they enjoyed this result." Toyota GAZOO Racing now heads to the penultimate round of the season, the 6 Hours of Shanghai on 5 November still with an outside chance of both World Championships.



Sports

Turkey's 'pocket Hercules' Suleymanoglu dies at 50

Legendary triple Olympic gold-medal winning weightlifter

ISTANBUL: Turkey's legendary triple Olympic gold-medal winning weightlifter Naim Suleymanoglu, the diminutive "pocket Hercules," has died aged 50, state media said. Suleymanoglu, who was only 1.47 metres (4.8 feet) tall, scored a historic hat-trick of consecutive Olympic titles starting in Seoul in 1988 then Barcelona in 1992 and Atlanta in 1996. He The Bulgarian-born Suleymanoglu, who had in late September been admitted to intensive care after suffering liver failure, died in hospital in Istanbul, the Anadolu news agency said.

The weightlifter had been given a liver transplant earlier this month after a suitable donor was found and initial reports had said that the surgery was successful. Suleymanoglu's exploits made him a national hero in Turkey, where he is regarded as one of the greatest sports personalities in the country's history. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who had visited Suleymanoglu in hospital and received the news while delivering a speech to supporters, expressed his condolences on live television over Suleymanoglu's death. "Turkish weightlifting has suffered a great loss," the head of the Turkish weightlifting federation Tamer Taspinar told Anadolu. "He was the 'pocket Hercules' who broke 46 records. He was a sportsman who won the hearts not just of the Turkish people but the world," Taspinar added.



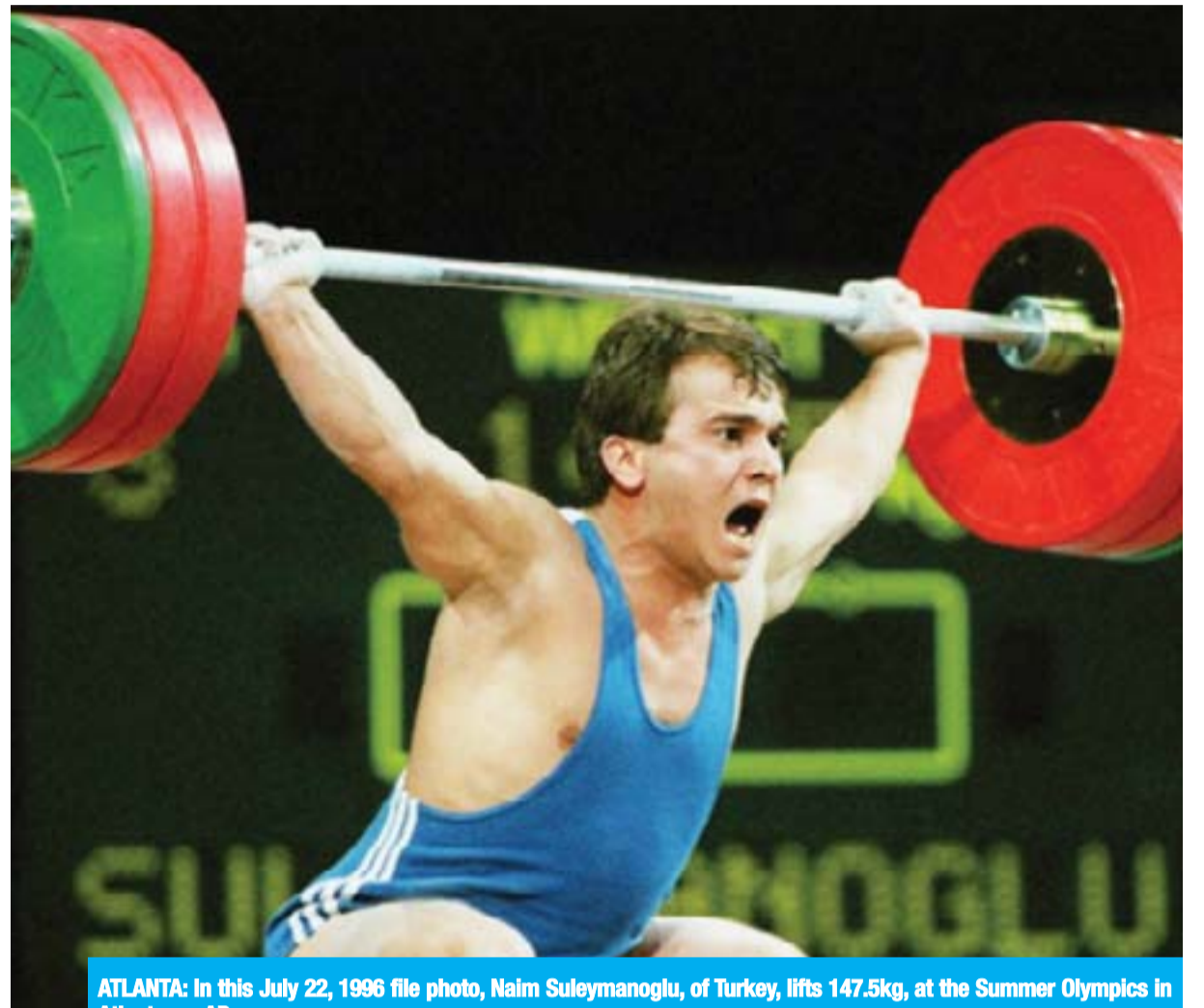
Bulgaria fumed over his defection

peted for Bulgaria but defected from the then-communist Bulgaria in December 1986 during the Weightlifting World Cup in Melbourne. In an episode that caused a sensation at the time, Suleymanoglu left for London aboard the Turkish prime minister's jet, which then took him on to Turkey where he was given a hero's welcome.

Bulgaria fumed over his defection and Suleymanoglu was initially suspended for a year. But he then stormed to victory at the 1988 Olympics. The tiny Suleymanoglu wowed spectators with his power and was one of few weightlifters who managed to clean and jerk three times his own bodyweight. He built up one of the sport's greatest ever rivalries with Greece's Valerios Leonidis which was followed avidly by Turkish and Greek communities across the world.

After picking up a third Olympic title in Atlanta, he tried a comeback at the 2000 Sydney Games but suffered a rare failure. He failed to lift 145kg in three attempts and left Australia empty-handed. He subsequently dabbled in politics, paying particular attention to the welfare of the Turkish minority in neighbouring Bulgaria and standing as a candidate for parliament for the right-wing Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). Suleymanoglu is the only weightlifter to win gold medals at three different Olympic Games. He was granted the Olympic Order by then IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch in 2001.

His exploits in Seoul in 1988 made him one of the stars of the games and Time magazine put him on the cover of its Games issue with one arm aloft in triumph under the headline: "Everybody Wins". — AFP



ATLANTA: In this July 22, 1996 file photo, Naim Suleymanoglu, of Turkey, lifts 147.5kg, at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta. — AP

Dramatic defection

The path to stardom for Suleymanoglu, who was born Naim Suleimanov as a member of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria, was not smooth. He initially com-

NHL results/standings

Detroit 3, Buffalo 1; Columbus 2, NY Rangers 0.

	Western Conference					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
St. Louis	14	5	1	66	52	29
Winnipeg	11	4	3	59	49	25
Nashville	10	6	2	55	55	22
Minnesota	9	7	2	55	48	20
Chicago	9	8	2	59	52	20
Colorado	9	7	1	60	57	19
Dallas	9	9	1	52	58	19
	Pacific Division					
Los Angeles	11	6	2	58	46	24
Las Vegas	11	6	1	64	56	23
San Jose	10	7	0	44	38	20
Calgary	10	8	0	53	58	20
Vancouver	9	8	2	48	53	20
Anaheim	8	7	3	52	52	19
Edmonton	7	10	2	47	58	16
Arizona	3	15	3	51	83	9
	Eastern Conference					
	Atlantic Division					
Tampa Bay	15	2	2	77	47	32
Toronto	13	7	0	73	63	26
Detroit	10	8	2	60	54	22
Ottawa	8	4	5	60	56	21
Boston	7	7	4	48	56	18
Montreal	8	10	2	51	68	18
Florida	7	9	2	59	65	16
Buffalo	5	10	4	45	68	14
	Metropolitan Division					
New Jersey	11	4	3	61	55	25
Columbus	12	7	1	59	51	25
Pittsburgh	11	7	3	58	73	25
NY Islanders	10	6	2	66	59	22
Washington	10	9	1	58	65	21
NY Rangers	9	9	2	63	67	20
Philadelphia	8	8	3	52	51	19
Carolina	7	6	4	50	50	18

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

Tomas Tatar breaks tie in third, Red Wings beat Sabres

DETROIT: Tomas Tatar scored a go-ahead goal midway through third period and the Detroit Red Wings went on to beat the Buffalo Sabres 3-1 on Friday night. Detroit's Luke Glendening broke a scoreless tie late in the second period. Ryan O'Reilly pulled Buffalo into a 1-all tie 5:50 into the third.

Dylan Larkin scored late in the game and Jimmy Howard had 19 saves for the Red Wings. They have won consecutive games at home for the first time this season. Buffalo's Robin Lehner stopped the first 20 shots he faced and finished with 30 saves. The Sabres have lost four straight, one away from their longest losing streak of the season, but were thankful they didn't lose more than a game in Detroit.

Jack Eichel went to the dressing room late in the second period after coming off the ice slowly, keeping weight off his right skate following a collision with Glendening,

and making a brief stop on the bench. Buffalo's standout center was cleared to return at the start of the third period. After a scoreless first period with a combined 14 shots, Detroit outshot Buffalo 13-4 in the second and took control without that translating to a big lead. The Red Wings had a lot of chances to score, including a two-man advantage for 26 seconds, but scored only once over the first two periods.

O'Reilly took advantage of being down only a goal when he scored off a rebound early in the third. Tatar, one of Detroit's players to miss on opportunities to score earlier in the game, sent a wrist shot from the high slot through traffic and past Lehner 8:36 into the final period. Larkin sealed the victory by scoring with 4:06 left in the game.

BLUE JACKETS 2, RANGERS 0

Zach Werenski and Artemi Panarin each scored a goal, Sergei Bobrovsky posted his second shutout of the season and the Columbus Blue Jackets defeated the New York Rangers 2-0 at Nationwide Arena. The Blue Jackets (12-7-1) won their third straight game and Bobrovsky has been in goal for all three, allowing a combined two goals. Bobrovsky finished with 36 saves against the Rangers for his 11th win of the season. Henrik Lundqvist made 40 stops for New York. Brandon Dubinsky, Boone Jenner and Oliver Bjorkstrand each had an assist for the Blue Jackets. —Agencies



COLUMBUS: Gabriel Carsson #53 of the Columbus Blue Jackets gets called for holding as he grabs on to Kevin Hayes #13 of the New York Rangers while falling during the third period at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. —AFP

Park opens 3-shot lead in LPGA Tour Championship

NAPLES: Golf felt so easy to Sung Hyun Park that only when she took out her card to catch up on her scores did she realize she had closed out the front nine with five straight birdies at the CME Group Tour Championship.

Park kept right on attacking. The 24-year-old from South Korea added a 30-foot eagle putt late in her second round and finished with a 7-under 65, giving her a three-shot lead going into the weekend at Tiburoni Golf Club. Nothing seems to bother her, even the chance to cap off an amazing rookie season by sweeping all the big awards on the LPGA Tour.

"To be honest, I don't feel quite as nervous as I thought I would," Park said through an interpreter. "After the first shot, after the first hole, I felt a lot more comfortable. I'm not feeling as nervous as I thought I might be going into

today." Leave that to the players chasing her. Even with a three-putt bogey on the final hole, Park was at 12-under 132 and was three shots clear of Caroline Masson (66) and Sarah Jane Smith (69).

More importantly, none of the other players in the chase for the \$1 million Race to the CME Globe bonus or any other big award was within five shots of Park, who is trying to become the first rookie since Nancy Lopez in 1978 to win LPGA player of the year.

Lexi Thompson, who leads the Race to the CME Globe and the Vare Trophy for lowest adjusted scoring average, shot a 67 and wound up losing ground. She was six shots behind and must stay within 10 shots of Park to win the Vare. So Yeon Ryu, who leads the points-based award for player of the year, managed a 71 with her sore right shoulder but was 11 shots back. The other two players who need to win the tournament to collect the \$1 million bonus also had their work cut out for them. Brooke Henderson had another 70 and was eight shots behind, while world No. 1 Shanshan Feng shot 73 and was 11 shots behind.

Park was in control, only she didn't see it that way. "I don't think it's quite that far of a lead," Park said. "Two, three shots of a lead can change at any moment. We will have to see what's in store for this weekend." —AP



NAPLES: Sung Hyun Park during the second round of the CME Group Tour Championship golf tournament at Tiburoni Golf Club, in Naples. —AP

Nigeria bobsledders on cusp of Olympic dream

PYEONGCHANG: Nigeria may be within grasp of an historic first ever appearance in the winter Olympics, but the three members of the Super Eagles women's bobsleigh team have bigger goals than simply qualifying to race next year in Pyeongchang.

Make no mistake, this is not "Cool Runnings II", a sequel to the Jamaican bobsleigh team's winter fantasy immortalised in the Hollywood hit movie. Seun Adigun, Ngozi Onwumere and Akuoma Omeoga will not be heading to February's Games just to be a feelgood side story. They are looking for a medal.

No African nation has ever competed in an Olympic bobsled event and for this trio of trail-blazing Nigerian women getting to the winter Games is where their journey begins, not ends. They took a big step towards that goal this week in Calgary by completing the fifth of their required five qualifying races on the same track that the Jamaican bobsled team shot to global fame at the 1988 Winter Games. "We have goals," Adigun, the driver and driving force behind the dream of a Nigerian team told Reuters in a telephone interview. "I know the goal I have as a driver is to drive us to the podium, that's just the competitor in me."

"Realistically, the goals we set we're for the program. "A lot of our goals have been met just establishing this entire entity, starting this process and making our way to the Games. "Obviously, the bigger goal is to just be as competitive as we can and obviously shoot for the podium." Although the Nigerians have achieved the qualifying standard, there is still work to be done.

GLOBAL RANKINGS

Countries hoping to race in Pyeongchang must be in the top 40 of the global rankings on Jan. 14 after seven World Cup races. "It is not possible for any team to qualify for the Olympic Games this early," Nicola Minichiello, the North American Cup Coordinator for International Bobsleigh Skeleton Federation (IBSF), told Reuters in an email. "If we base their results on last year's rankings the team are likely to qualify, however this will not be confirmed until much closer to the time."

While the Nigerians have a little farther to go, they have come a long way. The reality of competing in South Korea began in a Texas garage in 2014, where Adigun, born in the United States to Nigerian parents, made her dream start to take shape by hammering together a makeshift sled out of wood and scraps that she named the "Mayflower".

A former sprinter who competed in 100 metres hurdles for Nigeria at the 2012 London Olympic Games, Adigun recruited brakewomen Onwumere and Akuoma Omeoga to make her dream theirs. The three women have plenty of drive, ambition and pure athletic ability but were short on cash as the hard work of getting to the Olympics was split between training and fund-raising. Adigun, who fell in love with the sport as a brakewoman in the US bobsled program, estimated the Olympic bid to cost around \$150,000. With the help of fund-raising efforts from boot camps to dances, a gofundme page and the support of the IBSF emerging nations program and Team VISA, which is backing 52 athletes from 20 countries in 15 sports, the Nigeria bobsledders say they now have enough money to fuel their Olympic dream.

"We did a homecoming in April as team to just go and introduce ourselves to the country as the team so people would know we are serious," Adigun said. "This is something we wanted to do for the continent and the country." — Reuters

Sports

David Goffin shocks hot favourite Federer to reach final at ATP Finals

First time in tournament's history three debutants in semis

LONDON: David Goffin produced a dazzling comeback to beat hot favourite and six-time champion Roger Federer 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday and reach the final of the ATP Finals. The Swiss world number two hit the ball sweetly from the start and the Belgian had no answer to his variety and weight of shot, lacking the weapons to put Federer under sustained pressure.

Federer, who had only lost four matches all year, rocked Goffin back on his heels at the beginning of the match, breaking him after multiple opportunities in the first game to establish an early grip.

The Belgian regrouped but Federer threaded a trademark backhand down the line to bring up three more break points in game five and secured the double break.

Unveiling his full array of shots in front of a purring crowd at London's O2 Arena, including a remarkable low backhand volley at the net, he was briefly held up by Goffin but sealed the set 6-2 with an ace.

But in a surprising twist, seventh-seed Goffin quickly found himself 3-0 up in the second set after breaking Federer at his first opportunity and suddenly looked rejuvenated.

The 26-year-old Belgian, who had never beaten his much-vaunted opponent, looked far more aggressive and was not willing to allow Federer to dictate play as

the Swiss player lost his precision.

The single break proved enough for Goffin to level the match and take it into a decider. Federer appeared more focused at the start of the third set but Goffin broke in the third game to take a 2-1 lead and heap the pressure on the Swiss.

In a tense fourth game Federer earned a break point but Goffin fended off his charge to hold and, looking increasingly assured, held again for 4-2.

Goffin rose to serve for the match at 5-4 and made no mistake, holding his nerve to secure a famous victory. Federer, 36, was joined in the last four at the season-ending showpiece by three first-time semifinalists—Goffin, Grigor Dimitrov and Jack Sock. It is the first time in the tournament's history that three debutants have reached the semis.

Federer, who has won the ATP Finals six times, in Houston, Shanghai and London, has enjoyed a remarkable 2017 season after a long layoff in 2016. He won seven titles in total including the Australian Open and a record eighth Wimbledon crown and only Rafael Nadal's equally memorable season has denied him the chance to reach the world number one spot again. Dimitrov and Sock will play later for the right to meet Goffin in today's final. — AFP

Goffin looked far more aggressive



Wimbledon crown and only Rafael Nadal's equally memorable season has denied him the chance to reach the world number one spot again. Dimitrov and Sock will play later for the right to meet Goffin in today's final. — AFP



LONDON: Belgium's David Goffin returns against Switzerland's Roger Federer during their men's singles semi-final match on day seven of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament at the O2 Arena in London yesterday. — AFP

LeBron James scores 39 points, Cavs beat Clippers in OT

CLEVELAND: LeBron James scored 39 points, Kevin Love added 25 and the Cleveland Cavaliers won their fourth straight, 118-113 in overtime over the skidding Los Angeles Clippers Friday night. Love made a pair of 3-pointers in OT, when the Cavs outscored the Clippers 13-8. Dwyane Wade added 23 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland. The Cavs' win wasn't eye-pleasing, but it was another step in the right direction for the Eastern Conference champions, who went 3-1 on a just-completed trip. The Clippers are headed the other way. Los Angeles has lost seven in a row and nine of 10 since a 4-0 start. Blake Griffin scored 23 points, and DeAndre Jordan had 20 points and 22 rebounds for Los Angeles, which didn't give up the lead until the first minute of overtime.

SPURS 104, THUNDER 101

LaMarcus Aldridge had 26 points and San Antonio overcame a 23-point deficit to beat Oklahoma City. Danny Green added 17 points, and Pau Gasol had 14 points to help San Antonio end Oklahoma City's three-game winning streak. Aldridge put back of Green's missed 3-pointer gave the Spurs a 102-99 lead with 24.2 seconds remaining. The Thunder missed two 3-pointers on the ensuing possession, but Carmelo Anthony tracked down a second offensive rebound and made a 25-footer with his foot on the 3-point line to cut the lead to 102-101.

HEAT 91, WIZARDS 88

Miami nearly wasted a terrific defensive effort against John Wall and high-scoring Washington, allowing a 25-point lead to dwindle all the way down to one before holding on. Hassan Whiteside had 22 points and 16 rebounds for the Heat. They limited the Wizards to 29 first-half points - Washington's lowest output for a half in more than 2 1/2 years. Wall wound up with only eight points on 3-for-12 shooting. The All-Star point guard's first points of the night came with about 5 1/2 minutes left, on a 3-pointer that got Washington to 75-71.

RAPTORS 107, KNICKS 84

Kyle Lowry matched his season high with 22 points and added 10 assists, DeMar DeRozan also scored 22 points and short-handed Toronto beat New York for the eighth straight time. Lowry had eight rebounds as Toronto won its third straight and improved to 5-1 at home. Toronto played without injured starters in forward Serge Ibaka (swollen left knee) and guard Norman Powell (right hip). Reserve guard Delon Wright (dislocated right shoulder) also was unavailable. Tim Hardaway Jr. and Kristaps Porzingis each scored 13 points for the Knicks.

TIMBERWOLVES 111, MAVERICKS 87

Jimmy Butler led a balanced set of Minnesota starters with 21 points and the Timberwolves ended a five-game losing streak in Dallas. Andrew Wiggins added 19 points for the Timberwolves. They won in Dallas for the first time since March 19, 2014, two nights after getting their first win over San Antonio since just about the same time - April 8, 2014. The losing streak against the Spurs was 12 games. Northwest Division-leading Minnesota rallied from 14 points down early in the third quarter, outscoring lowly Dallas 68-32 in the second half.

PACERS 107, PISTONS 100

Reserve guard Lance Stephenson scored all 13 of his points in the fourth quarter, including a key 3-pointer, and Indiana Pacers rallied from 22 down to beat Detroit. The shot clock was about to expire when Stephenson launched from well beyond the arc to give the Pacers a 101-97 lead with 2:03 remaining. — AP

S Lanka reaches 165-4 in first Test to trail India by 7 runs

KOLKATA: Sri Lanka reached 165-4 in its first innings to trail India by only seven runs at stumps yesterday on Day 3 of the first Test at Eden Gardens. Bad light forced an early end just after 4 pm local time with 24.2 overs remaining. Dinesh Chandimal was unbeaten on 13, while Niroshan Dickwella was 14 not out. India was earlier bowled out for 172 runs in its first innings of the three-test series. The hosts lost their last five wickets in the morning session as the bad weather that had washed out most of the first two days finally gave way to sunshine.

Sri Lanka reached tea at 113-2 and Lahiru Thirimanne (51) and Angelo Mathews (52) extended their third-wicket partnership after the interval to 99 runs. Thirimanne reached his fifth Test half century off 86 balls. Mohammed Shami (0-53) was unlucky not to get any breakthrough. That came at the other end as Umesh Yadav (2-50) had Thirimanne caught at second slip. Mathews then reached his 28th test half-century off 88 balls. Shortly after, he became Yadav's second dismissal, chipping a simple catch to Lokesh Rahul at cover. "I was looking to score runs. You can't hang in there forever," Mathews said. "On this wicket you will get a good ball and you tend to get out. You can't be fluent on this wicket. You have got to grind and try and score runs."

Sri Lanka crossed 150 in the 43rd over. The Indian pacers bowled some testing spells but weren't able to make further inroads as Chandimal and Dickwella held off to add 27 runs for the fifth wicket.

Sri Lanka had begun its reply in hectic fashion as openers Sadeera Samarawickrama (23) and Dimuth Karunaratne (8) quickly put on 29 runs for the first wicket. Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2-49) struck the first blow, Dimuth Karunaratne was trapped lbw and the decision stood despite a DRS review from the batsman. Two overs later, Samarawickrama was caught behind as Kumar struck again.

Shikhar Dhawan dropped Thirimanne at first slip off Yadav in the 18th over. Resuming on 74-5, India added another 98 runs before its first innings ended at lunch.

Andy Murray, coach Lendl end second stint together

LONDON: Andy Murray and Ivan Lendl are calling it quits for a second time, ending a partnership that produced three Grand Slam titles and two Olympic gold medals. Murray announced Friday on his website that he and Lendl "have mutually agreed to end their coaching relationship."

All of Murray's greatest triumphs as a tennis player have come with Lendl guiding him as his coach. That includes, most famously, the Scotsman's 2013 title at Wimbledon, which made him the first British man in 77 years to win the singles championship at the All England Club.

Before that, Lendl helped Murray win the 2012 U.S. Open and the gold medal at the London Olympics earlier that year.

Then they split in 2014, before reuniting last year, about a month before Murray won his second Wimbledon trophy.

Murray also reached No. 1 in the ATP rankings while working with Lendl, getting to that spot for the first time in November 2016. "I'm thankful to Ivan for all his help and guidance over the years," Murray said in the statement on his site. "We've had great success and learned a lot as a team."

Lendl, who won eight major titles from 1984 to 1990, and Murray were at the forefront of a trend of players hiring former stars of the sport as coaches. Murray yielded the No. 1 ranking to Rafael Nadal this August, shortly before saying he would miss the rest of the 2017 season because of a hip injury.

It turned out his last match of the year came on July 12 at Wimbledon, where his title defense ended with a five-set quarterfinal loss to Sam Querrey. Murray intends to be ready for the start of next season in January, when the Australian Open is played, saying Friday: "My focus now is on getting ready for Australia with the team I have in place and getting back to competing."

He plans to enter a tournament in



KOLKATA: Sri Lanka's captain Dinesh Chandimal plays a shot during the third day of the first Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Eden Gardens cricket stadium in Kolkata yesterday. — AFP

Cheteshwar Pujara top scored for India with 52 runs while Suranga Lakmal was the most successful of the Sri Lankan bowlers, capturing 4-26.

Pujara, 47 overnight, reached his 16th Test half-century off 108 balls before he was bowled by an inswinger from Lahiru Gamage. Playing his 52nd test, Pujara put on a great batting display in tough conditions during limited play on the first two days.

"I was trying to score as many runs as possible. It is tough to get your concentration together after so many rain breaks," Pujara said. "We are still fighting in this

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA, India: Scoreboard at stumps yesterday on Day 3 of the first test between India and Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens:

India 1st Innings (Overnight 74-5)	
Lokesh Rahul c Dickwella b Lakmal	0
Shikhar Dhawan b Lakmal	8
Cheteshwar Pujara b Gamage	52
Virat Kohli lbw b Lakmal	0
Ajinkya Rahane c Dickwella b Shanaka	4
Ravichandran Ashwin c Karunaratne b Shanaka	4
Wriddhiman Saha c Mathews b Perera	29
Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Perera	22
Bhuvneshwar Kumar c Dickwella b Lakmal	13
Mohammed Shami c Shanaka b Gamage	24
Umesh Yadav not out	6
Extras: (6b, 4lb)	10
TOTAL: (all out)	172

Overs: 59.3.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-13, 3-17, 4-30, 5-50, 6-79, 7-127, 8-128, 9-146, 10-172.

Bowling: Suranga Lakmal 19-12-26-4, Lahiru Gamage 17.3-5-59-2, Dasun Shanaka 12-4-36-2, Dimuth Karunaratne 2-0-17-0, Rangana Herath 2-0-5-0, Dilruwan Perera 7-1-19-2.

Sri Lanka 1st Innings

Sadeera Samarawickrama c Saha b Kumar	23
Dimuth Karunaratne lbw b Kumar	8
Lahiru Thirimanne c Kohli b Yadav	51
Angelo Mathews c Rahul b Yadav	52
Dinesh Chandimal not out	13
Niroshan Dickwella not out	14
Extras: (4b)	4
TOTAL: (for 4 wickets)	165

Overs: 45.4.
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-34, 3-133, 4-138.

Still to bat: Dasun Shanaka, Dilruwan Perera, Rangana Herath, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Gamage.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 14.4-2-49-2, Mohammed Shami 13.5-5-53-0, Umesh Yadav 13-1-50-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-9-0, Virat Kohli 0.1-0-0-0.

match, and on this wicket there is something for the pacers. If we can get a couple quick wickets tomorrow, we can run through their batting."

Wriddhiman Saha (29) and Ravindra Jadeja (22) added a valuable 48 runs for the seventh wicket before they both departed in the same over from Dilruwan Perera. Mohammed Shami, batting at 10, chipped in with a rapid 24 to prop up the tail before he was the last man out. — AP



MELBOURNE: File photo, Andy Murray of Britain, left, talks with coach Ivan Lendl during a practice session for the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia. — AP

Brisbane, Australia, to prepare for the year's first Grand Slam tournament. Before that, he will train in Miami, as usual. Lendl will continue to work with

the US Tennis Association's player development program. "I wish Andy well going forward," Lendl said. "We had a great run and a lot of fun." — AP

Sports

Hazard scores twice as Chelsea hammer West Bromwich Albion

Fourth straight league defeat for West Brom

WEST BROMWICH: Chelsea cruised to a 4-0 victory at West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League yesterday with two-goal Eden Hazard leading the way. The Belgian played a key role in Alvaro Morata's 17th-minute opener before scoring the champions' second and fourth goals as they won without needing to reach top gear at The Hawthorns.

Marcos Alonso also found the net for Antonio Conte's side, who left West Brom head coach Tony Pulis fighting to save his job after a display of lethargic defending. Chelsea's fourth successive league win arrived despite reported unrest involving defender David Luiz, who was back in the squad as an unused substitute after being omitted for the 1-0 victory over Manchester United. The visitors provisionally moved into second place above United, and remained nine points adrift of leaders Manchester City. For Pulis, a run of just two wins in 21 league games leaves him fighting to save his job, with fans calling for his head.

West Brom started brightly and troubled Chelsea with three early crosses from right wing-back Matt Phillips. The first two were scrambled away by the visitors, but the third found the head of striker Salomon Rondon. He headed home with the aid of a fumble from goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, whose blushes were spared by an offside flag.

A weaving, counter-attacking run from Jay Rodriguez offered further encouragement for West

Brom, but after he angled a pass towards Rondon, Cesar Azpilicueta read the danger well and snuffed it out. Chelsea first showed in the 14th minute when Tiemoue Bakayoko collected the ball on the edge of the area, turned away from Gareth McAuley and dispatched a shot that was deflected behind.

Just three minutes later the Blues were ahead, although the home fans were unhappy with the nature of the goal. With the hosts considering putting the ball out of play after Hazard went down nursing an injury, the Belgium winger rejoined the play and fashioned a shooting chance. He drew a save from goalkeeper Ben Foster, but Morata reacted quickest to turn home the rebound.

Alonso then dragged an effort wide of the target as Chelsea sniffed blood. The second goal arrived on 23 minutes thanks to a sublime touch by Morata and some awful Albion defending.

They were caught square as the striker flicked a Cesc Fabregas pass into the path of Hazard, who rounded Foster to score. After appearing shell-shocked in the immediate aftermath of the goals, West Brom applied a little pressure, with Jake Livermore firing over the crossbar and Ahmed Hegazi heading just wide from a Gareth Barry corner. But it was 3-0 seven minutes before the interval, with West Brom showing signs of capitulation. Hegazi crudely dragged Morata to the ground and the hosts then left Alonso unmarked at the far post to turn in Fabregas's free-



WEST BROMWICH: West Bromwich Albion's Egyptian defender Ahmed Hegazy (R) vies with Chelsea's Spanish striker Alvaro Morata (C) during the English Premier League football match between West Bromwich Albion and Chelsea at The Hawthorns stadium. — AFP

kick. Chelsea were soon back on the attack, with Fabregas harshly booked for diving after colliding with McAuley in the West Brom penalty area. Hazard added their fourth goal on 62 minutes when West

Brom switched off again at the back. The Chelsea number 10 controlled a difficult high ball before stepping away from Hegazi and McAuley and curling a shot past Foster.—AFP



Hegazi crudely dragged Morata to the ground

Suarez doubles stretches Barca's La Liga lead

MADRID: Luis Suarez ended a five-game goal drought with a double as Barcelona extend their lead at the top of La Liga with a flattering 3-0 win at Leganes yesterday. Barca now lead second-placed Valencia by seven points ahead of their trip to Mestalla next weekend, with both Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid 11 points adrift before they face off in the Madrid derby later. However, two simple Suarez finishes from close range either side of half-time and Paulinho's late tap-in glossed over another under-par performance from Ernesto Valverde's men, who were again thankful to a fine display from goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Despite tougher tests to come this week with a trip to Juventus in the Champions League on Wednesday before Valencia, Valverde named his strongest available side. Suarez was refreshed after sitting out international duty with Uruguay over the past fortnight and had the ball in the net after just four minutes, but Jordi Alba had already been flagged for offside as he supplied the cross for the former Liverpool striker. Leganes have enjoyed a fine start to just their second ever season in the Spanish top flight and a repeat of the 5-0 thrashing Barca dished out

on their visit to Butarque last season was never likely as the hosts went onto enjoy the better of the opening half.

The busy Nordin Amrabat fired a shot over a positive run at the Barca defence before Gabriel Pires also dragged an effort wide when well-placed at the edge of the box. However, Leganes' good work in the opening half hour was undone by a goalkeeping error when Ivan Cuellar limply palmed Paco Alcacer's driven cross into the path of the grateful Suarez to smash home his first goal for a month. Barca's joy was tempered moments later when Gerard Pique was booked for bringing down Amrabat meaning he will be suspended for next weekend's clash at Valencia.

Amrabat was the creator once more for Leganes' best chance before the break when he released Alexander Szymanowski inside the area, but the Argentine's curling effort was turned to safety by the in-form Ter Stegen. The German goalkeeper was called into action again early in the second period when Leganes substitute Claudio Beavue was too quick for the Barca defence only to fire straight at Ter Stegen.

In contrast, just as in the first-half, Barca were ruthlessly efficient in front of goal to double their lead on the hour mark. Lionel Messi's dinked pass released Alcacer and after Cuellar parried his first effort, Suarez drilled home the rebound for his second of the afternoon. Barca rode their luck to hold out for a 12th clean sheet in their last 17 games as Ter Stegen saved one-on-one from Amrabat and Beavue blasted well over when unmarked 10 yards out. However, Barca piled more pressure on the chasing



LEGANES: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring a goal during the Spanish league football match Leganes vs Barcelona at the Butarque stadium in Leganes. — AFP

Atletico and Real ahead of the Madrid derby and rubbed salt into Leganes' wounds when Paulinho rolled into an empty net when a loose ball broke off Messi in stoppage time.—AFP

Arsenal overpower Spurs in north London derby

LONDON: Shkodran Mustafi and Alexis Sanchez earned Arsenal a convincing 2-0 Premier League win over Tottenham Hotspur in the north London derby at the Emirates Stadium yesterday. Mustafi opened the scoring with a superb 36th-minute header and Sanchez doubled the advantage five minutes later with a close-range strike.

The result lifted Arsenal to fifth place in the table on 22 points, one behind Spurs. Arsenal have now won 11 Premier League matches in succession at their home ground after their first league victory over arch-rivals Spurs in seven games. The hosts started the better and Alexandre Lacazette should have done better than scoop a right-footed shot from the edge of the box high and wide in the fifth minute. Harry Kane fired straight at Petr Cech a minute later but

Arsenal remained the more potent attacking force and almost took the lead when Hector Bellerin's 10th-minute cross only just missed Lacazette's toe.

Tottenham were operating solely on the counter and went close twice in quick succession, Christian Eriksen scraping the outside of the post in the 33rd minute before Kane's deflected header was saved by Cech. They were made to pay in the 36th minute, following a disputed foul from Davinson Sanchez on Alexis Sanchez. Ozil floated the resulting free kick into the box and Mustafi found the top corner with a brilliant guided header.

The hosts were now buoyant and doubled the lead five minutes later with another raid down the right flank. Lacazette was fed by Bellerin and cut back for Sanchez, who made a mess of his first touch but lofted his second high into the net from a tight angle.

Tottenham were more urgent after the break but were unable to fashion clear-cut opportunities and increasingly became vulnerable to Arsenal counter-attacks as they pushed forward in search of an equaliser. Sanchez had three chances to put the match beyond Spurs but lashed one of the efforts high and had the other two saved by Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.—Reuters

Salah destroys Southampton

LIVERPOOL: Mohamed Salah scored twice as Liverpool clinched a comfortable 3-0 victory over Southampton to remain in the pack chasing Premier League leaders Manchester City yesterday. The Egyptian international moved to the top of the league's scoring charts on nine goals with a brace before half-time and Philippe Coutinho added a third for Jurgen Klopp's side after the interval.

Southampton manager Mauricio Pellegrino had spells as both a player and coach at Anfield during Rafael Benitez's tenure, but the visitors posed little threat on his return. Early on, Saints goalkeeper Fraser Forster was forced to save long-range efforts from Georginio Wijnaldum and Coutinho.

However, the hosts took a deserved lead just after the half-hour mark which opened the game up and allowed Liverpool to ultimately record an emphatic win which kept them fifth in the table. Dusan Tadic was caught in possession by Roberto Firmino on the edge of the penalty area following a Liverpool corner-electing to cut inside rather than work the ball to the flank. Wijnaldum slipped the ball to Salah who took a touch to compose himself, before effortlessly curling past Forster and into the top corner of the net from 18 yards.

It meant Salah had eight goals from his first 12 Premier League appearances for the Reds—the joint most after that number of matches with Robbie Fowler. Shortly before half-time Salah, who joined Liverpool from Italian side Roma in June, overhauled Fowler's goalscoring stat with his second of the contest. Coutinho, afforded space in central midfield, intelligently threaded a ball with the outside of his boot for Salah, and the Egyptian's anticipation enabled him to steal a march on the Saints defence.

'STANDING OVATION'

Forster came off his line to narrow the angle, but the 25-year-old Salah's left-foot finish was as clinical as his first goal and guided it past the England goalkeeper and into the net. Southampton's best chance of the half came a



ANFIELD: Southampton's Ryan Bertrand takes a free kick during the English Premier League soccer match Liverpool versus Southampton at Anfield, Liverpool yesterday. — AP

minute before the break when Nathan Redmond curled a free-kick from a good position just wide of the post. The two sides had met four times last season—two goalless draws in the Premier League and two 1-0 wins for Southampton in the League Cup. Klopp's men began the second half with a swagger, though, and almost increased their lead with chances for Brazilian duo Coutinho and Firmino. An inevitable third goal came eight minutes after the hour. The influential Sadio Mane found Firmino, who managed an angled shot despite little space to manoeuvre. Forster parried the ball and Coutinho nipped in ahead

of a flat-footed Steven Davis to stroke the rebound home. Fowler is only Liverpool player to score a hat-trick against Southampton—doing so in both 1993 and 1999 — and had Liverpool not had a Champions League fixture against Sevilla on Tuesday then Salah might have matched his achievement. With one eye on that match Klopp substituted Salah—who received a standing ovation—for midfielder James Milner with 10 minutes left.

There was still time for Firmino to flash a shot past the post and fire over the crossbar from distance as Liverpool coasted to the final whistle.—AFP

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE			
Watford v West Ham United	beIN SPORTS HD 2	19:00	
SPANISH LEAGUE			
Malaga v Deportivo La Coruna	beIN SPORTS HD 3	14:00	
Espanyol v Valencia	beIN SPORTS HD 3	18:45	
Las Palmas v Levante	beIN SPORTS HD 3	20:30	
Athletic de Bilbao v Villarreal	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:45	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE			
Crotone v Genoa	beIN SPORTS HD 4	14:30	
Udinese Calcio v Cagliari Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 8	17:00	
Torino v Chievo Verona	beIN SPORTS HD 13 EN	17:00	
Sampdoria v Juventus	beIN SPORTS HD 4	17:00	
Benevento v Sassuolo Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 7	17:00	
spal v Fiorentina	beIN SPORTS HD 7	17:00	
Internazionale Milano v Atalanta	beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:45	
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA			
Schalke v Hamburg	beIN SPORTS HD 5	17:30	
Werder Bremen v Hannover	beIN SPORTS HD 5	20:00	
FRENCH LEAGUE			
Caen v OGC Nice	beIN SPORTS HD 6	17:00	
Olympique Lyonnais v Montpellier	beIN SPORTS HD 6	19:00	
Girondins de Bordeaux v Olympique Marseille	beIN SPORTS HD 6	23:00	

12 Danica Patrick to end racing career at next year's Indy 500



13 Turkey's 'pocket Hercules' Suleymanoglu dies at 50



14 Goffin shocks hot favourite Federer to reach ATP Finals



LEICESTER: Manchester City's Belgian defender Vincent Kompany (R) heads the ball to clear it from the path of Leicester City's English striker Jamie Vardy during the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and Manchester City. — AFP

De Bruyne dazzles, City sink Leicester

LEICESTER: Runaway Premier League leaders Manchester City overcame defensive problems to reach another landmark with a 2-0 victory at Leicester City yesterday. Pep Guardiola's side made it 11 wins from 12 matches to equal the record start to their 2011-12 title triumph under Roberto Mancini. Even the loss of John Stones to injury and an unsettling return to action for Vincent Kompany could not stop them sweeping aside Leicester with goals either side of half-time from Gabriel Jesus and Kevin De Bruyne. City finished the game with two defenders—Kompany and Eliaquim Mangala — who have just eight appearances between them this season at the heart of their back four.

But it did not deter them in the slightest as they brought Leicester's six-match unbeaten run to an end at the King Power Stadium. Kompany could have been sent off in the second minute for a last-man foul on Jamie Vardy, but even after losing Stones to an apparent hamstring injury later in the first half, City made their dominance count. One change had been forced upon Guardiola by Nicolas Otamendi's suspension, but

he also left Sergio Aguero on the bench after his health scare while on international duty with Argentina.

Otamendi's absence opened the door for Kompany's return after an 11-week absence with a calf strain, but his comeback could have been over before it had begun.

City's skipper scythed down Vardy as he burst through the middle, leaving referee Graham Scott with a big call to make. He chose to issue a yellow card and television replays showed Vardy was not clean through and Stones was in close proximity. Though the leaders dominated the early possession, Leicester were able to deal with any threat and looked typically menacing on the counter-attack.



SILVA SUPPLIES SPARK

Kasper Schmeichel was called upon to make his first save of note in the 20th minute when Leroy Sane picked out David Silva, whose first-time shot was tipped over the bar at full stretch. There was another anxious moment for the home side when the dangerous Sane whipped a teasing cross into the danger area from the left and the diving Raheem Sterling was only inches from getting his head to it. Stones went down clutching his hamstring as he attempted to put the brakes on when chasing back in the 28th minute.

With Mangala introduced into a much-changed defence, Claude Puel's Leicester sensed an opportunity to put their opponents under pressure.

Mangala's first contribution was hardly convincing, but Guardiola's men recovered their composure to finish the first half on a high note. Silva was the instigator of a move that unlocked the Leicester defence and left Jesus with the simplest of tap-ins when the Spaniard squared it to him on the edge of the six-yard box.

Leicester must have known it was not going to be their afternoon when, within seconds of going close to an equaliser, they found themselves two goals down in the 49th minute. The post was still rattling at one end from Harry Maguire's shot when De Bruyne fired a stunning left-foot shot into the top-left corner, leaving Schmeichel grasping at thin air.

The visitors seemed in a hurry to wrap up the three points as first Jesus and then Sane went close to adding a third. There was a warning sign for City when Kyle Walker had to produce an acrobatic goal-line clearance to keep out Vardy's header after a Wilfred Ndidi shot had been deflected into the striker's path, but Guardiola's men closed out a comfortable win. —AFP

Guardiola's side made it 11 wins from 12 matches



OLD TRAFFORD: Manchester United's French striker Anthony Martial (R) heads the ball to score an equalising goal for 1-1 during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Newcastle at Old Trafford in Manchester. — AFP

Returning Pogba inspires Man Utd comeback win

MANCHESTER: Paul Pogba crowned his return from injury by scoring and laying on an equaliser for Anthony Martial as Manchester United hit back to beat Newcastle United 4-1 yesterday. Chris Smalling was also on the mark in the first half, while Romelu Lukaku ended a drought of seven games without a goal. To cap a perfect afternoon for the home team, who restored the eight-point gap separating them from Premier League leaders Manchester City, Zlatan Ibrahimovic also enjoyed a 13-minute run-out as a substitute. Jose Mourinho's men had to respond to a storming opening from the visitors, scoring twice in the closing minutes of the first half to cancel out Dwight Gayle's 14th-minute opener.

Pogba, back after over two months out with a hamstring injury, carved out a superb 37th-minute equaliser, taking a short pass from Antonio Valencia and beating Isaac Hayden with a neat sidestep.

The France international then delivered a

perfect cross for fellow Frenchman Martial, who rose above DeAndre Yedlin to head an unstoppable effort past the stranded Rob Elliot. The goalkeeper would be beaten by another header, deep in first-half injury time, as the visitors, rather unjustly, found themselves heading into the break a goal down.

After a left-wing corner had broken down, Ashley Young was allowed space 30 yards from goal to beat a defender and send over another excellent cross. Smalling outjumped Florian Lejeune to power a header past Elliot at the back post.

And the first-half drama was still not over. Another Newcastle counter-attack ended with David de Gea saving superbly from Hayden and after the rebound broke to Matt Ritchie, his shot was deflected just wide of Gayle's knee.

A second goal for Gayle would not have been unjust after the first-half display from Rafael Benitez's side, who took the lead with a devastating counter-attack.

RASHFORD INTELLIGENCE

Gayle and Joselu had a hand in the right-wing move that ended with Yedlin crossing, United defender Victor Lindelof losing his footing and Gayle scoring clinically off the left-hand post.

It was the start of an impressive period for

the visitors, who refused to be knocked out of their stride by a United side buoyed by the return of Pogba. Soon after the goal, young winger Jacob Murphy broke upfield before cutting in and shooting tamely at De Gea.

Then Jonjo Shelvey's beautifully weighted through ball played Murphy through on goal, only for him to roll a shot narrowly wide of the far post. They were misses that looked like they may prove costly as United grew into the game, even though the hosts hardly troubled Newcastle prior to the equaliser.

Thereafter, it looked like being a tough afternoon for Newcastle, with Martial threatening twice in the opening exchanges of the second half. The first of those chances saw the Frenchman miskick completely from six yards, following a clever piece of play from Lukaku, although the miss would not prove too costly.

In the 54th minute, the three points appeared secure as Pogba marked a memorable comeback with a goal of his own.

Juan Mata's pass sent Lukaku sprinting into the area from the right flank and his far-post cross was headed down, selflessly and intelligently, by Rashford to present Pogba with the simplest of close-range finishes. Newcastle still had something to offer, with Murphy's magnificent 25-yard shot being tipped over expertly by De Gea. —AFP

Business

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19 Trickle-down economics gets another try in US

20 Retailers rise again, tech leads other US stocks lower

21 Cadillac showcases its exciting Mideast future at Dubai show



WASHINGTON: US House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis, joined by House Republicans, speaks to the media following a vote on tax reform, on Capitol Hill in Washington. —AP

Ultra-wealthy win in US Senate tax bill

Dynasty businesses like Trump family do very well under bill

WASHINGTON: The ultra-wealthy, especially those with dynastic businesses - like President Donald Trump and his family - do very well under a major Republican tax bill moving in the Senate, as they do under legislation passed this week by the House.

Want to toast the anticipated tax win with champagne or a beer - or maybe you're feeling Shakespearean and prefer to quaff mead from a pewter mug? That would cheer producers of beer, wine, liquor - and mead, the ancient beverage fermented from honey. Tax rates on their sales would be reduced under the Senate bill. On the other hand, people living in high-tax states, who deduct their local property, income and sales taxes from what they owe Uncle Sam, could lose out from the complete or partial repeal of the deductions. And an estimated 13 million Americans could lose health insurance coverage over 10 years under the Senate bill.

Winners

• Wealthy individuals and their heirs win big. The hottest class-warfare debate around the tax overhaul legislation involves the inheritance tax on multimillion-dollar estates. Democrats wave the legislation's targeting of the tax as a red flag in the face of Republicans, as proof that they're out to benefit wealthy donors. The

House bill initially doubles the limits - to \$11 million for individuals and \$22 million for couples - on how much money in the estate can be exempted from the inheritance tax, then repeals it entirely after 2023. The Senate version also doubles the limits but doesn't repeal the tax.

Then there's the alternative minimum tax, a levy aimed at ensuring that higher-earning people pay at least some tax. It disappears in both bills.

And the House measure cuts tax rates for many of the millions of "pass-through" businesses big and small - including partnerships and specially organized corporations - whose profits are taxed at the owners' personal income rate. That's potential chafing for Trump's far-flung property empire and the holdings of his daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared Kushner. The Senate bill lets pass-through owners deduct some of the earnings and then

pay at their personal income rate on the remainder.

• Corporations win all around, with a tax rate slashed from 35 percent to 20 percent in both bills - though they'd have to wait a year for it under the Senate measure. Trump and the administration view it as an untouchable centerpiece of the legislation.



13m Americans could lose health insurance coverage

• US oil companies with foreign operations would pay reduced taxes under the Senate bill on their income from sales of oil and natural gas abroad.

• Beer, wine and liquor producers would reap tax reductions under the Senate measure.

• Companies that provide management services like maintenance for aircraft get an updated win. The Senate bill clarifies that under current law, the management companies would be exempt from paying taxes on payments they receive from owners of private jets as well as from commercial airlines. That was a request from Ohio Sens. Rob

Portman, a Republican, and Sherrod Brown, a Democrat, whose state is home to NetJets, a big aircraft management company. Portman voted for the overall bill. Brown opposed it.

Losers

• An estimated 13 million Americans could lose health insurance coverage under the Senate bill, which would repeal the "Obamacare" requirement that everyone in the U.S. have health insurance. The projection comes from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. Eliminating the fines is expected to mean fewer people would obtain federally subsidized health policies.

• People living in high-tax states would be hit by repeal of federal deductions for state and local taxes under the Senate bill, and partial repeal under the House measure. That result of a compromise allows the deduction for up to \$10,000 in property taxes.

• Many families making less than \$30,000 a year would face tax increases starting in 2021 under the Senate bill, according to Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation. By 2027, families earning less than \$75,000 would see their tax bills rise while those making more would enjoy reductions, the analysts find. The individual income-tax reductions in the Senate bill would end in 2026. —AP

US Republicans get nervous that NAFTA talks could fail

MEXICO CITY: Pro-trade Republicans in the US Congress are growing worried that US President Donald Trump may try to quit the NAFTA free trade deal entirely rather than negotiate a compromise that preserves its core benefits. As a fifth round of talks to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement kicked off in Mexico on Friday, several Republicans interviewed by Reuters expressed concerns that tough US demands, including a five-year sunset clause and a US-specific content rule, will sink the talks and lead to the deal's collapse. Business groups have warned of dire economic consequences, including millions of jobs lost as Mexican and Canadian tariffs snap back to their early 1990s levels.

"I think the administration is playing a pretty dangerous game with this sunset provision," said Representative Charlie Dent, a moderate Republican from eastern Pennsylvania. —Reuters

Brexit benefit: Lower pound boosts tourism to Britain

LONDON: Many British businesses have become cautious as they try to gauge the impact of the country's 2019 departure from the European Union. But there's one industry that has so far clearly reaped a windfall from the Brexit decision - local tourism.

The sharp fall in the value of the British pound since last year's Brexit vote - it's down around 15 percent against a range of currencies - has made the country, which has been widely considered one of the more expensive places to visit, better value for money.

That means the pound in a tourist's pocket now goes further in what travel experts Euromonitor International say is the world's 8th most popular destination for overseas visitors in terms of revenue.

"It's been quite positive from European countries and from the US, all over," said Jo Bachelor, head of sales at Encore Tickets, which sells one in five tickets in London's West End, 45 percent of which are to overseas visitors. Overall, she said, the firm's international sales for shows like "The Lion King," "Wicked" and "The Phantom of the Opera" are 8 percent ahead of budget, and would have been higher were it not for security concerns raised by the terror attacks in London, which weighed particularly on travelers from Japan and school trips from Europe.



LONDON: In this file photo, visitors enjoy the view from a pod on the London Eye overlooking Big Ben's clock tower and the Houses of Parliament in London. —AP

Encore's performance this year is illustrative of what is going on in British travel and tourism - a Brexit bounce. Official figures released Friday showed overseas residents made 3.9 million visits to Britain in August, up 5 percent on a year earlier. They also spent 2.8 billion pounds (\$3.7 billion), up 3 percent. So far in 2017, according to the Office for National Statistics, visitor numbers have risen 8 percent to 27.1 million while tourist

earnings have swelled 10 percent to 16.4 billion pounds. The lower pound should be a boon to exporters, but not all sectors are enjoying the same rewards, partly because many firms, particularly those in manufacturing, have seen their costs rise as imported goods like energy have become more expensive because of the currency's fall. Many firms have also been reluctant to invest in their businesses amid the Brexit uncertainty. —AP

Business

Norwegian wealth funds mulls dropping oil and gas holdings

Oil giants unlikely to share coal's fate, for now

LONDON: The Norwegian sovereign wealth fund's proposal to ditch its oil and gas shares, though hugely symbolic in the battle against climate change, is unlikely to cause a rush to the exit by major investors in the sector in the short term.

The move by the \$1 trillion fund, the world's largest, rattled stock markets, exposing what is seen as one of the biggest threats to companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil and BP as the world shifts towards renewable energy such as wind and solar.

But in the meantime, expectations of growing global demand for oil and gas for decades to come mean reliance on these companies is likely to continue.

And although the Norwegian initiative will encourage those seeking to hasten the move to a low-carbon economy, the degree to which other investors can follow the fund's example, at least in the short term, is less clear.

The European oil and gas index fell on Friday to its lowest since late September, extending declines following the Norwegian fund's announcement. For some, it was seen as an opening shot in the decline of the 150-year-old sector in the battle to slow global warming and reduce carbon emissions, reminiscent of the demise of coal.

"The investor exit from oil and gas as a fuel source will be slower than coal, but the emissions reduction maths is clear and so this inevitable transition has started," said Nathan Fabian, director of policy at Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), a United Nations-backed group that represents asset managers with holdings of over \$60 trillion.

But other investors do not draw the same parallels. "I do not see this as the start of a broader trend among major investors," said Rohan Murphy, energy analyst at Allianz, which holds shares in several oil majors. "Coal is a more obvious SRI (sustainable responsible investment) sell compared to oil and gas - coal is dirtier."

"Gas, which is a big part of all the big oil businesses today, is the answer for the medium-term energy transition to gas from coal for power generation," Murphy said.

Petroleum companies see natural gas as a cleaner alternative to coal for power generation in the effort to wean the world off fossil fuels by the end of the century.

"Many wish for a quick and revolutionary role reversal between the oil and gas industry, and the renewable and new electric industry. But undue haste and an overly ideological approach could bring great economic and social damage," Total CEO Patrick Pouyanné said in a speech last month.

Also, demand for oil in transportation and plastics is not expected to decline significantly until 2050, according to many forecasts. The Norwegian announcement came as

more than 195 nations met in Bonn, Germany, to decide how to comply with climate targets agreed in Paris in 2015 to limit a rise in global temperatures.

Scale

But beyond our dependence on oil and gas, the size of the world's top oil companies would make mass divestment a huge challenge. The top five publicly traded companies - Exxon, Chevron, Shell, BP and Total - together have a market value of over \$1 trillion.

Coal companies, on the other hand, have always been smaller. For now, there is no viable alternative to oil and gas to meet the world's demand, several investors said. "My guess is that after the initial market adjustment ... the move may not damage the sector's long-term performance significantly," said Kevin Gardiner, global investment strategist at Rothschild Wealth Management.

The Norwegian wealth fund's move, echoing Saudi Arabia's plan to list part of its national oil company, was aimed at making Norway less exposed to volatile oil prices and less reliant on revenue from fossil fuels. If approved, it would most likely take years for the Norwegian fund to unwind its large investments in the

sector and find new homes for the money. And while there is also growing demand from retail investors to invest in 'responsible' or 'sustainable' funds, oil and gas companies are not commonly excluded and any change here would be gradual.

Dropping oil and gas companies would also mean missing out on a rich source of dividend income, a prized asset at a time of low bond yields. Three - Shell, Exxon and Gazprom - were among the top-10 dividend payers globally in the third quarter.

In absolute terms, the number of oil and gas companies in leading stock indices varies, with 14 in the STOXX 600 index of leading European companies, or 2.3 percent; and 26 in the S&P 500, or 5.2 percent.

The size of some of the largest can have a disproportionate impact on returns relative to their index peers. While there are just two companies in Britain's blue-chip FTSE 100 index, for example, they make up 14 percent of the index's value. While the Norwegian fund has long been a trend-setter for issues around socially responsible investing, particularly in Scandinavia, the reason for this decision is relatively unique.

Its desire to make treasury receipts less dependent on the oil price is not a challenge faced by most pension funds, which make up a large slice of the money invested globally.

Any decision to ditch oil and gas would arguably leave them less diversified, not more, said investors, although charitable endowments may have more flexibility to do so. —Reuters



European oil and gas index falls

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The Norwegian wealth fund's move, echoing Saudi Arabia's plan to list part of its national oil company, was aimed at making Norway less exposed to volatile oil prices and less reliant on revenue from fossil fuels. If approved, it would most likely take years for the Norwegian fund to unwind its large investments in the

sector and find new homes for the money. And while there is also growing demand from retail investors to invest in 'responsible' or 'sustainable' funds, oil and gas companies are not commonly excluded and any change here would be gradual.

Dropping oil and gas companies would also mean missing out on a rich source of dividend income, a prized asset at a time of low bond yields. Three - Shell, Exxon and Gazprom - were among the top-10 dividend payers globally in the third quarter.

In absolute terms, the number of oil and gas companies in leading stock indices varies, with 14 in the STOXX 600 index of leading European companies, or 2.3 percent; and 26 in the S&P 500, or 5.2 percent.

The size of some of the largest can have a disproportionate impact on returns relative to their index peers. While there are just two companies in Britain's blue-chip FTSE 100 index, for example, they make up 14 percent of the index's value. While the Norwegian fund has long been a trend-setter for issues around socially responsible investing, particularly in Scandinavia, the reason for this decision is relatively unique.

Its desire to make treasury receipts less dependent on the oil price is not a challenge faced by most pension funds, which make up a large slice of the money invested globally.

Any decision to ditch oil and gas would arguably leave them less diversified, not more, said investors, although charitable endowments may have more flexibility to do so. —Reuters

EU cuts funding to Turkey in 2018 budget

BRUSSELS: An EU 2018 budget deal was announced yesterday that cuts funds destined to Turkey, citing doubts about Ankara's commitment to democracy and human rights.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel had led calls for a cut to the funds, which are linked to Turkey's stalled bid to join the bloc, following mass-scale arrests in the country since the failed July 2016 coup.

MEPs and member states have agreed to reduce the "pre-accession funds" by 105 million euros (\$124 million) and froze an additional 70 million euros of previously announced spending.

In a statement, lawmakers said "they consider the deteriorating situation in relation to democracy, rule of law and human rights worrying".

Turkey has dismissed more than 140,000 officials since the coup attempt, and arrested another 50,000, including opposition politicians, academics, journalists, activists and EU citizens.

The German government has warned its citizens against travelling to Turkey as they risk "arbitrary" arrest. "We have sent a clear message that the money that the EU provides cannot come without strings attached," said Romanian MEP Siegfried Muresan, the lead rapporteur for the budget.

Europe had pledged 4.45 billion euros in pre-accession spending for Turkey from 2014 to 2020, but only 360 million euros has been allocated so far.

Ankara's application to join the EU is effectively frozen, as several European leaders have criticized the headline response to the thwarted bid to overthrow President Recep Tayyip Erdogan last year.

Overall, the 2018 budget calls for 160 billion euros of committed spending for ongoing programs and 145 billion in payments expected for the year, increases of 1.3 percent and 7.8 percent from 2017.

The agreement still needs to be formally adopted by the EU Council, representing member states, and the European Parliament. —AFP

Distillate fuel oil market set to tighten in 2018

LONDON: US refineries are struggling to meet booming demand for distillate fuel oil at home and in export markets which will leave the distillate market very tight in 2018.

Even if the northern hemisphere winter is only averagely cold, the distillate market looks set to enter 2018 with lower than average stocks and fast-growing demand, which should keep prices and refining margins firm. The gross refining margin for turning Brent into US heating oil has climbed to almost \$19 per barrel from a recent low of less than \$11 in May, despite record US refinery production of distillate.

Refiners therefore have a strong

commercial incentive to maximise distillate output, which should ensure crude intake remains high, and spread tightness into the crude market.

US refiners processed a seasonal record 16.6 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude last week, which was 600,000 bpd higher than at the same point in 2016 and 1.8 million bpd above the 10-year average. And they produced a seasonal record 5.2 million bpd of distillate fuel oil, which was 300,000 bpd above 2016 and 600,000 bpd above the decade average.

But it was not enough to prevent distillate stocks falling by another 800,000 barrels to less than 125 million barrels, according to the US Energy Information Administration. Distillate stocks have shrunk by 38 million barrels since the start of the year compared with a seasonal decline of less than 10 million in 2016 and a ten-year average of just 5 million. Stocks are now 24 million barrels

below the prior-year level, and 9 million barrels below the decade average, at levels that have not been seen since 2012-2014.

The distillate market was heavily oversupplied at the start of 2017 but has become progressively undersupplied in the course of the year. Domestic consumption has been running well above prior-year levels and the long-term average in most weeks since March.

But it is the phenomenal strength of exports that is causing stocks to continue drawing down even as refineries maximize output. Exports over the last four weeks were running at a record 1.5 million bpd, an increase of more than 400,000 bpd or almost 40 percent compared with the same period in 2016. Distillate stocks look severely depleted even before the main winter heating season begins in North America and Western Europe. —Reuters

Jobless rates fell in 12 US states, hit record lows in 3

WASHINGTON: Unemployment rates fell to record lows in Alabama, Hawaii and Texas last month, and dropped in nine other US states. Employers added jobs in nine states in October, and cut them in three, the Labor Department said Friday.

Steady hiring has driven down unemployment in most states in the past year. Nationwide, the rate fell to 4.1 percent in October, a 17-year low. That is down from 4.8 percent a year earlier. The jobless rate dropped to 3.6 percent in Alabama from 3.8 percent in the previous month. Hawaii's rate fell to 2.2 percent from 2.5 percent. And the rate in Texas declined to 3.9 from 4 percent.

All three figures are the lowest on records dating back to 1976. The biggest October gain was in Florida, which added 125,300 jobs as it recovered nearly all the jobs that it had lost in September due to Hurricane Irma. Texas added 71,500, which also reflected a



DALLAS: In this May 19, 2017 file photo, job seekers walk into the Opportunity Fair and Forum employment event in Dallas. On Friday, the Labor Department reported on state unemployment rates for October. —AP

bounce-back from Hurricane Harvey. And California gained 31,700. The states with the biggest losses were Connecticut, with 6,600; Nebraska, also with 6,600; and South Dakota, with 2,400. —AP

Moody's raises India rating, citing reforms

NEW DELHI: Moody's on Friday upgraded India's credit rating for the first time in more than a decade, citing economic reforms introduced under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The move comes almost two months after the Moody's and Standard & Poor's lowered their ratings on regional rival China citing the country's ballooning debt burden.

Moody's raised its rating on India to Baa2 from Baa3, the first such move since January 2004, saying recent reforms would enhance productivity, stimulate foreign and domestic investment and foster "strong and sustainable growth". These include a new national goods and services tax and a controversial 2016 ban on high-value bank notes aimed at tackling widespread tax evasion.

"Continued progress on economic and institutional reforms will, over time, enhance India's high growth potential," the agency said.

Modi swept to power in 2014 on a promise to reform India's economy and create jobs for a burgeoning youth population.

But critics point out that joblessness remains high and the reforms have not come without pain.

They have acted as a drag on growth, which hit a three year low of 5.7 percent in the first quarter of the current financial year.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley called the upgrade "a belated recognition of all the positive steps which have been taken in India in the last few years". "It's extremely encouraging that there's an international recognition and it merely furthers our determination to follow the track which we have embarked upon," Jaitley told reporters.

The move boosted Indian stocks more than one percent, while the rupee strengthened to 64.86 against the dollar, from Thursday's 65.29. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.679
Indian Rupees	4.642
Pakistani Rupees	2.872
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.968
Nepali Rupees	2.914
Singapore Dollar	224.280
Hongkong Dollar	38.806
Bangladesh Taka	3.641
Philippine Peso	5.954
Thai Baht	9.196

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.854
Qatari Riyal	83.276
Omani Riyal	787.422
Bahraini Dinar	805.100
UAE Dirham	82.550

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.150
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217
Tunisian Dinar	122.920
Jordanian Dinar	427.540
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.020
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.616

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.000
Euro	359.060
Sterling Pound	400.870

Canadian dollar	238.490
Turkish lira	78.800
Swiss Franc	307.610
Australian Dollar	232.100
US Dollar Buying	301.180

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	239.540
Sterling Pound	399.145
Euro	354.630
Swiss Frank	303.680
Bahrain Dinar	804.185
UAE Dirhams	82.885
Qatari Riyals	83.710
Saudi Riyals	81.660
Jordanian Dinar	428.645
Egyptian Pound	17.208
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973
Indian Rupees	4.642
Pakistani Rupees	2.873
Bangladesh Taka	3.704
Philippines Peso	5.906
Cyprus pound	18.030
Japanese Yen	3.665
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.913

Selling Rate

US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	239.540
Sterling Pound	399.145
Euro	354.630
Swiss Frank	303.680
Bahrain Dinar	804.185
UAE Dirhams	82.885
Qatari Riyals	83.710
Saudi Riyals	81.660
Jordanian Dinar	428.645
Egyptian Pound	17.208
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973
Indian Rupees	4.642
Pakistani Rupees	2.873
Bangladesh Taka	3.704
Philippines Peso	5.906
Cyprus pound	18.030
Japanese Yen	3.665
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.913

Malaysian Ringgit	72.220
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.005
Thai Bhat	10.145
Turkish Lira	78.895

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL
British Pound	0.395396	0.402896
Czech Korune	0.005997	0.017997
Danish Krone	0.044038	0.049038
Euro	0.352470	0.359970
Georgian Lari	0.134955	0.134955
Norwegian Krone	0.032975	0.038175
Romanian Leu	0.064853	0.081703
Russian ruble	0.005221	0.005221
Slovakia	0.009034	0.019034
Swedish Krona	0.032127	0.037127
Swiss Franc	0.300437	0.311437

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.221446	0.233446
New Zealand Dollar	0.200773	0.210273

America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.232284	0.241284
US Dollars	0.298900	0.303320
US Dollars Mint	0.299400	0.303320

Asia	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.003301	0.003885

Chinese Yuan	0.044234	0.047734
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036856	0.039606
Indian Rupee	0.004112	0.004753
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002621	0.002801
Korean Won	0.000267	0.000282
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068843	0.074843
Nepalese Rupee	0.003023	0.003193
Pakistani Rupee	0.002649	0.002939
Philippine Peso	0.005816	0.006116
Singapore Dollar	0.218446	0.228446
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001659	0.002239
Taiwan	0.010010	0.010190
Thai Baht	0.008881	0.009431

Arab	BUY	SELL
Bahraini Dinar	0.796719	0.805219
Egyptian Pound	0.014525	0.020243
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000186	0.000246
Jordanian Dinar	0.422755	0.431755
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.023565	0.047565
Omani Riyal	0.780695	0.788375
Qatar Riyal	0.078937	0.083877
Saudi Riyal	0.079713	0.081013
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.117886	0.125886
Turkish Lira	0.073336	0.083636
UAE Dirhams	0.081071	0.082771
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

Business

Scoffed by critics, trickle-down economics gets another try

Reagan popularized the approach in 1980s

WASHINGTON: Does money roll downhill? In their drive to cut taxes, President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are betting it does. Behind their legislation is a theory long popular among conservatives: Slash taxes for corporations and rich people, who will then hire, invest and profit - and cause money to trickle into the pockets of ordinary Americans. The White House says the plan's corporate tax cut alone would eventually raise average household incomes by \$4,000 a year.

The tax plan's "trickle-down" approach was popularized in the 1980s during the Reagan administration, though it dates back at least to a 1932 wisecrack by Will Rogers. And history shows it has a spotty record of delivering on its promises.

The Republicans' latest version of the approach edged closer to the finish line Thursday when the House passed its form of the bill; the Senate is working on its own. Republicans hope to send final legislation to Trump by Christmas, though it's unclear whether they can succeed by then.

Among the key planks in their legislation: Shrink the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent. End or ease the inheritance tax on the wealthiest estates. Cut taxes on business partnerships. Offer a temporary tax cut on corporate profits held abroad. Repeal the alternative minimum tax on very high earners. And reduce personal income tax rates for many.

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center has found that the House tax plan would deliver an average tax cut of \$360 for middle-income taxpayers in 2027. A far more generous bounty would go to the highest-earning 1 percent: An average tax cut of \$62,000. For the top 0.1 percent, the gain would average \$321,000.

And the income tax cuts for individuals would expire within the next decade. By contrast, Republican lawmakers say the tax cuts for corporations need to be permanent. The tax cuts would also add roughly \$1.5 trillion to the federal debt.

Republicans argue that the corporate tax cuts, in particular, would unleash a boom that would speed annual economic growth to at least 3 percent consistently from the so-so 2 percent performance of recent years.

The thinking is that reducing corporate taxes would raise companies' after-tax profits, thereby encouraging them to invest more. Investments in machines and technology would make employees more productive and empower them to command higher pay. The White House's own study estimates that the corporate tax cut would eventually swell average U.S. household income by \$4,000 a year.



In this file photo, economist Arthur Laffer, known as the "father of supply-side economics" and who was an economic advisor to President Ronald Reagan, speaks at an executive committee meeting of the California Republican Party at their convention in Anaheim, Calif. — AP

"It will increase real wages, and it will increase them substantially," says Arthur Laffer, an economist who advised President Ronald Reagan and now runs a consultancy. "It also will increase the number who get jobs."

Laffer occupies a position of prominence in the history of trickle-down economics. In 1974, he famously sketched a diagram on a restaurant napkin to illustrate his belief that the government could cut taxes and, contrary to economic assumptions, end up producing more revenue, not less.

Economic growth would accelerate, and income would slough downhill from corporations and the wealthy to ordinary Americans. Over the years, the concept - also known as supply-side economics - has frequently drawn ridicule.

"Voodoo economics" was the derisive term George H W Bush applied to it in his failed 1980 bid for the Republican presidential nomination against Ronald Reagan, a supply-side enthusiast.

The liberal economist John Kenneth Galbraith in 1982 likened the trickle-down idea to horse manure: "If you feed the horse enough oats, some will pass through to the road for the sparrows." Will Rogers may deserve credit for coining the term in ridiculing President Herbert Hoover's efforts to combat the Great Depression. "The money was all appropriated for the top in the hopes that it would



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump gives a thumbs up as he walks with Vice President Mike Pence as he departs Capitol Hill in Washington. — AP photos

trickle down to the needy," Rogers wrote in his syndicated column in 1932. In fact, Rogers argued, money tends to trickle up - from the hands of the poor into the hands of the rich. In the view of Carl Davis, research director at the left-leaning Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, the track record for supply-side economics "is not particularly inspiring."

In 1981, in the midst of a deep recession, President Reagan pushed through an aggressive tax cut. The economy did rebound strongly over the next few years. But economists have long given credit mainly to the Federal Reserve, which aggressively slashed interest rates. And the tax cuts increased federal deficits, eventually forcing Reagan and Congress to reverse course and raise taxes.

Bruce Bartlett, a former aide to tax-cut advocate Rep. Jack Kemp, says the '81 tax cut made sense: The top individual tax rate was 70 percent - far above the current 39.6 percent - and the economy, unlike the relatively healthy one today, had endured a long era of stagnation. But Bartlett, an official in the Reagan and George H W Bush

administrations, has lost faith in tax cuts. In 1986, he notes, the United States slashed the corporate tax rate from 46 percent to 34 percent. Yet wages fell. Likewise, President George W. Bush's tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 produced one of the weakest economic expansions in American history: The Bush tax cuts were still in place when the economy sank into the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

And Kansas has just finished a failed experiment in tax cutting. After Gov. Sam Brownback pushed through big tax cuts in 2012 and 2013, the payoff was underwhelming at best: Tax collections fell shy of expectations, triggering a budget crisis. In June, Kansas passed a big tax increase (over Brownback's veto), leading Moody's Investors Services to upgrade the outlook for the state's credit rating.

Owen Zidar, an economist at the University of Chicago's outlook for Booth School of Business, says his own research suggests that tax cuts are more effective when they target lower-income taxpayers, who are likelier than the rich to spend a tax-cut windfall. — AP

“ Household incomes will go up eventually ”

US home construction reaches strongest pace in a year

WASHINGTON: Construction of new homes climbed 13.7 percent in October, the biggest jump in a year as builders broke ground on more apartments and single-family houses. The Commerce Department said Friday that the monthly gain put US housing starts at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.29 million units. That is the best pace for home construction in 12 months.

Housing starts have risen just 2.4 percent year-to-date, largely because fewer apartment complexes are being built. Single-family house construction has driven much of the growth this year in a sign of greater demand from buyers amid a healthy job market. But recent building trends reversed themselves somewhat in October, with most of the momentum coming from apartment construction. The

building of multi-family properties jumped 37.4 percent in October. Construction of single-family houses increased 5.3 percent.

Still, the building of new homes has done little to alleviate the growing shortage of existing homes for sale. This shortage has started to stifle the broader real estate market. Purchases of existing homes have fallen over the past 12 months, according to the National Association of Realtors. The decline largely reflects that there are 121,600 fewer homes on the market during the same period, a 6.4 percent decrease that new construction has been unable to offset.

"For a significant increase in new homes, municipalities are going to have to work harder to make more land available for building," said Robert Frick, a corporate economist with Navy Federal Credit Union. Construction in the South rose 17.2 percent last month, a sign the region is regaining its footing after damage from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Home construction shot up in the Northeast due to ground breakings for apartments. Construction also increased in the Midwest but declined in the West. Building permits, an indicator of future construction, rose 5.9 percent in October to 1.3 million. — AP



In this June 1, 2017 photo, builders work on the roof of a home under construction at a housing plan in Jackson Township, Butler County, Pa. — AP

Murdoch's Fox in talks with multiple buyers for TV, film assets

NEW YORK: Shares in media-entertainment giant 21st Century Fox surged to seven-month highs Friday after news it has been holding talks with at least three potential buyers for some of its television and film operations. A source familiar with the discussions said Comcast, Verizon and Sony are among the suitors in "preliminary" talks for the assets, which include Fox's stake in the British pay TV group Sky and its movie and television studio properties.

Any such deal could reshape the empire created by Rupert Murdoch, and now controlled by the 86-year-old mogul with his family. Fox shares rallied more than six percent to end at \$31.15, the highest level since April. Last week, unconfirmed reports said Fox rival Disney held similar talks without any agreement on asset sales.

The source told AFP that Comcast, which controls the NBCUniversal media group along with its large cable operations, approached Fox, along with Verizon, a major telecom and cable operator that also owns the internet brands AOL and Yahoo.

Another invitation to talks has come from Japanese electronics and media conglomerate Sony, according to the source. Fox declined to respond to requests for comment.

Murdoch and his sons Lachlan and James, who hold key roles in his media empire, have remained mum on their plans for 21st Century Fox, which includes the Fox Hollywood studios, and broadcast and cable operations Sky, which has a presence in Austria, Britain, Germany, Ireland and Italy.

Shifting media world

Earlier reports said the Murdochs were looking for a sale that would leave them with a more tightly focused media group that includes the Fox News channel and sports cable networks, along with the Fox broadcast network. During the Fox earnings call last week, co-executive chairman Lachlan Murdoch declined to comment on reports, citing the company's "longstanding policy of not commenting on speculation" about corporate dealings.

The talks come amid a huge shakeup in the sector as media giants look to position themselves against the streaming TV juggernaut Netflix and emerging threats from online platforms including Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google. The sector is being roiled by so-called "cord cutting" with consumers ending or paring expensive bundles of cable channels, and younger viewers relying on streaming services. The major US pay TV providers lost 405,000 net subscribers in the third quarter, while the top two streaming services gained half a million, according to the Leichtman Research Group.

At the same time, US telecom and pay TV giant AT&T is seeking to close its planned \$85 billion deal for media-entertainment group Time Warner amid concerns of a US antitrust lawsuit. Murdoch and Fox have been seeking to gain control of Sky - already holding a 39 percent stake - amid a lengthy investigation by British regulators.

Last month, the regulators said they would assess Rupert Murdoch's influence on the country's political landscape as part of their investigation.

Fox was formed by the 2013 breakup of Murdoch's News Corp into two separate firms as part of a plan to "unlock value" for shareholders. The News Corp name was retained for the company that operates newspapers including The Wall Street Journal and titles in Australia and Britain. Murdoch began a gradual withdrawal from both companies in 2013, and now shares the title of chairman with his eldest son Lachlan at both firms. His other son James Murdoch is CEO at Fox and chairman at Sky. — AP

ABK celebrates World Diabetes Day with discounts at Royale Hayat Hospital

KUWAIT: As part of World Diabetes Day Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) celebrates this month by teaming up with Royale Hayat Hospital to offer customers a range of discounts on diabetes related treatments and products, offer is valid till 31st December 2017.

ABK customers will be able to get up to 40% off treatments at Royale Hayat Hospital when they pay with an ABK debit or credit card. They will also be able to buy the Royale Hayat Hospital's diabetes mini package, which includes fasting blood sugar, HbA1C and micro-albumin for only KD 20, or the diabetes full package which contains fasting blood sugar, HbA1C, micro-albumin, complete blood count, lipid profile and renal profile for only KD 50.

The World Health Organization's World Diabetes Day is marked on 14 November every year and ABK is keen to use the opportunity to raise the profile of diabetes and the range of effective treatments which are available for its treatment. Diabetes has become a major issue in Kuwait, with an estimated 20% of adults in Kuwait now suffering from its debilitating effects. If not treated the disease's complications can lead to heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure and lower limb amputation.

ABK is very committed to the general health and wellbeing of the Kuwait community and its support for World Diabetes Day is part of its ongoing program.

26 winners included in winners' list of Al-Hassad account this week

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 15th November 2017. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 is Hussain Mahmoud Abdulla.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Farah Fuad Makkawi, Nasser Hlail Alanizi, Khaled Saleh Bokhamseen, Nouf Talal Alghaniem, Salah Khaled Al-Alazmi, Khaled Ali Alotaibi, Shaikhah Abdulaziz Almuzaini, Hamad Musaed Al-Saleh, Faisal Meadhed Alhuwailah, Suha Ahmad Alsahoo, Hameedah Obaid Al-Dhafeeri, Sulaiman Fahad Sulaiman, Hossein Daryoush Assl, Yacoub Yousuf Al-Asad, Huda Mohammad Omar, Maleeha Fadhel arti, Aliaa mishary Alhouli, Helal Slubi Fraih, Jehad Bader Naser bin Salamah, Yaser Mahdi Almuhrri, Fatemah Jawad yaseen, Adel Abduredha Safar, Mohammed Saeed, Qael Lutfi Basioni and Yosra Jaffar Abdulla.

Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions.

Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year."

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.

Business

Bayan Weekly Market Report

Boursa Kuwait equities pare losses, edge marginally up

Market moves towards green zone

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 6,309.31 points, up by 0.81 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 1.33 percent after closing at 402.96 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 925.96 points up by 1.74 percent. Furthermore, the week's average daily turnover decreased by 43.25 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 14.11 million, whereas trading volume average was 79.49 million shares, recording decrease of 34.87 percent.

The trading activity during the last week showed that the market was able to change its direction towards the green zone and its three indices were able to record grouped gains after three consecutive weeks of losses, supported by the purchasing powers that were present during most of the daily sessions of the week, and were concentrated on some leading stocks, especially after the big drops that the same stocks witnessed lately, in addition to the quick speculations that targeted some small-cap stocks. Also, the negativity was not absent from affecting the market performance during the last week, as some daily sessions witnessed selling and profit collection operations that pushed the three market indices to the red zone, which lightened the weekly gains of the market to a certain extent.

The Boursa realized gains over KD 400 million during the last five sessions, whereas its market cap reached KD 26.97 billion after being KD 26.57 billion in a week earlier, which means that the market succeeded in recording weekly gains of 1.51 percent to its total market cap, which enhanced its gains since the beginning of the current year to reach 6.14 percent compared to end of 2016, where it was KD 25.41 billion. (Note: The market cap for the listed companies in the official market is calculated based on the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial statements).

As per the daily trading activity: the first session of the week witnessed a noticeable decrease in the three market indices, affected by the random selling operations that targeted many stocks of different sectors, amid a drop in the trading activity compared to the previous

session, especially the cash liquidity, which declined by 28.13 percent reaching KD 13.49 million. In addition, the market was able in the second session to achieve relatively good gains, and its three indices were able to compensate a large part of its losses recorded in the previous session, supported by the return of the purchasing power control over the trading activity once again, amid traders' concentration on the small-cap stocks.

On the mid-week session, the market witnessed fluctuation on its three indices' performance, as the Weighted and KSX-15 indices continued recording gains for the second consecutive session, supported by the purchasing operations that targeted some leading stocks, while the Price Index went against the current and ended



Seven indices end trading on positive note

the session in the red zone, affected by the quick profit collection operations that included some idle stocks.

Moreover, on Wednesday's session the three market indices were able to record grouped gains supported by the random purchasing and collection operations that included a wide range of stocks of different weights, amid a noticeable increase in the trading activity, especially the cash liquidity that recorded a growth of 106.58 percent reaching KD 23.17 million.

The market continued realizing grouped gains for its three indices in the end of week session, which witnessed a fluctuated performance with an upward trend, where it took place as a result to the continued control of the purchasing operations over the trading behavior, amid a large drop in the trading activity during the session, as the traded number of stocks decreased by about 35 percent, and the trading

value decreased by about 60 percent.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 9.76 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 6.02 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 4.63 percent growth.

Sectors' Indices

Seven of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, three recorded declines, whereas the Health Care & Technology sector's indices closed with no change from the week before. Last week's highest gainer was the Consumer Goods sector, achieving 4.27 percent growth rate as its index closed at 936.01 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Oil & Gas sector's index closed at 955.05 points recording 3.11 percent increase. The Industrial sector came in third as its index achieved 2.51 percent growth, ending the week at 1,754.41 points.

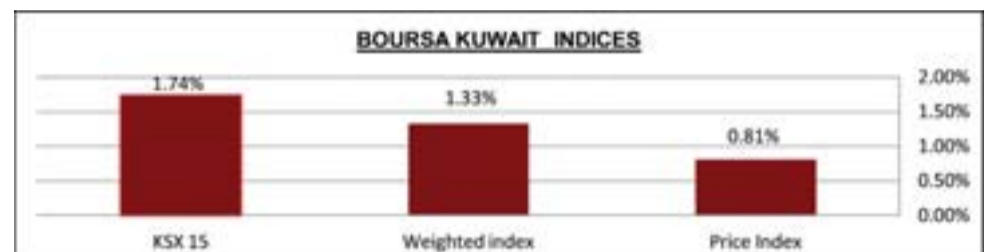
On the other hand, the Insurance sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 6.10 percent to end the week's activity at 984.58 points. The Telecommunications sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 4.68 percent, closing at 533.40 points, followed by the Real Estate sector, as its index closed at 903.88 points at a loss of 0.19 percent.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 143.15 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 36.02 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 22.80 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 90.60 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 31.83 million or 45.11 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 11.39 million representing 16.14 percent of the total market trading value. - Prepared by: Studies & Research Department —Bayan Investment Co.

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	6,309.31	402.96	925.96
	Previous week	6,258.47	397.67	910.13
	Change (Point)	50.84	5.29	15.83
	Change (%)	0.81%	1.33%	1.74%
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	561.22	22.87	40.94
	Change (%)	9.76%	6.02%	4.63%



Wall Street Weekly Roundup

Retailers rise again, tech leads other US stocks lower

NEW YORK: Retailers and smaller US companies jumped again Friday as they continued to report strong third-quarter results, but technology companies and other big US corporations couldn't add to the previous day's gains. A slew of retailers including discount chain Ross Stores, shoe store Foot Locker and clothing companies Gap and Abercrombie & Fitch soared following strong results or forecasts. Wal-Mart helped kick off a retail rally a day ago. Technology, health care and industrial companies slumped. On Thursday they led stocks to their biggest gain in two months.

Investors have liked what they've seen from retailers the last two days. Invesco Global Market Strategist Kristina Hooper said the companies are giving a double dose of good news. Consumers are spending more, and there are signs some companies are figuring out how to survive in a world where more and more sales are made online.

"Businesses are starting to evolve and alter their models and may be able to survive quite well in very changed circumstances," she said. "This is only the beginning of what they're going to need to do to stay competitive."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 6.79 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,578.85. The Dow Jones industrial average gave up 100.12 points, or 0.4 percent, to 23,358.24. The Nasdaq composite dipped 10.50 points, or 0.2 percent, to 6,782.79 after it closed at a record high Thursday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller and more US-focused stocks climbed 5.94 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,492.82. Most of the companies on the New York Stock Exchange rose. The S&P 500 finished slightly lower for the second week in a row after an eight-week winning streak.

Ross Stores jumped \$6.56, or 10 percent, to \$72.25 after its profit and sales were greater than expected, and the company raised its forecast for the rest of the year. The discount retailer said its business remained strong even though it dealt with the effects of several major hurricanes. Gap, too, did better than expected as sales at Old Navy and Athleta improved and it cut spending. Its stock gained \$1.92, or 7 percent, to \$29.40.

Foot Locker had a solid quarter and said that in spite of steep discounts, it expects to meet or "modestly exceed" its annual profit and sales forecasts. It surged \$8.97, or 28.2 percent, to \$40.82.

Hibbett Sports raised its profit forecast and expects a smaller decline in an important sales measurement. Its stock climbed \$2.25, or 15.2 percent, to \$17.10. Foot Locker has fallen 42 percent this year and Hibbett has dropped 54 percent. Twenty-First Century Fox contin-



NEWS YORK: Trader Robert Charmak (left), works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday. —AP

ued to soar on growing speculation that some of the media company's assets will be sold. Comcast is in talks to buy Twenty-First Century Fox's movie studio, some of its cable channels, and its international business. The Wall Street Journal and CNBC first reported Comcast's interest. The Journal reported that Verizon and Sony are also interested in some of Fox's assets.

Reports last week said Disney recently discussed a deal with Fox for the same businesses Comcast is now interested in. Fox is up 25 percent in two weeks after it gained \$1.83, or 6.2 percent, to \$31.15. Comcast fell 91 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$36.16. Verizon picked up 65 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$45.42.

Electronic Arts stock dropped after the video game company announced a last-minute change to "Star Wars Battlefront II" right before its Friday launch. EA turned off in-game purchases after fans complained about the cost of a feature that allowed players to skip ahead in the game to parts that include famous characters such as Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader. Earlier this week the company reduced the payments, but that didn't quiet the uproar.

The stock fell \$2.78, or 2.5 percent, to \$108.92 and it's down 9 percent this month.

Other technology companies also struggled. Microsoft lost 80 cents, or 1 percent, to \$82.40 and Intel slipped \$1.02, or 2.2 percent, to \$44.63. Gold and oil prices jumped as the dollar weakened to its lowest level in almost a month. Benchmark US crude rose \$1.41, or 2.6 percent, to \$56.55 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained \$1.36, or 2.2 percent, to \$62.72 a barrel in London.

Gold rose \$18.30, or 1.4 percent, to \$1,296.50 an ounce. Silver climbed 30 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$17.37 an ounce. Copper rose 2 cents to \$3.07 a pound.

The dollar fell to 112.13 yen from 112.98 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1796 from \$1.1765. Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.34 percent from 2.38 percent. In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline rose 3 cents to \$1.74 a gallon. Heating oil gained 4 cents to \$1.95 a gallon. Natural gas climbed 4 cents to \$3.10 per 1,000 cubic feet. France's CAC 40 shed 0.3 percent and Germany's DAX slid 0.4 percent. The British FTSE 100 slipped 0.1 percent. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.2 percent and South Korea's Kospi ended with little change. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 0.6 percent.—AP

Major US tax cuts not likely this year: Economists

BENGALURU: US Republicans are not expected to push major tax cuts through Congress this year, according to a majority of economists in a Reuters poll, who in any case were skeptical that the legislation would provide a significant boost to the economy.

While optimism about a tax overhaul has helped push the US stock market up for most of this year, the administration of President Donald Trump, a Republican, is still seeking its first major legislative win after almost a year in office. Skepticism about major tax cuts has been growing over the past two weeks, causing share prices to wobble.

The House of Representatives on Thursday approved a package of tax reductions estimated to raise the federal deficit by nearly \$1.5 trillion over a decade. The Senate, where the Republican majority is slimmer, will be the focus for debate.

Nearly two-thirds of the more than 60 economists who answered an extra question in the Nov. 13-17 poll, which mostly took place before the tax cuts passed the House, said they were not confident the administration would get the legislation passed this year.

"We feel that if it does pass next year, it is likely to be less ambitious and more focused on temporary cuts than reform," Ajay Rajadhyaksha, head of macro research at Barclays, wrote in a note.

The effect of tax cuts would probably be muted because of a lack of wage growth and a high level of employment, he added. In a Reuters poll last month, a strong majority of economists said the U.S. economy did not need a big fiscal stimulus at this late stage of the business cycle.

This month's poll of more than 100 economists showed most respondents had upgraded their near-term forecasts for the US economy, which they expect to grow just above the roughly 2 percent trend rate over the next two years but with muted inflation. When asked what the economy needs most, the top pick was increased infrastructure spending. Nearly as many said the United States ought to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement - Trump pulled the nation out of negotiations just days after becoming president - as

those choosing tax cuts. "It is hard to say with any level of confidence until we see a final plan (for tax cuts) what really are the benefits to the (economic) outlook," said Sam Bullard, senior economist at Wells Fargo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"If we don't get one, clearly there would be a response (from the financial markets) to a failure to not pass some kind of tax legislation. But if we get it, it would support the 'glass half full' levels of sentiment we have seen." In the meantime, most respondents did not expect the core PCE price index, the Federal Reserve's preferred gauge of inflation, to reach the central bank's target until the second quarter of 2019.

At last measure, it was no higher than it was just before the Fed first started raising interest rates from zero nearly two years ago. The poll still showed the Fed raising rates by 25 basis points more to 1.25-1.50 percent in December, with two increases next year - less than the three the central bank is projecting.

Unlikely recession

While there are few signs of any economic slowdown in broad economic data, the current cycle is mature.

Tax overhaul optimism boosts market

Movements in the US government bond market have grabbed attention in recent weeks as well, suggesting some kind of slowdown may be at hand. Two-year US Treasury yields have hit a nine-year high on expectations for higher interest rates, but a weak inflation outlook has pushed the yield curve to its flattest in a decade.

The gap between two-year and 10-year yields contracted to just above 63 basis points on Thursday. That was the tightest since November 2007, not long before the last recession took hold. While the current yield curve is not inverted, which is often viewed as a recessionary warning sign, it has flattened by more than 60 basis points in less than a year.

Economists polled by Reuters gave only a median 10 percent chance of a US recession over the coming year. The highest probability provided was 40 percent. Wells Fargo's Bullard said economic data had been strengthening over the past couple of quarters.

"That is certainly supportive to sustained moderate US economic expansion," Bullard said. "But yet financial markets, at least the yield curve, are reflecting something that suggests that maybe there are some signals out there that need to be paid attention to, and clearly not everything is right." —Reuters

Business

Cadillac showcases its exciting Mideast future at Dubai show

ME premiere for Escala Concept, regional debut of redesigned XTS sedan



DUBAI: Christian Soemmer, Managing Director, Cadillac ME unveils Cadillac Escala.



DUBAI: Making its first appearance in the Middle East, the Escala Concept car formed the centerpiece of the Cadillac stand at this year's Dubai International Motor Show (14-18 November) as visitors received a tantalizing glimpse at the future direction of the brand.

The future is certainly bright for Cadillac, with the Escala amplifying its new design DNA and the brand currently introducing industry-leading technologies such as Super Cruise. But the show also provided an opportunity to view new models that are set to entice today's buyers: the redesigned XTS sedan enjoyed its regional launch, alongside 2018 versions of favorites like the Escalade, CT6 and XT5. Designed to be both a driver's car and an indulgent flagship sedan, Cadillac's Escala showcases future design and technical systems, including a prototype 4.2-liter twin-turbo V-8 engine, and is a concept for a more expressive, expansive companion to the current range-topper, the CT6. The large 4-door sedan features an expansive lift-back design, and at 5347mm is 163mm longer than the CT6. The new face of Cadillac design will begin appearing on production models soon and includes a new expression of Cadillac's signature vertical lighting - thin, deep-set organic light emitting diode (OLED) elements give it a sinister look. This is complemented by a three-dimensional precision pattern in the grille design and 22-inch wheels with two layers of spokes.

Three very thin, curved OLED screens feature prominently in the front, consolidating the traditional "cluster" of driving gauges into one integrated unit. Like all Cadillac models today, the interior is assembled using hand cut-and-sewn techniques, but is further inspired by suiting material used by Cadillac's fashion industry partners. The Escala Concept also offers an insight into the user experience in development for future models, with new designs for connectivity and control.

Speaking about Cadillac's display at DIMS, Andrew Lipman, Cadillac's Global Communications Director, said: "We wanted to demonstrate our commitment to our cus-

tomers and fans in the Middle East, and what better way than by revealing a concept car that lays the blueprint for the future of the brand.

"Starting with the launch of the first ever XT4 in 2018, we will bring a new Cadillac to market every six months, a total of five vehicle lines in the space of just two years. And these models will feature some of the most advanced technology in the automotive industry," he added.

Super Cruise is a prime example of these advancements. With the ability to take control at any time, it offers the first true hands-free driving experience. Super Cruise takes control in situations like more mundane highway commuting, while in all other conditions the driver can take the wheel to enjoy the vehicle's exhilarating performance.

Cadillac also unveiled a raft of 2018 models that are set to take the Middle East by storm, most notably the elegant 2018 XTS, which was represented by the XTS Platinum version. Making its regional debut at the show, this redesigned sedan showcases a new generation of Cadillac design and technology. A new styling approach applied to the 2018 XTS range is communicated through a refreshed front and rear look, with all-new LED headlights and tail-lamps, fenders, front and rear fascias and grille. An improved chassis provides even greater ride comfort, while enhanced technology delivers a next-generation Cadillac user experience, a dynamic platform that can be adjusted over time to meet a customer's evolving connectivity needs. With functionality similar to smartphones, the new user experience system provides customers with easier

access to the most common features. The more intuitive operation includes a Summary View in which all key applications - climate, audio, phone and navigation - are displayed on one screen.

Two other 2018 models to benefit from Cadillac's new styling and design were also shown off at the show: the CT6 and XT5. Rounding off the display were the 2018 models of the brand's flagship large SUV - Escalade, and the ATS-V and CTS-V models from Cadillac's acclaimed high-performance V-Series.

The 2018 CT6 has all the size, prestige and technology of a large luxury sedan, while offering the driving dynamics and efficiency of a mid-size sport sedan. Built with one of the industry's most advanced body structures, the CT6 is equipped with an Active Chassis system and either a 3.0L Twin Turbo or 3.6L V6 engine. Hi-tech features include Enhanced Night Vision, Advanced Park Assist and Rear Camera Mirror - an industry first application of full-display technology, combining camera technology with the conventional inside mirror to

project an unobstructed view in the mirror. The XT5 combines spacious luxury and high-tech convenience features to create the perfect crossover. A lightweight construction elevates efficiency and driving performance while the all-new design and structure increases interior space without adding bulk. The 2018 XT5 is powered by a 3.6-liter V6 engine and advanced all-wheel drive, as well as advanced features such as a rear camera mirror, Apple Carplay & Android auto compatibility, and front- and rear-seat USB capabilities.

Visitors were also able to experience the brand's flagship model, the 2018 Escalade, which features a new 10-speed automatic transmission and bold new interior and exterior color options. The Escalade has long defined spacious premium driving with its modern design, powerful capabilities and sumptuous amenities that keep luxury firmly in the driver's seat.

Combining luxury and power in one machine, the Cadillac CTS-V sedan is powered by a supercharged 6.2L V-8 engine, that delivers 640 hp (477 kW), 630 lb-ft of torque (855 Nm) and is mated to a paddle-shift eight-speed automatic transmission. For 2018, it introduces Apple Watch integration, two additional USB ports in the rear console and a new range of colors.

Joining the CTS-V will be the 2018 ATS-V, with its track-honed design, chassis and suspension elements which complement the car's 3.6L V6 twin-turbocharged powertrain to provide true track capability, performance and driver control without modifications or special procedures. New for 2018, an advanced next-generation Cadillac user experience with embedded navigation is now available.

Speaking at the show, Christian Soemmer, Managing Director of Cadillac Middle East, commented: "With new models hitting the market and new facilities set to open in the near future, now is an extremely exciting time for Cadillac and its customers across the Middle East.

"Over the last year we have brought global brand initiatives to the region and created local activities that reflect Cadillac's core values, such as the 'Arabs of New York' campaign which celebrates the entrepreneurial Arabs of our home city. Furthermore, next month sees the arrival to Dubai of 'Letters to Andy Warhol' - a traveling exhibition, part of a global multi-year partnership between Cadillac and The Andy Warhol Museum. All of which is helping us to connect more closely with people who share our outlook and aspirations, in particular a younger generation of car buyers who share our passion."



Launch of 2018 model line-up

Kai Winkler named GM to open Fairmont hotel in Turkey



ISTANBUL: Kai Winkler has been appointed as General Manager for Turkey's first Fairmont Hotel, Fairmont Quasar Istanbul, opening in the first quarter of 2017.

A new icon for the vibrant Mecidiyekoy district, Fairmont Quasar sits at a crossroads in Istanbul - where eclectic neighborhood bazaars and colorful side streets meet modern shopping centers and commercial properties. Set on the site of the 1930's Robert Mallet Stevens' designed Art Deco liquor factory, Fairmont Quasar Istanbul will blend a sense of urban culture and industrial flair with the city's storied traditions and a strong sense of place. Kai Winkler joins Fairmont Quasar Istanbul as General Manager, bringing with him over 20 years of luxury hospitality experience in both resort and city hotels. A graduate of the Hotel Management Academy in Koblenz, Germany, Winkler holds a BA in Hotel Administration and an Executive MBA in Hospitality & Tourism from

NEOMA Business School in Paris, France. Winkler has managed luxury five-star hotels in Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Turkey and most recently in China where he was General Manager of Kempinski managed Phoenix Hotel Dalian.

Winkler says: "I am truly happy to be back in Turkey to launch the first Fairmont hotel in the country. My team and I consider ourselves to be artisans of hospitality, reshaping the traditions of our industry with a contemporary approach. Our utmost aim is to create long lasting memories for our guests through genuine hospitality, unique services and a locally connected venue, designed with an innovative concept and a strong identity to differentiate us and make Fairmont Quasar the place to be in Istanbul. With this great team, which I am excited to lead, we very much look forward to opening our doors and becoming the talk of the town."



LuLu Hypermarket launches 'Discover Flavors of USA 2017'

KUWAIT: LuLu Hypermarket, the region's largest retail group, opened its 'Discover Flavors of USA 2017' promotion on 15 November at its Eqila outlet. Ambassador of the United States to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman inaugurated the event in the presence of top management of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers. The promotion, which runs from 15 to 25 November at all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in the country, aims to bring the best products from popular American brands to Kuwait.

During the promotional period all LuLu outlets will be stocked with premier USA branded products, such as Bolthouse, Kraft, Litehouse, Califia Farms, McCormick, Gerber and General Mills among others. As a part of the promotion, America, as a prime travel destination, is also being emphasized through cut-out displays of traditional monuments from the country.

The 'Discover Flavors of USA 2017' promotion is part of LuLu Hypermarket's initiative to interact with its customers through exciting promotions that emphasize the best the hypermarket can offer, and entice customers with a distinct and unique experience.



Technology

Calls mount for action on 'killer robots' after UN talks

Meeting marked set of rules governing such weapons

GENEVA: "Robots are not taking over the world", the diplomat leading the first official talks on autonomous weapons assured Friday, seeking to ease criticism over slow progress towards restricting the use of so-called "killer robots". The United Nations was wrapping up an initial five days of discussions on weapons systems that can identify and destroy targets without human control, which experts say will soon be battle ready.

The meeting of the UN's Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) marked an initial step towards an agreed set of rules governing such weapons. But activists warned that time was running out and that the glacial pace of the UN-brokered discussions was not responding to an arms race already underway. "Ladies and gentlemen, I have news for you: the robots are not taking over the world. Humans are still in charge," said India's disarmament ambassador, Amandeep Gill, who chaired the CCW meeting.

"I think we have to be careful in not emotionalizing or dramatizing this issue," he told reporters in response to criticism about the speed of the conference's work. Twenty-two countries, mostly those with smaller military budgets and lesser technical know-how, have called for an outright ban, arguing that automated weapons are by definition illegal as every individual decision to launch a strike must be made by a human.

Gill underscored that a banning killer robots, or even agreement on rules, remained a distant prospect. He

said nations are likely to meet on the issue again for two weeks next year for further discussions focused on how autonomous weapons work and how their use should be controlled. "I am very happy with the start we made", he said. "It would be unwise for us to rush into (anything) at this stage."

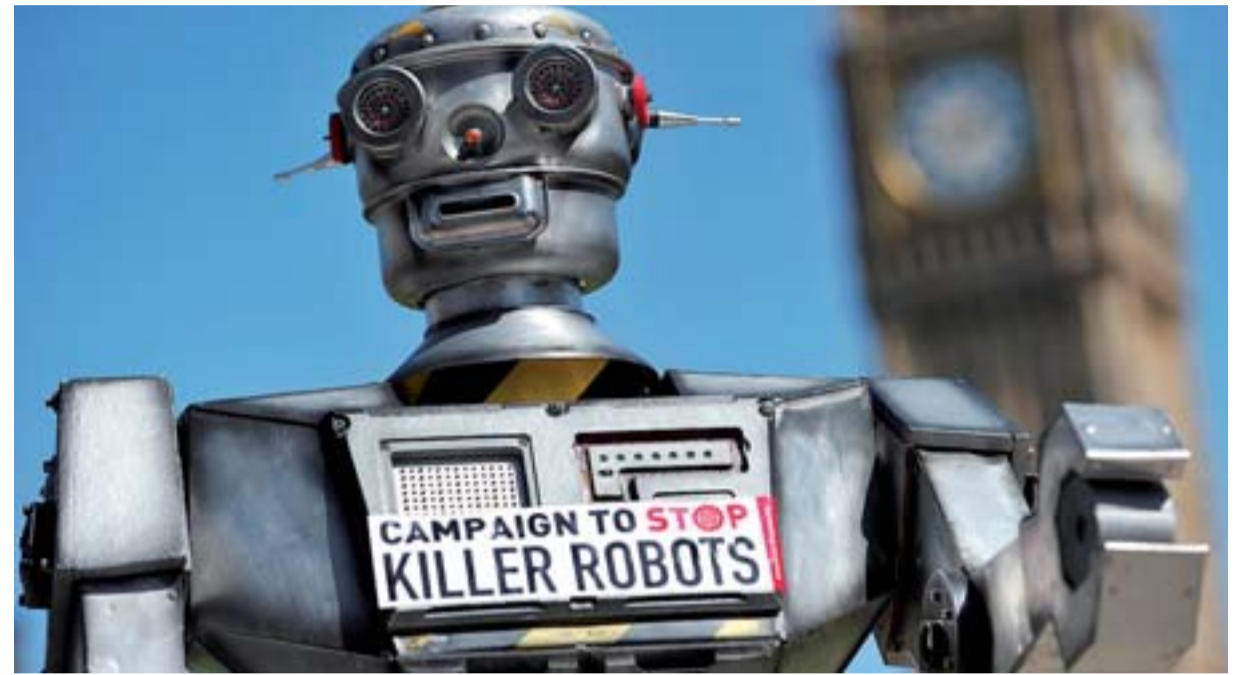
'No time to waste'

Campaign groups agreed that there had been some progress at the inaugural meeting but sounded an alarm over further foot-dragging. "Countries do not have time... to waste just talking about this subject," Mary Wareham of the arms division at Human Rights Watch said. She said that "militaries around the world and defense companies are sinking a lot of money" into weapons that select and destroy targets without human control.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots pressure group, which Wareham coordinates, highlighted two key points of agreement that emerged during the UN meeting. Most nations now agree on the need for a new "legally-binding instrument" controlling the use of killer robots and most "states now accept that some form of human control must be maintained over weapons systems", a campaign statement said.

Weapons of mass destruction

The question now is deciding "what effective human control means in practice", the head of the Arms Unit



at the International Committee of the Red Cross, Kathleen Lawand, said in an email. The ICRC has not called for a ban, but Lawand warned that action on setting limits was "urgently needed" as the technology was moving fast. Academics attending the talks in Geneva urged the UN to act before it was too late.

The "arms race has happened (and) is happening today" said Toby Walsh, an expert on artificial intel-

ligence at the University of New South Wales in Australia. "These will be weapons of mass destruction", he added during a side-event at the UN this week. "I am actually quite confident that we will ban these weapons... My only concern is whether (nations) have the courage of conviction to do it now, or whether we will have to wait for people to die first."—AFP

Study shows video games could cut dementia risk in seniors

MIAMI: Could playing video games help keep the brain agile as we age? A new study suggests older adults who practice specific computer training exercises that test how fast they respond to visual stimuli could face a 29 percent lower chance of developing dementia, results deemed encouraging by experts even as more work is needed to confirm the link. The randomized clinical trial involving more than 2,800 people study was funded by the US National Institutes of Health, and used a specific brain-training exercise called "Double Decision," a patented program by Posit Science that is available on BrainHQ.com. The exercises tested a person's ability to look at an object in the center of the screen, like a truck, and click on an object that popped up in the periphery, like a car.

As the user improves, the exercises move faster and become more difficult. The idea is to exercise the brain's ability to change-known as plasticity-and to test skills of perception, decision-making, thinking and remembering. Study authors say the process is like learning to ride a bike, a skill that doesn't take long to learn but which drives a long-lasting brain change.

Randomized study

Participants were an average age of 74 when they enrolled in the Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly study. Dozens of peer-reviewed scientific studies have been published using ACTIVE data, which has now completed 10 years of follow up. Participants in the trial were assigned at random to four groups: one did computer exercises, a second one followed a series of traditional memory exercises, another did reasoning exercises, and the fourth, a control group, did nothing at all.

Those enrolled in the computer-game part of the study did at least 10 hours of training in the first five weeks of the program. Some went on to do more training over the next three years, leading to up to 18 hours of total computer work. "Speed of processing training resulted in decreased risk of dementia across the 10-year period of, on average, 29 percent as compared to the control," said lead author Jerri Edwards, a researcher at the University of South Florida. There was no significant difference in risk of dementia for the strategy-based memory or reasoning training groups. The findings are published in a peer-reviewed journal of the Alzheimer's Association known as Alzheimer's and Dementia: Translational Research and Clinical Interventions.

Experts urge caution

Some outside experts urged a dose of skepticism in interpreting the current study as a magic bullet against dementia, since many previous studies have found little to no benefit in popular online brain-training courses. "The results reported here, of apparent reduction in risk of dementia after 10 years following only a few hours of cognitive training, are therefore rather surprising and should be treated with caution," said Rob Howard, professor of old age psychiatry at University College London.

"I find it implausible that such a brief intervention could have this effect." According to Doug Brown, director of research at Alzheimer's Society, the study is "positive" in that it spanned a decade and compared several kinds of brain training. But it made its conclusions about dementia in patients based on self-reports or from subjects' families, not clinical diagnoses of the condition. "This study hints that a particular type of brain training may help people to ward off dementia, but due to limitations of the research, we can't confidently conclude this," he said. Experts say more studies should be conducted to see if the findings can be replicated, and better explained. —AFP

Google, Facebook join news organizations in 'Trust Project'

WASHINGTON: Google, Facebook and other tech firms joined global news organizations Thursday in an initiative aimed at identifying "trustworthy" news sources, in the latest effort to combat online misinformation. Microsoft and Twitter also agreed to participate in the "Trust Project" with some 75 news organizations to tag news stories which meet standards for ethics and transparency.

"In today's digitized and socially networked world, it's harder than ever to tell what's accurate reporting, advertising, or even misinformation," said Sally Lehrman of Santa Clara University's Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, the project leader. "An increasingly skeptical public wants to know the expertise, enterprise and ethics behind a news story."

Each online platform will develop "trust indicators" to help readers "assess whether news comes from a credible source they can depend on," Lehrman added. News organizations participating include the Washington Post,

Mic and the Independent Journal Review in the US, Canada's Globe and Mail, the German press agency DPA, the Economist, Italy's La Repubblica and La Stampa, and Trinity Mirror, which includes the Mirror newspapers in Britain.

Participants agree to core practices including transparency on funding and disclosure of the mission of the organization; details about the journalists behind stories; labeling of opinion and factual articles, and references on how the reporting is carried out. "News consumers need a way to tell media companies what we expect from them, the types of news we can count on and will pay for," said Craig Newmark, founder of craigslist, whose philanthropic fund was an early supporter of the effort. Other funding comes from Google, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Democracy Fund and the Markkula Foundation.

Authoritative journalism

Google, Twitter and Facebook have come under fire for allowing the spread of bogus news—some of which was directed by Russia-ahead of the 2016 US election and in other countries. Google's vice president for news Richard Gingras said the yet-to-be determined labels will help the online search giant "to better understand authoritative journalism, and help us to better surface it to consumers."

Alex Hardiman, head of news products at Facebook, called the initiative "a great next step in our ongoing efforts overall to enhance people's understanding of the



PHILADELPHIA: In this file photo, the Facebook logo is displayed on an iPad in Philadelphia. —AP

sources and trustworthiness of news on our platform." Greg Sterling, a contributing editor for the Search Engine Land blog, said the effort is good but may be "too complex to accomplish its ultimate objective." "Readers should be able to see what's behind the labeling scheme, but they should be able to tell at a glance whether an item is from a credible source, not have to spend time evaluating it based on a range of factors that may be obscure to them," Sterling wrote. —AFP

Tesla's all-electric Semi truck aims to disrupt transport

HAWTHORNE: After shaking up the auto world with its electric cars, Tesla is tackling a new frontier in "green" transportation with the unveiling of a futuristic all-electric semi truck. Elon Musk, the South African-born inventor and entrepreneur, showcased the new vehicle Thursday in Hawthorne, California, site of Tesla's design bureau and the headquarters of the billionaire's aerospace company SpaceX.

With a sleek, aerodynamic profile, the Tesla Semi is billed as quicker and more economical than today's diesel-powered trucks. "We designed the Tesla truck to be like a bullet," said Musk, Tesla's co-founder and chief executive who aims to start production in 2019 with deliveries by 2020 — although some analysts expressed caution over Tesla's ability to meet its own timetable.

With four independent electric motors and a transmission that requires no shifting of gears, the Semi can accelerate to 60 miles per hour in five seconds—reaching that speed in 20 seconds while hauling a maximum 80,000 pound load, much faster than a traditional diesel truck, Tesla says. Most crucially, it can travel 800 kilometers between charges, more than double the length of most truck routes, 80 percent of which, according to Musk, are 250 miles or less.

"So it means you can go to your destination and back without recharging," he said. Tesla claims its Semi, which could be recharged at the firm's 1,000 free Supercharger stations worldwide, can save 20 percent over conventional transport rigs with fuel and insurance factored in while delivering a "better experience" for truck drivers through its cab design. With no front engine or gear shift to accommodate, the driver's seat is positioned in the center of a panoramic windshield, with a dominating view of the road.

Instead of the traditional console, there are touch screens for navigation, music and traffic data. Inside, the cab has enough head and legroom to stand up and walk around. The traditional second front seat is relegated to the back of the cab as a jump seat. The Semi also uses some of the same navigation aids as Tesla's Model 3 sedan, such as cameras, and sensors designed to minimize blind spots, abrupt lane changes and emergency stops.



CALIFORNIA: This photo provided by Tesla shows the new electric semitractor-trailer. —AP

Bumps in the road?

But despite the truck's glitzy debut, some analysts warned it remains unclear if or when Tesla can deliver on its promises. "We've come to expect very forward-thinking products from Tesla," said Rebecca Lindland, analyst for the auto research firm Kelley Blue Book who said the Tesla Semi concept "makes a lot of sense" for vehicles with predictable routes like garbage trucks or school buses.

Lindland added however that Musk "is not great at keeping deadlines" and that "we need to add weeks, months or years" to his timetable. Another concern is that Tesla is bleeding cash as it invests in new vehicles like the Model 3, a more affordable electric sedan.

The pace of production of the Model 3, for instance, is way behind target, peaking at 500 to 1,000 a week instead of a promised 5,000. "Wall Street continues to be very tolerant of Elon Musk's strategy, as they consider it a tech company and not an automobile manufacturing company," Lindland said. "But there will come a time

when investors won't be as tolerant and will need to start seeing profits."

'Green' trucks

Joseph Spak of RBC Capital Markets said he was impressed by the truck, saying its specifications "exceeded expectations." "While Tesla has had challenges meeting deadlines, it does eventually get there," Spak said in a research note. "As such, expect the topic of the electrification of (cargo trucks) and Tesla's disruption of that segment to step up."

Tesla's Semi is arriving at a time when a variety of automakers—Daimler, Volkswagen, Nikola, Einride—are also developing electric truck prototypes, some equipped with autonomous driving functions and futuristic designs. Experts note that heavy goods vehicles and buses already are being powered with alternative energy sources like hydrogen batteries or natural gas. Tesla has not given out details on how much the trucks will cost or where they will be built. —AFP

Health

In DR Congo, fight for sanitation is also a fight for dignity

Majority have no access to improved toilets

KINSHASA: From crouching over a small hole with a sheet for privacy to defecating in the open air, for millions of people in the Democratic Republic of Congo going to the toilet is a daily act of misery. The UN has estimated more than 2.4 billion people worldwide are in a similar situation, with Sunday's World Toilet Day planned to raise awareness. The vast majority of DR Congo's more than 70 million residents do not have access to "improved" toilets-latrines, sewerage or cesspits that hygienically separate human waste from human contact, according to the United Nations children's agency UNICEF.

The problem has become even more pressing this year as the huge African country wrestles with a resurgence of cholera. Known as a "dirty hands disease" for the way in which faecal germs are transmitted, there have been more than 44,000 suspected cases of cholera and nearly 900 deaths so far this year, compared with 29,000 cases in 2016, according to World Health Organization (WHO) figures.

In the capital Kinshasa, the quality of toilets varies greatly depending on social status-islands of wealth thrive in the city of 10 million amid an ocean of poverty. Running water and clean toilets are the norm in Gombe, a wealthy district home to the presidential palace, embassies, ministries, business headquarters, expats and the city's wealthiest citizens. But it is a very different story in the other 25

districts of "Kin-la-Belle" (Kin the Beautiful), as Kinshasa was once known-and which some locals now derisively call "Kin-la-Poubelle" (Kin the Rubbish Bin).

In the district of Matete, Junior, 25, does not complain much about the toilet block built in the yard, away from the family house. There is no running water, but it does have a tap and a bucket to clean the toilet, as well as an adjoining shower with white tile walls and an only slightly blackened ceramic floor. Wastewater and excrement are collected under a concrete slab in a pit, which is emptied by a service every two or three years. "It's not luxury, but it's a bit clean," said Junior.

'We suffer here'

Conditions are very different for neighbors living on the edge of a rubbish dump just a few streets away-and several rungs down DR Congo's implacable social ladder. Here, a clean, decent flushing toilet only exists in dreams. "We suffer here. If it rains, it floods the slab. The toilets overflow. The waste floods into the house," said an angry young father in front of his toilet block. The contents of the latrine can be seen through the concrete slab.

DR Congo wrestles with cholera



Another toilet, next to an outdoor place of worship, is a simple hole dug in the ground, protected from view by some corrugated iron and a sheet. According to residents, the sewage runs into a river that flows between Matete and a military camp. On both sides of the water



OJOTA: This photo shows a worker sitting beside public toilets at Ojota district in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital. —AFP

is a mountain of rubbish. "Sooner or later, there will be people who get cholera. For the moment we suffer from typhoid," says theology student Nadine Bondo.

In rural areas of DR Congo, where 60 percent of the population lives, the situation is even worse. Open-air defecation remains a cause of disease, according to

Unicef, which started a program for sanitation in schools and villages, such as Kisthini, 80 kilometers from Kinshasa. "Before, we were cleaning our toilets in an outdated way. We dug small holes. Now, the notions of sanitation and hygiene are ingrained in the students," says the deputy head of the school in Kisthini.—AFP

Doctors at Vatican to debate ethics of euthanasia

VATICAN CITY: "We don't carry out euthanasia as often as it is asked for," says Dutch GP Carin Littooji, advocating for assisted dying on a bench usually reserved for bishops in the Vatican. The World Medical Association (WMA) has gathered at the heart of the Catholic Church to debate its policy on end-of-life care. The choice of location sends a clear message about the organization's position on the controversial issue of euthanasia, according to Jeff Blackmer, the vice president of the Medical Association in Canada.

"It's like having a human rights discussion in North Korea," said Blackmer, whose home nation allows terminally ill patients to legally receive medical help to die. "It's not a neutral environment." Euthanasia, practiced by a doctor, and assisted suicide, performed by a patient, are deemed unethical by the organization, which counts more than 100 national medical organizations among its members. The standards-setting body encourages doctors worldwide to refrain from supporting the procedures-even if they are legal in their country.

But medical associations in Canada and the Netherlands, where assisted dying is also legal in limited cases, are calling for a change in attitude within the WMA. Littooji says a patient experiencing unbearable suffering who requests an assisted death is monitored over a long period by a team of doctors. "It's a road we walk together over time, the end can be euthanasia but far more often it's a natural death," adds Littooji.

Popular Support

President of the German Medical Association, Frank Ulrich Montgomery, quoted the 2,400-year-old Hippocratic Oath to the conference: "... neither



VATICAN CITY: This file photo in Vatican shows St Peter's basilica during a mass led by Pope Francis. —AFP

will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course." While he highlighted surveys from some industrialized nations which show majority support for terminally ill people legally ending their own lives with doctors' help, he questioned whether it is "compassionate" to kill your patient.

"In liberal societies people want to have choice and options right up to the very end of their life," he added. "Are our ethics, our deepest beliefs, dependent on polls?" But Dutch Royal Medical Association chairman Rene Heman told the conference that euthanasia "can be accepted". In the Netherlands, a patient must be experiencing unbearable suffering with no prospect of improvement to qualify for one of the life-ending procedures. "It will never feel good for a doctor," he accepted. "The possibility of euthanasia does not undermine the trust between patient and doctor. The patient knows he can rely on this physician." —AFP

Passenger pigeons, now extinct, needed big flocks to survive

MIAMI: Passenger pigeons were once so plentiful they could darken the daytime sky when they flew over North America, but oddly, their abundance may have played a role in their extinction, researchers said Thursday. Though it may seem counter-intuitive, the pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*), evolved quickly and in the process, lost certain traits that might have been useful for surviving in smaller groups, said the study in the journal Science.

The findings have implications for other creatures threatened by swift changes in the world around them. "Our results suggest that even species with large and stable population sizes can be at risk of extinction after a sudden environmental change," said the study led by Beth Shapiro, a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Numbering three to five billion before they began to decline in the 1800s due to a surge in hunting, these social birds were once "the most abundant bird in North America, and possibly the world," said the report.

And although large populations of animals tend to be genetically quite diverse, researchers were stunned by their analysis of four extinct pigeon genomes, which were compared to two modern carrier pigeons. They found that passenger pigeon diversity was "surprisingly low," said the study. Researchers also found areas of very high diversity in the genomes, which told researchers the birds had been around for 20,000 years or more-another surprise.

The last passenger pigeon died in a US zoo in 1914. Until now, the prevailing theory was the birds went extinct due to a booming commercial hunting industry that forced their populations to become demographically isolated, leading to lots of inbreeding, lower genetic diversity and weaker health. But the latest findings suggest the reason was more complex. The birds evolved quickly and may have adapted to large social groups, hunting and breeding together. —AFP

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What's On

British School of Kuwait hosts remembrance commemoration



Remembrance Day - also known as Poppy Day, Armistice Day (the event it commemorates) or Veterans Day - is a day to commemorate the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and of civilians in times of war, but specifically since the First World War, 1914 - 1918. It is observed on 11 November to recall the end of World War I on that date in 1918. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.

The British School of Kuwait (BSK) held its annual Remembrance Commemoration with Guest of Honor Group Captain Finlay McLean, Defense Attache at the British Embassy, and attended by Secondary students and their teachers at morning assembly in the Marble Arch. The VIP party included BSK Strategic Management Team members Madame Vera Al Mutawa MIBE, Paul Shropshire, Mark Brisbane, Emma Bowie, Nicholas Smith, Rachel Sielski, Heather Holsgrove, and also Lucian Anisia who placed wreaths and poppies on the cenotaph.

A poppy bearer representing each tutor group, forty-eight in total, placed a poppy on the remembrance backdrop concluding the symbolic significance of this ephemeral flower.

Once the conflict of World War I was over, the poppy was one of the only plants to grow on the otherwise barren battlefields.

The symbolic significance of the poppy as a lasting memorial to the fallen was realized by the Canadian surgeon John McCrae in his poem, In

Flowers. The ceremony included readings from Ian Masters and the BSK History Club led by Head Student Rodina Gad and Deputy Head Student Dylan Peacock. The Exhortation and Dedication was delivered by Group Captain McLean while the BSK Concert Orchestra, under the baton of Miss Elizabeth Lomas, provided the music which included the Last Post and Reveille played by Cian Williams of Year 10.

The event at BSK was all the more poignant as it took place 100 years after the battle of Passchendaele. Also known as the Third Battle of Ypres, it is remembered as one of the bloodiest offensives of the First World War. More than 100 days of fighting in the summer and autumn of 1917, starting on July 31, left more than half a million men dead or injured on both sides. The ceremony concluded a series of BSK events held to support the British Legion.

These included a Poppy Appeal and a visit to the British Embassy gardens for a group of history students to participate in the Remembrance Commemoration for children. The latter event was hosted by Group Captain Finlay McLean, the British Defense Attache and the Assistant Defense Attache, Richard Vessey. The phrase 'Lest we Forget' is characterized by the wearing of the poppy, as we show support and empathy for all those who have made any sacrifice in past or present conflicts in order that future generations might not need to experience the same horrors of war.



The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month

Flanders Fields. The ceremony included readings from Ian Masters and the BSK History Club led by Head Student Rodina Gad and Deputy Head Student Dylan Peacock. The Exhortation and Dedication was delivered by Group Captain McLean while the BSK Concert Orchestra, under the baton of Miss Elizabeth Lomas, provided the music which included the Last Post and Reveille played by Cian Williams of Year 10.



Malabar Gold and Diamonds marks Children's Day

Malabar Gold and Diamonds, one of the leading jewelry retailers in the region made this Children's Day fun and memorable by celebrating with above 2000 talented and dynamic kids under the age of 12 and their families. The celebration was held at Salmiya Indian Model School, Kuwait on 14th November 2017 in the presence of invited guests, teachers and parents. "Design your Dream Jewelry" drawing competition conducted by Malabar Gold and Diamonds unlocked the hidden talents of the kids and was full of fun with lots of special moments.

The Children's Day event offered the families a fun filled day where the kids enjoyed painting and a wide range of exciting activities were organized by the jewelry chain. The children also took part in the competitions organized by the group in true spirit. The event was honored by the presence of Afsal Khan - Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds, Anis Ahmed - Director, SIMS along with the other dignitaries from SIMS and Malabar Gold and Diamonds. The winners were awarded with the gold coins and certificate of appreciation as well.

"As the tagline indicates, Malabar Gold and Diamonds is always at the forefront when it comes to celebrations. Today's children are our future. We would always admire to bring the hidden talents of the kids and we are thankful to SIMS for associating with us by



providing this venue to help us achieve the same," stated Afsal Khan - Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

Malabar Gold and Diamonds, the jewelry chain with 195 retail outlets spread across in GCC, India, Singapore and Malaysia is one of the first jewelers to introduce designer kid's jewelry crafted with 100% child-safe and

non-hazardous metals. 'Starlet - Kids Jewelry', their brand made especially for Malabar Gold and Diamonds young customers is available in a variety of designs that are attractive to children. Each piece is carefully crafted with no sharp edges and the designs are playful and unique. It is surely an ideal gift for kids of all ages.

ADAK celebrates Eid and Onam

Lappuzha District Association Kuwait (ADAK) celebrated Eid and Onam on November 10 at the Indian Community School Senior School, Salmiya with its full spirit and fervor. Norka Welfare Director Ajith Kumar inaugurated the celebration by lighting the traditional lamp in a meeting chaired by President B S Pillai. Patron Chacko George Kutty, Advisory Board Member Murali S Nair, Vice-Presidents Christopher Daniel, Krishnakumar and Treasurer Shibu Cherian felicitated the occasion. General Convener Binu Chempalayam welcomed the audience while Vipin Mangattu proposed vote of thanks. Ajith Kumar, Manoj Mavelikara and the artistes from Kerala P S Banarji, Adarsh Chittar, Unmesh Poonkavu were honored with memento in the meeting.

Shamsu Thamarakulam was also honored with memento for his committed social services along with Shaji PI being the best volunteer. Vice-President Christopher Daniel was adorned with Ponnada on the happy of his 70th birth anniversary.

A series of cultural programs were staged depicting Onam such as Sopana Sangeetham, Thiruvathira, Chendamelam, Kavitha, Songs, Fusion dance, Kolkali, Arabic Oppana, Dafumuttu, in addition o the floral decoration, which brought back the nostalgic feelings of a bygone era. And a sumptuous Ona Sadya was served to all attendees. The main highlight of the program was the rendering of "Nadan Pattukal" by "Kanal Pattukoottam" from Kerala led by PS Banarji, Adarsh Chittar and Unmesh Poonkavu, along with "Polika Nadan Pattukoottam" from Kuwait. The audience experienced a different feeling as the artistes were in full interaction with them. In between the songs, they also demonstrated the ancient arts such as Garudan, Theyyam, which the audience accepted with louder applause.



Toastmasters holds training

The Toastmasters' community in Kuwait includes new elements of fun and learning. On Nov 10, 2017, Division D and Division I organized an educational session about parliamentary procedures and a new member orientation program at ACK, Kuwait by two renowned stalwarts of the toastmaster community - District 20 Director- DTM Mohammed Makhlof and Immediate Past District 20 Director - DTM Ali Shahbaz Ali. DTM Ali was a special guest who flew in from Bahrain.

Division D Director - TM Alifiya Lakdawala and Division I Director



TM Fatima Abdullah have a vision to educate the Toastmaster community in Kuwait to achieve excellence. This training was yet another step towards their vision. Parliamentary procedures are of importance as participants learn the right way on how elections are conducted at Toastmasters at various levels. This

also helps one to enhance knowledge and growth at the workplace.

How to make new members aware of what Toastmaster is all about and orienting and guiding them is another feat. It was a good recap for existing members regarding their roles, responsibilities and policies which Toastmasters offers.

ICSK Khaitan holds awareness program for defense services

To cater for the needs of competing candidates aspiring to become officers in the three wings of the Armed Forces of India (Army, Navy and Air force) and also in the Paramilitary Forces under the Central Government (the largest employer of the Union of India), students of class X and XI of ICSK Khaitan witnessed a career awareness program conducted by Colonel Vijayan, Director, Saradhi Centre for Excellence, Kerala, on Monday, November 6, 2017.

Principal Gangadhar Shirsath warmly welcomed Colonel Vijayan with a bouquet of flowers. In his address, he explained the importance of defense services to the students. Talking about patriotism he said that love for own country eventually motivates each

one of us to serve our nation through defense services. He also stated that mother and motherland are always superior to heaven for a true patriot.

In the awareness session, Colonel Vijayan explained various avenues in the defense services where students can walk in. The power point presentation was very informative and impressive. His talk threw light into many areas of defense services which were totally unknown to the students. He also said that students can become Class I Gazetted officers (Commissioned Officers) in less than the time that they spend for becoming just engineering or medical graduates. Mentioning about in-service benefits and retirement benefits, he claimed that no other service is comparable with the defense service. In the interactive session Colonel Vijayan clarified the queries of the students. The program came to an end by the vote of thanks by the Vice Principal, Ravi Ayanoli.



TV

OWN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 02:05 Cyborg X
03:40 The Huntsman: Winter's War
05:35 Age Of Tomorrow
07:05 Being Evel
08:45 Bloodsport
10:20 Rumble
11:50 The Huntsman: Winter's War
13:50 Age Of Tomorrow
15:20 Momentum
16:55 The Reckoning
18:20 The 5th Wave
20:15 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II
22:30 Bus 657

OWN MOVIES HD THRILLER

- 00:50 Tell Me How I Die
02:45 Emelie
04:20 Victor Frankenstein
06:20 The Last Survivors
08:05 Tell Me How I Die
10:00 Emelie
11:35 Victor Frankenstein
13:35 Taj Mahal
15:15 Escape
16:45 Go With Me
18:25 Return To Paradise
20:40 Devil In A Blue Dress
22:30 Silver

OWN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 00:25 Black Beauty
01:55 Mousehunt
03:35 Pan
05:30 Kung Fu Panda
07:05 Black Beauty
08:35 Mousehunt
10:15 The Amazing Wizard Of Paws
12:00 Pan
13:55 Capture The Flag
15:35 Pet Pals In Windland
17:00 The Tale Of Despereaux
18:35 Storm Rider
20:20 Mostly Ghostly: One Night In Doom House
21:50 Capture The Flag
23:30 Pet Pals In Windland

OWN MOVIES HD FIRST

- 01:35 Certain Women
03:25 Inferno
05:30 The Last 100 Days Of Diana
07:00 Spotlight
07:20 Trolls
09:00 Ghostbusters
11:00 Inferno
13:05 Equals
14:50 Take Down
16:40 The Legend Of Tarzan
18:30 Mechanic: Resurrection
20:15 Captain America: Civil War
22:45 The Legend Of Barney Thomson

OWN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:55 The Out Of Towners
02:30 The Boss
04:10 A Merry Christmas Miracle
05:35 Liberal Arts
07:15 A Stand Up Guy
08:55 A Merry Christmas Miracle
10:20 Liberal Arts
12:00 A Stand Up Guy
13:40 The Out Of Towners
15:15 Hearts Of Spring
16:45 Outside Bet
18:30 Ride Along 2
20:15 K-9
22:00 Art School Confidential
23:45 Joshy

OWN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 01:00 Saturday Night Fever
03:05 Margot At The Wedding
04:45 The Age Of Adaline
06:45 The Portrait Of A Lady
09:15 The Age Of Adaline
11:15 The Remains Of The Day
13:35 Healing
15:40 Eyes Of An Angel
17:20 Oliver's Deal
19:05 Land Of Mine
20:55 Meadowland
22:40 Child Of God

OWN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 00:35 Louis & Luca And The Snow Machine
02:05 Simba The King Lion
04:15 Hotel For Dogs
06:00 Catcher: Cat City 2
07:40 Two Buddies And A Badger
09:05 Funny Little Cars
10:15 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
11:40 Hotel For Dogs
13:25 Zodiac: The Race Begins
15:00 Micropolis
16:35 Funny Little Cars
17:45 Bonta
19:15 The Wish Fish
20:40 Micropolis
22:15 Two Buddies And A Badger
23:40 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon

OWN MOVIES HD

- 01:50 Max
03:45 Spotlight
05:55 Unbroken
08:15 Northpole: Open For Christmas
09:50 Rocky
11:55 Spotlight
14:10 Hanging Up
15:55 Rocky II
18:00 The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
20:10 Cocktail
22:00 He Got Game

OWN MOVIES HD

- 00:40 Dirty Pretty Things
02:20 Four Rooms
04:00 Hollywood On Set
09:00 Days Of Our Lives
10:25 Daddy Day Camp
12:00 Days Of Our Lives

- 12:40 Return To Zero
14:25 Stockholm, Pennsylvania
16:00 He Loves Me (2011)
17:25 Days Of Our Lives
18:05 The Wrong Child
19:30 Heartlands
21:00 The Terminal
23:05 She's All That
Star Movies HD
01:30 The Art Of War
03:30 Shall We Dance ?
05:15 Bad Santa
06:45 The Maiden Heist
08:15 Zero Dark Thirty
10:45 Man About Town
12:30 Without A Paddle
14:15 The Art Of War
16:15 If Only
18:00 Pretty Woman
20:00 Snow Angels
21:45 Big Hero 6
23:30 Hollywoodland

SUNDANCE TV

- 01:15 Robert Redford #on Topic
01:30 Miss Stevens
03:00 Detroit Unleaded
04:35 Full Grown Men
06:00 Jeff Lynne: Mr. Blue Sky
07:00 Vernon, Florida
08:00 Radio Bikini
09:00 Musicwood
10:20 Standing On The Edge Of The Noise
11:25 Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
12:55 Miss Firecracker
14:35 The Prospects
15:55 Vernon, Florida
16:55 Standing On The Edge Of The Noise
18:00 Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
19:30 Movie Talk Legends: Sophia Loren
20:00 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
20:30 Discovering: Genesis
21:00 Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries
22:00 Lamb
23:40 Leidi

OWN SERIES HD COMEDY

- 00:15 Two And A Half Men
00:40 Two And A Half Men
01:05 According To Jim
01:30 According To Jim
01:55 Better Late Than Never
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 Mr. Sunshine
06:05 Ti Death
06:30 2 Broke Girls
06:55 The Mindy Project
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 Kevin Can Wait
10:15 Black-ish
10:40 Mr. Sunshine
11:05 Ti Death
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 2 Broke Girls
12:45 The Mindy Project
13:10 Two And A Half Men
13:35 Two And A Half Men
14:00 According To Jim
14:25 According To Jim
14:50 Mr. Sunshine
15:15 Kevin Can Wait
15:40 Black-ish
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Baby Daddy
17:30 The Mindy Project
18:00 Two And A Half Men
18:30 Two And A Half Men
19:00 According To Jim
19:30 According To Jim
20:00 The Mayor
20:30 Great News
21:00 American Housewife
21:30 American Housewife
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:25 Seinfeld
23:50 Seinfeld

OWN SERIES HD FIRST

- 00:40 The Blacklist
01:30 Blindspot
02:20 Emerald City
03:20 Code Black
04:10 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
24: Legacy
06:00 Good Morning America - The Weekend
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Blindspot
09:20 Code Black
10:10 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
11:00 Once Upon A Time
11:45 The Blacklist
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
24: Legacy
16:00 Live Good Morning America - The Weekend
17:00 Code Black
18:00 Once Upon A Time
19:00 Bones
20:00 Grey's Anatomy
21:00 Scandal
22:00 How To Get Away With Murder
23:00 Once Upon A Time
23:50 Stan Lee's Lucky Man

OWN FIRST HD Home of HBO

- 00:05 The Knick
01:00 Heidi Fleiss: The Would-Be Madam Of Crystal
02:15 The Brave
03:00 I Can't Do This But I Can Do That
03:35 The Brink
04:05 Ballers
04:35 Vice Principals
05:10 Curb Your Enthusiasm
05:45 The Newburgh Sting
07:10 The Last Of His Tribe
08:40 Sometimes In April
11:00 From The Earth To The Moon
12:05 A Number
13:20 Dancing In September
15:05 Questioning Darwin
16:10 Confirmation
18:00 Unscripted
18:30 Project Greenlight
19:05 Shooter
19:25 Olive Kitteridge
21:05 Queen Sugar
22:40 Like.Share.Follow
23:00 The Deuce

OWN SERIES HD

- 00:00 Emerald City
01:00 Once Upon A Time
01:50 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
02:40 The Blacklist
03:30 Blindspot
04:20 Emerald City
05:20 Code Black
06:10 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
07:00 24: Legacy
08:00 Good Morning America - The Weekend
09:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Blindspot
11:20 Code Black
12:10 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
13:00 Once Upon A Time
13:45 The Blacklist
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
17:00 24: Legacy
18:00 Good Morning America - The Weekend
19:00 Code Black
20:00 Once Upon A Time
21:00 Bones
22:00 Grey's Anatomy
23:00 Scandal

BBC FIRST

- 00:00 EastEnders
00:35 The Durrells
01:25 Cold Feet
02:20 The Good Karma Hospital
03:05 The Collection
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders
05:05 Death In Paradise
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 EastEnders
07:30 The Coroner
08:15 Doctor Who
09:10 Doctors
09:40 EastEnders
10:10 The Coroner
11:00 New Tricks
11:50 Doctor Who
12:35 Call The Midwife
13:30 Doctors
14:00 EastEnders
14:30 The Coroner
15:25 Doctor Who
16:10 Call The Midwife
17:10 New Tricks
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 The Coroner
20:00 The Good Karma Hospital
21:00 Line Of Duty
22:00 Sherlock
23:35 Doctors

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:05 Inside Amy Schumer
00:30 Inside Amy Schumer
00:55 Tosh.0
01:20 Tosh.0
01:45 Another Period
02:10 Tracy Morgan: Bona Fide
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 The Half Hour
03:50 Broad City
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Key And Peele
05:05 Important Things With Demetri Martin
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Framework
07:05 Lip Sync Battle
07:30 Lip Sync Battle
07:55 Impractical Jokers UK
08:25 Disaster Date
08:50 Workaholics
09:15 Kroll Show
09:40 Key And Peele
10:05 Important Things With Demetri Martin
10:30 Framework
11:15 Disaster Date
11:40 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:05 Impractical Jokers
12:30 Lip Sync Battle
12:55 Lip Sync Battle
13:20 Key And Peele
13:45 Impractical Jokers UK
14:15 Disaster Date
14:40 Workaholics
15:05 Friends
24: Legacy
15:30 Kroll Show
15:55 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
16:25 Impractical Jokers
16:50 Workaholics
17:15 Impractical Jokers UK
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
19:00 Lip Sync Battle
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Teachers
22:00 The Half Hour
22:25 The Half Hour
22:50 Detritors
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

OWN SERIES HD FIRST

- 00:00 Caribbean Life
00:30 Caribbean Life
01:30 The High Low Project
02:00 Tiny House, Big Living
02:30 Tiny House, Big Living
03:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
03:30 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
04:00 Caribbean Life
05:30 Hawaii Life
06:00 Extreme Homes
07:00 House Hunters
09:00 Giada At Home
10:00 Desperate Landscapes
11:00 Cousins On Call
12:00 Flea Market Flip
13:00 Tiny House, Big Living
14:00 House Hunters
15:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
16:00 The High Low Project
17:00 Flea Market Flip
18:00 Going Yard
19:00 Rescue My Renovation
20:00 Island Life
21:00 Giada Entertains
22:00 House Hunters
23:00 Rachel Hunter's Tour Of Beauty

FINE LIVING

- 00:00 Caribbean Life
00:30 Caribbean Life
01:30 The High Low Project
02:00 Tiny House, Big Living
02:30 Tiny House, Big Living
03:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
03:30 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
04:00 Caribbean Life
05:30 Hawaii Life
06:00 Extreme Homes
07:00 House Hunters
09:00 Giada At Home
10:00 Desperate Landscapes
11:00 Cousins On Call
12:00 Flea Market Flip
13:00 Tiny House, Big Living
14:00 House Hunters
15:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
16:00 The High Low Project
17:00 Flea Market Flip
18:00 Going Yard
19:00 Rescue My Renovation
20:00 Island Life
21:00 Giada Entertains
22:00 House Hunters
23:00 Rachel Hunter's Tour Of Beauty

food network

- 00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Stakeout
02:00 Mystery Diners
02:30 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:25 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:50 Man Fire Food
07:15 Chopped
08:05 Barefoot Contessa
08:30 Barefoot Contessa
08:55 The Pioneer Woman
09:20 The Pioneer Woman
09:50 Siba's Table
10:20 Siba's Table
10:50 Bake With Anna Olson
11:20 Chopped
12:10 Man Fire Food
12:35 Man Fire Food
13:05 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
15:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
16:00 The Pioneer Woman
16:30 The Pioneer Woman
17:00 Siba's Table
17:30 Siba's Table
18:00 Bake With Anna Olson
18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
19:00 Man Fire Food
19:30 Man Fire Food
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Patti Labelle's Place
22:00 Private Chef
22:30 Private Chef
23:00 Chopped

Syfy HD

- 00:25 The Other Side
02:00 Sanctuary
06:00 Warehouse 13
06:45 Sanctuary
07:35 Stargate SG-1
08:25 Smallville
09:15 Warehouse 13
10:05 Sanctuary
10:55 Stargate SG-1
11:45 Smallville
12:35 The Heroic Legend Of Arslan
13:30 Sanctuary
14:20 Seeds Of Destruction
15:55 The Heroic Legend Of Arslan
16:50 Smallville
17:40 Warehouse 13
18:30 Sanctuary
19:20 Stargate SG-1
20:10 Smallville
21:40 Face Off
22:40 Wes Craven Presents: Dracula II: Ascension

STAR WORLD HD

- 00:00 Project Runway
01:00 Project Runway
02:00 Wedding Band
03:00 Fashion Star
04:00 Black Box
05:00 Fashion Star
06:00 Black Box
07:00 Fashion Star
08:00 Fashion Star
09:00 MAFS: The First Year
10:00 Black Box
11:00 Fashion Star
12:00 Cedar Cove
13:00 Cedar Cove
14:00 Cedar Cove
15:00 MAFS: The First Year
16:00 Black Box
17:00 Fashion Star
18:00 Three
19:00 Three
20:00 Style By Jury
20:30 Style By Jury
21:00 MAFS: The First Year
22:00 The Fashion Fund
23:00 Fashion Star

TLC

- 00:20 Dr Christian Will See You Now
01:05 Botched Up Bodies
01:50 Promzillas
02:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
03:20 Sister Wives
04:50 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 7 Little Johnstons
07:30 Sister Wives
08:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Married By Mum And Dad
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:10 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars
14:40 Kate Plus 8
15:25 Married By Mum And Dad
16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
18:50 Ultimate Shopper
19:40 Say Yes To The Dress UK
20:10 Cake Boss
20:35 Cake Boss
21:00 Cake Boss
21:25 Cake Boss
22:50 Hair Goddess
23:40 Promzillas
23:30 90 Days To Wed

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 Untamed & Uncut
01:45 Going Ape
06:00 Biggest And Baddest
07:36 Escape To Chimp Eden
22:50 Whale Wars
09:15 Treehouse Masters
13:50 The Lion Queen
14:45 Keeping Up With The Kruger
15:40 Wildest Africa
16:35 Going Ape

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 Escaping Polygamy
01:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
04:00 Escaping Polygamy
05:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
06:00 My Haunted House
07:00 The First 48
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
10:00 Private Crimes
10:30 Private Crimes
11:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
12:00 Evil Up Close
13:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
15:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
16:00 Cold Case Files
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Homicide Hunter
19:00 Gangs Of Britain With Gary & Martin Kemp
20:00 Gangs Of Britain With Gary & Martin Kemp
21:00 The First 48
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 Jo Frost On Britain's Killer Kids

Discovery Family

- 00:30 Now That's Funny
01:20 Now That's Funny
02:10 Wild Family Rescue
03:00 Wild Family Rescue
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
05:30 Storm Chasers
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
12:50 Now That's Funny
17:00 How It's Made
17:25 How It's Made
17:50 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:15 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
18:40 The Carbonaro Effect
19:05 The Carbonaro Effect
19:30 Raging Nature
20:20 Weather Gone Viral
21:10 Hurricane Sandy: The Storm That Shook America
22:00 Storm Chasers
22:50 Storm Chasers
23:40 Storm Chasers

IDX HD

- 00:50 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:45 Forbidden: Dying For Love
02:40 The Grim Sleeper: People Magazine Investigates
03:35 Obsession: Dark Desires
04:30 Disappeared
05:25 Murder Calls
06:20 Six Degrees Of Murder
07:10 Forbidden: Dying For Love
08:00 I Was Murdered
08:25 Disappeared
12:55 I Almost Got Away With It
17:30 Evil Online
18:25 Evil Online
19:20 Evil Online
20:15 Evil Online
21:10 Evil Online
22:05 Shadow Of Doubt
23:00 Gone
23:55 Hear No Evil

NAT GEO HD

- 00:15 Supertruckers
01:00 Fast N' Loud
01:45 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
02:30 Street Customs 2008
03:15 Fast N' Loud
04:00 Man vs Weird
04:50 Boy To Man
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers: Under The Ice
06:45 Street Outlaws
07:30 Sacred Steel Bikes
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 Auction Kings
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:48 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
10:55 Dark Woods Justice
11:40 Alaskan Bush People
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:48 Baggage Battles
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier (Season Specials)
13:55 Deadliest Catch
14:40 Gold Divers: Under The Ice
15:25 Sacred Steel Bikes
16:10 Street Outlaws
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Baggage Battles
18:20 Auction Kings
18:50 Deadliest Catch
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Harley And The Davidson's Gold Rush
22:40 What On Earth?
23:30 Sacred Steel Bikes

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Photo Ark
01:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
02:50 Amazing Animal Selfies
03:45 Deadly Instincts
04:40 Wild India Aka Secrets Of Wild India
05:35 Lion vs. Giraffe
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Snakes In The City
09:15 Ultimate Animals Compilations
09:40 Ultimate Animals Compilations
10:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts
12:55 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
13:50 Wild Indonesia
14:45 Deadly Instincts
15:40 Wild India Aka Secrets Of Wild India

Discovery Science

- 14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 Engineering Disasters
16:00 Engineering Disasters
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 In Search Of Aliens
19:00 UFO Files
20:00 Hoard Hunters
21:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
21:30 How The States Got Their Shapes
22:00 Cowboys & Outlaws
23:00 Ancient Top 10

NAT GEO people

- 00:15 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
00:45 A Is For Apple
01:10 My Dubai
01:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:35 Dog Whisperer
03:30 The Food Files
03:55 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
04:25 My Dubai
04:50 Sinful Sweets
05:20 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
05:45 Croatia's Finest
06:15 Restoration Man
07:10 World's Best Beaches
08:05 Hotel India
09:00 Cesar To The Rescue
09:55 Route Awakening
10:20 Miguel's Feasts
10:50 Stepping Out
11:15 What's For Sale?
11:45 What's For Sale?
12:10 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
12:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
13:35 Dog Whisperer
14:30 The Food Files
14:55 Stepping Out
15:25 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
15:50 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
16:20 Sinful Sweets
16:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
17:15 Croatia's Finest
17:40 Croatia's Finest
18:10 The Wine Show
19:05 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
19:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
20:00 Sinful Sweets
20:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
21:00 Croatia's Finest
21:30 Croatia's Finest
22:00 The Wine Show
22:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
23:50 Dog Whisperer

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Live Free Or Die
01:00 Yukon Gold
02:00 Cold Water Gold
03:00 Continent 7 Compilations
04:00 Continent 7 Compilations
05:00 Forbidden Tomb Of Genghis Khan
06:00 Live Free Or Die
07:00 Facing...
08:00 Hard Time
09:00 Airport Security: Colombia S2.5
10:00 Year Of The Storm
11:00 Desperate Hours
11:30 Desperate Hours
12:00 Seconds From Disaster
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Yukon Gold
16:00 Cold Water Gold
17:00 The Long Road Home
18:00 Battleground Brothers
19:00 Yukon Gold
20:00 Cold Water Gold
20:50 The Long Road Home
21:40 Battleground Brothers
22:30 Yukon Gold
23:20 Bad Trip

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Photo Ark
01:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
02:50 Amazing Animal Selfies
03:45 Deadly Instincts
04:40 Wild India Aka Secrets Of Wild India
05:35 Lion vs. Giraffe
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Snakes In The City
09:15 Ultimate Animals Compilations
09:40 Ultimate Animals Compilations
10:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts
12:55 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
13:50 Wild Indonesia
14:45 Deadly Instincts
15:40 Wild India Aka Secrets Of Wild India

Discovery Science

- 16:35 Extreme Animal Babies Compilations
17:30 Monster Fish
18:25 China's Wild Side
19:20 Deadly Instincts
20:10 Wild India Aka Secrets Of Wild India
21:00 Extreme Animal Babies Compilations
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 China's Wild Side
23:30 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts

OWN KIDS ZONE

- 00:40 Kings Of Construction
04:48 How Do They Do It?
06:24 Food Factory
07:36 Food Factory USA
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Kings Of Construction
12:26 Myfbusters
16:26 Food Factory
18:02 Food Factory USA
18:26 How Do They Do It?
18:51 How Do They Do It?
19:16 How Do They Do It?
19:41 How Do They Do It?
20:06 How Do They Do It?
20:30 Atari Codebreaker
20:55 How Do They Do It?
21:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
22:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
23:00 Atari Codebreaker
23:25 How Do They Do It?
23:50 Smash Lab

Disney Channel

- 00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
04:20 Hank Zipzer
04:45 Alex & Co.
05:10 Alex & Co.
05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binny And The Ghost
06:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Liv And Maddie
07:50 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
07:55 Bizaardvark
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
09:10 Tangled: The Series
09:35 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
10:00 Stuck In The Middle
10:25 Disney Cookbook
10:50 K.C. Undercover
11:15 Bunk'd
11:40 High School Musical 2
13:20 Girl Meets World
15:25 K.C. Undercover
16:15 Jessie
16:40 Jessie
17:05 Descendants Wicked World
17:10 Disney Cookbook
17:35 Kit & Kat
18:00 Austin & Ally
18:25 Austin & Ally
18:50 Tangled: The Series
20:05 Stuck In The Middle
20:30 Liv And Maddie
20:55 Elena Of Avalor
21:20 Tangled: The Series
21:45 Bizaardvark

CROSSWORD 1765



ACROSS

1. A French abbot.
5. Changed in order to improve or made more fit for a particular purpose.
12. (computer science) The rate at which data is transferred (as by a modem).
15. A sudden short attack.
16. Freshwater fish of Central America having a long swordlike tail.
17. Resinlike substance secreted by certain leaf insects.
18. In bed.
19. A republic in southeastern Europe on the Adriatic coast of the Balkan Peninsula.
20. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
21. A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
23. A heavy gray-white metallic element.
26. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
27. English historian who studied the rise and fall of civilizations looking for cyclical patterns (1889-1975).
31. King of Sparta and hero of the battle of Thermopylae where he was killed by the Persians (died in 480 BC).
35. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
36. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
37. Make fit for, or change to suit a new purpose.
38. Do over, as of (part of) a house.
41. Large siphonophore of up to 50 ft long.
44. An investigation of the component parts of a whole.
46. A period of time equal to 1/24th of a day.
47. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
48. A common cyst of the skin.
49. A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
50. French naturalist who proposed that evolution resulted from the inheritance of acquired characteristics (1744-1829).
53. A member of the Caddo people who formerly lived in the Dakotas west of the Missouri river.
57. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
58. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
59. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
60. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
62. A fire (usually on a hill or tower) that can be seen from a distance.
65. A city in western Russia on the Dnieper River.
70. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
71. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
74. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
75. Neckwear consisting of a long narrow piece of material worn (mostly by men) under a collar and tied in knot at the front.
78. A guided missile fired from shipboard

79. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
80. A republic in the western Balkans in south-central Europe in the eastern Adriatic coastal area.
81. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
2. A small cake leavened with yeast.
3. A coffin along with its stand.
4. A doctor's degree in education.
5. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
6. Remove or make invisible.
7. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
8. Type genus of the Plataleidae.
9. The term during which some position is held.
10. Any plant of the genus Eryngium.
11. At an angle.
12. Cry plaintively.
13. Especially one side of a leaf.
14. The act of scanning.
22. Tag the base runner to get him out.
24. Expressive of contempt.
25. Register formally.
28. The first event in a series.
29. Saudi Arabian minister of petroleum who was a central figure in the creation of OPEC (born in 1930).
30. Opinion or judgment.
32. Any of various hard resins from trees of the family Dipterocarpaceae and of the genus Agathis.
33. To or from every one of two or more (considered individually).
34. A large number or amount.
39. Generator consisting of a coil (the armature) that rotates between the poles of an electromagnet (the field magnet) causing a current to flow in the armature.
40. Goods (or wreckage) on the sea bed that is attached to a buoy so that it can be recovered.
42. Apathy demonstrated by an absence of emotional reactions.
43. Toward the mouth or oral region.
45. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
51. Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
52. A medium to dark brownish yellow color.
54. A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
55. A mountain peak in central Washington.
56. The commonest type of solidified lava.
61. Squash bugs.
63. English essayist (1775-1834).
64. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
66. A city in the Asian part of Russia.
67. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
68. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
69. God of love and erotic desire.
72. The month following October and preceding December.
73. An accountant certified by the state.
76. A state in New England.
77. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project requiring a conservative mind. Work is intense—there is a rush to complete projects. It is important to take your breaks and get some fresh air. This afternoon the focus could be on a change of residence for you or for a friend of yours. This is a good time to consolidate and organize your private affairs. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. Take time later this afternoon for relaxation and to also examine what is important and of lasting value in your life—an appreciative attitude. Friends or relatives give you a lot to ponder—this is a period of great mental activity and heightened communication with others.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Perhaps this is a time to think and study, for you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. You may find yourself enjoying a long conversation with co-workers or higher-ups today. Progress is inevitable and now is time to fit progress into your professional life. This could mean new equipment, adjustment to a new environment or scheduling of a new time schedule. There are sudden insights and breakthroughs regarding these new changes. There is also the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into your self-image or into your ideals and dreams—your imagination is at full tilt. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general get attention and receive encouragement. A wish comes true this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There is an instinctive imperative to be powerful and in control—pulling the strings. You may think you are in charge, but others have their own ideas and need your listening ear. This may lead to a greater interest or experience in healing and investing and in the great mysteries of life and death. You may be reminded of a few responsibilities you previously volunteered to do for today—at work or home. This is a good time to get down to basics and take care of these responsibilities as well as some of your own business, previously postponed. A meeting with someone older is at hand this afternoon. With a listening and patient attitude, satisfactory agreements can be found. You could find that you are very much appreciated.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

While you may be using your analytical abilities today at work, you will also become involved in conversations about the winter seasonal activities ahead. A plethora of subjects, however, could interest you now. This could include law, politics, education, travel or religion. This afternoon you may find yourself being put to good use by your friends, or it could be that circumstances force you to reorganize and become more conservative. You may find yourself involved in a neighborhood meeting. Perhaps it is time to think about recycling, decorating or helping to clean up the neighborhood. You can express your sensitivity to the needs of others. Allow the pieces of your life to fall into place in an orderly fashion. A little hot tea would be relaxing before bed.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

In the workplace, self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues in your life as a new phase begins. A fear of asserting yourself can hold you back—as can coming on too strong. Attention to matters of health may come to your attention—perhaps you have plans to help the cook or to cook less fatty foods this season. This is a good time to begin an exercise program—perhaps early morning walks are in order. Today, someone new may come into your living situation or surroundings. This could be a birth or the agreement to have someone in your home for a while. You could discover a student or a young person opening up to you now.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are expressive and outgoing when it comes to your feelings and emotions—you wear your heart on your sleeve. You could successfully work with the arts and theater, in sports, or with the ultimate self-expression: children. Teaching, other than your own professional work, may be where you find yourself today. This could be as a tutor or a private teacher. Creativity and time to create are important to you. You may find yourself leaving things undone around your living area so that you can complete a craft or art project. This is also where you may find yourself teaching. Your attention may be focused on animals this afternoon. Besides your love of music, religion, drama, art or poetry and animals, your day can become rather full. You are satisfied.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a good time for clear deliberation and problem solving. You are in a serious frame of mind and find yourself dealing with matters of much concern and responsibility. This may mean that you will find new ways to clear away old debts or perhaps you find yourself tending to the needs of an elderly person in your family. You may be very persuasive—making clear decisions. Your whole base of knowledge and experience could be changing—your mind and your belief system. This afternoon is a good time to spend with a peer or loved one. Emotions are up and you may even find yourself pondering a bit on the meaning of life. You feel at one with your situation. Music, literature and romance are available this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This year holds plenty of opportunities for you to expand your financial and personal horizons. Your patience could be tested to the limits, however. Sorting things out and getting organized to the utmost efficiency keeps you busy. You find yourself in a very practical mood and working with, instead of against, yourself. A friend in need or something you believe in that will suffer from a lack of your support may come to your attention before noon. You may be called upon to lend a helping hand. In helping someone else, you may find new ways to make your own dreams come true. This afternoon is a good time to reflect upon your own situation; just how you feel about yourself. You may wish to join your friends or family in some fun activities tonight.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You will learn something new from a mentor today. Take your time and study what is presented. You have some valuable information to assimilate. A young person may need lessons in managing his or her money and you are quick to respond with a plan. You could find yourself teaching several young people about handling money. Careful, do not become too carried away—they will learn about government economy soon enough. This is a great time of the year to plan time with friends and loved ones. Games and some sort of sports participation would not be an unusual activity for the group that gathers this afternoon. You are very competitive—even pushy—when it comes to partners and other people. This evening you spend time nurturing a friendship.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You possess, at the core, an intensity that burns through superficialities, searching for opportunities to face the truth and rendering the events to view. This ceaseless analytical activity, while central to your nature, may be a source of discomfort to others. This is where you may decide to help others in some way. You are sensitive to others and you know the difference between prying and advising. Conversations with distressed individuals will be encouraged by your positive insights. You enjoy the light-bulb effect that long talks promote. On the whole, this can be a great opportunity to widen the scope of understanding. Psychic worldviews and impressions from others are what fill your day. You enjoy sharing a new dessert recipe tonight.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may appear very tranquil this morning. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself expressive and able to communicate well. Interactive conversations find you at your mental best. Your analytical abilities are at a high point. This afternoon you could find yourself in hobby stores buying parts, games or an addition to your favorite pastime. Before you begin to play with those hobbies of yours, clean out or put away some of your collections that do not currently serve a purpose. Some young person may enjoy the items you no longer use. Friends may visit this evening and you could find yourself involved in the old, pick-things-up-before-others-see routine. Do consider a garage sale or a contribution to a thrift store.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is not the best time for career or vocational decisions. Problems, however, are valued for the lessons learned. You do not mind being slowed from your work in order to learn something new. You love your friends, keeping in touch, catching up on their lives, etc. Family, home and the other roots in your life give you a sense of mission at this time. There are growth and gain through these things. Being appreciated and admired for your gifts and talents are powerful needs. Taking chances can bring big rewards. There are many opportunities for self-expression and others are interested in your particular ideas and thoughts. A good conversation with those you love is possible. This is generally a fruitful period for real-estate investments.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Beatles Songs 1

Find and circle all of the songs by The Beatles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional Beatles song.

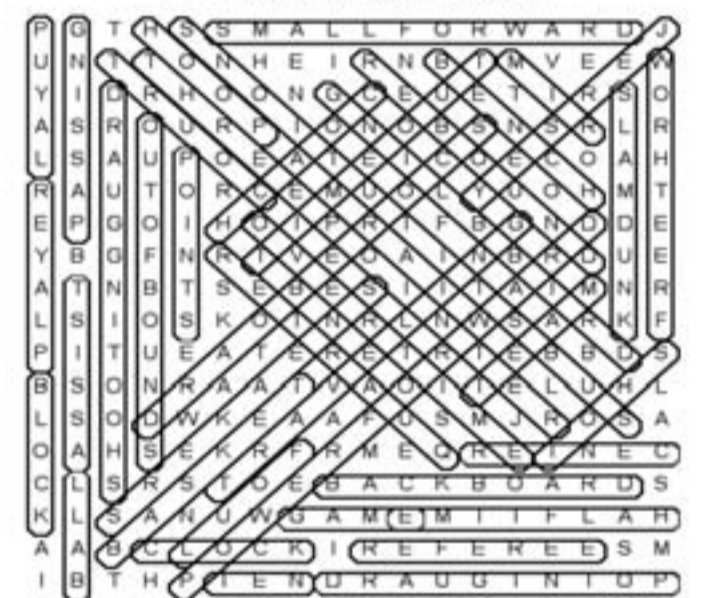


- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| ANOTHER GIRL | FLYING | IN MY LIFE | SOMETHING |
| ASK ME WHY | GET BACK | JULIA | SUN KING |
| BIRTHDAY | GETTING BETTER | LADY MADONNA | TAXMAN |
| BLACKBIRD | HELLO GOODBYE | LOVELY RITA | TELL ME WHY |
| CRY BABY CRY | HEY BULLDOG | MICHELLE | THE END |
| DAY TRIPPER | HEY JUDE | OH DARLING | TICKET TO RIDE |
| DEAR PRUDENCE | HONEY PIE | NO REPLY | TWO OF US |
| DIG A PONY | I ME MINE | OH DARLING | WAIT |
| ELEANOR RIGBY | I WILL | PLEASE PLEASE ME | YER BLUES |
| FIXING A HOLE | IF I FELL | POLYTHENE PAM | YESTERDAY |
| | | SEXY SADIE | |

Yesterday's Solution

Basketball

This is the solution to the puzzle located here.



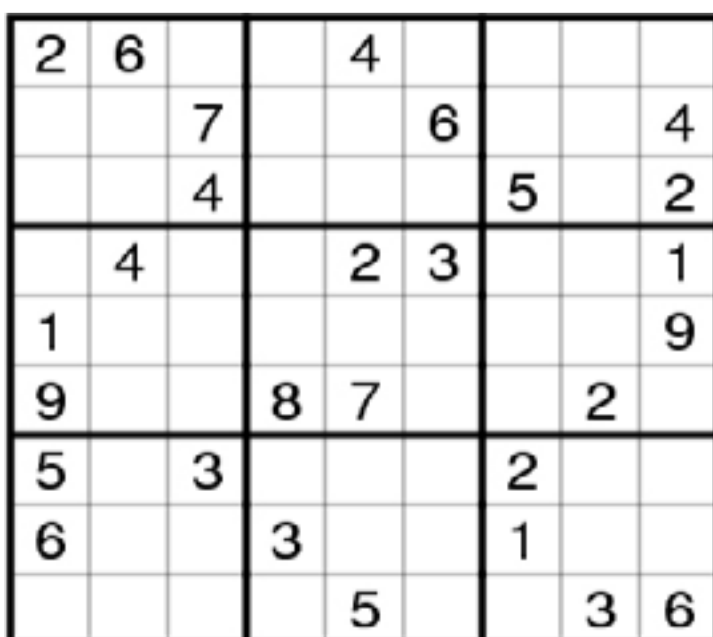
- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| ASSIST | FOUL | PASSING | SHOOTING |
| BACKBOARD | FREE THROW | PLAYER | GUARD |
| BALL | GAME | POINT GUARD | SLAM DUNK |
| BASKET | HALF-TIME | POINTS | SMALL FORWARD |
| BENCH | HOOP | POWER FORWARD | SNEAKERS |
| BLOCK | JERSEY | QUARTER | SUBSTITUTIONS |
| CLOCK | LAY-UP | REBOUND | TEAM |
| COACH | NET | REFEREE | THREE POINTER |
| COURT | OUT OF BOUNDS | RIM | TIME-OUT |
| DRIBBLING | OVERTIME | SCOREBOARD | TRAVELING |

The hidden message is: THE INVENTOR OF BASKETBALL WAS JAMES NAISMITH

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



very hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium

Kuwait Times Classifieds

Sunday, November 19, 2017

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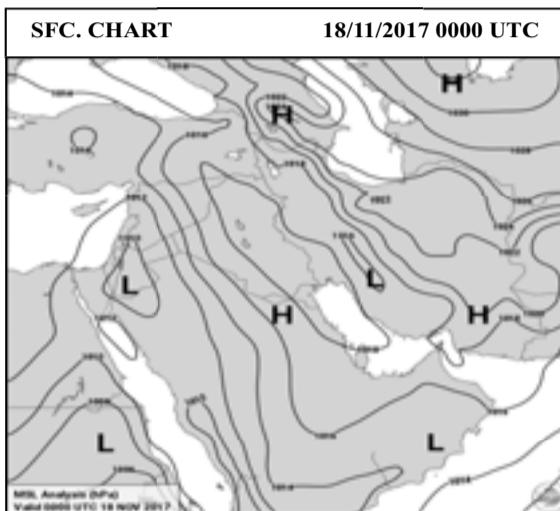
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Sunny with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

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

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	27 °C	18 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27 °C	11 °C
ABDALY	27 °C	11 °C
BUBYAN	26 °C	11 °C
JAHRA	29 °C	15 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	26 °C	15 °C
SALMIYAH	25 °C	20 °C
AHMADI	25 °C	24 °C
NUWAISIB	27 °C	15 °C
WAFRA	29 °C	12 °C
SALMY	26 °C	12 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	11/19	Partly cloudy to cloudy	28 °C	13 °C	SE	06 - 30 km/h
Monday	11/20	Partly cloudy to cloudy + a chance for scattered light rain	29 °C	15 °C	SE	15 - 35 km/h
Tuesday	11/21	Partly cloudy to cloudy + a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	24 °C	18 °C	SE	15 - 40 km/h
Wednesday	11/22	Partly cloudy + a chance for scattered rain	27 °C	15 °C	SE-NW	12 - 35 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:51
Sunrise	06:14
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:32
Sunset	16:52
Isha	18:12

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	27 °C
MIN. Temp.	11 °C
MAX. RH	56 %
MIN. RH	24 %
MAX. Wind	W 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

MATRIMONIAL

EMERGENCY

112

AIRLINES

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

REQUIRED مطلوب

• PLUMBING TECHNICIAN	• فني صحي
• ELECTRIC TECHNICIAN	• فني كهرباء
• PAINTER	• فني صيغ
• SWIMMING POOL TECHNICIAN	• فني حمامات سباحة
- Experience of not less than 5 years	- خبرة لا تقل عن خمس سنوات
- Graduation certificate is a must	- يشترط وجود مؤهل دراسي
- Transferable residency	- إقامة قابلة للتحويل

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DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 19/11/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 19/11/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	125	Bahrain	00:10	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	KAC	677	Dubai	01:00
KAC	102	London	00:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	JZR	142	Doha	01:45
WAN	416	Beirut	01:05	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:05	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	03:05	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	KAC	103	London	05:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:05
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	RJA	643	Amman	07:05
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	QTR	8512	Doha	07:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	ACP	101	Baghdad	08:00
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	KAC	165	Rome	08:15
KAC	678	Dubai	06:00	FEQ	934	Sohag	08:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	KAC	791	Madinah	08:35
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
JZR	555	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	787	Jeddah	08:40
QTR	8511	Doha	06:25	KAC	691	Muscat	08:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	KAC	613	Bahrain	08:55
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	BAW	156	London	08:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	117	New York	09:00
BAW	157	London	07:10	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
FEQ	933	Sohag	07:30	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	KAC	101	London	09:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	10:30
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:30
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:40
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:00
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	WAN	953	GYD	12:00
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	JAI	574	Jeddah	12:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	BBC	043	Dhaka	12:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	PIA	205	Lahore	12:30
				FDB	071	Dubai	12:30

Lifestyle | Gossip

Gal Gadot almost quit acting

The 32-year-old actress can now boast being cast as the iconic Wonder Woman, but prior to landing the role in the eponymously titled DC Comics movie, the beauty has admitted she was considering backing away from Hollywood entirely, because being rejected from roles began to take its toll. Speaking during an interview on 'Sunday Today' which will air this weekend, she said: "I was as close as it gets [to quitting]. I never thought about becoming an actress and the opportunity kind of came my way. I started to become more curious about it, and then I fell in love with the profession - but it wasn't like I was growing up dreaming of becoming an actress. "There's so much no. There's so much rejection in this world that I thought, 'Maybe it's not for me ... Maybe I should go back to law school instead of dragging my family with me.'" Gal's comments come after she previously said the past year has been "overwhelming" for her, since joining the DC Comics franchise. She said: "Honestly, the thing is, everything that's happening right now is so overwhelming. I mean, all the way from Russia and Israel to here, red carpets, talking to you, wearing [great gowns]. It's been such an amazing, crazy ride that I think I'm gonna get what's happening only in two years from now or something." It isn't the first time the 'Keeping Up With the Joneses' star has spoken about her near miss with her acting career, as she previously said she had considered going back to her native Israel to study. She said: "Before I got 'Wonder Woman', I was thinking about never coming back to Los Angeles, [I thought I'd] stay in Israel, work as an actress here and there, go back to university and do something else."



Kim parts ways with her assistant

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star has reportedly decided to professionally split from Stephanie Shepherd but the pair still remain good friends. A source told US Weekly magazine: "They just agreed their working relationship was no longer working. Steph is still a part of Kim and her family's life - she went to Kim's birthday dinner and Kendall's birthday party. "There isn't bad blood there. They still hang out and are friends, but they have gone their separate ways and are not working together anymore." Stephanie was in Paris with Kim when the 37-year-old reality television personality was robbed at gunpoint whilst alone in her hotel room, something which Stephanie described as "terrifying". She said: "It was terrifying. At the time, I had to hold it together and make sure everything was getting handled and that we could get Kim home as quickly and safely as possible, and obviously I can't even begin to imagine what she's gone through, what she's had to deal with." Since the incident, security has been ramped up and Stephanie admits even staff like herself have become "more cautious". She added: "Even I have been more cautious. We have alarms and security plans, and all that. Still, whenever I've had to stay home alone, I get a little scared. So I did get a couple of extra pepper sprays." And Stephanie insists the family's life isn't always as dramatic as it seems to be and praised Kim's husband Kanye West for being so funny. She shared: "I think people would be surprised to know how funny Kanye is. I know everyone thinks he's so deep and serious, but he's also so funny, like he has me rolling laughing and sometimes I'm like, 'Is this inappropriate that I'm laughing so hard?' He has these one-liners, and he's just so unfiltered, he makes me laugh so hard. But he's also truly the hardest working man I've ever met."



Oscar Isaac finds life without his mother 'painful'

The 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' actor's beloved mother Eugenie died in February, a month before he and long-term partner Elvira Lind tied the knot and two months before the birth of their son Eugene, and he admitted the shift from being a son to a father was very "dramatic", especially as he'd hoped his mom would still be alive to see her grandson. He told Esquire magazine of the change: "It happened in a very dramatic way. In a matter of three months my mother passed and my son was born, so that transition was very alive, to the point where I was telling my mom, 'I think you're going to see him on the way out, tell him to listen to me as much as he can...' "It was really tough because for me she was the only true example of unconditional love. It's painful to know that that won't exist for me anymore, other than me giving it to him. So now this isn't happening, but now it goes this way." The 38-year-old actor is currently starring in a production of 'Hamlet' and agreed to take on the title role in the Shakespearean tragedy because it resonated with him at a time when his partner was pregnant and his mother was ill. He said: "There were a lot of things that really connected on a very personal level. "[Performing] is how I'm able to function. The only way that I'm really able to process stuff is through reflecting it." While his mother was ill in a Florida hospital, Oscar comforted her by reading aloud to her from the play. He recalled: "I would just read the play all the time, do bits for her. Me doing Shakespeare was her favorite thing. "I didn't know how to process any of this, but this I knew how to do." And the 'Ex Machina' actor hopes his performance in the play "honors" his beloved parent.



Danielle Lloyd spent 'years' hating her body

The 33-year-old former glamour model - who has sons Archie, seven, Harry, six, and three-year-old George with ex-husband Jamie O'Hara, and two-month-old Ronnie with fiancé Michael O'Neill - has finally learned to appreciate her figure and doesn't care that she's not in perfect shape. She said: "I'm so happy right now and I don't care if I'm not in perfect shape. "I've got wobbly bits and a little bump on my tummy but it doesn't bother me. "I've spent years crying over my figure, especially after I had my other children I felt so big and uncomfortable. "But I've finally learned to love myself and that's taken me a really long time." Danielle began working out twice a week just six weeks after giving birth to Ronnie but she insists the sessions are more for the mental benefits than the physical. She said: "I don't exercise for my body, although I do want to tone up my stomach and the top of my legs. "Those two hours each week are just for me, where I can get out of the house and focus on myself. "Things are hectic at home and I Absolutely love it, but it's the one place I can channel my energy into something else." And Danielle, who has previously spoken about her struggle with postnatal depression after her previous pregnancies, believe her fitness sessions have helped her keep the condition at bay this time around. She told Closer magazine: "I've been lucky this time around. I get such a huge boost of endorphins after exercising and that's made a huge difference."



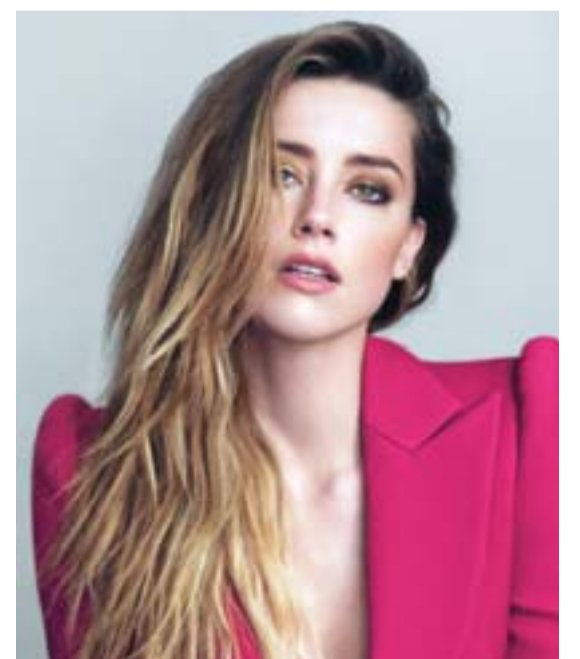
Hayley Atwell believes the age of 'male bullies' is ending



The 35-year-old actress - who was branded a "fat pig" by disgraced producer Harvey Weinstein when she was working on 2008's 'Bridgeshead Revisited' - thinks society is ready to change from an attitude that views males as being superior, but she believes both men and women have to shift their perspectives in the right way to make things more equal. She said: "For us now, it's the end of a generation. "Weinstein comes from a generation of that powerhouse, macho, misogynistic, male bully. It's so brittle. "We need to be talking about it in a way that men also feel safe enough to be vulnerable, and to speak out without feeling that they're going to be ridiculed or mocked or torn down because they have feelings." But the 'Agent Carter' star doesn't think sexism is coming to an end completely, as it now crops up in more "subtle and sophisticated" ways. She explained to Grazia magazine: "Sexism has become more subtle and sophisticated, whether it's through manipulating women into believing they're not enough, through body imaging, through completely unrealistic depictions of what a perfect mother and career woman is, false advertising and that 'have it all' mentality." Despite being ridiculed over her weight in the past, Hayley has found a shift in her own relationship with her body has made other people more accepting. She explained: "I find, if I'm very comfortable in myself, other people are comfortable with it, even if they are body fascists. "People respond to you the way you're responding to yourself and the way you allow yourself to be treated."

Amber Heard and Elon Musk are 'not back together'

The 31-year-old actress and the Tesla CEO began dating in 2016 before parting ways in August this year, and whilst they were spotted enjoying a breakfast together at Sweet Butter Kitchen in Los Angeles on Thursday, sources have insisted the meeting does not mark a reconciliation for the pair. One insider said told People magazine: "They sat next to each other, but were not affectionate. They seemed to have a somber conversation." Whilst a second added: "They're definitely not back together, but have seen each other a couple times as friends." It comes just days after Elon, 46, admitted he was left "hurt" after his split from the 'Magic Mike XXL' actress. He said: "I just broke up with my girlfriend. It hurt bad. Well, she broke up with me more than I broke up with her, I think." And the entrepreneur admitted he is desperate to find love, as he hates being alone. He added: "I never want to be alone. That's what I would say [as a child], 'I don't want to be alone.' I will never be happy without having someone. Going to sleep alone kills me. It's not like I don't know what that feels like: Being in a big empty house, and the footsteps echoing through the hallway, no one there - and no one on the pillow next to you. F**k. "How do you make yourself happy in a situation like that? Is there anybody you think I should date? It's so hard for me to even meet people. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I'm not looking for a one-night stand. I'm looking for a serious companion or soulmate, that kind of thing."



George Clooney returning to TV

The 56-year-old actor-and-director - who became a household name playing Dr. Doug Ross in medical drama series 'E.R.' from 1994 to 1999 - will star in and direct an adaptation of Joseph Heller's satirical novel 'Catch-22', Deadline reports. The six-part miniseries is being produced by Paramount Television and Anonymous Content, and is expected to begin production in 2018. 'Catch-22' - which will have a script written by Luke Davies and David Michod - follows US airman Yossarian and his attempts to avoid the fighting in Italy during World War II, as he knows the situation is likely to end in death. But he runs up against the army's Catch-22 policy, which states that if someone is rational enough to try to evade combat, they are sane enough to continue fighting. George's role as the malicious Colonel Cathcart marks his first acting job since his appearance as a slick TV presenter held hostage in 2016's 'Money Monster'. He will be joined as director on the show by his long-term collaborator Grant Heslov. The 'Suburbicon' filmmaker - who has five-month-old twins Alexander and Ella with wife Amal - recently admitted he isn't as interested in acting as he used to be, and even the money doesn't really tempt him. He said: "Look, I acted for a long time and, you know, I'm 56. I'm not the guy that gets the girl any more... I shouldn't be the guy that gets the girl. "But, look, if somebody's got Paul Newman in 'The Verdict', I'd jump. But there aren't that many like that. "Acting used to be how I paid the rent, but I sold a tequila company for a billion f***ing dollars. I don't need money." — Bangshowbiz

60 years on, hearing anew explosive Little Richard

The world had never heard anything quite like it. With his ferocious howl and lightning-quick piano, Little Richard fired an opening salvo of what would be called rock 'n' roll. Sixty years after his seminal album "Here's Little Richard," a newly reissued edition offers a closer look at Richard the musician and how he honed a style that influenced so much that was to come. In an age of singles, the original 12-inch LP in 1957 collected the early hits of rock's original wild man — "Long Tall Sally," "Rip It Up" and, most famously, "Tutti Frutti."

The reissue features a crisp, remastered sound that brings out Richard's vocal power and a second CD of demos and outtakes, showing Richard in firm control with only occasional revisions during recording. "People say Little Richard is a wild man. But he was very professional in the studio and they nailed these songs together pretty quickly,"

said Chris Morris, a music scholar who helped oversee the 60th anniversary edition for Craft Recordings.

The reissue includes a more subdued take on "Baby," recorded while Richard was still in his native Macon, Georgia. But "Tutti Frutti" came together in the studio in just 15 minutes. With the nonsensical but somehow instantly understood opening line — "Awoop bop a loo mop / Alop bam boom" — "Tutti Frutti" summed up the spirit of rock 'n' roll with its infectious rhythms and whiff

of naughtiness, even if Bumps Blackwell, the producer for Specialty Records, had the raunchy original lyrics rewritten.

Richard became one of the first entertainers to reach mass black and white audiences together and triggered a craze that stunned 1950s sensibilities, with women and several fans at a concert in Baltimore prevented from jumping off the balcony in euphoria. The Beatles, who would soon cause similar scenes, considered Richard a mentor and played as his opening act in England. David Bowie, fascinated by Richard's other-

worldly persona, said Richard inspired him to learn saxophone and take up music.

'Attacking the piano'

In the mid-1950s, there were few like Richard. Chuck Berry was charting a parallel path to rock 'n' roll on his guitar, while Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis, two white artists heavily influenced by Richard,

were just starting out. The star who sounded most like Richard was Fats Domino, the joyful boogie-woogie legend who died last month at age 89. But the self-effacing pianist was far different than Richard.

"Fats was this very charming, avuncular guy — a big fat guy who played this rolling New Orleans piano," Morris said. "Richard arrives and he's attacking the piano: he's banging on it. He's not crooning; he's screaming. There had never really been a figure who came out



This file photo taken on July 2, 2011 shows Little Richard performing during the annual PBS "A Capitol Fourth" concert at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. — AFP

One of rock's flashiest, most conflicted personas



of R&B who was that extroverted or loud or wild," he said. Richard, who turns 85 in December, was not involved in the reissue and has made few public appearances in recent years.

But Richard, at once one of rock's flashiest and most conflicted personas, suddenly gave a lengthy interview last month to a Christian television station in southern Illinois. Once famous for his hotel orgies before a series

of born-again conversions, Richard has apparently entered a fresh deeply religious phase. He newly renounced his past homosexuality — a concept of choice in orientation that is anathema to the modern gay rights movement and mainstream psychologists. Asked how he would redo his life, Richard — still sprightly and sporting sequined sneakers — said he would be a preacher. — AFP

Garth Brooks on new anthology and lip syncing at CMAs

Garth Brooks says he's happy to share the first of five anthologies he created with his fans while he's still alive and kicking. "Every artist seems to wait 'till they're dead, and I just don't know how you enjoy that. Or everybody is so old that nobody can remember the stories, it just gets kind of all muddled up," he said in an interview this week. "So just to be able to do this while you're up and running really was cool."

The 55-year-old singer released "Garth Brooks: The Anthology Part 1 The First Five Years" on Tuesday. It includes a book written by Brooks, five albums - including songs never heard before - and behind-the-scenes stories and photos focused on the years 1989-1993. "This has kind of been the request of the people that allow me to do what I do. And they want to know every nook and cranny of how this whole thing all started," said Brooks, who released his debut in 1989.

Brooks plans to release the other four anthologies in the next few years. He said he's halfway through creating part two. The first one took two years to produce. The multi-platinum singer, who is currently on his top-grossing tour, spoke with The Associated Press about the anthology, his decision to lip sync at last week's Country Music Association Awards and more.

AP: What was going through your mind when you looked at the first five years of your career?

Brooks: To be honest I was scared because I've told these stories my whole career. Now I was scared that I'd have to go back and find, "Well maybe that wasn't exactly how it happened. Maybe we were stretching the truth a little bit or whatever to make a good story." And then what I love is you go back - there it is; there is a first take of "Much Too Young" and that whole thing of you're looking at all these guys who know what they're doing and you don't know what you're doing.

AP: What would the Garth Brooks today tell the 1989 version of Garth?

Brooks: What I'll tell him is, "You're just so full of (expletive), you're scared to death and you're running and you're praying to God that each day you don't kill yourself," you know. But I think that's all young artists. We got a kid named Mitch Rossell with us right now (on tour), sweetest kid on the planet, but ... I am telling you, he's so far in the dark simply because the greatest lessons in life cannot be taught. You have to learn them. And it's just cool to see. So what we do to him is the same thing everybody did to me - they run alongside me with their arms out trying to keep me from falling ... and that's what those guys did for me. Everyone in that book did that for me.

AP: What was it like to win entertainer of the year at the CMAs for the second year in a row?



In this Nov 8, 2017 file photo, musician Garth Brooks poses in the press room with the award for entertainer of the year at the 51st annual CMA Awards in Nashville. — AP

Brooks: It was very sweet. ...Everybody was saying "Hey ringer," they were calling me ringer ... "You're a shoo-in" and I was going, "(Expletive), we're not going to take it home this year" because everybody thinks (we will). ...We're still celebrating!

AP: You've performed live for years, so why did you decide to lip sync at the CMAs?

Brooks: I think I know Tacoma really well, that was five nights (of shows there) three days right before (the CMAs), it's an indoor football stadium, so you go in there and you're just fighting your guts out to try and reach the person that's in the very back ... it's real physical and real demanding but very rewarding. So I knew they were going to kick my (expletive) and then I've got seven nights in Spokane the day after the CMAs. So the week before Tacoma while we were in Nashville we went in and did a (pre-recorded) track just for the CMAs, and then decided we'd do a game-time decision, and when it was game time it wasn't a hard decision for me to make at all. I don't think it's any secret some people have a different opinion. Knowing now what I knew then, even after all this crap, if it happened the same way again next week, I'd do lip syncing again.

AP: How's the new album coming along?

Brooks: It's just in pieces right now. We've been touring so hard, so right now it's in thoughts and pieces. We're kind of working on the anthology, getting to work on that in your spare time. — AP

Coldplay tops \$500 million on third richest tour ever

Coldplay generated more than \$500 million on the rockers' just completed global tour, the band's promoters said Thursday, making it the third highest-grossing in history. The English band played the 114th and final show of its "A Head Full of Dreams" tour Wednesday night in Buenos Aires, completing a haul of \$523 million in ticket sales, Live Nation announced. Only two other acts have ever amassed more: Irish rockers U2, who grossed \$784 million on their elaborate, in-the-round "360" tour from 2009 to 2011, and The Rolling Stones, who grossed slightly above Coldplay with their "A Bigger Bang" shows a decade ago. Coldplay went hit-tech for the tour, with fans given interactive wristbands that change color to the music and eye-popping displays with lasers and confetti.

The rockers led by Chris Martin, who broke through in the early 2000s with a mixture of dark ballads and rock anthems in the fashion of U2, earlier hinted that "A Head Full of Dreams" would be their last full-length album, although they released a new EP in July. The tour started in Buenos Aires, completed a haul of \$523 million in ticket sales, Live Nation announced. Only two other acts have ever amassed more: Irish rockers U2, who grossed \$784 million on their elaborate, in-the-round "360" tour from 2009 to 2011, and The Rolling Stones, who grossed slightly above Coldplay with their "A Bigger Bang" shows a decade ago. Coldplay went hit-tech for the tour, with fans given interactive wristbands that change color to the music and eye-popping displays with lasers and confetti.



This file photo taken on October 5, 2017 shows musician Chris Martin of Coldplay performing at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. — AFP

Green Day releases greatest hits album spanning 30 years



Green Day released a massive greatest hits album on Friday, but the trio isn't saying "Good Riddance" anytime soon. The Grammy Award-winning band and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees released "Greatest Hits: God's Favorite Band," an album that spans about 30 years. Lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong said he thinks it's the perfect soundtrack for our "age of outrage," and rather than a farewell album, is

"sort of like a book of short stories."

"I don't think there's really any sadness," Armstrong said by phone from Bogota, Colombia. "I think it's more a little bit of nostalgia and reflecting on what we've done in the past and delivering to our fans." Armstrong and the band, which also includes drummer Tre Cool and bassist Mike Dirnt, said the timing just felt right this year for the compilation. "The great thing is we're young enough that we have another lifetime in front of us. That's the part that I'm excited about," said Armstrong, who was 16 when the band was started in 1986.

The new 22-track collection includes such hits as "When I Come Around," "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)," "American Idiot," "21 Guns," "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," "She" and "Wake Me Up When September Ends." It also includes a new song called "Back in the USA," which has the lyric "I woke up to a bitter storm." Armstrong said it was written after Green Day returned to the U.S. from a European tour following Donald Trump's presidential election. "I felt we'd come back to a different America that I was trying to recognize," he said.

The group also added a reworked version of "Ordinary World," which includes a duet with country singer Miranda Lambert. It was recorded in about an hour in a small studio in Denver when both Green Day and Lambert's tours ended up in the same city, said Armstrong. Armstrong and Lambert had already performed at the Grammys and he said, "She just nailed it." — AP

Katy Perry triumphs in case over convent home

Pop superstar Katy Perry on Friday was awarded nearly \$1.5 million as she prevailed anew in her drawn-out bid to move into a former convent in Los Angeles. The singer of "Roar" and "I Kissed a Girl" has more Twitter followers than anyone else in the world at 106 million but had struggled to win the hearts of two elderly nuns who used to live in the convent.

The Roman Catholic archdiocese had agreed to sell the property, which lies vacant, to Perry. But the two nuns were unmoved, even when Perry visited and sang for them, and insisted they had authority to sell the former convent to a restaurant owner, Dana Hollister. A judge last year invalidated the deed issued to Hollister, who wanted to turn the scenic site in the hilly Los Feliz neighborhood into a boutique hotel.

A Los Angeles jury decided Friday after a day of deliberation that Hollister intentionally interfered with the sale to Perry, including by falsely claiming the title to the property. It awarded \$1.57 million to Perry and \$3.47 million to the archdiocese to cover the costs of their lawyers. The church and Perry could win even more at a second phase of the trial starting on December 1 that will consider punitive damages.

Hollister's lawyer countered that the businesswoman believed she had a valid contract and that the \$5 million in legal costs was exaggerated. Perry has yet to finalize her move into the convent. She agreed to pay \$10 million upfront for her future home plus \$4.5 to build a replacement elsewhere for a prayer retreat on the grounds. — AFP



Lifestyle | Features



Russian political activist and member of Pussy Riot, Maria Alyokhina poses during a press preview for the 'Art Riot: Post-Soviet Actionism' and 'Inside Pussy Riot' exhibitions at Saatchi Gallery in central London. — AFP photos



'Pussy Icons' artwork by contemporary artist Lusine Djanyan.



An assistant poses with 'History of Russia in Axes' artwork by Russian artist Vasily Slonov.

Band's anarchistic art hits London

Pussy Riot, the Russian art collective who became the nemesis of President Vladimir Putin after performing a punk protest in a cathedral, are taking their activist message to London with a new exhibition. The 2012 stunt saw the all-female group hit the international headlines, but resulted in two members serving two years in penal colonies, gaining them notoriety and the support of Western politicians and mega-artists like Madonna.

London's Saatchi Gallery is hosting artwork from the group and other Russian activists in an exhibition entitled "Art Riot", marking the 100th anniversary of the country's revolution. Political art is as vital as ever in the country, said Pussy Riot member Maria Alyokhina at the show's press launch ahead of its opening to the public on Thursday. "Political art is a way to change something," Alyokhina, one of the two members jailed for the 2012 protest, told AFP. "We didn't expect a prison term, nor attention, you just have to do things and see what happens," she added. "All big things were small at the beginning."

As part of the exhibition, fellow member Nadya Tolokonnikova has recounted her

experience in the penal institution through immersive theatre. Such an exhibition would not be allowed in Russia, said Alyokhina while highlighting Siberian artist Vasily Slonov's work—a pile of Lenin-era books whose spines have been sculpted into a face.

'Last free person'

“The artist has become the last free person”

The London show, where each room is dedicated to a different artist, was organised by curator Marat Guelman. Some critics, and even allies like Putin opponent Alexei Navalny, have dismissed the group's art as "petty crimes for the sake of publicity," but Guelman insisted they had missed the point.

"We want to show an exhibition where the artist is important, not only the art," he explained. "Especially when politics goes down and there is no free media, the artist has become the last free person, who speaks to government and says truth, and is not afraid." The reaction of Orthodox Christians to the feminist group's performance at Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Saviour was also "very important," he said.

"Some were more Orthodox than Christian, meaning 'we will kill this Pussy Riot because they came to the church.' "Some parts are more Christian than Orthodox, so think there must be freedom. It was very important in helping society understanding itself better." Among the Pussy Riot works on show are videos of the group's most controversial guerilla performances and giant portraits of the group's founders in their trademark brightly-colored balaclavas.

Other artists featured include Oleg Kulik, who lived as a "man-dog" in a belief that it embodied the period after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and Pyotr Pavlensky, who nailed his scrotum to Moscow's Red Square in a symbolic protest. While some try to affect change from inside Russia, Guelman



The Donbass-Chocolate' artwork by Ukrainian artist Arsen Savadov.

said many like him had been forced to leave. "It was impossible to do exhibitions," he told AFP. "It was a joke that a lot of talented people were born in Russia, but not a lot died in Russia," he said, adding that the Russian

diaspora was now a "very powerful" cultural force. Despite the limitations, both Alyokhina and Guelman believe Russia can still be the incubator of great art. "Everything is possible!" said Alyokhina. — AFP

As Egypt targets gays, band reluctantly bears flag

The symbol of solidarity brought a harsh backlash. As Lebanese rockers Mashrou' Leila played in Cairo, fans hoisted in the air rainbow flags, the global emblem of gay equality. The open-air festival on September 22 passed peacefully. But as pictures of the flags spread, Egyptian authorities launched roundups of the gay community, arresting dozens of people, with rights groups saying some were subjected to humiliating physical exams.

Mashrou' Leila's singer Hamed Sinno is openly gay and the band voiced outrage over the crackdown. Yet the group scoffs at being viewed as poster boys — for gay rights or also for what Sinno sees as facile Western narratives about the Arab world. Mashrou' Leila — which, with its unique blend of intricate indie rock and enigmatic Arabic poetry, has become one of the Middle East's biggest bands — sees music as a goal in itself.

"I think the question of wanting to represent anyone other than our own persons is one that's really troubling," the quick-witted Sinno told AFP at a bar near New York University, where the band is leading a two-month seminar. If Mashrou' Leila ever speaks for others, those moments "have to be unplanned and accidental, and they have to be a byproduct of people just being able to relate to what you're saying," he said.

Sees progress still

Laws in the Middle East banning gay sex date largely to Western colonialism. Egypt had no formal prohibition on homosexuality



Musicians Haig Papazian, Carl Gerges and Hamed Sinno of Mashrou' Leila pose for a picture on November 1, 2017 in New York. — AFP

but its parliament is now considering one. "The only reason that something like that would happen right now is because of, essentially, a very clear cultural tide moving towards greater acceptance. Otherwise there would be no reason to introduce a new law," Sinno said. In Egypt and other revolutionary states in the wake of the Arab Spring, an idea has emerged of "national masculinity as a form of dignity," Sinno said.

But Sinno saw Egypt's anti-gay campaign

more as a political move by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, a former army chief who overthrew his Islamist predecessor and has clamped down hard on the Muslim Brotherhood, to woo skeptical conservatives before elections. Elsewhere in the Arab world, Jordan last year barred a performance by Mashrou' Leila. Nonetheless, Sinno said he saw growing strides on issues of gender and sexuality in Lebanon as well as Morocco and Tunisia. — AFP

Online exhibit shows hidden depths of Picasso's 'Guernica'

Spray-painted in murals, wielded on anti-war banners, and even once hung as a tapestry at the United Nations, Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" might be the world's most famous political artwork. Now organizers of a new initiative are inviting art lovers to revisit the iconic black-and-white painting, using the latest imaging technology and releasing a trove of previously unseen documents to chart its turbulent history.

"Guernica is a source of never-ending artistic material and it's a privilege to be with as an art historian," says Rosario Peiro, head of collections at Madrid's Reina Sofia modern art museum. She is part of the team behind "Rethinking Guernica", an interactive exhibition launched this week about the work. "Putting all of this together allows you to rethink the history of the painting," Peiro said. "Guernica", conceived in the depths of Spain's devastating civil war, shows the bombing of a Basque town on April 26, 1937 by German and Italian air forces under the orders of future Spanish dictator Francisco Franco.

Hundreds died in an aerial attack on civilians that shocked the world and set a precedent repeated often by German and allied forces in World War II. Picasso, then living in France, was commissioned by the struggling Spanish Republican government to produce a work depicting the bombing for the 1937 World Fair in Paris.

Storied history

That commission and hundreds of other documents concerning "Guernica" are now available online for the first time. They tell the story of a hugely well-travelled work, with stops in Scandinavia, Britain and the United States, where it spent decades

on loan at New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). There are papers relating to its trip to Venezuela in 1948 that was cut short due to a coup d'etat, and a frantic telegram sent by MoMA collections director Alfred H. Barr Jr informing the artist that his works were safe after a fire tore through the museum in 1958.

"Clearly it is a political painting because it was requested by the government for a propaganda purpose," says Peiro. "The truth is during all these years of travel and being in different places, the work was depoliticised." Researchers took thousands of images using visible and ultraviolet light as well as infrared reflectography and high-definition x-rays to create a "Gigapixel" rendering that allows users to browse a 436-gigabyte composite of the work. Details of its restoration, individual paint strokes and even rogue hairs from Picasso's brushes can be seen still stuck to the original canvas. Residue from a 1974 act of vandalism is visible in the form of barely perceptible reddish discoloration across central areas. "For me what is interesting to see is the geography of the painting, its surface, as if it's a kind of history map," says Peiro.

New perspectives

The Reina Sofia currently displays dozens of black-and-white war images alongside "Guernica", many captured by legendary Catalan conflict photographer Agusti Centelles. Some critics credit the photos for Picasso's decision to eschew his usual vivid colours in the piece. As Catalonia's independence crisis exposes Spain to its deepest political turbulence since returning to democracy in 1978, Peiro however insists the current installation isn't about politics. — AFP



Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" at the Reina Sofia museum.



Model Gigi Hadid wears a creation by designer Tommy Hilfifer at the Spring/Summer 2018 runway show in London. — AP

Victoria's Secret gala hits snag in as Gigi pulls out

Top US fashion model Gigi Hadid on Friday pulled out of the annual Victoria's Secret fashion show in Shanghai after an online video showing her apparently making a slant-eyes face sparked criticism in China. The announcement is the second apparent snag to hit the US lingerie maker's A-list underwear extravaganza set for Monday, following reports that three Russian and one Ukrainian model had failed to obtain Chinese visas. Hadid, ranked fifth on Forbes' list of the highest-paid women models last year at \$9 million, had excitedly announced her participation in the show in August. She gave no reason for the reversal.

"I'm so bummed I won't be able to make it to China this year," the 22-year-old said on Twitter. "Love my VS family, and will be with all my girls in spirit!" Hadid's withdrawal averts a potential PR disaster for Victoria's Secret, which is hoping to shore up a sagging bottom line by pushing into

China's growing intimate-wear market. The company opened its first flagship stores in China this year and Monday's show is the first held outside the US or Europe.

Chinese internet users accused Hadid of racism after her sister Bella — another of the three dozen or more models expected in Shanghai — posted an Instagram video in February showing Gigi squinting her eyes while holding up a Buddha-shaped cookie. After Hadid announced in August that she would come to Shanghai, many Chinese netizens pounced anew, warning her to stay away. Hadid posted a bilingual apology on China's Twitter-like Weibo on September 1, declaring her "respect and love for the people of China" and swearing she meant no harm, but even that drew flak. A Victoria's Secret spokesman declined comment when asked by AFP whether Hadid pulled out on her own, was asked to by the company, or whether Chinese authorities applied any pressure. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features

Londoners play dirty in Scrabble speed dating



Participants play "Dirty Scrabble, an event during which singles can get to know each other, at Smith's Cocktail bar in west London. — AFP photos

In a cheeky bid to spice up London's speed-dating scene, a nocturnal events organiser has come up with the idea of reinventing the rules of Scrabble. In the process he is transforming the venerable boardgame, a favorite of wordsmiths around the world, into an exercise in erotic diction. On a recent rainy autumn evening, his event—called "Dirty Scrabble"—attracted a small coterie of singletons, young and old, to a cosy pub lounge in the bustling west London district of Hammersmith. Trendy music, dimmed lights, candles, cocktails, and a naughty game: everything was in place for romance to blossom. Entrepreneur Jordi Sinclair, the founder of a company called Smudged Lipstick, which organizes "random, quirky events", is the brain behind the idea of combining dating with filthy wordplay.

suiting to the frenetic pace and emotional tension inherent in the timed meetings of speed-dating. So Sinclair has devised some new, minimal, rules to his dirty version: no points, 11 letters picked out at a time instead of seven, and the right to take some liberties with spelling.

He hopes players will shed any sense of shame and embrace the maxim: "Where there is embarrassment, there is no pleas-

dating formula, players move from table to table, with seven-minute games at each.

On the boards, word sequences invariably throw up something to smile about intentionally or not—and can resemble a libertine conversation. "But it's fun... people are relaxed and sometimes using ridiculous language breaks down the barrier so you're laughing and you're less uncomfortable," said Neil Shah, a 40-year-old participant, in a pink sweater. He believes the art of communication has been lost in the digital age and welcomes anything, including Dirty Scrabble, that means "you have to have a conversation."

Even better than an app, Scrabble-lover Tamara Jacobs, 34, jumped at the chance to meet a man in the flesh, and not through an online app. "I don't really have time to sit around and swipe through a catalogue of men to figure out if one of them is worthy of conversation," she said, turned out for the evening in a floral dress.

Meanwhile if sparks are not flying between a couple, Dirty Scrabble can help avoid those awkward silences. "If it gets a bit flustered you can play a couple of words, think of another question," said



Dave Anthony, 32, sporting a t-shirt and beard for the occasion. "You're not sitting there like a deer in headlights."

Later in the night, guests divulge to Sinclair—under strict secrecy—the names of those they would like to see again. For

some, the hunt for a soulmate goes on. But before the results are even in, the game seems to have worked its magic, as two of his singletons slip out of the bar together. Could Dirty Scrabble have given them ideas? — AFP

“We want people to be creative with their words”

'You're less uncomfortable'
"People like Scrabble but in a dating capacity it's maybe a bit too straight," the 35-year-old, wearing a black t-shirt and ripped jeans, told AFP. "Dirty words tend to open up the conversation." However, Scrabble is a game of patience requiring the utmost concentration, and seemingly ill-

ure." "We try to make it as dirty as possible," Sinclair said. "After a drink or two, the words become a lot dirtier. "We want people to be creative with their words as well, so if they want to come up with new words that are dirty, they can." True to the speed-

Fashion giant Azzedine Alaia dies at 77



This file photo taken on July 10, 2015 shows Tunisian-born, Paris-based couturier Azzedine Alaia posing during the press preview of the exhibition "Azzedine Alaia's soft sculpture" at the Galleria Borghese in Rome. — AFP

French-Tunisian designer Azzedine Alaia, whose timeless gowns won an army of devotees around the world, has died at the age of 77, France's fashion federation said yesterday. Alaia, who rose to fame in the 1980s, refused to march to the beat of international fashion weeks, releasing his collections in his own time with scant concern for publicity. "We have lost a designer of great talent. It is very sad news," fellow creator Pierre Cardin said.

Alaia was born to a farming family in Tunisia in 1940 and studied sculpture at the capital's fine arts school before working at a modest neighbourhood dressmaker's shop. He moved to Paris in the late 1950s, working briefly for Dior and Guy Laroche before eventually going solo, winning a reputation for sexy designs cel-

ebrating the female form. Alaia himself was discreet and invariably clad in a black high-necked Chinese suit. His catwalk shows were low-key as well, earning a loyal clientele of fashionistas who wanted luxury without showing off.

Former US first lady Michelle Obama was among his haute couture fans but Alaia also produced ready-to-wear collections, while ignoring pressure to systematically refresh his ideas every season. He signed a development deal with Prada in 2000, but quit seven years later to work with Swiss luxury group Richemont. Global success did not change Alaia's working habits and he continued throughout his career to work deep into the night, often to the soundtrack of old movies. —AFP

James Franco wows with a love letter to an awful movie

In 2003, "The Room" opened in California and quickly became known as the "Citizen Kane of bad movies"—a melodrama so poor that it went on to gain cult status. Writer-director Tommy Wiseau's production is still shown to delighted audiences around the world, fans reveling in the unmitigated awfulness of its acting and its bewildering, convoluted script.

To this day, Wiseau remains an enigma but Hollywood star James Franco is attempting to shine a light on the filmmaker with "The Disaster Artist," a comedy about the making of a movie many regard as the worst ever made. "This was unlike any Hollywood story I'd ever heard or read about," said Franco, who was compelled to make "The Disaster Artist" after reading about its nightmarish production in a behind-the-scenes memoir of the same name. "I read the book and just thought this will be so unusual and weird, but at its core it will be this great story about dreamers trying to make it, and about friendship."

Franco, 39, takes on the role of Wiseau but "The Disaster Artist" plays out mostly through the eyes of Wiseau's friend and co-producer Greg Sestero—played by Franco's brother Dave. The pair meet at acting school in San Francisco and then move into Wiseau's apartment in Hollywood, where they spend a year unsuccessfully trying to break into the business before deciding to make their own movie.

Big name cameos

Quite where Wiseau got the cash even to keep two apartments, let alone fund a motion picture entirely on his own, remains one of the many puzzles surrounding the production



(L-R) Dave Franco, Greg Sestero, James Franco, and Tommy Wiseau attend the screening of "The Disaster Artist" at AFI FEST 2017 Presented By Audi at TCL Chinese Theatre. — AFP

of "The Room." Another mystery to this day is his age and nationality; he claims when he meets Sestero to be 19 and from New Orleans but looks comfortably two decades older and has a distinctly eastern European accent. With no idea what he is doing, he is seen lavishing a reported \$6 million on his cast, crew and soundstage, as well as equipment he doesn't need. He turns up late for work, slows production by forgetting his lines and petulantly mistreats his actors when it all starts to go haywire.

Franco, an erratic Hollywood actor and director whose up-and-down career could

easily have gone the way of Wiseau's but for his considerable talent, has received almost universal acclaim for his impeccable comedic timing. As well as casting his brother, he calls on longtime friends and collaborators Seth Rogen, Zac Efron, his sister-in-law Alison Brie as well as a conveyor belt of cameos from huge names such as Sharon Stone, Melanie Griffith and Bryan Cranston. Franco—who stayed in character as Wiseau, complete with prosthetics, when he was behind the camera—has directed himself before, most recently on HBO drama series "The Deuce." — AFP

Future of groundbreaking show 'Transparent' may be in flux

When "Transparent" debuted four years ago on Amazon with a transgender lead character, it was a special moment for TV. It won Emmys and seemed a perfect fit for a burgeoning civil rights movement. Now the show's future may be in flux following allegations against star Jeffrey Tambor.

Fellow "Transparent" actress Trace Lysette alleges Tambor pressed his body against hers in a sexually aggressive manner and made inappropriate and unwanted sexual statements on the set of the show. Tambor denies the allegations saying in a statement that he has "never been a predator - ever." Lysette is the second woman to accuse

Tambor of harassment. Lysette, who is herself transgender, said on Twitter that when she emerged from wardrobe in a costume of a lingerie top and shorts for a scene with Tambor, he said, "My God, Trace. I want to attack you sexually."

Lysette said she and another actress laughed off the remark, but then Tambor approached her between scenes a few minutes later. "He came in close, put his bare feet on top of mine so I could not move, leaned his body against me, and began quick, discreet thrust back and forth against my body," Lysette said. "I felt his penis on my hip through his thin pajamas."

Tambor has been hailed for his portrayal

of Maura Pfefferman, the transgendered matriarch of the quirky Pfefferman family. He has won a best actor Emmy for his portrayal, and has also starred in such shows as "The Larry Sanders Show" and "Arrested Development." Lysette urged Amazon to "remove the problem and let the show go on." The gay rights group GLAAD echoed her request, calling for the show to be re-focused, presumably away from Tambor.

"For too long transgender women have been forced to hide stories of harassment and abuse in the work place, and Trace has taken a powerful stand in calling for an industry where all women can work in safe environments," GLAAD said. "GLAAD stands with Trace in her hope that the inappropriate situations she and others endured on set will be remedied, and that future seasons will focus on more of the many brilliant characters that audiences love and care about." — AP



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017



Victoria's Secret models pose to mark the countdown to the 2017 Victoria's Secret fashion show in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

India's heritage city races to save icons

Traffic chokes the centuries-old stone archway into Ahmedabad's historic quarter, the snarl of honking rickshaws and sputtering buses coats the monuments of India's only heritage city in a greasy layer of soot. Conservation experts warn Ahmedabad, one of the world's most polluted cities, faces a mammoth task defending its newly won UNESCO status as its fragile cultural icons decay under neglect, traffic and trash.

The 600-year-old enclave was named India's first 'World Heritage City' in July — despite warnings from some of UNESCO's own experts that it lacked a convincing plan for protecting its ancient citadels, mosques and tombs. Ahmedabad hosts the towering Bhadra fort, the legendary stone latticework of the 16th-century Sidi Saiyyed mosque, and countless relics fusing the unique Hindu and Muslim architectural styles of its conquerors.

Authorities hope the global recognition from the UN's cultural body will restore community pride in the crumbling, garbage-strewn old city. "They themselves also will be slightly more restrained in dirtying the places," said P.K. Ghosh, chairman of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's heritage conservation committee, of the city's inhabitants. But many families that once fastidiously tended to ornate wooden homes in the old city are leaving in droves for the comforts of the modern city outside, tired of shabby living conditions.

Treasures in ruin

Jagruti Vyas, a long-term resident, hoped the UNESCO listing would bring standards in her dilapidated neighborhood into line with newer areas beyond the old city's walls. "We hope to see similar changes, such as this part of the city becoming cleaner," she said from the narrow doorway of her wooden home. But it is the pressures of modern Ahmedabad — the chronic air pollution, crushing traffic and chaotic urban sprawl — that experts say are also rapidly eroding its cultural capital.

The cramped heritage district was never built for cars, yet today thousands of trucks and rickshaws are diverted through its narrow lanes and alleys. The grinding congestion tears apart roads and fouls the air with fumes, streaking stone-carved monuments with black exhaust stains. Long-flouted laws banning construction near heritage sites have also hampered efforts to save



This picture taken on July 31, 2017 shows Indian Hindu devotees at the nearly 200 years old Swaminarayan Kalupur Temple. — AFP photos



The entrance gate of the nearly 200 year old Swaminarayan Kalupur Temple.

Ahmedabad's treasures from ruin.

In the heart of the old quarter, just the dome of a medieval mosque is visible behind a tangle of shops, electricity wires and flats illegally erected around the sultanate-era relic. Ornate homes have been torn down and replaced by garish structures "totally incongruous" with history, said Ghosh. He said the heritage listing would give teeth to those safeguarding Ahmedabad's architectural heritage. "There will be stricter enforcement of the rules." Pulling down the exquisite old architectural pieces will not be easy now," he said.

Challenge starts now

Some long-neglected quarters, sealed off from the outside world by labyrinthine alleys, are well beyond restoration. Many traditional 'pols' — clusters of settlements identified by UNESCO as bearing "enormous" historical value — are all but abandoned, the iconic wooden homes collapsing from neglect.

A small boy was injured in October when a balcony caved in, while at least two people died in July when monsoon rains brought whole houses crashing down, media reported. Once grand havelis — beautiful multi-level wooden mansions —

are being rented to poor migrants and businesses looking for warehouse space. Conservation architect and old city expert Khushi Shah said Ahmedabad was "one of the most unique urban settlements in India" that could not be recreated once it was gone. "The city which we call a 'living heritage entity' will no longer be so if people start moving out," she claimed.

Ahmedabad's conservation committee has three years to document close to 3,000 buildings of heritage value to strict UNESCO standards — a monumental task for Ghosh's small team. UNESCO could revoke or downgrade Ahmedabad's listing

to "heritage in danger" should the deadline be missed and the committee fail to show it has slowed the decline and destruction of the old city. Jigna Desai, associate professor at CEPT University's architecture faculty in Ahmedabad, said the coveted UNESCO inscription would mean little if there was nothing left to protect. "How do you make sure that this evidence does not deteriorate, that the evidence stays for the world to see, or the next generations to see?" she said. Ghosh's deputy at the heritage council, PKV Nair, agrees: "Getting the listing was one thing, now meeting that challenge is more important." — AFP



The ruins of the 15th century 'Tombs of the Queens' building at the Sarkhej Roza complex.



A heritage home in an overbuilt urban area of Ahmedabad.